

WHV– Borobudur Temple Compounds

Borobudur Temple Compounds, Indonesia

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1991

27/08/2016 – 09/09/2016



The Borobudur Temple Compounds is one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world, and was built in the 8th and 9th centuries AD during the reign of the Syailendra Dynasty. The monument is located in the Kedu Valley, in the southern part of Central Java, at the centre of the island of Java, Indonesia. The main temple is a stupa built in three tiers around a hill which was a natural centre: a pyramidal base with five concentric square terraces, the trunk of a cone with three circular platforms and, at the top, a monumental stupa. The walls and balustrades are decorated with fine low reliefs, covering a total surface area of 2,520 m². Around the circular platforms are 72 openwork stupas, each containing a statue of the Buddha. The vertical division of Borobudur Temple into base, body, and superstructure perfectly accords with the conception of the Universe in Buddhist cosmology.



Project objectives: The project, running every year since the beginning of the World Heritage Volunteers initiative in 2008, is now enlarging its scope aiming at a wider outreach and involvement of local communities, targeting in particular young people and their active participation in preserving the environment of the Temple Compounds, heavily threatened by mass tourism with over 100,00 tourists visiting the site every week.

Project activities: The volunteers will implement a heritage awareness-raising campaign at three different sites within the inscribed property (Borobudur, Mendut and Pawon temples), where they will also participate in hands-on cleaning activities to prevent moss from damaging the ancient stones. They will also specifically target youth heritage training in different local communities, supporting in particular the development of their artistic and handcrafting skills and their importance in terms of the immaterial heritage related to the site.

Partners: Borobudur Conservation Office, PT. Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, and UNESCO Gallery/Jakarta.

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