

BALI GUIDE

YOUR FREE BALI GUIDE FROM THE ASIA TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

Bali is perhaps the most famous island in the Indonesian archipelago. You'll find gorgeous stretches of sand along its coasts, majestic mountains, centuries-old temples, lively festivals with unique arts and crafts and friendly people who keep their vibrant traditions alive. Discover the best of what Indonesia has to offer on this "Island of the Gods".

With a diverse choice of wonderful resorts, Bali has collected top accolades, such as "world-favourite island destination", from popular travel publications. Bali hotels are known to be some of the most hospitable in the world, owing largely to the Balinese culture of warmth and hospitality. The island's amazing landscapes, rolling surf, pristine beaches and an incredible cultural experience make for a fantastic holiday destination.



WEATHER

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Bali has two seasons, wet (between October and April) and dry (between May and September), with an average year-round temperature of 31°C. The wet season brings rain and overcast days, with the most precipitation occurring between December and February. From June to August is the windy and traditional kite season in Bali. The central highlands are typically cooler than the coasts.

Best time to go: May to August, when humidity levels are low with cool breezes day and night.

<http://www.bali-indonesia.com/weather.htm>

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

[MORE](#)

There are three ways to get out of the airport and to your hotel: your hotel's transfer service, the Ngurah Rai Airport Taxi and a metered taxi outside the airport grounds.

The first choice is the most convenient—make sure that your booking includes a transfer service and pickup details. Be aware that Ngurah Rai Airport Taxi has a monopoly over the airport transfers service and thus can be over-priced compared to standard taxi meter fees. The last choice requires you to put in more effort—walking with your baggage out of the airport grounds and flagging down a cab to pay by the meter. Go for the first option whenever possible.

<http://www.bali-indonesia.com/transfer-services.htm>

SIM CARDS AND DIALING PREFIXES



Mobile phone calls are relatively cheap in Indonesia. SIM cards are widely available by major national cellular operators, namely Telkomsel, Indosat, XL, AXIS, Smart Telecom, and Hutchison Telecommunications or Tri "3", with the first four numbers, identifying the operator.

GETTING AROUND

[MORE](#)

The bemo ('becak-mobil' or motor-cab) is Bali's main public transportation, and it is the most economical way to cover distances between and among Denpasar and the regional terminals in Gilimanuk, Singaraja, Amlapura and Gianyar. Full-sized buses and larger minibuses cover longer routes from the same stations as the bemos. There are no fixed fares, so it's best to ask fellow passengers how much they pay and follow suit. But remember to pay while still on board to prevent them driving off with your change. It is normal to be charged extra for 'excessive luggage'.

Metered taxis in the main southern tourist areas abound, crawling along main streets beeping at tourists. Always stick to the meters. Several hotels also provide complimentary shuttle services to specific areas, so plan your day and make good use of the service.

<http://www.bali-indonesia.com/information/getting-around.htm>

CURRENCY

Indonesian Rupiah (Rp or IDR).
 USD 1 = approximately IDR 12,000

TIME ZONE

GMT +8 or Central Indonesian Time (Waktu Indonesia Tengah or WITA), same as Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

ELECTRICITY

Voltage is 220 Volts, 50Hz. Plugs and sockets are the European two-pronged variety.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Call Number	112
Police	110 or (0361) 751598
Tourist Police	(0361) 1554
Ambulance	118 or (0361) 257550
Fire Brigade	113
Balawista Lifeguards	(0361) 755660
Sanglah Central General Public Hospital	(0361) 227911
International SOS Medical Clinic	(0361) 710505
BIMC Hospital	(0361) 761263
Ngurah Rai International Airport	(0361) 751011
Bali Taxi	(0361) 701111
Bali Government Tourism Office	(0361) 222387

BALI AREA GUIDES

“ Bali’s surf and beaches have been the main magnets of visitors to the island, where sun, sand and surf make for a perfect combination. Excellent surf spots can be found around the southern Bukit Peninsula, while the island’s north and easterly beaches are better for snorkelling and diving. Into the heartland, areas such as Ubud and Kintamani offer blends of nature and unique cultural experiences. The island’s rich history can also be found in the provincial capital, Denpasar...”



1 KUTA

Kuta, located in southern Bali, was a sleepy fishing village half a century ago, but it has expanded since the 1960s after its long sandy beach was discovered by travellers from Asia and wandering surfers from nearby Australia. Ever since, it has perhaps become the best-known tourist resort area on the island. These days, Kuta is quite busy and packed with varied accommodation from five-star hotels to budget hostels. Cheap bars and clubs make it a party centre, while local and international restaurants offer great dining. Kuta also has shopping aplenty, from the chic beachfront ‘Discovery Shopping Mall’ and Kuta Square.

[Read More...](#)

2 NUSA DUA

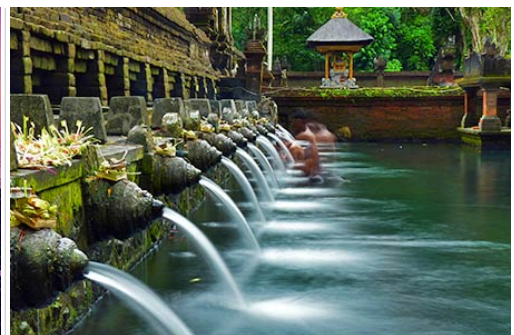
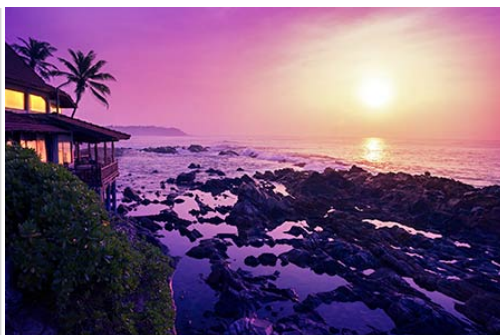
Nusa Dua would normally refer to the tourism enclave on the south-eastern side of the Bukit Peninsula. The enclave is a host of luxury hotels, and home to a popular golf course, an up-market shopping complex and the major convention centre on the island. However most refer to the whole area east of the peninsula as Nusa Dua, spanning the Tanjung Benoa water sport-filled outcrop to the golden beaches and seaweed farms of Geger and Sawangan. Though it’s the most developed and modern area in Bali, it still houses many temples, a museum, and lots of other attractions.

