

Bali, Indonesia — 90-Day Survival Guide

0. City Overview & Quick Facts

Bali is Indonesia's most famous island and only Hindu-majority province, a cultural and spiritual outpost in the world's largest Muslim-majority country. For digital nomads it is a double-edged sword: English is widely spoken, coworking spaces and villas are plentiful, and the food scene ranges from \$1.50 warung plates to high-end beach clubs. At the same time, traffic in Canggu and Seminyak is brutal, rents in the main nomad hubs have risen sharply since 2022, and the visa regime punishes sloppy planners with IDR 1,000,000-per-day overstay fines.

The island is small enough to drive across in a morning but geographically varied: black-sand beaches and surf breaks on the west and south, terraced rice paddies and jungle ravines around Ubud, volcanic peaks and crater lakes in the central highlands, and dry, less-developed coasts in the north and east. Most long-stay nomads settle in one of three zones: the Canggu-Seminyak-Pererenan coastal strip for social life and surf; Ubud and its villages for wellness, yoga, and a slower pace; or Sanur/Denpasar for lower rents and fewer tourists.

Fact	Detail
Population	~4.4 million (Bali province, 2026 est.)
Area	5,780 km ²
Elevation	Sea level to 3,031 m (Mt. Agung); most nomad areas are near sea level
Language	Indonesian (official); Balinese (daily village life); English widely spoken in tourist areas
Currency	Indonesian rupiah (IDR)
Timezone	WIB (UTC+7)
Climate	Tropical; dry season April–October, wet season November–March
Religion	Balinese Hinduism (~87% of population)
Power	230V, Type C / F plugs (two round pins); power cuts occur in rural areas
Water	Tap water is not potable; refill gallon bottles or buy bottled
Internet	Fibre 50–100+ Mbps in most nomad areas; mobile 4G widely available

Why nomads stay: low-friction English, established coworking scene, strong café culture, easy scooter mobility, decent international hospitals in the south, and a large social network of remote workers.

Why nomads leave: rising rents, traffic congestion, tourist crowds, visa hassle,

scooter accident risk, dengue/malaria-lite disease burden, and the sense that Bali can feel more like a global suburb than Indonesia.

1. Landing — First 72 Hours

Arrival at Ngurah Rai Airport (DPS)

DPS is Bali's only international airport, located in Tuban between Kuta and Jimbaran. After immigration and baggage claim you exit into a covered area with ATMs, SIM kiosks, taxi counters, and Grab/GoCar pickup zones.

Airport to base — typical costs (2026)

Option	Cost	Time	Notes
Grab/GoCar to Canggu/Seminyak	IDR 150k–350k (~\$9–21)	45–90 min	Surge pricing at peak hours; book in app, walk to designated pickup zone
Grab/GoCar to Ubud	IDR 250k–500k (~\$15–30)	60–120 min	Longer after dark or in rain
Private transfer	IDR 300k–750k (~\$18–45)	Fixed	Book through accommodation; best for groups, surfboards, late arrivals
Airport taxi counter	IDR 200k–500k	Fixed-ish	Usually more expensive than app; no surge but less transparent
GoBike (solo, backpack only)	IDR 50k–120k	30–60 min	Cheapest; not practical with large luggage

If your accommodation offers an airport pickup, compare the price to Grab before accepting. Many villas charge IDR 350k–600k for a Canggu pickup, which is fair for door-to-door service with a known driver.

First 24-hour checklist

1. **Cash.** Withdraw IDR from a BCA, Mandiri, or Maybank ATM in the airport. Most Indonesian ATMs charge a fixed fee (often IDR 10k–25k) and your home bank may add a foreign-transaction fee. Take out enough to last a few days.

2. **SIM or eSIM.** Buy at the airport if you want immediate data. Telkomsel (brand: simPATI) has the best rural coverage; XL/AXIS and Smartfren are cheaper and fine in Canggu/Ubud. Tourist SIMs start around IDR 100k–200k (\$6–12) for a basic data package. Passport required for registration. IMEI registration is handled by the seller for short-stay SIMs; if you are staying long term or using a local eSIM, confirm your phone is registered or it will stop working after 90 days.
3. **Transport.** Install Grab and Gojek before you need them. Gojek is often cheaper than Grab for bikes; Grab is sometimes easier for cars. Both accept foreign cards.
4. **Accommodation.** If you booked a short-stay hotel for the first few nights, use that buffer to inspect long-term rentals in person. Do not sign a 30+ day lease from photos.
5. **Mapping.** Download offline Google Maps for Bali and use WhatsApp — most villa managers, landlords, drivers, and service providers communicate via WhatsApp.

