



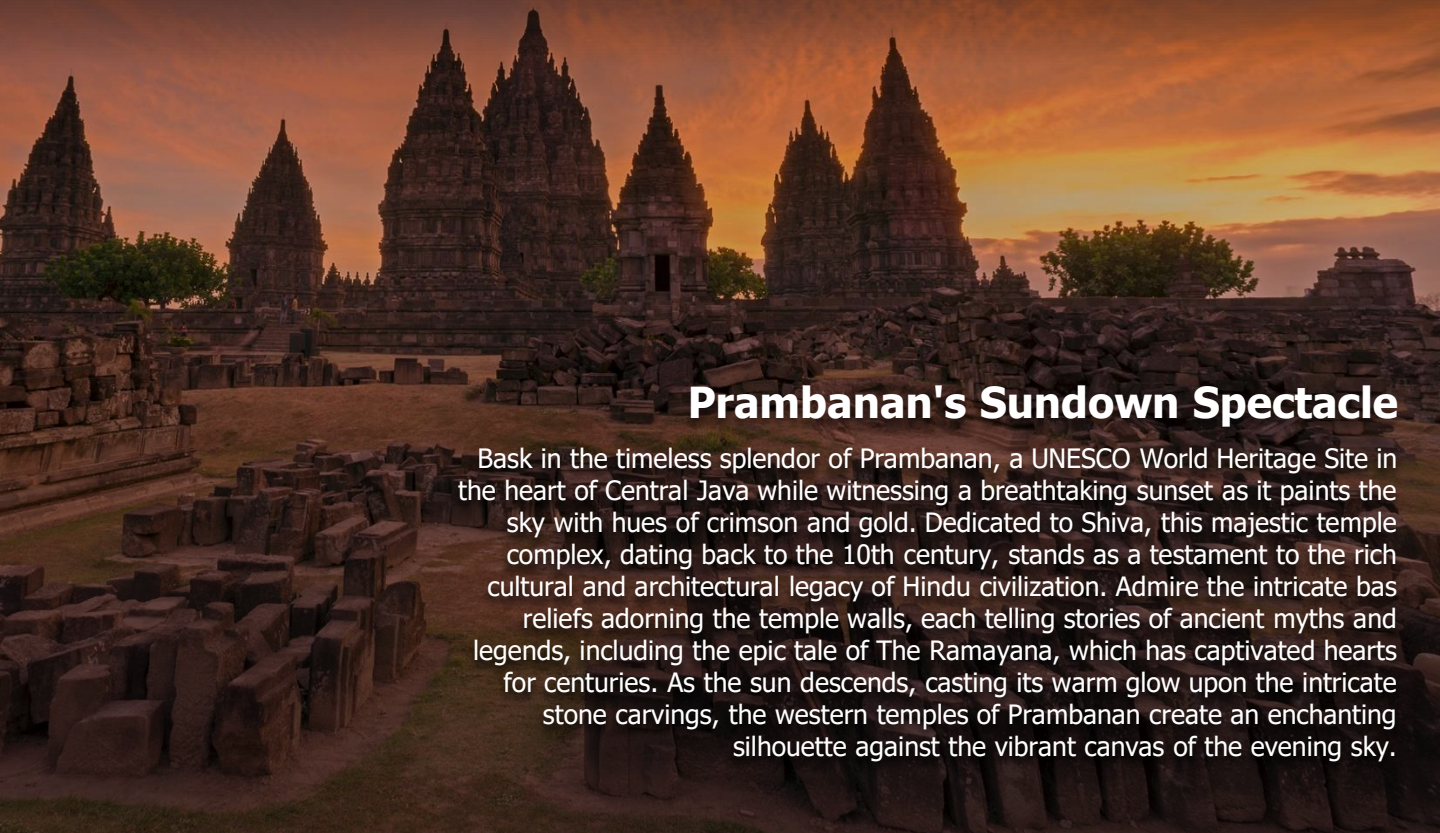
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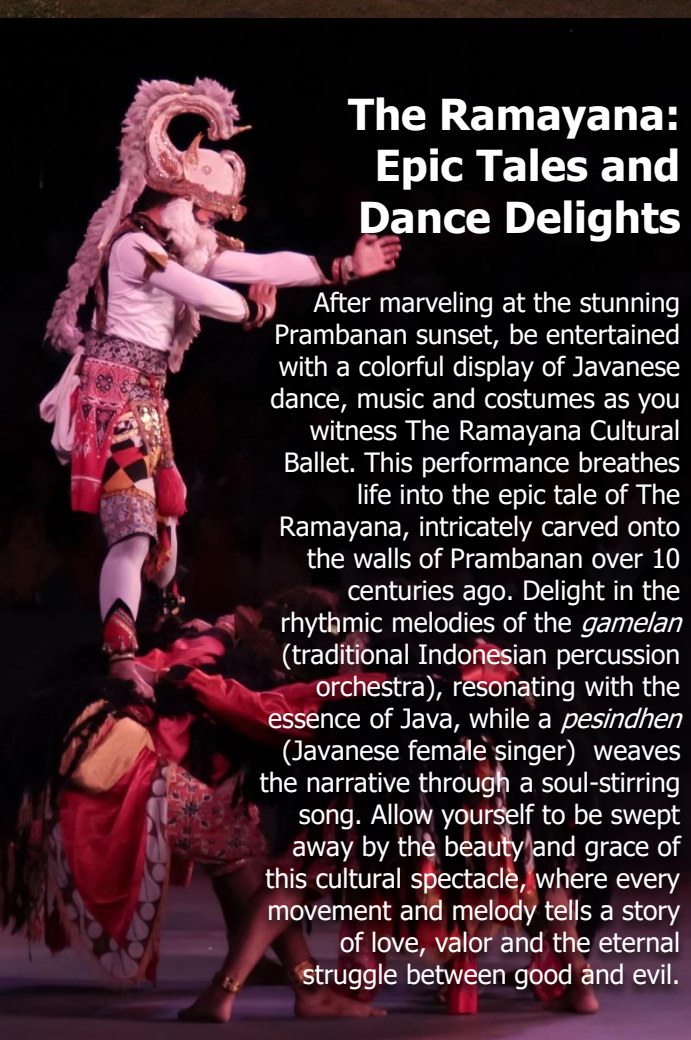
INSPIRE

