September 4. Tuesday

Depart Los Angeles late at night on Cathay Pacific (Leaving from LA is not required, You can leave from SFO too).

September 5. Wednesday

En Route

September 6: Thursday. Ubud

Arrive at Ngurah Rai Airport, in Denpasar and after completing arrival and customs formalities, transfer to the Sri Ratih Cottages.
This family-friendly hotel is located on a river, just steps from The Blanco Renaissance Museum and Blanco Museum. Puri Lukisan Museum and the Gunung Lebah Temple Along with a full-service spa, this smoke-free hotel has a restaurant and an outdoor pool. Free cooked-to-order breakfast is provided daily, as well as free WiFi in public areas, and a free area shuttle. Additionally, a bar/lounge, a poolside bar, and a coffee shop/café are onsite.

This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

| September 7: Friday. Ubud | B,LD. |

This morning will be focused on Indonesia’s economy. Indonesia is home to the region’s largest economy and the world’s fourth most populous country. Indonesia's reform credentials have also stood out in 2016 with a new government, improved economic fundamentals, tax and pro-market reforms and the appointment of a credible new finance minister who was a former IMF official. With these positive changes, Indonesia has been cementing a reputation as a standout in the global economy. In 2016 Indonesia was one of the stronger performing EM countries outside of countries like Brazil. Earlier this year, the International Monetary Fund's mission chief for Indonesia gave the government credit for its economic competence, and expects its economy to grow by 5 percent this year. Indonesia's vast population exhibits favorable demographics such as high life expectancy and fertility rates. Investors also like growth prospects, fiscal discipline and relatively low inflation of around 3-5 percent.

**Morning meeting with staff from Hubud**, an international headquarters, where people from diverse walks of life can co-rent office space and be part of an entrepreneurial environment that encourages business growth and creativity. Hubud opened its doors in May 2013 when founders Steve Munroe, Peter Wall and John Alderson organized a pop-up prototype co-working space and held community events. Hubud continues to expand and is an active member of the Coworking Alliance for Asia Pacific (CAAP). The team at Hubud works hard to maintain the magic that is the Hubud Community and to support the location independence movement worldwide. They believe passionately in the importance of a healthy life and work balance and for members of Hubud who have digital nomad, entrepreneurial, and startup ambitions, “Silicon Bali” can be an incredible place to run a business.

Stop for lunch in Batuan, the painting village where Margaret Mead did her field work.

Drive to the Goa Gajah (Elephant Cave) and continue on to a small Archaeological Museum which houses a small but good collection including artifacts from the stone/bronze age of Bali and from Indian and Chinese traders who pre-dated the Dutch by centuries. Its collection also includes a plaster cast of the faces cast around the rim on the “Moon of Pejeng” (the huge bronze drum). It is interesting to be able to see them close up (which you cannot do en-situ) as several historians feel that they date amongst the earliest representations of the human face.

The next stop will be at the actual temple “Pura Penataran Sasih” that houses the Moon of Pejeng drum. Huge stone sculptures of wild pigs and a couple of stone nagas mark the entrance gateway and several old carvings inside include a battered Ganesha which may have been brought from the Pakrisan River Valley area. The chief attraction though is the large bronze drum. The drum is believed to be the largest bronze casting in the world and is said to date to around 300 BC (older than Dong San drums). The drum is housed on a high platform in a shrine at the back left-hand side of the temple. You will have seen copies of the carvings around the rim at the Archaeological Museum.
Dinner tonight at Ibu Oka’s private restaurant located in Ubud in the family compound. Please note that this is a simple restaurant offering freshly, prepared and delicious roast pork. Walk through the compound to the area where dinner will be served.

**September 8: Saturday. Ubud**  
B,L,D.

After breakfast, depart the hotel for a full day in East Bali, starting at Besakih Temple. According to mythology, when the deities made mountains for their thrones, they set the highest peak in the east, a place of honor to the Balinese. During centuries of isolation, the islanders knew this sacred volcanic mountain, Gunung Agung (Mt. Agung) as “Navel of the World.” In every temple in Bali, a shrine is dedicated to the spirit of Mt. Agung. The tapering form of cremation towers and even high temple offerings bear the shape of a mountain, mirroring the reverence for the holy volcano. It is here on the slopes of Gunung Agung, that lies the mother temple of all Bali, Pura Besakih. An extensive cluster of 30 temples made up of seven levels of terraces in the mountainside, Pura Besakih represents religious unity within Hindu-Balinese beliefs. The complex itself is a grand and impressive site, with its panoramic view and mountain backdrop.

