



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Indonesia – Jakarta to Bali by Train

Tour Duration – 13 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●○○ | Culture ●●●○○ | History ●●●○○ | Wildlife ●●○○○

Tour Pace

Busy

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Discover Java travelling mostly by comfortable trains and staying in carefully chosen 4 and 5 star hotels, some dating from the Dutch colonial period
- ✓ Explore Yogyakarta, the country's cultural capital, before visiting the nearby Hindu temples of Prambanan, a World Heritage Site
- ✓ Hike to the top of Mount Bromo for the spectacular sunrise and superb views of surrounding volcanoes
- ✓ Finish your adventure with some downtime away from the crowds at the beachside paradise of Pemuteran on Bali's less-visited north coast





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Tour Map



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Comfortable 4 and 5 star hotels, with a focus on colonial style properties
Included Meals: Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
Group Size: Maximum 12
Start Point: Jakarta – you can arrive any time on day 1
End Point: Denpasar, Bali – you can depart any time on day 15
Transport: Trains, minibus, ferry
Countries: Indonesia



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Indonesia – Jakarta to Bali by Train

In an age of budget airlines and constant hurry, few international visitors are aware of Indonesia's superbly scenic train journeys, including an excellent system that links the main cities on the island of Java. Escorted by local guides this tour is an opportunity to travel across Java, a complex island of great antiquity and home today to 140 million people and the most populated island on earth. Although a trip designed for the adventure traveller, you will be staying at some of Indonesia's finest hotels, many dating back to the Dutch colonial period, including the luxurious Hermitage in Jakarta and the venerable Phoenix Hotel -, the place to stay in Yogyakarta.

After exploring Jakarta, one of the world's greatest megalopolises, we head east by first class train to Yogyakarta, the country's cultural capital. Along the way the train crosses sweeping viaducts, snakes through gentle hills and past rice paddies nestling in narrow valleys amongst the jungle. From Yogyakarta (commonly known as Yogya), we will visit one of Java's must-see sights. Comprising the remains of some 244 temples, World Heritage-listed Prambanan is Indonesia's largest Hindu site and one of Southeast Asia's major attractions.

We continue our journey east to Malang, a colonial city built by the Dutch to escape the heat of the coastal plains. After a very early start, we will travel to Mount Bromo where if the conditions are right, you will be rewarded with a dazzling view over mist-laden volcanoes.

As our adventure comes to an end, we take the short ferry crossing linking Java and Bali where we spend two nights away from the crowds at the beachside paradise of Pemuteran on the island's less-visited north coast.

A remarkable trip that combines adventure and a chance to experience this huge country 'flight free', whilst staying at some of the finest hotels that you will find in this part of Asia.

Tour Itinerary Notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible you will have the same guide throughout your trip but on occasions it may be necessary to change the guide at one or more points during the tour.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Jakarta

On arrival in the Indonesian capital, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight at The Hermitage Hotel or similar.



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The Hermitage, Jakarta

A fabulous hotel which only opened in 2016, with great staff, great food, and an excellent rooftop pool and bar. The front building has been converted from a lovely Dutch colonial PTT (Post, Telephone & Telegraph) office built in 1943 with a new 9-floor building behind it containing the rooms and rooftop pool. The art deco design has been carried through the hotel with acres of white marble, this place is utter luxury and offers an indulgent start to any tour.

Day 2- Jakarta

Meet your knowledgeable guide for an in-depth journey into Jakarta's history and evolution. Enjoy a private transfer into the heart of the city to learn of its fascinating seafaring roots, discovering the old town of Batavia along the way. Boasting many historical buildings of the old Dutch trading company known as VOC, today's Batavia is still home to the remnants of the once rich and powerful trading organization. Colonial Dutch structures have been transformed into museums, cafes, and galleries. Your first visit will be the lively old harbour of Sunda Kelapa, which once housed a range of Buganese Phinisi Schooners responsible for transporting goods from across the archipelago. Thought to be operational since before the 13th-century, the harbour is a fascinating location that preserves the history of Jakarta. Continue on to Taman Fatahilla, the historical centre of old Batavia and now cultural hub and home to three significant museums. Impromptu art performances populate the town square, adding to the excitement and creative ambiance. Visit the city's National Museum, home to one of the country's most complete collections of bronzes and ceramics dating back to the Han, Tang, and Ming Dynasties. The tour continues with visits to the Wayang Museum, dedicated to the art of shadow puppetry, and the Museum of Fine Art and Ceramics, boasting an eclectic assortment of over 400 artworks. Today's lunch is at the beautiful Cafe Batavia, offering colonial splendour, live music, and international cuisine. Overnight at The Hermitage or similar (BL)

