THE VINAYA'S BALINESE ART & CRAFT PROGRAMS

Welcome to The Vinaya's Balinese Art & Craft Programs, immersive journeys designed to celebrate creativity, culture, and connection. Each workshop, whether crafting a majestic penjor, arranging a vibrant gebogan, or exploring creative art and craft traditions, offers participants the chance to engage deeply with Balinese heritage. Thoughtfully curated, these experiences nurture artistic expression, cultural appreciation, and community spirit, guiding participants toward greater harmony with themselves, others, and the natural world.

The Vinaya offers a variety of Balinese Art & Craft Programs, each with its own unique focus and approach. We warmly invite you to choose the workshop that best reflects your interests and supports your personal journey of creativity, cultural appreciation, and connection.

OUR PROGRAMS

- ### Gebogan Making Workshop

  This workshop introduces teenagers and adults (minimum age 15 years) to the art of creating and admiring a gebogan, a tall and mesmerizing offering made from fruits, flowers, and cakes, arranged in a tiered structure. Participants will enjoy a hands-on experience that blends artistry with devotion, while gaining insight into the cultural meaning of offerings in Balinese Hindu practice.

- ### Penjor Making Workshop

  Penjor Making Workshop The Penjor Making Workshop invites teenagers and adults (minimum age 15 years) to immerse themselves in one of Bali's most iconic traditions. A penjor is a tall bamboo pole, gracefully curved and adorned with coconut leaves, rice, fruits, cakes, and flowers. More than decoration, it is a living symbol of devotion, prosperity, and harmony. Participants will learn traditional techniques of penjor making and enjoy a healthy lunch along with homemade snacks, making the experience both cultural and nourishing.

- ### Creative Leaf Art & Craft [CLAC] Program

  This family-friendly program is designed for children, teens, and adults. It nurtures artistic expression while sharpening fine motor skills. Using natural leaves such as coconut and palm, participants learn to fold, weave, and shape them into creative designs including flowers, animals, and ornaments.

Scroll down to explore each program in detail and discover the one that resonates most with your journey.

Gebogan Making Workshop

FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS

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Introduction

Gebogan, also called pajegan, is a tall, tiered offering made from fruits, traditional cakes (jajan), and flowers, arranged on a round wooden tray (dulang) and stacked upward into a conical form. It symbolizes gratitude, prosperity, and devotion, while its towering shape represents Mount Meru, the cosmic axis in Hindu cosmology.

Gebogan plays a central role in temple ceremonies and festivals. It is a visual expression of yadnya (sacrifice) and bhakti (devotion), offered to Ida Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa (God).

As part of these rituals, women dressed in traditional Balinese attire carry gebogan on their heads in temple processions. During larger ceremonies, parades of women walk together toward the main temple in their area, creating a striking display of collective devotion and community spirit.

How to Make Gebogan

A gebogan begins with a base, a round wooden tray (dulang) that provides stability. On this foundation, layers of fruits such as bananas, oranges, apples, and pears are stacked tightly, interspersed with traditional cakes and flowers. The arrangement rises upward into a conical form. At the peak, a small offering (canang sari) and decorative coconut leaves (sampyan) crown the structure.
Crafting a gebogan requires balance, symmetry, and neatness, qualities that reflect both artistry and reverence.

Tiers and Types

Gebogan usually consists of five to seven tiers, though the height may vary depending on the ceremony and the resources of each family.

- Traditional gebogan is made with fresh fruits and homemade cakes.
- Modern gebogan sometimes incorporates packaged foods or drinks, though this practice is often debated as less spiritually appropriate.

Ceremonies Requiring Gebogan

Gebogan plays a vital role in major religious events such as odalan (temple anniversaries), piodalan (temple festivals), Galungan, and Kuningan. It is also central to mapeed processions, where women dressed in traditional Balinese attire carry gebogan on their heads to the temple. In larger ceremonies, parades of women walk together toward the main temple in their area, creating a striking display of devotion and community spirit.

Who Makes Gebogan?

Traditionally, each family prepares one gebogan for the ceremony. Women—often mothers and daughters—are responsible for assembling and carrying it, symbolizing grace, strength, and devotion. While each household contributes individually, the collective display of gebogan reflects unity and shared faith within the community.

