

Optional Tour: Half Day Trip to 'Tirta Empul' (The Sacred Water Temple)
Date: Sunday, 10th July 2016
Cost: \$80.00

The sacred spring that feeds Tirta Empul provides holy water for priests and bathing for ordinary Balinese, who believe that a dip hereabouts can bring good fortune and health. An offering must first be made at the temple before you can climb into the long main pool to bathe and meditate.

Legend has it that the god Indra created the spring Tampaksiring (namesake of the nearby town) as an antidote to a poisonous spring created by an evil demon king. In reality, Tirta Empul was built in 926 AD approximately, during the Balinese Warmadewa dynasty. A villa complex nearby houses government VIPs; it was originally constructed for former President Sukarno in the 1950s.

With any temples in Bali, shoulders and legs need to be covered and menstruating women are not allowed in the main temple area. You will be directed through some Balinese markets upon exiting the temple where you can purchase local arts, crafts and clothing. This temple provides excellent photographic opportunities, so don't forget your camera!

