

DISCOVA

Indonesia





Selamat datang and welcome to Indonesia!





















































My name is Hulu Wayan and I'm a tour guide from Bali – one of the over 17,000 islands comprising Indonesia.

What I love about my home country is definitely its diversity. With hundreds of languages and ethnic groups, Indonesia is a colourful mosaic of cultures, unique customs, rich heritage and fascinating history. At the same time, Indonesia's range of landscapes is as vast as it is spectacular. With scenery stretching from the lofty peaks of volcanoes to magical beaches and into the depths of untouched rainforest, the archipelago is a veritable playground for adventurers.

Indonesia



D Climate & Weather Averages of Indonesia

	Destination	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Cold Temperatures can rise up to 32 °C during the day but at night can plummet to 15 °C or lower.	Bali Denpasar & Ubud												
 Warm Temperatures usually between 24 °C and 33 °C	Java Jakarta												
 Hot Temperatures rise above 34 °C	Sumatra Medan												
 Rain Regular rainfall with high humidity and temperatures usually between 25 °C and 33 °C	Raja Ampat												

* The actual climate of Indonesia's Regions can vary a bit.

Located close to the equator, the Indonesian archipelago offers tropical warm temperatures throughout the year and is characterised by two seasons – wet and dry. The climate varies between regions, but in most parts of the country, including Bali and Java, more regular downpours should be expected between November and April, whilst from May to October the weather is usually dry, with the highest tourist numbers in July and August.



Things to Know



Population

264 million



Capital City

Jakarta



Time Zone

UTC +7, UTC +8, UTC +9



Language

Bahasa Indonesian, English, Dutch, Javanese, and other local dialects.



Currency

Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)



People

Javanese, Sudanese, Matay, Madurese, Batak, Minangkabau, Bartenese, Banjarese, Balinese and others.

Festivals

Live some local traditions



Nyepi, Balinese New Year

Indonesia, March 25th - 26th

Nyepi, Balinese New Year, is one of most important festivals across the island. The Hindu celebration usually falls around March or April and sees the entire island shut down – including electricity and the airport – for a day of silence, fasting and meditation. Whilst Nyepi is unique to Bali



Lebaran (or Idul Fitri).

Indonesia, May 26th - 29th

Most of Indonesia celebrates Lebaran (or Idul Fitri). Marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, this two-day holiday is celebrated with special prayers, feasts and gifts.

Fleet Ownership

In Indonesia, Discova owns and operates a fleet of 31 vehicles.



07

Toyota Hiace 15 seats



10

Toyota Innova 7 seats



14

Suzuki APV 7 seats



Responsible Travel Initiatives

Local Guide Ambassador Program

At Discova, we're committed to supporting local communities and empowering marginalised groups to participate in sustainable tourism development. Our Local Guide Ambassador Program provides tools and opportunities for Indonesian youth to access education and find work opportunities. With this program we provide a six-month education scholarship for disadvantaged youth to become the next generation of tourism professionals.



Fight Against Single-Use Plastic



100% Biodegradable Wet Towels



Locally Sourced Bamboo Straws from Lombok



4,356 Plastic Bottles Saved in 2019



Social Enterprises...

...are an easy and sustainable way to give back to local communities. In Indonesia, we work with social enterprises that empower local artisans, create opportunities for rural communities and recycle ocean plastic.



Local Community

From joining seaweed farmers on Nusa Penida to engaging in the sacred tradition of making offerings in Sanur, our responsible tourism projects are designed to support the sustainable development of the communities whilst allowing travellers to experience the local life in Indonesia.



Protecting Children

ChildSafe Movement trains individuals and organisations providing them with the tools to protect children and youth. We are working on implementing ChildSafe throughout Discova to do our part in protecting children worldwide.



"I feel lucky to have been part of the Local Guide Ambassador Program – it changed my life and that of many other young people who participated in Bali."