[Read More...](#)

3 SANUR

Similar to Nusa Dua, Sanur is a coastal stretch of beach on the southeast of the island, but more of a quieter little town than a tourism enclave. The northern part of Sanur beach was the historical landing site for invasion troops during the Dutch intervention in Bali in 1906. During World War II, Sanur was again the entry point through which the Japanese forces landed to occupy the island of Bali. Sanur today is also dotted with a number of classic hotels and resorts such as the Grand Bali Beach and the Bali Hyatt, and has become known as a popular tourist destination for repeat guests.

[Read More...](#)



4 UBUD

Ubud is Bali’s tourism playground in the heartland. Located among rice paddies and steep ravines in the central foothills of the Gianyar regency, it is one of Bali’s major arts and cultural centres that has developed a large tourism industry. Tourism on the island developed after the arrival of Walter Spies, a Russian-born German who taught painting and music. Spies and foreign painters Willem Hofker and Rudolf Bonnet entertained celebrities including Charlie Chaplin, Noel Coward, Barbara Hutton, HG Wells and Vicki Baum. They brought in some of the greatest artists from all over Bali to teach and train the Balinese in arts.

[Read More...](#)

5 CANDIDASA

Candidasa is a popular tourist stopover, and is often considered a far-flung, but still easily accessible, quiet retreat in the island’s east. The once traditional fishing village teemed with life in the 12th century, and is best known for its lagoon temple, with its original name being Cilidasa or “ten children”, paying tribute to the temple figurines there depicting a group of children surrounding the Hindu mother goddess of Hariti. The idyllic setting and superb snorkelling and diving options in the bay, as well as its accessibility, has led to Candidasa becoming a favourite retreat destination.

[Read More...](#)

6 DENPASAR

The island’s provincial capital city boasts a rich historical background. It was conquered by the Dutch during their intervention in 1906. The royal palace was ransacked, facing fierce suicidal retaliation by the court and its people, known as the Puputan rite, remembered through a statue in today’s “Taman Puputan” central civic square. The traditional market of Badung is the best place to witness the island’s vast collection of curios and wares, from artwork, pottery, and silverware to textiles and traditional cotton batik cloths. Museum Bali, next to the Jagatnatha temple.

[Read More...](#)

BEST VILLAS



1

THE SAMAYA BALI

★★★★★

Offering a five-star luxury beachfront experience coupled with Balinese hospitality in the upscale beach resort area of Seminyak, The Samaya also features a convenient location on the famous Jalan Kayu Aya, with among Bali’s best restaurants and sunset chill-out spots within easy reach. Resort guests enjoy direct beach access, and luxury villas feature modern and chic interiors with their own full-size private swimming pools. Enjoy 24-hour butler services and in-villa dining options, or dine with ocean views at Breeze Restaurant. A full range of treatments awaits at the beachfront Spa at The Samaya.

Book Now!



2

THE LIGHT EXCLUSIVE VILLAS & SPA

★★★★★

Featuring a collection of luxurious one, two, three and four-bedroom private pool villas, The Light offers a secluded place to retreat in the upscale beach resort area of Seminyak. The spacious villas are fitted with modern amenities, and come complete with a private pool, living and dining area, and a full kitchenette. An onsite restaurant adjacent the resort’s lobby serves a fine selection of western and Indonesian cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner with regular cultural night shows, while a dedicated spa facility delivers soothing traditional Balinese and Indonesian treatments.

Book Now!



3

SEMINYAK ICON

★★★★★

The Seminyak Icon presents a collection of private pool villas in Seminyak that seamlessly blend in with the resort’s tropical Balinese gardens and offers a relaxed vibe throughout. The one, two and three-bedroom villas feature modern amenities, with living spaces and rooms that overlook the garden and large swimming pools bordered by sun decks and parasol-shaded loungers. Rejuvenating spa treatments await at its spa suites, and couples can celebrate intimate moments with a candlelight dinner in the privacy of their own villa.

Book Now!

BEST LUXURY 5-STAR HOTELS



1

AYANA RESORT & SPA BALI

★★★★★

As one of Bali’s most prestigious five-star resorts, Ayana features luxurious guestrooms, suites and villas, paired with world-class facilities set over 90 hectares of tropical gardens. The resort enjoys dramatic views over the Indian Ocean, and is home to the unique and famous Rock Bar, a premier sunset venue that combines an unmatched rock and cliff base setting with signature cocktails, exceptional views and chill-out music. Ayana offers soothing treatments delivered in lavish settings such as a spa on cliff rocks, and the excellent Thermes Marins Spa thalassic facility.

Book Now!



2

W RETREAT & SPA BALI

★★★★★

The W is an ideal choice for those who want to be in the middle of the trendy Seminyak scene, with rows of the islands hippest boutiques, restaurants and nightspots, all within walking distance. However, it is an enclave on its own, designed to fulfil all your needs for a stylish escape away with its signature Whatever/Whenever service. Perks inside the rooms include the signature W Bed with plush pillow-top mattresses, high-tech entertainment centre with BOSE surround sound systems, and privilege access to WooBar, one of the hippest lounges in Seminyak, as well as the beachfront Starfish Bloo restaurant, serving pan-Asian food in ultra stylish decor.

Book Now!



3

GRAND NIKKO BALI

★★★★★

A five-star Bali resort located on top of a towering cliff south of the main Nusa Dua hub, the Grand Nikko offers its guests gorgeous views over the Indian Ocean. The resort is perfect for families, as well as those looking for a private getaway. Guestrooms and villas are full of luxury and comfort, and some feature private balconies with great ocean views. Four large swimming pools that are intricately connected provide great leisure time, and covered tennis courts are lit at night. The beachfront is also home to the island’s only camel safari site.

