# The Trail of the Gods



Days: 13

Price: 1250 EUR

International flight not

included

Comfort: ★★★

Difficult: ★★★☆☆

▶ Trekking Culture

There are no words beside 'paradise' to depict **Bali** – an island blessed by the gods, according to Balinese, at the very least by nature, according to travellers. Walking on the trails of the gods, you will discover landscapes with nothing to envy the masterpieces of impressionist painters: terraced rice fields, volcanoes towering above clouds and dense tropical forests, an island of great contrast...

**Bali is more than a marvel of nature!** Spiritual development is also a major part of its inhabitants' life. Centuries of practically uninterrupted cultural continuity have preserved Hindu beliefs, therefore a unique organization of daily life where everybody, from young children to elder people, has a role to play. Naturally gracious, their religious rites and traditional customs emphasize **Bali's beauties**. Ceremonies, dances, processions to temples and other daily activities reinforce this unique culture.

Though jealously preserving most of their past, Balinese have always welcomed new and innovative elements, brought up by changing times or borrowed from abroad, thus creating a unique paradox and an open-minded community, which you are to join for a **13 day discovery journey**.

## Day 1. Welcome to Bali



Denpasar airport ♥
♣ 40km - ② 1h 20m
Ubud ♥

### Denpasar airport - Ubud

Upon arrival at Denpasar International Airport, transfer to Ubud, a small town amidst emerald green rice
paddies and steep ravines in the stunning Central Balinese foothills. Ubud is known as the cultural centre of
the island. Despite tourist expansion, this town has preserved its peacefulness and beauty. Free afternoon.
Overnight at a hotel.

★ Accommodation

Hotel 3 star

## Day 2. Exploring the local customs



Day to discover Ubud and to stroll in its surroundings. In Ubud, elegantly carved temples and palaces
flourished in the past. Walking down its streets, you discover Puri Saren and its richly carved doorways, the
superbly chiselled Pura Saraswati, the delightful sculptures of Pura Puseh, and numerous museums and
galleries... Another major sight of Ubud is the so-called Monkey Forest Temple. Around Ubud, you are
surrounded by breathtaking vistas and surprising glimpses of unspoilt rural landscape. Overnight at the same
hotel.

Ubud **♀** 

Breakfast

Hotel 3 star

★ Accommodation

Hotel 3 star

Day 3. First hike across the local rice paddies



Ubud ♥
♣ 14km - ② 40m
Tampaksiring ♥
♣ 14km - ② 40m
Ubud ♥

### **Ubud - Tampaksiring**

 Warm-up walk through the rice fields of Tampaksiring. There, a family of Balinese artists welcomes us, serving a delicious typical lunch in their traditional home. They later perform typical Balinese dances.

### Tampaksiring - Ubud

· Back to Ubud in the afternoon.

■ Breakfast Hotel 3 star

Accommodation Hotel 3 star

## Day 4. Full immersion into a green ocean of rice fields



Ubud **♀ ♣** 52km - **②** 2h Belimbing **♀** 

### **Ubud - Belimbing**

• Transfer to **Belimbing**, a small village among paddy fields. On this trip, we discover the most beautiful terraced rice fields on the island. We also meet with local people to get better acquainted with their culture.

■ Breakfast Hotel 3 star

Accommodation Hotel 3 star

## Day 5. From green to blue



Belimbing ♥
♣ 80km - ② 2h
Pemuteran ♥

### Belimbing - Pemuteran

After a night in a typical local accommodation, we travel to a seaside resort on the northeast coast of Bali, far
from crowded tourist areas. We enjoy wonderful beaches, marine wildlife and underwater coralline
landscapes, surrounding the Mejangan Island. You may also rent a boat for further exploration.

Breakfast

Hotel 3 star

★ Accommodation

Hotel 4 star

## Day 6. Up above



Pemuteran ♥
♣ 55km - ② 1h 30m
Munduk ♥

#### Pemuteran - Munduk

- Early transfer to Munduk, where we are accommodated in beautifully restored colonial houses.
- The day ends with a gorgeous walk discovering local flora in full bloom around the town. This area is a
  picturesque region of coffee and clove plantations, nearby forests, waterfalls and some of the most beautiful
  views of the island.

Breakfast

Hotel 4 star

Accommodation

Guest house

Day 7. The lakes area



Munduk ♥
- ② 5h
Lake Bratan ♥
- ③ 5m
Bedugul ♥

#### Munduk - Lake Bratan

- Today's walk brings us to Candi Kuning, along Tamblingan and Buyan volcanic lakes. These twin lakes
  were formed in 1818, after a major landslide divided the existing lake in two. This very scenic trek is a great
  opportunity to learn about local people and agriculture while walking along the edge of beautiful tropical
  forests.
- We visit the famous **Hindu-Buddhist temple complex of Ulun Danau**, an absolutely charming site with its huge banyan tree standing near the entrance. One of the temples, isolated on a small island, reflects its 11-tier pagoda on the still waters of the lake.