What to Eat

Taste some local food



Gado - Gado

Literally “mix-mix,” it’s one of Indonesia’s best-known dishes, essentially a vegetable salad bathed in the country’s classic peanut sauce. At its base are boiled long beans, spinach, potato, corn, egg and bean sprouts coupled with cucumber, tofu and tempe.



Satay

This may be one of the most popular dishes internationally and for good reason. Pieces of meat are threaded on to a wooden skewer, cooked over fire and served with a distinctive peanut dipping sauce.



Klepon

These glutinous rice sweet snacks get their distinctive green colouring from natural Pandan leaves. The small green balls, covered in coconut shavings, are filled with deliciously sweet and oozy brown sugar that melts in your mouth.



“Travellers who want to taste some local food should try ‘Babi Guling’, suckling pig infused with Balinese spices and roasted on a spit until the meat is succulent and moist meat and crunchy crackling. This is typically served during ceremonies, but you can find it in many local eateries any day.”

Join us on an imaginary 13-Day Journey through Java & Bali

From Central Java, travel eastward via historic cities and active volcanoes to alluring Bali. Begin in Yogyakarta, the heart of Javanese culture, journey to the top of Mount Bromo and Mount Ijen and dive into the local life on a train ride. Cross over to Bali and embark an all-round exploration of the “island of the gods”.



Step off the beaten path to indulge in a spirit-enriching experience where supreme comfort and ancient traditions intertwine.

Plataran Borobudur Resort and Spa

★★★★★

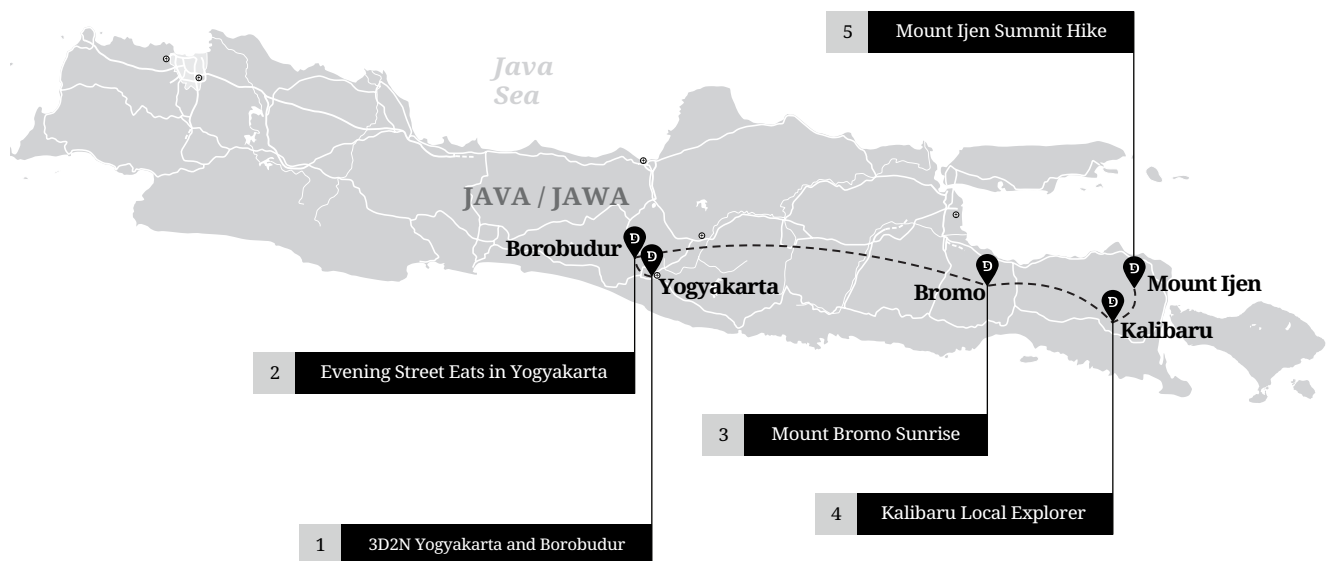
📍 Jl. Dusun Tanjung, Dusun II, Borobudur, Kec. Borobudur, Magelang, Jawa Tengah 56553, Indonesia.

