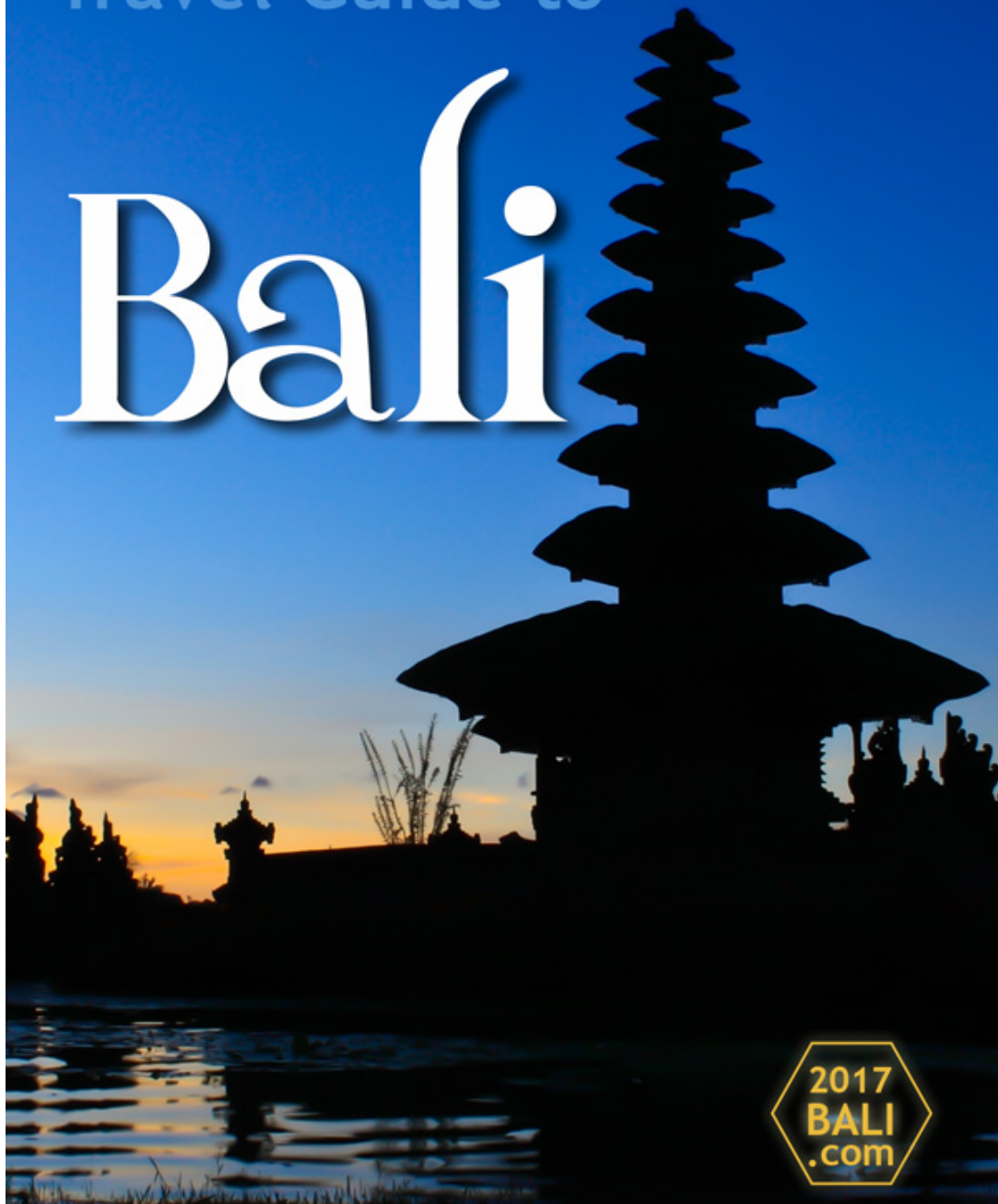


The Essential Travel Guide to

Bali



The Island of Gods in your Pocket
by www.bali.com ebook edition

Baliguide

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Thank you

Bali Travel Guide

By Bali.com

The Essential Travel Guide to the Island of Gods. All you need to know for your travel planning.

Bali is rated, for many good reasons, the no. 1 tropical tourist destination in the world. Millions of visitors have had an amazing time in Bali and keep coming back to re-live the magic of the island.

In this guide, we have put together the core information you will need on your visit. Our goal is to help you make the best out of your limited and valuable days in Bali.

This e-book is an excellent companion to our website (Web:) www.bali.com, where you can find even more up-to-date information and can book online activity tickets, a car with driver, tours, hotels, villas, and much more.

Bali.com - smart travel planning



About this Bali Guide

Each traveler has different expectations, unique desires, and varying budget when he or she comes to Bali. Some of you will be seasoned travellers, while others will explore for the first time a tropical island far away from home. Some of you come alone, some with a partner, some with friends and some with your families.

In this book we have gathered information for you from local sources. We share with you information from the tourism industry in Indonesia, from local Indonesian's and from foreigners living on the Island for decades. **We want to share with you tips, advise and guidance that will help you understand the Island and its**

culture, before you decide on where to stay and what to do.

This Guide is powered by the editors and contributors of our holiday portal www.bali.com. In some articles in this book, we have set **links to the website marked with (Web:)**. You can follow these links, if you have internet connection. This will direct you to more specific information. You will be offered listings of hotels, villas, restaurants, activities and options to book handpicked services directly online.

However, to work with this book, **you do not need any internet connection**. You can sit comfortably in the airplane or on a deck chair at the pool side and browse through the chapters. It might work best for you, to read through the book from beginning to end. In the case of special interests, follow the internal links or go to the Table of Content and navigate to a different topic.

This book will help you to plan a smooth, safe and fun holiday, where you can visit some interesting places and enjoy the incredible variety Bali has to offer. We start by focusing on general must-know information, before diving into the details. Why? It's smarter to understand the overall culture of a holiday destination before you decide how many days you want to visit, where you want to stay, what you want to do and what you want to eat. Things can go wrong very quickly if you are not careful and alert about the specifics of the place you are visiting. **Bali is very safe** and easy to handle, but it's good to know some insider-tips. Where there is light, there is also a shadow. Not everything that happens on Bali is legal and peaceful. Like in other tourist destinations, Bali also has tourists looking to drink, party and be loud.

