

# BALI AND THE SPICE ISLANDS

## 9 DAYS



*'M/V Oceanic Odyssey'*

The “magic” of Bali is rooted in the fact that the island is religiously distant from the rest of Indonesia – unlike its Muslim neighbors, the Balinese are Hindus. The people believe every living thing contains a spirit; when they pick a flower as an offering to the gods, they first say a prayer to the flower. These offerings are made from dawn till dusk, to placate evil spirits and to honor helpful ones.

You cruise along the Spice Islands aboard a luxury ship, stopping to anchor in the harbor and go ashore at several of them to visit villages and see the wildlife. At the conclusion of your cruise, you relax in a plush resort to amidst lush green vegetation with views of the sea.

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### Day 1 (Thursday)

#### USA – BALI

Depart the States on your trans-Pacific flight to Bali.

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### Day 2 (Friday)

#### BALI

Upon arrival outside the capital city of Denpasar, you are escorted to the Benoa Harbor to board the 100-passenger, luxury class “M/V Oceanic Odyssey” for your cruise to the Spice Islands. This ship is a Dutch design, built in Japan in 1998. Her captain, officers, and management are European; and the service staff and crew are Indonesian. Private air-conditioned en-suite staterooms provide every amenity. Other facilities include a well-stocked library, the ship’s band in the main bar, a gymnasium, swimming pool, beauty salon and a boutique.

Master chefs provide gourmet Indonesian and international meals, taking

advantage of freshly caught fish purchased at local markets visited during the cruise.

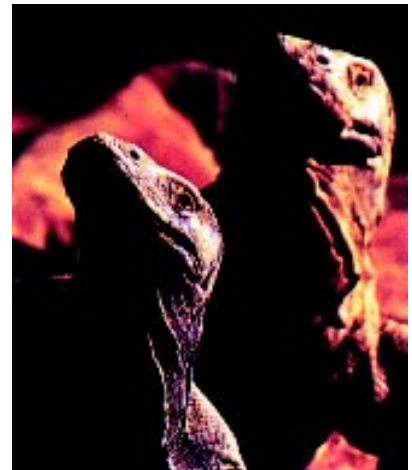
You travel through the Lombok Straits as you settle into your comfortable private en-suite cabin. In the evening, the Captain hosts a welcoming cocktail party before dinner. (B,L,D)

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### Day 3 (Saturday)

#### KOMODO

Passing through the Komodo Strait during the night, you breakfast on board with the dramatic scene of the National Park in view. The island is home to deer, wild boar, sulphur-crested cockatoos, and lively friarbirds. Whales and dolphins are often sighted in the water. You take a cool morning walk, escorted by experienced Park Rangers, to observe the Komodo dragons in their native habitat. Growing up to 23 feet in length, they weigh as much as 440 pounds. These magnificent monitor lizards have been extinct every-



*Komodo dragons*

where else in the world since the Jurassic Period more than 144 million years ago. You can photograph these reptiles at close range from a special enclosed area.

Later you go to the “Pink Beach”, which offers excellent snorkeling and water sports, before returning to the “Odyssey”. Late in the afternoon, the “Odyssey” sets sail from Komodo, passing picturesque islands as you relax with refreshments at the pool-side bar. (B,L,D)

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### Day 4 (Sunday)

#### WEST SUMBAWA

Today you call at Badas, the ancient capital of the western part of the island of Sumbawa. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, this island became prosperous through trade in native horses, rare timber, and fragrant sandalwood. Once the seat of a powerful



*Musicians - Bali*

- Each departure limited to 20 guests
- Luxury hotel and deluxe cabin on the five-star 'M/V Oceanic Odyssey'
- Three a la carte meals a day (table d'hote on ship)
- Beverages of your choice with meals except on cruise
- Professionally escorted
- All sightseeing, including entrance fees and special events as indicated in the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfer by private car
- All gratuities (also your tour manager's) except to ship's crew
- Portorage of 2 suitcases per passenger
- Airport departure taxes

## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Bali Cruise – M/V Oceanic Odyssey (3)**

The "M/V Oceanic Odyssey", designed in Holland and built in Japan in 1989, is a deluxe vessel accommodating up to 120 passengers. All cabins are outside and unusually spacious.

