



In Harmony with Earth: The Intaaya Sustainability Lecture

Intaaya: The Spirit of Sustainability.

At Intaaya, sustainability is not a feature. It is the foundation of our philosophy. From the first sketch to the final stone, sustainability has guided every decision. We see our role not as owners of the land but as stewards.

Our mission is to offer transformative experiences without extracting from the Earth. Each structure, system, and gesture is part of a wider narrative, one that respects nature, uplifts local culture, and offers guests a chance to realign with natural rhythms.

In a world accelerating toward excess, Intaaya invites deceleration. Here, sustainability is not marketed. It is lived. It shapes how we build, grow, host, and even breathe. Through mindful design, conscious resource use, and deep reverence for the local ecology, we are creating a space that heals both people and the planet. More than a retreat, Intaaya is an invitation to return to right relationship with the land, with others, and with oneself. This ethos touches everything, the architecture that hugs the cliffside, the energy systems powered by the sun, the water drawn from air, the food grown on site, and the very soil that holds us. Our intention is to live in reciprocity, to give back more than we take, and to lead by example in regenerative living.

The commitment to sustainability at Intaaya is born from experience. Over the past decade in Bali we have witnessed rapid overdevelopment. Forests and rice terraces have been cleared, wildlife displaced, and rivers and beaches increasingly polluted with plastic. Many large construction projects have ignored the natural contours of the land, flattening ecosystems and erasing local heritage. At the same time, we have been inspired by the dedication of social businesses and community initiatives that clean rivers, conserve land, and promote conscious practices. Their work has shown us that change is possible, and it has shaped our determination to create a retreat that protects, restores, and celebrates its environment.

As the visionaries behind Intaaya, we are dedicated to integrating rigorous sustainable practices into every aspect of our design. Our sanctuary is more than just a space.

It is a model of environmental responsibility. Sustainability certification underscores our commitment to eco friendly practices and responsible design. By using locally sourced



materials, energy efficient technologies, and innovative methods, we ensure that Intaaya not only minimises its environmental impact but also sets a standard for enduring, harmonious living. This commitment to sustainability is at the core of our vision, reflecting our respect for nature and dedication to long term ecological balance.

We understand that sustainability does not end when construction is complete. It is the beginning of the most important stage. True sustainability means education, shared knowledge, and living practices that carry forward for generations. At Intaaya, this includes teaching about permaculture gardens, renewable energy, and the care of natural materials so they endure through time. This project is designed with a deep understanding of its diverse users. By considering the needs, interactions, and experiences of each group, the design fosters a balanced and inclusive environment. It respects and integrates local community knowledge while maintaining a sustainable and regenerative relationship with the land.

This holistic approach creates a space that is harmonious with its social context and rooted in the wisdom of the island itself.

Rooted in Community: Building with and for the Locals.

From the very beginning, Intaaya has been shaped by the hands and hearts of the local community. This retreat is not something we built and placed into the landscape. It is something we created together with those who know this land best.

The construction of Intaaya was a deeply collaborative process. Rather than bringing in external crews, we chose to work almost entirely with local builders, artisans, and craftspeople. The walls were shaped by men whose families have worked with earth and stone for generations. The bamboo structures were woven by hands that understand its language. The carved wood and joinery throughout the retreat carry the story of Balinese skill and patience.

This approach was never just about labor. It was about honouring knowledge, building trust, and investing in long term relationships. We did not simply hire workers. We built a team. And as construction gave way to daily operations, that collaboration only deepened.

Today, some of those who built Intaaya are part of our ongoing team. They care for the land, prepare meals in the kitchen, guide guests through their stay, and continue to help shape the future of the retreat. Beyond our own staff, we also support nearby families through economic



partnerships, local sourcing, and shared educational opportunities. From farming to maintenance to cultural storytelling, our model centres around empowerment and inclusion.

We believe that sustainability must begin with people. When the local community thrives, the land thrives. When knowledge is shared, resilience grows. Intaaya stands as a reflection of this shared effort, a place not only inspired by the island, but co created with its people.