Price

Rp750.000 per person
*Minimum 2 participants

Duration

Three hours inspiring and creative workshop

Schedule

Offered on request

Program Highlights

- Explore the cultural and spiritual significance of gebogan in Balinese Hinduism.
- Learn the traditional process of arranging fruits, cakes, and flowers into a tiered offering.
- Understand the symbolism of Mount Meru and the values of gratitude, prosperity, and devotion.
- Experience a meaningful cultural practice that blends artistry with reverence.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Gain knowledge of gebogan as a sacred symbol in temple ceremonies and festivals.
- Recognize its role as an expression of yadnya (sacrifice) and bhakti (devotion).
- Develop practical skills in arranging and balancing fruits, cakes, and flowers.
- Appreciate the importance of balance, symmetry, and neatness in Balinese offerings.

Workshop Experience

- Begin with an introduction to the history and meaning of gebogan.
- Follow step-by-step guidance on building the base (dulang), stacking layers, and crowning the peak with canang sari and sampyan.
- Engage in a collaborative environment, creating your own gebogan.
- Reflect on the communal spirit of Balinese rituals, where gebogan is carried in temple processions.

Guidelines

- Age Requirement: Suitable for teenagers and adults (minimum age 15 years).
- Attire: Participants are encouraged to wear traditional Balinese clothing for authenticity and respect.
- Materials: All fruits, cakes, flowers, and decorative leaves are provided.
- Respect: Treat the process with reverence, as gebogan is a sacred offering.
- Tradition: Each family traditionally prepares one gebogan, often assembled and carried by women, symbolizing grace and devotion.
- Please inform us of any special needs or preferences during registration
- Payment must be completed before the session begins to secure a place
- No-shows will be fully charged; cancellations at least 48 hours in advance can be rescheduled
- Photos or videos may be taken for promotional purposes; inform the instructor if you prefer not to be photographed
- Respectful behavior and cooperation are expected throughout the workshop
- Even though gebogan is originally prepared by mothers or daughters, this workshop is open to male participants as well.

Penjor Making Workshop

FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS

reservations@thevinaya.com +62 81 237 888 333 thevinaya.com

Introduction

The Penjor Making Workshop invites teenagers and adults (minimum age 15 years) to immerse themselves in one of Bali's most iconic traditions. A penjor is a tall bamboo pole, gracefully curved and adorned with coconut leaves, rice, fruits, cakes, and flowers. Raised in front of homes and temples during Galungan and other ceremonies, the penjor is more than decoration. It is a living symbol of devotion, prosperity, and harmony.

The penjor embodies the essence of Balinese Hindu philosophy. Its curved bamboo represents Mount Agung, the sacred mountain that connects humans with the divine. The decorations, including rice, fruits, and cakes, express gratitude for abundance and fertility. The flowing coconut leaves symbolize life's continuity, while the overall structure reflects Tri Hita Karana, the principle of harmony between humans, nature, and the spiritual world.
This philosophy is expressed through three dimensions of balance:

- Parahyangan (Harmony with the Divine): The penjor is an offering to God, symbolizing Mount Agung as the sacred link between humans and the divine. Its decorations are gifts of gratitude for blessings received.
- Pawongan (Harmony among People): Making and raising a penjor is a communal activity. Families, neighbors, and villages work together, reinforcing social bonds and cooperation.
- Palemahan (Harmony with Nature): The penjor is built entirely from natural materials: bamboo, coconut leaves, rice, and fruits, showing respect for and reliance on nature's abundance.

During Galungan, penjor line the streets of Bali, creating a breathtaking display of devotion and community spirit. They remind everyone of the victory of dharma (good) over adharma (evil), while also embodying the three harmonies of Tri Hita Karana. In essence, the penjor is not just decoration. It is a living philosophy, a visual reminder to balance spiritual life, social life, and environmental care. By learning to craft a penjor, participants not only gain practical skills but also connect with the deeper values that sustain Balinese life.

