



Welcome , Om Swastiyastu

I hope you have the most wonderful holiday in Bali and find Villa Nilaya a haven of peace and tranquility. Please let us know if we can do anything to make your stay more comfortable or interesting.

HERE ARE SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING VILLA NILAYA BALI

Check-in time is 2 pm

Check-out time is 12 pm

A late checkout may be possible if there are no follow-on guests, *so please check with us.*

OUR VILLAGE OF MENDIRA

Is a small village, very quiet, which for the last 2 years has been runner-up in the Bali Clean Green Competition to keep villages clean, tidy and environmentally friendly. You will not find any litter in the village, and you will find rubbish bins which are regularly collected. The village is friendly but people here respect your privacy. They are not trying to sell you things, tours, sunglasses ... they have their work as fisherfolk, taxi drivers and rice farmers and some professionals. They will leave you to enjoy your holiday in peace!

Within minutes of the villa you will find yourself amongst green padi (rice) fields, spectacular mountain ridges, turquoise waters, temples, quality restaurants and many possibilities to see authentic Balinese life.

HERE IS INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIP BETWEEN AIRPORT AND VILLA

Google map link : <https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Villa+Nilaya/@-8.5053799,115.5472291,15z/data=!4m8!3m7!1s0x0:0x318410ad58af8310!5m2!4m1!1i2!8m2!3d-8.5053799!4d115.5472291>

IF YOU ARE ARRIVING WITHOUT A TAXI COLLECTION ORGANISED BY US

AS YOU APPROACH CANDI DASA, A LARGE SIGN BOARD ON THE ROAD INDICATES THE TURN OFF TO OUR VILLAGE OF SENGKIDU on MENDIRA BEACH about 4 KM before Candi Dasa if you are approaching from Padang Bai. Once you turn in, take the road that runs to the right of the volleyball court and continue through the village and follow the signs to Villa Nilaya. It is a couple of kilometers and you don't turn off until the sign at the end which directs you along a short dirt track to the left.

IF WE HAVE ORGANISED A TAXI COLLECTION FOR YOU

Airport-Villa by car is 90-mins to 2 hours depending on the time of day/traffic. You will be met by our driver bearing a VILLA NILAYA sign with your name on it as you exit the arrivals hall of the airport.

A cool towel and water is awaiting you if you order your taxi through the villa.

You can stop on the way for food or buying supplies (recommend CARREFOUR in KUTA as one-stop shops for most requirements).

THE DENPASAR AIRPORT can be very crowded with multiple flights arriving simultaneously, so finding your driver can be a bit confronting as you exit the Arrivals lounge. Our driver will always be carrying a name

plate with VILLA NILAYA on it, and your name. If you don't find him as you immediately step out into the exit area, then keep walking to your left and go round the corner, there are more drivers there.

If you can't see your driver, don't panic. If you have really had a good look and can't find him, then you can ask at the information counter which is a free-standing counter in the arrivals exit area. They will page 'VILLA NILAYA DRIVER', but this is a highly unlikely scenario.

If you are still unable to find the driver, please call the Villa Manager: +62 821 4692 8995 (Annisa) or +62 831 1997 6321 (Pak Wayan). If you have any difficulty speaking or making yourself understood, please ask a local Balinese person at the Airport Help Desk to assist you in speaking with our staff.

Cost of taxi collection?

Rp 450,000 if you order through the villa. The driver is English speaking / conversant, from the village and this means you won't have any problems arriving at your destination.

If you order a taxi at the airport it is likely they will not be too familiar with the exact whereabouts of the villa, and it may take extra time to reach us. Airport drivers are not controlled prices and you will probably end up paying too much. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ADVISE YOUR TIME OF ARRIVAL TO US AND WE BOOK A TAXI FOR YOU FROM OUR VILLAGE. You can pay for the taxi when you check-out of the villa. PLEASE DO NOT PAY THE DRIVER DIRECTLY. This also saves you the issue of deciding to tip or not.

The smaller taxi will comfortably seat 3 persons, or 4 if you don't mind 3 along the back seat. A minibus MAY be available if you order a week in advance, otherwise it will be the normal SUVs.

You must give us at least 72 hours notice to arrange a taxi for you.

How long before an excursion from the villa would we need to request a car and driver?