### Lake Bratan - Bedugul

• We have time to contemplate this beautiful landscape before continuing to the picturesque market of Bedugul, then on to village of Catur, located halfway between Lake Bratan and Mt Batur.

■ Breakfast	Guest house	
¶¶ Lunch	Picnic	
★ Accommodation	Hotel	

## Day 8. Plantations at a high altitude



Bedugul ♥

- • • 1h 30m

Toyabungkah ♥

### Bedugul - Toyabungkah

• We then head to the huge Batur caldeira, passing through Catur area, renowned for its orange and coffee plantations. We reach Batur volcano (1,717 m) and enjoy from Penelokan (literally meaning 'look-out') a superb view over the lake lying at its foot. The large size of its crater (14 km across) implies that Mt. Batur used to be a much larger mountain (certainly as tall as Mt. Agung), which blew its top thousands of years ago. Now, this old crater is half-filled with a huge lake, the largest of Bali. Its other half is cultivated and covered with lava fields. The blackened cone of Mt. Batur sits in the middle of this stunning panorama. We carry out our ascent of Mt. Batur through its old lava flows, and skirt around its four craters.

Overnight at a local inn (losmen)

▶ Breakfast Hotel♣ Accommodation Hotel 2 star

## Day 9. First climb across a lunar landscape



Toyabungkah ♥
- ② 5h
Mt Batur ♥
- ➡ - ② 1h
Kehen Temple ♥
- ➡ - ② 2h

Tirtagangga 9

#### Toyabungkah - Mt Batur

We start to climb Mt Batur before the end of the night. We first hike up towards the oldest crater. Then we
walk our way down along the adjoining craters before resting at a close but safe distance from the latest and
most active crater.

### Mt Batur - Kehen Temple

• The afternoon, we visit the second temple, Kehen (often considered to be the most attractive temple in Bali), in the vicinity of Bangli. This temple is said to be one of the most aesthetic in Bali.

#### Kehen Temple - Tirtagangga

Then, we set off to Tirtagangga, officially known as Tirta Ayu ('lovely waters'). We discover its cool, spring-fed
pools (which literally means 'Ganges' water') pleasure palace of a former king of Karangasem. These dip
pools, surrounded by captivating terraced rice fields, are particularly refreshing after our long drive in.
Overnight at a local inn (losmen).

## Day 10. The original Bali



Tirtagangga ♥
- ② 4h
Tenganan ♥
- ② 1h
Sidemen ♥

### Tirtagangga - Tenganan

• We walk through fields until the Bali Aga (or 'original Balinese') village of Tenganan. This village has preserved its traditional Balinese culture as it was prior to the influence of the Majapahit Hindu kingdom. It is also famous throughout Bali for the magical textiles its artists produce (including the famous double ikat cloths, which rank among the masterworks of Southeast Asia), which are also used by other Balinese communities in their worship. The concept of territorial and bodily purity and integrity plays a main role in the culture of this village. For this reason, outsiders are welcome from noon until evening, at what point they are kindly asked to leave. Some say that footprints of visitors are literally erased after they leave.

### Tenganan - Sidemen

 Our next stop is Sidemen. Traditional varieties of Balinese rice are grown in Sidemen and the scenery is indeed gorgeous.

■ BreakfastHotel 4 star¶ LunchPicnicAccommodationHotel 3 star

## Day 11. The very Bali



Sidemen ♥

♣ 40km - ② 1h 40m

Sanur ♥

• The ultimate hike of our trip: walk on a track with stunning views over both Mt. Agung and the Indian Ocean. In the afternoon, transfer to Sanur's heavenly beaches (South Bali).

■ Breakfast Hotel 3 star

Accommodation Hotel 3 star

### Day 12.



Breakfast

Hotel 3 star

★ Accommodation

Hotel 3 star

Sanur **9** 

Day 13. Bali wishes you an excellent flight back...



Sanur 🗣

🚗 - 🖸 40m

Denpasar airport ♥

Departure 🗣

### Sanur - Denpasar airport

• Free morning until your transfer to the airport. Flight to your next destination.

Breakfast

Hotel 3 star

## Itinerary map



## Individual price per person

2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	6-8
1995 EUR	1675 EUR	1450 EUR	1350 EUR	1250 EUR

### Included

- Services of an Azimuth English speaking (or French speaking) local guide.
- · Land & sea transfers needed for the circuit
- Accommodation
- Meals as indicated in the description day by day
- Entrance fees for touristic sites and museums
- Mineral water and snacks (fruit, biscuits ...) during the days of walking
- In high season, our tour guides can be already busy. If you want a guarantee of supervision by one of them, we recommend an early booking of this tour.

### Not included

- International and domestic airfare
- Airport taxes & visa fees
- · Drinks, personal expenses and tips
- Travel Insurance & Assistance
- · Anything that is not listed in "Inclusions"

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