

Bali - Mt. Agung

A Pilgrimage to The Venus Chakra of the Earth

APRIL 16—30, 2018

with Robert Powell & Karen Rivers

The Sophia Foundation is hosting a pilgrimage to Bali in the spring of 2018. The highest mountain on Bali, Mount Agung is believed by the Balinese to be a mystical mountain, which they think of as a replica of the mythical Mount Meru, the sacred mountain in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology, considered to be the central axis of the universe. The great Mount Agung rises to an altitude of 3,148 meters (10,308 feet) in eastern Bali. Perched on its slopes at an altitude of 924 meters (3,032 feet) is the holy Besakih Temple, the Mother Temple of Bali. According to the research of Robert Powell and David Bowden, presented in their book, *Astrogeographia*, it is here on this volcanic mountain that the Earth's Venus chakra is located.



Purab Besakih (the Mother temple of Besakih)—the most important, largest, and holiest Hindu temple on Bali, is located high on the slopes of Mount Agung.

GENERAL OVERVIEW —

The central theme of our pilgrimage to Bali—continuing our journey from continent to continent visiting the earth's planetary chakras—is to visit Mother Earth's sacral (Venus) chakra located on Mt. Agung, Bali. Referred to by Robert Coon as "the World Purification Center," he indicates that the sacred sites located on the island of Bali serve in the purification of the Earth's blood. This is the function of the kidneys in the human being, to help in the purification of the blood, removing toxic materials from the body. The kidneys being the organ corresponding to Venus and the sacral chakra of the human being. The Venus qualities of love and beauty infuse the culture of Bali. As the Venus chakra works to bring balance to the human organism and soul, the Balinese live by three central

principals focused upon the goal of bringing one's being into balance: Keep balance between yourself and others, between yourself and nature, and between yourself and God.

All temples in Bali point towards Mount Agung, where the Mother Temple of Besakih is, with its uncountable steps, solemnly wait for the arrival of the gods and the goddesses, for when they step down from heaven, they come to Besakih by way of Mount Agung.

Bali - Mt. Agung Pilgrimage

April 16 - 30, 2018

ITINERARY

April 16, 2018 - Arrive at Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (also known as Denpasar Bali — DPS). Travel to Great Mountain Views Villa Resort at the foot of Mt. Agung. Opening dinner and orientation meeting.

WEEK 1 - APRIL 16 - 23 - We will be staying at the Great Mountain Views Villa Resort at the foot of Mt. Agung. The photo on page 1 shows a view from this location. During this week we will immerse ourselves in sacred practice, sacred song, and the beauty, culture, and spirituality of Bali. We will visit temples, teachers, ceremonies and experience the majesty of Mt. Agung. Each day will include morning meditation, an outing, time to relax in the exquisite gardens of peace, and swimming pool, and an evening talk.

Part of each day will be spent in meditative silence. We will enter the garden of Bali in the quiet of our heart, to be wholly present with the sacred mountain.

OUR DAILY SCHEDULE IN RETREAT ON MT. AGUNG:

7:00 a.m. Sacred Practice - meditative movement: the Shambhala path.

8:00 a.m. Breakfast (all meals are in meditative silence)

9:00 a.m. Meditation, practicing the Balinese prayer and preparation for the day's events

10:00-3:00 p.m. (Approx.) Daily visits to Balinese teachers/ceremony/ and temples around the mountain.

3:00-5:00 p.m. Return to resort for personal quiet time reflecting and integrating your experience.

This is also time for swimming in the resort pool, walking in the rice fields, etc.

5:00 p.m. Singing

6:00 p.m. Sunset dinner with the mountain in silence

7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Evening meditation/teachings.

POSSIBLE TEMPLE CEREMONIES INCLUDE:

- Welcoming ceremony by village priestess.
- Learn the meditative meaning of the customary Balinese flower prayers. Learn the purpose behind their basket weaving and offering baskets that are included in all temple visits.
- A visit to sacred waters—natural springs. These waters are considered a blessing of a lifetime.
- We will visit various high priests and priestesses. Some may include; a private audience and cleansing ceremonies. Statue blessing: The statues will be brought alive by the high priest of our mountain village in a sacred ritual of chants, holy water & flowers.
- The week's retreat leads up to a special initiation when God is specially blessed in a ceremony with a high priest. This ceremony is very special in Bali and takes much inner preparation to prepare for it. After the ceremony we will visit the Mother Temple, Pura Besakih, as the culmination of our experience with the sacred Mt. Agung.

It will be possible to climb to the summit of Mt. Agung for those who are interested.



Pua Ulun Dau Bratan

APRIL 23 depart to the North Coast.