You can request our staff to order a driver for you about an hour before your excursion. Our village's taxi co-operative operates on a scrupulously fair rotation system, and specific drivers are not able to be requested, EXCEPT that we can request the SAME driver who brought you to the villa from the airport. So if you liked that driver, you can tell our staff to try and request – but for this to work you should request the driver at least 48 hrs in advance. However, all of the village co-op drivers are well-presented, wear a uniform and abide by standards which are not required by independent owner-drivers from other areas.

Is there a price point for getting to and from various points of interest?

Yes, our village of Mendira operates a taxi co-operative, and prices are fixed.

We keep an official price list at the villa for you to consult. You can pay for all of your transport at the end of your stay at the villa if you organise it through the villa. The prices are the same as if you pay as you use.

Tipping the driver is up to you and has nothing to do with the villa, so if you wish to tip the driver, please do so at the end of your journey or at the end of your stay and tip the driver directly.

What is the price to hire a car and driver for the day?

It is currently Rp 800,000.000 per day (8 hrs) for a 4-6 seater vehicle (SUV type) from our local taxi co-op. This may not be the same for other taxi companies and we can not guarantee anything but the services and standards of our village taxi co-op.

VILLA BEDROOMS How are the bedrooms organised at the villa ? www.annakwiecinska.com for pictures

There are 3 bedrooms, each with own semi-open-to the garden bathroom. The two upstairs bedrooms are ceiling fan-cooled, with lockable louvred doors (and sliding glass doors) to maximise ventilation. These bedrooms have open ceilings, meaning that they are really well ventilated and open to the soaring thatched roof.

One has a king size bed, the other has two king singles which can be a King size bed if requested. In addition, we have a Chinese canopied day bed which sleeps one, a hanging suspension bed which can sleep one and a sofa which can also accommodate another person, so the villa can accommodate up to 6 people in bedrooms and there is extra sleeping space for 3 people.

The downstairs bedroom has a king size bed and has a closed ceiling, a ceiling fan and louvred doors. It also has sliding glass doors and an air conditioner. It is really beautiful to sleep with the glass doors open and allow the sound of the sea into your room at night We do not have a problem with mosquitoes, but all beds have mosquito nets which the staff prepare each evening. We regularly fog the property.

All rooms have soft light table lamps, as well as LED reading lamps installed on the bed for private reading.

Can we get a meal at the villa when we arrive?

YES, we can organise a meal for you on arrival up to 10 pm. But you must let us know 48 hours in advance. If you arrive later than this we can arrange to prepare some cut fruit and it will be served to you on arrival.

Is there a chef at the villa?

YES, Ketut is our chef, trained by our executive Chef Pak Dewa Ardika, and her assistant Ngah has also spent a long time working in Candi Dasa restaurants, so you will be well looked after. It is worth noting that *never* in 9 years of receiving guests has there been even one case of 'Bali belly' from food prepared at the villa. We caution you to be very careful of where you choose to eat and strongly discourage seaside cafes ((for example, on the White Sand Beach). We can always prepare a picnic for you if you go to the beach for the day.

Does the chef cost extra?

No. Ketut (female) is a full -time employee at the Villa. You only pay for meals that you order from our extensive menu, which is available, in advance, on request. All food can be spiced according to your taste.

What about if we have special dietary requirements?

YES, Please advise us of any dietary requirements. These WILL be passed onto the manager **but you must tell the staff of your food allergies when you arrive, even if you have advised Anna at the time of booking, because the staff can forget!**

Do we have to order drinks from the menu - or can we simply grab drinks from the fridge?

There is a bar fridge in the villa with soft drinks and beers, but we have fruit juices/tea/Bali coffee/ and a wide selection of wines all available to order at very reasonable prices. You can also order wines ahead of your stay so that they are waiting for you. A wine list is available.

When are the staff present in the villa?

Our staff clean in the morning (bedrooms, bathrooms, living areas sweeping and pool cleaning), prepare your breakfast and take your lunch/spa orders.

They then confine themselves to the kitchen if you have ordered food. They exit as soon as possible. If you don't want them there at all, please just let them know. No offence is taken.

In the later afternoon the garden must be watered, and there is a bed turn-down service at sunset.

Afternoon tea is served about 3-3.30 pm, if you wish, or you can cancel if you don't wish to be disturbed.

There is 24/7 security outside the villa and there is always a staff person present for your requirements.

At all times your privacy is respected, and if you don't want the staff there at all, again, just let us know.

If you do not wish to be disturbed at all you can lock the front gate. When the gate is locked, staff cannot access the villa, so this means that if you lock the gate at night, no one can come to prepare your breakfast until you unlock the gate in the morning, clean pool etc.