February 2024



## Prambanan's Sundown Spectacle

Bask in the timeless splendor of Prambanan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of Central Java while witnessing a breathtaking sunset as it paints the sky with hues of crimson and gold. Dedicated to Shiva, this majestic temple complex, dating back to the 10th century, stands as a testament to the rich cultural and architectural legacy of Hindu civilization. Admire the intricate bas reliefs adorning the temple walls, each telling stories of ancient myths and legends, including the epic tale of The Ramayana, which has captivated hearts for centuries. As the sun descends, casting its warm glow upon the intricate stone carvings, the western temples of Prambanan create an enchanting silhouette against the vibrant canvas of the evening sky.



## The Ramayana: Epic Tales and Dance Delights

After marveling at the stunning Prambanan sunset, be entertained with a colorful display of Javanese dance, music and costumes as you witness The Ramayana Cultural Ballet. This performance breathes life into the epic tale of The Ramayana, intricately carved onto the walls of Prambanan over 10 centuries ago. Delight in the rhythmic melodies of the *gamelan* (traditional Indonesian percussion orchestra), resonating with the essence of Java, while a *pesindhen* (Javanese female singer) weaves the narrative through a soul-stirring song. Allow yourself to be swept away by the beauty and grace of this cultural spectacle, where every movement and melody tells a story of love, valor and the eternal struggle between good and evil.