For a traveller it is important to know where to stay, how to get around and what to do. Particularly, the choice of accommodation in relation to the area will have a massive impact on your experience. Every area in Bali is different and offers distinctive qualities that make it unique. Before booking your hotel or villa, take a few minutes and read the

"Travel Planning Essentials"- Article.

Before we go further, we would like to mention that Bali's environment, like in so many other areas in the world, is under some pressure. Indonesia is still a developing country, with a long list of things that need to be implemented to protect nature and resources. Bali has no heavy industry, which is a good thing. However, rubbish and traffic is steadily increasing. The fact that Bali is a rather small island compared to Java or Sumatra adds to the problem at hand. Consumerism is on the rise in Bali. The big food and consumer conglomerates spend billions on advertising, to lure Indonesians to buy their products, which are also sold in the "developed world". However, the packaging industry produces no special packaging for these developing countries. They lack infrastructure for rubbish collection and recycling. What might get recycled or properly collected in developed countries could end up in the ocean, valleys, or in semi-professional landfills at best in Indonesia. We can be part of the problem or we can be part of the solution. There are things Bali visitors can do, in order to minimize their ecological footprint.

Thank you very much. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to help you to **ENJOY BALI!**

Team Bali.com

If you need any assistance with your travel plans or wish to give us feedback, we would love to hear from you. You can reach us at ebook@bali.com.

Welcome to Bali - Island of Gods

Unique, Fascinating, Vibrant, Diverse

Located in the middle of the world's largest archipelago, **Bali is Indonesia's most well known island**. Its rich traditions, breathtaking nature, colorful ceremonies, and unique culture make it stand out from its neighbors. With an average year round temperature of around 27C (80F), an open-minded culture, access to modern bars, luxurious spas and sandy beaches it is no wonder that many simply get addicted to the Island.



Balinese Dancer

Although Indonesia is the largest muslim dominated country in the world, Bali is unique

with its mostly **Hindu culture** which permeates all aspects of everyday life. Ceremonies are held almost every day, celebrating the cycles of the moon, holidays, birth, marriage, coming of age, and passing away. Traditional clothing is still commonly worn, and visitors are often surprised by the daily 'canang sari' offerings to Gods and demons that are found everywhere on sidewalks, shrines, stores, and homes.

Bali is the wellness capital of the world. Tired travelers can pamper themselves with highly affordable massages and spa treatments, or simply relax on the beach with a cocktail and watch a beautiful sunset.

Whatever your interest, **Bali will have something amazing for you.** With so many choices on offer, a travelers' only problem is figuring out, where to stay, what to do and how to do it. We are excited to support you in taking these decisions and be your one-stop travel experts.

Traditional dances and plays are regularly performed for locals and visitors alike, to the accompanying sound of the gamelan orchestra. Balinese culture is part of life everywhere on the island. It has found a center in Ubud, which, despite being one of the world's most liveable places, is still run according to traditional village principles. Here, rituals, traditional medicine, and magic are still a part of everyday life. Those wishing to explore their spiritual side can find meditation programs and yoga classes that will help them achieve inner peace.

Watersport is amazing. World-class (Web:) scuba diving and snorkeling is available in a number of locations around the island, from the protected natural reserves of Menjangan, to the shipwreck of the USS Liberty at Tulamben, to the more challenging waters of Nusa Lembongan, Nusa Ceningan and foremost Nusa Penida, where manta rays and the rare mola mola are sighted regularly.

Surfers will be very happy with the wide range of waves Bali has to offer. Beginners

can give the sport a try at the forgiving sandy beach breaks of Kuta, while the size and power of waves at Uluwatu, in the Bukit region, provide a challenge for even the most experienced surfers. Fans of trekking and mountain biking can take a trip up to the mountains around Kintamani or Munduk, exploring trails, waterfalls, and rice fields in cool comfort, or perhaps enjoying whitewater rafting on a range of rivers in the area.

Party all night long. In contrast, the Southern region of Bali is a perfect home for hedonistic fun. Kuta is the center for visiting party animals, drawn by the hundreds of bars and nightclubs on offer. A stone's throw north, the Seminyak area offers more refined **nightlife** options, with popular bands and DJs performing regularly, as well as a host of dining choices run by the renowned **international chefs** who have made Bali their home. Bali is a paradise for anyone who loves food. The variety of **restaurants and cuisines** available is stunning. A tasty meal can cost as low as 2USD.

Shopping is great. Every day until 8pm (sometimes 10pm), thousands of shops sell almost everything your heart desires. Souvenirs, decoration, food items and of course cloths and fashion: a range of boutiques sell designs by local and global designers, whose cutting edge fashions at reasonable prices attract travelers from all over the world.

Bali - Smart Travel Planning

The essentials for your travel planning

You might be thinking about coming to Bali, you might have booked your flight, you might even be as far as looking for things to do and accommodation is decided and booked, or you might already be on the Island. Whichever stage you are on your travel plan, you will find lots of interesting facts and insights about the Island in the Bali Guide. We share here, valuable information and tips that will help you to have a great time on Bali and to avoid some of the traps one could step into, but would rather avoid.

Based on our experience it is advisable to start with the following when planning your trip to Bali:

1. Know your Budget

Allocate your rough budget for accommodation per night and room. Estimate how much money you will be willing to spend for food and drinks, and activities. You will need to calculate some costs for getting around, by scooter, taxi or car rental with driver.

We will talk a bit later in this book about general costs. In Bali you can travel on a shoestring budget or the sky is the limit. Everyone can find what he/she is looking for and within each segment Bali is famous for it's amazing value for money. Whether you spend \$20 or \$1000 per night, in most cases you will get much more than you bargained for.

2. Define your general Interest

Whether you travel alone, with friends and family, or with children, you should have a general idea about what you are looking for. Culture, Nature & Sightseeing, Action & Sport, Watersport & Diving, Culinary Adventures, Chilling, Party & Clubbing, Shopping. Some of it? All of it?

