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Reg: 2022/219531/07

Bali – Island of a 1000 Temples

There is no other place like Bali in this world. A magical blend of culture, people, nature, activities, weather, culinary delights, nightlife, and beautiful accommodation. Bali is rated as one of the best travel destinations in the world by countless websites, review portals, and travel magazines each year – for very good reasons. Whatever your age, background, budget or interest, there is something great for everyone to explore and discover. And that's a promise.

Why you should visit this beautiful location -

The island, one of 17000 in the Indonesian Archipelago (at low tide, 4000 of these disappear at high tide) has everything to offer today's adventurous traveller.

Determine if you're looking for adventure, relaxation, cultural experiences, or a mixture of everything. As you plan, consider if you want to explore Bali's beautiful beaches, dive into its vibrant culture, or discover its serene landscapes.

Bali is diverse, and each region has its charm. Decide which places align with your interests and plan accordingly. If you prefer bustling nightlife and trendy cafes, Seminyak might be your spot. For tranquillity and diving, consider Amed or Tulamben.

Avoid rushing from place to place.

Allocate ample time for each destination to absorb its essence fully. Consider travel time between destinations and ensure you have enough days in each area to explore without feeling rushed.

While planning is essential, leave room for spontaneity. Unexpected discoveries often become cherished memories. Don't over-plan every minute; leave space to embrace the unexpected – that's where some of the best experiences occur!

Crafting a Bali itinerary involves understanding your preferences, making informed choices, and allowing for flexibility. By embracing the island's diversity and weaving in your interests, you'll create a personalized and unforgettable Bali experience.

What to do to fill up your days:

Must-Visit Places on the Island

Ubud: Cultural Heartland

Ubud stands as the cultural nucleus of Bali, renowned for its lush landscapes, traditional art markets, and spiritual richness. Embrace its charm by:

- *Exploring the Ubud Monkey Forest, an enchanting sanctuary where playful macaques roam amidst ancient temples and verdant foliage.*
- *Visiting the Ubud Royal Palace and immersing yourself in Balinese heritage and architecture.*
- *Discovering the Tegallalang Rice Terraces, marveling at the intricate agricultural landscapes.*

Uluwatu: Cliffside Wonders

Uluwatu entices travelers with dramatic cliffs and stunning ocean vistas. Notable attractions include:

- *The Uluwatu Temple, perched atop sheer cliffs, offers breathtaking sunset views and traditional Kecak dance performances.*
- *Savoring the scenic beauty of Padang Padang Beach or Bingin Beach, known for their surfing spots and crystal-clear waters.*

Seminyak: Beachside Bliss

Seminyak boasts a trendy ambiance, drawing visitors with upscale beach resorts, chic boutiques, and vibrant nightlife. Noteworthy spots comprise:

- *Relaxing at Seminyak Beach, a hotspot for sunsets, beach clubs, and a diverse culinary scene.*
- *Exploring Petitenget Temple and indulging in shopping at Seminyak's stylish boutiques.*

Kuta: Vibrant Energy

Kuta, famous for its lively atmosphere, appeals to surfers, partygoers, and shopping enthusiasts. Unmissable highlights include:

- *Kuta Beach, ideal for surfing, sunbathing, and experiencing the bustling beach scene.*
- *Discovering Waterbom Bali, an exhilarating water park offering fun for all ages.*

Bali's top attractions offer a diverse range of experiences, from cultural immersion in Ubud to the vibrant energy of Kuta and the tranquil beauty of Uluwatu. Each destination has its unique allure, promising travelers' unforgettable memories and enriching experiences.

Nusa Dua: Family Beach location

Nusa Dua is the calm family friendly location, almost all hotels are on the beach, which is reminiscent of Mauritius in that its surrounded by a coral reef, so the waters are calm and still allowing for snorkeling, paddle boarding and kayaking.

- *Nusa Dua Beach, ideal for snorkeling, sunbathing, and experiencing the calm beach scene.*

Experiencing the Best of the Island

Cultural Tours

Bali's rich culture and traditions are showcased through various tours:

- **Balinese Dance Performances:** Witness traditional dances like the Barong dance or Kecak dance, portraying mythical tales with vibrant costumes and captivating rhythms.
- **Artisan Workshops:** Engage in workshops to learn traditional crafts like batik making, wood carving, or silver jewelry crafting, immersing yourself in Balinese artistry.

Nature and Adventure Tours

Bali's natural beauty offers thrilling adventures:

- **Mount Batur Sunrise Trek:** Embark on a predawn hike up Mount Batur for a breathtaking sunrise view, an exhilarating experience for adventure enthusiasts.
- **Snorkeling or Diving Excursions:** Explore the island's vibrant underwater world, diving at sites like Menjangan Island or snorkeling off the shores of Amed.

Countryside and Village Tours

Discover Bali's rural charm and local life:

- **Cycling Tours:** Pedal through lush rice terraces and rural villages, interacting with locals and savoring authentic Balinese cuisine.
- **Visit Traditional Villages:** Explore villages like Tenganan or Penglipuran to observe Bali's traditional architecture and indigenous customs.