Move-in tests for any long-stay rental

- Run the AC for 10 minutes in every room.
- Test hot water in every shower.
- Run an internet speed test at multiple times of day (minimum 25 Mbps for calls, ideally 50+).
- Turn on the shower and kitchen tap simultaneously to check water pressure.
- Inspect window seals and mosquito screens.
- Confirm keyed gate/door access and whether there is 24-hour security.
- Get the lease and deposit terms in writing, ideally via email/WhatsApp, before paying.

2. Visa & Immigration

Bali’s visa rules are stricter than they look. Overstaying even one day costs IDR 1,000,000 (~\$61) and can escalate to detention, deportation, and blacklisting.

Option	Detail	Cost (2026 est.)	Best For
Visa on Arrival (VoA)	30 days; buy at airport or apply online (e-VoA)	IDR 500,000 (~\$30)	Stays up to 30 days

Option	Detail	Cost (2026 est.)	Best For
VoA extension	One extension of 30 days; total 60 days max	IDR 800k–1.2M via agent + passport time	Stays of 31–60 days
E33G Remote Worker / Second Home	1–2 years; requires proof of remote income/savings and Indonesian sponsor	Varies by agent	Long-stay nomads
Visa breach / overstay	IDR 1,000,000/day fine; >60 days risk detention/deportation	Expensive	Avoid entirely

Practical process for a 60-day stay 1. Enter on VoA (or e-VoA) for 30 days. 2. Around day 20–25, hand your passport to a reputable visa agent in Canggu/Ubud/Denpasar. 3. The agent submits the extension; you usually keep the passport for most of the processing and only surrender it for a day when the immigration office needs your photo/fingerprints. 4. Collect the passport before day 30.

Agents charge IDR 800k–1.2M for the service fee on top of the government fee. Well-known agents in Canggu and Ubud can process extensions in 7–10 working days. Do not wait until the last 48 hours.

Remote worker (E33G) visa This is Indonesia’s attempt to attract long-stay digital nomads. Requirements change, but generally you need proof of remote employment or sufficient funds, a sponsor/ guarantor in Indonesia, and a clean immigration history. Processing is usually done through an agent or law firm. As of mid-2026, many nomads still use the VoA + extension cycle because the E33G path is slower and more expensive.

Passport rules * Six months validity required. * One blank page minimum. * Carry a photocopy; keep the original in a safe place.

3. Money & Banking

Bali runs mostly on cash. Hotels, chain restaurants, supermarkets, and coworking spaces take cards; warungs, local markets, scooter rentals, beach parking, and most temples want cash.

ATMs * BCA and Mandiri are the most reliable networks; Maybank is common in tourist areas. * Withdraw the maximum allowed (often IDR 2.5M–3M per transaction) to reduce flat-fee hits. * Some ATMs dispense smaller bills; choose machines inside bank branches or shopping malls for lower skimming risk. * Notify your home bank before travel or use a travel-focused card (Wise, Revolut, Schwab, Chase Sapphire, etc.).

Cards and apps * Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted at mid-range and up; Amex less so. * Gojek and Grab accept foreign cards. You can also top up GoPay or GrabPay with cash at Alfamart/Indomaret. * QRIS (the Indonesian unified QR payment system) works with some international e-wallets but is hit-or-miss for foreigners.

Local bank account Very difficult on a tourist visa. Requirements usually include a long-stay visa (KITAS/KITAP), local address proof, and sometimes a sponsor letter. Most nomads do not bother and rely on Wise/Revolut plus ATM withdrawals.

Tipping Not mandatory. Round up at warungs, leave 5–10% at nicer restaurants if service was good, and tip drivers IDR 10k–20k for long trips.

