

EXPLORE!



BEST SELLER

Exotic Java and Bali
14 days

Indonesia - Trip code JV

Exotic Java and Bali

This Indonesian journey takes in the exotic islands of Java and Bali. On Java we visit the incredible Buddhist temples of Borobudur, watch as the sun sets on the Hindu temple of Prambanan and enjoy views of iconic Mount Bromo. On Bali we walk through rice paddies, enjoy the Bohemian charm of Ubud and spend time on both black and white sand beaches. There is also the opportunity to take an early morning dolphin safari by boat.

This trip has been carefully planned to be easily combined with our Highlights of Sumatra trip. Please contact our reservations team for more information.

Trip highlights

- ★ Yogyakarta - Exploring the heartland of Javanese culture
- ★ Borobodur and Prambanan - Excursions to remarkable Hindu and Buddhist temples
- ★ Tawangmanggu - Walk through local villages
- ★ Mt. Bromo - Stunning views of surrounding volcanoes
- ★ Lovina Beach - Opportunity to go dolphin watching
- ★ Ubud - Walk through paddy fields and enjoy the cultural heart of Bali

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour in Yogyakarta

Our tour starts late afternoon in Yogyakarta. Situated almost exactly halfway along the length of Java, in an area considered to be the heartland of the Javanese, Yogyakarta is home to some of the island's oldest traditions and blessed with a rich, fertile soil from the volcanic ash. It is the cultural capital of Java, with a real mixture of cultural influences, including Hindu and Buddhist temples, dating from the 8th century, Islamic Palaces from the 18th century and Dutch colonial architecture that harks back to the days when the Netherlands held much of Java in its imperialistic grip.



Accommodation: Indies Heritage (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - In Yogyakarta, explore by cycle rickshaw; visit Prambanan Hindu temple for sunset

This morning we enjoy a fun tour of Yogyakarta by 'becaks', a cycle rickshaw where the driver sits and peddles behind the passenger. The ride will take us to the Kraton Palace and Taman Sari Water Castle. Built by Java's first ruling sultan, Mangkubumi, the palace lies at the heart of a walled city that houses tens of thousands of people, whilst parts of the outer walls are still occupied by Javanese royalty. Later we drive out of the city, heading for the Hindu temple complex of the Prambanan Plain. This remarkable area is home to an incredible array of temples and palaces from the 8th and 9th centuries. We stay here to watch the sunset before returning to Yogyakarta.



Accommodation: Indies Heritage (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - From Yogyakarta, visit Borobodur Buddhist temple complex

This morning we head west to Borobodur, the largest and most impressive Buddhist monument in the southern hemisphere. Constructed in the 8th century this incredible monument, a petrified vision of the Buddhist cosmos, was lost for 900 years when Mount Merapi erupted and covered Borobodur in a layer of volcanic ash. The structure itself is immense, a gigantic Buddhist stupa constructed from two million blocks that covers an area of 200sq metres and rises some 34.5 metres above the Kedu Plain. Older by nearly half a century than the site at Prambanan, Borobodur is believed to have been built on the top of the foundations for what was originally a temple dedicated to Shiva, abandoned by the Hindu Sanjayas when their Buddhist rivals the Saliendras swept through the Malay peninsula during the 8th century.

A combination of earthquakes, subsidence and the mass migration of the Javanese to the east of the island saw the temple abandoned sometime during the 9th century, to be rediscovered again later by the British. Substantial work has been carried out to salvage the exquisite carvings and designs that adorn the structure and we can wander through the site today and marvel at the incredible detail of its narrative panels, which detail everything from Buddhist doctrines to the daily life of the Javanese. We return to Yogyakarta later in the afternoon. There is the opportunity to view a performance of Ramayana Ballet, an adaptation of the Hindu epic in the evening.



Accommodation: Indies Heritage (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Drive to Tawanmangu; visit Sultan's Palace en route and trek through villages

Leaving Yogyakarta this morning we drive east stopping to visit the palace of Puri Mangkunegaran, which has the largest pavilion in Indonesia, a cavernous structure with a vividly decorated ceiling depicting figures of the Javanese zodiac. The palace also houses an excellent museum containing some quite unique artefacts, including gold-plated dresses, unfeasibly large Buddhist rings and 'his and hers' golden genital covers!

