



BALI EXPLORER

8 Days/7 Nights

Day 1: Denpasar - Kusamba - Candidasa

Arrive this afternoon at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar where you will be greeted by your Exotissimo local guide.

A private transfer (approximately 2 hours) takes you to Candidasa in Karangasem, Bali's eastern province. Stop en route at the coastal fishing village of Kusumba, to observe the colourful fishing boats lined up all along the beach as well as the small salt-making huts.

Check in at your hotel in Candidasa where the remainder of today is at leisure.

Overnight in Candidasa

Day 2: Candidasa - Klungkung - Besakih - Trek - Candidasa (B/L)

Depart Candidasa for Klungkung to visit the former Royal Courts of Justice known as Kerta Gosa. The highlight here is an elaborately decorated ceiling featuring the "Wayang" style of painting depicting the battle of good versus evil.

Continue to Besakih, known as the 'Mother Temple' of Bali. Located on the western [HYPERLINK "http://www.baliblog.com/travel-tips/maps-of-bali/map-of-east-bali.html"](http://www.baliblog.com/travel-tips/maps-of-bali/map-of-east-bali.html) slopes of Mt Agung, Bali highest volcano (2 567 m), Besakih is the largest and most important temple on the island.

Stop for lunch at Maha Giri restaurant, where you'll dine on fresh Balinese cuisine while surrounded by great panoramas over rice field terraces with Mt Agung in the background.

In the afternoon drive along small, scenic roads to Besakih. En route you'll stop in the village of Sibetan to observe traditional weaving and visit a *salak* plantation where you can taste Bali's famed 'snakeskin' fruit.

Then, set off on a 2 hour trek through the rice fields down to Tenganan, one of several ancient villages in Bali.

At the end of the trek, you'll explore Tenganan. The village is home to the Bali Aga people, Bali's first inhabitants who were there even before the arrival of the Majapahit dynasty who came from Java. You'll see the village's primitive architecture as well as observe the weaving of rare "double ikat" pattern and basket weaving.

Return to your hotel in Candidasa where the remainder of today is at leisure.

Overnight in Candidasa

Day 3: Candidasa - Tirta Gangga - Amed - Lovina Beach

(B/L)

After breakfast, explore the beautiful, less visited province of Karangasem.

Start with a visit of Tirta Gangga. Meaning 'water of the Ganges' this sacred water palace was built in the early twentieth century by the last king of Karangasem. It boasts many decorative ponds and fountains, lush plant life and natural bathing pools.

Continue to Amed, a quiet seaside village that offers fishing, snorkeling and diving on the nearby reef on a black rocky beach. You'll take a one hour cruise in a traditional wooden Prahau boat for fabulous views of the coastline and the surroundings.

After a lunch in Amed, continue by road along the dry northeastern coast to Lovina for your overnight stay.

Overnight in Lovina

Day 4: Lovina - Lake Bratan - Munduk

(B/D)

Morning at leisure on the beach in Lovina to relax

Lunch at leisure in Lovina

This afternoon drive to Lake Bratan where you will stop for a visit to the very scenic Ulun Danu Temple. The temple is set in the middle of the lake's calm waters on a small bit of land giving the impression that it is 'floating'.

Continue driving to a small mountain road overlooking two superb lakes: Buyan and Tamblingan. Stop for photos and to enjoy the scenery before descending to the beautiful remote area of Munduk in Northern Bali.

Arrival in Munduk towards the end of today, check in to your hotel and, after freshening up, enjoy dinner.

Overnight in Munduk

Day 5: Munduk - Sanda - Belimbing - Umabian

(B/L/D)

Munduk is the ideal location for outdoor activities and this morning you'll have the chance to explore with a light trek. Munduk is surrounded by tropical rainforest with beautiful waterfalls and because of its cool temperature (20-25°C) many fruits, vegetables and spices are grown in the area.

The two hour trek begins this morning from your hotel. The trek takes you through many plantations growing coffee, cloves, vanilla, avocado and more- you'll see how they are grown and harvested. The path then takes you to the cascading Red Coral waterfall before looping back to Munduk via a different route.