Day 3 – Jakarta to Yogyakarta by train

After breakfast meet your guide for a transfer to Jakarta's modern Gambir station. Board an express train for Yogyakarta. Travelling first class, enjoy the 6.5 hours journey in air-conditioned comfort as the train crosses sweeping viaducts, snakes through gentle hills and past rice paddies nestling in narrow valleys amongst the jungle. On your arrival at Yogyakarta, transfer to your hotel, a colonial gem. Overnight at the Phoenix Hotel or similar. (B)

Phoenix Hotel, Yogyakarta

The venerable Phoenix Hotel is the place to stay in Yogyakarta. A landmark since 1918, the main building was originally the home of a wealthy merchant which became the residence of the Chinese consul after World War 2 before being converted into a hotel. Boasting classic rooms with Javanese and European elements in intricate details, the hotel has bags of quirky character, friendly staff and is excellently located.

Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta is situated almost exactly halfway along the length of Java, in an area considered to be the heartland of the Javanese. It is home to some of the island's oldest traditions and blessed with a rich, fertile soil – a result of volcanic ash. It is also the cultural capital of Java, with many cultural influences, including Hindu and Buddhist temples, Mosques, and Dutch colonial architecture that harks back to the days when the Netherlands held much of Java in its imperialist grip.



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Day 4 - Yogyakarta and Prambanan

Today we will learn more about Indonesian history with a full-day city tour. Start with a visit to Sultan's Palace, also known as the "Kraton of Yogyakarta". A model of traditional Javanese palatial architecture, the palace was built in 1970 by Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono, and is the reigning seat of the Sultan of Yogyakarta. Over 25,000 people live within the greater Kraton compound named Tamansari, which features its own market, shops, batik, and silver cottage industries, schools, and mosques. Here we will tour the Taman Sari Water Palace, an 18th-century royal garden. Legend has it the Sultan would throw a rose from a tower above the pool, and the Princess who caught it would be his wife. Next, we visit the historic neighbourhood of Kotagede, famed as the hub of Yogyakarta's silver industry since the 1930's. Observe a busy silver workshop to further appreciate this suburb, formerly the first capital of the Mataram Kingdom established in the 16th century. Lunch will be served at local restaurants.

Later we visit one of the country's must-see destinations, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Prambanan, where we explore the ancient Hindu temples in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Prambanan. Built in the 9th century, this collection of sharp, jagged temples features three main inner shrines dedicated to the Hindu trinity of Gods: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Our guide will explain the history and symbolism of the temples while walking around. Transfer back to our hotel in Yogyakarta. Overnight at the Phoenix Hotel or similar. (BL)

Day 5 - Candirejo Village and Borobudur

Meet your guide and driver to set out for the traditional Javanese village of Candirejo. Here, residents are supported by a local organisation and have implemented a sustainable tourism project to share the Javanese way of life. Travelling in a traditional horse cart known as an "andong/dokar", we explore this peaceful village and countryside, journeying through small rural lanes and plantations. Your knowledgeable guide will introduce you to Javanese daily life, allowing you to take a closer look at the different village activities such as harvesting and drying chili, making cassava crackers and crafting products from bamboo. Next, we visit a local house where the community performs traditional percussive gamelan music, having a chance to master this amazing art form yourself. During the tour we will enjoy a delicious Javanese meal at a pavilion known as a Pendopo Rumah. Our journey continues to the awe-inspiring Borobudur Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This 8th-century artistic and architectural marvel takes the shape of a sacred mandala when seen from above. A member of the Borobudur Conservation Association will give us an exclusive introduction to the intricate details of the incredible structure's 2,600 relief panels and more than 500 Buddha statues. Continue our tour with a visit to the Pawon Temple built with volcanic stones in a blend of Javanese, Hindu and Indian art, and the exquisite 9th-century Mendut Buddhist Temple and Monastery. All of the temples which we visit today were built in one straight line in order for the devout to ease their pilgrimage during the full moon. Overnight at the Phoenix Hotel or similar. (BL)

