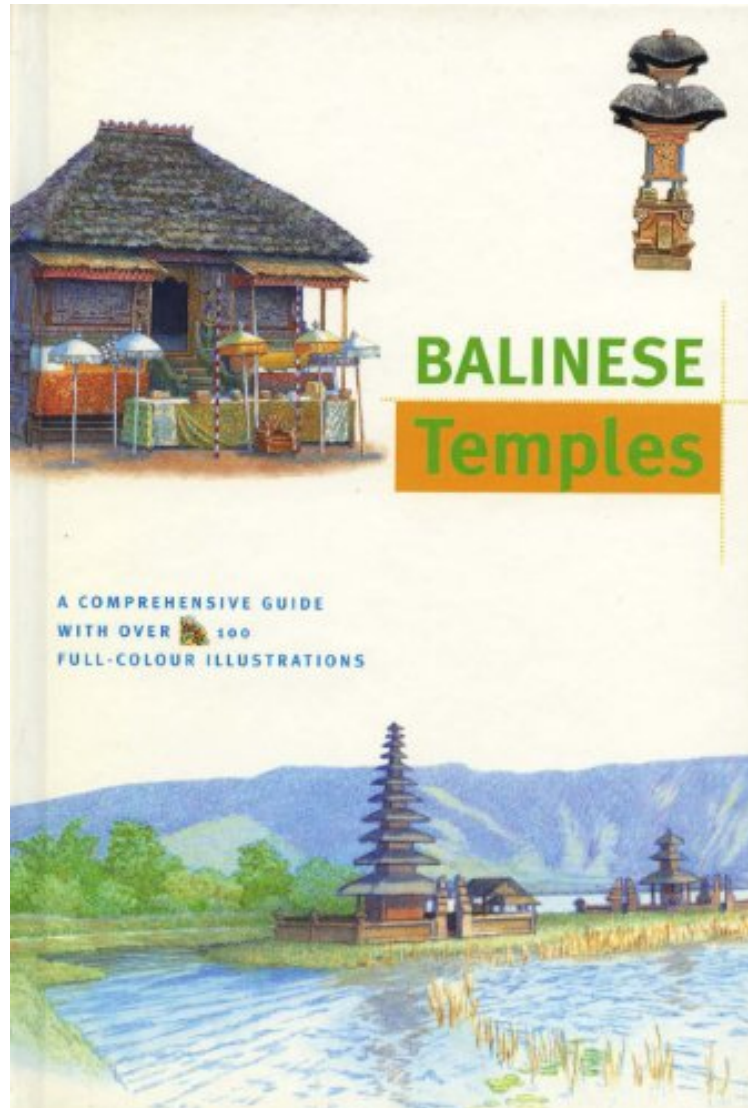


## Balinese Temples

*Julian Davison, Bruce Granquist*  
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**Julian Davison, Bruce Granquist : Balinese Temples** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Balinese Temples:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Substantial Introduction to Balinese Temples By silkscream This small and inexpensive book packs with it a tremendous amount of information about Balinese Temples. The author starts by introducing the concept of Hinduism and Buddhism in Bali, as well as religious life in this island east of Java. He then proceeds to discuss general elements of the temples, such as: structures, functions, styles, and types. Along the way, he packs in many examples of those elements (in text and in images), and explains well each new term that the readers encounter. The illustrations are well thought of and done. The lay-out of the book assists the readers in

navigating through the sea of information. Captions, side-bars and placement of graphics work very well. One thing that is missing from this book is the floor plan(s) of the temples. While this book does not profess to be an in-depth study on architecture, it will be useful to include simple floor-plan(s). Almost toward the end, the author puts in a chapter on the kingdom of Majapahit of East Java, the influence of which is apparent in Balinese art and architecture. Somehow I wonder if this chapter would be better off placed toward the beginning of the book, since it would better explain the spread of the religion, as well as the style of architecture from Java, Bali's neighboring island. This book is part of a series in Periplus' "Discover Indonesia." Check out the two other titles already available at .com: Balinese Architecture (ISBN 962-593-194-5,) by Davison and Granquist (the same team that writes the Balinese Temples), and The Mysteries of Borobudur (ISBN 962-593-198-8) by Miksic, Marcello and Trachini.

The rich religious tradition and architecture of Bali are on display in this informative guidebook. Bali is an island with literally tens of thousands of temples, a proliferation of religious architecture probably not equaled anywhere else in the world. Each temple is like a model of the universe in miniature, reflecting Balinese assumptions about the nature of the universe and man's place in relation to the gods, the ancestors, and the rest of creation. This book is intended as a general introduction to the architectural symbolism of the typical Balinese temple and the cosmological significance of its layout. The informative text is complemented by dozens of watercolor illustrations and will provide a useful guide to many of the temples that the reader is likely to visit during a stay on the island.