

PEOPLE . PLACES

ASIA: SECRET LIVES, HIDDEN PLACES III

3 × 45' (ENG, GER)

Come with us on a unique journey to Southeast Asia - a region that could hardly be more diverse: floating villages on the Tonle Sap, wooden houses with roofs like ships in the highlands of Sulawesi, traditional and at the same time ultra-modern bamboo architecture in Bali.

Honey hunters in search of the sweet nectar in Cambodia's jungle giants are just as daring as the bat guano collectors in the caves of the karst rocks in southern Sulawesi. Passionate wildlife conservationists are working to preserve the Bali sparrow - symbol of the region's rich flora and fauna. In Cambodia, people are fighting to preserve their national landmark - the gigantic Angkor temple complex. In Sulawesi, despite their Christian faith, the Toraja people cannot be dissuaded from their traditional beliefs. The ancestors play a decisive role and the result is days of elaborate funeral ceremonies with dances, singing and animal sacrifices. In Bali, many people still rely on the power of traditional medicine and place themselves in the hands of capable healers. Cambodia, Sulawesi and Bali - all three are incomparably breathtaking. It is the encounters with the local people that allow us to get very close to these dream destinations and their secrets.



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1. Cambodia – Land of Enchanted Temples and Floating Villages

Cambodia stands for fascinating nature and an inestimably rich culture. Whether the conservators in the enchanted temple city of Angkor or the circus students in Battambang, they all strive passionately to preserve their impressive culture: In the primeval forest of the Kulen Mountains, the honey hunters climb the highest trees to get the sweet gold of the wild bees. In the floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake, people sometimes have strange roommates - crocodiles, which they breed in wooden cages next to their houses. The finest pepper in the world grows in the south of Cambodia - Kampot pepper. It tastes particularly good with the freshly caught crabs from the "Crab Market" in Kep.

2. Sulawesi - Death Cult and Tradition

Hardly any other island is as culturally and naturally diverse as Sulawesi in Indonesia. The Muslim Bugis dominate the south, Christians the northern peninsula, and the highlands are home to the Toraja. They are known for their unusual death cult, which culminates in days-long funeral ceremonies with buffalo sacrifices and dances. In the town of Wattansoppeng, people indulge their passion for original Italian Vespas, at the local club. The locals take us on a journey through their incomparable island and show us surprising facets of Indonesian culture.

3. Bali - Island of Gods and Demons

In the heart of Bali, somehow everything seems connected to the supernatural. Join us on a journey to the magical island, where the rainforests, imposing temples, rice terraces, a unique Hindu culture and active volcanoes combine to create an incomparable place of longing.