4. Neighborhoods & Housing

Bali's neighborhoods differ dramatically. Choose based on your tolerance for traffic, noise, and cost.

Canggu

The epicentre of Bali's digital-nomad scene. Berawa, Batu Bolong, and Echo Beach are packed with cafés, coworking spaces, beach clubs, and villas. Rent for a private 1BR villa or apartment: \$600–1,200/month. Downsides: heavy traffic, noise, inflated prices, and a party scene that can feel exhausting after a month.

Seminyak

Upscale tourist belt just south of Canggu. More polished dining and nightlife, better pavements, and closer to the airport. Rent: \$700–1,500/month for a 1BR. Good for short-term comfort; less “authentic” and more expensive than other options.

Pererenan / Seseh

Just north of Canggu, newer villas, quieter streets, and slightly better value. Still close to Canggu's coworking scene. Rent: \$600–1,100/month. Best for long-stay nomads who want proximity without the chaos.

Ubud

The cultural and wellness centre. Slower pace, rice-terrace walks, yoga studios, and a large spiritual/expat community. Internet is generally good in central Ubud but patchier in surrounding villages. Rent: \$500–1,000/month for a 1BR. Best for yoga, writing, and slower work.

Sanur

Calm beach town on the southeast coast, popular with older expats and families. Flat, walkable, less traffic. Rent: \$500–900/month. Good if you want quiet and easy access to the harbour for Nusa Lembongan/Penida.

Denpasar

The provincial capital. Local prices, less English, no beach, but the cheapest long-term rents on the island. Rent: \$300–600/month. Best for tight budgets or those who want an Indonesian-rather-than-expat environment.

Uluwatu / Bukit Peninsula

Cliff-top surf area in the south. Quiet, beautiful, fewer cafés and coworking spaces. Rent: \$500–1,000/month. Best for surfers who do not mind driving to amenities.

Amed / Lovina / Munduk

North and east coasts. Much cheaper, slower, fewer foreigners, weaker internet. Best for occasional escapes, not a 90-day base unless you have a very flexible work schedule.

Renting tips

- Facebook groups (Canggu Housing, Ubud Rentals, Bali Long Term Rentals) are the fastest way to find owner-listed deals.
- Airbnb is fine for 1–3 months but usually costs 20–40% more than local listings.
- Agents exist but often inflate prices for foreigners.
- Electricity is usually billed separately (IDR 1,500–2,500/kWh is common). AC use can add \$50–150/month.
- Water is often delivered in gallon jugs; factor in IDR 20k–40k per refill.

5. Transport

A scooter is the default transport mode for nomads, but it is also the leading cause of foreigner injury and death. If you are not a confident motorbike rider, use apps or hire a driver.

Scooters

- **Rental:** IDR 60k–150k/day, or IDR 1.2M–1.8M/month for a 110–125cc Honda Vario/Beat/Scoopy.
- **Fuel:** IDR 10k–15k/litre; a full tank costs IDR 40k–70k and lasts 150–250 km.
- **Requirements:** helmet (mandatory and actually enforced in some areas), valid international driving permit (IDP) with motorbike endorsement, passport copy, and usually a deposit of IDR 500k–1M or a held passport.
- **Insurance:** most rental scooters have minimal or no insurance. Check if your travel insurance covers scooter riding (many require a valid motorbike licence from your home country).
- **Safety:** drive on the left; expect pedestrians, dogs, chickens, trucks, and tourists driving badly; never ride after drinking; wear closed shoes and long pants if possible.

App-based transport

- **Gojek / GrabBike:** IDR 10k–35k for short trips; cheapest way to move solo in Canggu/Seminyak/Ubud.
- **GoCar / GrabCar:** IDR 50k–200k+ for typical trips. Airport-Canggu is often IDR 200k–350k; Canggu-Ubud IDR 250k–500k.
- **Blue Bird Taxi:** Metered, reliable, but less common than apps. Good if your phone battery dies.

Private driver

- Full-day driver (8–10 hours): IDR 500k–700k plus petrol for long distances.
- Useful for day trips to waterfalls, temples, north Bali, or the harbor.

