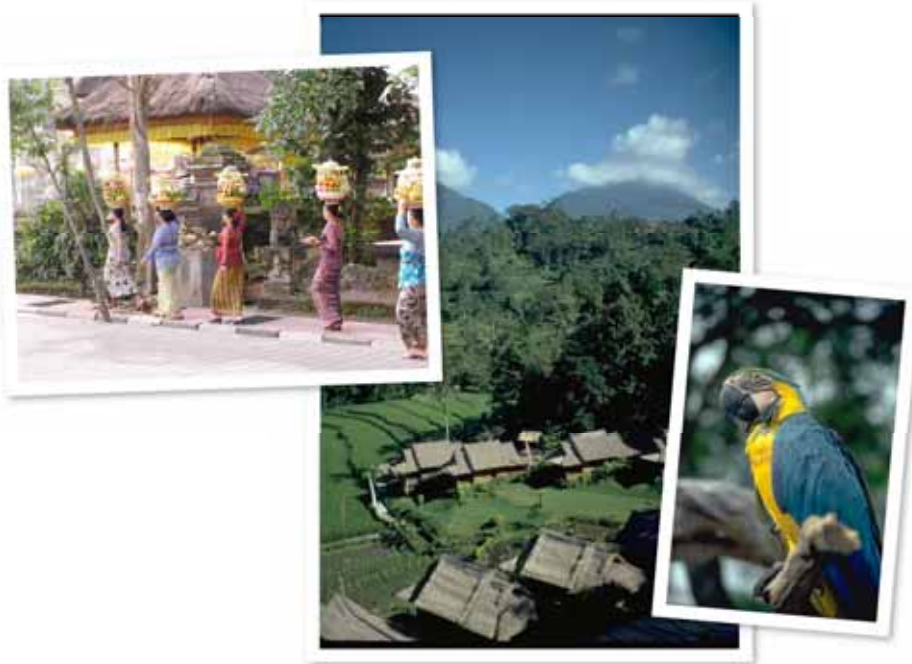


Trip Review



“The Wonders of Bali”

By Will Weber, JOURNEYS Director

This is a JOURNEYS Travel Update for Bali with comments about other areas of Indonesia.

Why Visit Bali?

No matter what you may have heard or read, the pleasures and beauty of Bali must be personally experienced to be appreciated. The relative affluence Bali has enjoyed, due to tourism, has been reinvested in cultural traditions. More than ever before in the island's long history, colorful temple ceremonies, active sacred building, and the practice of traditional arts and rituals is thriving everywhere. There are more hotels, lodges and guest houses than you would have found 20 years ago, but most are small scale and tastefully integrated with lush gardens. Balinese welcome international interest in their ceremonies, culture and arts, but seem less interested in the materialism of the rest of the world. They seem to appreciate the distinctive wonder of their own society and are not distracted by Western style or culture.

Few places on earth combine such an intense concentration of color, music, natural beauty, history, myth, hospitality and active spiritual practice. Life and death are constantly celebrated. The earth shakes with the volcanic rumblings of the sacred Mt. Agung, the Great Mother Goddess or the earth, as she exerts a sense of supernatural dominance on resident and visitors alike.



Bali is a different dimension in travel. You may well savor fruits, scents and flowers you have never experienced before. You will find life organized and paced in unfamiliar, but wholly satisfying patterns. You will certainly come to understand why so many artists, photographers, writers, poets and nature lovers fantasize about moving to Bali for the rest of their lives.



Our nine-day *Wonders of Bali* trip is too short to enjoy all the amazing virtues of Bali, but it is a good first visit itinerary which may well inspire your second trip. We have tried to include the sites, accommodations and events that have impressed us during the numerous trips our staff have made to Bali over the past 15 years.

Our local staff in Bali are native Balinese who speak Balinese and Bahasa Indonesian and are themselves observant Hindus and active practitioners of religious rituals. They are also fluent in English and

consider it a great honor to interpret their culture for foreign visitors.

Our itinerary features a selection of coastal and inland areas offering immediate access to natural beauty, cultural features and traditional daily life. You will have time to choose among alternative arts and culture events, meet local artisans and schedule your time to include variable intervals of browsing, hiking, shopping or just absorbing the seductive ambiance of the island



--Will Weber

