

WHV – Prambanan Temple Compounds

Prambanan Temple Compounds, Indonesia

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1991

25/07/2016 – 05/08/2016



Built in the 10th century, it is the largest temple compound dedicated to Shiva in Indonesia. Rising above the centre of the last of these concentric squares are three temples decorated with reliefs illustrating the epic of the Ramayana, dedicated to the three great Hindu divinities (Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma) and three temples dedicated to the animals who serve them. While Loro Jonggrang, dating from the 9th century, is a brilliant example of Hindu religious bas-reliefs, Sewu, with its four pairs of Dwarapala giant statues, is Indonesia's largest Buddhist complex including the temples of Lumbung, Bubrah and Asu (Gana temple). The Hindu temples are



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decorated with reliefs illustrating the Indonesian version of the Ramayana epic which are masterpieces of stone carvings. These are surrounded by hundreds of shrines that have been arranged in three parts showing high levels of stone building technology and architecture from the 8th century AD in Java. With over 500 temples, Prambanan Temple Compounds represents not only an architectural and cultural treasure, but also a standing proof of past religious peaceful cohabitation.

Project objectives: The project, one of the longest running camps in the World Heritage Volunteers initiative, has a strong focus on restoration, an important step to rebuild the temple and reveal its history. Additional supporting activities such as teaching and a heritage competition will help reaching the overall objectives of: introducing to the history of temple and its legends; advancing the restoration process; promoting heritage education; raising awareness among the local and international volunteers and communities and promoting cultural exchange.

Project activities: The volunteers will participate actively in the preservation and conservation activities at the temple. They will learn to use different techniques and tools and will work in teams to locate the stones (several buildings having been highly

damaged by the 2006 earthquake), clean them and assemble them, together with the expert archaeologists in charge of the restoration work. They will also conduct educational activities on the theme of heritage, targeting the students at the school nearby the site, and organise a heritage event consisting in a photo contest and exhibition.

Partners: Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, UNESCO Office Jakarta, Central Java Archeological Site Management, SD Kokosan 2 (Elementary School), SD Bugisan Lor (Elementary School), SD Sanggrahan (Elementary School), and MTs Prambanan (Junior High School).