

Jawa

ADVENTURE BY RAIL

Trains, Temples and Volcanoes

30th March - 16th April 2019
With Bob Daniel

• JAKARTA • BANDUNG • YOGYAKARTA • BOROBUDUR • MAGELANG • AMBARAWA •
• SOLO • MADIUN • MALANG • MT BROMO • KALIBARU • UBUD •



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

OVERVIEW

The lush and verdant island of Java boasts diverse landscapes, ranging from towering volcanoes to dense forests, manicured rice paddies to teeming cities. A true adventure awaits on this exotic 18-day tour. Along the way, you'll have the chance to explore mystical Buddhist temples, historic palaces and wild jungles, all in relaxed comfort.

On this railway adventure, we immerse ourselves in the culture, history and spectacular scenery of this 1,000km long island. Starting in the nation's capital of Jakarta, we travel to the cities of Bandung, Yogyakarta and Solo, then on to Ketapang in the east where we take a short ferry trip to Bali. Our tour ends in the famous arts and cultural centre of Ubud, where we stay in a luxurious resort nestled amongst lush tropical rainforest overlooking the Campuhan River valley with breathtaking scenic views, sloping rice fields and coconut groves nearby.

Mr Bromo



Bob Daniel



HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique transportation, including three private train charters – one a 'steam trem' (steam train) ride through Solo and another through Ambarawa. Plus, a bullock cart ride through a local village and a ferry trip across the Bali Strait
- An open track inspection trike tour in Kalibaru, travelling the mainline through tunnels and across viaducts with stunning views of mountains and jungles, and coffee and spice plantations
- Guided tours of the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Borobudur and Prambanan
- A visit to the smouldering volcano of Tangkuban Perahu and an option to see the sunrise over the active volcano of Mount Bromo
- Visit the iconic Ulun Danu Beratan water temple on picturesque Lake Beratan near Bedugul
- Tour the PT INKA factory in Mediu where Indonesian Rail build their locomotives and carriages
- Enjoy cultural experiences, such as batik making, leather puppet making, traditional musical instrument demonstrations and a Ramayana Ballet performance

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

BOB DANIEL has been fascinated with trains all his life, his father having engineered the construction of many of the famous Australian trains during the 1950's and 60's such as the Southern Aurora and The Sunlander. Bob is also the founder and original owner of Guidepost Tours nearly 40 years ago, which now operate niche market tours to many destinations around the world. He regularly travels by rail on local trains throughout South East Asia and many other countries, discovering how the spread of rail routes has led to the development and enhancement of culture and life in rural communities and cities, even in undeveloped regions.

Bob has travelled to Indonesia many times. This has given Bob an in-depth knowledge of the Indonesian Archipelago and an appreciation of which trains are a must to experience, the most scenic routes, and how to use a mix of train travel and other transport modes to feel the love for the country, the people and the culture.

Whilst still involved with the development of itineraries for Guidepost Tours and Railway Adventures, Bob is heavily involved with Heritage Rail Groups in New South Wales, is qualified in Rail Safety and Track Awareness, and travels regularly on steam and diesel tours as train manager or in other capacities.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travelling is no longer confined to the destination—the mode of travel is a large part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world's most spectacular holiday destinations, with the assurance that the journey is just as magical and unforgettable as what is discovered at the end of the line.

With us, you can confidently expect:

- **Small group sizes** — a small number of passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience, with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — every itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team of expert travellers with many years' experience, an intimate knowledge of the destination, and with great cultural awareness. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it's a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the place they call home, while our partners on the ground provide the best possible support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along. On our customer satisfaction ratings, over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully escorted** — our team of tour leaders is experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides, has your needs well covered. They will help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and allowing you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you'll find them jolly good company to boot!

TOUR MAP



HOW YOU WILL TRAVEL

Being rail enthusiasts we know that the journey itself is often more important than the destination. Wherever possible we have sourced interesting and nostalgic rail journeys and other noteworthy modes of transport. Here is an example of what you will experience:



Argo Wilis Rail



Becak (cycle rickshaw) in Yogyakarta



Steam Train at Ambarawa and Solo

Day 1 • Saturday 30 March: Arrive Jakarta

Selamat datang di Jakarta! Welcome to Jakarta!