Surrounded by lush teak forests, Plataran Borobudur Resort & Spa transports guests to another time and place, where days gently unfold against the backdrop of magnificent Borobudur Temple and the picturesque Menoreh Hills. Discover the real Indonesia with tailored destination activities, enjoyed in the gaze of one of the most awe-inspiring ancient wonders of the world. Mystical, magical, and unforgettable.



Java

With more than 140 million inhabitants, Java is not only home to half of Indonesia's population, but is, in fact, the most populous island in the world. Whilst modernity is found in Jakarta, the nation's sprawling capital, it's in Yogyakarta where Java's artistic heritage is at its best. Exceptional sights abound, the island is dotted with ancient treasures such as the magnificent Borobudur Temple Complex and boasts some of the world's most jaw-dropping volcanic landscapes.

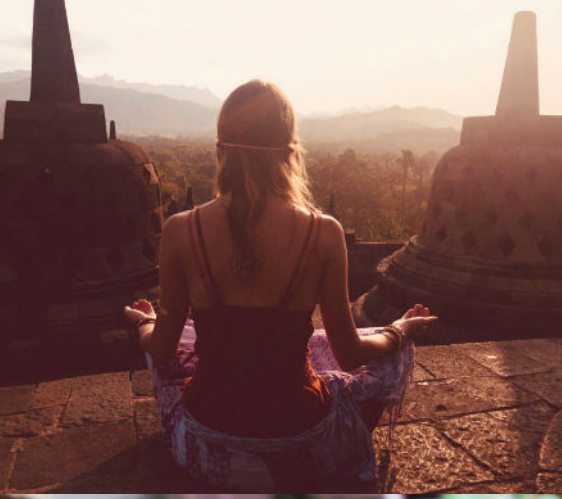


Off-the-beaten track experiences with a local expert which help support our communities.

... maximise the use of environmentally friendly transportation

... give back a portion of the profit to local communities

... help preserve local tradition and heritage



1. 3D2N Yogyakarta and Borobudur

Spend the first day exploring the historical city of Yogyakarta and visit the stunning Sultan's Palace as well as the culturally significant Water Palace. On day two, get ready to take in the impossibly iconic Borobudur Temple. Rising impressively from the thick foliage, this monument is the largest Buddhist temple in the world and a perfect place to spend a day of exploration.

2. Evening Street Eats in Yogyakarta

Experience the taste of Indonesia and try some of the country's finest delicacies. From Sate Ayam to Kopi Joss, eat like a local at some of the city's tastiest eateries before travelling across town in a motorised rickshaw in the search for some more culinary delights. Enjoy a fun, action-packed evening that truly showcases exceptional cuisine and vibrant atmosphere of Yogyakarta.

3. Mount Bromo Sunrise

Rise before dawn and board a jeep bound for the crater of Mount Bromo. Watch the sky change hues behind a silhouette of the mystical volcano and stand in awe of a stunning piece of nature's art. With the sun now above the horizon, return to the hotel before driving further east of Java island to the small hill town of Kalibaru.

