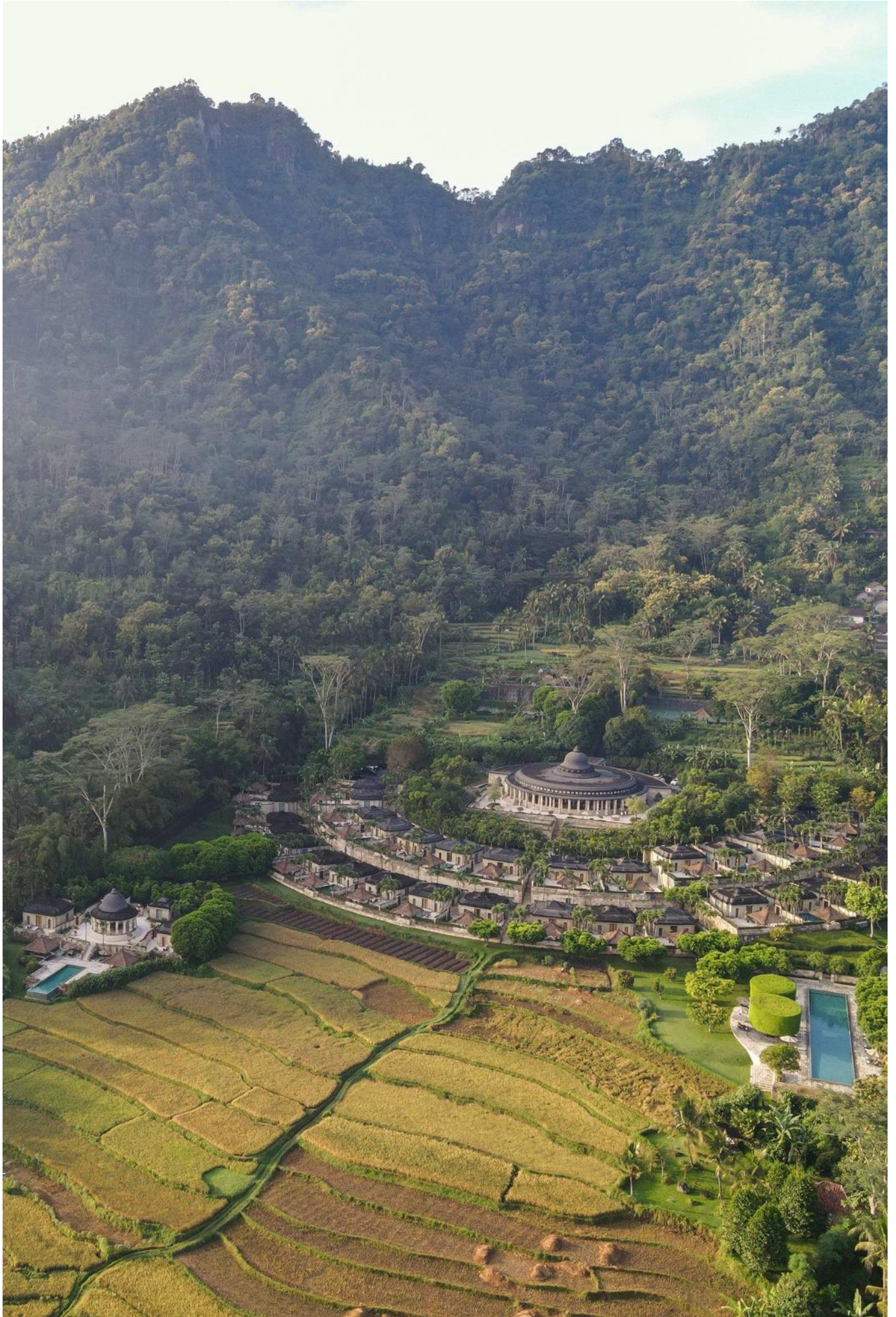


# A M A N J I W O

Experience Guide









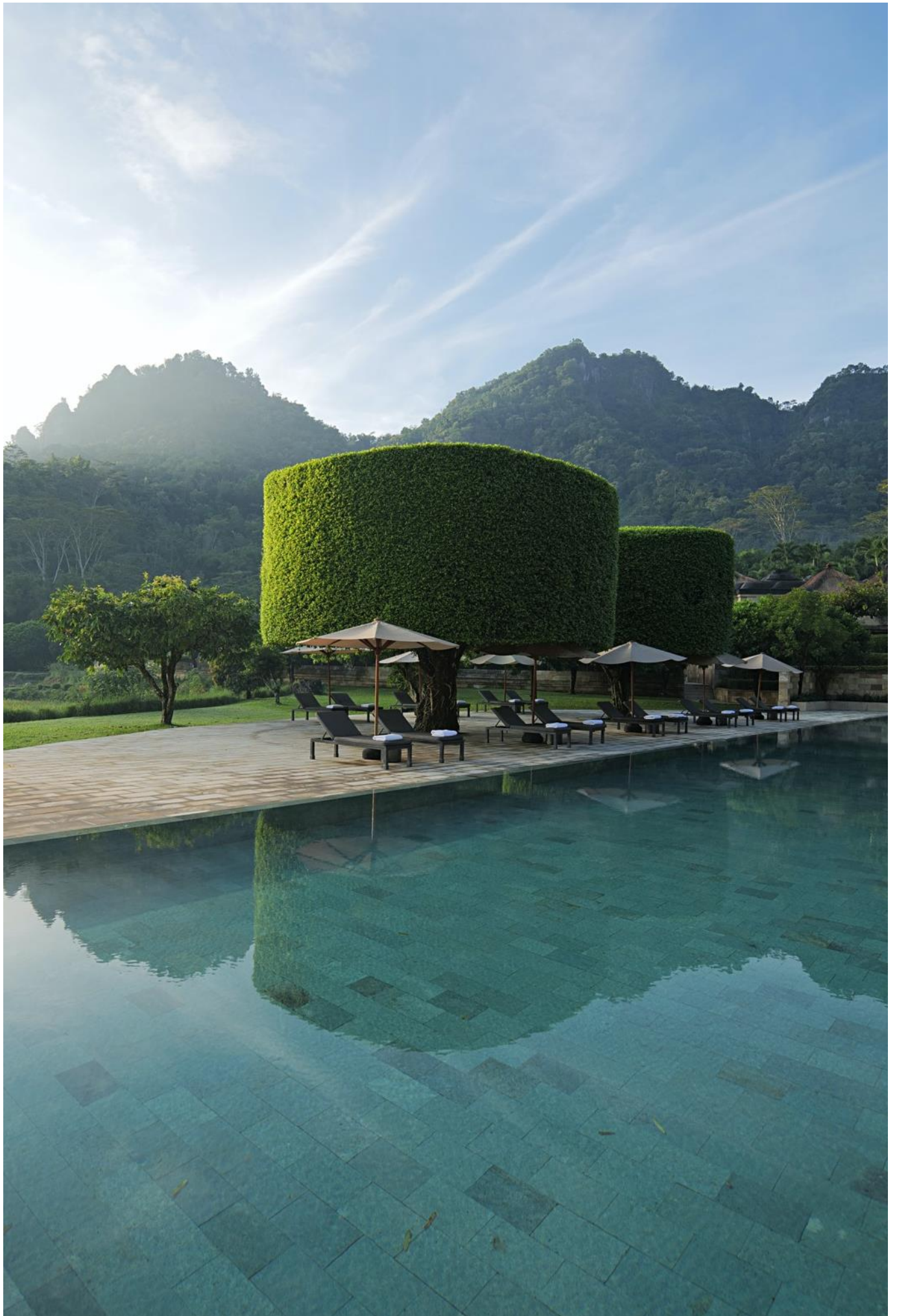
Java is an extraordinary island, there is so much to see, do and discover. We do not have any set excursion programmes as such. What we do suggest is that you spend a little time with your Guest Assistant and talk over what you may wish to see.