Price

Rp995.000 per person (includes lunch and two servings of traditional snacks)
*Minimum 2 participants

Duration

Half-day or full-day workshop

Schedule

Offered on request

Program Highlights

Participants will:

- Learn how to prepare and bend bamboo poles for penjor making
- Weave coconut leaves into decorative shapes and ornaments
- Attach rice, fruits, cakes, and other symbolic items with guidance from local instructors
- Understand the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana through practice
- Share lunch and traditional snacks in a friendly, communal setting
- Create a finished penjor to display proudly at home or in the community

Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Understand the cultural and spiritual significance of the penjor in Balinese Hindu tradition
- Gain hands-on skills in preparing bamboo, weaving coconut leaves, and attaching symbolic items
- Experience the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana through practical application
- Strengthen focus, patience, and teamwork while engaging in a communal creative activity
- Appreciate the balance between devotion, community, and nature through the act of penjor making
- Experience healthy lunch and traditional homemade snacks

Experience

Participants will enjoy a guided, hands-on journey into Balinese tradition. From preparing bamboo poles to weaving coconut leaves (janur) and attaching symbolic items, each step is taught with cultural context and practical instruction. The workshop includes shared meals and traditional snacks, creating a warm and communal atmosphere. By the end of the session, participants will have crafted their own penjor and gained a deeper appreciation for its meaning.

Guidelines

- All materials are provided (bamboo, janur, fruits, cloth, ropes)
- Comfortable workspace and tools will be arranged
- Please inform us of any special needs or preferences during registration
- Payment must be completed before the session begins to secure a place
- No-shows will be fully charged; cancellations at least 48 hours in advance can be rescheduled
- Photos or videos may be taken for promotional purposes; inform the instructor if you prefer not to be photographed
- Respectful behavior and cooperation are expected throughout the workshop

Creative Leaf Art & Craft [CLAC] Program

FOR CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND ADULTS

reservations@thevinaya.com +62 81 237 888 333 thevinaya.com

Introduction

This engaging program invites participants to explore the imaginative world of leaf art and craft. Using natural leaves such as coconut and palm, learners will discover how to fold, weave, and shape them into creative designs like flowers, animals, and ornaments. The class emphasizes creativity, focus, and hands-on skill development, offering a refreshing alternative to screen-based activities.

Designed for children, teens, and adults, the program nurtures artistic expression while sharpening fine motor skills. It provides a fun, interactive environment where participants can enjoy crafting with natural materials, fostering both mindfulness and creativity. The activity is suitable for anyone aged 7 years and older, making it a family-friendly experience.

Price

Rp135,000 per participant
*minimum 2 participants

Duration

50 minutes of inspiring and motivating group sessions

Schedule

Offered every Friday afternoon, or arranged upon request

Program Highlights

- Learn simple and fun leaf weaving techniques
- Create flowers, animals, and decorative ornaments
- Explore creativity in a supportive, playful environment
- Enjoy a friendly atmosphere suitable for all ages

Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Practice creative thinking and imagination
- Sharpen craft and fine motor skills
- Strengthen focus and concentration through hands-on activity
- Discover a fun hobby as an alternative to gadget play

Experience

Participants will enjoy a guided session where they learn step-by-step techniques to transform leaves into beautiful crafts. The experience is hands-on, interactive, and designed to spark imagination while building confidence in artistic skills.

Guidelines

- All materials are provided during the class
- Comfortable seating and crafting space will be arranged
- Participants are encouraged to bring curiosity and creativity
- No prior experience is required — beginners are welcome
- Please inform us of any special needs, preferences, or concerns during registration
- Participants who commit to a monthly package will receive a discount of Rp5,000 per class
- Payment must be completed before the session begins to secure a place
- Each session requires a minimum of two participants to run
- No-shows will be fully charged
- Cancellations made at least 48 hours before the session will be transferred to the next available class
- Cancellations made less than 48 hours before the session are non-transferable
- If The Vinaya cancels a session, a transfer to another session will be offered
- Photos or videos may be taken during sessions for promotional purposes. Guardians who prefer that their child is not photographed should inform the instructor before the session begins
- All participants are expected to follow instructions carefully and maintain respectful behavior throughout the session
- Courteous communication and cooperation help ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone
- Disruptive behavior may result in removal from the session without a refund
- By registering, participants and/or guardians acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agreed to these Guidelines on behalf of their child