

BALI'S VILLAGE ECOTOURISM NETWORK >>



ATIEK >>



SHORT BIOGRAPHY >>

Atiek is a trained Anthropologist and long term program staff member of Yayasan Wisnu, a Balinese environment NGO working with the four JED villages to implement natural resources management systems. She has been involved with the Village Ecotourism Network since its inception, regularly travelling to the villages to guide village discussion on the development and direction of the project. She has also been involved in encouraging local guides in each of the villages to 're-learn' their history and about their environmental assets in preparation for interpretation to tourists. She has been nominated to represent JED at the 2006 Ecotourism Australia Conference because of her perspective on the JED project within the context of Bali's tourism history and cultural and environmental circumstances. This is her first time to Australia.

The local guides interpret their homes and lives with pride but honesty, providing guests with a refreshing insight into the 'behind the scenes' realities of the destination so heavily marketed as 'paradise'.

ABOUT BALI'S VILLAGE ECOTOURISM NETWORK >>

Designed, owned and run jointly by four Balinese villages and a local environment NGO, the establishment of Bali's Village Ecotourism Network (Jaringan Ekowisata Desa, or JED) was a brave new step. In an attempt to reclaim the international image of the island they love, the villages invite travellers to come and learn about local agriculture, lifestyles, beliefs, worries and aspirations. The hope is that from the ashes of mass-tourism, JED will encourage the growth of a different kind of tourism in Bali, benefiting local economies, supporting the culture, preserving the environment and developing a new international appreciation of Bali.

ABOUT BALI >>

Bali's colourful Hindu traditions, welcoming people and stunning landscapes have been attracting tourists since the 1940s. The island's status as Indonesia's tourism capital, has however taken a toll on the environment, produced vast economic inequalities and commercialised aspects of cultural life. The Village Ecotourism Network is an initiative that hopes to help revitalise tourism, in a way that redresses some of the injustices Bali has experienced at the hands of mass tourism in the past.

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