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**Website:** [Comohotels.com/umaubud](http://Comohotels.com/umaubud)

**Opening Date:** July 2004

**Owning Company:** COMO Hotels and Resorts

**General Manager:** Gede Suteja

**Executive Chef :** Dewa Artana

**Interior Designer:** Koichiro Ikebuchi

**Architect:** Maximilian Jencquel  
Cheong Yew Kuan

**Location:** Ubud, Bali





**Getting there:**

Cathay Pacific ([cathaypacific.com](http://cathaypacific.com))  
China Airlines ([chinaairlines.com](http://chinaairlines.com))  
Eva Air ([evaair.com](http://evaair.com))  
Garuda ([garuda-indonesia.com](http://garuda-indonesia.com))  
Malaysia Airlines ([malaysiaairlines.com](http://malaysiaairlines.com))  
Qantas ([Qantas.com](http://Qantas.com))  
Singapore Airlines ([singaporeair.com](http://singaporeair.com))  
Thai Airways International ([thaiair.com](http://thaiair.com))  
Qatar Airways ([qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com))

These airlines and other service Bali's Denpasar Airport, a 90-minute drive from COMO Uma Ubud.

**Accommodation:**

46 rooms, suites and villas, including:

**4 Ubud Rooms** (55sq m/ 590sq ft): Located on the upper floor, our four light and airy Ubud Rooms feature their own conservatories, each with a relaxing daybed and seating area beneath a thatched roof. Inside, bedrooms feature hand-carved king-size beds draped in fresh white linens, and a desk area. Bathrooms offer oversized baths and separate showers.

**18 Terrace Rooms** (45sq m/ 484sq ft): The 18 Terrace Rooms have large French doors opening on to a private terrace overlooking our gardens, while windows, covered with carved wood panels, open to let in the sights and scents of the forest. Inside, white cotton voile hangs from four-poster beds. Some bathrooms feature sunken bathtubs, and all have a semi-outdoor shower and ornate mirror. One Terrace Room features a private pool (additional charge applies).

**10 Garden Pool Villas** (54sq m/ 570sq ft): The Garden Pool Villas are defined by their lushly planted open-air courtyards. Inside, light-filled interiors are set off by four-poster king-sized beds draped in airy white voiles. Spacious bathrooms with freestanding bathtubs and separate showers look out across a fish pool or traditional water feature, while the bedroom connects to a private plunge pool and terrace.

**4 Pool Suites** (55sq m/ 590sq ft): These four Pool Suites include a second room, perfect as a sitting room or as an extra bedroom. They also feature a sundeck with outdoor furniture and garden views, as well as a plunge pool. Generous bathrooms feature separate showers and bathtubs.



**1 Uma Villa** (94sq m/ 1,012sq ft): This spacious villa has a sitting and dining room, as well as a comfortable bedroom featuring a four- poster bed. The bathroom features a sunken bath and separate shower. The private terrace has a sitting area, daybeds and sweeping views across the Tjampuhan Valley.

**8 Uma Pool Villas** (77sq m / 990 sq ft): These villas each feature a private swimming pool with a sprawling sundeck and spectacular views across the Balinese jungle or Tjampuhan Valley. The bedroom features a king-size bed draped in crisp white linens. The bathroom has double vanity units, an oversized shower and bathtub.

**1 COMO Villa** (132sq m/ 1,422sq ft): Our headline COMO Villa impresses with its light-flooded interiors and spectacular views of the lush Tjampuhan Valley. There are two bedrooms with four- poster beds wrapped in dove-white cotton voile netting and a spacious living room, making it popular with families. The COMO villa features two bathrooms with bathtubs and separate showers. There is a large outdoor area, with sundecks and sunbeds, beside a private infinity pool which overlooks the valley.

**Room Facilities:**

Complimentary Wi-Fi  
Individually controlled air conditioning  
Egyptian cotton linen  
Fine goose down duvet  
Dual-line phone with voicemail  
42-inch flat screen TV  
Satellite TV, DVD player and DVD library  
Electronic personal safe  
Private bar  
Complimentary coffee, tea and bottled mineral water  
Umbrella  
Yoga mat  
Hairdryer  
COMO Shambhala bathroom amenities

**Guest Services:**

Complimentary scheduled shuttle to and from Puri Lukisan museum in Ubud town  
24/7 concierge services  
Comprehensive travel and tour assistance  
Multilingual hotel staff  
Laundry and pressing services  
Maid service and evening turndown  
Private cars and drivers  
Valet parking  
Personal shopping assistance



**Restaurants:** Surrounded by tropical gardens in the heart of COMO Uma Ubud, Kemiri showcases the various cooking techniques of South East Asia utilising local and indigenous spices.