A special lunch has been arranged at a private home in Tanganan Village. The walled village of Tenganan Village is one of the most conservative villages of the “Bali-Aga” (original) Balinese, where traditions and rituals have changed little over the centuries. The women of this village are renowned for weaving the famous “flaming” cloth,” Kamben Gringsing, which supposedly has the power to immunize the wearer against evil powers. The finest pieces are used for ceremonial dress and the imperfect ones are much in demand throughout Bali! Upon entering this secluded village, one is truly given a glimpse into traditional Balinese life.

Return to the hotel by about 4.00pm.

**Late afternoon for a discussion, “The Importance of Preserving a Culture and its Economic Return.”** This discussion will offer an opportunity to review the economic arguments for preserving indigenous cultures and art.

**September 9: Sunday. Ubud**  
B,L,D.

Morning meeting with staff from Livit, an Indonesian based tech startup ecosystem that builds strong businesses by providing specialist resources, business knowledge, creativity and inspiring spaces to startups. Livit’s primary focus is software and online solutions where tech and entrepreneurship are at the core of our businesses. The Livit businesses include several consumer and B2B software solutions, online services as well as several edutainment games and simulations. At Livit people work together across all the different startups in order to share knowledge and create innovative business solutions.

Continue on to the rarely visited but quite unique Setia Darma House of Masks and Puppets. Founded by visionary Hadi Sunyoto who has successfully created a space to preserve the disappearing art of puppetry and mask-making. The magnificent and rare collection is housed in a number of traditional Javanese Huts called Joglo. Prior to 2006, the exhibition spaces were private places for household activities, but the name "house" remained to signify the new museum. Situated on the beautiful landscape of Kubu Bingin Cultural Village in Gianyar, the House holds the largest collection of masks and puppets in the world. The collection includes over 4,500 pieces from countries such as Indonesia, Africa, Malaysia, China, Myanmar, Cambodia and Japan.
Learn more about the entrepreneurial spirit of Bali at the **John Hardy Jewelry Factory** where some 600 artisans handcraft jewelry under the supervision of an Asian and European management team. In addition to the jewellery the factory/workshops produce, it is also an organic farm. Livestock, rice and vegetable gardens thrive between the studio buildings. John Hardy, an artist and visionary, visited Bali in the 1970s and was enchanted by the island’s sublime beauty. There, he founded an authentic collective with local artisans and, since inception, the company has remained passionately committed to community, artisanship and sustainability. Master artisans honor original craft through the perfection of modern design, creating timeless one-of-a-kind pieces that are brilliantly alive. Every day, the entire studio takes lunch, under a spreading banyan tree, which today will also include our group! It is interesting to note that very year, the John Hardy staff pay homage at the local village temple. Visiting the John Hardy complex one sees firsthand the perfect union of Balinese craftsmanship and tradition combined with modern aesthetics and business practices.

Continue on to the traditional village of Penglipuran and a chance to see how the Balinese people live. Learn about Subak, one of the most important social organizations in all of Bali. Every farmer must join this ancient water cooperative which controls the water flow from the mountains unto the rice fields.

Dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

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Morning meeting with **Michael Klim**, founder of MILK & Co. Former Olympic swimmer Michael Klim started up his skincare business in 2008 when he developed his men’s range of marine based ingredients for a no nonsense skin fitness range, specifically for men on the go. MILK & Co now offer sports nutrition protein bars, a women’s face & body range that is 95% naturally derived & not forgetting baby, a trusted brand that is 95% naturally derived including bath, hair, lotions & potions including room sprays. MILK & Co is now a global brand available in 13 countries and sold by leading retailers such as Sephora and Liberty’s in London. Milk & Co now employs 12 staff and turns over more than $5 million a year.

Continue on to the hallowed spring of Tirta Empul, considered the holiest spring in Bali. In popular folklore, the springs were created by Indra when he pierced the earth to create a spring of “amerta,” the air of immortality. The waters are believed to have magic curative powers and people journey from all over Bali to purify themselves in the clear bathing pool. After leaving a small offering to the deity of the spring, men and women go either side to bathe. On the full moon of the fourth month each year, the villagers from near Manukaya rake a sacred stone to be cleansed at Tirta Empul.

