

# Getting Started

To get started for your adventure to Bali, all you really need is a ticket. (Well, maybe also a visa, p344, a passport, some money...but you get the idea.) The entire island is so well set up for visitors, the Balinese are so welcoming and the climate and weather so agreeable that you really *can* just hop on a plane and go.

Although Lombok isn't quite as easy, it's not too hard to find your way around with a little advance preparation. Simply getting to either place is the biggest hurdle (and it's a low one at that).

And as Bali and Lombok reward the spontaneous traveller, they also reward the traveller who plans. This is especially the case in Bali – you can stay at exquisite places, experience unique aspects of the culture and tailor your trip to a remarkable degree with advance work. If you want to make time for real discoveries or just discover some good bargains, you can reap the rewards of forethought.

Whatever your travel style, you'll find the real obstacles to independent travel in this part of the world are few. The islands are used to travellers of all stripes, English is widely spoken and, even if you forgot something at home, you can get it here.

## WHEN TO GO

The best time to visit Bali, in terms of the weather, is during the dry season (April to September). The rest of the year is more humid, cloudier and has more rainstorms, but you can still enjoy a holiday.

There are also distinct tourist seasons that affect the picture. The European, American and Japanese summer holidays bring the biggest crowds – July, August and early September are busy. Accommodation can be very tight in these months and prices are higher. Lots of Australians arrive between Christmas and early January – flights are booked solid. (School holidays are also busy – early April, late June to early July and late September in particular. The resort areas in South Bali such as Legian cater to this sort of package

See climate charts (p331) for more information.

### DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

- Double-checking the ever-changing visa situation (p344).
- Sunglasses and a hat to deflect the fierce equatorial sun (buy your sunscreen in Bali to avoid airport seizure).
- Ascertaining your country's travel advice for Indonesia (p332).
- A travel insurance policy covering you for any calamity.
- Earplugs for the endless repetitions of 'Jammin' at beach bars.
- Your favourite brand of wax for your surfboard.
- Comfortable but rugged walking shoes or sandals.
- Flip-flops in *your* size for hanging out by the pool.
- That clichéd extra bag for all the stuff you'll buy.
- That book you've been waiting to read.
- An iPod full of tunes to give your adventures a beat.
- Leaving lots of stuff *at* home (if you need it you can probably buy it in Bali).

# TOP PICKS

A stylized map of the Indonesian archipelago, specifically focusing on the islands of Bali and Lombok. The word 'BALI' is written in large, bold, black letters over the island of Bali, and 'LOMBOK' is written in similar letters over the island of Lombok. The map is rendered in shades of grey and white, with some text like '(Indonesia)' and 'PURA JATI GARA' visible in smaller fonts.

## BEACHES

Beaches ring Bali, but iconic ones with white sand are not as common as you'd think – most are some variation of tan or grey. Surf conditions also range from limp to torrid, depending on whether there is an offshore reef. Almost any beach will have at least one vendor happy to supply a cold Bintang.

- **Kuta Beach** (p101) Cynics aside, this long, curved, wide stretch of sand boasts great surf that swimmers and surfers alike can enjoy. It's a place enjoyed both by locals and visitors – especially at sunset.
- **Balangan Beach** (p136) This curving white-sand beach on the Bukit Peninsula, backed by an impromptu resort, is ramshackle in an endearing way and perfect for a snooze on the beach.
- **Pasir Putih** (p228) A throwback gem east of Candidasa, this crescent of palm-fringed white sand is postcard perfect.
- **Nusa Lembongan** (p153) There's a whole series of light-sand beaches at this relaxed and funky island off East Bali. Surf, dive, drink beer or just hang out.
- **Gili Island beaches** (p295) The beaches on these three islands are uniformly gorgeous, with circles of white sand, great snorkelling and a timeless traveller vibe.

## FESTIVALS

As well as the amazing selection of religious events that Bali offers, there is an impressive line-up of festivals to fascinate and transfix you. These events occur throughout the year and are scheduled using a Balinese calendar, very different from Western calendars. See p335 for details. The events below follow an annual schedule and are all worthy reasons to hop on a plane.