You will be supplied with a mobile phone with which you can speed dial the staff.

Security

The villa is always staffed 24/7. KADEK and WAYAN maintain the security from 7 pm to 7 am and speak good English. During the daytime the villa is always staffed.

FOOD!

Balinese food is delicious. Zesty, complex, clean flavours, not necessarily very spicy, lots of seafood, perfect for vegetarians, and if you are a lover of pork, the Balinese specialise in its preparation as it is the ceremonial dish of choice.



The one signature flavour of Bali ? Satay sauce – a fragrant, thick, rich dipping sauce made with ground peanuts (or cashews if you are allergic to peanuts), lemon grass, galangal, shallot, spices, zesty Bali limes and a little chilli, and other ingredients combine to make the most mouth-watering accompaniment to grilled meat, fish or chicken, and is the indispensable ingredient on *cap cay* (pronounced ‘chap chay’), a vegetarian option with steamed sprouts, vegetables, and tofu.

Our chef Ketut has been with us since Day 1. I’d be lost without her! She makes *the* most delicious satay sauce – for me it’s a food group in its own right, and if you wish, you can even take a cooking lesson to learn the secrets to making it yourself at home (we’ll give you all our secret recipes), and prepare an entire Balinese multi-course meal with our executive chef Pak Dewa Ardika.

PERSONALISED AND HANDS ON COOKING LESSON WITH OUR EXECUTIVE CHEF

Everyone loves Pak Dewa, he’s such a natural - full of stories and tips and jokes. You can choose what kind of food you’d like to prepare and cook and eat, or check our menus for suggestions,

including :

8- course Balinese *megibung* Cooking lesson with our executive chef

2- course Balinese specialty cooking ‘n’ cocktail with our Villa Chef

Candi Dasa is a smallish seaside resort town with restaurants, shops selling souvenirs, clothing, toys etc , ATMs, convenience stores, diving outfits, an antiques dealer in furniture and artifacts (many of the items in the villa are sourced from here).

The restaurants range from those featuring traditional Balinese fare, to Mexican food, a pizzeria, etc.

Nearby Restaurants I Recommend

VINCENT’S in Candi Dasa – High class International and Balinese menu in a pretty garden setting with live jazz on Thursday nights. A fabulous bar with great cocktails, wine cooler room for its really good wine selection, stylish setting and elegant, laid back vibe any night of the week. Food is beautifully presented and served. Amazing desserts.

ALILA MANGGIS RESORT RESTAURANT - upmarket, excellent cuisine

Nouveau-Balinese cuisine, international favourites in the elegant seaside dining pavilion within the hotel grounds. Quiet, sophisticated, beautiful service.

Both of these venues have good wine lists and will collect you and bring you back to the villa, but you need to ask the staff to book your transport early in the day, otherwise you might need to get a private taxi (about Rp 25,000 both destinations, one way

THE WATER GARDEN RESTAURANT in CANDI DASA (steaks, seafood, mexican, salads)

THE DINING ROOM PIZZERIA , LOAF CAFÉ AND BAKERY (great coffee and cakes)

There are also small local restaurants, called 'warungs' within easy walking distance of the villa, in the village of Mendira, where we are located – about a 5-10 minute walk will take you to a choice of 5 or 6 local restaurants and in Candi Dasa, you will find many.

Restaurants in our village of Mendira – prices here are around the same as the food at Villa Nilaya

PADANG KECAG , AMARTA plus 5-star CANDI RESORT HOTEL (3 restaurants) Plus other smaller warungs

ACTIVITIES AND PLACES OF INTEREST AROUND VILLA NILAYA IN EAST BALI

What about activities – what is there to do in this part of Bali?

East Bali is a more authentic part of the island than the busy, touristed parts nearer the airport Kuta, Legian, Seminyak, Jimbaran, and Canggu. You can expect that finding adventurous and authentic activities is easier and less crowded than in these other areas and the journey to them is spectacular.

SNORKELING

There is really excellent snorkeling right in front of the villa. You step through the gate on the seadeck, walk five steps down the steps to the shore and you're there! (the picture below shows the sea approach to Nilaya)

We have one set of fins/goggles available (size 39), and if you want other sizes you they can be hired for little cost – just ask our staff to organise this for you once you arrive.

