



## **BALI FIBER TOURS**

2020 tour dates have not been confirmed

Tour #1: Mid-April to Late-April

Tour #2: Early-May to Mid-May

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

**Note: This does not include airfare**

***Please note: this tour involves walking. My guests must be able to walk unassisted, have the stamina to walk several city blocks at a time and climb stairs as 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. I have been traveling to Bali every year since 1999 and have many Balinese and Indonesian friends who make this tour extra special for me and for you. Your tour fee includes the following and more:

- A 14-night 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, tie-dyeing fabric with indigo (from the plant source) and LOTS of fabric shopping (with quality cotton and rayon batiks and hand-dyes (including voiles), selling for about \$2.25 US [\$275 Canadian] a meter!) We’ve also found a lovely source for silk fabrics and silk blends. Not a sewer but love gorgeous fabrics? Bali has 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 three very nice resorts. Relax after the flight for one night here: (right next to the airport) <http://www.thepatrabali.com>. 7 nights in Ubud (the art center of Bali) here: <http://ramaphala.thephala.com/> and 6 nights in Sanur (on the east coast, Indian Ocean) here: <http://www.pramasanurbachresort.com> a total of 14 nights
- 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 small family-run batik factory (where I designed and produced my fabrics for **The Batik Butik** for 12 years) including an explanation of how to design fabric for batik, a demo of a batik tjap being formed by an artisan and various dye methods and fabric manipulations. As my guest you will choose your own fabric colorway then design your own 5 meter length of top-quality rayon fabric by choosing batik tjaps from the 150 (or

so) available. You can either tlap your own length of fabric or have it done for you by a master under your direction. A fun and fascinating day!

- A guided tour (by *Threads of Life* founder) to a weaving village in East Bali where the process of preparing and dyeing threads for weaving ikat fabrics will be demonstrated. Opportunities to buy cotton ikats inexpensively while stopping at the oldest traditional market in Bali. The weight of the ikat fabrics vary but most are suitable for garments, home décor or quilts. We also visit a weaving cooperative and see the market fabrics being woven
- Indigo dyeing! A visit to a natural dye studio where you will dye your own length of cotton using a natural indigo dye vat made from the plant source and Japanese shibori methods of tie-dyeing. At this studio threads are dyed and woven into fabric for clothing designers in Europe, North America, Asia and Bali. They allow us to buy from their exclusive fabric collection of end cuts
- A visit to an exquisite textile museum containing a private collection of vintage and modern Indonesian textiles
- A guided walk through functioning rice paddies where you'll see vanilla beans, bananas, spices and other local foods growing...as well as rice, of course. 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 (if in season) followed by a private Balinese cooking class held inside a beautiful family compound
- Shopping days with visits to a large craft/bead supply store and a sewing notions store; wholesale (best quality) sarong market (if there is interest) 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 a discount). [www.jonstuartanderson.com](http://www.jonstuartanderson.com)
- We'll share some of our favorite sources such as shopping for knit and voile tie-dyed garments, hand-painted batik bed-sheets, tablecloths and sarongs, our favorite home décor shop (they sell fabulous cotton kimonos)...and more
- Tour guests are free to order from restaurant menus for the meals included in the tour

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 Southern Hemisphere sailboat 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 co-leader is Deb Lourme (of Surrey, BC). We've been friends for a very long time and love to share our favorite shopping spots if that's "your thing". Bali is a treasure trove of beautiful handicrafts – lots of gift potential (for yourself and others)... If you're not a shopper, no worries – just make your own fun...easy to do.

As a result of feedback received from previous guests I have re-worked the itinerary (but haven't removed anything) so there is one free day in each of the three locations where we will be staying. On those free days I am offering optional activities. 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 and recommend staying on in Bali for a few days when the tour ends.

Merit Travel – whom I work with on these tours – is now accepting non-refundable deposits for this tour. \$1500 US holds your place on the tour. 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](mailto:alorimer@merittravel.com)

**Cancellation Policy:** Once the tour has been officially confirmed by me, all deposits are non-refundable. Until it has been confirmed potential guests should \*not\* purchase a flight to Bali.

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 should guests need to cancel.

**Protect yourself - trip cancellation/trip interruption insurance is highly recommended!**

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.

Visa or MasterCard are accepted for this tour. Alternatively, 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

Indicate on your payment which tour you are reserving. If you are from the US please ensure you have sufficient postage

Once the tour is confirmed, you will receive a lengthy document from me that I believe will answer any and all questions/concerns you may have and will prepare you well for the trip. *You are in good hands!*

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

I hope you can join me on this tour-of-a-lifetime! Bye for now...

Barb Alexander, Tour Leader  
Bali Fiber Tours  
[www.balifibertours.merit.ca](http://www.balifibertours.merit.ca)  
Ph. (250) 658-2612 (Pacific time zone, 9 AM – 9 PM daily)  
[info@balifibertours.com](mailto:info@balifibertours.com)