

Nyepi, A Uniqueness You Can Only Experience In Bali

Nyepi or Day of Silent is the Balinese Hindu New Year. Nyepi is calculated according to the Çaka lunar calendar and falls at the time of the new moon in the months of March or April each year. This year, Nyepi falls on March 28th 2017.

The celebration of Nyepi Day starts with Melasti ceremony which is held 3 or 4 days before Nyepi Day. This ceremony is aimed to clean all nature and its content and performed with a parade procession followed by thousands of Hindu people by bringing all sacred objects. The day before Nyepi Day, Tawur Kesanga is performed in order to vanquish negative elements and create a balance with God, Mankind, and Nature. In the evening, the Balinese parade the streets with the ogoh-ogohs; a giant monster doll in the form of demon characters as symbol of evil (bhuta).

During the Nyepi Day, the four rules called *Catur Brata Penyepian* which consists of *Amati Lelungan* (no travelling), *Amati Geni* (no fire or lights), *Amati Karya* (no work or physical activities) and *Amati Lelanguan* (no making noise) will be implemented. The Island literally switches off, airport closed, roads empty, within the environs of a hotel one can still get those not to be missed home comforts, like food and liquids, but in a quiet often behind closed doors without light shining out to the outside world. Therefore, experiencing Nyepi day is a good way to retreat from the hectic world. (smy/sh)