Return south to the wondrous Gunung Kawi, where in the bottom of a lush green valley, is one of Bali’s oldest, most charming and certainly largest ancient monuments. Gunung Kawi consists of 10 rock-cut “candi” (shrines), memorials cut out of rock face in imitation of actual statues. These amazing 7-mile high sheltered niches cut into the sheer cliff face. Each candi is remarkably preserved and are only facades without interiors, but each has a complex of monk’s cells nearby. The candis are believed to be memorials to deified Balinese royalty in the 11th century. This site is a stunning introduction to Bali’s pure physical beauty.

Enjoy lunch at the Three Monkey Café

Afternoon at leisure for independent exploration.

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<th>September 11: Tuesday. Yogyakarta.</th>
<th>B,L,D</th>
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Take a morning flight to Yogyakarta. Drive a short distance to the site of Prambanan, a complex whose main monument is dedicated to the Hindu God, Shiva. Two smaller monuments are dedicated to Vishnu and Brahma. Standing opposite there are three temples which contain the “vehicles” of each god: Shiva's bull, Brahma's gander, and Vishnu's garuda. The complex was completed in the middle of the 9th century to commemorate the victory of Sanjaya’s Sivaitic descendant, Rakai Pikatan, over the last Sailendran ruler of Central Java.

Drive to the Dalem Ngabean Restaurant for lunch. This lovely restaurant is located in a former palace and offers an excellent introduction into Javanese cuisine.

After lunch begin exploring Yogyakarta, the birthplace of startups that compete not only at the national stage but also on the international level. As a tradition and culture-rich city that is also renowned for its academic atmosphere, the “students’ city” hosts a wide array of talent pool that are valuable for technology-based startups.

Indonesia’s largest information and communication company, Telkom recently launched its second tech incubator in the city of Jogjakarta (or Yogyakarta). Called Jogja Digital Valley (JDV), the 800 meter square place lets people use it as a co-working space, gadget room, meeting room, and incubatee room. JDV is built to support the growth of the creative industry in Indonesia. Telkom says it is investing up to IDR 10 billion (US$1,150,000) in the next three years for the new space, and hopes it can help spur the growth of local entrepreneurs so that they can one day compete with international players. The co-working space can hold up to 50 developers. They can also demo their applications inside the gadget room. To start using the space at JDV, users only need to register themselves on its website. They must come to JDV to physically verify the registered data, and then they will become a member for free.

Close by are the offices of GO-JEK, an on-demand motorbike taxi service that rivals Uber and Grab in Indonesia. Motorbikes are an important type of transportation popular in parts of Southeast Asia where heavy urban traffic makes two wheels faster than four. Demand is particularly high in Jakarta, which is home to some 30 million people and is one of the planet’s most congested cities. In addition to regular rides, Go-Jek now offers on-demand services like food, shopping and package deliveries.

At the end of the afternoon arrive south of town for about 20-25 minutes to the wonderful d’Omah Hotel which offers 17 fabulous rooms set amongst three traditional Indonesian homes. Enjoy the superb art and antiquities that owner Warwick Purser has assembled over the last thirty-five years. Each of the three houses has a private pool and many areas to sit and quietly read or draw. Surrounding the hotel is the village of Tembi known for its local crafts.

This evening enjoy the most incredible dinner as you sit outside overlooking the grassy, village square. A line of servers will present a very special rijstafel (Indonesian rice table featuring a full array of culinary delights) dinner. The food is exquisite and the atmosphere indescribable. It will be a night to remember.

**September 12: Wednesday. Yogyakarta. B,L**

This morning drive a short distance into town to visit the Royal Kraton, a two-century old palace complex that stands at the very heart of the city. According to traditional cosmological beliefs the Javanese ruler is the central part of the universe, anchoring the temporal world and communicating with the mystical realm of powerful deities. In this scheme the Kraton is both the capital of the kingdom and the hub of the cosmos. It traditionally housed not only the sultan and his family but also ceremonial chambers, audience halls, performance pavilions, royal gardens, a mosque, stables, barracks and two expansive parade
grounds planted with sacred banyan trees. This was all contained in a carefully conceived complex of walled compounds, narrow lanes and massive gateways, bounded by a fortified outer wall. To enter the Kraton today is to enter a world of grace and elegance. Architecturally the Kraton’s Central Throne Hall is its most striking feature. It is an open pavilion consisting of an ornately decorated and dramatically sloping roof supported at the center by four massive wooden columns. A local Kraton guide will take the group through the Kraton.