Inter-island transport

- **Nusa Penida / Nusa Lembongan:** fast boats from Sanur, Serangan, or Padang Bai; IDR 150k–400k one-way; 30–45 min.
- **Gili Islands / Lombok:** fast boats from Padang Bai or Amed; 1.5–2.5 hours; IDR 300k–700k.
- **Java (Yogyakarta, Surabaya, Jakarta):** flights from DPS are cheap and frequent; overland bus/ferry is slow and uncomfortable.

6. Food & Dining

Bali's food is excellent and varied. The cheapest and often best meals are at local warungs; the most expensive are beach clubs and imported-Western restaurants.

Warung basics

- **Nasi campur:** rice with small portions of vegetables, protein, sambal. IDR 15k–35k (\$1–2).
- **Nasi goreng / mie goreng:** fried rice/noodles with egg, chicken, or seafood. IDR 18k–40k.
- **Sate ayam / kambing:** chicken or goat skewers with peanut sauce. IDR 20k–50k.
- **Babi guling:** Balinese roast pork plate. IDR 35k–70k.
- **Lawar:** Balinese chopped vegetable/meat salad. Often served with babi guling.
- **Gado-gado:** vegetables, tofu, tempeh in peanut sauce. Vegetarian.

Nomad café prices

- Smoothie bowl / breakfast: IDR 60k–120k.
- Flat white / cappuccino: IDR 25k–50k.
- Main dish at a Western-leaning café: IDR 80k–180k.
- Mid-range dinner for two with drinks: IDR 350k–700k (\$20–42).

Dietary notes

- Balinese Hindu cuisine includes pork; halal food is easy to find in Muslim-run warungs and most Indonesian chains.
- Vegetarian and vegan options are widespread in Ubud and Canggu.
- Gluten-free/dairy-free menus are common in tourist cafés.
- Tap water is unsafe; ice in reputable restaurants is usually fine (made from filtered water).

Must-try dishes and drinks

- Babi guling (Ibu Oka, Warung Babi Guling Pak Malen, local morning-only spots)
- Sate lilit (minced seafood/chicken on lemongrass skewers)
- Bebek betutu (slow-cooked duck)
- Nasi jinggo (tiny rice packet snack)
- Kopi tubruk / Bali kopi
- Jamu (traditional herbal health drink)
- Es cendol / es daluman (iced coconut-milk drinks)

7. Remote Work & Coworking

Bali has one of Southeast Asia's most mature remote-work infrastructures, but quality varies by village.

Internet

- Fibre 50–100+ Mbps is standard in Canggu, Seminyak, central Ubud, and Sanur.
- Power outages happen, especially during wet-season storms. A UPS or battery backup for your modem/router is worthwhile if you take a lot of calls.
- Mobile data is cheap and fast enough for backup; Telkomsel has the best coverage in rural areas.

Coworking spaces

- **Canggu:** Dojo Bali (pioneer), Tropical Nomad, Outpost, Kinship Studio.
- **Ubud:** Outpost Ubud, Hubud (reopened/rebranded), various café-work options.
- **Seminyak / Umalas:** Kinship, Roam.
- **Day pass:** IDR 140k–250k (~\$8–15).
- **Monthly membership:** IDR 2M–4.5M (~\$120–270), depending on access hours and desk type.

Café culture

- Laptop-friendly cafés are everywhere in Canggu and Ubud. Unspoken rule: order every 2 hours, tip if you camp for a half-day, and do not take calls without headphones.
- Power outlets can be scarce; carry a small extension cord or multi-plug.

Time zone

WIB (UTC+7) is 12 hours ahead of New York and 7 hours ahead of London. US East Coast workers often start late local afternoon; European workers split their day.

8. Healthcare

Bali has good international-standard hospitals in the south and cheaper public hospitals in Denpasar. For serious trauma, cardiac, or neurological emergencies, the private hospitals in Kuta/Nusa Dua are the safest bet.