Uma Cucina, our Italian-inspired restaurant and lounge bar, enjoys a street-side setting at the front of COMO Uma Ubud. Open for lunch and dinner, as well as brunch every Sunday, Uma Cucina sources the freshest ingredients. It also boasts an inventive cocktail list.

**Bar:** Uma Bar is a relaxed poolside environment and popular gathering place for enjoying fine wines, cocktails and healthy juices.

**Dining Options:** Breakfast and dinner at Kemiri  
Lunch and dinner at Uma Cucina  
All-day dining at Uma Bar

**Guest Wellbeing:** COMO Shambhala Retreat at COMO Uma Ubud

**Treatments:** Asian-inspired holistic therapies developed by COMO Shambhala, including reflexology, massage and facials

**Retreat Facilities:** Four treatment rooms  
Fitness centre  
Reflexology area  
Yoga studio and yoga pavilion  
25-metre pool  
Separate steam rooms for males and females

**Outdoor Activities:** Trekking, white-water rafting and volcano climbing Guided day/ half-day walks  
Mountain biking  
Bespoke cultural and special interest tours  
Museum, temple and gallery visits  
Complimentary daily yoga classes  
Complimentary daily guided morning walks  
COMO Shambhala Cuisine cooking class

**Direct Reservations:**

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**GDS Access Codes:** Private label chain code CV  
Sabre 64560 Amadeus DPSUMA  
Galileo/Apollo 45335 Worldspan 4692



## **Hotel Synopsis: COMO Uma Ubud, Bali**

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In July 2004, COMO Hotels and Resorts – the name behind private island resorts like COMO Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos and city hotels in London and Bangkok – opened its first Uma property in Bali. Called COMO Uma Ubud, it has become the company's inland retreat dedicated to Uma's understated philosophy of quiet comfort in culturally rich locations.

Our Uma properties (Uma: Sanskrit for 'home' or 'house') strive to transform tourists into travellers through immersion, participation and discovery into local culture and adventure. We provide memorable insights to local nature and traditions through specialist guiding, treks and tours, physical activities and tailor-made programme. Each Uma property and its services are defined by local aesthetics and cuisine, interpreted by COMO.

COMO Uma Ubud is located in the centre of Bali. This extraordinary Indonesian island is spliced by a volcanic mountain chain which divides the quiet north coast, where the foothills fall into the Bali Sea, from the busy south coast, where fertile rice paddies slope gently down towards the Indian Ocean. At its heart lies Ubud, a small but lively town regarded as the island's cultural hub.

Ubud derives its name from 'Ubad', meaning 'medicine' in Balinese. This is because of the profusion of unique medicinal plants that grow wild in the dense green forests. The town is a compelling mix of rustic tradition and active Hindu spiritualism (Bali's religious heritage is unique in Indonesia). The town also has a very long history among painters and artisans who live and work in the region.

The hotel, occupying a 2.3 hectare site, is hidden on the fringe of Ubud, overlooking the Tjampuhan Valley amid paddy fields carved out of hillsides, backed by coconut palms and banyan trees. The river Oos runs below and to one side stands a mountain. There is no sound of traffic. The town, where there are numerous shops, galleries and local restaurants, is a five-minute drive or 20-minute walk away.

The landscaping of COMO Uma Ubud, by Bali-based Trevor Hillier, refers to the village siteplans of island tradition. The heart of the hotel – the lobby, 25-metre pool and bar – is open and simply designed. This contrasts with the narrow paths running between tall, lushly planted walls that lead to rooms. All villas have small walled tropical gardens.

Interior Designer Maximilian Jencquel also played an instrumental role in COMO Uma Ubud, designing the 17 rooms and villas that opened in 2013, as well as Uma Cucina. He was also involved in the major renovation of the existing 29 rooms and spa areas.

Japanese designer Koichiro Ikebuchi is responsible for the resort's interior aesthetic, which feels like an elegant rural home in the hills. In each villa, the bathrooms and principal living space is separated by an outdoor area. Carved panels open up rooms to incorporate views and the scent of forest, while the simple volumes ensure light flows through interiors, from the bedroom through to garden terraces, private courtyards and infinity-edge plunge pools. Indigenous materials include local woods and along-alang thatched roofs, as well as wooden shingle roofs.