We can organize for you to visit hidden temples, to feel the energy of Java's mystique, have a massage, tour through local markets, purchase artworks, play golf, climb smoking volcanoes or just wonder at the sheer beauty of nature - the list is endless.

We wish you to experience Java on a personal level, we feel that our tours should be tailor-made, and it would greatly help us if we knew your personal interests.

Jann Hess  
General Manager









## Cultural Journeys

Legend has it that 2,000 temples once graced the plains beyond Amanjiwo. Those still standing include 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.



### **Journey through Java**

Board the regal Kereta Api Wisata train from the lounge at Jakarta-Gambir Station and embark on a seven-hour journey through spectacular scenery. You will be joined by Amanjiwo's resident anthropologist, Patrick Vanhoebrouck, 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. Included in your two nights at Amanjiwo is daily breakfast and an activity of choice, be it trekking to Menoreh Hill or sunset martinis overlooking the rice paddies.

### **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 when the ubiquity of words seems to be decreasing, learning Aksara Jawa offers a strong and appealing contrast, where writing and the written word is sacred.

### **Culinary Expedition**

Hosted by Indonesia's most renowned chefs, Amanjiwo regularly celebrate Javanese cuisine, food artisans, and local produce, with a series of events. Over three days, you will be invited to experience exquisite dining sessions, exciting culinary trips, lunch with a view, cooking classes, intimate dinners, and an exclusive gala dinner delivering a culinary masterpiece with a majestic backdrop of Borobudur Temple.

### **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, guests 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 a sampling of jamu, the local herbal elixirs made from medicinal plants, offering the guest the chance to reinforce his or her immune system to fight off physiological threats, such as disease and pollution. A beautiful insight into local traditions, the Tolak Balak Javanese Cleansing Ritual leaves guests with a sense of purity, lightness and energy.





## Temples

Legend has it that 2,000 temples once graced the plains beyond Amanjiwo. Those still standing include 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.



### **Candi Borobudur**

No visit to Amanjiwo would be complete without a tour of Candi Borobudur, the Eighth Wonder of the Orient, and one of humanity's most imposing creations. Nothing else like it exists.

As the sun is getting higher and the morning dew disappear, we suggest driving you down to the Kedu valley where Amanjiwo guides, all born within the shadows of the Temple, will escort you around the monument.

Our guides are able to reveal the secret meanings of this masterpiece and bring to life the knowledge contained within its 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 life-time, and one that remains within forever. It should not be missed.

*In 2019, Borobudur region was designated as one of five Super Priority Destinations in Indonesia, and subsequently a development plan for the area was devised, comprising some development projects around the temple courtyard until end of 2022.*





## Temples of the Kedu Valley

### Candi Mendut

The 8th century Mahayana Buddhist temple 4km from Amanjiwo, 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-obscure of the small interior, rests a 3-metre sitting Buddha carved from a single stone, which ranks as one of the most beautiful Buddha images in the world. This masterpiece is complimented on either side by the Bodhisatvas - Padmapani, the Redeemer of this world, and Maitreya, the Lord of the future world.