Our guest who spent 2 months here during COVID simply said of the snorkelling: *"Amazing. Simply amazing"*

A great day trip is to drive to Amed for a day's snorkeling amongst the dive wrecks at **Tulamben and Amed**. The wrecks are within 45 m of the shore and accessible to snorkelers as well as making a great dive spot – facilities and guides for all levels are available there. No need to book ahead unless you want lessons. It's a good idea to start early in the morning as it can get windy in the afternoon.





BOATING – in a local JUKUNG

It's fun to hire a local fishing boat for a half day, a day or a short trip. The boat will come right to the shore to pick you up and skim across the lagoon until it finds a channel to take you beyond the reef. The body of water in our region is a marine reserve. The photos above are the jukungs pulling up to our beach at Villa Nilaya.

Heading Westwards

Towards the famous '*Blue Lagoon*', snorkelling and cove exploring awaits you.

Heading Eastwards

Towards the small islands off Candi Dasa, where you can look back towards the island and be simply amazed at the dramatic backdrop to our area.

If you travel a bit further east you'll come to the White Sand Beach - *Pasir Putih* (below) – with its colourful ambience, good surf for body surfing, and lovely clear turquoise waters. 25 minute's away by local boat, once you've pulled onto the shore (or, as I like to do, dive off the boat and swim to shore). You can relax, beachwalk, swim and even shop in the local beach boutiques. It's very low-key, just take a little money with you for a sarong or a shirt or dress. You can get a cold drink, coconut or Balinese coffee, and food is available, although we strongly recommend that you do not eat food from the restaurants on the beach here. Better to organise a picnic from the villa. If you wish for one of our staff to accompany you on the boat, that's fine, and they can set everything up for you and then meet you when you're ready to leave.



Heading Southwards

You can also take a slightly larger boat directly across from the villa to the islands of Nusa Lembongan or Nusa Penida, with deeper water snorkeling, and a stunning area of mangrove canopied canals. This is a great day trip – you can laze on the beach and enjoy grilled fish (safe), hire a bicycle and go exploring, or even hire a car and look farther afield ... in fact we have a special day trip called ‘Day in Paradise’ which will put all of these activities together for you according to your interests, fitness level and taste.

Our staff can organise for a small boat to come right to the sea deck to collect you (for White sand beach)
Costs: 2 persons - Rp 700,000 / 4 persons - Rp 800,000 / 6 persons - Rp 900,000 (bigger boats costs vary

This cost includes the fee we pay at the beach for the services of the local boatmen to bring your boat to shore and assist with pushing off afterwards.

You can hire a deck chair and umbrella at the beach - many places to choose from - prices will vary – you can bargain and get it for about 2/3 of what they ask.

SAFETY IS ALWAYS OUR FIRST CONCERN

We highly recommend that you only go with guides who are known to us and whom we recommend. Boats must have safety equipment on board (which is in good condition and easily accessible, and it is recommended that you always wear a life vest if you are in the boats).

SCUBA DIVING and DEEP WATER ADVENTURES

The scuba diving is amazing and there are many many dive outfits in Bali. However you are strongly advised to check out anyone for their safety record, the dive master and their boats.

We recommend GEGO DIVE in PADANG BAI, a 20-minute drive away from Villa Nilaya. Their French dive

master, Cedric Saveuse has been operating here for 22 years and they have their own boats. A separate listing of their offerings is available from us, please enquire. You are guaranteed of excellent door-to-door service.

WHITE WATER RIVER RAFTING

One of the great joys of East Bali is its abundant natural beauty, its unspoilt vistas, its quiet resting in Nature. There are two great rivers the Agung, near Ubud, and the Telawaja, in East Bali. Both offer rafting. My favourite is on the Telawaja, below, which its incredibly beautiful course through deep ravines and barely-populated areas. It is 14 kilometres of continuous white water and lots of fun.

You can organise it yourself by taking a driver and simply turning up at one of the start points, or you can go with our trekking guide and make a day of it by exploring the regions in the area, having lunch and stopping along the way for closer looks at panoramic vistas and village visits.



TREKKING

East Bali is the region of amazing scenery, and our trekking and outdoor specialist is recommended for both adventure and cultural tours

Our trusted guide is the man the Balinese Authorities call when people get lost in the mountains. He is a trusted guide who always puts safety first. He is also the son of a priest and comes from a family of traditional healers, born on the slopes of Kintamani. These elements are an integral part of his persona and add a very special dimension to any time you spend together.



White water rafting on the Telawaja River is a spectacular experience – and the water is warm!