There are four Ubud Rooms, each 55sq metres, located on the upper floor, north of the resort. The 18 Terrace Rooms, located throughout the resort, are each 45sq metres with garden terraces. There are 10 Garden Pool Villas defined by their lushly planted open-air courtyards. The four pool suites are 55sq metres and feature a private plunge pool and sundeck. Eight Uma Pool Villas, each with 77 square metres of space, feature a private swimming pool with a sprawling sundeck and spectacular views across the Balinese jungle and Tjampuhan Valley. The bedroom features a king-sized bed draped in crisp white linens. The Uma Villa is similar, but without a pool. The COMO Villa, located on the southern edge of the resort, has possibly the best pool, as well as a private treatment area.

In-room facilities are decadent in their detail. The open-air bathrooms all include separate baths and an open-air shower. Other facilities include a 42-inch flatscreen TV with satellite channels, a DVD player, an electronic personal safe, yoga mats and private bars.

As with all COMO Hotels and Resorts, cuisine is considered a crucial element of the guest experience. At COMO Uma Ubud, there are two restaurants: Kemiri and Uma Cucina. Kemiri, meaning 'candlenut' in Bahasa (candlenut is also a key ingredient in Indonesian cuisine), is designed by Ikebuchi. With open-air space – seating 70 both covered and uncovered, in addition to an intimate private dining bale for six – it is a stylish area beside a waterfall-fed pond, with light, airy, along-along ceilings. Kemiri serves breakfast each day and themed dinners. An all-day dining menu is also available. Uma Cucina ('cucina' means kitchen in Italian), designed by architect Cheong Yew Kuan who also created COMO Shambhala Estate, is an informal space recalling the restaurants of Italy, where locals and hotel guests can gather for lunches, afternoon tea, early evening bites, aperitifs and evening meals on the open-air terrace. The menu is strong on fresh, locally-sourced produce and the flavours of the Italian kitchen. Seasonal vegetables, seafood and slow-cooked meats are rendered in colourful, easy-going options, perfect for sharing with friends.

Menus display a rigorous reliance on seasonal ingredients from local suppliers. Dishes showcase Bali's rich gourmet heritage as well as other Asian cuisines. These include modern interpretations of South East Asian cooking. The spices of India and Indonesia feature, combined with refined Western techniques. The results are healthful and original.

In addition, guests can benefit from COMO Shambhala Cuisine, designed to maximise energy and wellbeing with the use of raw organic foods rich in living enzymes, vitamins and sea minerals. Blended nut milk replaces cows' milk and genetically-tampered soy alternatives. Honey replaces processed sugars.

In recognition of Bali's powerful spirituality, COMO Uma Ubud has developed a substantial COMO Shambhala Retreat, designed for guests seeking greater health through yoga and related treatments. The open-air pavilion for group and private yoga practice has the best views in all the resort. There is also a yoga studio above the Uma Bar, a reflexology area, gym, four treatment rooms and a 25-metre jade green pool.

The Asian-based therapies range from specific body treatments to facials, to sophisticated massages, including the signature COMO Shambhala Massage, delivered by experienced practitioners.



English-speaking local staff provide intelligent access to Bali's cultural activities. Visits to Ubud's temples, galleries and museums include the Neka Art and Puri Lukisan museums. Guests can take guided walks through the region's hinterland, incorporating paddy fields, forest and views of the Ayung River. They can witness local temple ceremonies, as well as experience Bali's powerful musical heritage – a Gamelan orchestra or the Kecak fire dance, still practised by local people. More physical activities include trekking, white-water rafting, mountain biking and volcano climbing.

Events such as weddings are popular in COMO Uma Ubud, the resort's unique upbeat spirit centred around its pool and restaurant, making it the perfect location for a private celebration. COMO Uma Ubud can also organise corporate gatherings.



## About COMO Group and COMO Hotels and Resorts

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Headquartered in Singapore, The COMO Group represents Christina Ong's unique vision of contemporary living. The COMO Group encompasses the hospitality collection known as COMO Hotels and Resorts, the international luxury fashion retailer Club 21, the award-winning wellness concept COMO Shambhala and the philanthropic COMO Foundation.