Book Now!

BEST BUDGET HOTELS



1

BLISS SURFER HOTEL

★★★★

This fun and colourful four-star hotel in Legian is the only surfer-themed hotel on the island with the coast of Kuta and Legian within an easy 10-minute transfer west of the hotel. The surfer-chic interiors of the hotel reflect to the guestrooms, which are filled with colourful surfing-themed artworks and collages, together with used surfboards as installations and murals depicting the art and soul of surfing. Bombura Resto and Bar serves international and local cuisine, and the Surf n Meet Meeting Room and Surf Corner Business Centre caters to business travellers.

Book Now!



2

BEST WESTERN KUTA BEACH

★★★

This hip and fun three-star retreat on Jalan Benesari is within walking distance to the Kuta beachfront. Its colourful window panels exude the fun and vibrant character of the hotels rooms, services and facilities. The lobby features a freeform reception counter and sharp-cut ceilings and throughout the premises you will find a refreshing modern minimalistic design. Guestrooms and suites feature light wood with combinations of bright, purple, green, orange and blue themes. The Triple S Rooftop Bar & Lounge at the fifth floor offers dramatic ocean views, and a rooftop swimming pool allows you to enjoy a dip against the Kuta sunsets.

Book Now!



3

THE 101 BALI LEGIAN

★★★

While not a beachfront hotel, The 101 is only a short taxi ride to the coasts of Kuta and Legian, and within only a half-hour stroll to the legendary Poppies Lane II and the grand Kuta Beachwalk dining, shopping and entertainment complex. The famous nightlife venues of Legian are all within walking distance along the same street. The hotel's collection of guestrooms and suites feature a trademark stylish and modern minimalistic design with pastel colours. Recommended for youthful travellers, the hotel features a Rooftop Dine & Music Lounge and Sky Pool Bar beside the great rooftop swimming pool.

Book Now!

BEST FAMILY HOTELS



1

CONRAD BALI

★★★★★

Gracing the eastern coast of the Tanjung Benoa peninsula, Conrad Bali covers 6.8 hectares of beachfront with lush tropical gardens and multiple swimming pools. The family-friendly five-star resort features a dedicated kids club with full schedules of fun activities, and the resorts lagoon pool and sand area provide a safe space inside the resort for the whole family to enjoy. Conrad Bali has a collection of guestrooms and suites in four low-rise wings, all with panoramic views of the ocean, lagoons, resort or gardens. Jiwa Spa features 10 treatment rooms and five garden pavilions where guests can enjoy a soothing range of treatments.

Book Now!



2

THE WESTIN RESORT NUSA DUA BALI

★★★★★

The Westin Resort Nusa Dua offers modern luxury guestrooms and suites with ocean and pool or garden views. The Westin signature Heavenly Bed promises a great sleeping experience, while guests with toddlers can also opt for the Heavenly Crib, featuring fitted bottom sheets and white flounced dust ruffles and a 100% white cotton thermal blanket. Interiors feature subtle touches of Balinese inspired art pieces and fabrics. The resort grounds comprise gorgeously landscaped tropical gardens, and three large pools include a saltwater pool and a 12m kids slide. The Westin Spa offers parents treatments at the spa, and outdoors on sea-view massage gazebos.

Book Now!



3

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT NUSA DUA BALI

★★★★★

This five-star resort on the southern border of the exclusive Nusa Dua complex is right next to one of the island's premier golfing grounds. The Bali Collection shopping complex, Museum Pasifika and The Bay at Nusa Dua, which houses a great collection of restaurants in one location, is within 10 minutes drive to the northeast. The family resort features all the amenities you need for a cosy stay in Nusa Dua, and while not right on Nusa Dua beachfront, it does have its own beach club facility on the popular peninsular coast, a swift and easy transfer from the hotel. Those with kids will find a peace of mind with a great kid's club facility adjacent the resort's gorgeous lagoon pool.

Book Now!

WHAT TO SEE IN BALI

“ Our 10 Best Things to Do in Bali take you straight to the ‘can’t miss’ cultural treasures and famous landscapes found all around the magical island of Bali. There are innumerable temples, historical sites, and spots of natural beauty spread across eight regencies. This narrowing-down of choices will get you discovering the best of Bali in no time. ”

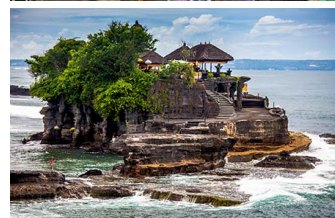
1 BESAKIH TEMPLE

Besakih Temple, also known as the 'mother temple' of Bali sits on the slopes of Mount Agung, at a lofty 1,000m. Besakih is the largest of all the Balinese temples. Eighteen separate sanctuaries belonging to different caste groups surround the three main temples dedicated to Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu. [Read More...](#) **Location: Eastern Bali**



2 TANAH LOT TEMPLE

Tanah Lot must be the island's most iconic temple. This temple is perched on top of a huge rock, and surrounded by the sea with waves constantly crashing on to its base. As among Bali's most important sea temples, Tanah Lot pays homage to the guardian spirits of the sea. The temple serves as foreground to the most picturesque sunsets. [Read More...](#) **Location: Tabanan**



3 ULUWATU TEMPLE

Uluwatu is among the Bali's most important sea temples, perched on a cliff edge in the southwestern Bukit peninsula. Here you can catch dramatic sunsets such as at Tanah Lot, Uluwatu also features an open amphitheatre close by, where sunset kecak fire dances can be enjoyed. A monkey forest also borders the temple grounds. [Read More...](#) **Location: Uluwatu**



4 TEGALLALANG RICE TERRACES

Ubud is famous for its scenic expanses of rice fields. And the paddies with the best vantage point are just up north from the main Ubud centre, along the road of Tegallalang. Here, roadside stalls and art shops offering items and curios of all kinds line the street, as well as small restaurants offering diners great views. [Read More...](#) **Location: North of Ubud**



