

# RECORDINGS IN NATURAL CAVES

## INDONESIA – BALI

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### Grotte de Goa Lawah

Goa Lawah, Kusamba



RIC-IDB1 France 1975

### Grotte de Goa Lawah \*

Bat Sounds – Recorded in Caves

**Prod. Co:** La Boite à Musique; Paris

**Rec. Eng:** François Jouffa

**Rec. Date:** Oct. 1974

**Liner Notes:** Sylvie Meyer

**Time:** (LP) 0:41 & (CD) 0:43

1. LP: DEMONS ET MERVEILLES À BALI

Éditions AZ—BAM LD 5841

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 4)

2. Reissue on **CD:** BALI (1999)

Playsound 141027 (Tk 6)

**Notes:** Sounds of the hundreds of thousands of Roussette fruit bats (*Eonycteris spelaea*), which inhabit the Goa Lawah Cave in Bali. This is an unusual roussette fruit bat because most roussettes hang up in trees or banana palms. The cave name comes from “Lelawah” meaning hanging bats.

This lava tube cave is held sacred and a Hindu shrine has been built inside the entrance. It is located near the village of Goa Lawah, which is midway along the southeastern coast near Kusamba. Over the years the temple and the entrance area has undergone considerable renovation. In place of the four-step stairs there is now a twin flights of six steps with four snake-head stone railings. Two stone pillars frame the cave entrance at the top of the stairs. The photo on left of the old temple is by Bjorn Gotting.

Legend has it that the cave extends all the way to the base of Mt. Agung over 15 kilometers to the north. However Claude Chabert of the Spéleo Cub de Paris mapped the cave and found it to be only 32m long with the back end sealed by breakdown blocks. The bat colony occupies the entrance room, hanging from the ceiling just inside. The over-powering smell coming from the cave is equaled only by the power of the noise emitted by the bats there. (Chabert 1990)

Jouffa made the recording with a Nagra III tape recorder.

See under Recordings of Bats & Birds – Indonesia – Bali – *Grotte de Goa Lawah*.

See also Jouffa's recording of a Thai bat piece under World Music – Thailand – *Khang kao khabkluai (Bats Eat Bananas)* – [WD-TH3](#).

**Ref:** Ade Nan 2011, Pura Goa Mawah (Bat Cave Temple) ; History & Function, [dotcomcell](#)

Anon. 2009, Goa Lawah Temple (Bat Cave), [bali-individually](#)

Bali – Demons et merveilles à Bali LP, [compagniedudisque](#)

Bali Goa Lawah (Fledermaus Tempel) Fledermaus-Kolonie (1:00), [YouTube](#) (◀VIDEO)

Black, Steve & Stuart-Fox, David 1977, *Bali*, Les Éditions du Pacifique, p. 213

Chabert, Claude 1990, Personal communication, Spéléo Club de Paris

Goa Lawah/ bat Cave, Temple History & Function, [balistariland](#)

Jouffa, François, 1977, Personal communication, Paris

Lilley, Ron 2011, Les roussettes de l'étonnante Goa Lawah à Bali, (in French), [lagazetteдебали](#)

Oldham, Tony 2003, Goa Lawah, [showcaves](#)

Zirkel, Gerhard 2010, Balis Fledermaustempel Goa Lawah, (in German), [sunda-spirit](#)

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