COMO Hotels and Resorts offers personalised luxury travel experiences through individualised service, commitment to holistic wellness and award-winning cuisine. Each hotel is developed in response to the destination it inhabits, including COMO The Halkin in London, COMO The Treasury in Perth, Australia, COMO Castello Del Nero, Tuscany and three COMO Metropolitan hotels in London, Bangkok and Miami Beach. COMO's resort portfolio encompasses COMO Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos, COMO Cocoa Island and COMO Maalifushi in the Maldives, COMO Point Yamu in Phuket, Thailand, and four COMO Uma experience resorts in Bali and Bhutan, including the newest resort, opened in 2018, COMO Uma Canggu.

COMO also manages COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali, in partnership with COMO's sister brand in wellness. This flagship wellness retreat offers an integrative and immersive restorative experience that enables real and lasting improvements to one's health. COMO Shambhala products, services, cuisine, treatments and spa facilities are available within every COMO hotel and resort.

Younger guests are also encouraged to enjoy COMO's renowned service, design, cuisine and approach to wellness, through Play by COMO. This approach is our way of delivering personalised family experiences. Play by COMO is available at COMO Maalifushi, COMO Parrot Cay, COMO Point Yamu and COMO Uma Canggu, with dedicated Play spaces available.

**City Hotels:** COMO Hotels and Resorts' urban properties include COMO The Halkin in London's Belgravia, the COMO Metropolitan hotels in London, Bangkok and Miami Beach, and a city hotel in Perth, Australia, called COMO The Treasury. All five hotels feature award winning chefs, a contemporary aesthetic and exceptional service.

**Resorts:** COMO's private resorts offer a range of water-based excursions, including fly fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking, snorkelling and some of the world's best diving and surfing. To this we add island adventures and cultural trips, such as bike rides and temple visits. COMO Point Yamu on the island of Phuket in Thailand combines contemporary style with dramatic views overlooking the Andaman Sea and the limestone stacks of Phang Nga Bay. The understated style and laid-back nature of COMO Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos, COMO Cocoa Island and COMO Maalifushi in the Maldives are underlaid by the exacting service that has become a COMO hallmark. World-class cuisine and holistic wellness treatments at our COMO Shambhala Retreats complete COMO's approach to a perfect beach holiday. The COMO Uma properties in Bhutan and Bali introduce the rich cultural heritage and local traditions that are unique to these dramatic destinations.



Specialist guiding, treks and tours, physical activities and tailor-made programmes ensure memorable insights into some of the world's most pristine locations. The COMO Uma properties include COMO Uma Ubud in Bali's cultural heartland, COMO Uma Canggu on the island's south coast — complete with a new COMO Beach Club — and in Bhutan, tucked into two distinct Himalayan valleys, COMO Uma Paro and COMO Uma Punakha. All the Uma lodges incorporate local design and cuisine while providing an unmistakably COMO experience. Our latest addition to the COMO Group is COMO Castello Del Nero – a historic 740-acre estate dating back to a twelfth-century Tuscan castle. The estate has its own vineyard, bee hives and olive groves, which supply the hotel's restaurants, including Michelin-starred La Torre. COMO also provides powerful wellness experiences to guests at the hotel's COMO Shambhala Retreat.

**Wellness Destination:** COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali is a sanctuary for holistic wellness. Expert staff are goal-oriented, relevant and realistic in their consultative approach. Each guest's individual needs and ambitions determine the programme of nutrition, exercise, therapies and activities, while facilities and tropical villa-style accommodation are impeccably appointed. All of this is set in a clearing, rich with flora and fauna, above Bali's beautiful Ayung River.

Follow our adventures on Instagram [@comohotels](#) or chat to us on our Facebook page.



## About COMO Shambhala

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COMO Shambhala is an award-winning wellness concept developed as a sister brand to COMO Hotels and Resorts. The company is headquartered in Singapore under The COMO Group. Running as a thread through COMO properties worldwide, COMO Shambhala promotes a healthy way of living, learning and eating well. The pursuit of balance is central to the approach, the word Shambhala translating as 'peace' in Sanskrit.

The COMO Shambhala resort experience combines Asian-based therapies, nutrition, exercise and yoga with a results-driven agenda managed by experts in holistic health. Weight loss, anti-ageing and stress management can all be addressed while staying in a spectacular part of the world. Facilities are state-of-the-art and usually include yoga rooms, Pilates equipment, hydrotherapy and Ayurveda. The flagship retreat is COMO Shambhala Estate in Bali, an award-winning wellness resort.

The COMO Shambhala city spa experience is attached to COMO's Metropolitan properties in Bangkok, Miami Beach and London, as well as a standalone wellness centre with resident experts in Singapore.