I can personally recommend many of these journeys including (the photos from my journey in 2019)

A Spiritual Journey to the Source of Springs with mediation inside a lava tube (right photo) and special Hindu blessing ceremony at the sacred source of springs (left). This curated journey is with our trekking guide



www.annakwiecinska.com

What an incredible day! You can read about this in my blog entitled ' Bali's Spiritual Landscape'.

A Boat Journey to the Bali Aga Village of Trugnan

Bali's 3 'Aga' villages (there are only 3 on the island), are the only villages where pre-Hindu practices are part of everyday life. Traditionally they have remained cut-off from the rest of the island, and Trugnan was known for its most secretive nature however in only very recent times the need for education has borne changes which now allow us to visit the village, albeit under special guidance. The journey across the lake to the distant vilage was one of the most poignant experiences I've ever had in Bali. Here, the traditional rites of creamation are eschewed for a unique practive of laying out the white cloth -wrapped body beneath sacred trees.I have actually witnessed such a ceremony and it remains a strong memory of traditional life enacted in timeless ways.

It is not easy to access Trugnan and access may not always be possible. If you are interested in his journey, please enquire ahead of time, again this is with our trekking guide who will take all the permissions.

Other activities with our trusted associates (I only recommend trips I have personally done with professionals I know and trust)

Trekking in the Tengen Ridge (you can do this with our staff Kadek and manager Wayan).

The walk will take you from the rice fields of Bug Bug behind the ridge, up through ancient stone steps inside a stunning jungle and towards the ridge from which incredible views across the valleys of Tengenan and towards the islands on the southern horizon. *Stunning!*

You'll stop for morning tea at the home of our staff member Kadek, (our staff will prepare a picnic and carry it for you), where you'll have an intimate access to village life in the mountains from a traditional rice farming family and appreciate the difficult life they must negotiate between modernity and Nature.

Below : Trugnan is a secretive Bali Aga village located at the far end of this volcanic lake. On a special journey to visit the village, you will cross this lake by canoe, but only by prior arrangement with the village elders. You'll then be rowed back to enjoy lunch on a floating restaurant here.



ATV cycling along beautiful river gorges until you reach the Seashore at Kusamba .

all equipment will be supplied including all the safety equipment required to make this wonderful day an adventure to remember.

Bicycling tour – all downhill – from Kintamani through Bangli village - - LOVE this adventure!, have lunch along the way and experience local village life as you wander through padi fields, small villages and dramatic hillside views.

Aside from these adventures there are several high quality ‘theme’ parks for natural and cultural learning which I highly recommend.

TRADITIONAL HAND-MADE TEXTILES

Bali has a strong textile tradition, and some unique aspects to its practices. If you are interested in beautiful hand-made textiles, then central and east Bali is a heavenly destination. Please let me know if you'd like me to send you more specific details about this (I'm an avid collector, and love sharing this passion).

You will notice that when Balinese people go to the temples or ceremonies they will always wear a cloth tied around their hips. This is mandatory and a sign of respect, and one which you should also observe if you go into temples or religious compounds. It's handy to keep one with you - ask our staff to loan you one if you don't have it.



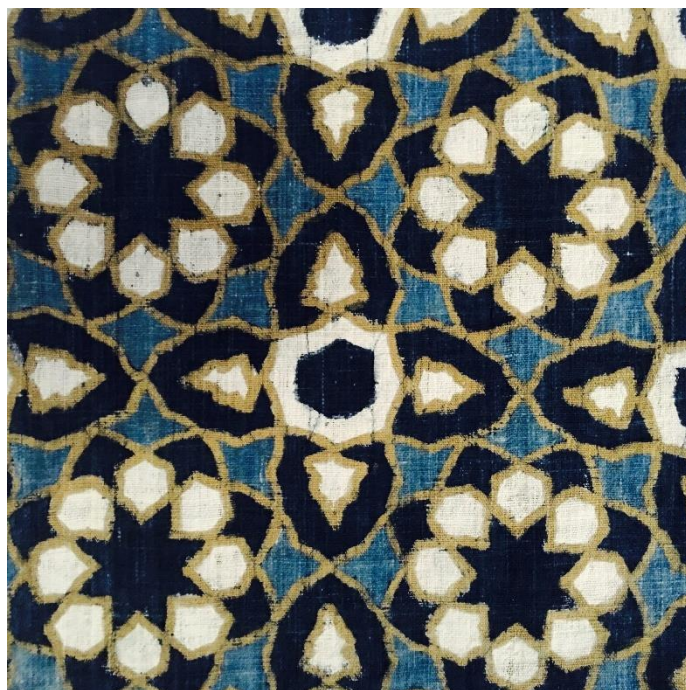
East Bali is home to *Bali Aga* villages ... those whose history predates the Majapahit Hindu civilization, and they are indeed incredibly fascinating – one is nearby to us in Tengenan. There are 2 Tengenan villages – East and West – the East being older and steeped in extraordinary history, but the Western Village (for they both straddle opposite sides of a river), is picturesque and very welcoming. A small donation (Rp 20 or so), is requested as an entrance fee and usually someone from the village will greet you and walk you around. You can visit Tengenan on your own by requesting a local taxi to pick you up and wait for you. A local Tengenan man will then meet you at the ticket office and take you around the village (no tip is necessary, but always appreciated) so that you can fully understand the significance of this special region.

