

# BIG FIVE<sup>®</sup>

TOURS & EXPEDITIONS

*Enriching Lives Through Distinctive Journeys*

## Destination Information Guide

# Bali



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# Welcome to the World of Big Five!

*The following general outline offers practical information, suggestions and answers to some frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be the definitive guide for your trip.*

Big Five Tours & Expeditions is pleased to welcome you on this exciting adventure. We take great care to insure that your travel dreams and expectations are well met. Our distinctive journeys allow you to experience the finest aspects each destination has to offer. We also aim to provide you with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the places you'll visit and the people you'll meet.



## Bali, Indonesia

Elevation: 3 feet    Latitude: 08 45S    Longitude: 115 10E

### Average Temperature

Years on Record: 18

YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
°F	82	83	83	83	83	82	81	80	80	81	82	83	83

### Average High Temperature

Years on Record: 18

YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
°F	86	86	86	87	87	86	85	83	83	85	86	87	86

### Average Low Temperature

Years on Record: 18

YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
°F	77	78	78	78	78	77	76	76	76	77	78	78

## WEATHER

Tropical climate varying from area to area. The eastern monsoon brings the driest weather (June to September), while the western monsoon brings the main rains (December to March). Rainstorms occur all year. Higher regions are cooler.

## TIME ZONES & TRAVELING TIME

GMT + 7 (West) in Sumatra, Java and Western Borneo; GMT + 8 (Central) in Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda Islands, Bali and Eastern Borneo; GMT + 9 (East) in Papua and Maluku.

## PASSPORTS & VISAS

**PASSPORTS:** For international travel, U.S. and Canadian passports must be valid for at least six months from date of departure, and contain at least 3 blank pages.

**VISAS:** Many countries require travelers to obtain visas prior to arrival. **U.S. residents:** Big Five Tours & Expeditions has appointed Trivisa to process required visas. You will find the necessary forms from Trivisa's website at: [www.trivisa.com](http://www.trivisa.com). Please use account code JP1551, and follow directions. **Canadian residents:** please contact the nearest consulate.

**Important:** Even if you do not need a visa prior to departure, please check your passport well in advance of departure to insure:

- 1) It is valid for at least six months after the date of travel.
- 2) You have sufficient blank pages for visa/entry stamps that will be added as you travel in and out of various countries.

Please note: pages reserved for amendments and endorsements cannot be used for visas.

**Note:** Travel with photocopies of all important documents in a safe place in the event your passport or other documents are lost or stolen. Also, it's a good idea to have an extra passport photo with you. As a tourist, you will need to produce your passport when checking into hotels, changing money or travelers' checks and to prove your identity when requested by authorities.

*Please note: Pages reserved for amendments and endorsements cannot be used for visas.*

## AIRPORT FORMALITIES

Once you have gone through Customs and Immigration and collected your luggage, you exit the airport. Our representative will meet you and will transfer you to your hotel.

**Airport Tax:** Currently, International Airport Tax: Rp. 150,000 per person; Domestic Airport Tax: Rp. 20,000-30,000 per person. All government fees and taxes are subject to change without notice.

## CUSTOMS INTO BALI

The following goods may be imported into Indonesia by persons over 18 years of age without incurring customs duty:

- 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 100g of tobacco.
- 1 liter of liquor.
- A reasonable quantity of perfume.
- Gifts up to a value of US\$250 per person or US\$1,000 per family.

Note: Cameras must be declared on arrival. Video cameras, portable radios, tape recorders, binoculars and sport equipment may be imported provided exported on departure. Films, tapes, CD/DVDs, records and computer software must be screened by the censor board. There are also restrictions on fruits and animal, fish and plant products.

