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Experience our Peaceful Soul

We are honoured to welcome you to our tranquil home on the Kedu Plain, an extraordinary location from which to explore the 9th-century Buddhist sanctuary of Borobudur on our doorstep, and a wonder in itself with its graceful stone tiers backed by the Menoreh Hills.

Our Guest Hosts are always ready to help you discover this intriguing region, whether on foot, by private car, or by bicycle. We are adept at curating bespoke itineraries exactly aligned with personal interests, so please do let us know what appeals to you most about Central Java's rich heritage.

From sunrise atop the Menoreh Hills to exploring hidden temples with smoking volcanoes on the horizon, we wish you days and nights filled with magic as you immerse yourself in this special place.

Noemi Perez Morgado
General Manager



Introducing our Resident Anthropologist

Patrick Vanhoebrouck

Amanjiwo, in its role showcasing Central Java's heritage,
is delighted to introduce Patrick Vanhoebrouck,
our Resident Anthropologist who has an incurable passion for Java.

Patrick first came to live in Indonesia in 1997 but left to pursue his academic interests. He acquired a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology in 2001 from the University of Illinois, Chicago, followed by a Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology in 2004 from Leiden University, The Netherlands. In 2009, he achieved a Master's Degree in Science in Humanitarian Action from the University College of Dublin.

He returned to Indonesia in 2010 and has remained in Java ever since. Patrick joined the Amanjiwo family as our Resident Anthropologist in early 2020.

Contact our Guest Host by dialing '1' or '2' from your Suite phone for any reservations or inquiries.



Temples

Legend has it that 2,000 temples once graced the plains beyond Amanjiwo. Candi, which means temple in Bahasa, has always signified sanctuary in Indonesia. Those still standing include the magnificent Pawon, and Mendut, constructed around 800 AD. Time-weathered Hindu temples on the Dieng Plateau date from the 7th and 8th centuries, and the ancient complex of Prambanan boasts towering Hindu temples dotted across the plain.

On Our Doorstep

Candi Borobudur

No visit to Amanjiwo would be complete without a tour of Candi Borobudur, known as 'the Eighth Wonder of the Orient' and one of ancient humanity's most imposing creations.

As the heat of the day wanes, we suggest strolling (25 minutes), cycling (10 minutes) or being chauffeured (5 minutes) down to the Kedu Valley where Amanjiwo guides, all born within the shadows of the Temple, will escort you around the monument. Your guide will reveal the secret meanings of this masterpiece and bring to life the knowledge contained within its remarkable bas reliefs—Borobudur is a colossus which needs to be understood before it is felt.

Exploring Borobudur is very spiritual, mere words cannot convey the feelings that it inspires. It is truly an experience of a lifetime and one that remains within forever. It should not be missed.



Temples of Kedu Plain

As the sun rises further and the morning dew disappears, discover the remarkable temples that neighbour Borobudur on the Kedu Plain, many within a few minutes' drive of Amanjiwo. Your guide will share their fascinating histories and reveal their secrets.

Candi Mendut

Just 4km from Amanjiwo, this 8th-century Mahayana Buddhist temple is as Bernet Kempel says, "One of the greatest manifestations of Buddhist spiritual thought and art... For many visitors to Mendut, a silent sojourn into the interior must be one of their most impressive contacts with a higher world."

Within the semi-obscurity of the small interior rests a three-metre sitting Buddha carved from a single stone. This masterpiece is complimented on either side by the Bodhisattvas - Padmapani, the Redeemer of this world and Maitreya, the lord of the future world.

Candi Pawon

This tiny Candi is typical of Central Java's temples and was the first to be restored. Its relief of pot-bellied bearded dwarves dispensing torrents of riches suggests that it was dedicated to Kuvera, the Buddhist god of fortune. It is unusual in that it has windows and is renowned for the richness of its Kala-Makara ornamentation.

Candi Ngawen

Situated 5km east of Candi Mendut, this temple is mostly in ruins and vividly signifies the passage of time while retaining an aura of past grandeur. Some of its Dyani Buddha statues are headless, but what is unique about them is that at the foot of one corner, a statue of a lion stands acting as a pillar.