Day 6 - Yogyakarta to Mojokerto by train and continue to Malang

As our train leaves at just before 7am, we will have an early breakfast, followed by a transfer to Yogyakarta Railway Station. Board the train for a scenic 4 hour ride to Mojokerto in East Java from where will continue by road, with a stop along the way for lunch (not included and payable locally), to the colonial city of Malang. Overnight at the Hotel Tugu Malang or similar. (L)

Malang

Malang is another example of a colonial city built by the Dutch to escape the heat of the coastal plains. It lies on a plateau surrounded by a range of volcanoes. As is the case with other Indonesian cities, Malang has its share of congestion and pollution, but the colonial ambiance has not completely disappeared, especially along Ijen Street and in Tugu Square. Toko Oen, a café where plantation owners used to socialize in colonial times, has barely changed and is the place to sip tea or coffee and partake in traditional Dutch snacks such as kroketten (croquettes) or bitterballen (round deep-fried pastries).



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Day 7 – Malang to Bromo

We begin our day with a tour of Malang with its interesting mix of traditional Javanese temples and Dutch Colonial architecture. We visit take in all the major sights such as Jalan Ijen and Tugu Square with its handsome colonial City Hall. Time permitting, we will visit Rainbow Village, a slum area in the Jodipan neighbourhood that has been transformed. A few years ago, living conditions in the village were so bad that the government planned to relocate all its residents. However, a group of students from the University of Malang came up with the idea to give the whole area a fresh, multi-colored coat of paint in the hope that it would attract the attention of tourists. In June 2016, air force troops painted the entire village and directly after, tourists started to visit the colorful rainbow village, providing residents with much-needed attention and income. Later continue to Tumpak Sewu Waterfall. The waterfall is overshadowed by Semeru, an active volcano and the highest mountain in Java. Continue to Bromo arriving mid to late afternoon. Overnight at Plataran Bromo or similar. (B)

Day 8 – Mount Bromo and continue to Kalibaru

In order to see the spectacular sunrise from the crater rim of Mount Bromo, we will have an early hours (around 3am) start to our day. Travelling by jeep we reach the starting point of the walk to the crater. From here you have two options; to trek which will take around 4 hours (depending on physical condition) or for an additional cost to be paid locally, you can ride a pony. After our visit to the mountain, we will continue by road for about 2 hours to Probolinggo where we will join a local train (one class only) to Kalibaru, a good base from which to visit the local plantations. Enjoy a scenic 2 hour journey and an opportunity to meet the friendly local people. Overnight at the Margo Utomo Hillview Cottages or similar. (B)

Day 9 - Kalibaru to Ijen

Kalibaru is known locally for producing excellent nutmeg, cinnamon, pepper, cocoa, coffee, and coconuts. Visiting the plantations we learn how each crop is grown and harvested, along with a demonstration of how palm sugar is processed, a staple ingredient in this part of the world. Later we continue about 2 hours by road to Ijen, where we will stay before visiting the active crater of Kawah Ijen volcano the next morning. Overnight at Ijen Resort or similar. (BD)

Day 10 – Ijen to Ketapang and ferry to Bali

Very early morning (around 3am) we will drive to the meeting point where we will meet our guide for a trekking excursion to the crater of Kawah Ijen volcano. Depending on your physical fitness the trek is likely to take about 2 to 2.5 hours to ascent) and around 1.5 to 2 hours to descent. The volcano is well known for its stunning blue-acid lake with massive amounts of sulfur exuding from the mountain – one of the most acidic bodies of water on the planet. Here you can see the local sulfur miners walking down into the sulfur clouds to collect hardened sulfur and then trek back out – often carrying nearly twice their body weight. The scenes inside this active volcano are breathtaking – something you will be unlikely to experience again. Enjoy what we hope will be a spectacular sunrise before returning to the hotel for refreshment and breakfast. Later drive to Ketapang harbour, on the eastern tip of Java, where we will take the short ferry crossing to Gili Manuk harbour, on Bali. At this point we will say goodbye to our guide who return to Java, whilst we continue with a Balinese guide to Pemuteran. Arriving in the late afternoon, we will enjoy a 2 night stay away from the crowds on Bali's less visited north coast. Overnight at Plataran Menjangan or similar. (B)

Day 11 - Pemuteran

Enjoy a free day at the resort. Simply relax after your overland adventure from Jakarta or through the hotel you can organise a local excursion or walk. Overnight at Plataran Menjangan or similar. (B)