4. Kalibaru Local Explorer

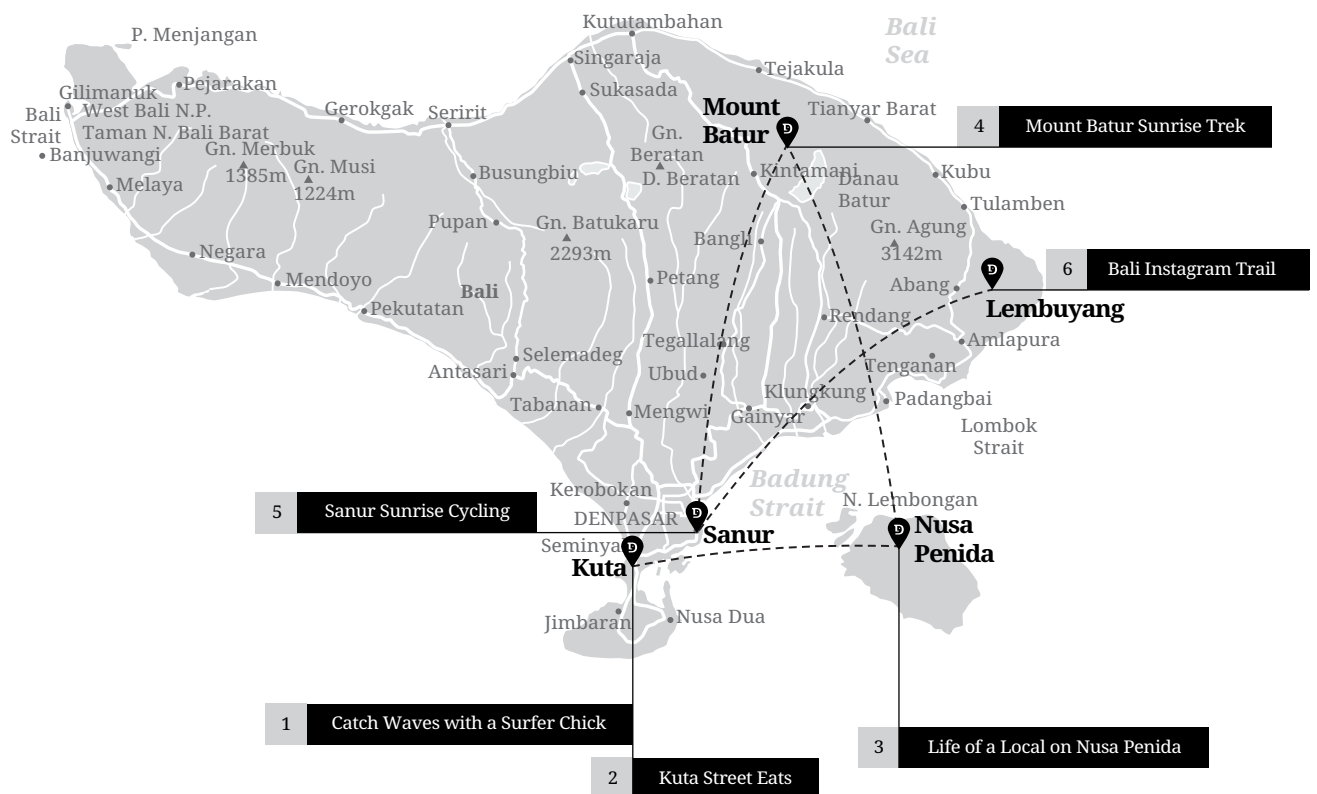
Clinging to volcanic foothills, Kalibaru is surrounded by plantations of cacao, coffee, cloves, vanilla and rubber. Spend the morning exploring the area and learn more about the farming of these different crops before boarding a local train to Banyuwangi on the Eastern tip of Java; this journey provides an opportunity to really understand the local way of life and experience the real Indonesia.

5. Mount Ijen Summit Hike

Get an early start and begin a beautiful hike to the crater of Mount Ijen. At the top, find an acidic, turquoise crater lake where local miners collect baskets full of yellow sulphate from the crater floor and transport it to a nearby valley for remuneration. Absorb the view of this incredible 'mountain of fire' then descend the volcano back to Banyuwangi.

Bali

Having made its mark on the world travellers' map decades ago, Bali is Indonesia's foremost tourist destination – for good reason. Nicknamed the 'Island of Gods', Bali is blessed with incredible nature and fascinating culture in equal measures. A place where metre-high waves crash against craggy cliffs that cradle ancient Hindu temples; where active volcanoes rise above verdant rice terraces; and where deep-rooted spiritual practice is as prevalent as the island's hip boutiques and swanky bars.



"One of my favourite experiences is exploring Bali's many waterfalls; it's great to get away and I find nature's sound truly relaxing. I recommend Bali's Central Highlands as there are many waterfalls quite close to each other."