COMO Shambhala Cuisine has been developed for those seeking better health through nutritional, low-calorie eating. Largely organic and often locally sourced, the cuisine replaces refined foods with naturally occurring sugars, and bad fats with nutritious nuts and oils.

COMO Shambhala also produces a range of skin and bodycare products, COMO Shambhala At Home, made from all-natural ingredients. COMO Shambhala Active Living is the company's resort and activewear line, launched in 2007.



## **Key Biographies: COMO Uma Ubud, Bali**

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### **Gede Suteja, General Manager:**

Born and raised in Bali, Gede Sujeta first joined COMO Hotels and Resorts in 2004, where he was involved in the opening of COMO's flagship wellness retreat near Ubud, COMO Shambhala Estate. Since this time he has taken up various roles within the group including Executive Assistant Manager at COMO Cocoa Island in the Maldives, and Resort Manager of COMO Uma Ubud. In 2016 he took over as General Manager at COMO Uma Ubud.

### **Dewa Artana, Executive Chef:**

Chef Artana grew up in Bali, and spent his youth training as a chef in several prominent resorts around the island. It was in 2003 that he began his career with COMO, when he moved to the Turks and Caicos to join the team at COMO Parrot Cay. After six years in the Caribbean, he returned to Bali as the Executive Sous Chef at Alila Ubud. In 2015 he rejoined COMO, taking up his current role as the Executive Chef at COMO Uma Ubud. During this time, Chef Artana has been instrumental in the creation of the hotel's weekly dining programme where guests can enjoy special menus with traditional performances.

### **Koichiro Ikebuchi, Interior Architect:**

Japanese interior architect Koichiro Ikebuchi is defined by his sensitive approach to nature and respect for cultural authenticity. All that he creates is entirely appropriate to its physical context. This is achieved with an uncomplicated, succinct approach to design, which gives a strong flavour in the fewest strokes possible. It is for these reasons that Ikebuchi's extensive restaurant work, including Aoki in Singapore, has set new benchmarks in interior design. COMO Uma Ubud was his first resort project.

### **Maximilian Jencquel, Interior Designer:**

Maximilian Jencquel graduated as valedictorian of his Masters in Interior Design at the prestigious ESAG Penninghen in Paris, France. In 2006, he joined Christian Liaigre's design studio in Paris, and spent several years assisting with projects from across the globe. Some of Jencquel's more noteworthy achievements while he was under Liaigre's wings include a modern private residence with panoramic views over the city of Athens, and La Société, a world-famous restaurant in the centre of Paris. Jencquel decided to leave Paris following his trip to Indonesia in 2010 in the artistic and cultural hub of Bali, Ubud. After establishing Studio Jencquel in 2011, he is now pursuing his passion for vernacular architecture and tropical landscapes, while constantly being seduced by the island's abundance of inspirations. Jencquel played an instrumental role in COMO Uma Ubud. He was the interior designer for the 17 rooms and villas that opened in 2013, as well as Uma Cucina. He was also involved in the major renovation of the existing 29 rooms and spa areas.

### **Trevor Hillier, Landscape Architect:**

Currently working out of Bali, Hillier is a South East Asian tropical landscape specialist, with a strong conservationist leaning. His work shows a keen sensitivity to architecture and context, his designs incorporating agriculture into the landscape wherever possible. In the resort sector, Hillier has been responsible for extensions of both Four Seasons Hotels in Bali, as well as the landscaping of COMO Parrot Cay.



## **Beyond the Resort: Activities at COMO Uma Ubud, Bali**

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In keeping with the Uma philosophy – immersing guests in the local culture and landscape to appreciate it more fully – COMO Uma Ubud provides intelligent access to the different layers that make up island life, from temple, gallery and museum visits to appointment-only meetings with artists and craftspeople at work in their studios. More physical excursions include walking, trekking, white-water rafting and mountain biking in the Balinese countryside.

An unusual concentration of cultural excursions lies within minutes of COMO Uma Ubud. Every day, staff inform guests on local happenings, allowing them to witness and take part in impromptu temple ceremonies and colourful festivals. Highlights include a Gamelan orchestra or the Kecak fire dance, still practised today.

The region's applied arts tradition is also vigorous, with COMO Uma Ubud providing bespoke itineraries appropriate to specific interests. Doorstep possibilities range from ARMA, a centre for visual and performing arts featuring a permanent collection of paintings as well as theatre and dance performances, to Njana Tilem Gallery, which displays the best of Balinese carvings, owned by master wood-carver Ida Bagus Njana. Visit Seniwati Gallery for work by Bali's female artists, or Komaneke Fine Art Gallery for the new generation of Indonesian talent.