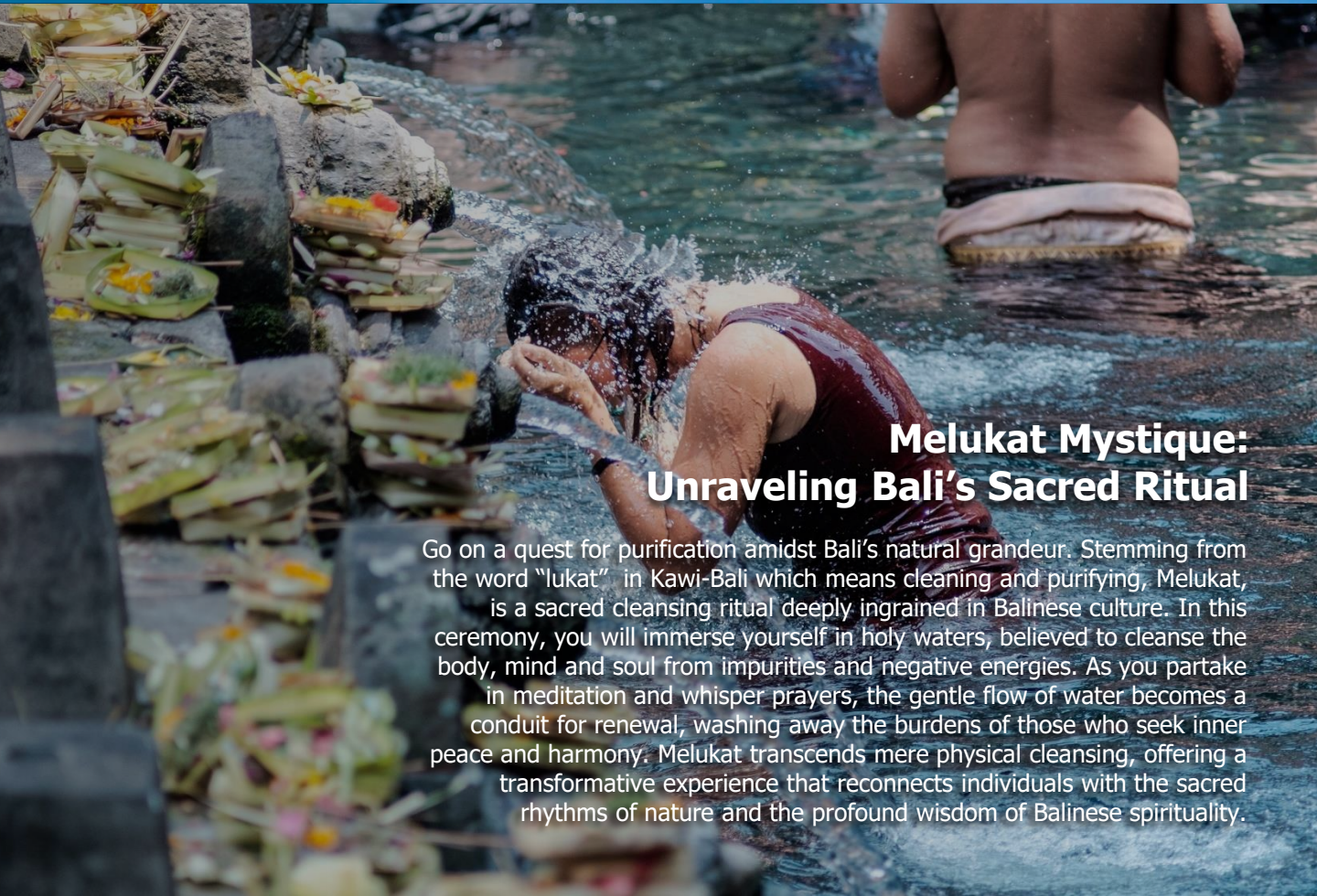
## Ubud's Creative Soul

Ubud is not just a place but an experience in itself—a vibrant destination with rich cultural heritage and artistry. A journey through this part of Bali is incomplete without a stop at the famed Ubud Art Market. Amidst the bustling atmosphere, you are greeted by an array of handicrafts, each telling a story of Balinese workmanship. From intricately carved wood sculptures to vibrant paintings depicting scenes of daily life, the market is a treasure trove of artistic creations.



