



## EDITORIAL



### Bali Magic - a travelogue from another world

Whether between rice fields, in the deepest jungle or on narrow, chaotic streets lined with a variety of native wood carvings and stone sculptures.... from the second we arrived, we immediately realized: we are in another world! The setting cast a spell on us right away, and we were thrilled - both by the people and the wealth of history and culture. And for us as interior architects, there was a very special inspiration: the rooms have no walls and therefore have breathtaking, undisturbed views of the surroundings, showers are open to the air, and buildings are made from completely different materials.

There are many more details I could share, but here are some of the highlights from the places that impressed us the most: our personal **Bali guide** complete with our **hotel tips**:



#### 1. Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay

Not far from the international airport of Denpasar is Jimbaran with an unparalleled hotel complex. The Four Seasons perches on top of the hill overlooking the bay and airplanes on the far-away horizon. The entrance hall momentarily takes your breath away - so much beauty, exoticism and, suddenly, so much peace radiating from this place. The complex extends over the entire hill and can be reached by stairs or taking a golf cart. Hotel rooms are individual villas with private pools. Here you know that you really do not want to go back home - or at least, just come back very quickly :-)



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The region also has a few more oases of beauty and exotic paradise. To name but a few: the **W Hotel** in nearby **Seminyak** offers a counterpoint and a 'modern' translation of the tropical luxury hotel stay appropriate to its brand. And another tip of a special kind: the **Alila Villas** in **Uluwatu**! Contemporary design meets sustainability, natural materials and traditional Balinese accents. The perfect inspiration for the designer, as traditional materials are also used in pure, contemporary ways. A detour in **Uluwatu** leads to an impressive **temple** on a high cliff by the sea where, each day at sunset, guests can observe a special performance of the traditional **Kecak fire dance**.

Driving north into the interior of the island, you arrive at **Ubud**, a green oasis with many ancient Hindu temples and shrines nestled in the rainforest and surrounded by rolling rice terraces. Considered the spiritual and cultural center of the island, this town in the highlands of Bali is known for its traditional craftsmanship and dance. In Ubud, you certainly have the most intense 'Bali feeling', because all of the key symbols of the Indonesian island come together here.



### 2. Samsara Ubud

After following a path through idyllic rice fields and the deepest jungle which, as it becomes more dense, makes you think that you might have lost your way along some of the bends, you finally reach another highlight: the newly built mansion resort **Samsara Ubud in Payangan**, about 20 minutes from the bustling center of Ubud.

With only 17 luxurious villas, it is a very private place to totally disconnect and recharge your batteries. Each villa has a private heated pool to unwind, and a small, refined spa allows even deeper relaxation. In the evening after dinner, you can mix with like-minded people at the private outdoor cinema.



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### 3. Four Seasons Ubud

An impressive hotel complex closer to the center of Ubud is the **Four Seasons Resort Sayan**: this once again makes it clear how liberating it is to do away with unnecessary walls and space limitations. You can sit in the open air, protected only by a roof, and look onto the exotic natural surroundings instead of photographic wallpaper or a view from a panoramic window. Here, you are really part of nature, with everything close at hand.

Having a drink in the bar becomes a special experience - as well as enjoying food right next to the palm trees as you look onto treetops one floor below. The construction of the hotel on the mountain slope gives each level a new feeling. At the bottom of the valley, next to the calmly flowing Ayung River, are the spa and another restaurant.

There are plenty of other places to retreat, including the **Hanging Gardens of Bali** which are about 30 minutes by car from the center of Ubud. On the side of a hill in the middle of the green jungle lies the hotel with views of the Ayung river. Two interlinking pool areas flow with the organic vibrations of nature - a real experience of Bali up close. Also located on the **Ayung River** is **Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve**. With 60 luxury villas and suites, it's a relatively intimate property that welcomes guests in a traditional, classic style within a stunning setting.



My wish for you is that at least once in your life, you have the opportunity to visit this magical island - we will surely come back soon!

Best, Corinna Kretschmar-Joehnk