After checking in to your hotel, there will be time to relax before gathering for the Welcome Dinner with Bob and your fellow travellers. Our hotel in Central Jakarta has 23 acres of tropical gardens and extensive recreational facilities. Why not arrive a day or two earlier to relax before the tour?

Overnight: Hotel Borobudur, Jakarta (D)

Day 2 • Sunday 31 March: Jakarta

This morning we take a tour of the frenetic city nicknamed 'The Big Durian' – Jakarta. We visit the National Museum of Indonesia. With a collection of more than 140,000 items of national significance, it's recognised as one of the finest museums in Southeast Asia. Following this we'll visit Batavia Train Station (Jakarta Kota), the Taman Prasasti Museum and Fatahillah Square. Walk along the historical Kali Besar Barat, the canal lined with classic Dutch colonial architecture, and visit the Wayang Museum dedicated to the traditional art of Javan wayang puppetry. Our lunch is served at the Batavia Café, set in a 200-year-old building on the northwestern corner of Fatahillah Square.

After lunch we head to Sunda Kelapa Harbour, which houses a fleet of Buginese phinisi schooners used to transport goods across the archipelago – the largest fleet of commercial sailing ships in the world today. Thought to be operational since before the 13th century, the port is a fascinating location that preserves the history of Jakarta. Finally, we stop at the national monument, MONAS and Istiqlal Mosque for photos.

Overnight: Hotel Borobudur, Jakarta (B, L)

Day 3 • Monday 1 April: Jakarta - Taman Mini Indonesia Indah – Bandung

After breakfast we make our way to Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (literally translated as Beautiful Indonesia Miniature Park), a cultural-themed Indonesian tourist park in East Jakarta spread over 150 hectares. Here we will get to know Indonesian cultures from across the 33 provinces. We'll also visit the Indonesian Museum of Transportation with its large collection of steam locos and other vehicles.

Afterwards, we'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before travelling to Gambir railway station. Here we'll board our train, The Kereta Wisata, for our trip to the city of Bandung. Upon arrival in Bandung Train Station, we'll be taken to our hotel where we'll settle in for a relaxed evening.

Overnight: The Trans Luxury Hotel, Bandung (B, L)

Day 4 • Tuesday 2 April: Bandung – Tangkuban Perahu - Bandung

After breakfast we proceed to Tangkuban Perahu, a smouldering, 2,000-metre-wide volcano. Start with a walk around the main crater, Kawah Ratu, and then on to the natural hot springs at Ciater, with time for a therapeutic dip. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

Later we drive back to Bandung, stopping along the way for a visit at the Saung Angklung Udjo workshop, a venue aimed at preserving the rich culture of Java. We'll enjoy a spirited performance of Angklung (a traditional bamboo instrument) and dancing by village students, before getting a chance to try the instruments ourselves!

Overnight: The Trans Luxury Hotel, Bandung (B, L)

Day 5 • Wednesday 3 April: Bandung – Yogyakarta

This morning is an early start as we make our way to Bandung's railway station and board the morning train to Yogyakarta. This is a seven-hour journey so lunch is served on board the train. All there is to do is relax and enjoy the scenery.

Upon arrival in Yogyakarta, at around 4pm, our local guide will greet us and take us to the hotel for check-in.

Overnight: Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta (B, L)

Day 6 • Thursday 4 April: Yogyakarta

This morning after breakfast we set out to explore the city. We'll visit the Sultan's Palace (Kraton), built between 1756 and 1790, and a fine example of traditional Javanese sultanate architecture. As we walk through the various rooms and chambers, we'll learn more about this aspect of Javanese heritage and culture.

We continue with a becak (cycle rickshaw) ride to the adjacent Taman Sari water palace and garden. This addition to the royal complex was built more than 200 years ago by the first Sultan, included a variety of bathing pools for his harem.