3. The Areas

With this in mind we suggest you read up on the areas and what they offer or better "what they stand for". First read about the 7 main areas and look at the map. Then dive into the smaller areas such as Seminyak, Kuta, Ubud, Sanur etc., once you know generally what area suits you. Depending on your length of stay you might consider to move a few times within Bali. This is actually an excellent way of getting around and exploring the different "faces" of Bali.

For a 2 weeks holiday, following itinerary is a kind of a magic mix that worked for many travellers extremely well over the years:

- 3 -5 nights in the south or South East (Kuta, Seminyak, Legian, Canggu, Bukit, Ungasan, Sanur, Padang Bai, Candi Das, etc); getting used to climate, arriving, some beach time, maybe water sport, one temple visit, going out, wine and dine
- 3-5 nights Ubud or near Ubud; time for sightseeing, art and nature. Explore culture and art, day trips to volcano, temples, rice fields lakes, some shopping and chilling in cafés, yoga, rafting
- 2-3 nights Lembongan or Ceningan Island (30min by speed boat from Sanur); for snorkelling, diving, exploring "Bali" like it was 30 years ago
- 2-4 nights in another place in the South different from first stop; for some dining, shopping, days at pool and beach, leisure

If you have more time or wish to experience a more remote and quiet Bali you could consider going to the north. This part of Bali is very remote, quiet, with black volcanic

beaches and the opportunity to visit Bali's Nature Reserve Park. The area of Sidemen, in the southwest, offers some spectacular nature and rice field, only a few get to experience.

If you have special interests such as trekking, scuba diving, surfing then other areas, than the ones we suggested might be interesting for you, depending on seasons and weather.

4. Weather and Seasons

Depending on the time of the year you wish to travel, or can get your days off from work, you can experience a different Bali altogether. The best time to travel is the dry season: **mid March to mid October**. Although even during rainy season you can sometimes have fantastic weather with almost no rain.

Avoid if you can: Easter, Christmas, July and August. These are Bali's high season, prices are up and the island is much more crowded.

More on Weather and Seasons

5. Look for Accommodation Options

The Island of the Gods offers a wide range of accommodation. From the basic home-stays run by very friendly Balinese families to luxurious, privately serviced beachfront villas. The choices of places to stay can be simply overwhelming. We work with two partners who we have tested thoroughly: [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) and [Agoda.com](https://www.agoda.com). Both offer great deals and are extremely reliable when it comes to handling reservations, cancellations and payments. The hotels themselves offer the same prices to all the portals through a

centralized source. Some portals offer cheaper prices at first glance, however there are usually handling fees added on later at the checkout. You are in safe hands with our two partners above.

When you book through us, we get a small commission, which does not cost you anything, but helps us to do the things we do for this e-book and our portal. If you are happy with our services, we would appreciate your support by you booking through the above links.

The main question, after you have decided on area/location and budget, is whether you wish to stay in a hotel or a villa. Bali is a villa paradise and if you are willing to spend 100USD or more per night, then you should consider the option to book a villa for a few nights. Most villas are fully serviced and if you are ready to pay more, you can rent a home that will remind you of heaven on earth.

- [Villas with direct booking facility](#)
- [Handpicked Luxury Villa selection](#)

6. Things to do

The range of activities Bali has to offer is numerous. Once you get tired of the sun and beach, there is so much more to do and explore. Bali is relatively small and if you decide to stay in the center around Ubud or in the south around Kuta/Seminyak, most of the attractions and sightseeing spots can be reached with a day trip. For example, if you wish to go to Bali Zoo which it's located near Ubud, no need to stay in Ubud to get there. You can manage that while staying in Seminyak.

Main Chapter about things to do

Note: If you plan specifically to explore scuba diving, surfing, trekking and hiking then it's advisable to plan ahead and also read the corresponding chapter, as this might also effect your choice of location.

Bali Guide & Good to Know

Essential Tips and Advice

In this chapter we will cover some of the main topics that we feel are most helpful. The majority of articles should probably be read before you arrive on Bali, as they will help you to take some decisions about your trip, and also give you some background information on what to expect.

Accommodation Choices

The most important choice of your travel planning



Bali's hotels, villas, and rental properties offer incredible comfort and value, and are as diverse as the travelers that visit them. From budget guesthouses to five-star luxury hotels, Bali offers great deals that suit any budget.

Travelers can dive into the busy social scene in popular areas or enjoy an exclusive getaway in the boutique hotels, tranquil private villas, and vacation rental properties found all over the island. Backpackers will be surprised by the clean and relaxing accommodation available on a tight budget, while those who want luxury can live like

royalty at a reasonable price.

Whatever your accommodation needs, Bali has it on offer, and the small size of the island and incredible range of hotels, guest houses, and villas means that no matter what you have planned for your vacation, you can be sure to find the perfect place to rest your head. If you need help to find the ideal place for you, you're in the right place.

Our best Hotel and Resort deals:

(Web:) [Booking.com / Bali.com](https://www.booking.com/bali.com)

(Web:) [Agoda.com / Bali.com](https://www.agoda.com/bali.com)

Some Important Tips - Before you book your room

- We strongly suggest you get familiar with the main areas of Bali first
- We have selected [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) and [agoda.com](https://www.agoda.com) as our premium partners. Why? Overall they have the best prices and great cancellation terms. Hotel price comparing sites often DO NOT show you the net prices, therefore during the booking process additional costs occur. So it might look cheaper at first, but at the end it is not. Most hotels feed the same prices into ALL THE BOOKING ENGINES through one system anyhow. So prices are same because they are mentioned from one source (hotel), just the way they are presented is different ;-)
- We do get a small commission if you book through our website, which does not change your price at all. If you want to support us, we appreciate you booking through our website. Thank you.
- Make use of the filters in the sidebars when looking for an accommodation.

Particularly area, price, and rating are helpful in boiling down the long list of hotels and resorts

- Don't get dazzled by the hotel names. A hotel with Seminyak in the title might not exactly be in Seminyak - or just "at the edge of Seminyak". And a hotel that is called Royal Kuta, might not be royal nor in Kuta.
- Location, location, location. Once you selected the main tourist area such as Ubud, Kuta, Seminyak, etc, then zoom in with the map! A hotel positioned near the coastline could make you believe it's just a short walk to the beach. But roads are tricky here on Bali. Zoom the map and look at the roads closely, that will give you a clearer picture on what to expect.
- Have a look at the number of rooms, of a property (at the bottom of the description on our booking partner site) to get a feeling for the size of the property, and the number of fellow guests you might share breakfast with in the morning.