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Day 12 - Pemuteran to Sanur

After breakfast the final leg of our journey will take us to Sanur on Bali's southeastern coast, and conveniently located for the international airport. Along the way we will make some interesting stops, the first of which will be at the Buddhist monastery known as Brahma Ashrama Vihara, which was founded by one of Bali's few Buddhist monks, in 1969. Then visit the Banjar Hot Spring. This hot spring is set amid the gorgeous jungle in a landscaped tropical garden offering pools and showers – be sure to have a change of clothes and towel at hand. Arrive in Sanur in the afternoon where we stay for our final night of the tour. Overnight at the Hyatt Regency Bali or similar. (B)

Day 13 – Depart Bali

After check-out from your hotel (please note that check-out time is 12:00), meet your driver for a transfer to Denpasar Airport in time for check-in and your departure. (B)

Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers
Rail travel – generally first class seating except between Probolinggo and Kalibaru which is one class only
Road transfers by private air-conditioned vehicle
All accommodation
Services of English-speaking guide / tour leader
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary unless otherwise stated.

Excluded:

International flights
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Visas
Drinks

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At the time of writing there are no warnings against travel to Indonesia. Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or if you would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.



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Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis, please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

On this tour we use good quality 4 and 5 star accommodation throughout, and you can expect the hotels to have a range of facilities, including at most properties an outdoor swimming pool. Via an online search you will find the website for each hotel and reviews.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Rail Travel in Indonesia

An excellent train system links all the main cities on Java, including Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Probolinggo (for Mt Bromo). Many travellers will be surprised at just how comfortable the trains are, in particular on main routes such as from Jakarta to Yogyakarta. We will always book the highest available class, where possible executive or luxury seating.

On most journeys the train has a catering car with a counter selling tea, coffee, bottled water, soft drinks, snacks, and various types of microwaveable tray meals, typically with rice and chicken (chicken = ayam) or fried rice (nasi goreng) and meatballs (bakso). In addition, the same items can usually be purchased from a trolley which passes through the train. Costs tend to be cheap – just a few dollars or so for a tray meal. Please note that the cost of on train meals and drinks is not included as part of your tour. And please assume that local cash payment will be required.

Food & Drinks

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements, you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.



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Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs, and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

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 £6 to £10

Dinner £8 to £15

Drinks

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general, you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Water £1

Beer £1 to £2

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practise throughout Asia. If your local guide has been helpful, then you could think about tipping. A reasonable amount if you are travelling on a group tour would be \$4-5 per person per day for the guide and \$2-3 for the driver. If you are travelling privately, you should allow more than this

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: ATM machines are available in the bigger towns.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are widely accepted at the places visited on this tour.

Local Currency: Rupiah (rp)

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars

Where to Exchange: Your guide will advise you

Joining your Tour

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.

Joining Your Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive an airport transfer, both on arrival and departure include in the tour price. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time, and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.



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Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations 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 and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

At the time of writing British, US and Australian nationals require a visa for a tourist visit to Indonesia. For further details please visit the applicable website shown below

British Nationals - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

US Nationals - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Australian Nationals - www.smartraveller.gov.au/

Other nationals should check the latest requirements with the authorities in their home country, or with the destination's nearest embassy or consulate.

Should you require any documentation to support a visa application, such as a letter of invitation, upon request this will be provided by Undiscovered Destinations after receipt of your balance payment.

As it is the travellers' responsibility to ensure that they meet all entry requirements it is essential that you check the rules and any other conditions at the time of booking and again when making your balance payment. In addition, we would strongly advise that you make a final check around two weeks before your arrival. This is important as requirements can change at short notice. Undiscovered Destinations, when possible, will provide guidance about entry rules, but in the first instance please contact the relevant authorities, including the applicable embassy or consulate for assistance.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of your departure from Indonesia.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition, certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements, you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of the developing world, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice, and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and Meningitis. Anti-malaria medication will also be required, and the use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended.



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Preparing for your tour

Climate

The best time to visit Sulawesi is between May and October – although the temperature is consistent throughout the year, these months receive the least rain.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and it is also advised that a hat be worn through the day to protect from the sun. Even in the dry season it can rain and so you should make sure that you bring a waterproof jacket. It can be cooler in the evenings and at night, so you should bring some warmer clothes to wear then.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on our tours. Comfortable walking shoes/boots that are waterproof are recommended, as you will be walking alongside streams and getting in and out of boats. Light shoes/sandals are fine for leisure time.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Electrical supply is 230V/50Hz and plugs usually have two round pins like most European countries, or three pins in the British style.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour, but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated 24 November 2023.