Next we make our way to a small 'home-factory' where Java's iconic wayang kulit leather puppets are made. The process of making the puppets will be explained to us, followed by a short performance. Afterwards we'll visit a nearby batik home-factory, where we'll see the local women make these colourful textiles.

Lunch will be served in a local restaurant, followed by a visit to the Sonobudoyo Museum and a stroll along Jalan Malioboro – the main street of Yogyakarta. Take the time for a spot of shopping with a multitude of fascinating shops and local street vendors. After we're returned to the hotel, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Overnight: Royal Ambarukmo, Yogyakarta (B, L)

Day 7 • Friday 5 April: Yogyakarta - Prambanan – Bugisan Village – Yogyakarta

This morning we'll explore the most iconic attraction in Yogya, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Prambanan. This ancient Hindu temple compound is one of the biggest in Southeast Asia and was built in the 9th century. Our tour guide will explain the history and symbolism of the temples as we explore.

Next we visit the nearby village of Bugisan. Our friendly local hosts will pick us up by ox-cart for the journey, passing the intriguing Plaosan temple complex along the way. Once there, we're welcomed into a traditional local house for a refreshing cup of tea and some local snacks before continuing our ox-cart tour. We'll call in at the house of the Jamu maker and see how this traditional herbal medicine is made. Try a glass of the healing drink to treat what ails you! Watch how the popular Javanese snack called emping is made and try playing the gamelan, a traditional Indonesian instrument, together with the ladies of the village.

Lunch is served in a local restaurant, after which we'll return to the hotel to freshen up before heading out for the evening. Tonight we enjoy a special dinner and a spectacular performance of Ramayana Ballet in an open-air theatre with Prambanan Temple as the backdrop.

Overnight: Royal Ambarukmo Yogyakarta (B, L, D)

Day 8 • Saturday 6 April: Yogyakarta – Borobudur – Losari

This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, our tour guide and coach pick us up for the drive to Borobudur. Here we explore the famous Buddhist temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site comprised of thousands of volcanic and river stone blocks. There's ample time to explore and photograph this ancient 8th century temple, the largest Buddhist temple in the world.

Lunch is served in a local restaurant before we continue with a visit to Candi Mendut and Candi Pawon, two incredible Buddhist temples close to Borobudur. After enjoying some time to explore, we drive north to the city of Magelang and on to our resort hotel set amongst the lush grounds of a coffee plantation.

Overnight: MesaStila, Magelang (B, L)

Day 9 • Sunday 7 April: Losari – Ambarawa – Losari

This morning we visit Ambarawa Railway Museum. This museum has a collection of steam locomotives dating from the early 20th century, some of them still in working order. Established in 1976, the Railway Museum utilises the 1873 Dutch built railway station to store some of the last steam locomotives that saw regular service on the island. A few of the locomotives displayed here are the sole survivors of their type.

After visiting the museum we'll take a steam train trip from Ambarawa to Tuntang and back. During the trip we'll travel along the shores of beautiful Lake Rawa Pening. A popular spot for fishing and recreational activities, the lake is also an important source of power and irrigation in the region.

Lunch is served in a local restaurant. Afterwards, we'll travel back to our resort and the rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Overnight: MesaStila, Magelang (B, L)

Day 10 • Monday 8 April: Losari – Solo

Start today with a guided walking tour of the MesaStila coffee plantation. Here, we'll learn about the delicious organic Robusta coffee grown on the property. At the coffee shed, we'll see traditional techniques of roasting and grinding the beans. Then, amid the plantation itself, we'll stop to enjoy a coffee tasting session, as well as sample some of the popular Javanese herbal tonics called jamu. We'll also learn about some of the exotic fruits and vegetables grown on site.

Afterwards, we'll travel to Solo city by coach. Lunch will be served en-route. Along the way, we'll visit the batik museum of Danar Hadi, the biggest in Indonesia. The museum's 10,000-piece collection contains pieces from different cultural periods, displaying Javanese, Chinese, Indian and Dutch influences. After checking in to our hotel, the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure.