### Candi Pawon

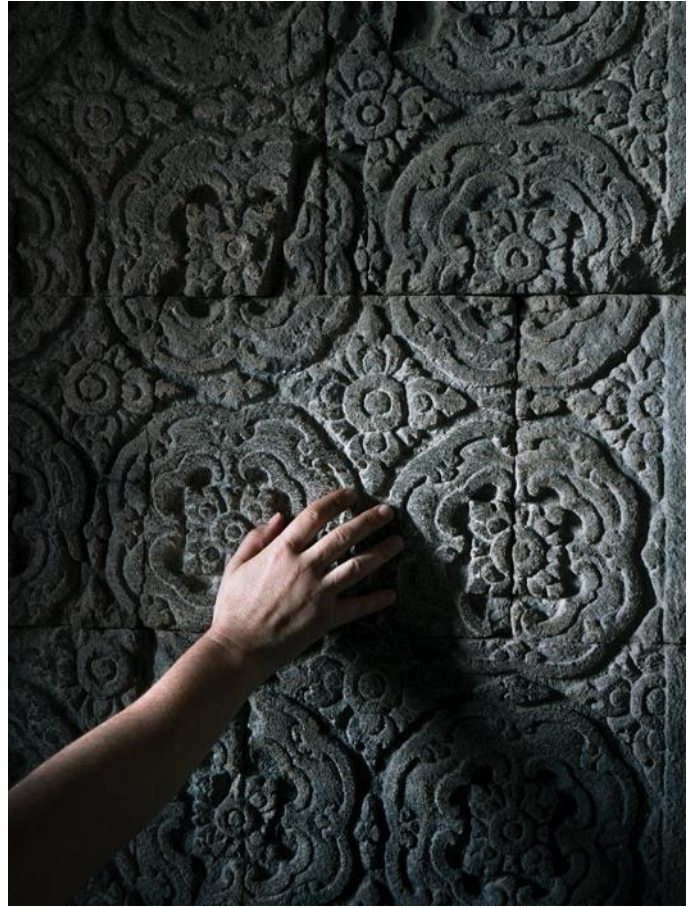
This tiny candi is typical of Central Java's temples, and was the first to be restored. Its relief of pot-bellied bearded dwarves dispensing torrents of riches suggests that it was dedicated to Kuvera, the Buddhist god of fortune. It is unusual in that it had windows and is renowned for the richness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

### Candi Ngawen

Situated 5km east of Candi Mendut, it is also a part of the Borobudur Complex. It is sadly mostly in ruins but by studying the remains; we can imagine how beautiful these five buildings were in the past. Some of its Dyani Buddha statues are headless. What is unique about it is that at the foot of the temple's corner, a statue of a lion stands acting as a pillar.

### Candi Wukir

This Hindu temple is important due to the fact that in 1879 the oldest description found in Java came to light buried in a well of one of its secondary temples. This discovery has been pivotal in helping to establish other dating in Central Java. The description dates from the Sanjaya Hindu dynasty in 732 and is called "The Cangaal Inscription". It is now kept in the National Museum in Jakarta. It consists of a main sanctuary and three secondary temples. They are all in ruins and only the base remains. Although one of the secondary temples still has its entrance door and an intact statue of a Nandi, the Vehicle or Mount of the God Siva. There is a calmness and serenity surrounding this ancient site.



## Temples of the Prambanan Valley

### Candi Prambanan

This is the largest Hindu Temple complex outside of India. Very Indian in style, it has three main temples dedicated to Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. These magnificent towered structures, with beautiful carvings, bare witness to the fact that the local Javanese were apt and able craftsmen. Prambanan is known particularly for its bas-relief of the Ramayana carvings and the Prambanan lion motive on all the three temples, Brahma, Vishnu & Shiva. Although still under restoration, Prambanan can be viewed from a nearby perimeter platform; making it a must to visit.

### Candi Plaosan

An important Buddhist sanctuary, the main group consists of two large structures. The largest of which has a second floor with traces of a space for a staircase was probably used as a monastery. The third cella of this building has a bas-relief of a Khmer King, recognized by his Khmer headdress, presumed to be Jayavarman 11. It was built by the Buddhist wife of the King who built the great Hindu Prambanan Complex, indicating peaceful co-existence of both religions at that time. Candi Plaosan is particularly beautiful in the late afternoon light.

### 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 against part of the stone base. Built between 9th and 10th century, it has one cella and is facing west. Inside, a flat and upright stone, known as the yoni and lingam, represent the male and female forces of creation, according to the Hindu belief. It is still used today as a place of worship for the Hindus in this area.

### Candi Kalasan

One of the oldest Buddhist temples to be built in this area, a dating has been found referring to a sanctuary that was first built on this site in AD 778, but covered up by later renovations. Considered to be 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 was thought to support a large bronze statue of a Tara. Remnants of white stucco are still visible in some places.





