

**ŽNSPIRE** February 2023

# **ZNSPIRE** | CULTURE

# Fresh, Fab Food in Indonesia

From a delicately smooth trio of mushroom and coconut soup to a sumptuous Assam laksa with marinated tofu and leafy greens, Moksa Ubud serves up some of our favorite plant-based cuisine in Bali, Indonesia. Located in the lush Ayung River valley, the restaurant showcases fresh ingredients from Chef Made Runatha's own permaculture garden where he grows rosemary, dragon fruit, kale and over 60 other edible plants. For Akorn guests, the chef offers a private culinary session, sharing his favorite healthy recipes including *jamu*, an Indonesian herbal drink.



# The Life of Lao Rice

Follow the journey of a humble grain of rice, from paddy field to plate at an organic farm in Luang Prabang, Laos. This is a rare opportunity to get hands-on at an authentic working farm, learning how to plow the field with the resident buffalo and plant seedlings with the farmers. We love to engage with the Lao agricultural community here, getting an insight into their lifestyle as well as their sustainable ways of growing vegetables, herbs and rice without the use of chemicals or pesticides.

# **Bangkok's Green Tuk Tuks**

Experience Bangkok the eco-friendly way by hopping into an electric tuk tuk for a ride through the backstreets of town. Presenting a fun and exciting mode of travel, these electric tuk tuks look and feel like a typical tuk tuk but are a 100% electric, which means you can reduce your carbon footprint whilst whizzing past iconic Thai landmarks, exploring buzzing backstreets or discovering hidden eateries, funky bars and after-dark cafés that only locals know about.

# **ZNSPIRE** | EXPLORE

### Coconuts and Cocoa: A Mekong Delta Journey

Take the road less traveled and discover a small village in the Mekong Delta where horse-drawn carts are still the main mode of transport. Just 90 minutes from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, this lush, bucolic landscape is home to fruit gardens, coconut plantations and a cocoa farm. Get back to nature and embrace the slow travel philosophy while exploring the region's canals and countryside. We recommend hopping on a bike for a leisurely ride through rustic villages and be sure to stop by the morning market to admire the abundance of fruits, flowers and vegetables that are grown locally.



### **Balinese Wellness Wisdom**

Discover the best way to treat a cough or soothe minor aches and pains using herbal remedies found in nature. In Bali, Indonesia, Akorn offers a unique experience with a community leader who shares time-honored healing traditions that have been passed down through generations of his family. Walk through rice fields, spice plantations and a tropical forest to learn about the medicinal properties of plants and sit down with the spiritual healer to learn more about the intersection of life, art and nature in this small village.

# **ŹNSPIRE** | SUCCESS

#### Mai Chau, Vietnam



We are committed to giving back to the communities in which we travel. Our AKP Philanthropy projects around the world aim to lift up local communities by providing access to basic necessities, such as clean water, and creating opportunities for educational and vocational development, particularly for those living in underprivileged situations.

Here are just a few snapshots from the people who have been able to benefit from our projects in Southeast Asia.



In Vietnam, our clean water project has brought safe water to 1,010 children and 130 teachers in Mai Chau, a rural district about three hours from Hanoi. LifeStraw community water filters, which deliver clean water by removing 99.99% of bacteria from any water source, were installed in 12 schools across the district, helping to relieve the financial burden for families as well as reduce the environmental impact of bottled drinking water.

### Siem Reap, Cambodia



Thanks to AKP Philanthropy, Bong Khun no longer has to walk hours each day to collect buckets of water. With access to clean water in his own backyard, he has more time to grow and sell vegetables, earning enough to buy a cow – a precious commodity in rural Cambodia. Over 24,000 people like Bong Khun have benefitted from the Cambodia Clean Water Project, which has installed over 1,600 wells since 2008.

#### Myanmar



Despite the challenges of the last few years, our team continues to help communities in need in Myanmar. A total of 15 LifeStraw community water filters have been delivered to remote areas of the country where running water is scarce. Impacting the lives of 11,661 people, the water filters have been placed in six villages near Inle Lake as well as Sin Kyun, a village in the Ayeyarwady River.



#### SONG SAA PRIVATE ISLAND Koh Rong Archipelago, Cambodia

With its own coral reef, nature reserve and a small beach, Song Saa Private Island is a secluded haven located off Cambodia's southern coast. Surrounded by sapphire seas, the resort's overwater bungalows and jungle villas come with private pools and idyllic views.

Why we love it: Giving back to the community, the resort provides health and educational support to neighboring islands, and guests can take part in cultural exchanges with village locals. We love to learn about the resort's marine conservation projects which are revitalizing aquatic life in the archipelago and enjoy simply soaking up the serenity of the island's natural jungles and wildlife.

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

Set in a protected marine national park, Six Senses Con Dao is an all-pool villa retreat that celebrates the soft sands and natural beauty of this charming southern Vietnamese island. Styled after a traditional fishing village, the bamboo villas feature wooden interiors and an open, contemporary design that creates a sense of calm and relaxation.

Why we love it: Dedicated to protecting its community and environment, the resort takes part in a robust sea turtle conservation and research program, providing a safe space for the sea turtles to lay and hatch their eggs. Visit during August for the best chance to witness baby sea turtles during the hatching season.





#### ROSEWOOD LUANG PRABANG Luang Prabang, Laos

Overlooking a lush landscape of rainforests, meandering streams and natural waterfalls, Rosewood Luang Prabang presents an escape to nature, with lodges and tented accommodations each individually designed by hotel architect, Bill Bensley. The resort combines old-world colonial décor with local Lao arts and ethnic motifs to recreate a sense of the early explorer lifestyle.

Why we love it: One of our favorite places to dine, the resort's restaurant showcases sustainable farm-to-table fare using locallysourced ingredients and Royal Lao recipes. The spa is also a great place to unwind and experience traditional Lao healing wisdom.

# **ZNSPIRE** | STORIES



Cover photo: Aerial view of some of the almost untouched islands off the coast of Krabi in southern Thailand

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