



# Go Green by Going Bloo

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IS ALL THE RAGE AMONG ECO-MINDED TRAVELLERS THESE DAYS. WHY NOT GIVE THE CONCEPT A TRY WHILE VACATIONING IN ONE OF ASIA'S MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS. EDITOR **CHAD MERCHANT** TAKES A LOOK AT A CURIOUSLY SPELLED ECO-RESORT IN BALI.**

The Indonesian island of Bali is arguably one of Asia's premier magnets for tourism. A unique blend of spectacular scenery and inimitable culture make this destination hard to resist. However, the downside of tourism – especially on the scale Bali has received – is sorely visible in the chaotic conurbation of Kuta and its environs. Although this area does have its own high-octane appeal, there are times where you want your vacation to be a bit more mellow... an idyllic escape of tranquillity and lazy days. If that's what you seek, Kuta Beach is probably not the ideal choice. However, Bali has far more to offer than just Kuta.

A world removed from the hustle and bustle of Kuta and Legian, a beautiful resort village called Bloo Lagoon beckons... an international village that is a combination of home, studio, and shared resort spaces overlooking the ocean at Padangbai, Bali.

Located about 90 minutes from Bali's airport (and on the opposite coast from Kuta), Padangbai is a local port used by people taking the ferry to and from Lombok and onwards to the Gili Islands, Komodo Islands, and Flores. With its beautiful setting and unspoiled village feel, it must qualify as one of the most attractive port towns in the region. At the northern end of the town sits the 11th-century Pura Silayukti Temple and just beyond it lies the Blue Lagoon, a small white sand beach great for snorkeling, diving, and relaxing in the local *warungs*.

Playing around a bit on the name of that beach, the Bloo Lagoon Resort Village comprises 25 unique villas, each designed with open spaces that flow breezily from indoors to outdoors. Varied designs are

suitable for singles, couples, and families. The facilities include space for workshops, conferences, and an amphitheatre for performances, as well as a restaurant and spa just above the ocean.

However, Bloo Lagoon is also committed to protecting and preserving the environment, so with that in mind, the resort has taken a number of steps to ensure the property adheres to good sustainable tourism practices. Even in its construction, the developers opted for manual labour rather than the use of heavy machinery in an effort to reduce pollution and also to distribute income and wealth more equitably amongst the workers from the village.

Rain and water from showers and sinks is channeled to catchment reservoirs which utilize solar power to drive the pumps. The "used" water is piped to an artificial lake planted with aquatic plants and is used for irrigation and toilet flushing. Composting is used to improve soil quality and organic vegetable gardens have been planted to provide food for the onsite restaurant. During construction, excavation of the rocky site yielded beautiful stones which were used for building walls.

To reduce sound and air pollution, parking is kept separate from the resort homes and electric buggies are used for onsite, site-to-beach, and site-to-town transportation. All lighting is provided by LEDs for balanced illumination, low energy consumption, and extra-long life. Further, the swimming pool uses ionisation for water purification, minimizing the need for chemicals.

Beyond the actual measures taken by the resort, though, it's the attitude of conservation and preservation that



makes a place like this truly sustainable. It becomes part of their core DNA and touches everything they do, and it is recognised that the very natural beauty that draws tourists in the first place must be protected and cared for. This commitment was recently highlighted by the receipt of the Tri Hita Karana Award from the Governor of Bali for their ecologically friendly and sustainable resort.

Bloo Lagoon is a truly unique travel destination. With a strong connection to the village in which it stands, the resort creates a cooperative environment of mutual exchange, and provides an enriching environment through a strong connection with nature, benefitting both their guests and the local Balinese people.

The level of enjoyment on a visit to Bali is strongly influenced by where you stay, which is in turn dependent on what sort of vacation experience you seek, because Bali can deliver a wide range of experiences. For those who are environmentally conscious and seek an authentic Balinese retreat amid stunning scenery, Bloo Lagoon is certainly worth considering.

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