

BALI



K.P.M.



Line

Bali, the Isle of Beauty and Romance

The Balinese conception of Heaven is a place of quiet contentment closely resembling the earthly Bali, whence, after a short period of rest, the souls of the departed reincarnate upon Earth; those of the favoured well-doers being rewarded for their past good deeds by being allowed to re-enter life as Balinese, again to enjoy in this world in the „Island Chosen by the Gods” another period of peace and beauty hardly to be distinguished from their sojourn in Heaven itself, while the wicked are punished by having to re-incarnate as inhabitants of other, lesser lands.

Western visitors usually come to feel before they leave that the Balinese is right, that Bali is, indeed, a veritable paradise on Earth. Eyes tired by the incessant whirl of life in our Western lands will be refreshed by the quiet simplicity of these delightful people and yet enthralled by their beauty, not only of person, but also of thought and artistic expression. Ears worn out by the ever increasing clash of jazz and the never ceasing cacophony of this mechanical age will feast on the sounds of the distant gamelan, alternately weird and sweet, on a quiet Bali-night.





This astonishing race has clung for centuries to its own blend of Hinduism and Buddhism overlaid like a thin transparency on a basis of fundamental nature-worship that keeps peeping out at the most delightfully unexpected places. They have remained singularly unspoiled, this happy folk: their daily life is largely based on their religion. They hardly seem to notice the onlooking stranger, who is thus tacitly made to feel at home. One frequently meets processions of women, whose stately, graceful and upright carriage will win instant remark, carrying on their heads bright floral or fruit offerings to the temple of the Sun God, the Rain God, or the God of the Rice Harvest. They swing along in a colourful line walking in silence to where the merry music of the gamelan is calling them to the feast. They are like bronze goddesses and the majority of them in their usual work-a-day costume go nude to the waist.

Most of the people are farmers by occupation, but a great deal of their spare time is devoted to social or ritual dance. These dances are usually held under the village Banyan trees and many of them are actual plays giving episodes culled from legendary history.

Cremation ceremonies are full of occult mysticism and a most interesting and curious sight for the visitor. On the day ultimately chosen by the Priests as auspicious for the burning, the ceremonies culminate in a

procession carrying the badés, manystoried pagoda-like structures built on a bamboo platform holding the body, to the place selected for the cremation. After a ritual too long and complicated to describe here everything, pyre, pavilion, badé and all is set ablaze. When all has been consumed by the fire, the women collect the remains of the body, grind it to fine ashes, place these in a suitable receptacle, after which, on another auspicious day, all is carried in another procession to a suitable spot and, amid the uttering of prayers, is cast into a river or the sea. Only then can the soul, set free from the trammels of its earthly case, seek its period of temporary rest in Heaven.

A great deal of the industry of the island is devoted to the making of richly ornamented silk fabrics interwoven with threads of gold and silver, masks, gorgeous head-dresses and other ceremonial implements.

Owing to the soft material in which they are graven, the beautiful temple carvings wear away in a few decades and their constant renewing keeps the art of the sculptor alive. This art is again applied to another native craft, wood-carving, and able hands are always shaping wonderful carvings to attract the eye.





Three or four days are sufficient to explore Bali by car and get some fair idea of the lovely scenery and of the interesting native life, but a week or a fortnight may well be spent in the island.