## Gedong Songo & Selogriyo

### Gedong Songo

The Nine Buildings are amongst the earliest antiquities in Java. The number nine has great significance in Javanese culture and incidentally is also the number of orifices in the human body. These Hindu Siva temples, built early in the 8th century by the Wangsa Sanjaya dynasty, are similar in form to the Dieng Temples, 60km to the east.

Set high on the southern slope of Gunung Ungaran, they enjoy awe-inspiring views over Central Java. In the clear dawn light an unending line of volcanoes may be seen.

Consider waking up early and setting off while it is still dark. You will reach the mountain resort of Bandungan just as its flower market bursts into life.

You can walk or ride round the nine temples – the 2-hour trek meanders past pine glades, terraced orchards, rose gardens clinging to steep slopes, ridges spongy with peat moss and steaming sulphur springs.

Don't worry if you wish to set off later, the far-off volcanoes may not be visible, but the temples might be enshrined in a marriage of mist and sunlight, which turns Gedong Songo into a world of ethereal magic.

### Selogriyo

Selogriyo is a small, 8th century Hindu temple isolated high up the slopes of Mount Sumbing. The temple itself is not particularly fine, but the gentle walk to it is out of this world.

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 spots..."





## Adventures

Central Java's dramatic landscape is ideal for trekking, whether up the steep flanks of Mount Merapi or into the lush Menoreh Hills. Discover villages lost in time amid fragrant clove plantations or walk to Selogriyo, an 8th-century Hindu temple high on the slopes of Mount Sumbing. You can encounter them on foot, by bicycle, on horseback, riding in an Andong (Java's horse-drawn carriage) or by chauffeur-driven car. The choice is yours.





### **Trekking the Menoreh Hills**

Menoreh Hills which look down onto the resort, is fun and the view, especially at sunset, is inspirational. The hills are famed for their mystical power. In the 1820's, Java's charismatic hero, Prince Diponegoro, sought spiritual wisdom in the caves above Amanjiwo. Today, Javanese still come to Bukit Menoreh seeking revelation.

The legend of Joko Tarub is set in the hills. The spring where Joko Tarub stole the clothes of the bathing Dewi Nawang Wulan, the Goddess of the Moon, can be visited. On Javanese New Year, pilgrims gather at the spring to dance into a trance seeking the help of the naked Goddess.

### **Java Ponies**

Java ponies can meet you at Kanggan Village should you wish to ride. These are hardy local mounts that can test a rider's skill, but for those who ride well a memorable time awaits. One can canter through the sawahs, or simply wander into the heart of the villages.



### **Andong**

A ride in an andong is suggested for those of a less energetic disposition. These horses and their buggies are used every day by country folk throughout the province, their leisurely pace allowing you to quietly blend into rural life.

### **Cycling**

Cycling is an enchanting way of soaking in the atmosphere of Kampung (village) life, and to reach into the soul of Java. The people are so friendly, and the villagers' faces fill with smiles as they marvel at the sight of you.

We have drawn a map to help you find your way, or, should you prefer it, we will provide a guide. The pace of Kampung life is timeless, but 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.





## 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 Western dishes. Guests can also dine privately in-suite, 24 hours a day, and picnics can be arranged for adventures further afield. Please speak with us, and we will do our best to exceed your expectations.

It is important to note that some experiences are weather dependent. 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. Please inquire should you require more information regarding our cancellation policy.





### **The Home of Pak Bilal**

Next to Pawon temple lives our old friend Pak Bilal, who has graciously opened his doors to our guests for an enchanting glimpse into Javanese rural life. Dinner at Pak Bilal's is not only a charming experience but also a fascinating reminder of rustic life in Java from days of old. While guests absorb the atmosphere of Pak Bilal's delightful home, the authentic aromas of Java pervade the senses as our cooks prepare a simple traditional menu cooked over charcoal burners. Relax to the gentle background music of the gamelan and let life take its course the Javanese way.