- **Nyale Fishing Festival** (p323; February or March; Kuta, Lombok) Thousands of Sasak fishermen build bonfires on the beach at Lombok's Kuta while myriad rituals take place.
- **Bali Arts Festival** (p167; mid-June to mid-July; Denpasar) Denpasar hosts a month of cultural performances by the best groups on the island, who compete for prizes.
- **Kuta Karnival** (p109; late September and early October; Kuta, Bali) The always-near-the-surface zany side of Kuta is let loose
- though parades, arts competitions, cultural shows, beach sports tournaments, kite-flying contests and more.
- **Ubud Writers & Readers Festival** (p184; October; Ubud) Top authors from around the world gather in a celebration of writing – especially that which touches on Bali.
- **Nyepi** (p62) The ultimate anti-festival, the entire island truly shuts down for 24 hours – even walking outside is a no-no. Think of it as the ultimate chill-out.

travel.) Many Indonesians visit Bali during some Indonesian holidays, see p337. Outside these times, Bali is quieter – you can find a room in most places and just turn up at your restaurant of choice.

Balinese festivals, holidays and special celebrations occur all the time, and as most of them are not scheduled according to Western calendars, don't worry too much about timing your visit to coincide with local events (see p335).

Just 8 degrees south of the equator, Bali has a tropical climate – the average temperature hovers around 30°C (around 85°F) all year. Direct sun feels incredibly hot, especially in the middle of the day. In the wet season, from

October through March, the humidity can be very high and oppressive. The almost daily tropical downpours come as a relief but then pass quickly.

The dry season (April to September) is nicer, although this shouldn't be an overriding factor in your decision. The days are slightly cooler but it still rains some. You can escape the heat at any time of the year by heading to upland places like Ubud, where cool mountain air makes evenings a pleasure.

On Lombok, the west (where the main town and tourist areas are based) has a climate similar to South Bali but drier. The wet season, from late October to early May, is less extreme, with December, January and February the wettest months. In the dry season, from June to September, temperatures will range from hot to scorching. Travel on the island is slightly less convenient during Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month (the ninth month in the Muslim calendar), especially in the traditional rural areas. In the tourist areas though, there should be little difference in services.

## COSTS & MONEY

In Bali, you can spend as much or as little as you want – there are fabulous resorts where a room costs US\$500 or more a night, where dinner costs more than US\$75 per person and you can be reborn in a spa for US\$100 an hour. At the other extreme, you can easily find decent budget rooms for US\$10 and enjoy a fresh meal from a warung (food stall) for under US\$2. In short, Bali is a bargain for budget travellers and offers excellent value for those seeking luxury.

A good comfortable room in a small hotel near the beach in the south or amid the rice fields of Ubud will cost US\$60 on average (and often less). Expect it to come with a pool, air-con, fridge, patio and decor that is comfortable if not exactly stylish. You can have an excellent three-course meal for US\$7 (including a large bottle of beer) at many tourist restaurants, while US\$20 buys you a more creative, memorable meal. See Accommodation (p327) for a full discussion of what kind of bed your money will buy you in Bali and Lombok.

Transport is affordable – remember that Bali and Lombok are small islands. Public buses and bemo (minibuses) are the local form of public transport and they're very cheap – 35,000Rp will get you across the island. A rental motorbike costs around US\$4 per day and a small jeep runs about US\$12 per day. You can charter a car *and* a driver for around US\$35 to US\$50 per day.

Nearly every museum, major temple or tourist site has an entry charge of about 6000/3000Rp per adult/child – it's a trifling amount. Galleries, bars and clubs are almost always free and the only place you'll really have to pay a premium is at a few attractions aimed at visitors (such as animal parks) and adventure activities like river-rafting or water sports.

Overall, it's possible to live a simple life for US\$15 a day. This gets you a cheap room in Kuta, three fresh, local meals at warung, a few cold beers and all the free surfing you want. Spend more, say US\$100 a day, and you'll pretty much be able to eat, drink or do anything you want while enjoying a great midpriced room.

## TRAVEL LITERATURE

Books about Bali are common. Visit one of the bookshops on the island and you'll have plenty of choices, with new works of variable quality appearing monthly. Titles dealing with Lombok, however, are a rarity.