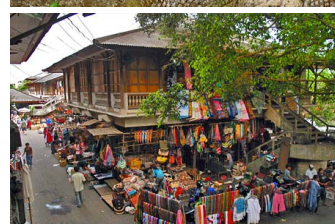
5 UBUD MONKEY FOREST

On the fringes of the Ubud main centre, Ubud Monkey Forest is one of Bali's several grey long-tailed macaque-inhabited forests and perhaps the best known. Also known as the Sacred Monkey Forest of Padangtegal, and by its official designation as Mandala Wisata Wenara Wana, Ubud Monkey Forest is a place of scientific research as well as a site of spiritual and cultural aspects with temples sanctified by the local villagers deep within its grounds. [Read More...](#) **Location: Ubud**



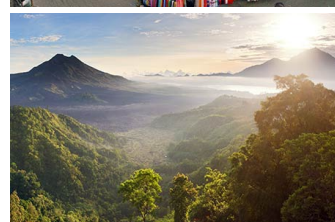
6 UBUD ART MARKET

The Ubud Art Market, locally referred to as 'Pasar Seni Ubud' is located opposite the the Puri Saren Royal Ubud Palace and is open daily. Here you can find beautiful silk scarves, lightweight shirts, handmade woven bags, baskets or hats; statues, kites and many other hand-crafted goods. [Read More...](#) **Location: Ubud**



7 KINTAMANI AND MOUNT BATUR

Kintamani, located in the Karangasem Regency, is home to Mount Batur and the Caldera Lake. A favourite stopover on tour itineraries to this region is Penelokan, which aptly means 'scenic stopover'. The still-active Mount Batur volcano has erupted about 24 times since 1800, each time reshaping the surrounding landscape. [Read More...](#) **Location: North-western Bali**



8 BALI SAFARI AND MARINE PARK

Bali Safari & Marine Park is Bali's largest animal theme park. The park is home to over 60 species, all roaming freely within their enclosures built to closely mimic their natural habitats. Bus safaris take visitors on tours 'around the world', and animal talent shows are held regularly. Aquariums holding exotic fish specimens are nearby. [Read More...](#) **Location: Gianyar**



WHAT TO DO IN BALI

“ Our Bali Top 10 tours present you with select excursions from Bali's treasure trove of attractions. Travellers to the island will find stunning beaches, expanses of terraced rice fields, together with a wealth of historical sites, temples, art and the culture that Bali has long been known for. The various highlights located across eight different regencies continue to attract visitors with different sights to suit any preference. ”

1 HIGHLIGHTS OF BALI TOUR

KLUNGKUNG - DURATION: 9.30 HOURS

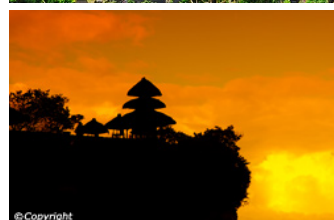
This not-to-miss tour offers an introduction into Bali's vibrant heritage. It takes you to see three fascinating sites: Kertha Gosa, an 18th century royal court with magnificent Kamasan-style ceiling paintings; Besakih Temple, Bali's largest temple complex; and Gunung Kawi, an 11th century temple featuring stone shrines carved into both sides of a valley. [Book now](#)



2 ULUWATU CLIFF TEMPLE, FIRE DANCE AND BEACH DINNER

ULUWATU - DURATION: 6 HOURS

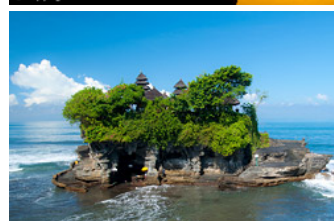
This stunning combination of sunset, temple, cliff-top setting and visual arts make for a memorable experience in Bali. Uluwatu Temple is among the significant sea temples on the island located on Bali's southern peninsula. Grey long-tailed macaques inhabit the region, and the Kecak fire dance performance adds an exotic appeal at sundown. [Book now](#)



3 THE AMAZING TANAH LOT EXPERIENCE

TABANAN - DURATION: 5 HOURS

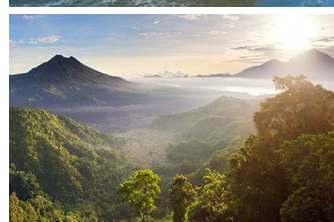
This tour highlights the best of Bali's west, starting with Pura Taman Ayun, which dates back to the 17th century. Next is the Alas Kedaton monkey forest with its tall nutmeg trees. Tanah Lot temple as last stop, is built atop a huge rock with waves crashing against its rock base. Add sunset, and you'll easily have one of Bali's most iconic views. [Book now](#)



4 UBUD DISCOVERY AND ACTIVE VOLCANO TOUR

CELUK, MAS, UBUD AND MOUNT BATUR VOLCANO - DURATION: 9 HOURS

A delightful blend of tradition, art, nature and spirituality defines the true essence of a Bali experience, and this is what you will get from this tour. Visit the Barbutan art village and delight in the spectacle of the Barong and Keris dance, a story telling dance detailing the fight between good and evil. [Book now](#)



5 BALI ELEPHANT RIDING TOUR

TARO - UBUD - DURATION: 6-7 HOURS

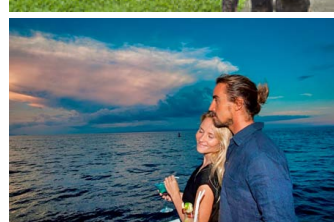
This elephant riding tour invites you to traverse through traditional villages and wander along tropical jungle paths. The gentle giants will take you on a steady stroll through refreshing scenery, then visit a botanical garden that houses one of the island's largest collections of orchids and palm trees. [Book now](#)



6 SUNSET DINNER WITH BALI HAI CRUISE II

BENOA HARBOUR - DURATION: 3 HOURS

There's no better way to spend a balmy tropical evening than on Bali Hai's evening Dinner Cruise. As the sun goes down, set off on a relaxing cruise around the harbour. Take in the cool night air on the top deck, enjoy live entertainment by the famous strolling trio Batakos Singers or a troupe of cabaret dancers. [Book now](#)