Facility	Location / Phone	Notes
BIMC Hospital Kuta	Jl. Bypass Ngurah Rai 100X; +62 361 761263	Australian-managed, JCI/ACHSI accredited, 24/7 ER; best for tourists and expats
BIMC Siloam Nusa Dua	Kawasan BTDC Blok D; +62 361 3000911	International standard, newer facilities
BIMC Ubud	Jl. Raya Sanggingan No.21; +62 361 2091030	Clinic/urgent care, not full hospital
Murni Teguh Hospital	Jl. Bypass Ngurah Rai 10, Tuban; +62 361 2090700	Full-service private hospital near airport
Sanglah Hospital	Jl. Diponegoro, Denpasar; +62 361 227912	Major public hospital; cheap but language barrier and wait times

Travel insurance * Buy a policy that covers scooter riding if you intend to rent one. * Outpatient coverage is useful because minor infections, dengue, and scooter scrapes are common. * Evacuation coverage is worth considering; serious cases may require airlift to Singapore or Jakarta.

Common health issues * **Dengue:** year-round, worse in wet season. Use DEET or picaridin repellent, especially mornings and evenings. * **Bali belly / traveller's diarrhoea:** usually from contaminated water or ice. Stick to bottled/filtered water and reputable warungs. * **Scooter injuries:** road rash, fractures, head injuries. Wear a helmet, ride sober, and know your insurance exclusions. * **Sunburn / heat exhaustion:** the tropical sun is intense; hydrate and use high-SPF sunscreen.

Emergency numbers * Police: **110** * Ambulance / fire: **118** * Search and rescue / medical emergency: **119**

9. Dental

Bali is a minor dental-tourism hub, especially for Australians and Kiwis. Quality is generally good at the international clinics; prices are far below Western rates.

Procedure	Typical price (USD)
Cleaning + checkup	\$30–60
Filling	\$40–90
Crown (zirconia/ceramic)	\$250–700
Root canal	\$150–400
Single implant	\$1,000–2,000
Teeth whitening	\$100–250

Reputable chains include BIMC Dental (linked to the hospital group), Sunset Dental Bali, and Bali Family Dental Care. Most standard travel insurance excludes dental, so budget separately or buy a dental rider.

10. Safety & Emergency

Bali is safe by regional standards, but complacency is the main risk factor.

Crime

- **Phone/bag snatching:** the most common foreigner-targeted crime, usually by passing scooter riders. Keep phones out of back pockets, hold bags on the side away from traffic, and avoid walking on the road shoulder at night with a phone in hand.
- **Scooter theft:** use the steering lock and park in visible, attended areas.
- **Drink spiking:** rare but reported in Kuta/Legian party venues. Watch your drink and do not accept open drinks from strangers.
- **Scams:** overpriced airport taxis, fake tours, counterfeit goods, and “friendship” scams leading to overpriced bars or money requests. Use apps for transport and book tours through established operators.

Natural hazards

- **Rip currents:** strong at many south-coast beaches. Swim between red-and-yellow flags at patrolled beaches (e.g., Kuta, Legian, parts of Canggu), or ask locals before entering the water.
- **Volcanic activity:** Mt. Agung and Mt. Batur are active. Ash clouds can close DPS and disrupt travel. Check Indonesia’s disaster agency (BNPB) during eruptions.
- **Earthquakes:** Bali sits in a seismically active zone. Know your building’s exit route and avoid top-floor rooms if you are risk-averse.
- **Wet-season flooding:** some roads in Canggu and Ubud flood after heavy rain.

Motorbike safety

- The leading cause of foreigner death and serious injury in Bali.
- Wear a proper helmet (not a shell), closed shoes, and ideally long pants.
- Drive on the left; assume every intersection is a free-for-all.
- Do not ride after drinking — police checkpoints and accidents are both common at night.
- Carry your driving licence/IDP; police sometimes stop foreigners for spot checks and fines.

11. Weather by Month

Bali has two seasons, both warm. The dry season is the high tourist season; the wet season brings lower prices, lush landscapes, and occasional transport disruptions.