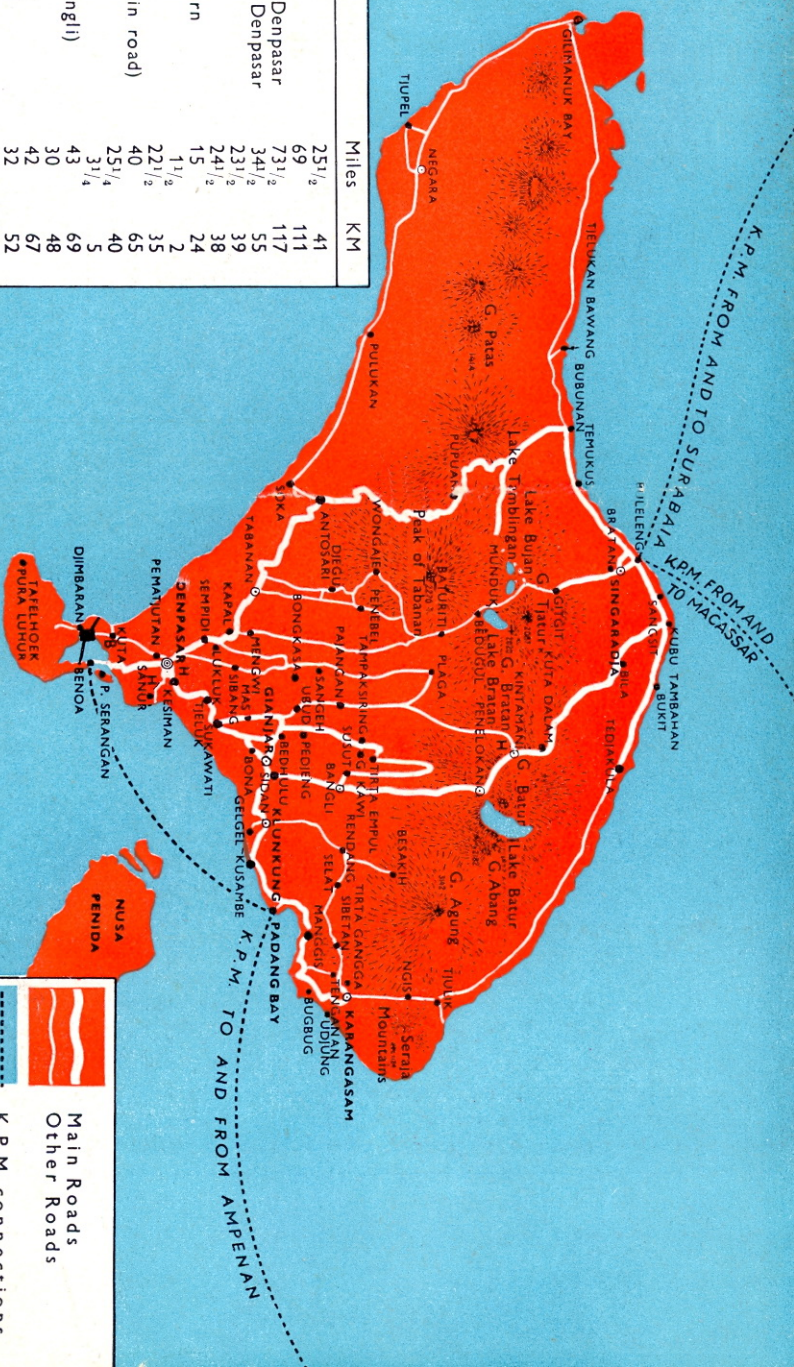
Denpasar in South-Bali is an excellent centre from which to make daily excursions; in its vicinity Balinese life is at its best. The Bali Hotel at Den Pasar and it's Sindu-beach „dependance” near Sanur accommodate 160 and 20 persons respectively. There is also the cosy K.P.M. rest-house-hotel at Kintamani at a height of 5000 feet, where the views and the climate are magnificent.

A visit to Bali, with its lovely climate, interesting people, wonderful art, magnificent scenery and fine temples is a joy from beginning to end.



Principal distances in Bali.

	Miles	KM
Buleleng — Munduk	25½	41
Munduk — Denpasar	69	111
Buleleng — Bubunan — Tabanan — Denpasar	73½	117
Denpasar — Sangeh — Bongkasa — Denpasar	34½	55
Denpasar — Tampaksiring	23½	39
Denpasar — Gianjar — Klungkung	24½	38
Klungkung — Bats' Gave and return	15	24
Klungkung — Gelgel	1½	2
Klungkung — Tampaksiring	22½	35
Klungkung — Karangasem (mountain road)	40	65
Klungkung — (via Bats' Cave)	25¼	40
Karangasem — Ujung	3¼	5
Tampaksiring — Kintamani (via Bangli)	43	69
Denpasar — Kintamani	30	48
Denpasar — Kintamani (via Bangli)	42	67
Kintamani — Singaradja (Buleleng)	32	52
Denpasar — Negara	64	103
Negara — Gelimanuk Bay	20	33
Buleleng — Gitgit — Bedugul — Denpasar	53	85



 Main Roads
 Other Roads
 K.P.M. connections
 K.P.M. Hotel