### **Gubuk Sawah**

Perfect for special occasions or for those looking to enjoy a peaceful moment, is a private romantic dinner in our Gubuk Sawah, small balé in the rice fields. Arrive early and watch the sunset over the village scenes in front of you as you sip a cold drink. Once it gets dark, your candlelit dinner will begin- a traditional Indonesian meal cooked in clay pots over charcoal stoves adjacent to the sawah. Music from your private gamelan player will add the extra magic to the beautiful evening.

### **Progo Picnic**

Set on the banks of Progo River, Amanjiwo guests have the opportunity to enjoy amazing views and absorb the energy of the watercourse. The proximity to the banyu ('water element' in Javanese) creates tranquility and allows you to let go. It is a powerful spot for recharging and finding your balance, perfect for meditation and yoga. Early risers can enjoy a tasty breakfast picnic in the cool of the morning, while the late ones can savor a succulent lunch. Due to the cliff hanging view, parents of children under 12 years of age are recommended to pay extra attention.

### **Private Barbecue Dinner**

A great way to take advantage of the mild evening temperatures and enjoy a local dance performance, is a private barbeque set in the privacy of your room or in other locations throughout the resort. A private table is decorated with rose petals and candles. There is a choice between a western or Indonesian barbecue style menu, prepared on the spot by your own chef. While you enjoy the dinner, a local dance troupe will perform traditional dances accompanied by a gamelan player.



### Sunset Martinis

For those romantics at heart: our Food & Beverage team will set up a solitary table on the edge of the rice fields and envelop you in a carpet of rose petals. Chilled Soursop Martinis are served as the horizon changes its colour, the dusk prayers echo across the valley and, in the far distance, Mt. Merapi smokes & thunders... What sweet extravagance!

### Pizza-making

Learn how to thin-crust pizza in our Rumah Pizza's wood-fired oven kitchen. With amazing views of the Menoreh hills and the rice fields, this experience is also suitable for younger adults.

### Chocolate-making

Join Mbak Yati, our Pastry Cook, in the cool sanctuary of her delicious-smelling Pastry Kitchen. Here you will be guided through the mouth-watering joys of Chocolate. Mbak Yati will explain how to make the perfect soufflé, the creamiest ice cream or the naughtiest brownies.