Month	Season	Rain	Temp (°C)	Notes
Jan	Wet	Heavy	24–31	Cheapest hotels; flooding possible
Feb	Wet	Heavy	24–31	Quietest month; some outdoor activities limited
Mar	Wet/transition	Moderate	24–31	Nyepi usually falls in March; 24-hour shutdown
Apr	Dry start	Low	25–32	Good value before peak season
May	Dry	Low	25–32	Ideal: dry, warm, less crowded
Jun	Dry	Minimal	24–31	Peak season begins
Jul	Dry	Minimal	23–30	Peak season; highest prices and crowds

Month	Season	Rain	Temp (°C)	Notes
Aug	Dry	Minimal	23–30	Peak season; surf and events calendars full
Sep	Dry	Low	24–31	Shoulder season; still excellent
Oct	Dry/transition	Low	25–32	Last reliably dry month
Nov	Wet start	Increasing	25–32	Prices drop; afternoon storms return
Dec	Wet	Heavy	24–31	Christmas/NYE surge, then quieter

Nyepi (Balinese New Year) is a 24-hour island-wide shutdown: no flights, no road traffic, no lights, no entertainment. It usually falls in March. Plan food, water, and entertainment in advance.

12. Shopping & Daily Life

Supermarkets

- **Coco / Bintang:** Western imports, tourist areas, higher prices.
- **Frestive / Delta Dewata:** Indonesian chains, good value, local products.
- **Indomaret / Alfamart:** convenience stores on nearly every corner; good for basics, top-ups, and GoPay/GrabPay cash deposits.
- **Pepito / Mini Mart:** mid-tier mini-supermarkets common in expat areas.

Markets

- **Ubud Central Market:** fruit, vegetables, textiles, souvenirs. Prices drop if you bargain and arrive early.
- **Canggu Farmers Market:** organic produce and artisan goods, mainly weekend.
- **Local pasar (morning markets):** cheapest option for fresh produce; go before 9 AM.

Pharmacies

- **Guardian** and **Kimia Farma** are the main chains.
- Many medications available without a prescription that require one elsewhere (antibiotics, some skin creams, diazepam). Use responsibly.
- First-aid basics: rehydration salts, oral charcoal, antihistamines, topical antibiotic, hydrocortisone cream, broad-spectrum sunscreen.

Laundry

Coin and drop-off laundry shops are everywhere. Typical cost: IDR 8k–20k/kg for wash-and-fold; 24-hour turnaround.

13. Groceries, Markets & Meat

Cooking at home saves money but is not always practical in a villa with a basic kitchen.

Fresh produce

- Local markets are cheapest for fruit, vegetables, eggs, and tempeh/tofu.
- Supermarkets are more consistent for imported items (cheese, oats, olive oil, wine, spirits).
- Seasonal tropical fruit: mangosteen, rambutan, salak, durian, papaya, pineapple, dragon fruit, bananas.

Meat and fish

- Pork is central to Balinese Hindu cuisine (babi guling); widely available except in halal-run shops.
- Chicken and beef are easy to find; beef may be tougher than Western cuts due to local breeds.
- Fresh seafood is best near the coast (Jimbaran, Sanur, Kedonganan fish market).

Water

- Tap water is not safe to drink. Most villas provide a water dispenser with refillable 19L gallons.
- Refill stations are common and cheap; bottled water is also widely sold.
- Use filtered or boiled water for brushing teeth if you have a sensitive stomach.

Spices and condiments

- Sambal (chilli paste), kecap manis (sweet soy sauce), terasi (shrimp paste), and coconut milk are staples.
- Imported Western ingredients cost 2–4× more than local equivalents.

14. Language & Local Etiquette

English works in tourist areas, but a few Indonesian phrases go a long way and earn goodwill in local warungs and villages.

Useful phrases

- **Terima kasih** — thank you
- **Tidak** — no
- **Ya** — yes
- **Permisi** — excuse me
- **Maaf** — sorry
- **Berapa harganya?** — how much?
- **Saya tidak mengerti** — I don't understand
- **Enak** — delicious
- **Pedas** — spicy
- **Tidak pedas** — not spicy

Temple etiquette

- Dress modestly: covered shoulders and knees; often a sash and sarong are required (rentable at the entrance for IDR 10k–30k).
- Women menstruating are asked not to enter temples; this is taken seriously locally.
- Do not climb on shrines or step over offerings.
- Walk around statues and holy objects clockwise when required.

Daily manners

- Use your right hand for giving and receiving money, food, and business cards.
- Never touch anyone's head or point the soles of your feet toward people or sacred objects.
- Greet with a smile and a slight nod; a palms-together “sembah” gesture is polite in villages.
- Bargain gently at markets; fixed prices in supermarkets and restaurants.