7 WHITEWATER RAFTING AT AYUNG RIVER TOUR

UBUD - DURATION: 6.30 HOURS

Ayung River runs through Bali's heartland, home to among the island's most fantastic landscapes. Ayung features Class II and III rapids, winding through deep valleys, cascading waterfalls, dense tropical rainforest jungle and ravines. An excellent lunch is served on a terrace river café at the end of the trip. [Book now](#)



8 ANIKA COOKING CLASS

KUTA - DURATION: 8 HOURS

Anika Cooking Class shows you some insights into local heritage cuisine through traditional techniques and exotic ingredients. After an exciting day in the kitchen and learning how to select ingredients at a traditional market, you will soon master the art of combining and balancing various flavours to create an array of unique tastes. [Book now](#)



WHAT TO EAT IN BALI

“ Thousands of islands with different cultures make up Indonesia, so no wonder its food is just as diverse. To complement the holiday experience on Bali, you would not want to miss out on its assortment of dishes. These include lawar, bebek betutu, the Balinese sate version known as sate lilit, and the island’s famed Babi guling. The Balinese have a rich collection of snacks, cakes and desserts for your sweet tooth too! ”

1 SATE VARIETIES

Sate (or “satay”) are marinated, skewered and grilled meats, served with spicy sauce, and may consist of diced or sliced chicken, goat, mutton, beef, pork, fish, tofu, eggs or minced blends. Bali’s own variant is sate lilit, made from minced beef, chicken, fish, pork, or even turtle meat, which is then mixed with coconut, coconut milk, and a rich blend of vegetables and spices. Wrapped rather than skewered around bamboo, sugar cane or lemongrass sticks then grilled, sate lilit can be enjoyed with or without sauce.



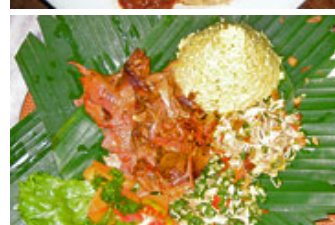
2 NASI AYAM AND NASI CAMPUR

Bali’s own take on ‘chicken rice’, nasi ayam and nasi campur can be found served at many warungs (small eateries) and restaurants throughout the island. The dish is mainly white rice served with many different elements of Balinese delights, from a bit of babi buling or betutu as the main meats, together with mixed vegetables and a dab of the iconic spicy hot sambal matah – sometimes served with a bowl of soup. For those who do not want it too spicy, simply ask for it without the sambal.



3 BEBEK AND AYAM BETUTU

Betutu is an iconic Balinese favourite, consisting of a whole chicken or duck stuffed with traditional spices, wrapped in banana leaves, then enveloped tight in banana trunk bark before it’s baked or buried in a coal fire for 6 to 7 hours. The result is a rich and juicy, succulent feast with all meat easily separated from bones. Betutu is the Balinese slow-cooked luscious equivalent of babi guling for ‘non-pork eaters’.



4 BABI GULING

Babi guling is an all-time favourite, consisting of spit-roast pig stuffed with rich traditional spices and vegetable mixes such as cassava leaves, slowly ‘rolled’ over (hence its name, guling means ‘to roll’) a coal fire. The crisp brown skins are prized, while the meat is a tender and juicy treat. At first the dish was a communal treat only during special festivities and ceremonies, but now babi guling can be found widely served at warungs and restaurants specialising in this dish.



5 JIMBARAN SEAFOOD

The line-up of beachside cafés on Muaya beach in Jimbaran Bay typically serves grilled fresh caught seafood, ranging from shrimp, clams, crabs, calamari, lobsters and a wide assortment of fish. But in terms of taste, the secret lies in each of the café owner’s recipes of barbecue sauce and condiments – usually in the form of homemade sambal, which has collectively become known as “sambal seafood – Jimbaran style”. From sweet-sour blends to the typical hot and spicy... tasting is believing!



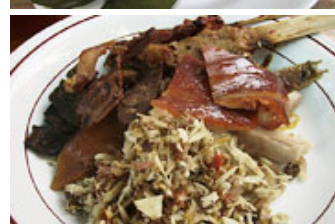
6 PEPES AND TUM

Pepes is an Indonesian Sundanese cooking method using banana-leaf as food wrappings. The small package is sewed with thin bamboo sticks at both ends, and either steam-cooked, boiled or grilled. It is most commonly used to prepare fish as “pepes ikan” or meat, chicken, tofu or vegetables. Tum takes on a different form, with the wrapping folded and stitched at one top end, and usually steam-cooked. The banana-leaf wrapping provides a special aromatic appeal to the cooked blend.



7 LAWAR

Lawar is a traditional mix containing fine chopped meat, vegetables, grated coconut and spices. Sometimes, and in some areas, lawar is prepared using fresh blood mixed with the meat and spices to strengthen the flavour. Lawar are usually served immediately after preparation as it cannot be kept long. There are two main types of lawar, white and red. The white version usually does not contain any meats or blood.



8 TRADITIONAL DESSERTS & CAKES

Traditional cakes are collectively referred to as Jajanan Pasar (traditional market cakes), originally used to accompany ceremonial offerings, but now have found their way to the markets as daily coffee time favourites. The varieties abound, but the ingredients usually include rice flour, glutinous rice, sugar, coconut and tropical fruits. Wajik, pancong, jaja batun bedil, bubuh injin, godoh, pisang rai, and kelepon are typical varieties.



