

TEJAKULA ARTS FESTIVAL

17th to 19th March 2010

Free Admission to All Events



We are pleased to announce that, from 17th to 19th March, Tejakula will hold its inaugural Arts Festival at the Sacred Camplung Tree, near Gaia-Oasis. Please join us and be amazed by the diversity of art, music and culture in North Bali!

Since the 8th Century, art in Tejakula has never stopped growing, and the sacred art forms continue to be a vibrant, living force, such as the Baris, Rejang, Wayang Kulit and Wayang Wong. In addition, there is a strong "street arts" scene, including arja, topeng, gong kebyar, angklung, kecak, joged, parwa & kekawin, whose main purpose is to celebrate, entertain and give creative voice to its people's interests & aspirations. There is also the opportunity to watch painters, sculptors, wood-carvers and ornamental arts.

Tejakula's artists have participated at all levels, from local to national to international (Tokyo, Stockholm, Gettberg), but don't just take our word for it, come & see for yourself!

BALI SPIRIT FESTIVAL - SPECIAL

For the months of March & April 2010, just bring along your Bali Spirit Festival ticket, and we will offer you 30% off our standard prices for accommodation, at both our Pantai beach resort & our Abasan mountain retreat*.

See you in Tejakula!

For a detailed itinerary, please contact paradise@gaia-oasis.com, +62 (0)81 23853350

* Offer is subject to availability, and cannot be combined with another package.

BALINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS!

12th to 16th March 2010

13th March Melasti



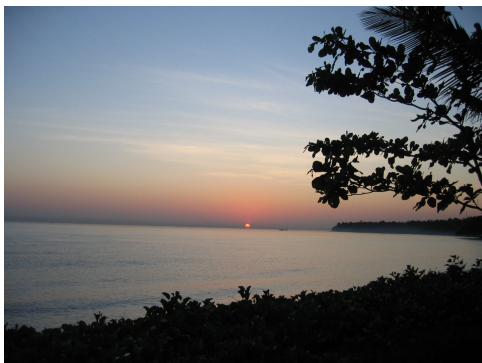
Three days before Nyepi, this event is held to cleanse the holy artifacts held in local temples, to concentrate the mind in order to come closer to God. The ceremony is aimed to clean all of Nature and its content, and to take Amerta (the source of eternal life) from the ocean or other water sources (ie lake, river, etc).

At dawn, the effigies and symbols of the Gods from all the clan temples (*merajan*) in the village are taken to the sea in long & colourful ceremonies, where they are bathed by Lord Baruna, the Sea God. Prayers and offerings are made, sacred dances are presented, and the gods are celebrated before being taken back home to their shrines around noon.

15th March Tawur Agung Kesanga

The dark moon (*tilem*), one day before Nyepi, is the climax of the exorcism ceremonies (*mecaru*) held at every level of society to cleanse the village before the New Year. This day is also known as *notog* or *ngerupuk*.

In the afternoon, young men & boys parade Ogoh-Ogoh (fantastic monsters or evil spirits "*Bhuta Kala*" made of bamboo and paper mâché) through the town. The Ogoh-Ogoh symbolize the evil spirits surrounding our environment which must be got rid of from our lives. Everyone makes noise and carries burning torches, and it is a carnival-like atmosphere. Before midnight, all the Ogoh-Ogohs are taken to the graveyard near the sea, where they are burnt and / or dismembered, and with them the evil spirits besetting our lives.



16th March Nyepi

Nyepi is derived from the word, "sepi", which means silent. It is a day of complete stillness, no fire, no light, no transport, no people on the street or the beach, no cooking, no noise or work is allowed. The airport is shut, and only emergency rooms operate in hospitals. In keeping with the philosophical principles of Balinese Hinduism, the Balinese mark the New Year with meditation, not lavish parties, to ensure the world is "clean" at the beginning of the year.

As a resort / retreat, Gaia-Oasis is permitted to serve our guests with reduced activities, without noise and with a minimum of lighting, and you can also participate in the yoga and meditation activities that we hold during this special day.

For bookings, please contact paradise@gaia-oasis.com, +62 (0)81 23853350