## Indonesian Waves: A Surfer's Paradise

Riding the waves of Indonesia offers an exhilarating fusion of adventure and natural beauty, drawing surfers from around the globe to its shores. With a vast expanse of coastline dotted with world-class breaks, the country boasts some of the most coveted surfing destinations in the world. From the legendary barrels of Bali's Uluwatu and Padang Padang to the remote perfection of Sumba, there is something for every level of surfer. Whether you are a seasoned pro seeking epic swells or a newbie eager to catch your first wave, Indonesia's warm waters and breathtaking scenery promise an unforgettable surfing experience like no other.



## Melukat Mystique: Unraveling Bali's Sacred Ritual

Go on a quest for purification amidst Bali's natural grandeur. Stemming from the word "lukat" in Kawi-Bali which means cleaning and purifying, Melukat, is a sacred cleansing ritual deeply ingrained in Balinese culture. In this ceremony, you will immerse yourself in holy waters, believed to cleanse the body, mind and soul from impurities and negative energies. As you partake in meditation and whisper prayers, the gentle flow of water becomes a conduit for renewal, washing away the burdens of those who seek inner peace and harmony. Melukat transcends mere physical cleansing, offering a transformative experience that reconnects individuals with the sacred rhythms of nature and the profound wisdom of Balinese spirituality.



## CAP KAROSO Sumba, Indonesia

Cap Karoso, situated in the off-the-grid island of Sumba, is an innovative eco-resort with community engagement and sustainability at its heart. With 44 rooms, 20 villas and a three-hectare organic farm, it serves as a launchpad for conscious travelers seeking immersion in Sumba's heritage and stunning landscapes.

**Why we love it:** The resort graces Karoso Beach, renowned as one of the world's most spectacular stretches of sand. Amidst this awe-inspiring backdrop, we also catch glimpses of indigenous art, megalithic tombs and *uma mbatangu*, traditional Sumbanese peaked houses with towering 25-meter-high roofs that are believed to form a bridge to the spirit world.

## SOORI BALI Bali, Indonesia

Soori Bali is a blissful paradise nestled on the edge of a volcanic black sand beach, between the Batu Karu Mountain and terraced rice fields. The architecture and aesthetics of the resort complement the beauty of its natural surroundings, featuring cool gray sandstone decorated with local colors, crafts and materials.

**Why we love it:** This haven of rejuvenation is deeply rooted in a genuine connection to nearby villages and local culture. We enjoy their culinary offerings because Soori consciously maintains their food's freshness by utilizing produce from nearby farms and spices sourced from its own garden.



## AMANKILA Bali, Indonesia

Occupying a breathtaking hilltop location on Bali's east coast, Amankila is enveloped by the timeless backdrop of the historic Karangasem Regency, replete with temples, royal ruins and tranquil hills. The thatched-roof suites, elevated on stilts, are accessed via a series of frangipani-lined walkways. Each detail of the décor exudes Balinese culture, featuring recurring motifs inspired by the Ujung Water Palace and furniture adorned with inlays of pearl and coconut shell.

**Why we love it:** Expect no less from Aman's renowned hospitality as well as their trademark personalized services and attention to detail, ensuring that every aspect of your stay is tailored to exceed your expectations.





Picture a canvas of velvety darkness, pierced by the faint glow of stars. This is Nyepi or Bali's "Day of Silence," where the sky becomes a witness to the introspective journey of the Balinese as they fast and meditate on this sacred day

Cover photo: Also called Barong Ket, this carved, wooden mask represents the mythical creature known in Bali as Banaspati Raja, which means "King of the Forest"

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