

All Team and villagers celebrating Odalan besar in our oldest village temple. What do they have in common with Willy and Kate?

For one month all Team are so busy in the Temple that Endi (from Lombok) and Komang from another village had to come to assist at The Farm.

Odalan celebrates the gods coming to the (in this case 5 years) normally annual commemoration of the founding of their temple. The people renew their ties with the gods and also reinforce their bonds with each other during the elaborate preparations and ceremonies of the Odalan.



The odalan date varies from one temple to another and because all our villagers are "immigrants from Kintamani" it means that they are having an other ceremony then the next village Angseri.

Kadek is as a not yet married yet girl dancing in the temple, Dodi is as a married man playing the gamelan. Ibu Wayan is as a married woman responsible for all offerings.

KADEK DANCING

Greeting the gods

Dancers circle the temple's central shrine three times, moving only to the right, which symbolizes ascent of the sacred mountain. This ritual is repeated around a shrine in front of the temple where the invisible deities followers are greeted some masculine and warlike, the others feminine and graceful.



DODI PLAYING THE GAMELAN

Gamelan

The instrumental ensembles known as gamelan are predominant in Balinese music. Each village owns at least one gamelan, if not a dozen. There are some twenty-five types of sizes, in metal or bamboo, comprising mostly percussion instruments such as gongs, drums, metallophones, or xylophones. But each gamelan orchestra, with its own specific tuning, is a single entity – like a single instrument played by a group. So the Instruments from one gamelan cannot be exchanged with another. This ensures the integrity of each gamelan as a single instrumental corps. (Source: Bali a traveller's companion)

Wayan is officially from Pantai Seseh, so he has his official Odalan in Seseh, and pays our village to "not be involved", Du is just married, but not official yet (the expensive one) so he is "the lucky one" to not be involved in this ceremony until he has his "official (expensive) wedding".

Similarities with the Kate and Willy wedding?

Me? As a Western? Love and smile, I am involved (The Organic Farm Bali paid for the costumes of the gamelan and the dancing girls), but I am happy that I don't have to be there every night for one month.

If I wake up at night to get to the toilet and hear Dodi playing the gamelan, thinking of Kadek dancing, all the Ibu, Ibu busy with the offerings.

Get to the ceremony at six in the morning after a good night sleep, have my coffee from grand ma, get my blessing from the priest, realize that I love Bali because of this. There is so much love and community feeling... And can't help it to think that we in the West need a Willy and Cate Wedding for this same community feeling.

We need a church, hats dress codes and guests dress codes.. In Bali we have Odalan and ask myself who am I?

Poleng...balance, black and white.



BALI KIDS WITH THEIR BICYCLES

Hi Marjan,

Thanks for the newsletter.

We've been talking about changing our kids' bikes as they have grown a lot. We'd be happy to donate their bikes to you. One of them is a bit rusty but the other is better.

I'm writing from Melbourne and I'll have to talk to them about the idea but i am sure it's fine. Especially if i have new ones for them! Maybe you could come and collect them sometime, we're in Umalas.

Best,

Laetitia

"The brain behind the *Bali with Kids* book"



Bali with Kids

Families' Guidebook for Babies to Teenagers

NEW



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The Organic Farm

Munduk Lumbang



All ages

The Organic Farm is a great day out for kids who enjoy interacting with animals, walking in the countryside and playing with local children. Marjan from Holland set up this new farm with Wayan from Bali. They support the local community by growing organics and offering unique farm stays in their traditional pondoks. Their aim is to develop organic farming in the region and they have already helped local farmers and landowners to work directly with Chefs from renowned restaurants in Bali. Your family can go and spend the day at the farm. Children will love feeding the rabbits, seeing geese, turkeys and cocks. They can fish in the pond, play with friendly children from the village or go and pick vegetables. Marjan will take you on a gentle walk through their organic garden, a bamboo forest and up a hill to their bungalow with a breathtaking view of Mount Batukaru. A healthy

and delicious lunch is provided and then you can go and visit the house next door where the family of their staff lives. This is a great insight into the traditional Balinese way of life. You will meet four generations of very friendly people and they will be proud to show you their daily activities and give you an exclusive demonstration of a cockfight with their best specimens. Staying at the farm in one of the two bungalows is a special experience. You can live comfortably and have the beautiful and peaceful nature all to yourself. Kids can pitch a tent next to the bungalow and grill corn and Marshmallows on the fire at night. The staff can organize treks, bicycle rides or trips to the hot springs (avoid weekend as it gets too crowded). The Organic Farm is on the road to Bedugul. Before Baturiti at the village Pacung turn left when you see the green sign Agro Wisata Mahaya and Air Panas Angsteri. Follow the Air Panas Angsteri signs. When you arrive at the air panas parking area, follow the road up, turn right in the village Munduk Lumbang, after 700 meters on the right you will find a black and white flag. Call Marjan beforehand.

The Organic Farm, Munduk Lumbang village.

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Nature and Environment



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Proud and happy village girls...as in our traditional village the "boy" is the most important...

Australian "Golden girls" mjbuivids@linknet.com.au, leezanzi@hotmail.com, dancingtheline@gmail.com visited and donated kids clothes for the village.



KIDS CLOTHING DONATIONS

The Organic Farm Bali last month in the news

<http://www.nobalglomad.com/index.php/2011/04/profile-the-organic-farm-stay-bali/>

<http://202.137.10.135/>

http://202.137.10.135/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1705:going-green-what-on-earth-does-it-mean

<http://www.travelfish.org/blogs/bali/2011/05/02/the-organic-farm-bali/>

Thank you, thank you all for support, photos, energy and input, making us happy, proud and smile!

Om santi santi om...
The Farm Team