

RAINBOW GETAWAYS



PREMIER LGBTQ TRAVEL CONCIERGE

BALI

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HISTORY



Bali is a province of Indonesia which is located between the islands of Java and Lombok island, Bali island is also commonly referred to as The Island Of Thousands Temples, The Island of Gods, and Bali Dwipa. Bali also has several small islands are also included in the province of Bali, and the island of Nusa Penida, Nusa Lembongan Island, Nusa Ceningan Island, Serangan Island and Menjangan Island. The capital of Bali is Denpasar, located in the south of the island, the island of Bali is renowned as a world tourism destination with unique art and culture.

IN THE BEGINNING

Bali was inhabited by around 2000 BC by Austronesian peoples who migrated originally from Taiwan through Maritime Southeast Asia. Culturally and linguistically, the Balinese are thus closely related to the peoples of the Indonesian archipelago, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Oceania. Balinese culture was strongly influenced by Indian, Chinese, and particularly Hindu culture, beginning around the 1st century AD. The name Bali Dwipa ("Bali island") has been discovered from various inscriptions, including the Blanjong pillar inscription written by Sri Kesari Warmadewa in 914 AD and mentioning

"Walidwipa".

I GUSTI KETUT JELANTIK

Later in the nineteenth century, conflicts in Europe brought massive repercussions in Bali. In 1840, the Dutch envoy, with the very skillful and devious negotiator, Huskus Koopman, began a series of visits to persuade the Balinese to agree to Dutch sovereignty. He managed to make treaties with the regencies of Badung, Klungkung, Buleleng, Karangasem, and Tabanan agreeing to a Dutch trade monopoly, while the rajas failed to realize that they had also virtually agreed to give the Dutch sovereignty over their lands and reefs. Most regencies ratified the treaties, but Buleleng and Karangasem stood firm. The brother of the rajas of Buleleng and Karangasem, Gusti Ketut Jelantik, finally voiced the brave sentiments that, "Not by a mere scrap of the paper shall any man become the master of another's lands. Rather let the kris decide." The kris, a traditional curved knife, used in battle, did decide when on May 20, 1849, after years of domination and hardship, the Balinese of Karangasem all committed puputan or ritual suicide. So the stage was set for the Balinese who preferred to die than live cheated and subservient to Dutch power. He has later been designated as an Indonesian National

Hero.

I N D E P E N D E N C E

Throughout the 19th and 20th century relations with the Dutch were still turbulent resulting in the loss of many lives. In 1949, under continuing world pressure, the UN Security Council ordered the Dutch to withdraw their armed forces and negotiate, instead of dominate. In 1950, the Republic of Indonesia was formed, with Sukarno as president. While Bali is part of Indonesia, there are significant religious, historic and cultural differences with Java and the other main islands. Present day Bali remains independent with a strong Hindu / Buddhist in a country dominated by Islam, retaining a certain amount of autonomy from Jakarta.



MONEY



The unit of currency in Indonesia is the rupiah, from the Sanskrit word for wrought silver, rupya. Coins come in denominations of Rp25, 50, 100, and 500. Notes are Rp1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, and 100,000; the largest denomination is worth about US\$10 (£5.90).

CREDIT CARDS

All high-end hotels, shops, restaurants, and nightclubs accept credit cards. Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted cards but some do take American Express and Diners Club.

DEBIT CARDS

Debit cards are accepted by some ATMs on the Maestro and Cirrus networks. If you plan to travel in very rural areas or the islands, or Ceningan Island, it will be wise to stock up on additional cash before you hit the road.



VISITORS FROM THE USA

Though you can order rupiah before leaving home, it is not necessary. Denpasar airport on Bali and Selaparang airport on Lombok have plenty of money changers in the arrival terminal and ATMs once through Customs.

Cash is king in Bali and Lombok. Wherever you go you will need it, whether to pay for parking, entrance to museums, tips, or taxi rides or to buy knick-knacks, you will need to have low denominations of cash. The maximum amount of currency that you can bring into Bali is US\$10,000 in cash.