Where to Stay

What to expect

In this article: Overview of main areas



Kuta & Legian

The Kuta and Legian area is the most developed part of Bali. It's an ideal place to find accommodation on a budget and is within easy reach of most of the southern parts of Bali. Small hotels and 'losmen' offer basic rooms with a lot of personality for a few dollars per day, while some larger budget hotel chains have sprung up in Kuta and Legian in recent years, with clean standard rooms available at great rates. Prices here depend upon whether hot water, air conditioning, or a pool is included, and asking for better rates is common. Cheaper prices are almost always available for longer stays.

Kuta and Legian are not quiet, by any means, and visitors who stay here should be prepared for action and even crowds at all times of day and night. Packed into the alleys running through this area are an incredible number of busy restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, and the beach is never more than a short walk away. Kuta is a great place to learn to surf, let your inner party animal run wild and meet new people.

Seminyak

Farther north you will find the more refined Seminyak area. If you want to be close to the heart of things, but enjoy a bit more sophisticated accommodation and surroundings, this is the place for you. Hotels here are slightly more upscale, ranging from affordable and stylish to luxurious and opulent. Seminyak also has an incredible number of private villas available for short and long-term stays, often including staff that will cook, clean, and look after your every need. The hotels and villas in this area are often tucked away from everything else, offering serenity, calm, and a unique Balinese aesthetic. Seminyak is great for families, with many world-class but affordable restaurants, clean and pleasant beaches, and fashionably funky boutiques that will drive shoppers wild without hurting their bank accounts. Kids' clubs and indoor play areas are also available, as are nannies at very reasonable prices.

Canggu

North of Seminyak, beyond Petitenget the upcoming area of Canggu is gaining ground. For the travellers, who love the west coast of Bali, enjoy the beautiful sunsets, love taking long strolls at the beach, and look for excellent waves for surfing, and who feel that Seminyak became a bit too busy and expensive, Canggu is the place to be.

Hotels and villas of all segments have opened in the last couple of years, and restaurants and shops are popping up every where. It feels as if you visit Seminyak 15 or 20 years ago. The massive Canggu Club with its bowling and waterpark, and the trendy Finn's Beach Club are now major attractions in this area, where travellers, locals, and expatriates mingle. Echo Beach, Batu Bolong and Nelayan are part of Canggu.

Ubud

In the mountains around Ubud, the guesthouses, hotels, and villas share the village's peaceful atmosphere and focus on culture and art. Backpackers can stay in comfortable lodges that have been run by local families for decades, and get a true feeling for rustic traditional life in Bali. Chickens, playing children, and perhaps the odd monkey are included. Yoga retreats and other spiritually focused accommodation can also easily be found by the soul-seeking traveler. Many mid-range hotels offer families comfort and style, with local stonework, wood-carvings, and fish ponds as all part of the deal. Meanwhile, some of the world's most luxurious hotel chains have created havens in the surrounding mountains, offering incredible style and world-class comfort for travelers seeking peace and serenity. Ubud has long been the home of choice for artists and free thinkers from around the world, so there is no shortage of longer-term accommodation available. Vacation rentals can be found for a wide variety of budgets. The center of Ubud, though focused on meditation, traditional arts, and culture, is lively, with some of the best restaurants on the island and shopping options for all ranges. Families can enjoy plenty of activities among the rice fields and rivers in the area.

Sanur

Sanur is one of the oldest tourist regions in Bali, and yet has remained calm and quiet, run according to traditional principles by a tight-knit group of Balinese villages. Once the preferred choice of the stars, Sanur is now more focused on tranquility and relaxation. It is ideal for families, with a peaceful white sand beach fronting a calm section of the Indian Ocean that allows for water sports of all types. Sanur is also a base for diving and snorkeling. It is a great place to find mid-range accommodation, an affordably priced beachfront hotel, or a villa for longer stay. Tradition is strong in the area, which is known as a center for magic, meaning that visitors get a true taste of Bali while still having access to modern amenities.

Nusa Dua

Those in search of beachfront luxury will appreciate Nusa Dua, on the southern tip of

the island. Here, the world's foremost hotel operators have set up lush beachfront compounds, each with its own system of swimming pools and restaurants. Massages, spa treatments, kids' clubs, and tasteful boutiques can all be found within the grounds of these spacious properties. Surfing and water sports are also available in the stretch reaching up to Benoa. While some mid-range options and private villas are found in this area, Nusa Dua is really for those who want to enjoy the finest accommodation in a uniquely Balinese way.

Bukit, Pecatu, Uluwatu, Ungasan

West of Nusa Dua, on the tip of the southern Bukit Peninsula, is the Uluwatu area. Lovers of beaches and sun will enjoy this area, but the focus here is clearly the world-class surf breaks on this cliff-lined stretch of coast. Surf-hungry backpackers travelling on a shoestring can find the most basic accommodation here, often offering only a bed and a fan, but those who want to enjoy their time out of the water can also find many mid-range choices, often owned by local families and including a restaurant or bar and swimming pool. An increasing number of luxury hotels are also springing up along the cliffs of the Bukit area, offering upscale accommodation and incredible views, as well as magnificent villas of the utmost luxury.

Jimbaran

North of Uluwatu is Jimbaran, home to the tallest hotel in Bali; The Jimbaran View. Jimbaran was a small fishing village before it grew into a tourist resort, offering spectacular seafood restaurants and luxury 5star hotels. There are also many high-end villas in this area, particularly on the ridges of high ground above Jimbaran Bay. This has resulted in monikers such as the "Beverly Hills of Bali" or "Millionaire's Row". Lately the area is developing more affordable accommodation. There is however little in the way of budget accommodation. The bay itself has a pleasant white sand beach and is very safe for swimming. The three clusters of grilled seafood restaurants on the beach are a major tourist draw in the evenings, as is the truly stunning sunset. The customers can select live seafood that they wish to eat, and it is immediately prepared, generally

grilled over a for of coconut husks rather than charcoal. Jimbaran has an increasing number of rather chic shops but there is little or no nightlife here. It has the advantage of being a little closer to Kuta and Seminyak and the cultural highlights of Central Bali.

