

BALI FIBER TOURS

2019 tour dates

Tour #1 April 13 – 27 (limited to 10 women)
Tour #2 April 30 – May 14 (limited to 10 women)

Tour price with shared hotel room: \$4200 US per person
Single supplement (own hotel room) is *possible* at a cost an additional
\$1200 US

Please note: this tour involves some walking. My guests must be able to walk unassisted, have the stamina to walk three or four blocks at a time and climb a flight of stairs as needed... ~ Please be honest with yourself (and with me) as to your abilities ~

This is a very full and informative tour but there is down-time built in so you should not feel exhausted...and all activities are optional so you can opt out of any activity if you wish. I have been traveling to Bali every year since 1999 and have many Balinese, Indonesian and Ex-Pat (American and Canadian) friends who make this tour extra special for me and for you.

Your tour fee includes the following (and more)

- A two-week fully-guided tour of Bali by two experienced, knowledgeable guides with many personal connections to local artisans and “regular folk” that you are sure to enjoy immensely. Local guides with particular expertise are employed to assist us.
- All the benefits of a very small tour group – just 10 women. This is not your usual tour but more like a fun-and-informative girlfriend trip.
- 14 nights accommodation at three very nice resorts in Tuban (near Kuta) on the Indian Ocean, Ubud (the art center of Bali, inland) and Sanur (Bali’s best-kept secret, on the east coast). We use these hotels: <http://www.thepatrabali.com>, <http://ramaphala.thephala.com> and <http://www.pramasanurbeach.com>.
- 28 meals. Most dinners (evening meals) are not included so we can be free to make our own evening plans when we don’t have an organized activity.

Fiber in Bali

- Specially-designed fiber-related activities (designed for the novice but not limited in scope to that) and LOTS of fabric shopping (with quality cotton and rayon batiks selling for about \$2.50 US a meter!)
- We've also found a lovely source for silks, cotton ikats and unique hand-woven/hand-dyed textiles.
- Not a sewer but love gorgeous fabrics? Bali has many tailors happy to turn your beautiful fabrics into custom-fit garments! We'll introduce you to one – let her sew for you.
- An interactive day in a batik factory where you will dye your own length of fabric (cotton or rayon, your choice), choose batik tjaps for your image and stamp your fabric with your own design in mind. A fun and fascinating day!
- Indigo dyeing! A visit to an ethical natural dye studio where, using a Shibori fold/clamp/tie technique, you will design and dye your own length of fabric (a lovely cotton/linen blend) using a natural indigo dye vat made from the plant source. At this studio threads are dyed and woven into fabric for clothing designers in Europe, North America and Bali. They allow us to buy from their exclusive fabric collection.
- Shopping days with visits to a huge craft/bead supply store and a sewing notions store.
- A wholesale (best quality) sarong market
- A wonderful button store featuring horn, wood and shell buttons. Lots of bargains and unique finds!!
- A guided tour to a weaving village in East Bali where we visit a weaving cooperative and see the labor-intensive dye process and ikats being woven into textiles. There will be opportunities to buy cotton ikats at the oldest traditional market in Bali. The weights of the ikat fabrics are suitable for garments, home décor or quilts.
- Silk batik painting in a zen-like studio. Each student will paint a silk botanical panel (mainly tropical flowers) that can be framed later or used in a garment or quilt.

Shopping

- A visit to the showroom of Threads of Life, a wonderful organization supporting weavers from many Indonesian island communities.
- We'll share some unique opportunities and our favorite shops. Shop for knit and voile tie-dyed garments, hand-painted batik bed-sheets, tablecloths and sarongs, lovely indigo home décor items and fabulous cotton and rayon bathrobes (and other finds).
- An opportunity to shop at two fabulous silver jewelry shops with deep discounts for our group.
- A guided walk through functioning rice paddies where you may see vanilla beans, bananas, spices and other local foods growing.
- Optional activity: A talented leather tailor will visit our hotel so you can order custom-designed jackets, vests, bags, belts and wallets, made in your choice of colors and leathers. This has proven to be very popular. Cost of items not included in the tour.

Culture and Art

- A guided tour through a local food market and an opportunity to buy spices followed by a private cooking class held inside a beautiful Balinese family compound. Learn from the family host about daily life in Bali, their ceremonies and rituals.
- A Bali Cultural Night at our resort with a buffet of authentic Balinese food and dance.
- A guided visit to a Balinese Hindu temple.
- A polymer clay demonstration by a world master with an opportunity to purchase some of his highly-collectible sculptures (at wholesale prices).
www.jonstuartanderson.com

Spa Services

- In each town we visit there is an opportunity to visit high-quality spas for a variety of services. The prices are unbelievable inexpensive in comparison with the US. Plan to pamper yourself when you have free time.

Itinerary

The itinerary has been revised (but nothing removed) so there is one free day in Ubud and one free day in Sanur. This is a result of feedback received from previous guests. You will be provided with a list of other activities you might enjoy on those days...or it's a chance to rest and enjoy some free time. ***I always encourage my guests to do their own research of Bali for side-trips so please take the time to do this.***

Barb's role: My role is to answer your questions about the tour, arrange additional hotel stays and guide you once we are in Bali.

My co-leader is Deb Lourme of Surrey, BC and will join me in showing you the best of Bali. Deb and I have known one another a very long time and as a very accomplished quilter she is happy to help our guests choose fabrics for their dream quilts. My experience with garment sewing will come in handy helping guests purchase fabric for their dream clothing.

You might appreciate knowing that both Barb and Deb are retired police officers with about 55 years combined experience. *You are in good hands!!*

Reserve your place: Merit Travel is now accepting deposits 2019 tours. A \$1500 US non-refundable deposit holds your place on the tour of your choice. My contact person at Merit Travel is Alysha Lorimer. Phone her at 1-866-341-1777 (ext. 72331) or email her at ALorimer@MeritTravel.com. Merit Travel's role is to accept deposits and tour fees as well as arrange flights to Bali and the required travel medical insurance should my guests choose to work with them.

The balance of the tour fee (\$2700 US for shared rooms and \$3900 for single rooms) is due 90 days before the tour begins. After that date it will not be possible to refund any of the tour fee.

Payments: Payment can be made by a check or bank draft in US funds...or by Visa or Mastercard. Checks/bank drafts must be made payable to Merit Travel Group and mailed to:

Merit Travel Group
Attn: Alysha Lorimer/Bali Fiber Tours
3617 Shelbourne St.
Victoria, BC Canada
V8P 4H1

(If you are from the US please ensure you have sufficient postage).

Note: If paying by Visa or Mastercard be aware some US banks may charge a small fee for international transactions. Some credit cards have trip cancellation/interruption insurance and/or travel medical insurance included as a perk. If this is the case it would be worthwhile to pay by credit card. But if not, the transaction fee may make it better for you to pay by check.

Cancellation Policy: Once a tour has a minimum of 8 women confirmed, I will officially confirm the tour is going ahead. After that time all deposits are non-refundable.

Protect yourself by purchasing trip cancellation/trip interruption insurance.

If the tour is cancelled by Bali Fiber Tours or Merit Travel Group, your deposit and/or balance owing will be fully refunded. If flights have been purchased a tour guest must make a claim with their travel insurance company for reimbursement.

Once the tour is confirmed: You will receive a detailed information package (via email) that should answer any and all questions/concerns you may have and will prepare you for the trip. Should you have further questions, I'm always available.

If you are unable to join me in 2019 but would like to be notified of future tour dates, please sign up for my contact list on my website.

I hope you can join me on this tour-of-a-lifetime!

Barb Alexander, Tour Leader
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