**Prohibited Items:** Cordless telephones, Chinese medicines or printings, pornography, and non-prescription drugs.

## US CUSTOMS

**Duty-Free:** Returning U.S. residents are allowed to bring back \$800 worth of merchandise duty-free. Travelers 21 or older may bring back 1 liter of alcohol duty free, 100 non-Cuban cigars and 200 cigarettes. Regulations frequently change. For a list of exempt items & current regulations you can Contact the nearest Customs Office, write US Customs Service, Box 7407, Washington, DC 20044, or visit the website for US Customs &

Border Protection at [www. Customs.gov](http://www.Customs.gov)  
[www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml](http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml).

## HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

International travelers should be in generally good health. Talk with your personal physician about any shots or boosters recommended depending on your personal health profile and your itinerary. Tetanus and polio vaccines should be up to date. Currently, there are no required vaccinations, unless you are coming from an infected area, in which case you will be required to have a yellow fever certificate.

**Yellow Fever:** Yellow fever inoculation is required if one of the following applies:

- If you are coming from any area other than the United States, Europe, or Canada.
- If you plan on visiting more than one African country.

**Note:** If you are on medication, be sure to bring enough for the duration of the trip, but not an excessive amount that would raise suspicion. Also, it's a good idea to ask your doctor for a note detailing the drugs you are taking. \*For Customs inspections, you must have medications in their original containers.

**Health insurance is strongly advised during any foreign travel.** Please check the latest regulations with your local health office or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax: 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or their main telephone number in Atlanta, 404-332-4559. Or, visit the CDC Internet home page at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

## CLOTHING

*For general clothing information, please review the **Travel Handbook** in your pre-departure materials. See pre-departure information for general packing check list.*

Lightweight with rainwear. Warmer clothes are needed for cool evenings and upland areas. Smart clothes such as jackets are required for formal occasions, and it is regarded inappropriate to wear brief clothes anywhere other than the beach or at sports facilities. Women should observe the Muslim dress code that requires shoulders and legs to be kept covered.

## LUGGAGE

*For general baggage information, please review the **Travel Handbook** in your pre-departure materials.*

Luggage restrictions change frequently for individual carriers as well as in the industry as a whole. In this security conscious era, they may change without notice. It is always best to call the specific airline prior to departure for the latest information. The information in the Travel Handbook is intended as a guideline.

## MONEY

Currency: Rupiah (IDR; symbol Rp). Notes are in denominations of Rp100,000, 50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, and 1,000. Coins are in denominations of Rp1,000, 500, and 100.

Major currencies can be exchanged in main tourist centers, but may be difficult in rural areas.

**Credit/Debit Cards and ATMs:** American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club and Eurocard are widely accepted in Jakarta and the main tourist areas. In more remote areas, it is best to carry cash in small denominations. ATMs are available in towns.

Traveler's Checks have limited merchant acceptance but can be easily exchanged at banks and larger hotels. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travelers are advised to take traveler's checks US Dollars or Pounds Sterling. American Express are more widely accepted.

## LANGUAGE

Bahasa Indonesia is the official national language. Altogether, there are an estimated 583 languages and dialects spoken in the archipelago. The older generation still speaks Dutch as a second language.

**Telephone:** Many hotel lobbies have public phones which take credit cards and phone cards. State-operated phone booths or offices work on a pay-as-you-leave basis in towns and cities throughout the country.

**Mobile Telephone:** Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Coverage may be limited to main towns and cities. Check with your cell phone provider.

**Internet:** There are Internet cafes in all major cities and tourist destinations.

## ELECTRICITY

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Plugs used are European-style with two circular metal pins and British-style with two flat blades and one flat grounding blade.

## FOOD & DRINK

**Drinking Water:** Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilized. Milk is unpasteurized and should be boiled. Powdered or tinned milk is available and is advised. Avoid dairy products that are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

The staple diet for most Indonesians is nasi (rice), which is replaced on some islands with corn, sago, cassava and sweet potatoes. Indonesia's spices make its local cuisine unique. Indonesians like their food highly spiced – look out for the tiny and fiery hot red and green peppers often included in salads and vegetable dishes. Seafood is excellent and features highly on menus (with salt and freshwater fish, lobsters, oysters, prawns, shrimp, squid, shark and crab all available). Coconuts are often used for cooking. Vegetables and fruit, such as bananas, pineapple and oranges, are available throughout the year; some tropical fruits such as mango, watermelon and papaya are seasonal. A feature of Jakarta is the many warungs (street stalls); each specializes in its own dish or drink.