Candi Wukir

This Hindu temple is where the Cangaal Inscription – the oldest in Java – was discovered in 1879. It was found buried in a well and has been pivotal in helping to establish dating in Central Java. The inscription dates from the Sanjaya Hindu dynasty in AD 732 and is now kept in Jakarta's National Museum. The temple consists of a main sanctuary and three secondary temples. They are all in ruins and just one of the secondary temples has its entrance door still standing and an intact statue of a Nandi, Shiva's mount. There is a calmness and serenity surrounding this ancient site that has to be experienced.



Temples of Prambanan Valley

These exceptional temples are situated a scenic 90-minute drive southeast of Amanjiwo.

Candi Prambanan

Situated in Prambanan Valley, this is the largest Hindu temple complex after Angkor Wat outside of India. Distinctly Indian in style, it has three main temples dedicated to Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. These magnificent, towered structures boast beautiful carvings and bear witness to the fact that the local Javanese were apt and able craftsmen. Prambanan is known particularly for its bas relief of the Ramayana and the Prambanan lion motive on all three temples. Although still under restoration, Prambanan can be viewed from a nearby perimeter platform.

Candi Plaosan

Particularly beautiful in the late afternoon light, this important Buddhist sanctuary was built by the Buddhist wife of the king who built Candi Prambanan, a Hindu temple, indicating the peaceful co-existence of both religions at that time. It consists of two large structures, the larger of which has a second floor and the traces of a staircase, probably indicating its use as a monastery. The third cella (inner chamber) of this building has a bas-relief of a Khmer King, recognisable by his Khmer headdress, presumed to be Jayavarman 11.

Candi Sambisari

This little Hindu temple is in almost perfect condition. As if packed in cotton wool, layers of volcanic ash have protected it from the wear and tear of over a thousand years. Sambisari was discovered in 1966 when a farmer ploughing his field accidentally struck part of the stone base. Built between the 9th and 10th centuries, it has one cella (inner chamber) and faces west. Inside, a flat and upright stone, known as the yoni and lingam, represents the male and female forces of creation according to Hindu belief. It is still used today as a place of worship for the local Hindus.

Candi Kalasan

This is one of the oldest Buddhist temples to be built in Prambanan Valley. Dating back to AD 778 and considered a masterpiece of its time, it is known for its beautiful carvings of monster heads – kalas and makaras – symbols of protection always placed at stairway entrances. Of the three chambers, the largest and most important has an altar, which probably once supported a large bronze statue of a Tara. Remnants of white stucco are still visible in some places.

Ratu Boko

Perched on a plateau overlooking Prambanan Temple, Ratu Boko Temple boasts stunning panoramic views. This ancient site features the ruins of a royal palace complex, including gateways, pools, and a meditation cave, offering a captivating glimpse into Indonesia's rich history and culture.



Gedong Songo and Selogriyo

Candi Gedong Songo

A two-hour drive north of Amanjiwo, the nine temples of Gedong Songo are well worth exploring on a day trip. These Hindu Shiva temples, built early in the eighth century by the Wangsa Sanjaya dynasty, are similar in form to the famous Dieng Temples, 60km to the east. Explore them on foot (a two-hour trek) or by bicycle, meandering past pine glades, terraced orchards, rose gardens clinging to steep slopes, ridges spongy with peat moss and steaming sulphur springs.

Set high on the southern slope of Gunung Ungaran, they enjoy awe-inspiring views over Central Java, making them well worth visiting at dawn when an unending line of volcanoes can be seen and the flower markets of Bandung burst into life. This of course means leaving Amanjiwo in the dark. If you'd rather leave later, you will still experience the magic of this ethereal place, but the volcanoes may not be visible as the heat of the day creates mirage-like haze on the horizon.

Candi Selogriyo

A one-hour drive north of Amanjiwo, Selogriyo is a small, eighth-century Hindu temple isolated high up on the slopes of Mount Sumbing. The temple itself is not particularly fine, but the gentle walk to it is out of this world and its gardens are perfect for a picnic with a view.

Selogriyo's rice terraces are of such incomparable, still beauty that a guest wrote in our Visitor's Book: "If you manage to tear yourselves away from this magical paradise, make sure that you include Selogriyo in your plans. It was a fantastic excursion with scenery that relegates Bali to the second division of beauty spot."