This is more than collaboration. It is kinship. It is reciprocity. It is the belief that beauty is not just in what we build, but in how we build it together.

Design Philosophy: Architecture That Belongs.

At Intaaya, design begins with the understanding that we are not here to impose on the land but to live in relationship with it. Sustainability is not only about resources. It is about relationships, between people and place, between economy and ecology, between heritage and innovation. It shapes the way our team works together, how we treat our guests, how we support local livelihoods, and how the retreat remains healthy and self-sufficient for decades to come.

Every decision was made for this place, not for a template. The bamboo that shapes our roofs comes from Indonesian farms, the limestone was unearthed on site, the airflow patterns are mapped to Nusa Penida's seasonal winds. The contours of the cliff, the ocean winds, the rhythm of sun and rain all guided our hand. What we build here could not be the same anywhere else, it belongs only here.

Designing in the tropics offers a unique opportunity to dissolve the boundaries between indoor and outdoor space. Our approach draws on tropical architecture principles that invite the sun, wind, and rain to be part of the daily experience rather than obstacles to be shut out. Balinese culture has long embraced this openness, with homes and temples oriented to capture breezes, frame sacred views, and follow the path of light. At Intaaya, we studied these traditions carefully and wove them into every structure.

Our work draws on three kinds of technology. The first is ancient, built on vernacular knowledge and local tradition. We use Balinese bamboo joinery without nails or screws, limestone masonry shaped by hand, and passive cooling techniques perfected over generations. The second is innovative, bringing energy-efficient and regenerative solutions to the island. Solar-powered water-from-air systems, engineered bamboo grid-shells, and Waste Water Gardens that restore rather than pollute are part of our everyday function.



The third is digital, using advanced modelling to position every structure for airflow, light, and structural strength with precision.

Biomimicry is not only a source of form but a creator of solutions. We study how nature answers the same challenges we face, and apply those lessons directly. The yoga shala's manta ray form channels wind as much as it inspires the eye. The bamboo grid-shells, like the veins of a leaf, distribute weight with minimal material. Sea urchin inspired roof trusses span great distances lightly, reducing our need for concrete or steel. The self-ventilating principles of termite mounds inform our airflow systems, while rainwater harvesting surfaces take cues from the hydrophilic patterns of desert beetles. Nature's intelligence is visible in every curve, joint, and opening.

Listening to the land is as important to us as shaping it. Before breaking ground we observed how rain carved the soil, how morning winds rose from the ocean, how light shifted with the seasons. We noted where birds nested, where shade lingered, and where heat gathered. This knowledge, combined with community wisdom, became the blueprint for our architecture.

Intaaya is also a place where architecture is a teacher. Every system is visible, explained, and celebrated. Guests see the sculptural rainwater catchments, walk past solar canopies, and feel the cool airflow guided by natural ventilation. They witness how their water is made from air, how their waste nourishes gardens, and how spaces breathe without mechanical intervention. This transparency turns a stay into an education, one that guests can take home and adapt to their own lives.

Architecture here is not an isolated object but part of an ecosystem. It grows from the ground beneath it, works with the forces around it, and leaves the lightest possible footprint. In every detail, from the foundations on stilts to the sourcing of each stone, we seek harmony over dominance. We build for longevity, beauty, and balance, creating spaces that are as alive as the land they rest on.

Natural Materials: Building from the Earth.

We built Intaaya using the land itself. Our approach to materials was guided by three principles: reduce, reuse, and regenerate.

Our rammed earth walls and floors are unlike anything else we have seen at this scale in the region. After searching extensively, we found no other project of this size and complexity using this method in Nusa Penida or beyond. We worked entirely with limestone taken directly



from our site and from nowhere else. The binder for the rammed earth was also created from this same limestone, crushed and prepared on site. Every stage was carried out by hand with skilled local teams who learned and refined the process with us. The result is a structure born entirely from the very ground it stands on. During rain, the floors may become slick. This is not because they were poorly built, but because they are made of polished limestone and compacted earth. These surfaces breathe with the land. They are porous. They are real.