Candidasa

Want to get off the beaten path? Accommodation in regions like Candidasa and Amed is comfortable and suited to families, couples, or relaxed singles. Here, there is a wide range of mid-level options, often fronting the beach and offering snorkeling and diving. These areas are still quiet, and offer an amazing opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy low-key Bali tranquility. Farther north, in Lovina, where dolphins can be sighted, and the calm waves lapping the black sand beaches are ideal for swimming. Hotels here are comfortable and peaceful, offering plenty of quiet and local charm.



**TOP
100
Must-Know Tips**

Top 100 Insider tips

Save yourself some time and money

In this Article: Tips, that can really make a difference



**Top 100 Insider Tips:
avoid your hat getting snatched
from a cheeky little monkey**

It will take you probably 10 minutes to run through this list. But in many cases it will save you valuable time, money and hassle. Bali is a wonderful island, but it's not a tourism destination that is designed by tourism managers like on the Maldives or Bahamas where everything is streamlined and predictable.

Bali is unpredictable. This is the beauty and fascination that attracts so many people who come here regularly and fell in love with this place. It's a vibrant and dynamic island that is home to more than 4mio Indonesians who live and work here. Bali is ever-changing. Knowing some tricks will make things easier for you :-)

Visa and Passport

1

Free entry stamp and Visa on Arrival both valid 30 days. Remember: day of arrival and departure day count as full days each

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Your passport must be valid for 6 months when arriving. Otherwise you won't be allowed to travel (happens to quite a few)! There are NO EXCEPTIONS |
| 3 | One page must be empty for the visa stamp |
| 4 | Keep your boarding pass when you arrive , you MIGHT have to show it to the immigration officer |
| 5 | Free Entry stamp CANNOT be extended |
| 6 | Visa on Arrival is not needed for most travelers, but if you wish to stay between 30 and 60 days, then this is a good choice |
| Accommodation & Going Out | |
| 7 | Most prices are subject to tax (10%) and service charge (6-11%) |
| 8 | Value for money is incredible on Bali. Whatever you decide to go for. Streetfood or fine dining. The choice is endless. (Web:) List of places |
| 9 | Ice cubes in restaurants are generally safe and government controlled |
| 10 | For 3-5US\$ one can have already a decent meal |
| 11 | Vegetarian and healthy food on the rise , epicenter Ubud. Try the detox smoothies. |
| 12 | Roof Top bars and Beach clubs are getting more popular, for good reasons. |
| 13 | Don't trust the name of the place. Always check the map. The "Kuta Hotel" might not be exactly in Kuta :-) |
| 14 | Look at the maps closely. A hotel near the coastline could still be far to the next beach, due to lack of road access. |
| 15 | One can still stay for 10-15US\$ per night in homestays |
| 16 | New budget hotels offer clean rooms with AC in larger hotel complexes for 20US\$ |
| 17 | Price for hotel room in 4 star hotel or resort 70-120US\$ |
| 18 | (Web:) Private, serviced Villas are a great alternative offering stunning value for money |

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| 19 | Areas: Every area is distinctively different in Bali. Better get to know the <u>areas</u> first before booking rooms and check out the maps |
| 20 | Room Payment: Even if prices are quoted in US\$, the bill will be converted into Rp. First. |
| Traffic & Transport | |
| 21 | Left-hand traffic on Bali. <u>Tips on handling traffic.</u> |
| 22 | Scooter rental costs 5-8US\$ per day. Always put safety and reliability first. Never compromise. Enough people have serious or fatal accidents. Never hire run down scooters to save a buck. |
| 23 | Keep the mobile no. of the bike rental shop with you. You might need it. |
| 24 | Car with driver for 8-10 hours costs 40-70US\$ per day. Make sure they have a driver's license and the permission to be a driver (izin, insurance issues) to avoid trouble with the police. |
| 25 | Taxis are safe and cheap, but ask them to switch on the meter, always! |
| 26 | Ubud no meter taxis available, transport is organized by licensed drivers from the village. It's important to bargain! |
| 27 | Renting a scooter or car? Bring international driving license |
| 28 | Yes, there is UBER and GRAB in Bali. But in many areas drivers are afraid to go to, because the local communities are against it and create major trouble. |
| 29 | Motorbike Taxis can be arranged through the app Go-Jek. Works well, although also they are restricted in some areas. |
| Communication & Internet | |
| 30 | Get a SIMCard in one of the mobile shops for your smart phone (ca. 3US\$) |
| 31 | Mobile Surfing Internet. Get a SIMcard and ask for internet package /4GB, 1 month ca. 10US\$ |
| 32 | Many restaurants have free wifi |
| 33 | At the international airport just when you exit, you can buy a simcard |
| 34 | Prepaid Credit is called pulsa |

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| 35 | Hardly anybody is using phones in hotels anymore. Whatsapp and Skype are the best and cheapest way to stay in touch with your loved ones at home |
| 36 | Most hotels offer free wifi. Better check before you book and make sure it is available in your room and not only in the lobby and restaurant |
| 37 | Internet connections are often still slow. Don't expect to be able to stream movies or transfer huge amounts of data |
| Activities & Wellness | |
| 38 | Bali is a scuba diving paradise . Amed, Tulamben, Padang Bai, and the Nusa Islands (Penida), etc. (Web:) Dive spots and centers |
| 39 | Bali has the highest spa density in the world |
| 40 | Full body massage are available at 7US\$ per hour , but can go up to 60US\$/h in 5 star hotels and luxury spas |
| 41 | Nail & Hair Salons, Massage parlours of any quality and even cosmedical centres of the highest standards are available |
| 42 | Surfing for beginners at Kuta, Legian and Seminyak Beach |
| 43 | Bali has a wave for everyone, all year around |
| 44 | Top Temples : Uluwatu, Tanah Lot, Besakih (Web:) List of main temples |
| 45 | Climbing a volcano, downhill cycling or a hike through traditional villages will get you closer to nature and Balinese culture |
| 46 | Ubud should be part of your tour program. |
| 47 | It's a Shopping Paradise ; art work, handicrafts, oils and essence, clothes, shoes, furniture, accessories |
| 48 | Day of Silence, (Web:) Nyepi , no check-in or check-out from hotel. Entire island incl. airport is shut down |
| 49 | Manta Rays and Mola Mola fish Nusa Penida and Lembongan |
| 50 | Getting married in Bali is easy; wedding companies offer full service. |
| 51 | Don't smile at the monkey in the monkey forest or temples, showing teeth is a sign of aggression for them |