WHERE TO EAT

“ Selecting the best restaurants in Bali from the wealth of world-class dining venues on offer was a real challenge. They offer a great range of cuisine in terms of region and sophistication and often feature unique locations with awe-inspiring views and artistic interiors. Over the years, Bali has evolved with each wave of visitors and is now truly a first-class dining destination, where the world’s most innovative and talented chefs can be found. ”

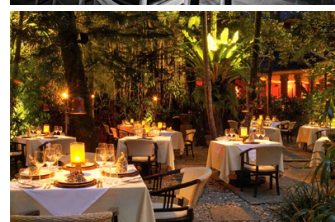
1 LOCAVORE (UBUD)

Locavore became famous and made it to best restaurant in Bali for its unique approach to international cuisine, using locally sourced produce, and mostly due to its delectable and innovative creations by two former chefs of the five-star resort Alila Ubud. Bookings are essential for securing one or more of the restaurant’s only 30 seats. The sleek and modern interior is trendy but not too pretentious, because it’s all about the well-crafted cuisine served from the open kitchen. [Read More...](#)



2 MOZAIC RESTAURANT GASTRONOMIQUE (UBUD)

Mozaic Restaurant Gastronomique was the groundbreaker for Bali’s fine dining scene, basically putting the island on the world’s map of destination dining. The restaurant is open for dinner only and bookings strictly essential. Mozaic showcases Salans’ innovative approach to French cuisine that inspired many other chefs, incorporating local and exotic Balinese ingredients through a varying menu. The dining experience at Mozaic is a private one, with a tranquil tropical garden and lounge tucked away in Ubud’s quieter north on Jalan Raya Sanggingan. [Read More...](#)



3 METIS RESTAURANT AND GALLERY (SEMINYAK)

Metis comprises a restaurant, bar and lounge, gallery, boutique, wine cellar and private dining room and has won the hearts of foodies through its sensory dining experiences, making it one of the best dining spots in Bali. The menu presents French Mediterranean cuisine passionately crafted by chef and founder Nicolas “Doudou” Tourneville, and through a combination of five-star service in highly sophisticated layout and interiors, Metis is a must-try for lovers of fine food while in Bali. Be it dining. [Read More...](#)



4 MAMA SAN KITCHEN, BAR & LOUNGE (SEMINYAK)

Mama San Kitchen, Bar & Lounge introduced a unique dining concept with innovative dishes inspired by the great cuisines of the Asian region. Chef-owner Will Meyrick gained much of his travel experiences trying out the different street foods and exotic dishes throughout various regions and imbued the menu at Mama San with them. Open the menu and you will find a bit of Burmese, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Indian and local Indonesian. This restaurant further sets itself apart from others with its cool. [Read More...](#)



5 KAYUPUTI (NUSA DUA)

Kayuputi is one of the luxurious signature outlets at the St. Regis Bali Resort in southern Nusa Dua. The award-winning specialty fine dining beachfront restaurant offers a luxury dining experience with premium Asian-influenced haute cuisine and an appealing wine list to pair. The interiors are adorned with ‘wayang’ traditional shadow puppet ornaments, and the alfresco dining area with private gazebos border an impressive blue-tiled pool with ocean views. Open for brunch, lunch and dinner, Kayuputi features a la carte and lavish six-course degustation menus. [Read More...](#)



6 TEATRO GASTROTEQUE (SEMINYAK)

Teatro Gastroteque is a fine dining restaurant on Seminyak’s Jalan Kayu Aya, which is great for couples and special occasions. The classy restaurant promises a memorable dining experience with its fine French and Asian fusion, with creations from multi award-winning Indonesian celebrity chefs Mandif Warokka and Daniel Edward. Now a significant part of Bali’s fine dining scene, its name was chosen to reflect its ‘theatrical’ approach to cuisine, showcased from behind an ‘open theatre’ kitchen and using the finest cuisine and techniques before its international audience.



7 SUNDARA (JIMBARAN)

Sundara offers luxurious beachfront dining on Jimbaran Bay, and comes under the patronage of the legendary Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay. Located at the northernmost end of the resort grounds, following the curvature of the bay, this chic space has become a gorgeous addition to the beach, with its blue infinity pool and tree-shaded daybeds. Sundara consists of a dedicated bar, an open-air dining area, and a lavish five-star dining room. The bar proudly presents cocktails mixed by one of the world’s leading cocktail authorities. [Read More...](#)



8 MEJEKAWI BY KU DE TA (SEMINYAK)

Mejekawi by Ku De Ta brings a touch of fine dining to the winning Seminyak venue’s gorgeous beachfront setting. Mejekawi presents an innovative ‘kitchen and laboratory concept’, brought to you by three of Bali’s top chefs, Phillip Davenport, Ben Cross and Will Goldfarb. Joining the list of Bali’s best restaurants, it features an indoor and alfresco table setting on the top floor of Ku De Ta’s south-eastern wing, where diners enjoy their evening with splendid seven and 11-set course degustation menus. The dishes are prepared through high-technology and precision cooking methods that give the overall dining experience at Mejekawi its contemporary edge. [Read More...](#)



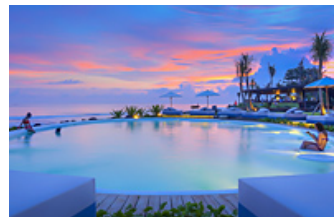
WHERE TO GO FOR NIGHTLIFE

“ Bali nightlife caters to a wide range of crowds, styles and budgets. Beach clubs to chill-out at sunset and well into the wee hours, night clubs to get loose with live DJs, rooftop bars, theatre shows, or simply an easygoing sunset dinner cruise, all prove that you can enjoy life the nightlife scene in Bali. These Top 10 Nightlife Experiences in Bali presents the best of it all. ”

1 BEACH CLUBS

Stunning locations overlooking the surf and Indian Ocean, some with Ibiza-inspired party vibes or simply a tropical Bali beach shack setup, Bali's fine collection of beach clubs, such as Ku De Ta, Potato Head, Mozaic and Cocoon spice up the splendid sunny coastlines by day and host perfect evenings following the gorgeous sunsets.

[Read More...](#)



2 NIGHT CLUBS

The world-renowned clubbing scene in Bali mostly starts around midnight, with a great range of nightclubs and bars offering pumping bass, dance floors full of revellers and late closing which allows you to party 'til the sunrises. These popular night spots feature all the right combination of sights, sounds, signature tastes and surroundings.

