

HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



MYTHICAL SITES & ISLANDS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BALI (BENOA) TO PHUKET ON *LE LAPÉROUSE* FEB 6–25, 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

From Bali to Phuket, immerse yourself in a diversity of landscapes from legendary cities to jungle, volcanic mountains, and white sandy beaches.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: Bali, Indonesia / Ubud / Benoa / Probolinggo / Surabaya / Semarang / Parai Beach / Singapore / Malacca / Penang / Langkawi / Ko Rok Nok Island / Phang Nga / Phuket

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner

THUR, FEB 6–FRI, FEB 7 INDEPENDENT FLIGHTS TO BALI

The program begins on Saturday, February 8 in Bali. Most flight options from both the US East and West coasts will require two calendar days to travel to Bali. Consequently, guests should plan to depart on **Feb 6** to ensure arrival on Feb 8.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 ARRIVE BALI, INDONESIA

Arrive at the airport in Denpasar, Bali, where you will be met and transferred to the Maya Ubud Resort and Spa (or similar), your home for the next two nights.

The balance of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: *Maya Ubud Resort and Spa*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 BALI

After breakfast at the hotel, travel to the village of Blayu, where you are welcomed by traditional music and a procession leading to the former royal palace of Puri Taman Sari.

Surrounded by landscaped gardens, the palace invites you to explore the grounds, where villagers demonstrate traditional arts and crafts, before you enjoy a buffet lunch of Indonesian cuisine.

After lunch, explore the nearby Hindu Taman Ayun Temple complex, once the private temple of the royal family of the Mengwi Dynasty.

Return to your hotel for a welcome reception and dinner.

Overnight at *Maya Ubud Resort and Spa* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 BALI / EMBARKATION

This morning, drive to Cangli Village to visit an elementary school, a community bank, and the village health center, allowing for interactions with students, teachers, and residents of this communally governed village.

After lunch at a local restaurant in Ubud, travel to the small village of Batuan to explore a compound of traditional Bali houses, before transferring to Benoa Harbor to embark *Le Lapérouse* in the late afternoon.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

AT SEA

Today is devoted to relaxing, attending lectures, and sampling the many amenities available aboard the ship, as *Le Lapérouse* cruises toward Java.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

PROBOLINGGO, JAVA

The port city of Probolinggo on the southern shore of the Java Sea, about 50 miles south of Surabaya, is your gateway to Mount Bromo, an active volcano in the middle of a protected nature reserve on a vast plain called the “Sea of Sand”.

Drive to a staging area near the volcano, from where 4-wheel-drive vehicles transport you to Seruni Point for panoramic views of Mount Bromo and the surrounding landscape.

Then, crossing the sea of sand on ponies, climb to the edge of the massive crater that surrounds the volcano for even more stunning views.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

SURABAYA

From Surabaya, a dynamic modern city proud of its role in launching the fight for Indonesian independence in 1945, travel to the interior to explore the archaeological site of Trowulan.

The capital city of the Majapahit kingdom from the 13th to the 15th centuries CE, Trowulan is a sprawling site with temples and administrative buildings scattered among the rice paddies.

The nearby museum, opened in 1987, provides an excellent introduction to the art and culture of this hybrid Hindu-Buddhist civilization.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

FRI, FEB 14–SAT, FEB 15

SEMARANG

During two days in Semarang, experience the variety of cultural influences that have shaped this cosmopolitan port town, visiting the Sam Poo Kong temple in the heart of Semarang's Chinatown, traveling to the hills in the interior to sample Javanese coffee, tea, and traditional rice cakes, and shopping for batik and local handicrafts from the multicultural vendors in Johar Market.

The highlight of your time here will be the journey through lush vegetation to central Java and the incredible UNESCO World Heritage site of Borobudur. The construction of this massive complex, the world's largest Buddhist monument, took nearly 80 years (778–856 CE), only to be abandoned a little more than a century after its completion. Borobudur was subsequently buried in volcanic ash and rediscovered only in 1814. Painstakingly excavated and restored, it is now a testament to the sophisticated ancient culture that built it.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

AT SEA

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

PARAI BEACH

Today is your opportunity to soak up some sun, swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters, and generally relax and enjoy this tropical Eden.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

SINGAPORE

Arrive in Singapore at midday and disembark for a tour introducing the amazing ethnic and religious diversity of this bustling multicultural city.