From here drive a short distance to the Water Castle and then walk some distance (about 20 minutes) through part of the Kraton complex. Stop at the studio of Sugeng, a puppet-maker before walking along twisted lanes to an area thought to have been used by the Sultan as a prayer room. As you walk remember that this area was once part of the Kraton’s water system and part of a series of artificial canals that the sultan built linking his palace to the area you are now in.

Enjoy a wonderful lunch at the restaurant of the newly-opened Langgeng Art Foundation (LAF). The foundation is a contemporary art institution facilitating various kinds of art creation, presentation and discussion, especially in relation to strategic ways in the growth and development of Indonesian contemporary art. LAF was founded in 2010 by Deddy Irianto.

After lunch visit the campus of Yogyakarta State University which was founded on May 21, 1964. YSU initially offered 12 non-education study programs at the bachelor level and three-year undergraduate diploma levels in the following faculties: the Faculty of Languages and Arts Education, the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Education, and the Faculty of Engineering and Vocational Education. Today it offers 7 faculties, 1 graduate school, 64 undergraduate programs (53 bachelor's and 11 three-year-diploma), 35 graduate study programs (30 master's and 5 doctoral), 25,146 undergraduate students (2016), 3,405 graduate students (2016), 85 international students and 103,653 alumni. There will be a chance to meet with students for a round-table discussion.

End the day at the offices of Gameloft where manager Andrei Vladimir Lascu will address the group. Gameloft is a French video game developer and publisher headquartered in Paris, with 20 game studios subsidiaries located around the world, including Yogyakarta. They have created a number of games for mobile phone handsets, tablets, games consoles and other platforms. It is a subsidiary of French media conglomerate Vivendi. Gameloft decided to open an office in Yogyakarta because of the large number of trained young adults and the low operational costs. There is also a good access to the internet and a strong urban infra-structure.

Dinner at leisure.

**September 13: Thursday. Yogyakarta.** B,L,D.

After an early breakfast drive to Borobudur, a drive of just over an hour.

Borobudur is considered to be one of the finest Buddhist monuments in the world. Today’s tour will start with the lower galleries. Borobudur was built in the 8th and 9th centuries and is the world's largest Buddhist monument. It represents the three levels of the Mahayana Buddhist Universe. In the late 10th century Mt. Merapi erupted violently, covering Borobudur in volcanic ash and concealing it for the greater part of a millennium. The story of Borobudur’s “rediscovery” began in 1814 when the English Lieutenant-Governor of Java, Thomas Stamford Raffles, visited nearby and heard rumors of “a mountain of Buddhist sculptures in stone.” For two months Raffles supervised a massive clearing operation but unfortunately many of the stones and carvings were stolen during this time. In 1967, UNESCO became
involved in the restoration of Borobudur. The project has been a huge success and the restoration job is excellent.

Borobudur was conceived as a Buddhist vision of the cosmos in stone, starting in the everyday world and spiraling up to Nirvana – the Buddhist concept of heaven. Over 400 serene-faced Buddhas stare out from open chambers above the galleries while 72 more Buddha images sit only partly visible in latticed stupas on the top three terraces. The top three circular terraces open to the sky to represent the world of nothingness. The huge enclosed central stupa, representing Nirvana, is symbolically empty. Borobudur was not a place for prayer – it was a place for meditation and instruction.

Enjoy lunch at a wonderful restaurant known as Plataran. Enjoy delicious food with spectacular views across the lush foliage to Borobudur.

After lunch explore the exquisite smaller Buddhist temple of Mendut. Mendut houses a magnificent three-meter high figure of Buddha, flanked by two Bodhisattvas. The Buddha is also notable for his posture, instead of the usual lotus position he sits Western-style with both feet on the ground. The gracefully carved relief panels on its outer walls are among the finest and largest examples of Hindu-Javanese art. The tiny Pawon Temple resembles most Central Javanese temples with a broad base, a central body and pyramidal roof.

Return to the hotel for dinner this evening.

| September 14: Friday. Kuta. | B,L |

Morning return flight to Denpasar. Upon arrival visit the Werdi Budaya Art Center, designed by Bali’s foremost architect, Ida Bagus Tugur. Built on one of the few remaining coconut groves in central Denpasar, the center has quickly become a busy forum for the performing and fine arts. The center is also home to the island’s Dance Academy (ASTI), a tertiary level Conservatory, Dance and Drama School for traditional Balinese performing arts. The group will be shown the basic elements of Balinese dance, demonstrated by the students and by the Institute’s renowned director and will enjoy the chance to practice themselves.