Technically, this approach is extraordinary. Rammed earth on this scale is already rare, but to create it using only locally quarried limestone from the same site is almost unheard of. The geological composition of our land made it possible to form walls and floors that are not only strong and weather resistant but also naturally breathable. This allows for stable indoor temperatures without artificial cooling.

By eliminating concrete entirely, we avoided the enormous carbon footprint that cement production creates, making this one of the most sustainable building methods available anywhere in the world. The process also left no industrial waste and required minimal transport, further reducing environmental impact.

By building entirely from limestone sourced on site and eliminating the use of concrete and cement, Intaaya avoided the release of thousands of kilograms of carbon dioxide that conventional construction would have produced. Cement manufacturing alone accounts for roughly eight percent of global carbon emissions, with each ton of cement generating about nine hundred kilograms of CO₂. On a project of our scale, replacing concrete with rammed earth and limestone reduced embodied carbon by an estimated seventy to eighty percent.

Because every stone and every grain of binder came from our own land, we also removed the need for long distance transport of heavy materials, avoiding hundreds of truck journeys and their associated emissions. This choice did not only preserve the character of the land. It left a significantly lighter footprint on the planet.

These walls are thick, breathable, and naturally regulate temperature, removing any need for air conditioning. They carry the grounding presence of stone and offer a tactile connection to the land. Even the floors are rammed earth, sealed and polished to a smooth, cool finish that deepens the bond between guest and ground.

The same limestone appears throughout the retreat in outdoor walls, terraces, walkways, and even in some pieces of furniture. It was handcrafted on site with minimal processing and with



respect for its origins. This stone, revealed during excavation, holds the fossil memory of Nusa Penida's ancient seabed. It is stone with story and stone with soul.

There was one moment when we touched the land more deeply. To create a path down the cliff toward the sea, we carved steps into the rock itself. This decision was made with great care. These steps are not for spectacle or private indulgence. They provide shared access to the bay below, both for our guests and for the local community. Fishermen use them to reach the shore safely. Local ceremonies tied to the ocean continue with reverence and ease.

We made a solemn promise. The cliff would be altered with the greatest care, and every stone intentionally removed from the rock was preserved and repurposed within Intaaya. While natural erosion is inevitable, our commitment was to ensure that construction itself left no unnecessary trace on the sea below. It became steps, walkways, sculptural walls, and quiet details. What was taken was transformed with intention and returned in beauty. Nothing wasted. Nothing harmed. Everything honoured.

The reclaimed teak wood used at Intaaya came from old joglo buildings, primarily from Central Java, Indonesia. It was salvaged from abandoned homes in Bali and Java. Every beam, panel, and frame carries a history and richness impossible to create with new timber. We crafted furniture, doors, and windows from it, preserving the skill of past craftsmen while avoiding deforestation. In doing so, we celebrate imperfection as beauty.

Our bamboo, *Dendrocalamus asper*, also known as giant bamboo, and *Gigantochloa apus*, often referred to as black bamboo, was sourced from certified plantations in Payangan, Bali. These species are prized not only for their strength and flexibility but also for their rapid regeneration, making them one of the most sustainable building materials available. At Intaaya, bamboo shapes both the structure and the furniture, bringing resilience, lightness, and a living connection to nature into our spaces.

It moves and breathes with the environment, bending without breaking. Strong yet flexible, ancient yet alive with possibility, it reflects our belief in designing with nature, never against it. Each pole was selected and treated with natural boron and borax solutions at certified local facilities, protecting it against pests, moisture, and the intense tropical sun. Hand tied trusses by master Balinese bamboo craftsmen merge generations of knowledge with modern structural engineering, giving the retreat forms that are both graceful and enduring.

Longevity and care are central to our material philosophy. At Intaaya, we build with elements that endure. Rammed earth, reclaimed teak, limestone, and bamboo do not just minimise



impact on the environment. They invite a different kind of relationship. One that requires attention. One that calls for reverence.

These materials age beautifully. They are not artificial. They are alive. They expand and contract. They respond to the seasons and the weather. They ask to be treated gently. Guests are informed not to move or drag heavy furniture, as this can mark or wear the natural surfaces. Discreet signs are placed only where necessary, always with respect for the experience.