1. Catch Waves with a Surfer Chick

Experience the joy of riding the waves in one of the world's top surf destinations – Bali. Under the guidance of a professional female surf instructor, learn the fundamental surfing techniques, including paddling, standing up and keeping balance. After practicing on land, it's time to venture into the ocean to catch some waves. An adrenaline-pumping experience to tick off the Bali bucket-list!



2. Kuta Street Eats

Discover a different side to Kuta with a guided tour into the area's warungs; these tiny family-owned businesses play an essential role in the lives of local Balinese. Wander along residential back alleys, mingle with the locals and sample an array of traditional Indonesian treats – a great way to experience Kuta through the eyes of the people that call it home.



3. Life of a Local on Nusa Penida

Travel by speedboat across azure waters and get ready to explore the history, culture and natural beauty of the paradise that is Nusa Penida Island. Begin with a visit to Goa Giri Putri, a colossal underground temple, learn about seaweed farming and Batik weaving from the local community and enjoy some time paddling, snorkelling and relaxing on a secluded beach.

Discover the Difference

To make our tour a little unique, we stop by and assist a local seaweed farmer as they fight to bring back the historic art form of seaweed farming.



4. Mount Batur Sunrise Trek

Stay up until the early hours of the morning to tick off one of Bali's most impressive natural sites. With the stars and torches lighting the way, trek up Mount Batur to reach the summit by sunrise. Watch the day begin as the sky lights up and take in the majestic silhouette of Mount Agung. Enjoy a light breakfast before heading back down.



5. Sanur Sunrise Cycling

Explore the very best of Sanur in the early morning and discover the little-known places where local Balinese pray, shop and mingle while the rest of the island sleeps. Start the cycling adventure by pedalling toward the beach – the perfect spot to watch the sunrise – before sampling some snacks at a bustling morning market and making an offering at a local temple.



6. Bali Instagram Trail

Discover some of the island's most picturesque locations whilst being accompanied by a local photographer who will capture all the special moments throughout the day. Snap breathtaking sunrise pics at the famous Heaven Gate of Lembuyang Temple, pose in the pools of the stunning Tirta Gangga Water Palace and enjoy a fun photo session at one of Bali's immaculate beaches.

Our Recommended Hotels

Java & Bali



Plataran Bromo

★★★★★

📍 Wonopolo, Ngadiwono, Tosari, Pasuruan, East Java 67177, Indonesia.

Nestled on the highlands of Bromo, Plataran Bromo offers sublime views of the rural beauty of agricultural plantations woven into the surrounding hills. It is strategically located at the gateway of Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park. A destination where guests can immerse in the natural beauty of Bromo through comforting lodging, authentic cuisine, cultural entertainment, nature and sport events.



Plataran Komodo Resort & Spa

★★★★★

📍 Waecicu Beach, Labuan Bajo, West Manggarai, East Nusa Tenggara 86757, Indonesia.

Secluded in a quiet cove on Waecicu Beach on the island of Flores, Plataran Komodo Resort & Spa is a true tropical paradise. A luxurious base for indulging in sun-kissed days of relaxation and adventure. Explore the amazing marine life or hop aboard one of the Plataran private cruises to see the fabled Komodo dragons up close.



Plataran Heritage Borobudur

★★★★

📍 Dusun Tanjungan, Borobudur, Magelang, Central Java 56553, Indonesia.

Cultivated elegance meets colonial charm for a uniquely enchanting stay at Plataran Heritage Borobudur Hotel & Convention Center, set amid the rice terraces of Kretek village in Magelang, Central Java, with Borobudur Temple at your doorstep and the legendary Menoreh Hills as your backdrop. Plataran Heritage is discerning choice for leisure and business travellers, infused with the mystical Borobudur ambience.



Hotel Vila Ombak

★★★★

📍 Gili Trawangan Island, Kabupaten Lombok Utara (KLU), Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Hotel Vila Ombak is the first international hotel on the vibrant tropical island of Gili Trawangan, Lombok with four-star accommodation, facilities, services and winning world luxury hotel awards. This is a perfect island destination to create your own adventure or escape.