National specialties: Rijsttafel, Dutch-invented smorgasbord of a dozen meat, fish, vegetable and curry dishes; Sate, chunks of beef, fish, pork, chicken or lamb cooked on hot coals and dipped in peanut sauce; and, in Bali, Babi guling, roast suckling pig.

**Note:** If you have food allergies or are on a special/restricted diet, please notify your travel agent or our office in advance, so that we may try to comply with your needs. Also, please advise your travel agent or our office if you have any mobility restrictions, so that we may inform our representatives accordingly. They will always strive to accommodate you to the best of their ability.

## TIPPING

Tipping should be done at your discretion and as a reward for good or exceptional service.

For general tipping guidelines please refer to:

[www.cntraveler.com/travel-tips/travel-etiquette/2008/12/Etiquette-101-Tipping-Guide](http://www.cntraveler.com/travel-tips/travel-etiquette/2008/12/Etiquette-101-Tipping-Guide)

## SHOPPING

Favorite buys are beautiful batik cloth, woodcarvings and sculpture, silverwork, woven baskets and hats, bamboo articles, *keris* (small daggers), paintings and woven cloth. At stalls and small shops, bartering might be necessary.

## A WORD ABOUT CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Since independence, many people have developed a strong sense of national pride, and maintain traditions of dance, painting, woodcarving and stone carving. Social courtesies are often fairly formal. In particular, when drink or food is served, it should not be touched until the host invites the guest to do so. Never pass or accept anything with the left hand. Public displays of affection between men and women are frowned upon and kissing in public will attract a great deal of unwanted attention. Touching a stranger of the same sex while in conversation is very common. Pointing is considered impolite and patting children on the head should be avoided. Indonesians are polite and will extend endless courtesies to visitors whom they trust and like. Smiling is a cultural tradition and Indonesians smile frequently, even in an uncomfortable or difficult situation. Visitors should avoid losing their temper. When invited to a home, a gift is appreciated (as long as it is given with the right hand). Informality is normal, but a few smart establishments encourage guests to dress for dinner. Muslim customs, especially those concerning female clothes, should be observed.

## SUGGESTED READING LIST

Many comprehensive and readily available guides produced by Lonely Planet, Fodor, Insight, The Rough Guide, etc.. Longitude Books at <http://www.longitudebooks.com> has an extensive collection of books, searchable by country.

### **BALI**

by **Jack Barker**

Today, four-fifths of Indonesia's tourists come to Bali, and Bali alone. This is easy to understand, as within this single small island is packed a range of attractions to satisfy every taste. There are smoldering volcanoes, spectacular rice terraces, and white-sand beaches fringed by palms. But it is the Balinese people, with their spectacular devotion to their Hindu gods, that has put Bali firmly on the world map. In an archipelago justly famous for its colorful traditions and ceremonial arts, Bali stands out as being the most artistic, the most spiritual. The *Traveler's Bali Companion* surveys both the incomparable arts of the Balinese and the life of sun and surf that together make the island one of Asia's prime tourist destinations. There are lavish color photographs that take you to your destination while you are still planning. This guide is set up in an easy-to-use format. The clearly structured entries on where to stay, eat, and how to get there, guide you directly to the things you want to see, allowing you to spend less time with your nose in your guidebook and more time enjoying your destination.