The saltwater pool at Intaaya uses a natural salt chlorination system. This avoids harsh chemicals and protects both human health and the surrounding land.

This is what sustainable luxury means. It is not sealed away behind coatings and synthetic finishes. It lives in the raw texture of the ground beneath your feet. It asks you to move more slowly, to pay attention, to be present. We invite guests to walk barefoot, to feel what real material feels like.

Cleaning is done entirely with natural substances. You will find no chlorine. No synthetic scents. No volatile compounds. What touches your skin here also touches the land, and we protect both equally. Every cleaning method, from sweeping to polishing, is chosen to extend the life of the surfaces without sealing away their natural character.

Every gesture of care here extends the life of the materials and honours the intelligence of the natural world. Maintenance at Intaaya is not about perfection. It is not about polishing away nature. It is about living with it, in full awareness and in deep respect. In this way, care becomes a daily practice of reciprocity, where we protect the materials and in return they continue to protect and shelter us.

Sustainable Construction: A Process Grounded in Values

At Intaaya, the way we built was as important as what we built. Construction was not treated as a temporary phase to be rushed through but as a critical part of the project's sustainability commitment. Every decision, from daily routines to material handling, was guided by a clear intention to minimise impact, build with care, and set a precedent for responsible development on the island.

A framework for responsible building was created before construction began. This plan outlined how to manage waste, reduce pollution, protect the landscape, and engage the community.



Weekly reviews helped the team stay aligned, adapt when needed, and track progress toward clear environmental targets.

Daily practices showed how small habits could create a big impact. On site, plastic use was eliminated from the very beginning. Each team member received a reusable water bottle, food container, and cutlery set. These simple tools helped shift behaviour across the team, reducing daily waste and creating awareness through practice. Meals were served without disposables, and clean up routines included sorting compostable, recyclable, and landfill waste. Organic waste from food preparation and leftovers was composted daily. This compost was later used for early landscaping work and to nourish the farm's first garden beds, creating a closed loop between daily activity and long term regeneration.

Erosion and water protection were essential on a sensitive site such as a coastal cliff. The risk of runoff into the ocean was real, especially during heavy rains. To prevent this, erosion control systems were installed before the first foundation was laid. These included sediment traps, drainage channels, and slope protection barriers. The systems were inspected and maintained throughout the build to ensure marine ecosystems were not harmed.

Materials were tracked, sorted, and reused with care. Every item that entered or left the site was accounted for. Offcuts and leftover materials were stored, reused, or donated locally. Bamboo trimmings became scaffolding or furniture components, while wood pieces were repurposed as formwork. Waste was separated on site into four categories of recyclable, reusable, compostable, and landfill, and delivered to appropriate destinations. This not only reduced environmental impact but also lowered transportation costs and disposal needs.

Local teams and shared learning defined the construction process. The work was led by local builders, artisans, and craftspeople. Instead of importing labor, we invested in the people of the island, many of whom carried traditional knowledge about building with stone, bamboo, and earth. Short trainings were organised to share Intaaya's environmental guidelines, from managing grey water during construction to identifying and preserving existing vegetation on site. These efforts created a team that understood not only the technical requirements of the project but also its values. The people who built Intaaya were not simply workers, they were part of the process, part of the learning, and part of the legacy.



Energy and Water: Living in Harmony with the Elements

Nusa Penida's island grid depends heavily on diesel generators, loud, expensive, and polluting. Intaaya chose a radically different path, one hundred percent powered by the sun, with no connection to the grid.

Our off grid solar system supplies all electricity for all retreat equipment and appliances. Panels are installed to maximise exposure based on sun path analysis, and power is stored in high efficiency battery banks, allowing us to operate even on overcast days or during peak demand. This commitment to clean energy extends beyond the retreat itself. All Intaaya vehicles are fully electric, charged entirely by our solar system, ensuring that every journey on the island is as quiet and clean as the land we protect.