Alaya Resort Ubud

★★★★★

📍 Jl. Hanoman, Ubud, Bali 80571, Indonesia.

Alaya Resort Ubud is a boutique resort that is all about taking time out to enjoy quality relaxation in a stylish environment surrounded by natural beauty. This 106 room property has been designed to reflect Bali as an artistic destination and meet the needs of international travellers. It offers warm hospitality and a distinct sense of belonging that is truly unique to the island of Bali.

Our Recommended Hotels

Java & Bali



Plataran Canggu Resort and Spa

★★★★★

📍 Jl. Pengubugan, Banjar Silayukti - Kuta, Bali 80361, Indonesia.

Cocooned within tropical gardens, alongside a river and lush green paddy fields, Plataran Canggu Bali Resort & Spa is an oasis of amazing peace and tranquility. A delightful piece of forgotten Bali and authentic Balinese village life that lies just steps from the main street of Canggu, yet feels far removed from the madding crowd.



Plataran Menjangan Resort and Spa

★★★★★

📍 West Bali National Park, Jl. Raya Seririt - Gilimanuk, Singaraja, Bali, Indonesia.

A tranquil hideaway located within the protected sanctuary of West Bali National Park, Plataran Menjangan Resort & Spa offers an escape to nature at its most beautifully raw and untouched. Experience the luxury, privacy and comfort of this unique eco retreat, at one with nature in the midst of the forest or right by the ocean.



The Pavilions Bali

★★★★

📍 Jl. Danau Tamblingan No.76, Sanur, Kec. Denpasar Sel., Kota Denpasar, Bali 80228, Indonesia.

Set amid magnificent tropical gardens, 25 private villas combine the traditions of Balinese design with the comfort of an intimate boutique resort. Guests can indulge their appetites in the enchanted setting of Jahe restaurant, pamper themselves with all-natural wellness rituals at The Pavilions Spa or let Butler team surprise them with a candlelit dinner in the privacy of their villa.



Plataran Ubud Hotel and Spa

★★★★★

📍 Jl. Raya Hanoman Pengosekan, Ubud, Gianyar, Bali 80571, Indonesia.

Plataran Ubud Hotel & Spa is a sprawling haven of tranquility located just off Ubud's main dining hub of Jalan Hanoman Road. Step from the bustle of the street into beautifully manicured gardens overlooking a stunning panorama of verdant paddy fields and a sacred temple that is aged more than 100 years old.



Taksu Sanur Hotel

★★★★

📍 Jl. Sudamala No.26, Sanur - Bali 80228 - Indonesia

Taksu Hotel Sanur offers a luxurious retreat with a restaurant and an outdoor pool amidst lush greenery. A 10-minute walk from Mertasari Beach, it houses modern suites. Free WiFi is accessible throughout the property.



Away Bali Legian Camakila

★★★★

📍 Jl. Padma Utara, Legian, Kuta, Kabupaten Badung, Bali 80361

Nestled between Legian Beach and bustling shopping and entertainment street - Away Bali Legian Camakila allows guests to experience the best of both worlds – stunning sunsets right on the beach with views of the Indian Ocean and wrath of Balinese ambiance right outside the front door.

Other Regions



Sumatra

An adventurer's dream, Sumatra is largely covered by flourishing rainforest, the depths of which are home to orangutans, elephants and the endangered Sumatran Tiger. Located northwest from Java, the island's coast is fringed with picturesque beaches, as well as world-class diving and surfing spots. However, one of its most spectacular natural sights is found inland – Danau Toba. Filling the caldera of an ancient super volcano, the crater lake is marked by an enormous island at its heart.



Nusa Tenggara Islands

Known collectively as Nusa Tenggara, the islands dotting the sea between Bali and Timor make for a great island-hopping adventure. At the western front of the archipelago lies Lombok, a less-crowded alternative to Bali, whilst its eastern neighbour, Sumbawa, is an even further step off-the-beaten-track. From here, Komodo National Park is a favourite destination to view the namesake reptiles on the way to beautiful Flores, whilst West Timor's culturally rich heritage continues to attract more and more travellers.