IKAT WEAVING – near our village. World-renowned, and absolutely unique double ikat weaves are produced in Tengenan (as seen worn by the ladies in the photo above)

If you love textiles then this is the right place. Tengenan Ikats are collected world-wide and the historic pieces are worth any amount of money - you can ask the Guide to explain to you the history behind the importance of these cloths. Both villages have shops where you can look for textiles and woven fibre objects, baskets, bags etc, but you'll be able to see the weaving on looms inside individual homes.

Most homes will have at least one loom, because the weaving and wearing of double ikat is a spiritual activity and the cloths have a religious significance, and the most important piece is that one worn around the hips of both men and women.

BATIKS – the traditional batiks of narrative, floral and intricate designs so prized amongst collectors are made in both Java and Bali. However, I can recommend a small, out-of-the-way studio where natural indigo-dyed batiks are created by a master designer. Not generally open to the public, please enquire if you'd like further details. Many of the materials in Villa Nilaya have been sourced here.



Above: two examples of natural indigo-dyed batiks. Indigo is derived from the leaf of a native plant.

OUR OWN VILLAGE OF MENDIRA

Is a small village, very quiet, which for the last 2 years has been runner-up in the Bali Clean Green Competition to keep villages today and environmentally friendly. You will but find any litter in the village, and you will find rubbish bins which are regularly collected. The village is friendly but people here respect your privacy. They are not trying to sell you things, tours, sunglasses ... they have their work as fisherfolk, taxi drivers and rice farmers and some professionals. They will leave you to enjoy your holiday in peace!

Within minutes of the villa you will find yourself amongst green padi (rice) fields, spectacular mountain



ridges, rivers, waterfalls, temples, and turquoise waters.

You don't need to go far to discover these elements of traditional Balinese life and enrich your understanding of the culture.

Even in our village, you can witness ceremonies at the beautiful seaside temple and the forest temple, and there are sometimes cremation ceremonies within the forest clearing of our village. Cremations are very



expensive, and it is not uncommon for the body to be kept buried until such times that the family can afford the cremation ceremony with all of its lavish food, blessings and days of chanting by a priest hired for the purpose. Some villages will organize a mass cremation ceremony over several days to alleviate the enormous person I burden of bidding the ancestors farewell. In our village of Mendira, this happened last time in July 2018 in a forest clearing neat the villa.

OUR STAFF

PAK WAYAN -- a man of few words, but he understands you and just keeps a low profile. He is our general fix-it man if something is not working. He can also organize taxis for you.

KADEK our younger security man who used to work in the villa itself, so he is familiar with everything, is very chatty, likes to joke.

KETUT is our chef and a lovely woman for whom nothing is too much trouble. She is also a trained and experienced masseuse and has a strong touch which is deeply restorative. You can book massages with her, and the best time to do this in late morning, after lunch or late afternoon.

You can also request a 'couples massage' with Annisa, the lady who looks after our guest relations, and whose day job is as a spa trainer and manager. You can also request manicures, pedicures and facials with her.

NGAH is also a cook and looks after the villa interior, so if something is not working, or you need help just ask here and she will help you

ANNISA is our roving guest manager who comes to visit our guests to make sure that you are comfortable, answer any questions and arrange activities and spa sessions - she is also a wonderful spa therapist, including manicures, pedicures, and facials.

This is just the beginning ... so if there's something you're dreaming of, wondering about, or just a bit curious about, please ask. Don't forget we can organise a private yoga instructor for you too.



I designed Villa Nilaya with only pleasure in mind.
I truly hope you find that here, and wish you a wonderful stay with us
and a unique experience of beautiful East Bali