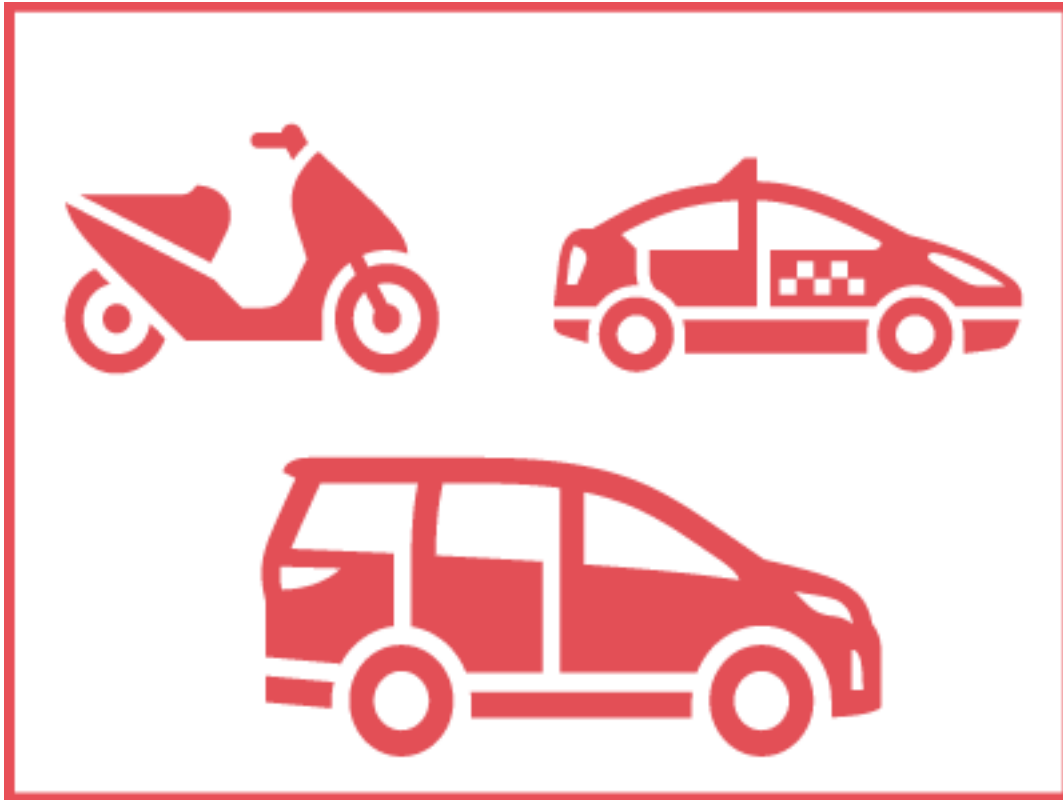
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| 52 | Water sport activities can be found at Benoa (jet ski, para gliding, water ski etc) |
| 53 | Neighboring Islands Lembongan, Ceningan and Nusa Penida less than 1h by boat from Sanur. PARADISE. |
| SAFETY & Manners | |
| 54 | When it's raining the sidewalks can be extremely slippery |
| 55 | Sidewalks can have large and deep holes , that can't be seen at night. |
| 56 | Driving a scooter. Never go too fast. Fatal accidents happen daily. |
| 57 | Loose chippings are everywhere on the road. Expect cats, dogs, chicken...anything can cross your way. And any vehicle can come towards you from any direction, anytime. |
| 58 | Never drink and drive if you want to leave Bali in one piece. |
| 59 | Currents in the sea can be dangerous , and change depending on the weather and wind conditions; also good swimmers have drowned on Bali |
| 60 | Night swimming (under the influence of alcohol and drugs) seem like fun, but will most likely lead to Bali being your last destination. |
| 61 | Ocean and beach hazards. Nature is unpredictable. Watch rip currents, undertows, and waves in general. Particularly when you have kids. |
| 62 | Don't do drugs - it's not worth it , when you get caught. |
| 63 | There is crime in Bali , although not much compared to many other destinations), so stay alert |
| 64 | Prostitution is illegal in Bali |
| 65 | HIV is widespread among prostitutes |
| 66 | Kuta Night Clubs can get rough at times. Some security guys here might not be as calm and objective as you expect |
| 67 | Topless sunbathing on the beach is not allowed |
| 68 | Balinese are open-minded but they don't like: people using their streets as toilets, topless guys in restaurants and shops, disrespectful and loud behavior, somebody touching their head, overly public display of affection |

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| 69 | Use mosquito net and repellent when possible. Dengue fever is widespread. |
| 70 | The red light district and night life areas attract criminals of all sorts - like in any other place in the world, so always stay alert and don't drink too much, stay with friends if you can |
| 71 | ATM machines: always put your hand above the keypad when typing your code. ALWAYS! |
| 72 | General rule - like in any other place in the world. If a place looks dodgy and you can avoid it and go somewhere else, do so. |
| Environment & People | |
| 73 | Bali is a fragile island. Trash, Water and Traffic are big problems, like in any other part of the developing world. |
| 74 | Try to take short showers and avoid wasting water. |
| 75 | Everything you throw away stays in Bali or will be washed into the sea. Rubbish management in this part of the world does not really exist. |
| 76 | Plastic is problem no. 1. Avoid plastic bottles, straws, plastic bags when shopping. |
| 77 | Most workers you will meet have a salary of around 130 to 150US\$ per month and work hard for their money, travel long distances and share their income with other family members. |
| 78 | Balinese are super friendly and welcoming. They are also proud and are happy if you respect their customs and island. |
| 79 | Being angry and shouting is not appreciated. If you have a complaint, be polite, calm and insist on a solution in a friendly manner if you wish to get any result. |
| Areas | |
| 80 | Kuta is wild at night |
| 81 | Seminyak has most clubs and beach clubs, more upper class |
| 82 | Ubud is laid back, art , small shops, great food , healthy life style, yoga |
| 83 | Lembongan Island is easy to get to and like Bali 40 years ago . Paradise |