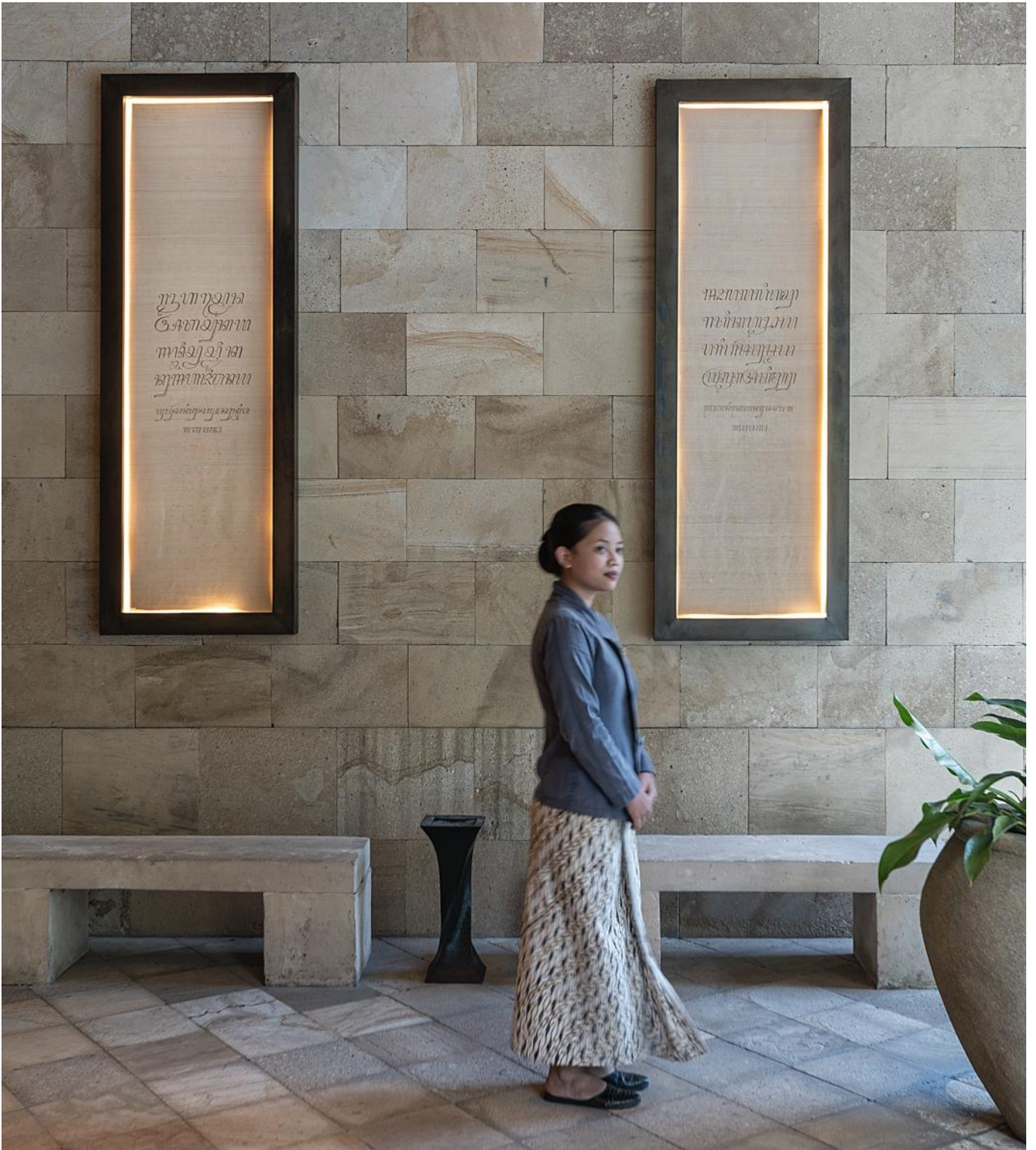
### Ramayana Dinner

Set in the privacy of Dalem Jiwo (subject to availability), a butler will escort you to the rotunda lounge to begin an evening of traditional dance, music and cuisine. Decorated with rose petals and candles, the air is perfumed with sandalwood incense.

Ramayana ballet tells the story of the legendary epic following the romance 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, the 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.







## Shoppers & Collectors

It seems as if many of our guests are great patrons of the Arts, budding artists, or irrepresible collectors of antiques – in Amanjiwo and Java, they may well have found their Nirvana.





### **Antiques**

The best shops are small, dusty, and hidden. There are also the tourist varieties that have air-conditioning inside and a large bus parked outside.

There are treasures to be unearthed, but please remember that in Asia 'Antique' is a style and not a guarantee of age, nor 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.

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

### **Handicrafts & Furnitures**

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, indeed, some beautiful things to be had, whether they be fashioned from teak, copper, leather, silver, stone, bronze, woven grasses, bamboo, or Terracotta. Again, the list is unending.

Furniture seems to fall into three categories: that which is made for the tourist market; that for export; and that made especially to commission. Each category has a different price and standard of quality. We would be delighted to steer you in the right direction, but again, please bear in mind that the very best addresses are jealously guarded secrets.

All in all, the best way to shop is to take a car out for the day – to perhaps get a little hot, a little sweaty and a little dirty – and to go off to the scattered villages, fabrieks and dealers' warehouses where we know these treasures are.



### **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, and is a surprising must.

Yogya's Cemeti Gallery, and the famed Ardiyanto Gallery, regularly host exhibitions by both upcoming and established artists. If you are interested, we can easily arrange a private visit. Ardiyanto is, after all, well known as Central Java's most enthusiastic and most loved party giver, as well as being its greatest Batik artist!