By living in rhythm with the sun, guests are invited into a slower, more conscious relationship with energy. While air conditioning is available in selected areas, it is fully powered by our solar system and remains optional. Natural airflow and ceiling fans are encouraged as the primary way to cool the body. Everything has been designed not only to function but to teach. Here, sunlight becomes sacred again, the source of all warmth, power, and life.

On an island where rainfall is seasonal and infrastructure is limited, water becomes more than a utility. It becomes sacred. At Intaaya, every drop is valued. Every system is designed with both sufficiency and sustainability in mind.

We ensure water independence through a triad of sources. A one hundred forty meter deep well provides reliable access to groundwater without overburdening the aquifer. An extensive rainwater harvesting network captures seasonal rains for irrigation and cleaning. Completing the cycle, our Atmospheric Water Generator transform humidity into clean, mineral balanced drinking water made fresh each day on site, entirely powered by solar energy.

At Intaaya, drinking water does not arrive in plastic. It is born from the sky. Inspired by nature's quiet miracles, our AWG system draws water vapour from the air, filters and mineralises it, then delivers it pure and deeply hydrating. This process mirrors the ancient rhythm of dew forming at dawn, a reminder that the most essential things can be created gently, in harmony with the Earth. Water is dispensed through beautifully designed refill stations across the property. Guests are invited to pause, to notice, and to hydrate with gratitude. Each sip becomes a ritual of presence.



In addition to modern technologies, we honor traditional wisdom. Across the property and our farm, five traditional Balinese cubang remain in use, three at Intaaya and two at the regenerative farm. These large, circular rainwater tanks are partially submerged in the earth and have served Balinese families for generations, storing wet season rain for the dry months. Our restored cubang collects runoff from rooftops and nearby surfaces, holding it for irrigation and emergency use. Simple, durable, and perfectly suited to the island's climate, they preserve heritage while strengthening our self sufficiency and resilience to changing weather.

Energy and water at Intaaya flow from air, sun, rain, and earth but they also flow from consciousness. They are not taken. They are received. They are not wasted. They are honoured. From the moment they appear to the moment they return to the land, they are part of a living cycle. A story of respect. A daily reminder that everything we need is already here. It only asks for care. It only asks to be seen.

Waste Water Gardens: Nature's Quiet Alchemy

At Intaaya, wastewater does not disappear into a distant treatment plant. It is cleansed here, within our own landscape, through nature-based Wetland Waste Water Gardens. This elegant system unites biological filtration with living beauty, turning what is often considered waste into a thriving ecosystem.

Our process begins in primary settling tanks, where solids naturally separate from liquids. From there, the water flows through a series of constructed wetlands filled with gravel, sand, and native aquatic plants such as canna lilies and reeds. These plants, alongside microbial communities living around their roots, break down organic matter and absorb nutrients. By the time the water reaches the final stage, it is ready to nourish subsurface irrigation fields for fruit trees and non-edible landscaping.

We use only biodegradable, plant-based soaps and shampoos, provided to every guest. This ensures that the grey water entering our system is free of harmful toxins, allowing the plants and microorganisms to work exactly as nature intended.

These wastewater gardens are living systems. Bees and other small creatures move through the air, flowers open to the sun, and beneath the surface roots and microbes quietly transform what passes through them. They purify the water while at the same time creating habitat, beauty, and an opportunity to learn from nature.



The Waste Water Garden® concept addresses three global challenges. First, in many parts of the world, untreated sewage contaminates drinking and freshwater supplies, leading to high disease rates, poverty, and preventable deaths. Second, sewage pollution in coastal areas accelerates eutrophication, smothering vital fish breeding grounds and disrupting marine ecosystems. Third, conventional sewage treatment plants are costly, fragile, and resource-intensive, leaving a large environmental footprint.

Constructed wetlands like ours offer an alternative. They recycle organic nutrients, return water to the natural biospheric cycle, and create new zones of vegetation that act as carbon and nutrient sinks. This not only reduces water demand but also contributes to climate change mitigation. Systems like these have been implemented successfully in countries around the world, from Algeria to Australia, Belize to Bali, and across Europe, the Americas, and Southeast Asia.

