

Bali, Komodo Island & Singapore

March 23 - April 3, 2023

Our Glorious AFS Itinerary

To print - copy into a document and print that.

Below is the revised itinerary

Mar 23-25 Depart USA Mar 23, cross int'l dateline landing on Mar 25 when trip begins. More details to come in Trip Tips. You cross Int'l Dateline to lose day but gain back on the end!

Mar 25 - Welcome to Bali, Indonesia. Land portion begins.

For some, Bali might seem just like another popular tourist destination, but for anyone who visits its shores, it is impossible not to be touched by certain magic from the "Island of the Gods." Bali is an island paradise, with lush rice field terraces, stunning volcano and lake views and beautiful beaches, but it is often the warmth and friendliness of the Balinese people, that make any stay on the island so memorable.

Arrive at Bali's stunning Ngurah Rai International Airport where our local guide helps us transfer to our 5-star resort and spa. Our hotel is a tropic retreat with an onsite spa, award winning restaurants and verdant grounds which include, of course, a pool. We are in the heart of town, so it's easy to venture around. (Free time - This is the town of the movie and book "Eat, Pray, Love," visit some of the sites! Perhaps pay a visit to a Balian – a traditional Balinese medicine man or check out some of the many markets and spas.)

Overnight: Westin Ubud (3 nights)

Mar 26 - Day at Your Leisure B

Breakfast at hotel. Enjoy your free day leisure in the lush tropical island or you can join a tour to explore the beauty of Bali. Our yoga class for our AFS group can be arranged at Komaneka Bisma studio.

So much to do to in Bali so we squeezed in a day of leisure for you who came from afar. It's so easy to book any tour there on the spot. We can't present one option due to so many choices. Our past groups loved some tours and they are so affordable here. I recommend considering with these rated 5-stars on Trip Advisor: Ubud Instagram Tour, Rice Terrace Walk, River Tubing or Rafting, Cooking Class or the new "Jungle Swing Tour with Taro Elephant Sanctuary."

Overnight: Ubud Westin Resort & Spa

Mar 27 – Ubud Tour and Monkey Forest with lunch B/L

After buffet breakfast, start the day with an exploration of the Ubud Palace - Puri Saren Agung -where the royal family ruled Ubud from the late 1800's until 1917. The palace complex has beautiful Balinese traditional houses and is set in the heart of old Ubud. We then head to the famous Ubud Market where you can test your bargaining skill for an amazing array of local crafts. Even if you don't like shopping, the market provides a bombardment of color, culture and excitement.

We then take a stroll through Ubud's famous Monkey Forest to see some of Bali's cheekiest inhabitants – the macaque monkeys. Groups of these mischievous monkeys live in the shaded forest, where they roam freely,

jumping from tree to tree. It won't take long for you to recognize that they each have their own distinctive personalities and watching them is never-ending entertainment. Our past groups loved it.

Our evening is on our own, so feel free to venture into Ubud and mingle with the Balinese.

Overnight: Ubud Westin Resort & Spa

Mar 28 – Fly to Labuan Bajo, Flores Island and Komodo B/D

Breakfast at hotel. Around 8AM pick up from your hotel in Ubud and transfer to the airport for your onward flight departure to Labuan Bajo – Flores.

This morning, we fly to the island of Flores and the town of Labuan Bajo, landing in the Komodo Airport. Prepare to be amazed by our home of the next 3 nights - the five-star ocean-side Ayana Resort. The spectacular property is virtually brand new and is set against a backdrop of ruggedly beautiful green hills. Every room offers stunning ocean views. Settle in and make the most of the numerous beach and water activities the resort has to offer.

In the evening, we have our official Welcome Dinner at the hotel's unique Rooftop Bar, a perfect place to enjoy not only the gourmet food, but a spectacular sunset.

Overnight: Ayana Komodo Resort (3 nights) World-class Luxury with Gracious Indonesian Hospitality at Ayana Komodo Resort

A perfectly balanced retreat sanctuary welcomes you to the heart of Komodo National Park. Experience and create lasting memories in the lap of luxury with state-of-the-art facilities and services while surrounded by unparalleled natural beauty at the best 5-star hotel in Labuan Bajo, AYANA Komodo Resort. Do you long for a private break-away where your thoughts can roam while kayaking around the Labuan Bajo Resort to a private island? Or do you want to mingle with other guests and create wonderful new friendships on our bustling 250m long private jetty? The Labuan Bajo Hotel has what you need—and so much more.

Mar 29 – Komodo Free day! B

Breakfast at hotel. There is no better place to have a free day than on this lush tropical island. Relax and enjoy the resort or you can choose to take advantage of the many options Ayana offers. For spa enthusiasts, create a spa escape to remember with authentic Indonesian treatments that have been passed down through the generations. Those curious about discovering Komodo's exotic wildlife can choose from many activities including a guided Komodo Dragon tour at Rinca Island and wild bat sightings at sunset. The more adventurous will love Ayana Komodo's array of scuba diving, snorkeling, marine walks, paddle boarding, kayaking and hiking to secluded hilltop locations for the most exquisite views imaginable.

We are also offering the option to take a cultural tour to the nearby village of Cecer where you can meet the locals. You'll watch them do the "Tetek Alu" dance which is a traditional bamboo pole jumping game, as well as the Manggarai traditional dance. Maybe you can even join in! You'll have a look around the village itself to experience daily life, then visit the fields where they cultivate coffee, vanilla and cacao visit to fields.