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| 84 | Sanur is more quiet , a bit upper class in general, calm beaches , great restaurants at the beach side (pantai sindhu). Lots of live music . |
| 85 | Indonesian Clove cigarettes are called Kretek and are smoked everywhere |
| 86 | Rainy season , October to February, Dry season March to September |
| 87 | Bali (incl. Lembongan) are one of the best surf destinations in Asia |
| 88 | Amed is the place where most scuba divers stay and where you can dive around the famous Japanese shipwreck |
| 89 | Nusa Dua , 5 star resort area |
| 90 | Jimbaran - seafood restaurants and BBQ directly on the beach, every night (busy, fresh seafood , tasty) |
| 91 | Bukit Peninsula in the south, surfer's paradise and still a little bit off the beaten track. Padang Padang Beach, Bingin Beach, Dreamland, Uluwatu, Balangan |
| Money | |
| 92 | Visa and Master Card are widely accepted. Credit Card payment in hotels and most restaurants and shops is possible. A surcharge of 1 - 4% is applied when using credit cards. Street vendors: only cash and best in IDR |
| 93 | You can pull money from ATM easily (remote areas not so much). |
| 94 | US\$, AUS\$, EUR will be changed almost anywhere. |
| 95 | Make sure to go to official money changers. If the place looks small and dodgy, it most certainly is dodgy. |
| 96 | Payment is done in IDR (Indonesian Rupiah). Even if many hotels publish their prices in US\$, the actual payment will be done in IDR and the exchange rate will usually not be very good in the hotel |
| 97 | Bring some cash, your credit card and a normal bank card. |
| 98 | Max amount you can withdraw in one go at an ATM is around 1.500.000 (machine with a 50.000 sticker) or 3.000.000 (machines with a 100.000 sticker) |
| 99 | Traveler cheques seem to be a relic of the past |

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Bargaining with street vendors is a must. But also good to respect their work and not to overdo it. Live and let live!



Transportation & Traffic

Getting around

In this Article: Main options to move from A to B and must-know tips when driving scooters or car.

Transportation is one of the major concerns when going to a foreign country, and is often overlooked during the travel planning process. Bali's public transportation system is very weak and almost non-existent. It is smart to know of other services that can get you from A to B, apart from taxis.

In major areas like Kuta, Seminyak or Sanur, you can walk around by foot quite easily. The distance between one touristic area to another can be quite far at times, and the heat, traffic, and sidewalk conditions can be stressful. If your hotel or villa is not very

near to the beach or restaurants, then you need some form of transportation to get there.

Almost everywhere on Bali, you will be continuously asked if you need transport. Be prepared to hear, 'transport? transport?' very often. It sometimes seems, as if every Balinese is a driver, who owns a car or a motorbike. Even though, it can get a bit tiring to constantly say "no thank you", it might be a blessing in disguise. Almost anywhere, at anytime you can, in fact, get a transport service. Whenever you use a service that is not priced through an app or with a taxi meter, make sure you bargain!

Driving in Bali

Traffic in Bali

Indonesia, like many other Asian countries who were colonies, has a left-hand side traffic system. Driving in Bali is extremely different from driving in Australia, Europe or USA. Traffic in South East Asia is something one needs to get used to and Bali is no exception. If you have never driven a car or scooter in cities like Jakarta, Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur then you might need some time to adapt. It's not as easy as it looks, neither is it that hard. You might need to allow a little time to get adjusted.

Good to know

Drivers continuously enter a main road from a side street often without looking. The main rule people follow is: Whatever you can see in front of you is your responsibility. So a motorbike driver cutting into your main road believes that you will notice him and that you would make space or slow down. If you want to overtake somebody you definitely should use your horn, so they know you are coming, otherwise they might move right or left unexpectedly. Again here, the unwritten rule applies, you need to

notice and adapt to what is or appears in front of you.

You are better off driving a bit slower than too fast.

NEVER drink and drive!

- Horn means: Please notice me!
- Many narrow roads, not many signs
- Share roads with dogs, chickens, cows
- Changing lanes without notice is normal
- Road conditions can be bad
- Roads get closed off for processions
- Traffic flow is rarely faster than 30-40km/h
- Main roads (Jl. Bypass....) ca. 60-70km/h
- During rush hour roads can be jam packed

Fun Stuff: Bali.com's "Spiritual" Traffic Principles

Bali is a spiritual island and if you ever manage to make it to Ubud and enjoy yoga and meditation classes, you will realise, that the basic spiritual principles can wonderfully applied in Bali's traffic :-)

- Don't get angry
- Don't get offended
- Don't take yourself too seriously
- No need to rush things
- Nothing is what it seems
- Anything can happen anytime
- Let things flow naturally
- Don't insist
- Accept others how they are
- Feel, sense, anticipate

- Stay respectful
- Always be alert, aware and fully "conscious"

Driving License in Bali

You will need an international driving license, for which you can apply for in your home country. This is usually only valid with your "real" driving license. Bring both along. You can get a temporary Balinese driving license (tourist driver's license) from the police station in Denpasar within a day. Check with your hotel or homestay, they will know how you can get there. The cost is approx. US\$30. You will have to fill in a multiple choice form (sometimes with the answers right next to you!), bring a passport picture and the money. Anybody between the age of 18 and 70 is eligible!

Getting stopped by the police without license or without helmet:

If you get stopped by the police for speeding, driving without a helmet, driving without a valid driving license, or for simply something you think you did not do, always stay calm and friendly, that will help the situation. The police might say things that make you scared, like 'Oh...really really bad...expensive...court hearing...judge'. Tell them you did not know and you are sorry. They will usually charge you a fee and let you go. Expect to pay between US\$10 or US\$30. Sometimes, when they are strict and you have indeed broken the rules, they will ask you to come to the police station the next day to report and pay the fee.