Spiritual Immersion

Providing insight into local traditions, mystical Javanese rituals are imbued with a sense of purity and life-enhancing energy.

Tolak Balak

In traditional Nusantara communities, especially in Java and Bali, 'tolak balak' is part of a spiritual rite. 'Balak', known as a destructive force of evil, can be neutralised through this ritual, which includes mantras, meditation and jamu (local herbal elixir). During a 90-minute session, which focuses on protection and purification, you are introduced to a variety of ancient Javanese philosophies and techniques. Beginning with the recitation of mantras, energy is invoked and the mind is focused.

The ritual finishes with the sampling of jamu, which is made from medicinal plants to strengthen the immune system. Offering meaningful insight into Central Javanese culture, Tolak Balak will leave you feeling cleansed, lighter and re-energised.

Ruwatan

A guided ruwatan, a purification ritual, is available at the Progo River area for you to complete the tranquil self-healing retreat at Amanjiwo. Guided by Joko Triagung, a renowned healer-shaman in Yogyakarta Province and is also a master of Kebatinan (inner-directed, mystical spirituality) with a focus on Tenaga Dalam, which literally means inner power, prana, and chi.

Pradakshina

As the sun rises on the horizon, join us for this silent, circular walking ritual around Mendut Temple, led by local monks. Follow the monks' guidance to meditate inside the temple's chamber in pursuit of a deeply meditative, peaceful state of mind, then spend time with the spiritual leaders after the Pradakshina procession has reached its natural conclusion.

Javanese Blessing

The religious history of the Javanese began long before the arrival of Hinduism and Islam. Since prehistoric times, the universal need for security, well-being and peace of mind led the Javanese to a belief system grounded in Animism and Dynamism. This belief in protective spirits and the innate power of objects in the natural world is still inherent in the daily life of most Javanese people today.

This blessing ceremony draws on both these ancient beliefs and the spiritual lore of Hinduism and Islam. Usually led by a Modin, a local religious leader, the blessing focuses on salvation, also asking for protection. After the blessing, a meal is shared.

Wellness

Spa

Spa treatments can be enjoyed at the spacious Spa Suite, with its twin massage tables and outdoor relaxation bale, or in the privacy of guests' suites. The extensive Spa menu of holistic massages, beauty treatments, and ancient Javanese rituals are incorporated into the menu of facials, massages, and cream baths, using only natural local Spa and Aman Skincare products.



Cultural Journeys

Java is Indonesia's cultural heartland, where art in all its forms has been celebrated for centuries.

Journey through Java by Train

This is the perfect way to arrive at Amanjiwo for those who love train travel and offers a true sense of where you are in this remarkable country. Board the regal Kereta Api Wisata train from the lounge at Jakarta's Gambir Station or Jakarta's Pasar Senen Station and embark on a seven-hour journey through spectacular scenery. You will be joined by Amanjiwo's resident anthropologist, Patrick Vanhoebrouck or Jean-Pascal Elbaz, who will share insights into Javanese culture and the historical sites you pass along the way. With meals on your journey prepared by Amanjiwo, your Aman experience will begin from the moment you set foot in your private carriage.

Culinary Expedition

Hosted by Indonesia's most renowned chefs, Amanjiwo regularly celebrates Javanese cuisine, food artisans and local producers with a series of events. Over any number of days, experience exquisite dining sessions, exciting culinary trips, lunch with a view, cooking classes, intimate dinners and a gala dinner with the majestic backdrop of Borobudur Temple. Please enquire with our Guest Hosts to find out more.

Or let us plan your own personal journey through Central Java's culinary world with possible options outlined in more detail in the Culinary Experiences section.

Celebration of Ancient Wisdom

To honour the rich heritage of Javanese healing traditions and ceremonies, Amanjiwo presents an annual spiritual wellness immersion called the Celebration of Ancient Wisdom, a three-night self-healing retreat hosted by renowned wellness and cultural practitioners Joko Triagung, Sugeng Karyanto, the resort's Resident Anthropologist Patrick Vanhoebrouck, and a guest practitioner.

You are invited to join a curated journey, immersing yourself in a cultural experiences, enjoying some fascinating spiritual wellness sessions and attending inspiring lectures on the history of Shiva Buddha Tantra. Other inclusions are personal consultations, full moon meditation and blessing and cleansing ceremonies, as well as participation in a 'Pradakshina' ceremony. The latter is led by a monk beside the world's largest and most spiritually resonant Buddhist monument, Borobudur.