### **A SHORT HISTORY OF BALI**

by **Robert Pringle**

*A Short History of Bali* covers the entire history of this intriguing and mysterious island, from before the Bronze Age to the presidency of Megawati Sukarnoputri and the tragedy of the Kuta bombings on 12 October 2002. It looks at the arrival of Indian culture, early European contact, the role of anthropologists and taste-makers of the 1930s in romanticizing the island, and the complex legacies of Dutch control. It tells of the Japanese Occupation, the Indonesian Revolution, the massacres of 1965-66, and the onset of mass tourism under the Soeharto regime. Finally, it looks at recent economic progress, as well as its flip side - environmental problems generated by population - growth and massive tourist development. It also draws on Balinese opinion about the meaning of the island's past and its future in the new Indonesian democracy.

### **BALI, JAVA IN MY DREAMS**

by **Christine Jordis, Sacha Jordis (Illustrator), George Blanda (Translator)**

Relying on sensation and atmosphere over fact and statistic, Christine Jordis has written a deeply personal, vividly impressionistic account of several journeys to the Indonesian islands of Bali and Java. Dazzled, wide-eyed, but always astute, Jordis gives us famous monuments, native dances, run-ins with locals. She conjures the various literary and artistic figures who sought refuge and inspiration there—Arthur Rimbaud, Herman Melville, Joseph Conrad. But it is her physical and emotional response to the islands' richness and color that make *Bali, Java, in My Dreams* an unforgettable journey. Christine Jordis, the English-language fiction editor at the French publishing house Gallimard, is the author of *Gens de la Tamise*, winner of the Prix Médicis.

### **BALI CHRONICLES**

by **Willard Anderson Hanna, Adrian Vickers**

This is a story about the vulnerability — and durability — of an anachronistic system in a chaotically changing modern world. The Balinese-Hindu culture thrived undisturbed for centuries, but modern times threatened to destroy the island's heritage. This book details the struggle in full. Bali had many traumatic encounters with the West. Spanning all of Balinese history, it sketches the economics, culture and politics of the island. This book is a must for students of Pacific studies or international relations.

### **BALI: A TRAVEL ADVENTURE**

by **Patrick R. Booz, R. Ian Lloyd (Photographer), R. Ian Lloyd (Photographer)**

The tropical Indonesian paradise of Bali has extraordinarily vivid beauty. Terraced rice paddies seemingly rise up to the sky, while silhouetted palms, still active volcanoes and volcanic lakes contrast with lovely beaches and lagoons. Bali's temples, carved statues and colorful art are evidence of a thriving culture that maintains its freshness and simplicity in a modern age. Here is an

## **BALI MODERN**

**by Gianni Francione, Luca Invernizzi Tettoni**

This book documents the transformation that Balinese architecture and interior design have undergone over the past five years. Cleaner lines, more imaginative use of space, A-frame roofs, and the use of stone, concrete, and ceramic roof tiles are increasingly visible along with the traditional coconut wood, teak, and thatching.

## **A HOUSE IN BALI**

**by Colin McPhee, James Murdoch**

In the 1930s a young American composer heard some gramophone records of Balinese gamelan music- the clear metallic music of the land that forever changed his life. Writer Colin McPhee lived for the day when he could travel and study the beautiful island, its people, culture, and music. His classic text written in the 1940s remains the only literary narrative of the island by a classically trained musician, and this unique perspective allowed him to immerse himself in the people, and music of his beloved Bali. McPhee's work is a landmark look at Bali's distinctive gamelan tradition, now available again more than 50 years after it was written. Colin McPhee left Bali in 1938 as the threat of World War loomed over the Pacific.

## **ISLAND OF BALI**

**by Miguel Covarrubias**

First published in 1937, Island of Bali has come to be regarded as a classic work on the Balinese people and their civilization. Written with remarkable clarity, Covarrubias describes the geography and nature of the island, along with the history of the people, providing a thorough account of the community, family, and individual in all spheres of Balinese life. Miguel Covarrubias (1904-1957) was born in Mexico City and was an author, painter, caricaturist, and professor of art history at the National School of Anthropology in Mexico City.