

BALI FIBER TOURS

2019 tour dates

Tour #1 April 13 – 27 (full)

Tour #2 April 30 – May 14th (limited availability)

Tour price with shared hotel room: \$4200 US per person

Single supplement (own hotel room) is *possible* and would cost an additional \$1200 US

Please note: this tour does involve 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 if needed...

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) friends who make this tour extra special for me and for you. Your tour fee includes the following and more:

- A 14-day fully-guided tour of Bali (by two experienced, knowledgeable guides and local experts) with many personal connections to local artisans and “regular folk” that you are sure to enjoy immensely
- 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.
- Specially-designed fiber-related activities (designed for the novice but not limited in scope to that) including tjap (pronounced “chop”)(stamp) batik, tjanting (pronounced “chanting”)(wax drawing tool) batik, silk batik painting, Shibori hand-dyeing fabric with indigo (from the plant source) 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. 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 you a new wardrobe to take home.
- All accommodation at very nice resorts both in Ubud (the art center of Bali, inland) and Sanur (Bali’s best-kept secret, on the east coast, Indian Ocean), 14 nights. We use these hotels: <http://ramaphala.thephala.com/> and <http://www.pramasanurbeach.com>.
- 27 meals. Most dinners are not included so we can be free to make our own evening plans when we don’t have an organized activity.
- An interactive day in a batik factory where you will dye your own length of fabric, choose batik tjaps for your image and stamp your fabric with your own design in mind. A fun and fascinating day!
- A very informative presentation on traditional Indonesian/Balinese textile history and ceremonial cloths – what they’re used for and their importance in Balinese culture by the Threads of Life staff.
- A guided tour (by Threads of Life staff) to a weaving village in East Bali where we will visit a weaving cooperative and this labor-intensive dye process from start to finish. There will be opportunities to buy cotton ikats inexpensively at the oldest traditional market in Bali. The weight of the ikat fabrics vary but most are suitable for garments, home décor or quilts.
- Hopefully: a visit with a weaving and natural dye master in her family compound. An authority on the subject, she teaches natural dye processes and traditional weaving practices to women and teens keeping these age-old methods alive. We will be shown beautiful silk weavings, museum-quality, which are for sale (prices range from around \$100 US to a few hundred dollars for large pieces).
- Indigo dyeing! A visit to a natural dye studio where, using a Shibori fold/clamp/tie technique. you will design and dye your own length of cotton 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.

- A visit to an exquisite textile museum followed by shopping for lovely batik panels and batik giftware items
- A guided walk through functioning rice paddies where you'll see vanilla beans, bananas, spices and other local foods growing. You will also meet the friendly handicraft vendors on the way.
- 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.
- Shopping days with visits to a huge craft/bead supply store and a sewing notions store; wholesale (best quality) sarong market and a wonderful button store featuring horn, wood and shell buttons. Lots of bargains and unique finds!!
- An opportunity to shop at two fabulous silver jewelry shops with deep discounts for our group.
- Balinese cultural dance performance at the Ubud Palace.
- 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
- We'll share some unique opportunities such as shopping for knit and voile tie-dyed fabrics and garments, hand-painted batik bed-sheets, tablecloths and sarongs, and our favorite home décor shop (they sell fabulous cotton and rayon bathrobes)...and more.

These optional activities are also offered:

- (Optional) A visit to the villa and studio of e-Bu Jewelry. Talented American designers who use "found objects" from their world travels to create unique jewelry. We are offered wholesale prices. <http://www.e-bu-jewelry.com/blog/5>
- (Optional) A visit to our hotel by a talented leather tailor so you can have your 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.

My former co-leader, Cheryl, retired from the tours in 2018. Deb Lourme of Surrey, BC will join me in showing you the best of Bali. Deb and I have known one another a very long time and she is also familiar with Bali. She is a very accomplished quilter and would be happy to help our guests choose fabrics for their dream quilts.

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

I have re-worked the itinerary (but haven't removed anything) so there is one free day in Ubud and one free day in Sanur – this as 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 side-trips too.

Merit Travel – whom I work with on these tours – is now accepting deposits for this tour. A \$1500 US non-refundable deposit holds your place on the tour of your choice. Our contact person at Merit Travel is Alysha Lorimer. Phone her at 1-866-341-1777 (ext. 7331) or email her at alorimer@merittravel.com Alysha's role is to accept deposits and tour fees as well as arrange flights to Bali and the required travel medical insurance. My role is to answer your questions about the tour, arrange the hotels and guide you once we are in Bali

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.

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.

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.

Because this is a niche tour, we regret credit cards cannot be accepted. Checks in US funds (drawn on US banks) or Canadian bank drafts in US funds should 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).

Once the tour is confirmed, you will receive a detailed information package from me that should answer any and all questions/concerns you may have and will prepare you well for the trip. But if not, I'm always available.

Thanks so much for your interest. I welcome your questions by email or phone.

If you are unable to join us 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! Bye for now...

Barb Alexander, Tour Leader
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