Our gardens are a living statement that waste is never truly waste in nature. It is only a misplaced resource, waiting to be transformed.

Zero Waste and the Art of Circular Living

At Intaaya, waste is not seen as something to be discarded. It is seen as something to be understood, redirected, and returned. Every system we create is part of a circle, a breath, a cycle. Inputs become outputs. What leaves returns. Nothing disappears. Nothing is ignored.

We aim for zero waste not because it is fashionable, but because it is natural. In the wild, waste does not exist. Everything has a place. Everything has a purpose. This is the philosophy we live by, and it begins long before a guest arrives.

Guests are asked to bring no single use plastics. If they do, we kindly ask them to take them back when they leave. This is not out of punishment, but to invite awareness and to remind each of us of the impact we carry. Everything provided at Intaaya, from toothbrushes to shampoo bottles, is either biodegradable, compostable, or designed to be used again and again. This is not a sacrifice. It is a new standard.

In the kitchen, the circle continues. Organic waste is returned to the land. Coffee grounds enrich our compost. Food scraps feed the farm. Waste oil is filtered and passed to local craftspeople who turn it into new materials. Nothing leaves the retreat thoughtlessly. Everything stays in interconnection.



Linen care follows the rhythm of the earth, not the rhythm of industry. Towels and sheets are recommended to be reused for a minimum of two to three nights, unless special circumstances require a change. This is not about austerity. It is about honouring water, energy, and labor. We wash with low energy machines, use only organic detergents, and dry linens under the sun.

Our sourcing follows the same loop. Restaurant and housekeeping supplies arrive in bulk, unpackaged, or in reusable containers. There are no single use plastic bags, no plastic straws, and no synthetic napkins. The materials we use are in tune with the way we live, clean, thoughtful, and enduring.

This is not a retreat that hides its systems. It is a retreat that reveals them, that teaches through practice, that trusts in the intelligence of our guests. Circular living is not a compromise. It is a luxury, the clarity of knowing that what you touch and what you leave behind is part of something whole.

At Intaaya, there is no such thing as waste. There is only flow. There is only life, transforming.

Farm to Table: Regenerative Nutrition

Food is one of the deepest forms of connection. It speaks without words. It bridges land and body. It holds memory and tradition. At Intaaya, this connection is not just honoured. It is cultivated with care, intention, and joy.

Fifteen minutes from the retreat, down a quiet winding road where signal fades and birdsong takes over, lies our regenerative farm. It is nestled among coconut trees and feels untouched by time. There is no rush here. Only rhythm. The kind that follows the sun and the rain.

Terraced into soft amphitheaters of soil, the land has been shaped gently, not forced. These curved layers hold more than crops. They hold stories. Each one has been built by hand. Each one is nourished with compost made from the retreat's own organic waste and enriched by cows who live freely nearby. There are no machines humming. Only footsteps. Only laughter. Only the quiet dedication of local farmers who work this land as their grandparents once did.

Our team on the farm is not separate from the kitchen. They are part of the same breath. Each morning they harvest what is needed just enough, just in time, then deliver it to our chefs, who await the day's inspiration not from a menu but from the soil. We serve only plant based meals. When fish is offered, it is sourced respectfully from local fishermen who know the tides like a pulse, ensuring it is in harmony with the ocean's rhythms. Portions are measured to be



abundant yet never wasteful. If there is ever more than we need, it is shared with the surrounding village so nothing is lost and everything finds purpose.

The kitchen itself is alive. Balinese recipes handed down through generations meet intuitive wellness cuisine. Meals are not planned weeks ahead. They emerge from what the land offers, what the ocean grants, and what the day asks for. Our chefs cook without excess. They prepare with presence. They design not just for flavour, but for vitality.

Guests who visit the farm are invited into this quiet magic. They can taste herbs plucked moments before, join a cooking experience beneath a canopy of trees, or simply sit, sip, and listen. Here, time slows. It is a return. Not just to the roots of food, but to the roots of living.