Cultural Activities

Discover the fascinating cultural riches of Java through the calm and enchanted setting of Amanjiwo and its surrounding.

Art Exhibitions

Amanjiwo is regularly hosting art exhibitions focusing on young or emerging artists and highlighting arts inspired by the great Candi Borobudur as well as Java's natural and cultural beauty.

Aksara Jawa

Looking at the Aksara Jawa (Javanese script), it's almost impossible to believe, simply from an aesthetic point of view, that it is highly endangered. Manuscripts and printed documents from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, both on palm leaves and later on paper, show a flowing line that is both clear and ornate.

Often referred to as Hanacaraka, Aksara Jawa holds a philosophy that can be used for pitutur luhur (verbal wisdom) and guidance to address various phenomena that occur in the future. In a contemporary world where the ubiquity of words seems to be decreasing, learning Aksara Jawa offers a strong and appealing contrast, where writing and the written word are sacred.

Gamelan Class

Gamelan class takes place at Amanjiwo's Rotunda during the Javanese afternoon tea.

Sengkalan, a Javanese Chronogram

Amanjiwo invites guests to delve into the heart of learning at the Keraton Yogyakarta, the Yogyakarta Royal Palace, through a captivating cultural experience: Sengkalan. Traditionally used in inscriptions to signify specific years, Sengkalan unveils the secrets of Javanese chronograms. Inside the palace's special room, Kanca Kapujanggan, the Royal Historian of Keraton Yogyakarta, reveals how words and imagery were assigned specific numbers, forming poetic phrases to describe and date significant events. Exclusively available to Amanjiwo guests, this experience can be booked individually or as part of a private tour of Yogyakarta, including the lunch at a prince's house and a tour to Prambanan, the largest Hindu temple compound built in the 10th century.

Javanese Dance Class

Central Java has a rich repertoire of traditional dances, each one telling a different story. To keep the art alive, Amanjiwo supports various local dance troupes, and hosts dance classes for you every Friday and Sunday, providing cultural enrichment for guests.



Batik Class

The symbolism and culture around batik form part of Indonesian life from birth, as infants are carried in batik slings to bring luck. A textile art originating from Java, Amanjiwo hosts batik classes for children of Yayasan Badan Wakaf, and guests, twice a month. These creative lessons for students aged 12 to 18 impart specialist skills for them to have the option to pursue this art form at a professional level. This provides the potential for young people to start their micro-businesses; an enterprise Amanjiwo can support in the future as a customer.

The batik classes take place during the resort's complimentary Javanese afternoon tea in the Rotunda, which creates an informal way for you to spend time with the students, often inspiring them to donate or explore ways of helping with scholarships.

Evening Gamelan and Pasindhèn Performance

Ever since Claude Debussy, Western composers have been fascinated by the sound of the Javanese gamelan, the region's bronze percussion orchestra. The groups of metal slabs and gong-shaped instruments that collectively form a basic gamelan make a sonorous world of beauty that reaches from the bottom to the top of the audible range – which you have the opportunity to witness first-hand every evening at the resort's Rotunda, accompanied by a Pasindhèn, a female solo singer.

Andong Excursion

A ride in an andong is suggested for families and all those who wish to gain insight into the daily life of villagers at a more leisurely speed. These horses and their buggies are used every day by country folk throughout the province, their sedate pace allowing you to quietly blend into rural life.



Sports and Adventures

Central Java's dramatic landscape is ideal for outdoor exploration, whether hiking up the steep flanks of Mount Merapi or mountain biking through villages lost in time.

Jemparingan

A form of archery originating from Keraton Yogyakarta, which is a fascinating fusion of refined technique and profound awareness. Practitioners will be pulled into understanding the beauty of archery through their senses, creating an impressive style that transcends mere visual acuity and urges control of innate intuition and feeling.

The revered tradition and art of Jemparingan Mataram trace back to its beginnings to Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono I. Jemparingan was reserved as a weapon of the distinguished Bregodo Nyutro, an elite and formidable force dedicated to the sacred duty of safeguarding the Sultan's esteemed lineage.