Internet, Phone and SIM cards

Staying connected

In this Article: How to get online and communicate with your loved ones at home

Imagine it is your first day in Bali and you have already taken plenty of pictures, which you are eager to share with friends back home. Or maybe you are just wondering how to stay in touch without having to pay a crazy amount of money for roaming. The question is: how do you stay connected in Bali without spending a fortune?

Local SIM cards are very affordable and can be used as long as you have an unlocked phone.

Prepaid mobile packages

As a visitor, getting a **prepaid local SIM Card** will be your best option to stay connected. The credits are called "Pulsa". The money you put on the card will be used for for Calling and Text messaging. And, for buying internet packages. The card will need to be topped up when you run out. Pulsa is easily bought (topped up) at all the small and big supermarkets and the small phone shops that can regularly be found in the tourism areas.

Most vendors charge a "top-up fee" of between IDR 2,000 to IDR 5,000 (0.15 to 0.35 USD).

You can purchase an internet package with a fixed amount of GB available to use. This is not just great for using WhatsApp and other messenger services, but allows you to access other apps such as google maps with your smartphone, which makes life much easier in Bali.

We usually suggest to **buy a 1 month internet access package** with 3 to 5GB for around US\$7 -10. The staff, where you can buy also the Pulsa, are usually very friendly and help you to buy the internet package, by sending a SMS with certain codes and your number to the network provider of your new SIM card.

You can buy the SIM card, add Pulsa and purchase the internet package in one go.

Where to buy SIM Cards

One of the big providers always has a booth at the airport arrival hall after the customs

section (see picture below). Unless you need internet connection quickly you might want to wait till you get out of the airport, as rates here are significantly higher.



Mobile phone shops that sell SIM cards can be found in most of the main touristic areas, however, they should not charge more than IDR 200,000, and even then it would be a good deal for them see "Real Price" below. To find the one nearest to you, best ask the staff at the reception or in your villa. They usually know. Shops are easily recognized by the logo and big banner of the provider.

"Real Price"

SIM CARD - Empty: IDR 50,000

Top Up Pulsa IDR 100,000

Top-Up Fee: IDR 5,000

From the 100,000 you purchase 30days 5GB package for IDR 70,000-90,000, leaves you with IDR 10,000 for calling and sms (most likely no need, if you use WhatsApp and Skype)

If a street vendor asks IDR 450,000 for an internet package, he is overcharging you heavily.

Where to top up Pulsa

There are many small kiosks and supermarkets where you can buy pulsa/credits if you run out. Just give the seller your phone number and the amount you wish to load. Keep in mind that they will charge a small fee of Rp.1,000 to Rp.3,000. Pulsa/credits can be bought for as little as Rp.5,000 till Rp.100,000.



The main phone providers

Indonesia has a mindboggling amount of providers you can choose from; each offers prepaid packages at different prices and features (which can be confusing even for Indonesians themselves). Below we have listed the two most popular providers:

Telkomsel

Telkomsel's most popular SIM card is called simPATI and although slightly more expensive than SIM cards from other providers, it is currently said to offer the fastest internet speed. Other SIM cards from Telkomsel are called Kartu As and Kartu Halo. simPATI Flash is the name for the prepaid internet packages. A 4 GB quota package starts at 7 USD, a 8 GB package is about 15-20 USD and there is even a 14 GB package.

XL Axiata

XL's most popular SIM card is called 'XL Baru'. It provides cheap domestic calls combined with internet access. The prepaid internet package called Kartu Perdana Super Hot Rod 4G is the latest and most popular package and starts at 8 USD for a quota at 4 GB. XL also offers a 8 GB quota for around 16 USD.

Coverage

Telkomsel is considered the most stable and widest signal coverage provider. XL is a bit limited in areas such as Ubud. It is stronger in the Denpasar and Badung area.

Internet coverage is not the same as your old-fashioned phone coverage. 3G internet is available in the more populated areas but can drop to the slower GPRS or even Edge in remote areas.

How to activate your SIM card

Writing how to activate your SIM card and current available prepaid packages would be a book on itself. Ask your friendly sales person to do this for you. Sales people will do it for you with a smile and within a few minutes.

Free WiFi

You may not feel the need to buy a SIM card as most hotels, restaurants and cafés offer free WiFi access. Do not expect a superfast internet connection, as you will be sharing access with all the other customers, however it will be good enough to keep family and friends updated.

Some mini markets offer free WiFi to their customers. They are easy to recognize by the table and chairs placed outside and filled with mostly local people glued to their mobile phones.

When booking your accommodation you might want to make sure your hotel provides free WiFi in your room, as some only provide access in common areas like the lobby or the restaurant.

Co-working spaces

Digital nomads or people looking for a daily dose of good internet connection for work or leisure, will be happy to know that Bali offers a growing number of co working spaces who provide excellent internet connections.

The rates are usually based on a one-day pass or a fixed amount of hours, often including printing and photocopy services.

Post Offices

The younger generation of Indonesians is likely not to have much experience with stepping into a Post office (Kantor Pos). The idea to walk into the bright orange colored building and buy stamps to send out a letter, is an outdated concept. Who needs to write a letter and pay for it, when you can use your mobile phone to send text messages and photos to your friends and family and receive a response instantly? Many of the youngsters in Indonesia have never actually even used email, which to them is equally outdated. To them the main form of communication is Facebook and WhatsApp.

People do go to the **Kantor Pos** to send and receive packages. People in very rural areas still use the post office to send letters in the traditional way. Post offices are easy to recognize by their iconic orange colored logo.



In Bali, Post offices are scattered in various areas such as Kuta, Denpasar and Ubud. Use the larger offices for sending parcels, as some smaller ones don't offer the service. Seal up your parcel tightly as these packages are not always handled very carefully on the way to their destination, especially when sending them out to overseas. Another option is to have it packed for a small fee, at the office.

Unlike the commercial mail services, when you receive a package from Kantor Pos, you need to pick it up by yourself. A mailman will send you a slip to notify that your package has arrived. You will need to sign the receipt and bring it with you to retrieve the parcel at the post office. There are numerous shipping methods and fees. It's best to opt for the track-able package. Kantor Pos is also an authorized agent of Western Union for sending and receiving money.