ATM

ATMs are everywhere in south Bali. Withdrawals can be made with credit cards and some debit cards on the Maestro and Cirrus networks. Most ATMs dispense money in multiples of Rp50,000 which is extremely annoying when withdrawing large amounts of cash. A few machines will dispense Rp100,000 notes. All ATMs are clearly marked which denominations they pay out. Some banks will only allow maximum withdrawals of Rp1,250,000 at one time but will allow up to three withdrawals in a day. Others will allow Rp3,000,000 at one time with a maximum of Rp6,000,000 withdrawal in a day. The best ATM we have found is Permata Bank, where you can withdraw Rp3,000,000 in Rp100,000 notes up to a maximum of two withdrawals.

HELPFUL INFO

CLIMATE

It has a tropical climate, hot all year round, with a rainy season from November to March, and a relatively dry season from April to October, when, however, some showers can still occur. In the rainy season, it usually rains a couple of hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the afternoon, while in the rest of the day the sun shines for a few hours. The best time to travel to Bali and enjoy its beaches is from June to September, the weather is usually sunny, the heat is not too intense, and in any case, it's tempered by the breeze.

ELECTRICITY

In Indonesia, the power plugs and sockets are of type C and F. The standard voltage is 230-V and the standard frequency is 50-Hz.



TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION

Whether you come to Bali for leisure or business. Staying connected to the internet and being able to use all the great communication tools that come with it, is for many travelers a must - a basic need. Although you can not expect everywhere a super fast internet connection, the infrastructure, coverage, and service have improved greatly over the years. A 3G network is available in most areas if it's not too remote. Since April 2018 the regulations have changed however and you need to register with your passport if you wish to buy a SIM CARD. You may not feel the need to buy a prepaid SIM card as most hotels, restaurants, and cafés offer free WiFi access. Do not expect super fast internet as you will be sharing access with all the other customers but 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 people glued to their mobile phones.

INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

A lot of money has been invested in infrastructure in the last decade. The gateway to Bali is the Ngurah Rai International Airport just outside of Kuta, which is undergoing major renovation. Traffic clogged motorways link together the main areas on the island. It's the ideal place to explore if you have your own private transport (renting a car or a scooter is the easiest way to get around). Public transport is more limited. There are private companies running bus services between the South of Bali and Ubud, but that's about it. Modern apps like Gojek, Grab car and Uber are the most convenient way to get between the cities if you don't have your own transport.



IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Bali Emergency and Rescue Assistance will help you to contact the right person if you have an emergency during your Bali holiday. Bali has a new emergency call number like 911 - but in Bali, the code is 112. Please dial this emergency number whenever you need urgent assistance in Bali. Within a reasonable time, the crew will come to your aid.

LANGUAGE

The official languages of the region are Indonesian and Balinese. Because of the tourism requirements, a lot of the people speak some level of English.

The main restaurants, spas, hotels, and tourist attractions have staff and guides that speak English.



LGBTQ TRAVEL

Bali is a popular spot for LGBTQ travelers owing to the many ways it caters to a rainbow of visitors. There is a large gay and lesbian ex-pat community, and many own businesses that – if not gay-specific – are very gay-friendly. In south Bali and Ubud, couples have few concerns beyond remembering that the Balinese are quite modest.

There's a rollicking strip of very-gay-friendly nightclubs in the heart of Seminyak, although there's no part of Bali any LGBTQ person should avoid. Having said that, gay travelers in Bali (and Indonesia) should follow the same precautions as straight travelers and avoid public displays of affection. However, as the nation becomes more religiously conservative, any form of closeness between people of the same sex may be unwise.

RELIGION

Though Bali is multi-religious, consisting of Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist minorities, the predominant religion is Hinduism. Balinese Hinduism, called Agama Hindu Dharma, originated from Java and is a blend of Shaivism and Buddhism. The theological foundation for the religion comes from Indian philosophy while indigenous beliefs form the backbone of the rituals. This blending is perfectly acceptable in Bali as the saying goes "The truth is one; the interpretation, multiple."