[Read More...](#)



3 THEATRE SHOWS

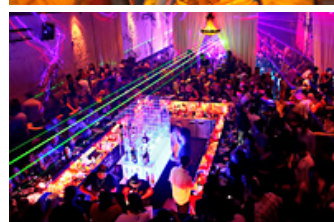
For a compelling night out, alternatives include stunning theatre and cultural shows, the likes of Devdan which presents 90-minute magical tour of the Indonesian Archipelago through stunning stage visuals and dance choreography, or the Kecak fire dance at the breathtaking cliff-top sunset amphitheatre beside Uluwatu Temple.

[Read More...](#)



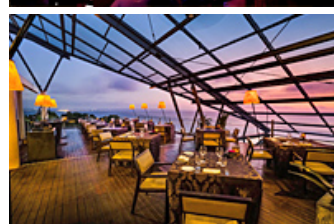
4 BARS AND PUBS

Bali's nightlife scene emerges as the sun sets over the western coastlines of Kuta, Seminyak and Legian, where the island's main collection of bars and pubs comes to life. Some venues even start only near midnight and later into the wee hours; as earlier evenings are mild, building up later on. [Read More...](#)



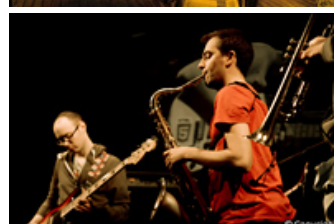
5 ROOFTOP BARS

The latest trend over the past half decade in Bali is chill-out rooftop bars that combine gorgeous settings, good vibes and innovative drinks. If an open starlit sky and a breezy setting with great cocktails are your thing for a night out, here are the best options in Bali. [Read More...](#)



6 LIVE MUSIC VENUES

For a laidback evening vibe, break away from the usual deep bass, dubstep and the overall dominant digital electronic music trend. Instead, head out for the few hotspots that feature live stage performances, with great local and international bands performing regularly. [Read More...](#)



7 CABARET SHOWS

The best cabaret shows in Bali all provide a bit of glitz and glamour to your evening on the island; be it a part of the live performances that accompany your restaurant dinner, or a side highlight out at sea on a wonderful sunset cruise aboard one of Bali's famous catamarans. There are a few select venues that feature cabarets, and here we've rounded them up for you to choose from. [Read More...](#)



8 SUNSET DINNER CRUISES

Escape the crowds onshore and cruise over the calm evening sea off Benoa Harbour aboard Bali's most favourite catamarans, the Bali Hai II and The Bounty. Enjoy cocktails at sundown, followed by an international buffet dinner accompanied by live bands and fun cabaret shows. [Read More...](#)



WHERE TO SHOP

“ Bali caters to a wide range of shoppers, as it is a treasure trove of fine art and handicrafts, antique and semi-antique furniture, paintings, delicately carved jewellery, wood and stone carvings, masks, woven and dyed fabrics. It is where international and world-famous designer brands can be found beside local and handmade curios. ”

1 UBUD ART MARKET

The Ubud Art Market is located opposite the the Puri Saren Royal Ubud Palace and is open daily. Here you can find beautiful silk scarves, lightweight shirts, handmade woven bags, baskets or hats; statues, kites and many other hand-crafted goods. Most of the goods are made in the neighbouring villages of Pengosekan, Tegallalang, Payangan and Peliatan. The location of the Ubud Art Market which is centred among the art producing villages, and being just opposite the royal palace which is a centre point to Ubud itself. [Read More...](#)



2 MONKEY FOREST ROAD

Jalan Monkey Forest, Ubud. Ubud's Monkey Forest, is a famous landmark in central Ubud, and its one-way thoroughfare caters well to visitors with good quality restaurants, cafes, bars, hotels, homestays and shopping venues. Along the street you may easily find international brand stores, sophisticated shops selling local designs, beautiful painting stores and handicraft and antiques outlets on each side of the street. Location: one way route up north from Mandala Wisata Wanara Wana Monkey Forest sanctuary [Read More...](#)



3 SUKAWATI ART MARKET

Jalan Raya Sukawati, Gianyar. Sukawati Art Market is the biggest market in Bali to purchase handicrafts and traditional handmade products, and is located on the main road of Sukawati. This two-floor building is packed with tourists and locals almost every weekend, especially during summer, Christmas, Eid Ul Fitr and New Year's holiday – sometimes you can't even get a space in the parking lot. Location: along the main road of Sukawati in Gianyar. [Read More...](#)



4 TEGALLALANG 'HANDICRAFTS VILLAGE'

Jalan Raya Tegallalang, Gianyar. Tegallalang and nearby villages specialise in the carving of softwood figures. Brightly painted flowers, signboards, fruits, frogs, tokay geckos, ducks, cats and animal figures all feature heavily. All the way along the 12-kilometre road shops also sell furniture and handicrafts made from glass, wood, bamboo, ceramics and shells – and many are much better quality than those you find in Sukawati Art Market or Ubud Market. Location: North from Jalan Raya Andong and all the way along Jalan Tegallalang. [Read More...](#)



5 CELUK VILLAGE

Along the main road from Denpasar to Gianyar, approximately 5 km from Denpasar. Further along the road towards Ubud is the village of Celuk, famous for being a village of gold and silversmiths. The village offers a multitude of gold and silver jewellery including rings, bangles, chokers, earrings, tusuk konde (hair pins), broaches and many other accessories, some decorated with mother of pearl. Behind virtually every other door is a smith and small shop owner here. Location: Along the main road from Denpasar to Gianyar. [Read More...](#)



6 KUTA SQUARE

Jalan Bakung Sari no. 1, Kuta. Close to the Kuta Art Market, Kuta Square is a shopping centre approximately 50 metres from Kuta Beach. Designed in boulevard style, Kuta Square is packed with a lot of international and local brands from surf wear outlets, dining areas, a hypermarket and fashion stores, such as Billabong, Quiksilver, Hurley, Giordano, Reebok, Nike and Levi's, and two famous local brands – Milo's and Animale. Location: Jalan Bakung Sari no. 1, Kuta Open: 9:00-22:00. [Read More...](#)