After our visit we drive to Candi Suku, a mysterious structure that sits some 900m above the surrounding countryside. Built during the 15th century this unusual pyramid seems to bear little resemblance to the earlier structures that we have seen and

indeed there is still some mystery as to who built it and why. Its remarkable carvings would seem to indicate that the temple was dedicated to a fertility cult and it is believed that part of the temple's purpose was to determine the faithfulness of existing wives and the virginity of potential ones. We hike through the rural villages towards the hill town of Tawangmangu, lying on the slopes of Gunung Lawu, where we spend the night.



Accommodation: Indah Palace Tawangmangu (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Drive to Malang

Today sees a full day drive through the countryside to Malang. Established in the 18th century by the Dutch this city has some wonderful colonial architecture and interesting markets.



Accommodation: Enny's Guesthouse (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Drive to Mount Bromo; walk through Sand Sea

We make an early start this morning to visit the flower market in Malang before driving around 4 hours to Cemoro Lawang to bring us closer to Mount Bromo. We must change our vehicle for the last part of our journey as we head off the main road. We arrive in time for a late lunch break, after which our tour leader will take us for a three hour trek through the Sand Sea towards Mount Bromo.



Accommodation: Lava View Lodges (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Optional sunrise at Mount Penanjakan with views of Mount Bromo; drive to Kalibaru

Today, in the early hours of the morning, you have the option to take an excursion, by jeep and on foot, to the slopes of Mount Penanjakan (2770m) for spectacular views of Mount Bromo crater for sunrise. The trip then drives across the Sand Sea of the caldera towards the crater itself, admiring the beautiful pink glow of our surroundings as the sun slowly rises. Volcanoes have mystified man since the earliest of times, and with this breathtaking scene laid out before us this morning it is easy to understand why. Mid morning we will continue our journey to Kalibaru, which will be our base for two nights.



Accommodation: Kalibaru Cottages (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - In Kalibaru; optional sunrise at Mount Ijen; plantation visit

Volcanic conditions allowing, there may be the opportunity to take an optional excursion to climb the crater of Mount Ijen early this morning. The trek up to the highest point (2300 m) is undertaken in the early hours to see sunrise across the stunning sulphuric crater lake, its milky green waters surrounded by steep natural dams of craggy rock. In Kalibaru we stay on a plantation where we enjoy a guided tour of the gardens where nutmeg, cinnamon, pepper, cocoa, coffee and coconuts are grown. We also see how palm sugar is processed. The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.



Accommodation: Kalibaru Cottages (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Drive and ferry to Lovina on Bali

We leave Java behind this morning and head to the neighbouring island of Bali, crossing the Bali Strait by ferry from the coastal town of Ketapang. It is just a short ferry ride from here to Gilmanuk on Bali's western tip, from where we travel along the island's scenic coastal road to laid-back Lovina Beach on the northern shore. The rest of the afternoon should afford plenty of time to explore something of our new surroundings, enjoying the long black, volcanic sand beaches and perhaps making the most of the warm, tranquil waters of the Bali Sea.



Accommodation: Aditya Beach Resort (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Optional dolphin watching in Lovina; drive to Ubud

Early this morning you may choose to take an optional dolphin watching boat trip. Leaving around dawn the boats venture out into the offshore waters in search of the schools of dolphins that play in these waters. An added bonus to an early start to the day is the chance of a magnificent sunrise over the surrounding volcanic peaks.

After breakfast we drive to nearby Kintamani where six traditional villages surround the lake at the base of Mount Batur. The lake is the largest in Bali and serves an important role as the sole irrigation source for the local farming community. We start our sightseeing with a visit to the royal tombs of Gunung Kawi which are associated with the 11th century king Anak Wungsu and his wives. Later we move on to the Tirta Empul temple. Located in a peaceful environment with shady gardens and clear pools, the spring waters of the temple were once the bathing place of eastern Bali's Kings. The name derives from the large spring in the centre of the temple, Tirta, meaning Holy Water. The waters are believed to have magical powers; the legend has it that the God Indra, whose army had been poisoned by the Evil King Mayadenawa, pierced a stone here to produce magical water that would revive his men. We then continue on to Ubud, our base for two nights.



Accommodation: Hotel Pertiwi Bisma 1 (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - In Ubud, walk through rice paddies; free afternoon

We start our day with an orientation walk around the rice paddy fields, learning about local farming techniques and the life of the farmers here. The rest of the day is free to explore the town on your own. There's the option to visit some of the various handicraft workshops for which Ubud is famous, or cultural sites such as the Goa Gajah cave, Yeh Pulu rock carvings and the Pejeng Temple. Balinese art reflects many of the traditions and culture of the islands, recounting religious and historical epics, elements of puppet theatre and even real life, and in Ubud you can find some of the finest examples of the work anywhere in the archipelago.



