

THE LEGIAN

BALI

EXPLORE IN STYLE

Discover the best of Ubud with us during your stay at The Legian Bali



The Legian Bali offers you this compilation of our favourites among Bali's most interesting places in and around Ubud, our island's cultural heartland. Among these recommendations, you may select up to five places to visit during your full-day Ubud tour. Please let us know your five preferences and we will tailor-make this memorable itinerary just for you.

ABOUT UBUD

Located in the rice paddy blanketed foothills of Central Bali, Ubud is a historic town of contemporary art galleries and quirky boutiques along snaking streets that twist into the emerald tinged, neatly terraced landscape. Pioneered by a wandering Javanese priest in the 8th century, Ubud has long been associated with healing and rejuvenation, and evolved as well into an arts centre in the late 1800s during the Gianyar Kingdom. Well established internationally as an arts hub by the middle of the 20th century, Ubud is unique in maintaining so much original tradition and indigenous culture alongside its 'other' identity as a bucket list must for fans of bohemian chic. From local woodcarvers, painters and sculptors studios to handicraft markets busting with batik and beach sarongs, Ubud remains as Bali's unrivalled artistic destination.

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RECOMMENDED PLACES



Barong Dance at Batubulan

On the road to Ubud, the small village of Batubulan, meaning 'moon stone,' announces itself with imposing stone carved statues of gods and demons, warrior-guards and fantastical animals which are also on display all over the island, in temples, shrines, houses, and even hotels. We recommend visiting Batubulan in the morning from 9:00 am to 10:30am or in the evening from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm to witness the dramatic Barong dance, illustrating the balance of good and bad in daily life.

The Silver and Goldsmiths of Celuk

This village of talented metal masters achieved international fame for delicate work distinguished by its attention to detail, whether its in traditional, highly decorative filigree or the streamlined shapes of today. This artisanal industry has spread far beyond the rows of ornate shops that front the main road, to the family compounds, where children work beside their elders after school, learning ancient skills from a very young age. Well-priced, exquisite pieces from the hands of Celuk artisans attract not only domestic shoppers, but also many jewellery enthusiasts from around the world.

Art Market at Sukawati

This sprawling village owes its fame to the *dalang* (puppet masters) of *Wayang Kulit* (leather puppet) theatre and it is also the centre of Bali's shadow puppet production. Leather puppets are made here either from cow or buffalo hide. By far the best selection can be found at Sukawati's well-known art market, referred to locally as 'Pasar Seni Sukawati.' Seek and purchase distinctive Balinese art items such as paintings and wooden sculptures, handicrafts and traditional hand-woven textiles known as *ikat*.

Monkey Forest at Ubud – Temple

Monkey Forest is a small beautiful forest inhabited by Balinese long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*). Balinese consider these monkeys as god guards of Dalem Agung Temple, which is the area's most prominent temple, situated on the highest point of the forest.

Ubud Art Market and surround shops

Ubud Art Market, at Jalan Raya Ubud, offering a wide selection of woodcarvings and traditional Balinese items. This is the best place to find reasonably priced stone carvings, silver hammered boxes, painted home furnishings, original paintings, fun Bali tee shirts and traditional *ikat* textiles.

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Goa Gajah Elephant Cave

Although named 'Elephant Cave,' no real elephants ever lived here. The name derives from 'Lawa Gajah', mentioned in ancient manuscripts found here after Westerner archaeologists first discovered this cave in the 1920s. Scholars estimate the temple complex was first built around the 11th century. A seven-metre deep cave is the major attraction, carved into solid stone within a river valley. The main figure at the cave entrance is *boma*, a barong face. On the left end side of the cave stands a Ganesha statue; the God of Knowledge. On the right side, look for the three *lingas* dedicated to the three god manifestations commonly found across Bali: Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu. These statues are estimated to be around 1,000 years old.

Tirta Empul Holy Spring

Bali's holiest spring feeds the clear pools of the Tirta Empul Temple which were once the bathing places of eastern Bali's kings. According to legend, the God of Indra pierced the earth to tap Amerta, the 'Elixir Immortality' created this spring and the waters are therefore said to have magical powers. Look for the fine carvings and mythical garudas on the courtyard buildings. This temple and its ritual bathing spots have been frequented by Balinese believers for over a thousand years. Regular purification ceremonies still take place here.

Gunung Kawi Sebatu Temple

Gunung Kawi means 'a fabricated mountain' while the name of the adjacent Sebatu Village translates as 'slipping on a stone.' This peaceful temple and surrounding area are beautiful and tranquil. Roam these verdant gardens around ponds filled with carp and blooming lotuses, and ancient shrines surrounded by clear pools fed by natural springs, keeping in mind that the Balinese believe water is one of the forces of life.

Gunung Kawi Tampak Siring – Temple

Carved out of the rock face of the Pakerisan River, these ten 11th century tombs sit at the bottom of the river's gorge, surrounded by breath-taking rice terraces. To reach the complex visitors must walk down 315 stone steps. These hard to reach tombs are the final resting place for King Udayana, his Javanese Queen Gunapriya, his concubine, his eldest son Airlangga who ruled over East Java, and his youngest son Anak Wungsu, who gave up his kingdom to become a hermit after reigning over Bali from 1050 to 1077.

Ceking Rice Paddy Terraces

Five kilometres north of Ubud, Tegalalang offers some of this area's most magnificent rice terraced panoramas. You will see farmers planting crops according to Bali's traditional and highly efficient irrigation system. For our snap happy guests, Tegalalang offers perfect Bali photo opportunities among the dramatically undulating valley, emerald rice terraces and coconut trees.

Balinese Lunch at The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud

Enjoy one of life's most scenic dining experience at our sister hotel, The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah. Unobstructed panoramic views of rice paddies and tropical jungle accompany traditional Balinese and Indonesian cuisine enhanced by herbs and vegetables straight from Tanah Gajah's surrounding organic gardens.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further details or enquiries, please contact the Concierge at (62) 361 730 622 or via email at concierge@thelegianbali.com.

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