From Munduk, drive to Sanda village via Pupuan along one of the most scenic roads in Bali. In Sanda (or Belimbing for groups) stop for lunch and then descend to the western coast of Bali passing by the small town of Belimbing. The landscape alternates between

jungle-covered mountain vistas and amazing rice terraces.

Continue to Umabian and check in to your beautiful hotel. Designed to resemble a traditional house, the numerous pavilions and guestrooms are laid out in the style of a village compound. Surrounded by rice fields, spectacular views and a swimming pool in the garden this is an ideal place to unwind. Spend the remainder of today relaxing by the pool, enjoying the peaceful view, or opt to join in the local activities in the village compound.

Dinner at the hotel

Overnight in Umabian

Day 6: Umabian - Taman Sari Buwana - Taman Ayun - Ubud (B/L/D)

After breakfast, start the day with an amazing sustainable tourism excursion at Taman Sari Buwana farm. During this half-day excursion you will experience local Balinese life while supporting a community-based tourism project in the village of Tunjunk.

Upon reaching Tunjunk village, start with a visit to the elementary school (NOTE: closed on weekends and school holidays) before heading to village home base. Prepare for farming activities by donning a farmer's hat, covering up with mosquito repellent and picking up a local *mattock* (small farm tool) all provided by the farm. We recommend wearing flip-flops or similar as well as bringing sunscreen.

You'll then walk with the local farmers to their rice fields, locally referred to as *sawah*. Alongside the farmers, you will learn how to plant, transplant or harvest rice (depending of the season)

After farming, take a walk around the beautiful rice fields to observe the daily activities of the village. You'll visit other plantations including a coconut plantation where locals will demonstrate their ability to climb up the trees and gather young coconuts for some refreshment.

Next, return to the home base where you will observe the boiling of cassava in the traditional kitchen before enjoying a delicious lunch at the farm.

This afternoon, transfer to Ubud stopping en route at the serene Taman Ayun temple near Mengwi.

No visit to Bali would be complete without witnessing traditional dance and this evening, in Ubud, you will be treated to a performance in a nearby village. Return to Ubud for dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight in Ubud

Day 7: Ubud (B/L)

Starts today with an early morning walk through the rice fields near Ubud. The terraced fields, spectacular scenery and tranquil surroundings create a serene atmosphere typical of central Bali. Return to your hotel for breakfast.

Spend this morning discovering the many charms of Ubud as you visit museums, palaces and local markets. Start with a visit to ARMA Museum (*Agung Rai Museum of Art*) and enjoy one of the best permanent collections of Balinese and Indonesian paintings. A visit to ARMA provides a great overview of the island's rich artistic traditions.

Continue to Ubud's Royal Palace in the heart of the small town: built in the 16th century the Palace is still home to Ubud's King and its Royal family

Finish this morning's excursion with a walk in Ubud Market where local vendors come to buy and sell food as well as handicrafts and textiles.

Lunch will be served at Indus Restaurant, one of Ubud's top tables, with breathtaking views over the Tjampuhan river valley.

Relax this afternoon with a one-hour Balinese massage treatment at a local spa.

Overnight in Ubud

Day 8: Ubud - Mt Batur - Panglipuran - Kehen - Beach in South Bali/Departure (B/L)

Depart Ubud for an excursion to Mt Batur. You'll drive along small, scenic roads offering beautiful views of the rice fields, especially near the village of Tegallangang. Along the way, stop in Sebatu village to visit Pura Gunung Kawi- an exotic spring temple.

Upon arrival at Kintamani, stop for lunch at a local restaurant where you will enjoy spectacular views over Lake Batur and its volcano, Mt Batur. Although Mt Batur (1412m) is not the highest volcano in Bali, it is the most active and is surrounded by an impressive caldera.

Your excursion continues to Penglipuran, a traditional countryside village well known for its tidy row of traditional Balinese entrance gates and its unique architectural traditions.

End today with a visit to the sacred Kehen Temple, built majestically on a hill on a series of 8 terraces enclosing a huge banyan tree in its first courtyard. The forest background of this temple offers a unique ambiance and mesmerizing scene.

At the end of the day, and drop off in Denpasar or a beach in the south

*******END OF SERVICES*******

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