GETTING THERE

Ngurah Rai International Airport or Denpasar International Airport is located in South Kuta district and is just 13-kilometers from Denpasar, the capital of Bali. Flights from major international cities regularly fly in and out of the Denpasar Airport. It is also well connected to most of Indonesia and has regular domestic flights connecting it to major cities within the country. From the airport, you can easily hire a taxi to your destination. Please note that buses might not always be available from the airport.

Bali is quite a popular port for most cruise liners traversing through Southeast Asia. To get into Bali through the sea route, take a flight to Singapore, Sumatra or Java and take a ship for your onward journey to Bali. The information desks at the airport will guide you thoroughly.

DRIVING

Bali traffic can be horrendous in the south, up to Ubud, and as far as Padangbai to the east and Gilimanuk to the west. Finding your way around the main tourist sites can be a challenge because roads are only sometimes signposted, maps are unreliable and lots of streets are one-way, particularly in Ubud. Off the main routes, roads can be rough but they are usually surfaced. Avoid driving at night or at dusk. Many bicycles, carts, and vehicles do not have proper lights, and street lighting is limited.

THE
EXPERIENCE

CULTURE

A magnificent Asian archipelago brimming with culture and history, Bali is steeped in rich tradition and spirituality that centers around art and religion. Many Balinese people are an artist of some kind and enjoy spending their time working on arts and crafts using techniques that have been passed down through families over many generations. Many public areas, homes, and rice paddy fields are decorated with detailed paintings, intricate carvings, fine weaving, extraordinary rice decorations and artworks that pay religious homage. Religion is an important practice of Balinese culture, with many rituals and traditions occurring from the moment of birth, through puberty, into marriage, childbirth and eventually death. The Balinese also believe in the afterlife and celebrate this through national festivals including Kuningan, Galungan and Nyepi, the national day of silence.

BUCKET LIST

Explore the cave under Uluwatu beach

Stroll along the Campuhan ridge walk for sunrise

Go White water rafting on the Ayung River

Interact with the monkeys and take in the breathtaking views at the Monkey Temple

Experience traditional Kecak fire dance at sunset in Pura Luhur Uluwatu

Go beach hopping on the Bukit Peninsula

Get a free tattoo with your tacos at Deus ex Machina every Tuesday

Bathe in the holy water at Tirta Empul Water Temple

FAMILY TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

Be pirates for a day at Pirates Bay Bali

Get wet at Waterbom Bali

Ride an elephant at Elephant Safari Park

Swim with the sharks

Relax at Banjar Hot Springs

Go snorkeling

Learn to surf at Rip Curl School of Surf

Enjoy a Bali Treetop Adventure Park

TOURISM AUTHORITY

The tourist office in Ubud is an excellent source of information on cultural events. Otherwise, the tourist offices in Bali are not useful.



FOODS TO TRY

Sate (Satay) Varieties

Nasi Jinggo

Pisang Rai

Nasi Tepeng

Laklak

Rujak Bulung and Rujak Kuah Pindang

Bakso

Terang Bulan

Babi Guling

DRINKS TO TRY

Fresh young coconut

Tropical fruit juice/shakes

Teh Tarik

Bintang

Coffee



PHOTOGRAPHY HOT SPOTS

Seminyak Beach
Tegalalang Rice Terrace
Ubud
Tegenungan Waterfall
Uluwatu Temple
Pantai Tegal Wangi
Abandoned Plane at Bypass Ngurah Rai
Tirta Empul Temple
Kelingking Beach, Nusa Penida

SOUVENIRS TO BUY

“Pohon barang”, wooden crafts
“Ata” crafts
Beads crafts
Batik and Ikat
Jenggala Keramik
Aroma oil
Natural soap
“Jamu”, traditional medicine
“Dupa”, incense



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