Overnight: Alila Solo (B,L)

Day 11 • Tuesday 9 April: Solo – Madiun

Today we'll take a city tour of Solo, including a special steam train journey. The Jaladara steam loco was built in Germany in 1896, and trundling through the heart of the city in its Victorian-style carriages is a fun way to spend the morning. The trip begins at Purwosari train station (3km west of the city centre). Afterwards, we'll enjoy lunch before heading off to the city of Madiun in the western part of East Java.

After checking in to our hotel, the evening is free for you to do what you please.

Overnight: Aston Madiun (B, L)

Day 12 • Wednesday 10 April: Madiun

Today we have a special tour of the PT INKA factory, where Indonesian Rail build their locomotives and carriages for the nationwide network, as well rolling stock for other Asian countries and even our own Queensland Rail. Train production is the main industry in the city, and a major tourist attraction. As of the mid-1970s, steam locomotives were no longer used in Indonesia, so the defunct workshop was converted into a railway rolling stock manufacturing workshop. PT INKA is also pioneering the production of a national car called GEA (short for Gulirkan Energi Alternatif) and a prototype was created in 2008.

The rest of the day is free at your leisure.

Overnight: Aston Madiun (B)

Day 13 • Thursday 11 April: Madiun – Malang

This morning we're taken to the train station for our half-day journey to the city of Malang. Enjoy the views of this rich agricultural region as you savour lunch on the train.

Upon arrival in Malang, our local driver will take us to our hotel, the Tugu Malang, which is listed as one of the world's 100 most beautiful hotels. The public rooms are adorned with priceless works of art and antiques. Tugu Hotels' founder, Anhar Setjadibrata, once a medical student-turned-lawyer, is now the owner of the biggest collection of fine Indonesian art and cultural antiquities in Indonesia. These beautiful boutique museum hotels were designed to house his antiques and to share with the world the romantic stories and legends of the ancient kingdoms of Indonesia.

Overnight: Hotel Tugu Malang (B, L)

Day 14 • Friday 12 April: Malang – Bromo

This morning, after breakfast, we'll take a walking orientation tour of Malang and its many grand colonial-era buildings. Prized by the Dutch for its mild highland climate, the city retains much of its colonial architecture. We'll cruise past historic sites and local markets (bird and flower) and the small Brawijaya Museum, with displays of the military history of East Java from the mid-20th century, before finishing at the city's Cathedral. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afterwards, we continue the drive towards Mt Bromo, with a stop at the Singosari Hindu temple dating from the 13th century on the way. From there, we follow the scenic road up to the spectacular Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park. After arrival at the hotel and check-in, take the time to relax, enjoy the facilities, and ensure you're well rested for the very early start of our excursion tomorrow morning.

Overnight: Jiwa Jawa Resort Bromo (B, L)

Day 15 • Saturday 13 April: Mt Bromo – Jember

We depart our hotel early this morning, then travel by 4WD jeep to a spot with stunning views of the Bromo volcano and surroundings. Watch the sun rise from behind the volcano in Penanjakan as the mist rises from the valleys. We then continue by jeep down to the volcano's caldera, often still covered by mist in the early morning. The mist, combined with the grey ashen-covered ground, create an unusual atmosphere, often compared to the surface of the moon. We walk or ride on horses to the crater and take the stairs to the rim of the still-active Bromo volcano. We return by horse and jeep to the hotel for a late breakfast.

After leaving Bromo mid-morning, we continue through spectacular country via the city of Probolinggo to the city of Jember. This is a long day of driving, but the incredible scenery makes it worthwhile. A lunch stop will be made at a local restaurant en-route, as well as breaks and photo stops along the way. We arrive at the hotel in Jember for check-in late afternoon.

Overnight: Aston Jember (B, L)

Day 16 • Sunday 14 April: Jember- Kalibaru – Ketapang

This morning we travel to Kalibaru. Our highlight today is a lorry tour through plantations of cacao, coffee and spices. The 'lorries' are small track inspection rail vehicles that travel along the main lines and provide us with a different view of the tropical Gumitir Valley and Mount Mrawan. This is an adventurous tour through a mountainous part of East Java with fantastic views. Along the way we travel through two tunnels (684 and 113 metres long) and pass one of the longest hanging bridges in Java, 200 metres long and 80 metres above a deep valley and ravine.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant in Kalibaru. Afterwards, we'll continue by coach to the regency of Banyuwangi at the eastern tip of Java.