15. History & Culture Snapshot

Bali's identity is a layered fusion of Hindu-Buddhist religion, Javanese court culture, indigenous Balinese customs, and more recent tourism and expat influence.

Religious landscape

Balinese Hinduism (Agama Hindu Dharma) permeates daily life. Offerings called **canang sari** are placed at doorways, crossroads, and temples every morning. Temples (**pura**) are everywhere — family compounds have a small shrine, villages have a **pura desa**, and major temples like Besakih (the “mother temple”) draw pilgrims from across the island.

Arts and performance

- **Gamelan:** bronze percussion orchestras accompany ceremonies and performances.
- **Kecak:** a trance-inducing fire dance performed by dozens of men chanting “cak-cak-cak” at Uluwatu and other venues.
- **Barong and Rangda:** a mythical lion-dragon vs. witch-demon dance-drama representing the balance of good and evil.
- **Woodcarving, painting, silverwork:** traditional crafts concentrated in Ubud and surrounding villages.

Colonial and modern layers

- Bali was never fully colonised in the same way as Java; the Dutch consolidated control in the early 1900s after the puputan (mass ritual suicide) of the Balinese royalty.
- The 2002 and 2005 Kuta bombings deeply affected Bali and led to strengthened security and a tourism downturn.
- Mass tourism exploded from the 1970s onward; today tourism accounts for the majority of Bali's economy.

Modern tensions

- The rapid growth of Canggu/Seminyak has created traffic, waste, water, and cultural-friction problems.
- Local anger over disrespectful tourist behavior (temple violations, drunk driving, sex work, illegal construction) has led to stricter regulations and periodic crackdowns.

16. Tourism & Day Trips

Bali is compact enough that almost any sight is a day trip from Canggu, Ubud, or Sanur.

South Bali temples and coast

- **Tanah Lot:** sea temple on a rocky outcrop; sunset crowds are huge. Entry IDR 150k. Best visited early morning.
- **Uluwatu Temple:** cliff-top temple with dramatic views and nightly kecak fire dance. Entry ~IDR 150k; dance ticket ~IDR 100k.
- **Nusa Dua / Jimbaran:** calmer beaches, resort zones, seafood dinners on the sand.
- **Padang Padang / Bingin / Dreamland:** surf beaches on the Bukit Peninsula.

Central and east Bali

- **Tegallalang Rice Terraces:** photogenic but crowded; go before 8 AM.
- **Tirta Empul:** holy spring-water temple near Ubud where visitors participate in purification rituals. Entry IDR 75k–100k.
- **Ubud Monkey Forest:** macaque sanctuary. Entry IDR 80k. Keep loose items secure.
- **Goa Gajah (Elephant Cave):** small 9th-century archaeological site near Ubud.
- **Tirta Gangga / Lempuyang:** ornate water palace and “Gates of Heaven” temple in East Bali; long day trip from Ubud/Canggu.
- **Sidemen Valley:** quiet rice terraces and weaving villages; best for hiking and escaping crowds.

Mountains and lakes

- **Mt. Batur sunrise trek:** popular pre-dawn hike; tour costs IDR 350k–700k including transport and breakfast.
- **Mt. Agung:** more serious trek; often restricted due to volcanic activity.
- **Bedugul / Lake Beratan:** cooler highlands with the Ulun Danu Beratan temple; good for a day trip.
- **Munduk:** waterfalls, jungle, cooler weather; 2–3 hours from Canggu.

Islands

- **Nusa Penida:** dramatic cliffs, Kelingking Beach, Broken Beach, Manta Point snorkeling. Day trip IDR 350k–700k; better as an overnight.
- **Nusa Lembongan / Ceningan:** smaller, slower, good diving and surfing.
- **Gili Islands:** no cars, party and dive culture; fast boat from Padang Bai.

North Bali

- **Lovina:** black-sand beaches, dolphin-watching sunrise boats.
- **Amed:** quiet east coast, wreck diving (USAT Liberty), slow village life.