Accommodation: Hotel Pertiwi Bisma 1 (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Free morning in Ubud; drive to Sanur

This morning our time is free to enjoy Ubud further before we check-out and make the one hour journey to our final stop at Sanur on Bali's south east coast, where we find white sand beaches. Sanur has a village feel and while there are several hotels and resorts it retains a certain charm. There a plenty of small shops for souvenir shopping, a selection of restaurants both on the main street and on the palm fringed beach front.



Accommodation: Puri Sading (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 13 - In Sanur; free day

Your time is free today to enjoy this small beach resort. Optional excursions for those who wish to be more active include excursions to explore either east or south Bali.



Accommodation: Puri Sading (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 14 - Tour ends in Sanur

Our tour ends after breakfast, but depending on flight times there may be the opportunity to enjoy the beach this morning for one last time.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



Why book this trip

This overland journey takes you right across Indonesia's best known islands of Java and Bali. This holiday is ideal for travellers interested in the culture of the region, who also enjoy being a little more active as there are opportunities to climb two volcanoes for truly breathtaking views. You will also walk through villages on Java and finish off with relaxing one of Bali's many beaches. For travellers wishing to see dolphins we offer this popular excursion on this tour.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 13



Transport

Bus
Ferry
Rickshaw



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

11 nights standard hotel
2 nights simple hotel

Trip information

Country information

Indonesia

Climate

Lying on the equator, Indonesia stays hot all year round, with daytime temperatures in the 80's (26°-28°C). Humidity is usually high. The wet seasons are roughly: Java- October to April; Bali- November to May; starting later the further east you travel. Nights are much cooler in the mountains than on the plains. Sea breezes normally keep the coastal strips of the islands from becoming too uncomfortable.

Time difference to GMT

+7

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Islam, Christian, Hindu

Language

Indonesian (official), numerous regional dialects, Sundanese, Javanese and some English.

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Yogyakarta - Ramayana Ballet - dance performance £20.00 (£27 with dinner included)

Lovina Beach - Boat trip to spot dolphins. £8.00, hot springs and Buddhist temple £15.00

Ubud - Kecak and fire dance show £5.00

Bromo - Jeep excursion to Mount Bromo for sunrise - £25.00 - £32.00 depending on number of participants

Kalibaru - Visit to the crater of Ijen volcano £25.00 - £32.00 depending on number of participants

Sanur - East Bali tour visiting Goa Lawa bat cave, Tirtagangga water palace and Tenganan village - £30, Temple tour of South Bali taking in Taman Ayun and Taman Lot including a Barong dance performance - £35.

Clothing

The region is tropical (humid) and days can be very hot. Casual clothes are the most practical, whilst tight fitting garments should be avoided. Please bring long skirts, trousers and shirts to cover yourself fully in order to respect local sensibilities and please bear in mind that short shorts are generally unacceptable. Bring some warmer clothing for the time spent at higher altitudes and if you intend (conditions allowing) to climb Mount Ijen (optional). Light rain gear and/or an umbrella is excellent in sticky, tropical conditions. A sunhat is essential.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

We recommend you bring a daypack and one main piece of luggage, you'll be required to carry your own luggage in places, so don't overload yourself.

For our night on Bromo we won't have access to our main luggage, so you will need to pack your daypack with one nights essentials.

Equipment

Binoculars, torch, water bottle, insect repellent, high factor sunscreen (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lip salve with sun protection. You may also wish to bring your own snorkel and mask for Lovina Beach.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

Accordingly you should allow approx. £35 for gratuities for local staff.

Country Information

Indonesia

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£5

Dinner price

£9

Beer price

£1

Water price

£0.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Rupiah (Rp).

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP will often get the best rates, EUR and USD are also accepted

Where To Exchange

Always check rates first. Banks and moneychangers usually have the best rates. Exchange is also possible at airports. Always keep receipts.

ATM Availability

In major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major towns.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques are accepted but require the purchase receipt. Well known brands and higher denominations are recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Ferry, Rickshaw

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Indonesia: British nationals travelling to Indonesia for tourism purposes can enter the country without a visa for up to 30 days at certain ports of entry including international airports in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Bali, Medan, Surabaya and Batam, and sea ports in Batam and Bintan. If travelling on a free visa you must also exit via one of these approved ports.

All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining after departure from Indonesia.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Indonesia

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, tetanus, infectious hepatitis, typhoid and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on Malaria and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Although not compulsory, travellers

may wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.