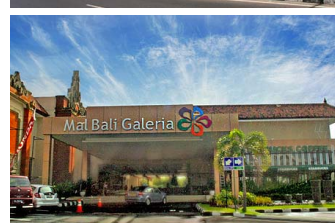
7 DISCOVERY SHOPPING MALL

Jalan Kartika Plaza, Kuta. Discovery Shopping Mall, the only mall with a beachfront view, is located in Kuta's prime area. This mall has facilities such as banks, restaurants, cafés, bookstores, opticians, pharmacies, amusement arcades, home accessories, jewellery and international brand outlets such as Sogo, Guess, Esprit, Giordano and many more. Location: Jalan Kartika Plaza, Kuta Open: 10:00-22:00 (Monday-Thursday and Sunday), 10:00-22:30 (Friday and Saturday). [Read More...](#)



8 MAL BALI GALERIA

Jalan Bypass Ngurah Rai, Simpang Siur, Kuta. Mal Bali Galeria is among the largest shopping centres in Kuta. Arcades comprise various restaurants, bookshops, fashion outlets, a Hypermart, the Galeria 21 cineplex, souvenir shops, and various scheduled exhibitions in its atrium and main lobby. The front section includes a duty free shop, and the rear is mainly the Matahari Bali Galeria. Location: Jalan Bypass Ngurah Rai, Simpang Siur, Kuta. Open: 10:00-22:00 [Read More...](#)





TIPS AND GOOD TO KNOW

SWIM SAFELY

Enjoy the sea, sun and surf... just don't swim near the red flags. Red flags with skull and crossbones planted in the sand designate dangerous rip current lurking in area. If you do get caught in a strong rip, calmly float or tread water to conserve energy as swimming against one is always futile. Eventually the rip will subside, then swim at a leisurely pace, in a diagonal direction toward the shore. Another way to keep safe in the waves is to keep near the Balawista lifeguard watch towers.

CHANGE YOUR CASH WISELY

Use only authorised money changers or a bank. Banking hours are from 8:00-15:00, Monday to Friday, and until 13:00 on Saturdays. Some bank branches in hotels keep longer hours. Money can also be changed at hotel cashiers, at a higher rate than authorised money changers. Daily exchange rates are published in newspapers. Stay away from small, unauthorised street booths, even though they call themselves "authorised". You usually end up with less money than what was counted in front of you. If you do happen to be in that situation, concentrate and re-count the money twice in front of the talkative guy and ask for any missing banknotes.

KEEP AWAY FROM STRAY DOGS

Stay away from street dogs, no matter how timid they may seem. Rabies has been present in Bali and several deaths arising from rabies infections have been recorded. Visitors to the island should avoid contact with dogs, cats, monkeys and other animals. If bitten, seek immediate medical attention. It's better not to feed the monkeys. Usually their feeding is taken care of, and if they're in their natural habitat, why feed them anyway?

ENJOY THE SUN, BUT DON'T OVERDO IT

Slap on plenty of high-factor sun protection (minimum SPF 30) and drink lots of fluids. Find out about the many local remedies for sunburn, which would also give you an insight into the traditional jamu culture, as well as natural spa treatments.

SHOW RESPECT AT TEMPLES

Always follow respectful dress codes and conduct when visiting sacred places in Bali. Some of the rules you may encounter include: Walk around a flower offering placed on the ground, not over it; always wear a sarong and a waist sash when visiting temples (an udeng headdress for men shows even more respect); and ladies cannot enter sacred places during their period.

BARGAIN WHENEVER POSSIBLE

If there's no barcode or set price, start negotiating. Bargaining is customary at small shops and markets; start at about half the asking price and go up till a compromise is reached. Refrain from buying anything on your first day in Bali. Do a little survey while you're enjoying your first day and get accustomed with the prices, and don't be tempted to buy anything on the beaches as prices can be triple the norm, and their quality isn't as assured. Bringing home, or even wearing, fake Oakleys or knock-off Rolexes is no fun.

BE SAFE ON THE STREETS

The traffic in Bali can be quite a chaotic scene for first time travellers. Traffic jams have become quite common in recent years in the more crowded southern parts of the island due to population growth and not so top-notch urban planning. Zebra crossings aren't really safe places to get to the other side, and there is no such thing as "jay-walking" here. You might be tempted to rent your own motorcycle, but it is not recommended, as getting acquainted with a scooter is one thing while attaining special skills to zip through the traffic is another. Not to mention, legal issues.

BEWARE OF "BALI BELLY"

While part of the cultural experience has a lot to do with the food, trying out traditional Balinese cuisine for the first time can be exciting and daunting. Most of the traditional food is exotically spicy, and those prepared by communities during local ceremonies may be far from restaurant hygiene standards. The common phrase, "Bali belly" has stuck for a reason. The spices in the traditional preparations can serve as antibacterial agents, and an upset stomach or diarrhoea after eating freshly prepared lawar mix or satay lilit may simply be because you are unaccustomed to the strong spices.

USEFUL LOCAL PHRASES

INDONESIAN
Apa kabar? = How do you do? / How are you?
Saya = I / me Anda = You (polite)
Terima kasih (banyak) = Thank you (very much)
Berapa harganya? (referring to a definite item) = How much does this cost?
Tidak pedas = Not spicy
Tolong bill-nya = Can I have the bill please?
BALINESE
Punapi gatrane? = (poo-na-pee gut-ra-nay) = How do you do? / How are you?
Becik-becik, suksma (ba-chick ba-chick, soox-ma) = Fine, thank you
Tityang or tyang (tee -young) = I / me
Rahajeng wengi (raa-ha-jung were -ngee) = Good evening
Aji kuda? (aa-jee koo-da) = How much?
Mahel sajan (maa-hal sa-jaan) = Very expensive
Matur suksma (ma-tour soox-ma) = Thank you