### **Amanjiwo's Art Room**

The best things in life are difficult to find, but make the effort, and there you will find a curio of paintings inspired by the great Candi Borobudur and Java's natural beauty.

### **Amanjiwo's Boutique**

False modesty does not suit: our boutique is probably the most beautiful in Indonesia, and certainly has one of the finest collections of museum-quality textiles and Wayang Kulit anywhere.

Finally, our Boutique staff has great experience in packing and shipping goods, whether you have bought them here, or elsewhere.

### **Dr. Oei's Art Collection**

To the foreign visitor interested in the development of Contemporary Art in Indonesia, one of Indonesia's best-kept art secrets is just half an hour's drive away. 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 paintings and works of arts for many years. Having travelled abroad extensively, he has made it his job to pick up well known Indonesian art works that found their way to auction houses abroad, returning them to their country of origin.

His collection spans over a hundred years and covers the development of art from the beginning of last century up to the present day. One of his earliest pieces is by Rudolf Bonnet, the Dutch artist who lived in Bali at the beginning of the last century. Affandi and Hendra, two of Indonesia's most internationally well-known, modern artists are well represented, as well as present day 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.





## Children & Families

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



### **Javanese Dance Class**

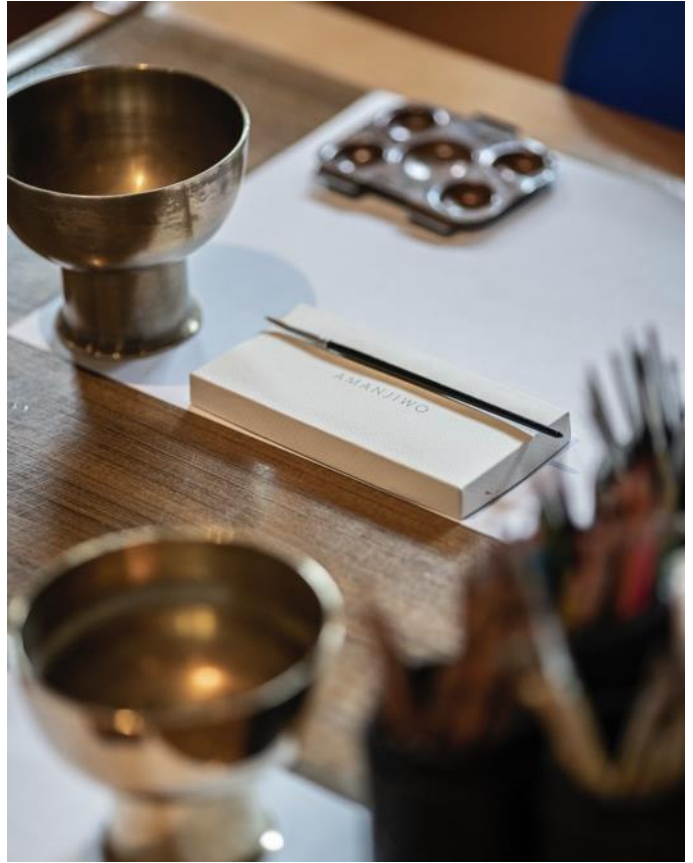
Learn the Javanese dances with our dance teachers from the surrounding area. They come every day from 4.00 to 5.30pm to teach traditional Javanese dances to the local children.

### **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 achieved when a sheet of plastic, sticks, and tape become a kite that really flies. Your kids can join in a Kite making in the Kids Room.

### **Kids Room**

Our air-conditioned Kids' Room offers arts & crafts activities, early learning toys, colouring books, and more.



### **Mask Painting**

Mask painting at the Kids Room is the perfect opportunity to let your kids get creative. Watch while your kids come up with new, cool ways to get creative with the mask

### **Picnic**

Picnics in the Gubuk Sawah absolutely could be a good experience to sit back and enjoy the view. Enjoy the straight view to the famous Borobudur temple while enjoying the picnic menu and taking a stroll afterwards through the rice fields.





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