The art of Jemparingan archery seeks to shape the character of its practitioners. Consequently, it imposes a set of distinctive prerequisites governing both the regulations of the game and the nature of the equipment employed.

On the field of play, Jemparingan unfolds beautifully from a seated position with men sitting in a cross-legged pose while women sit perfectly on their feet. The practitioners need to be aware of the subtle movements of the bow's position, for even the slightest shift can affect the trajectory of the arrow released.

Hiking the Menoreh Hills

The 2.5-hour hike into the Menoreh Hills begins just a few hundred metres behind Amanjiwo. Unimpeded views of the Kedu Plain, with Amanjiwo in the foreground and Borobudur in the middle distance, can be enjoyed along the way. The view eventually turns inward, to a plunging garden valley, and the trail ends on a mountain road. From there, you can be driven to Suroloyo, a misty sunset point surrounded by hills and valleys.

Other sites of interest in the hills include Prince Diponegoro's caves above Amanjiwo where he sought spiritual wisdom in the 1820s. Then there is the spring where Joko Tarub is said to have stolen the clothes of the bathing Dewi Nawang Wulan, the goddess of the moon. On Javanese New Year, pilgrims still gather in the spring to dance into a trance seeking the help of the naked goddess.



E-Biking around Borobudur

Offering all the adventure, access and open-air freedom of mountain biking, but with hardly any effort, e-bikes are rechargeable electric bicycles helping riders of different abilities to explore and discover Borobudur and its magnificent rural surrounds on two wheels. An enchanting way of soaking up the atmosphere of kampung (village) life, Amanjiwo's e-bike tours offer a true glimpse of Java's soul.

With a detailed map to help you find your way, or, should you prefer it, a guide, set out from Amanjiwo and cruise uphill and down with ease, experiencing the timeless pace of life on the Kedu Plain. Behind the serene exterior of the traditional dwellings lies much industry. You may come across a pottery village, an orchid farm, a tofu producer, a museum of Indonesian modern art, or simply a group of children playing. Take along a freshly prepared Amanjiwo picnic to enjoy beside a temple or on a riverbank to sustain you on your return journey. Normal mountain bikes are also available.

Fitness

We provide a wide range of equipment that aims at enhancing your workout, such as treadmills and quality cross trainers. In the sophisticated environment of Amanjiwo's gym room, you can take part in transformative fitness.



Culinary Experiences

Amanjiwo's garden and nearby farms supply most of the ingredients used by the resort's chefs in a range of Javanese, Indonesian and international dishes.

As well as dining in Amanjiwo's atmospheric restaurants, you can dine privately in beautiful settings around the resort and in-suite 24 hours a day. Picnics can be arranged for adventures further afield.

Please note that some experiences are weather dependent, and we recommend booking in advance due to high demand and limited availability. Cancellations within a certain time frame may incur the full cost of the experience.

Breakfast at Gubuk Sawah

A Gubuk is a traditional thatched pavilion, raised in Amanjiwo's case above verdant green sawah (rice paddies) with views over the rolling countryside. The perfect setting for a private breakfast with stunning views of the Merapi and Merbabu volcanoes. We recommend arriving in the early morning to watch the sunrise over the towering peaks. As the morning sun begins to linger, your breakfast is served. The soothing sound of birds chirping in the background adds the final magical touch to the morning.

Progo Picnic

Private picnics can be enjoyed in Amanjiwo's hilltop bale, perched above a galangal plantation on the banks of the Progo River. Early risers can enjoy a yoga or meditation session before a delicious breakfast in this tranquil yet energising spot, where the proximity of 'banyu', the water element, is ideal for recharging and letting go. It is also the perfect spot for savouring a long, relaxing lunch as the river rushes by. Due to the cliff-hanging view, parents are requested to please keep a close eye on their children.

Dinner at Pak Bilal's House

Next to Pawon Temple lives our old friend Pak Bilal, who has graciously opened his doors to our guests for an enchanting experience of Javanese rural life for many years. Dinner at Pak Bilal's is not only a culinary revelation, but also a fascinating glimpse into Java's rustic lifestyle that has changed very little over the centuries. While you are absorbing the atmosphere of Pak Bilal's delightful home to the gentle strains of gamelan music, the authentic aromas of Java pervade the senses as our cooks prepare a traditional menu cooked over charcoal burners.