Before lunch meet with staff from PanenID which seeks to directly connect farmers to their end users. PanenID began operations in June 2016 and is efficiently delivering agriculture products to hotels and restaurants using supply chain management.

After lunch in town drive along the southern tip of Bali to Uluwatu Temple. One hundred meters from the sea level, the temple balances picturesquely on the cliff’s edge. Dating from the 10th century, it is one of the six temples of the world, revered by all Balinese. The temple is very well restored and there are some fine carvings, including a pair of splendid Ganeshas. It is really the temple’s location that makes it so special. The views up and down the rocky coast are spectacular, with the distant sounds of the sea far below and the scent of the frangipani blossom, mixed with the warm salt air. The group’s visit has been timed in order to see the incredible sunset view that Uluwatu Temple is equally famous for. Also, an enchanting Kecak (“monkey dance”) dance is held nightly, during sunset.

At the end of the afternoon check into the Kuta Seaview Boutique Resort and Spa set amongst tropical gardens with 88 comfortable guest rooms furnished in contemporary Balinese architecture.

Dinner at leisure.
September 15: Saturday. Kuta.  

B,L

This morning drive to the Pasar Kuta Bahru market to learn about the many Indonesian fruits and vegetables which are used in Indonesian cooking. After making purchases return to a home to prepare five Indonesian dishes including Fish Pepes (fish wrapped in banana leaves and then steamed) and Chicken sate with peanut sauce.

After enjoying a freshly prepared lunch meet with staff from Walhisimilan, a conservation group campaigning for the environment. For years Bali the pearl among the Sunda Islands, has been touted as an earthly paradise, thanks to the its tropical landscapes, its white sandy beaches, the beauty of its Hindu temples and its inhabitants' reputation for kindness and tolerance. But this idyllic spot may soon be a thing of the past, with the threat of Bali – population 3.5 million – changing beyond recognition, a prey to the accumulated effects of mass tourism, unbridled consumption of resources and environmental collapse. Be part of a discussion about what can be done to ensure that tourism benefits the local population and not just a small group of politicians and developers. Authorities have introduced environmental legislation including provisions making it compulsory for resorts to be set back at least 150 meters from beaches, with no hotels being built within five kilometers of Hindu temples. However, so far this initiative has made little difference. Efforts to decentralize government in Indonesia – a patchwork of 17,000 islands with a population of 240 million – have given a disproportionate share of power to the bupati (elected high sheriffs). The bupati are not in favor of the new law.

Evening departure for a wonderful Balinese dinner and traditional performances at Kerambitan Palace. Puri Anyar Kerambitan is a royal Balinese compound located in the village of Kerambitan. The Puri Anyar Kerambitan dates back to the era of Balinese Rajas, when a Prince from Tabanan built a new palace in Kerambitan. Puri Anyar means “New Palace.” Although the palace itself dates back to the 17th century, it has recently been restored. Puri Kerambitan covers an area of one and a half hectares and consists of ten pelebahan or courts, where five brothers and their families live. The head of the family, Anak Agung Ngurah Oka Silagunadha, represents the ninth generation.

Upon arrival at Kerambitan Palace, the group will be welcomed by torch bearers lining the path that leads to the entrance of the Puri (a Balinese tradition), followed by a welcome dance. The group will then enter the middle court of the Puri, where a typical welcome drink and Balinese foods will be served. After dinner, a performance of the Joged Bungbung Dance will be held. A performance of magical Tektekan dance, which originates from Kerambitan village, concludes the program.

September 16: Sunday.  

B,L,D.

Return home early afternoon arriving back the same day.

Trip Price based on
20-24 paying travelers: $2,880
Single room supplement: $580

Includes
1. Accommodation as listed in the itinerary based on double occupancy
2. The following flights
   Denpasar/Yogyakarta/Denpasar
3. All meals as listed in the program. One drink is included with lunch and one with dinner. This can be a bottle of water, a soda or beer
4. All sightseeing listed in private, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
5. All special events listed
6. Services of a local Indonesian guide
7. Services of a Distant Horizons escort
8. All gratuities

**Does Not Include**
1. Airfare into and back from Bali
2. Visa and passport fees
3. Drinks with meals other than 1 drink
4. Any item not specifically listed