The farm is not a place to observe. It is a place to remember. A reminder that the truest luxury is not rare. It is real. A meal served under open sky, prepared with ingredients grown meters away, shared with those who worked the land. This is not a trend. This is how it has always been.

At Intaaya, food is not just nourishment. It is storytelling. It is regeneration. It is ceremony. It is a way back to what we have always known.

Wildlife and Environmental Respect

Intaaya exists within a living web of interconnection. Perched on a cliffside above one of Bali's richest ecological zones, the retreat is surrounded by vibrant biodiversity. Eagles soar above, butterflies drift through the trees, and geckos sun themselves on warm stones. Tropical birds call from the canopy, while fruit bats flutter silently through the night. Just offshore, the ocean teems with life. Colourful fish shimmer through the reefs, while majestic manta rays circle with quiet grace.

We do not mow the wild edges. We do not force order upon nature. Instead, we live among it. Paths remain narrow and soft, made of limestone dust or stepping stones that allow the land to breathe. Night lighting is minimal to preserve the rhythms of fireflies and nocturnal pollinators. Guests are reminded to observe but not disturb.

Our commitment does not end with passive respect. At Intaaya, we actively protect. We are proud to support manta conservation efforts dedicated to safeguarding the populations at Manta Point, one of the most important aggregation sites on Earth. These graceful beings are increasingly disturbed by the pressures of marine tourism. Unregulated snorkeling and



diving often cause unnecessary stress to the mantas. Many guides and visitors simply do not know how to interact respectfully.

That is why the Manta Protector initiative works hand in hand with local communities, tour operators, and conservation NGOs. Together, we create educational resources, distribute awareness materials, and support training for respectful marine wildlife interaction. The program also builds long term collaborations, laying the foundation for sustainable tourism practices that put the wellbeing of marine life first. Already, many snorkeling and diving guides across Nusa Penida have shown strong interest and commitment to adopting these best practices.

At Intaaya, this is part of a larger vision. We collaborate with those who care for the sea and the land. We support coral reef protection and partner with organisations that share our mission. We believe in learning, in listening, and in building something lasting. Our sanctuary is not isolated. It is deeply connected to the ecosystems and people around it.

We are observers, not conquerors. We teach this ethic with care. Through quiet conversations, signs, rituals, and immersive experiences, guests are invited to feel what it means to be a guest in nature's house. This is not a zoo. This is not a spa. This is not a park. It is a sanctuary. And we are here only for a moment. How we move, how we see, how we listen, it all matters.

A Luxury of Presence

At Intaaya, something begins to shift the moment guests arrive. Phones slow down. Screens fade. The noise of the outside world begins to dissolve, not by force or rule, but by choice.

We do not ask for silence. The land itself speaks in quieter tones. There are no signs that forbid photos. No schedules that prohibit sharing. Yet again and again, we witness the same unfolding. Guests naturally begin to disconnect. Not from the world, but from distraction. In doing so, they discover that presence and sustainability live side by side.

When the mind is no longer pulled in every direction, attention turns to the rhythms of nature. The way morning light moves through the trees. The sound of rain being gathered into our reservoirs. The warmth of the sun powering the water from air system. Guests notice that their choice to use less energy is not a sacrifice but an enrichment. A ceiling fan instead of air conditioning becomes a choice to feel the breeze from the ocean. Walking instead of calling a buggy becomes a chance to see a butterfly cross the path.



Here, even our Starlink internet is a tool, not a tether. It is available when truly needed, but guests quickly find that the less they reach for it, the more alive the moments become. They spend more time learning how food is grown on our farm, how rainwater becomes drinking water, how buildings made from earth breathe with the seasons. Every act of slowing down lightens the footprint on this island and deepens the connection to it.

We do not tell guests how to experience Intaaya. We simply watch them remember that the moment is now, that it is enough, and that living gently with the Earth is not only possible, it is the greatest luxury.

Evenings at Intaaya settle into firelight and the cool air scented with the sea. Phones are set aside, business and deadlines forgotten. Conversations unfold face to face, laughter drifts with the wind, and attention returns to the moment. Here, stillness nurtures presence, and presence awakens deeper care for ourselves and for the planet.

