

# **ZNSPIRE** March 2020

## **ŹNSPIRE** | CULTURE

## **A Dream of Indonesia**

Picture this. Your private Indonesian phinisi schooner pulls up to a quiet island in the Komodo national park. You can hear the water lapping as you step ashore and take the marked trail to the island's summit. It's just a 20 minute walk but the view from the top is magnificent! Sparkling in contrast to the arid green lands, the azure Bali Sea stretches as far as the eye can see. This is Pulau Padar! And it is just one of the breathtaking moments you can experience on a private chartered journey with Akorn. While in the area, why not stop by to see pink beaches and Komodo dragons on neighboring islands.

## Living on the Edge, Bali

Sip aromatic coffee and savor the sweet oranges that grow on the edge of a volcano. At the foot of Mount Batur, the rich, fertile lands here have inspired generations of artists, musicians and poets. For us, this is one of our favorite places for a bike ride where you can try the Balinese cakes made by a local family and enjoy sweeping views of rice fields and tropical rainforest valleys.





## **Best of Balinese Cuisine**

Indulge in a 12-dish meal full of Indonesian flavors made by an up-and-coming culinary master – yourself! Learn how to blend different types of spices to create a spicy seafood paste and plate up coconut-spiced chicken or wrap grilled seafood in a banana leaf like a pro. These timeless recipes hail from the kitchen of Heinz von Holzen who has graced some of Indonesia's top dining venues and runs Bumbu Bali, a culinary institution that has become the benchmark for quality, taste and presentation, and one of our favorite places for an authentic Balinese meal.

## **ZNSPIRE** | EXCLUSIVE

## Carving a Life in Ho Chi Minh City

Tucked away in an old part of town, a third generation craftsman chips away at a large stone slab, slowly revealing the image of Buddha. Mai Van Tinh is a veteran of the village who learnt the art of casting, carving, polishing and painting these beautiful statues from his grandfather. The process takes several days and requires great patience, but the result is a masterpiece that is most likely to end up being revered at a temple or shrine in Vietnam. Stop by to see artisans like Mai Van Tinh on your next Akorn journey to Ho Chi Minh City's Cholon neighborhood.



### **Art of Yangon**

Woven into these discarded textiles are stories that were almost never told. Welcome to the world of contemporary art in Myanmar's capital, Yangon! Discover more of these inspiring visions with our Akorn Insider, an established art curator who has her finger on the pulse of what's new and trending in the world of Myanmar art. This is your chance to meet the country's emerging artists and gain access to exclusive galleries and studios in heritage buildings and hidden spaces around the city.



#### AMANJIWO | Java, Indonesia

Set within Indonesia's artistic and intellectual heartland, just steps from the sacred Borobudur, Amanjiwo is an idyllic hideaway that echoes the grandeur of its surroundings. Built entirely of Indonesian limestone, the suites feature four-poster beds, spacious garden terraces and sunken bathtubs.

Why we love it: Swimming in the pool surrounded by rice-paddies is simply heavenly. These lush valleys backed by distant volcanoes create the perfect setting for a wellness experience, engaging in the rituals of ancient Javanese healing and indulging in exquisite Indonesian dining.

#### SIX SENSES CON DAO Con Dao, Vietnam

A remote island paradise off the coast of southern Vietnam, Six Senses Con Dao is an all-pool villa retreat surrounded by soft white sand and stunning ocean vistas. Set in a protected national and marine park, the resort is just one hours' flight from Ho Chi Minh City and offers a selection of private villas with spacious interiors and soothing wood tones.

Why we love it: If you're looking for some "me time" or a private honeymoon escape, this is the answer! The villas are modern and minimalist – perfect for living out your tropical island dreams with lazy days by the pool or beach and rejuvenating spa sessions.

#### SPECIAL OFFER:

Enjoy a tailored experience from hiking to golfing or wellness immersions for every night of your stay until 31 October 2020. Applicable to stays of five nights or more.

#### CAPELLA UBUD | Bali, Indonesia

Nestled in Bali's lush Keliki rainforest, Capella Ubud delivers the glamping experience of a lifetime. Inspired by stories of European explorers, the jungle-covered resort honors the spirit of adventure with playful touches by designer Bill Bensley. All individually styled, the tents come with copper bath tubs and private salt water pools overlooking the river or forest.

Why we love it: The jungle setting is ideal for pioneering adventures, while the strikingly adorned Officer's Tent is where you'll find us for afternoon tea or an evening cocktail. For the ultimate pampering, don't miss the bespoke treatments at the wellness center.

# **ŹNSPIRE** | STORIES

## "Life, religion and art all converge in Bali"

- Anaïs Nin



Bali celebrates Nyepi on 25 March 2020. The "Day of Silence" is marked by fasting and meditation to honor the Balinese New Year.

Standing between heaven and earth at the Pura Lempuyang temple gate in Bali, Indonesia



Start planning your next inspirational journey to Southeast Asia!



**Sonja Stoerr** Director of Sales North America, Australia & UK sstoerr@akorndmc.com



Baptiste Dauvergne Director of Sales Europe & Latin America bdauvergne@akorndmc.com

#### **Our offices:**

Thailand, Cambodia, Laos & Indonesia thailand@akorndmc.com

> Myanmar myanmar@akorndmc.com

Vietnam vietnam@akorndmc.com

### If you like **INSPIRE**, you'll love **THE INSIDER by Akorn Southeast Asia!**

Click here to subscribe now

www.akorndmc.com/newsletter-sign-up

www.akorndmc.com

Cover photo: Indonesian temple guardian carved from wood

#### Check out our past issues for more INSPIRE-ation

#### **INSPIRE February 2020**

Off-road Cambodia by jeep | Bold Burmese Beer | Mekong Delta – the "Rice Bowl of Vietnam" | Vanishing Bangkok | Spiritual blessing in Bali

#### **INSPIRE January 2020**

Trekking in southern Laos | Martial arts in Hue, Vietnam | Myanmar crafts | Helicopter and breakfast at a remote Cambodian temple | Bangkok's underground art scene

#### **INSPIRE November 2019**

Thailand's Red Lotus Sea | Indonesia's master mask makers | Cambodia's national curry | A traditional home in Hue, Vietnam | Myanmar's floating farms at Inle Lake

# Over 30 years of luxury travel expertise in Southeast Asia