Overnight: Ketapang Indah Hotel (B, L)

Day 17 • Monday 15 April: Banyuwangi – Gilimanuk – Ubud

After breakfast we drive to Ketapang Harbour and check-in at the ferry terminal before crossing the Bali Strait to the island of Bali. We'll then continue by road to the town of Ubud. Along the way we stop at Brahmavihara-Arama Buddhist temple, an impressive mini replica of Borobudur located on a mountain with wonderful views of the island's northern coastline.

After lunch in the beachside city of Lovina, we visit Ulun Danu Beratan Temple, the most iconic landmark in Bali. This significant temple complex is located on the picturesque shore of Beratan Lake in Bedugul. The Bedugul area is a favourite cool upland retreat region in one of the most scenic parts of Bali.

Tonight's farewell celebration dinner and overnight stay is at the Komaneka at Bisma Resort, a very unique luxury hotel with views of the Campuhan River, coconut plantations and rice paddies – all just a 10-minute walk from Ubud's main street.

Overnight: Komaneka at Bisma, Ubud (B, L, D)

Day 18: Tuesday 16 April: Ubud (B)

Enjoy breakfast at the resort and a morning at leisure before heading to Denpasar Airport and your homeward flight. Alternatively, we're happy to arrange for you to extend your stay at Komaneka at Bisma or elsewhere in Bali. Talk to us about the many options available.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 17 nights' accommodation in centrally located 4 to 5-star quality hotels
- Breakfast daily, 15 x lunches and 3 x dinners
- All transport mentioned in the itinerary
- Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
- Excursions / entrance fees to attractions listed in the itinerary
- Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- International airfares
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure (contact our office for options)
- Excursions / entrances listed as optional in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature e.g. telephone, laundry, mini bar



Rice farming - Central Java

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route, and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 733 323 to discuss your options.

HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow a few easy steps to get on board. Alternatively, contact Platinum Travel & Tours on 1300 733 323 or at enquiries@platinumtravelcorp.com if you'd prefer a booking form be sent to you. Complete the form and submit it, along with your AUD1,000 per person deposit, to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to: significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates; individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected track work on rail lines; unexpected closure of site attractions; and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure, such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you've paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days – which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation.

While you don't need to be a 'gym junkie', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get maximum pleasure from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important travel insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 733 323 if you would like to discuss options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions that accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.

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|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PRICE | Per person twin share..... | \$6,395 | Deposit (per person)..... | \$1000 at time of booking |
| | Single supplement..... | \$1,395 | Final payment due by | 30 January 2019 |

WHERE YOU WILL STAY

The properties we have selected have been hand-picked based on their location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere. Here's some of what you can expect on this tour:



Komaneka at Bisma, Ubud



Mesa Stila, Losari



Jiwa Jawa Resort, Bromo



Tugu Malang, Malang



Tokyo Sylline At Dusk

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

A passion for train travel can manifest itself in many ways. Founder and director of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, has made much of his obsession over the years. "Travelling to boarding school on the Mudgee Mail gave me a sense of how an active social life and long-distance trains can be a good combination."

Building a rural retreat out of a collection of vintage railway carriages in the early 1980s gave Scott a new perspective on rail heritage. During this time, he also operated his first tour—The Antipodean Renaissance Express—an experience he has never forgotten. Trading in vintage memorabilia and furniture sourced largely from the railways was also a source of great inspiration. Scott travelled far and wide trading and collecting for his Sydney shop, Off The Rails.

Hosting a couple of TV documentary series about great train journeys paved the way for leading his own train journeys. Once just an enjoyable part-time hobby, "getting paid to do what I love" has, naturally enough, led to a more substantial commitment and ultimately the launch of Scott's own dedicated train travel and touring company.



Scott McGregor's

**RAILWAY
ADVENTURES**

1300 733 323
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