WEEK 2 ~ APRIL 23 - 27 We will stay at the Shambala Oceanside Resort. The second week we will deepen our spiritual practice, immerse ourselves in nature, the ocean, waterfalls, dolphins, and sacred liturgy.

APRIL 27 depart to Ubud ~ **APRIL 27 - 30** we will stay at the Ananda Cottages. Our pilgrimage will culminate in Ubud, the cultural/artistic center of Bali. From here we will have an excursion to paddle out onto the lake at Pua Ulun Dau Bratan under the stars of the early morning to watch the sun rise over the temple before we experience our morning prayers at the edge of the waters. We will spend our last full day in Ubud, with opportunities for cultural exploration and shopping.

APRIL 30 depart to airport to fly home.

As we travel in sacred places on the Earth, meeting people from all parts of the world, we wish to embody the highest ideals of humanity, bringing an attitude of respect, generosity, courtesy and kindness to all we meet. Our intention is to travel together with constancy and caring, to create true community, to develop and extend the presence of the sacred in daily life. We will practice no trace living, being careful to leave all sites we visit at least as clean, if not cleaner, than we found them and to protect the environment in all ways.

FELLOW TRAVELERS IN SPIRIT Each time the SF travels to sacred places we wish to serve a needed social cause central to the area visited. If you are not able to join us for the journey itself, but would like to serve the spirit of the pilgrimage, we would like to offer a way for you to participate as a "Fellow Traveler in Spirit," by contributing to a fund which we will gift to a local project of service. We hope in this way you may join us in Good Will and Deed in world travel with a social conscience. Those who become Fellow Travelers in Spirit will receive copies of relevant handouts, notes, and meditative materials prepared for this pilgrimage. Those attending the pilgrimage will receive a list of recommended reading and meditation material for inner preparation for the pilgrimage.

REGISTRATION FEES & EXPENSES

April 16 - 30, 2018

The cost per person for the 2018 Bali Pilgrimage includes lodging, food, excursions, entry fees and transfers, as delineated below, and does not include international airfare.

TOUR COST ESTIMATE – Rates are quoted in U.S. dollars, based upon the current exchange rate between the dollar and the Indonesia Rupiah, The currency code for Rupiahs is IDR, and the currency symbol is Rp.

Land Price: US \$3,200

Single Supplement: US \$570 (not many available)

Cost Includes:

- 14 nights accommodation in retreat centers and resorts per itinerary in double occupancy
- All meals throughout the tour except where indicated
- Taxes at hotels included
- All transfers to or from hotels, excursions in minibuses.
- Entrance fees to all excursions:
- All tips

While all accommodations are comfortable with a wide range of food choices, please advise any dietary requirements so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

FLIGHTS

Each individual is responsible for booking his or her own international air travel and travel insurance, and need to arrive at Ngurah Rai International Airport, Bali (also known as Denpasar Bali—DPS) no later than noon, April 16, to transfer to the Great Mountain Views Villa Resort. Return flights no earlier than 21:00 (9:00 p.m.) April 30, 2018.

Not included:

- Airline ticket – International
- Trip Cancellation Insurance – highly recommended
- Currently there is no Visa or entry fees required for US or European citizens. Stays are up to 30 days. If you are from another country there maybe Visa or entry fees required.
- Transport from airport to Great Mountain Views Villa Resort (approx. \$45 taxi)

Payment/Cancellation/Refund policy for Individual Travelers

- \$1,500 non-refundable deposit due upon registration.
- Final payment due Nov. 15, 2017.
- Cancellation before 60 days prior to departure – half of final payment refunded
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure – NO REFUND of tour cost

Please note that there is an additional fee of 3.5% for all credit card and PayPal payments, and a \$25 fee for all wire transfer fees, in addition to any other transfer fees the Sophia Foundation incurs in relation to wiring funds. These fees can be avoided by sending a check directly to the Sophia Foundation at 4500 19th Street #369, Boulder, CO 80304.

REGISTRATION FORM

PILGRIMAGE TO MT. AGUNG, BALI

April 16 - 30, 2018

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____

Check one: Full Vegetarian meals: _____

Vegetarian plus fish: _____

Full Fare: _____

Roommate Choice: _____

To Register send this form with an enclosed deposit of \$1,500 to:

Sophia Foundation

4500 19th Street, #369

Boulder, CO 80304 USA

The first twenty people to register will be able to attend. Payments made by credit card will be charged a 3.5% fee to cover our costs to the credit card companies.

Kim Marie—Administrator

Sophia Foundation

4500 19th Street, #369

Boulder, CO 80304

[\(303\) 242-5388](tel:3032425388)

sophia@sophiafoundation.org