Chef's Table Dinner

Experience an intimate gastronomic adventure with Amanjiwo's Executive Chef, Reza Kurniawan, as he crafts a tantalizing 7-course meal before your eyes. With meticulous attention to detail and a passion for culinary creativity, Chef Reza transforms locally sourced ingredients into a symphony of flavors, explaining their origins and transformation techniques. Prior to your reservation, Chef Reza will meet you to discuss preferences, dietary requirements, and culinary desires, tailoring each course to your taste. Enhance your experience with optional wine pairing, carefully selected to complement each course.



Private Barbecue Dinner

A great way to enjoy the mild evening temperatures and experience a local dance performance is to have a private barbecue on the Pool Terrace. Dine at a beautifully set table adorned with rose petals and candles while savoring an international or Indonesian-style barbecue feast, prepared on-site by your own private chef. As you relish your meal, a local dance troupe will perform traditional dances accompanied by a gamelan player.

Should you seek a more intimate setting, a barbecue dinner is also available on your private suite terrace; however, please note that this option does not include a dance performance.

Pizza-making

Learn how to make the most authentic thin-crust pizzas in our Joglo Sawah's wood-fired oven kitchen with amazing views of the Menoreh Hills and rice paddies. Also suitable for our younger guests.

Chocolate-making

Join Ibu Vina, our pastry chef, in the cool sanctuary of her delicious-smelling pastry kitchen and be guided through the mouth-watering joys of chocolate in all its forms. Ibu Vina will explain how to make the perfect soufflé, the creamiest ice cream or the naughtiest brownies.

Ramayana Royal Feast

Set in the privacy of Amanjiwo's calm surroundings, a butler will escort you to the Ramayana private venue to begin an evening of traditional dance, music, and cuisine.

With rose petals and candles all round and the air perfumed with sandalwood incense, the Ramayana ballet will tell the epic story of Prince Rama and his wife Sita, representing the triumph of good over evil. The performance is accompanied by a Royal Javanese Feast, inspired by dishes served at the Keraton, Sultan's palace in Yogyakarta. A glass of champagne adds the extra to sparkle your evening, taking you back to an era where only a Sultan and his Queen received such grand pleasures.

Depending on the occasion and availability, this exquisite banquet can be arranged either in the Dalem Jiwo Suite or the Pool Terrace. Both spots offer a magical atmosphere, ensuring a lively evening filled with entertainment which perfectly complements the calm space around Amanjiwo.

Sunset Martinis

At a solitary table on the edge of the rice fields amid a carpet of rose petals, toast the sunset with chilled Soursop Martinis served as the dusk prayers echo across the valley and Mount Merapi smokes on the horizon.



Human Supremacy

Demikian juga halnya dengan veganisme. Agung memilih jalan yang tak populer ini setelah menimbang-nimbang faktor kesehatan. Setelah itu barulah ia terseruk dalam aspek ideologinya, mulai melihat bahwa makan makanan berjiwa secara ideologis bisa jadi bermasalah. Keputusan hidup ini kemudian coba dimandehasikan dalam karya-karyanya. Pertanyaannya bagaimana bisa? Atau efektifkah karya cukil lindunya mengirimkan pesan adanya "kejahatan" tersebut? Umir manusia karena makan "makhluk berjiwa"?

Karya dengan narasi bisa jadi mempunyai nilai tawar lebih dibandingkan dengan karya yang "netral" atau karya yang semata mengolah aspek formal. Potensi untuk berdialog dengan penonton serta mengajak mereka hanyut dengan narasi seniman adalah godaan suguhi.

Sebagai paham yang belum populer vegan sekarang bertumbuh dan bersarang pada setiap alur dan gurat linoleum karya Agung. Tugas karya ini adalah membuat penonton tertarik membicarakan itu, atau kalau mau berharap lebih mau meninggalkan pola maklaknya yang berdarah-darah itu, menjadi lebih "hijau".

Jalan tengah nan moderat seperti yang dibawa oleh Agung kemudian seperti menemukan konteksnya, ia hadir untuk membuka satu pintu. Tak ingin mengguru dan menceramahi, ia adalah ajakan untuk duduk. Mengobrol satu perkara penting, sambil mendengar keluh kesah lewat tutur kata lembutnya, ditemani orkestrasi rupa paripurna.