Raja Ampat

Sprinkled off the coast of West Papua, Raja Ampat is among the few destinations truly deserving of the description ‘paradise on Earth’. Translating as ‘The Four Kings’, the archipelago includes over 1,500 islets. Its crystal-clear waters brim with an abundance of marine life that make it an unrivalled diving destination, whilst the island’s jungle clad tops and hidden caves are home to a diverse array of wildlife including the famous crimson red bird of paradise.



Sulawesi

Indonesia’s fourth largest island, Sulawesi, is the clear winner in the competition for the most interesting shape. Featuring several peninsulas splayed out like the tentacles of an octopus, its unusual outline might be explained by the fact that the island is spread across three different tectonic plates. Fringed by colourful coral reefs, travellers heading inland will find unique cultures and ethnic groups as well as rare wildlife hidden between rugged mountain ranges and thick jungle.

Unique MICE Venues

At the moment, we offer a range of MICE services in Bali



Samabe Cave

Nusa Dua

A naturally formed cave and a white-sanded beach provide a unique and atmospheric dinner setting.



Pasar Malam

Tanjung Benoa

Set up like a Balinese market, the magnificent restaurant showcases traditional architecture, local cuisine and an array of cultural activities and performances.



Azul Beach Club

Seminyak

A mix of sophisticated and casual, the beachfront Tiki-style bar features an open-air restaurant, infinity pool with sun loungers and a private dining terrace.



Plantation Grill

Seminyak

An elegant grill restaurant, a prohibition-style cocktail bar and a hideaway boudoir – the luxurious, Gatsby-esque venue takes guests back to the golden twenties.

Unique Educational Opportunities

We ensure our innovative range of themed programs and educational tours for adults and students make a positive impact and provide opportunities for inspiration, exploration and learning.



Bali Water Protection Program

Created by IDEP foundation in response to the island's alarming freshwater crisis, this program aims to build 'recharge wells' to restore groundwater reservoirs and block saltwater intrusion. There are different options for educational groups to support this program whilst learning about water protection.



Marine Conservation Activities

Coral Triangle Conversation (CTC) offers a variety of hands-on learning activities for students and adults. Ranging from beach clean-ups to engaging games and fun competitions, the programs are a fun way to learn about marine environment and protection.



Cultural Immersion

From gaining a different perspective to being adaptive to different environments – there's no better way to learn about the life of a community than a homestay. From Bali to Sumatra, Discova offers numerous opportunities for travellers to immerse in local culture and participate in the daily life with a range of activities, including cooking classes, trekking or craft workshops.



Sumatra Tree Planting

A decade ago, the Sumatran rainforest was heavily damaged due to illegal logging, substantially diminishing the habitat for wildlife such as orangutans. In the villages of Tangkaha, educational groups have the opportunity to help repair these damages, allowing the forest to flourish once again. Planting local trees including Meranti, Damar, Mahang and Mahonia will help restore the area's ecosystem and also provide protection from erosion and landslides.

Adventure Seeker

Adventure isn't difficult to find amidst varied 5,000-kilometre-long archipelago.



Hike up a volcano there's more here than any other country in the world! Impressive blue sulphur flames at Ijen, volcanic sea of sand surrounding Bromo, sun rise standing atop Batur. Trekkers with a sense of adventure are seriously spoilt for choice. (see p[.] for more details)



Surfing in Indo is a must-do for anyone seeking an adrenaline fix. With more than 50,000 kilometres of coastline, some of the best breaks in the world can be found here. There are plenty of spots with gentle waves for newbies to learn on too (see p[.] about taking a surf lesson]



As part of the 'Coral Triangle', Indonesia has 20% of the world's coral reefs which are home to incredibly diverse marine life. This alongside sunken wrecks, underwater volcanoes and deep-water trenches, makes Indonesia's underwater world just perfect for scuba diving!

Culture Enthusiast

With the national slogan ‘unity in diversity’, there’s no doubt that Indonesia is absolutely teeming with culture.