Immersive Bali tours offer a chance to delve deeper into the island's soul, whether it's through cultural experiences, adrenaline-pumping adventures, or serene countryside explorations. These tours encapsulate Bali's essence, leaving visitors with cherished memories of authentic Balinese life.

Understanding essential travel information such as visa requirements, safety measures, and health precautions is crucial for a hassle-free and safe Bali trip:

Visas, Safety Measures, and Health Precautions

Visa Information

- **Visa Exemption:** Many countries receive a visa exemption for stays of up to 30 days, but check specific requirements based on your nationality.
- **Visa on Arrival:** For longer stays or certain nationalities, consider obtaining a Visa on Arrival (VOA) at the airport upon arrival.

Safety Tips

- **Personal Safety:** Bali is generally safe, but standard precautions like safeguarding belongings and avoiding isolated areas at night apply.
- **Water Safety:** Be cautious of strong currents at certain beaches and heed warning flags displayed by lifeguards.

Health Precautions

- **Vaccinations:** Check with healthcare providers for recommended vaccinations before traveling to Bali.
- **Medical Facilities:** Locate reputable hospitals or clinics and consider travel insurance that covers medical emergencies.

Tips: Cultural Insights: Etiquette, Language, and Religion in Bali

Understanding the cultural fabric of Bali is crucial for a meaningful and respectful experience on the island. Here's a comprehensive guide to cultural insights:

Etiquette, Language, and Religion Etiquette and Customs

- **Balinese Politeness:** Balinese people highly value politeness and respect. Greet locals with a smile and “Selamat Pagi” (good morning), “Selamat Siang” (good afternoon), or “Selamat Malam” (good evening).
- **Respectful Attire:** When visiting temples or religious sites, dress modestly with shoulders covered and avoid wearing revealing clothing.

Language

- **Common Phrases:** Learning a few Balinese phrases like “Suksma” (thank you) or “Permisi” (excuse me) can go a long way in showing respect and building rapport with locals.
- **English Usage:** English is widely spoken in tourist areas, but using simple Indonesian phrases can enhance interactions.

Religion and Traditions

- **Balinese Hinduism:** Respect the predominantly Hindu culture by understanding their customs, attending local ceremonies respectfully, and not disrupting religious practices.
- **Offerings and Temples:** Do not disturb offerings or enter temple areas during ceremonies unless permitted. Always ask for guidance or observe others’ behavior.

Respecting Balinese etiquette, learning basic phrases, and appreciating the island’s religious and cultural practices fosters a deeper connection with the locals and enhances the overall travel experience in Bali.

When to go:

Best Time (Dry Season): *April to October.* Enjoy sunny days and lower humidity, perfect for outdoor activities and beach exploration.

Worst Time (Wet Season): *November to March.* Expect heavy rainfall and occasional storms, limiting outdoor activities and potentially causing travel disruptions.

Understanding Bali’s climate seasons helps plan a trip to make the most of favorable weather conditions and avoid travel inconveniences during the wet season.

Recommended Hotel Brands:

Options from Luxury to Budget-Friendly

- **Luxury Escapes**

Bali's Villas redefine opulence, offering world-class amenities and breathtaking settings. Consider:

- ***Opulent Resorts in Nusa Dua***: Revel in lavish beachfront resorts boasting private beaches, spas, and championship golf courses.
- ***Ubud's Luxury Retreats***: Indulge in secluded villas amidst rice terraces, with infinity pools and personalized services.

Boutique Hotels and Villas

Boutique accommodations combine charm and comfort, often reflecting Bali's cultural essence. Explore:

- ***Seminyak's Stylish Villas***: Discover trendy villas nestled amid Seminyak's vibrant streets, blending modernity with Balinese aesthetics.
- ***Charming Guesthouses in Ubud***: Experience authentic Balinese hospitality at quaint guesthouses amidst Ubud's serene landscapes.

Mid-Range Comfort

Budget-friendly yet comfortable options are plentiful across Bali. Consider:

- ***Kuta's Budget Hotels***: Find affordable stays close to the beach and vibrant nightlife, ideal for budget travelers.
- ***Ubud's Homestays***: Embrace the local culture by staying with Balinese families, offering a glimpse into daily life.

Hostels and Shared Accommodations

Perfect for solo travelers or those seeking a communal atmosphere:

- ***Canggu's Hostel Scene***: Join the thriving surf culture with affordable hostels in this hip area.
- ***Ubud's Yoga Retreat Centers***: Opt for shared accommodations within serene yoga retreats, fostering a peaceful community.

When choosing accommodation in Bali, consider factors such as location, facilities, and your preferred atmosphere. Whether you seek luxury, cultural immersion, or budget-friendly comfort, Bali caters to diverse tastes, promising a memorable stay amidst its tropical beauty.

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- **Como Hotels**
- **Hilton Hotels**
- **Melia Hotels**
- **Alila Hotels**
- **Marriott Hotels and Resorts**
- **Radisson Blu Hotels**