

THREADS OF LIFE

February 2010 newsletter



Images from a day and night in Boti, Timor

February is the coldest part of the northern winter and the wettest part of the monsoon in Bali: a time when everyone starts to look forward to the middle of the year. For Threads of Life that will mean the textile tour we are organizing to Bali and Timor in July and August. For those who are thinking of joining us, we want to tempt you to sign up soon, before the tour fills up!

[The Weaving Cultures of Bali and Timor: A Textile Tour with Threads of Life July 28 - August 10, 2010](#)

Highlights of the Bali portion of the tour include a visit to the village of Tenganan, famous for its geringsing double-ikat textiles made using a technique employed in only three other places in the world. We will meet weavers in their homes, learn about the community's history and unique culture, and see a side of this famous community that few visitors witness. After seeing a weft ikat factory in Gianyar and the Klungkung textile market we will visit the weaving community of Sidemen where most households make songket (supplementary weft) textiles. Here we will meet Ida Ayu Puniari, an authority on the sacred bebalu textile tradition.

A day-long workshop featuring batik and natural dyes at the [YPBB Foundation](#) studio with Made Pung, the foundation's botanist and natural dyer,

In order to visit remote weaving communities in Timor we will need to stay at some very simple accommodations. Participants should think of this leg of the journey as camping. The Bahagia Dua Hotel in Soe is a simple, service-oriented hotel and is the best in Timor outside of Kupang. Rooms have en-suite bathrooms but no hot water: staff bring you hot water in a bucket at bath time! Boti village has very simple bunk-bed dormitories for guests and bathing is with water carried up from the river. Food is local, fresh from the garden, and excellent. There is no electricity. The Kristal is Kupang's best hotel, with spacious comfortable rooms and a pool, right on the beachfront.

<http://www.photovoicesinternational.org/indonesia/boti.html>

<http://www.kupangklubhouse.com/kristalhotel.htm>

We have chosen the accommodations we will be using for their quality, friendly service, and local atmosphere. Alam Indah in Ubud elegantly combines the feeling and friendliness of a family-run homestay with the comfort and attention to detail of a world-class small boutique hotel. Set in gardens overlooking a river, each room has its own character. By the river, and among the woodlands that line it, a beautiful swimming pool provides a place to be in touch with the natural surroundings.

<http://www.alamindahbali.com/>

includes preparation of indigo and Morinda dye vats, working on your own batik sample, a guided walk through the dye garden to identify plants used for mordant and colors, and dyeing your batik. A half-day trip to Seraya visits the Karya Sari Warna Alam weavers' cooperative that was established by the YPBB Foundation and is supported by Threads of Life.

In Timor, the remote traditional village of Boti is accessible by a rough road (our means of access) or by a three-hour walk up a river valley. We will meet villagers and see their dance and music traditions by torchlight during the evening before spending the night. Having eschewed integration with modern Indonesia, community members still wear homespun traditional textiles as everyday dress and maintain a self-reliant animistic tradition. An afternoon visit to the village of Baun will bring us to the center of the old Amarasi kingdom, near Kupang. Here we will meet local weavers from the Kai Nee weavers' cooperative and the customary leader Robert Koroh. We will also meet the recently established weavers cooperative in Helong, which represents the textile traditions of the Kupang area as they were before the Dutch developed the city and displaced local traditions.

The tour ends in luxury at the Alila Manggis, one of east Bali's premier hotels. The Alila is set around a pool in an extensive coconut grove on the beach of Amuk Bay. Known for its cuisine and service, the hotel provides a reflective space for personal integration of the tour's diverse experiences before beginning the journey home.

<http://alilahotels.com/manggis/>

For more information about this tour, email Jean at jean@threadsoflife.com, or visit <http://www.threadsoflife.com/events.asp>

Best wishes,
from William, Jean, Pung, Lolet
and everyone at Threads of Life and the YPBB
Foundation

On Threadsoflife.com

Threads of Life is a fair trade business that utilizes culture and conservation to alleviate poverty in rural Indonesia. The heirloom-quality textiles, baskets and crafts we commission are made with local materials and natural dyes. With the proceeds from sales, we help weavers to form independent cooperatives and to manage their resources sustainably.

WHAT WE DO

This section explains the breadth and depth of our work. Behind the beautiful textiles seen in the gallery are months of [field work](#) each year [supporting women's weaving cooperatives](#) through [fair trade](#), [revitalizing traditional textile techniques](#), and [conservation efforts](#).

FIELD NOTES

Keeping people informed of our ongoing work in the communities is important to us. Every time our staff return from a field visit their experiences and observations are turned into a [field notes](#) slide show. Over time a rich archive of these will build up for visitors to browse through.

INDONESIAN TEXTILE ARTS

Fourteen slide shows explore the traditional [textile arts](#) from across the Indonesian archipelago while introducing the [weavers](#) and their [cooperatives](#), and the [materials](#), [natural dyes](#), and production [techniques](#) they employ.

OTHER PRODUCTS

Traditional links between livelihood, culture and nature are expressed through some of the world's finest [basketry](#). Diverse [cultural arts](#), including pottery, woodcarving and bead work, also retain a remarkable vitality. [Books, music and DVDs](#) illustrate and entertain.

HOW TO PURCHASE

Threads of Life sells its textiles, baskets, or other cultural artifacts through its [gallery in Ubud](#), Bali, and occasional overseas exhibitions and sales. Books, music and videos are available [online](#).

THREADS OF LIFE TEXTILE ARTS CENTER

Jalan Kajeng 24, Ubud, Bali 80571, Indonesia
Open 10 am to 7 pm daily. [Click for directions](#).
Gallery Tel +62-361-972187.
Office Tel +62-361-976581.
Fax +62-361-976582.
Email info@threadsoflife.com.

OUR TEXTILE

Detailed descriptions, cultural references and photographs with high-resolution images [catalog](#) a varied and exciting sample of the best textiles produced by the weavers' cooperatives associated with Threads of Life.

CLASSES, TOURS and UPCOMING EVENTS

The [classes](#) offered at the gallery on the history and diversity of Indonesia's textile arts are an excellent way to gain a new level of appreciation. News of any tours, events or exhibitions we are offering is also to be found here.

YPBB FOUNDATION

YPBB stands for Yayasan Pecinta Budaya Bebal and is the name of the Indonesian nonprofit that the Threads of Life business is partnered with in its community work. [Read more](#) about YPBB's projects and funding.

GET INVOLVED

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