Enjoy a picturesque evening at Uluwatu’s illustrious temple, Pura Luhur, perched on the edge of rocky cliffs seventy metres above sea level. As the sun sets on the horizon, experience a spine-tingling **Kecak fire dance performance**, the traditional Balinese-Hindu dance which depicts a famous battle in ancient history.



The traditional art of batik-making originated in Java and involves using wax with dye to intricately decorate cloth. With patterns influenced by a variety of cultures, Javanese Batik is by far the most globally recognised. When visiting the island, culture-lovers can enjoy a **batik workshop** or seek out a genuine piece to take home.



From Java’s Borobudur – the world’s largest Buddhist temple – and Bali’s many Hindu places of worship to the majestic Surabayan mosques, Catholic cathedrals of East Nusa Tenggara and Confucian temples in the Sulawesi highlands – there’s plenty of **sacred sites** throughout Indonesia to admire. Wander streets to encounter religious offerings and family shrines, venture further afield for mountainside temples and incense-filled caverns dedicated to the gods.

Nature and Wildlife Lover

The archipelago's moderate climate coupled with mineral-rich land makes for an ideal habitat for a vast variety of flora and fauna just waiting to be explored.



In Northern Sumatra, embark on a **trek in search of orangutans** - it's one of only two places in the world where you can witness these 'people of the forest' in their natural habitat! Home to a number of the world's rarest species, it's also possible to encounter rhinos, elephants and even tigers amidst the Sumatran jungle.



Go on a quest to find the **iconic Komodo Dragon** within its namesake national park. This group of islands has a lot to offer nature-lovers with dusty plains, tropical grasslands, dormant volcanoes and untouched coral reefs. However, it'll be an encounter with the world's largest lizard that makes a trip to the area unforgettable.



From the lush rice terraces of Ubud and the pristine natural charm of Kelingking Beach, to iridescent volcanic lakes and spectacular waterfalls, it's impossible to pinpoint just one of **Indonesia's must-see natural wonders**. Travellers can relish in all of the earth's greatest creations whilst travelling through 'The Emerald of the Equator'.

Curious Learner

There's plenty to learn from a visit to Indonesia where cultural traditions and natural wonders combine with an interesting history.



A visit to **The Kraton in Yogyakarta** provides incredible insight into the Javanese monarchy that is the Yogyakarta Sultanate. This giant palace complex is a cultural and political centre encompassing shops, schools, mosques, a market and residences for about 25,000 people.



Delve into the world of **Indonesian traditional medicine**, known locally as 'Jamu', to understand how this centuries-old practise continues to be popular with locals for maintaining good health. Visit a jamu shop or even partake in a workshop for the opportunity to learn all about the uses for different medicinal herbs.



Whether it be centuries-old temples like Borobudur and Pramabanan; historical cities such as Semarang and Yogyakarta; or fossilised remains of the 'Java Man', it's possible to trace even **more than 500,000 years of history in Indonesia**. With nine official UNESCO World Heritage sites and many other places of significance, history enthusiasts won't get bored here.

Socialiser

A key draw to Indonesia – more specifically Bali – is the nightlife which caters to a variety of tastes. Avid partygoers won't leave the island disappointed.



Sophisticated **Seminyak** comes alive with robust music and flaring lights once the sun sets. Upscale bars, restaurants and clubs are scattered throughout and offer a classy spot for travellers who are looking to indulge in a drink or two.



Once a sleepy village with just a few homestays, **Canggu** has morphed into a funky coastal town with a very chilled out atmosphere. Sipping a bintang as the sun sets, sampling inventive cocktails and dancing to energetic live bands can all be expected on a night out in this hip neighbourhood.



From the lush rice terraces of Ubud and the pristine natural charm of Kelingking Beach, to iridescent volcanic lakes and spectacular waterfalls, it's impossible to pinpoint just one of Indonesia's must-see natural wonders. Travellers can relish in all of the earth's greatest creations whilst travelling through '**The Emerald of the Equator**'.

Offices

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DISCOVA

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