17. Master Links

Resource	URL / Contact	Use For
Indonesia e-Visa / VoA	evisa.imigrasi.go.id	Apply for e-VoA, check visa rules
Directorate General of Immigration	imigrasi.go.id	Official regulations and extensions
BIMC Hospital Bali	bimcbali.com	Appointments, ER, hospital locations
Bali Tourism Board	bali.com	General travel and cost-of-living info
Wikivoyage Bali	en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Bali	Independent travel guidance
Canggu Community / housing	Facebook groups	Long-term rentals and local advice
Gojek	gojek.com	Transport, food delivery, payments
Grab	grab.com	Transport, food delivery

18. Final Budget Table

Monthly cost-of-stay estimates for Bali, in USD. FX rate used: **16,500 IDR = 1 USD** (rounded for planning; check current rate before you commit).

Category	Lean Nomad	Comfortable Nomad	Premium Nomad
Room	\$300 (Denpasar / local guesthouse / shared villa)	\$900 (Ubud/Canggu 1BR apartment)	\$2,100 (pool villa / high-end serviced apartment)
Food	\$150 (warung food, self-catering)	\$300 (mix of warung + cafés/restaurants)	\$650 (daily restaurants, imported groceries)
Transport	\$70 (scooter rental + fuel)	\$120 (scooter + occasional car)	\$250 (private driver days + scooter)

Category	Lean Nomad	Comfortable Nomad	Premium Nomad
Coworking	\$0 (cafés / villa Wi-Fi)	\$130 (day passes ~2×/week or monthly flex)	\$250 (dedicated desk or private office)
Insurance	\$50 (basic travel insurance)	\$100 (travel insurance with outpatient cover)	\$180 (comprehensive nomad insurance + evacuation)
Visa	\$30 (VoA + extension amortised over stay)	\$40 (VoA / extension + agent)	\$60 (visa agent / longer-stay visa)
Entertainment	\$50 (temple visits, local beach)	\$300 (day trips, beach clubs, yoga, dining)	\$900 (daily tours, spa, fine dining, clubs)
Buffer	\$30	\$85	\$220
TOTAL / month	\$680	\$1,975	\$4,610
90-DAY TOTAL	\$2,040	\$5,925	\$13,830

Assumptions by Tier

Lean Nomad (~\$680/mo) Budget guesthouse or shared villa in Denpasar/local area, warung food for every meal, scooter rental, no coworking membership, basic insurance, minimal entertainment.

Comfortable Nomad (~\$1,975/mo) Private 1BR in Ubud or Canggu, mix of warung and café/restaurant meals, scooter plus occasional car, flex coworking pass, decent insurance, regular day trips and beach clubs.

Premium Nomad (~\$4,610/mo) Pool villa or high-end serviced apartment, daily restaurant dining and imported groceries, private driver days plus scooter, dedicated coworking desk or office, comprehensive insurance, frequent tours, spa, fine dining, and clubs.

19. Glossary of Local Terms

- **Warung** — small local eatery or shop
- **Nasi** — rice
- **Mie** — noodles
- **Sate / satay** — grilled skewers
- **Babi guling** — Balinese roast pork
- **Pura** — Hindu temple
- **Canang sari** — daily offering basket of flowers, incense, and rice

- **Nyepi** — Balinese “Day of Silence” (24-hour shutdown)
- **Ojek** — motorbike taxi
- **Gojek / Grab** — ride-hailing apps
- **Bule** — foreigner (often neutral, sometimes playful)
- **Pasar** — market
- **Jamu** — traditional herbal health drink
- **Sambal** — chilli condiment
- **Kecap manis** — sweet soy sauce
- **Terasi** — shrimp paste
- **Terima kasih** — thank you
- **Tidak** — no
- **Permisi** — excuse me
- **Maaf** — sorry

20. Sources & Credits

- Wikipedia — Bali
- Wikivoyage — Bali
- BIMC Hospital Bali (bimcbali.com)
- Bali.com cost-of-living and visa guides
- Indonesian Immigration (imigrasi.go.id)
- Current operator and clinic listings for transport, dental, coworking, and attractions
- Numbeo and CityCost cost estimates for Indonesia/Bali
- News reports on 2026 SIM/IMEI registration rules and tourist regulations

Compiled: 2026-07-16. Confirm visa, medical, and attraction prices directly with official sources before travel.