



BALI FIBER TOURS - 2021

Tour #1: April 10 - 24

Tour #2: May 1 – 15 (full)

***These are the last two regular tours I will offer
with only 10 women per tour group***

**Tour price with shared hotel room: \$4400 US per person.
The tour fee does not include airfare.**

Single supplement (own hotel room) *may* be possible if two women on the tour each want their own room. This would cost an additional \$1200 US per person. Please consult with Barb if this is your preference.

IMPORTANT: this tour involves walking. You must be able to walk unassisted, have the stamina to walk several city blocks (in the heat) and climb a flight of 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...with a textile focus.
- Specially-designed fiber-related activities (designed for the novice but not limited in scope to that) including fabric dyeing and batik stamping, silk batik painting, indigo shibori dyeing (from the plant source) and LOTS of fabric shopping with quality cotton and rayon batiks and hand-dyes (including voiles), selling for about \$2.50 US [less than \$3 Canadian] a meter! We’ve also found a lovely source for silk fabrics and silk blends as well as high quality cotton hand-dyed, hand-woven ikat fabric. 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 a couple – let them sew you a new wardrobe to take home.
- All accommodation at three very nice resorts. The first four nights we’ll spend at a lovely ocean-front resort right next to the airport: <http://www.thepatrabali.com>. We’ll then move inland to the art center of Bali, Ubud, for six nights staying at this smaller, family-atmosphere resort: www.ramaphala.com. Our final four nights will be spent at another ocean-front resort in Sanur on the east coast: <http://www.pramasanurbeachresort.com>.

- 25 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. Tour guests are free to order from restaurant menus for the meals included in the tour. The food in Bali is delicious but not too spicy (unless you ask for it).
- An interactive day in a batik factory. Each guest receives five meters of fabric (either cotton or rayon – your choice), to dye and stamp with a batik “chop” creating a unique piece. Staff will be there to help guests produce yardage the student will cherish.
- Indigo dyeing. A visit to a natural dye studio where you will dye your own length of quality linen fabric using a natural indigo dye vat made from the plant source and Japanese shibori methods of tie-dyeing and clamping. 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 and samples.
- Silk batik painting. This workshop is geared at the novice and the results will astound you! Always a highlight among my tour guests.
- A guided tour to an ikat weaving cooperative in East Bali where the process of preparing and dyeing threads for weaving ikat fabrics will be demonstrated along with the actual weaving process. 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.
- Tour #1 only: A visit to the family compound of three sisters who produce specialized “songket” weavings (supplemental floating weft) used for ceremonial purposes by the Balinese Hindus. Hopefully we can also visit with a weaver who teaches natural dye techniques at an art school as well as traditional weaving techniques for ceremonial cloths to women in her village. She is highly regarded throughout Indonesia as an expert in her field.
- A visit to a very special weaving village where “geringsing” textiles are produced by hand. There are only three places in the world where “double ikat” weaving is done and this village is one of them (the others are in India and Japan).
- A guided walk through functioning rice paddies where you'll see vanilla beans, bananas and other tropical fruit and spices growing...as well as rice, of course.
- A visit to the showroom of the reputable organization Threads of Life. www.threadsoflife.com including a presentation by a highly-knowledgeable staff member on the history of Indonesian weavings.
- A Balinese cooking class where you'll learn the secrets of this delicious food and be given the recipes.
- 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 a fabulous silver jewelry shop with deep discounts for our group.
- Balinese cultural dance performance under the stars.
- A guided visit to a Balinese Hindu temple. With explanations about the importance of spirituality in Balinese everyday life.
- 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
- 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), best-quality spices, teas and coffees...and more.
- Balinese spas are world-renowned and very reasonably priced. We encourage our guests to treat themselves to massages, manicure/pedicures, facials and hair cream treatments.

This option is also offered:

- 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). Deb is an extraordinary quilter who can help you with your fabric choices if desired. 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 – there is lots to see and do.

As a result of feedback received from previous guests I have re-worked the itinerary (but haven't removed anything) so there is free time in each of the three locations where we will be staying. 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 the beach or pool. 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 of your choice. Our contact person at Merit Travel is Colleen Jackson who can be reached by phone at 866-341-1777 Ext. 7330 or by email at CJackson@MeritTravel.com.

Cancellation Policy: When I have received deposits from eight women the tour will be officially confirmed by me. Until it has been confirmed potential guests should *not* purchase a flight to Bali.

The balance of the tour fee (\$2900 US for shared rooms and \$4100 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: Colleen Jackson/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! We have taken 19 groups to Bali so we "have this"!*

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! As I mentioned, I'm retiring in 2021 so space is limited. Bye for now...

Barb Alexander, Tour Leader
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