Agung Kurniawan

Galleries and Boutiques

Whether you're a patron of the arts, an avid collector or an artist yourself, in Central Java you will find yourself spoilt for choice and utterly inspired.

Handicrafts and Furniture

Everything that you see at Amanjiwo, apart from our silver and crystal, was made in Java and so, in fact, is most of what is sold in Bali. There are beautiful things to be found fashioned from teak, copper, leather, silver, stone, bronze, woven grasses, bamboo and terracotta.

A two-storey craft centre and an adjacent gallery, both replete with Javanese art and sculpture, are just 10 minutes by car from Amanjiwo. There are also numerous other studios and boutiques where one can browse for antique glass paintings, contemporary silver jewellery, handmade batik sarongs and stone sculptures.

If you're in the market for a unique furniture piece, we are happy to steer you in the right direction. There are many reasonable items made for the tourist market, and higher quality, more costly pieces made for export. You can also commission something special that will always remind you of your time in Central Java.

Antiques

The best shops are small, dusty and hidden away. There are treasures to be unearthed, but please remember that in Asia 'antique' is a style and not always a guarantee of age, or of authenticity. Locally, there are a couple of reputable dealers close to Mendut Temple, whilst the best shops are mostly to be found in the smaller streets of Yogya.

Yogyakarta, just an hour's drive away, is Java's cultural capital and a paradise for shoppers. Beautifully crafted wayang kulit shadow-puppet characters and stage props can be bought, as well as gamelan instruments, gold-threaded batik wedding sarongs and antiques such as Chinese beds, Javanese cabinets and teakwood cabinets.

Your Guest Host keeps a list of recommended shops, and your driver can be trusted to have a few secrets of his own.

Dr. Oei's Art Collection

For you who are interested in the development of contemporary art in Indonesia, one of the archipelago's best-kept secrets is just half an hour's drive away from Amanjiwo. In the nearby town of Magelang, Dr. Oei, a retired medical doctor, has built up what is arguably the best private collection of contemporary art in the country.

An art lover since his early days in medical school, Dr. Oei has been collecting for many years, and during his travels overseas, has picked up Indonesian artworks in auction houses abroad and returned them to their country of origin.

His collection covers the development of Indonesian art from the beginning of the last century up to the present day. One of his earliest pieces is by Rudolf Bonnet, the Dutch artist who lived in Bali in the early 1900s. Affandi and Hendra, two of Indonesia's most internationally recognised modern artists are well represented, as well as contemporary artists and the plastic arts.

Today, the nearby university town of Yogya has taken the lead in the development of Modern Art. Young artists from all over the country flock to its prestigious Art Institute, many branching out and opening studios of their own. Dr. Oei actively supports and promotes these young artists.



Paintings

Yogya is home to I.S.I, Indonesia's finest art school and a thriving community of artists. Two of Indonesia's great masters, the late Pak Affandi and the late Pak Widayat, both hailed from and painted in Yogya.

The Affandi Museum in Yogya is well worth a visit, whilst Pak Widayat's private Museum of Modern Art and its adjacent gallery, located a few minutes away from Amanjiwo, is a surprising must.

Yogya's Cemeti Gallery and the famed Ardiyanto Gallery (as renowned for its batik as for its parties), regularly host exhibitions by both upcoming and established artists. If you are interested, we can easily arrange a private visit.

Amanjiwo's Art Room

Offering a selection of artworks inspired by Borobudur and Central Java's rich heritage and natural beauty, Amanjiwo's Art Room is a tucked-away treasure trove.

Amanjiwo's Boutique

Amanjiwo's boutique is quite possibly the most beautiful in Indonesia and certainly has one of the finest collections of museum-quality textiles and wayang kulit (shadow puppets). Our boutique staff has great experience in packing and shipping goods, whether you have bought them here, or elsewhere.



AMANJIWO

Children and Family

Amanjiwo is ideal for families, with activities to suit all ages. Many activities are tailored to include references to Javanese cultures, such as creating kites or learning about Javanese dance.

Babysitters are available for younger children, and a regular calendar of organised activities is offered for older children ranging from arts and crafts and storytelling to games and sports.