COMO Uma Ubud can also arrange courses with well-known experts in subjects that include Indonesian Batik, puppet making, mask painting and Balinese cookery. Guests can enjoy daily guided walks (complimentary) among the villages, temples, rice paddies and jungle gorges surrounding COMO Uma Ubud.

More strenuous guided treks incorporate topographical highlights like the Tjampuhan Ridge, following ancient pathways through rustling *alang alang*, or heading off to Pucak Payogan Temple, passing by the pretty village of Sebali (known for producing 'canang sari', or temple offerings) before heading back down shady lanes. For a combination of activity and indulgence, guests can take a guided five-hour trek to COMO Shambhala Estate, loosely following the sinuous Ayung River. At the Estate, guests have lunch – 'glow' is among the island's finest restaurants – before returning to COMO Uma Ubud by vehicle.

For mountain bikers, the Ubud region is unadulterated paradise. Guests can choose from gentle cruises along easy back roads to muddy tracks and rough village byways. Various trails have been mapped by the resort, which also provides the best mountain biking gear on the island. COMO Uma Ubud can provide experienced guides.

Trips include an ascent to Kintamani, high on the crater rim of Mount Batur (1,717m) then a well-earned downhill run all the way back home to COMO Uma Ubud through a chain of traditional villages. For a more relaxed ride, this seven-hour excursion can be cut in half: guests are dropped off at the top of Mount Batur to enjoy a freewheel almost to COMO Uma Ubud's door.

White-water rafting in another popular activity with rivers around COMO Uma Ubud providing pleasant conditions year-round. The rides are exhilarating without being extreme (the Ayung River is generally class two with a few rapids reaching class three; it is considered fine for beginners). Rafting also provides an unrivalled point of observation for the natural scenery, wildlife and exotic plants.



## Destination Overview: COMO Uma Ubud, Bali

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Bali is considered to be the jewel of Indonesia – the original paradise cliché filled with smiling faces, white-sand beaches and unspoilt, rolling countryside carpeted in velvet green fields of rice paddies. It is all of this, but more as well, its manifold layers created by a long-standing, sophisticated culture informed by a deep sense of religion and respect for tradition.

A volcanic mountain chain splices the island in two. Ubud, revered as the island's cultural hub, lies at its heart. To the east lies Sidemen – a heavenly rural enclave in the shadow of Mount Agung – and to the south, the busier beach enclaves of Kuta and Nusa Dua. The less visited north and west of Bali includes a quiet coastline that's great for diving.

Most significant to its extraordinary culture is the fact Bali stands as the only predominantly Hindu island in the world's largest Muslim nation – Indonesia.

Hinduism was introduced from Java in the eighth century and then strengthened in the 15th century as the Brahman priests fled the Islamic encroachment on Java. From these early roots, Bali has developed its own unique system of beliefs, officially called 'Agama Tirtha' (literally, 'Religion of Holy Water').

Balinese people believe in the seen and the unseen worlds. Life is a battle between the demons and dark forces that dwell in the sea and the gods who reside in the mountains, or the volcanoes, which are such a dominant feature of the island's topography.

If a guest's stay coincides with a full moon, COMO Uma Ubud's guides will arrange a full moon ceremony supplying both 'canang sari' (an offering of incense and flowers) and appropriate dress.

Village life is a core element of Balinese culture – a cohesive religious community ('banjar') organised around a group of temples. Each 'banjar' member is duty-bound to take part in rituals and assist in ceremonies, involving art, music, theatre and elaborate offerings. These ceremonies constitute the island's heartbeat.

Indeed, the very soul of Bali is rooted in religion and is expressed in art forms that have been well preserved over the centuries. Hindu tenets have also morphed with local influences. Dance dramas, for example, are based on the old Hindu epics of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, but contain elements of folklore peculiar to the island.

Although the ancient regencies of the 'Rajas' and princes of Bali were dismantled by colonial governments in the early 20th century, many of the royal descendants, who still own traditional palaces, are very much respected as patrons of the arts.

Even today, it seems that almost every person is a painter, carpenter or weaver, with beauty found in the smallest decorations made for the myriad shrines found across the island, from temple shrines to paddy fields.

To find out more about Bali's land and culture, guests of COMO Uma Ubud can experience its vibrancy by taking advantage of the resort's highly informed local staff.



## Media Contact

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