Visit a variety of communities and their monuments, including the Kampong Glam neighborhood and Masjid Sultan Mosque, heart of Singapore's Muslim community; Little India's restaurants and spice and flower vendors; and Thian Hock Keng, a temple dedicated to the Chinese sea goddess, Mazu.

Le Lapérouse remains at the dock overnight.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 SINGAPORE

Your second day in Singapore begins with a stroll through Chinatown and a visit to the Singapore City Gallery, where an extraordinary series of interactive exhibits chronicles the city's remarkable transformation from a modest colonial port under British rule to a first-world metropolis in the space of fifty years.

Enjoy lunch at the world-famous Maxwell Road Hawker Center—a food court featuring healthy and authentic dishes representing every conceivable Asian cuisine.

Before returning to the ship, visit the Singapore Botanic Gardens, founded in the 19th century as a research station to develop useful plants, and one of only three gardens in the world to be honored as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 MALACCA, MALAYSIA

Lying along the shores of the eponymous Strait, Malacca City has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A witness to the maritime traffic between Asia and the West, the city is inextricably linked to the trade of spices and silk. This cultural oasis shows the history of a fascinating ancient civilization—the Baba Nyonya, descendants of Chinese immigrants who married Malay women.

Visit the Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum in a Peranakan house in Chinatown, which reproduces the interior of a traditional 19th-century home. The Baba Nyonya were wealthy

traders who liked to indulge their taste for sumptuous furniture made from teak and mother-of-pearl, rare jewels, and silk brocade.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 PENANG (GEORGETOWN)

The leading British trading post of the Far East in the 19th century, this tiny island has a unique atmosphere of both East and West. Known as the “Pearl of the East” in the past, for its many trades of spice, fabrics, and tin, Penang has become one of the most sought-after destinations in Malaysia. George Town, its capital, is home to an extremely rich historical heritage, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Be sure to visit the Blue Mansion, a real architectural marvel that blends traditional Chinese style with eastern elements.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 LANGKAWI ISLAND

Langkawi Island or Pulau Langkawi, also known as the “Malaysian paradise”, is the largest island in the eponymous archipelago. Composed of a group of 104 mostly uninhabited islands sitting atop the Andaman Sea, the archipelago, listed as a UNESCO Global Geopark, is brimming with natural wonders.

Vast beaches of white sand line the contours of this island. Inland, it features jungle-covered hills, picturesque rice fields, ancient rock formations, and spectacular mountain peaks. The island is also home to several factories processing gamat, a sea cucumber used to produce a cream sought after for its medicinal and cosmetic virtues.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

KO ROK NOK ISLAND

In the district of Ko Lanta in southern Thailand, Koh Rok Island is comprised of two uninhabited twin islands: Koh Rok Nok and Koh Rok Nai. In the heart of a protected national park, Koh Rok Nok presents authentic scenery with lush vegetation, unusual coral reefs, and surprising cliffs.

Today presents an opportunity for swimming or snorkeling at the island's magnificent, crystal-clear beaches in the east, with an underwater world brimming with myriad, colorful fish.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

vegetables rival each other for flavors amidst street food stalls emanating appetizing aromas.

Although Phuket is an appreciated tourist destination, it has still managed to preserve a few pieces of paradise off the beaten track. The charming shores, surrounded by hills with a thick covering of tropical vegetation, and the white sandy beaches make for an idyllic setting, while the underwater life provides a permanent show.

After breakfast aboard, transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

PHANG NGA

North of the island of Phuket, the Phang Nga province in southern Thailand is a protected national park since 1981. It is one of the wildest regions in Thailand, with vast stretches of lush old-growth forest, stunning waterfalls, and sublime fine-sand beaches.

Phang Nga is a province that is rich in traditions and natural beauty. Its bay offers a landscape of limestone karsts that seem to be balancing on the water. It is also home to the island nicknamed "James Bond Island", as an homage to the film *Man with the Golden Gun*, and to the island of Panyi, an unusual floating village with over 200 houses built on stilts and connected by wooden walkways.

Overnight on *Le Lapérouse* (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

PHUKET / DISEMBARKATION / DEPART FOR U.S.

Phuket, the largest island in Thailand, also known as the pearl of the Andaman, has majestic landscapes enhanced by a magnificent color palette. Its lively, eponymous capital abounds with beautiful 19th-century houses, with embellished façades, and with markets where fruits and