Kids' Room

Our spacious air-conditioned Kids' Room offers arts and crafts activities, early learning toys, colouring books, a kid slide, a ball pit, and a foosball table. A cinema area in the form of a home theatre complete with a 65-inch Smart TV with Dolby Surround stereo audio system is also present with access to internet streaming platforms, but other films can also be watched upon request.

Picnic

Picnics in Amanjiwo's Gubuk Sawah (rice paddy pavilion) are a fantastic family outing. Kids will love playing in the rice fields while you savour the view of Borobudur.

Traditional Games

Join us at Amanjiwo for a royal adventure of traditional games for kids. Experience the timeless charm of Congklak, Bola Bekel, and Marbles/Kelereng, cherished Indonesian classics. Delight in friendly competition and create cherished memories amidst our captivating retreat. Embrace the luxury of tradition, where joy and nostalgia come together in the heart of Amanjiwo.

Cooking Class

Kids can learn to make scrumptious Brownies and Chocolate Soufflé, Amanjiwo style, with our talented Pastry Chef's expert guidance. Discover the magic of chocolate as you create perfect soufflés, creamy ice cream and indulgent brownies. You can choose from Chocolate, Pizza, or delightful local desserts like klepon and nagasari. Let their taste buds soar as they bring their culinary dreams to life at Amanjiwo.

Sport and Adventure for Kids

Discover the best in sports and adventure for kids at Amanjiwo. Enjoy thrilling trekking, and graceful pony rides. An extraordinary adventure awaits young champions, where joy and exploration unite. Join us for an unforgettable experience!

Trekking to Village

Embark on the luxurious Kid's Village Trek at Amanjiwo. Stroll through lush rice fields, guided by an esteemed companion sharing captivating tales of Javanese culture. Surrender to the serene countryside and discover the essence of Java's heritage. This extraordinary journey offers elegance and enchantment for young adventurers, creating unforgettable memories of nature and tradition.

Pony Ride

Embark on an enchanting journey with our Pony Ride Kid activities at the prestigious Amanjiwo Pool Terrace. Delight in the grace of local ponies as they lead you on a magical ride. Choose from the splendour of morning or the golden hues of late afternoon for an unforgettable experience. As a token of our hospitality, this extraordinary adventure is available on a free basis, simply upon request.



Cultural Immersion for Kids

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Gamelan Class

Indulge your little ones in the art of Javanese Gamelan at Amanjiwo. Join our enchanting gamelan teacher, Mas Mojo, from the nearby village of Majaksingi, as he imparts the traditional melodies. Available every Saturday, from 4 pm to 5 pm, this captivating experience is offered on a free basis. Embrace the harmony of cultural enrichment, where our smaller guests discover the magic of Gamelan in the splendid ambience of our Rotunda Bar. Your presence is most welcome to witness the enchanting melodies unfold.

Kite Making

Decorating a kite is so much fun because it makes a kite special! Your kids can create their own designs. Add to that the sense of accomplishment that is when a sheet of paper, sticks, tape and string becomes a soaring kite riding the breeze, is wonderful to behold.

Mask Painting

Let your kids unleash their creativity by painting their own unique masks in the Kids' Room. Expect some theatrical behaviour thereafter, as they don their masks and take inspiration from local performers!

Janur Making

Indulge your young visionaries in the art of Janur Making, an exquisite and exclusive experience presented at Amanjiwo's Kid Room. Witness the enchantment unfold as their boundless creativity takes flight, crafting unique and sophisticated masterpieces that transcend ordinary artistry. As our esteemed guests, your little ones are granted complimentary access to this captivating activity, simply upon request. Embrace the allure of Janur Making, where their artistic talents find a canvas as magnificent as the very essence of Amanjiwo itself.

Javanese Dance Class

Local dance teachers come to Amanjiwo every Friday and Sunday from 4 pm to 5:30 pm to teach traditional Javanese dances to the local children. Your kids are welcome to join in while you enjoy a Javanese afternoon tea in the rotunda, watching the children dance with Borobudur in the distance.



AMANJIWO

Majaksingi, Borobudur,
Central Java, Indonesia

Tel: (62) 293 788 333

Email: amanjiwo.fo@aman.com



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