**Bali – Oberoi Hotel (3 nights), Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '99**

Located on Legian Beach, The Oberoi is a glorious blend of time-honored tradition and modern hospitality. At this secluded resort, set in 15 acres of tropical gardens, you have your own lanai cottage. The Kura Kura restaurant is Bali's great dining experience.

sultanate from South Celebes, the township and surrounding villages offer fascinating insights into traditional Indonesian culture. You drive inland through the lush green countryside, past valleys, streams, and paddy fields.

At the little village of Pamulung, you watch rice processing, weaving, and preparations for a traditional wedding. You see an entertaining water buffalo race across a flooded rice field – a popular spectator sport on many islands which is also an excellent way to plow the paddy before planting new rice.

After lunch, choose from several afternoon activities: visit the capital city to tour the residence of the descendants of the last Sultan, followed by a visit to the local Seketeng Market; or drive to the village of Perung to watch demonstrations of various sports typical in the area; or go to Kencana Beach to swim or laze in the



Rice fields

sun. If you prefer, relax on the "Odyssey" deck with a book. (B,L,D)

**Day 5 (Monday)****BALI**

After a leisurely breakfast, you leave the "Odyssey" and check into the **Oberoi Hotel** -featuring the best combination of beach and accommodations on Bali. The lush gardens with palms, bougainvillea, hibiscus, and frangipani set off the limestone structures with thatched roofs. Private accommodations are in bright and airy villas with garden courtyards. Luxury melds with functionality, evidenced by cane and thatched ceilings, marble floors, elegant tropical furniture, and refined local art.

Your à la carte dinner is served in a breezy thatched building overlooking an exotic lotus pond. The marvelous variety of Indonesian, Continental, and French entrees and deserts will make your selection an enjoyable dilemma. After dinner, one of the romantically lit garden paths leads to a poolside theater for Balinese music, dance, and cultural presentations. Beyond the large pool is a fine surfing beach with private access. (B,L,D)

**Day 6 (Tuesday)****BALI**

You have the full day at leisure to take advantage of the amenities of your hotel. Relax by the pool or stroll along the beach. Enjoy an à la carte dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

**Day 7 (Wednesday)****BALI**

This morning, drive a short distance through Mas (a center for woodcarving) to the serene cultural center of Bali – the village of Ubud. There are



Young Balinese ladies

numerous art galleries and shops that sell all kinds of decorative items. This is a good place to see Balinese dancing and to hear Balinese music. Some of the island's best restaurants are here; and you have lunch at one of them.

You attend a performance of the Balinese Barong Dance – a very traditional play featuring the triumph of good over evil. You visit the Holy Spring and the Elephant's Cave. Before returning to the hotel, you see the famous Monkey Dances of Bali.

Tonight, join your travel companions for cocktails and farewell dinner at the resort. (B,L,D)

**Day 8 (Thursday)****BALI – USA**

Today, as your journey ends and you bid farewell to your new friends, you are escorted to the airport for your flights to the States. (B)

## DATES

Depart-WED (from USA)	Return-THU
Mar 22	Mar 30
Nov 29	Dec 07
2001 Dates:	
Mar 21	Mar 29

## COST PER PERSON

Land Portion (Double occupancy)	\$ 2,640
Single supplement	\$ 905
International Airfare (West Coast)	\$ 1,675

(If you combine this trip with another one, "International Airfare" does not apply. You only pay add-on airfare to connect to other tour(s). Please call us for quote.)

All airfares are subject to availability and to change by the airlines. Cancellation penalties and surcharges may apply. Fares from other U.S. cities, as well as First and Business Class rates, are also available.

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