Overnight: Ayana Komodo Resort

Mar 30 – Komodo Island Tour                      B/L

We have a full day ahead as we make our way by boat to Komodo Island and Rinca if time permits. The roughly 2-hour ride is a wonderful experience on the crystal Flores Sea. We then take a nature hike to explore including a waterhole known to be a favorite spot for Timor deer and wild pigs. Sometimes, dragons can be found there lying around and waiting. Climb Sulphurea Hill and Frigate Hill for a magnificent view across the islands, bays and beaches. Rangers accompany us with a forked stick. The dragons are protected by law. These mighty creatures are the largest lizards earth, often 10' long. They remain motionless with belly full, but when hunger strikes, they speed around in search for food. We stay silent as their hearing is acute.

Hop back on the boat and head to coral fragment lined Pink Beach. We'll have a picnic lunch with us and this could be just the spot to stop! Afterward, sail to Manta Point where hundreds of giant manta rays play in the waters. We may have time to swim or snorkel before heading back to the resort where our evening is free.

Overnight: Ayana KomodoResort

Mar 31 – Fly Flores via Bali to Singapore                      B

Our morning is free before we head to the airport to fly to magnificent Singapore, stopping first in Bali. We'll arrive in Singapore at night and check in to our beautiful hotel for 3 wonderful nights. I love this hotel located in the heart of Singapore, within walking distance of everything.

SINGAPORE is often referred to as "The Little Red Dot" on the world map. Though only a small city, Singapore was once a fishing village turned into a cosmopolitan city – brimming with harmonious diversity from its multi-cultural society. Encounters with the locals will bring you to experience the diverse, cohesive, nostalgic, historical and cultural aspects this city can offer. Aside from the old-world charm, get into the vibrancy of the city with its myriad selection of shopping, dining, entertainment places – be it Orchard Road or Boat Quay. One thing that you must not miss is the multitudinous offering of food that will leave you spoilt for choice – from Peranakan to Chinese, Malay to Indian, fusion and more. Just like any other destination, the city has its own unique set of offerings that differentiates itself. Singapore is a city where a diverse mix of people live and thrive alongside each other. It is a place where differences are encouraged, embraced and celebrated by all who live there. Though only a small city, this former simple fishing village has turned into a cosmopolitan city – brimming with harmonious diversity from its multi-cultural society. Experience the diverse, cohesive, nostalgic, historical and cultural aspects Singapore can offer. One thing that is a "do not miss" is the multitudinous offering of food that will leave you spoiled for choice – from Peranakan to Chinese, Malay to Indian, fusion and more. Singapore is a place where differences are encouraged, embraced and celebrated. I loved the Jen Hotel for its robots and best location in the heart of all the action!

Overnight: Hotel Jen Orchardgateway Singapore (3 nights)

Apr 1 – Singapore – City Tour                      10AM-3PM                      B

We start with Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site – the expansive and colorful Singapore Botanic Gardens. You'll be amazed by its National Orchid Garden, which boasts an extensive display of 60,000 orchid plants. Let's hop onto a Bumboat for a cruise along the Singapore River, taking in sites like the city's beautifully

restored shophouses, modern skyscrapers of the financial district, colonial buildings and the iconic Merlion statue for our group photo.

A visit to the new Singapore National Gallery will help tell the story of Singapore's planning efforts showing its physical transformation – past, present and future, including an immersive 270 degrees panoramic sight and sound show. We end at the incredible foodie delight destination called Maxwell Food Court where we are turned loose to taste of some local delicacies for lunch on our own. Singaporeans take food seriously! Here 3 meals a day is not enough. At Maxwell's just graze your way through endless gourmet stalls. All food is clean and fresh. Michelin-starred meals can run \$5. Favorites are fresh chili crabs and coconut curry chicken rice.

The rest of the day is free to explore this unique, vibrant world-class city. Explore some of the old neighborhoods or get your shopping fix with its myriad selection of shopping, dining, entertainment places – be it Orchard Road or Boat Quay. If you're still hungry, do the "wok & stroll" tour. Singapore has incredible nightlife with countless clubs and rooftop bars. Ride Singapore Flyer, go stargazing at the Science Center or the fun Night Safari.

Overnight: Hotel Jen Orchardgateway Singapore

Apr 2 – Singapore morning free. Evening Tour at MBS! 6PM-10PM B

After breakfast morning to explore. Perhaps start with booking Breakfast with the Orangutans? At Singapore's famous zoo – 26 acre wildlife park where animals roam free. Birders will be enthralled at Jurong Bird Park. Visit the new Flower Dome or ride the Singapore Flyer, world's largest Ferris Wheel with breathtaking views. But save some energy for our special evening tour.

It begins at Singapore's most iconic hotel – Marina Bay Sands Skypark - with a birds-eye view of the city from the top of MBS Skypark. It's a roof-top experience like no other, with an observation deck in the clouds. At Gardens by the Bay, watch the Super Tree Groves come alive with an exhilarating display of light and sound at night! Then, we take in the color, culture and excitement of bustling Chinatown. Rich in history and heritage, we'll wander along the narrow lanes that are a myriad of shops, eateries and the sensory overload that is the Night Market. Test your bargaining skills against street vendors selling anything from souvenirs to leather goods. The highlight is a trishaw ride through the alleyways of Chinatown and down to Clarke Quay. We'll be dropped here to explore and enjoy the variety of bars and dining options.

Overnight: Hotel Jen Orchardgateway Singapore

Marina Bay Sands Skypark...

Apr 3 - Check out and transfer to the airport

Morning free to explore before your late afternoon transfer to the airport for the US. (Flights to USA may arrive April 4.)