Toward True Zero: Our Path to Certification

At Intaaya, sustainability is not just an internal promise. It is a measurable, accountable commitment. That is why we are in the process of obtaining Level 3 Zero Carbon certification, a globally recognised benchmark for buildings that operate with truly net zero carbon emissions.

This certification is part of a broader initiative supported by the International Finance Corporation and its EDGE program, Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies. The EDGE standard requires that buildings demonstrate substantial reductions in energy and resource use compared to conventional practices, verified through data and third party review after a full year of operation.

Certification is not granted lightly. To qualify, a project must operate for at least one full year at seventy five percent occupancy while maintaining full compliance with the outlined renewable energy and efficiency standards. It is a rigorous process with periodic renewals to ensure ongoing performance, not just a one time achievement.

Intaaya is proud to walk this path, not because certification is the goal, but because accountability matters. It is not enough to build with good intentions. We must also prove our impact, measure our performance, and open ourselves to scrutiny and improvement.



Aligning with the global goal of zero carbon buildings by 2030 for new constructions and by 2050 for all buildings places Intaaya within a global movement of responsible architecture and climate aware development. We are not isolated. We are part of a collective reimagining of how spaces are created, maintained, and experienced.

This journey toward certification ensures that every guest who stays at Intaaya participates in a new way of living, a way that does not borrow from the future, a way that proves luxury and ecological integrity can exist together, and a way that inspires other projects, other places, and other people to do the same.

This is not about labels. It is about legacy. A retreat built to last, without costing the planet. A space that gives more than it takes. A sanctuary that stands as both refuge and example.

Returning to Right Relationship

We are not here to impress you with sustainability. We are here to remember it with you. To bring it back into the center of how we live, how we build, and how we choose to exist in this world. At Intaaya, sustainability is not a set of checkboxes. It is a way of seeing. A way of honouring. A way of walking through life with humility, awareness and respect.

It is not about doing less harm. It is about doing more good. It is about living in right relationship with all that surrounds us, the soil beneath our feet, the water that feeds our bodies, the trees that hold the wind, the craftspeople who shape the materials, the elders who carry the wisdom, and the guests who come not just to rest, but to remember.

We built Intaaya this way from the first sketch to the final stone. Not because it was easy, but because it was right. Every decision was shaped by a question. Can we do this differently, with less harm and with more meaning? And when the answer was yes, we followed it, even when it took longer, even when it asked more of us. We sourced our materials from the land and built the walls by hand. The water is treated with sunlight, the electricity drawn from the sky, and the food prepared from what we grow. At every step, we first listened to the land before we spoke.

But Intaaya is not the end of this vision. It is the beginning. The seed. The model for everything we will create next. All future projects born from this place will go even further. They will explore new ways to regenerate, to educate, to awaken. The knowledge we gather here will be shared. The methods we use will be open. We want others to follow. We want this way of building to ripple outward.



This is not ours to keep. This is ours to give.

And behind this vision stand real people who bring the idea to life.. The founders of Intaaya, Kinga and Cezary, have held this dream with clarity and with courage. They walked the land. They listened to the silence. They made choices that honoured more than beauty. They upheld truth. Their vision is not one of escape. It is one of return to what matters, to what lasts, to what heals.

They did not do it alone. The Intaaya team, architects, builders, farmers, chefs, healers, and hosts are part of something larger. This is not just their workplace. This is their offering. Their hands shaped the stone. Their stories shaped the vision. Their presence holds the space. They bring it to life each day with care, with passion, with reverence.

We invite you not just to stay with us, but to carry something home. A new way of seeing. A new rhythm. A quieter voice inside says, I remember. I belong. I know how to live differently.

This is not a conclusion to your time here. It is the opening of something new, a deeper noticing, a more honest way of living, a life more connected, more conscious, more whole. May your time at Intaaya offer more than rest, becoming a space of remembering and renewal. May it bring a sense of rebirth, a gentle return to right relationship with the Earth, with others, and with yourself.

With gratitude,
Intaaya Founders & Team

INTAAYA
NUSA PENIDA, BALI