*Eat, Pray, Love* is the publishing sensation that has women of a certain age flocking to Bali to find the answer to life's dreams. For more, see the boxed text, p178. It's certainly the best known of an entire over-subscribed genre

Clouds and mist usually envelop the slopes of the major volcanoes in Bali and Lombok, so those iconic postcard shots might be hard to come by. Also, temps can get chilly up the slopes at night.

### HOW MUCH?

Cost to send an email taunting friends with all the fun you're having: under 5000Rp

Simple beachside room with a great view: under US\$40

Traditional gamelan music and dance performance: 80,000Rp

Ice-cold Bintang on the beach at sunset: 15,000Rp

Cost of walking the emerald rice fields of Ubud: free

For tips for respecting traditions and acting appropriately while in Bali and Lombok, see the boxed text, p348.

of books written by women who turn up in Bali unsettled, only to find the meaning of life while there.

Diana Darling's *The Painted Alphabet* is based on a Balinese epic poem with all the usual ingredients: good, evil, a quest, baby-swapping and various mystical events. It's a gentle and beguiling way to get your head into Balinese folklore.

*A House in Bali* by Colin McPhee is the timeless classic about a Canadian who experienced Balinese cultural and village life to the core in the 1930s.

*Our Hotel in Bali* by Louise Koke is another classic about Westerners in Bali in the 1930s. She and her husband Bob created the first-ever Kuta Beach hotel and had numerous delightful encounters along the way. It's a quick and fun read with lots of photos.

*Gecko's Complaint* is a morality tale presented as an old Balinese children's fable. The recent Periplus edition is richly illustrated.

The online journal of the irrepressible Made Wijaya, *Stranger in Paradise* ([www.strangerinparadise.com](http://www.strangerinparadise.com)), is filled with insightful and at times hilariously profane takes on local life.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

**Bali Advertiser** ([www.baliadvertiser.biz](http://www.baliadvertiser.biz)) This online edition of Bali's expat journal is filled with insider tips.

**Bali Blog** ([www.baliblog.com](http://www.baliblog.com)) Essays, news and information about Bali.

**Bali Discovery** ([www.balidiscovery.com](http://www.balidiscovery.com)) Although run by a tour company, this site is easily the best source for Balinese news and features, week in and week out. Excellent.

**Lombok Network** ([www.lombok-network.com](http://www.lombok-network.com)) Very comprehensive, this site brings together huge amounts of current information on the island.

**LonelyPlanet.com** ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)) Share knowledge and experiences with other travellers; these islands have been Lonely Planet favourites from the start.

# Itineraries

## CLASSIC ROUTES

### TOTAL BALI & LOMBOK

Two Weeks

Start your trip in **Seminyak** (p118), with the best places to go out for a meal, a drink or even a new frock, and allow at least three days to experience the wild charms of **Kuta Beach** (p101). Once you're sated, head west, driving back roads around **Tabanan** (p273) and **Jatiluwih** (p252), where enormous bamboo trees hang over the roads and the rice terraces await a final blessing by Unesco.

Continue west through **Taman Nasional Bali Barat** (West Bali National Park; p280). Stop here, or press on and settle in at **Pemuteran** (p267). From here, you can snorkel or scuba Bali's best dive site at **Pulau Menjangan** (p280). Driving east, stop at **Lovina** (p260) and enjoy its laid-back beach-town vibe and then head up and over the string of volcanoes that are the heart – and soul – of the island.

Carry on through **Kintamani** (p244), where you'll be rewarded with vistas of Bali's big three: **Gunung Batur** (p240), **Gunung Abang** (p242) and the holiest of holies, **Gunung Agung** (p242). Coming back down on the wet side of the island, head straight to **Ubud** (p172), the spiritual centre of Bali. Nights of dance and culture are offset by days of walking through the serene countryside. Head down to funky **Padangbai** (p219) and catch the Perama boat to the beach resorts of **Senggigi** (p291) and then on to the great travellers' scene on the **Gili Islands** (p295).



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The best of everything in Bali and Lombok comes together on this two-week trip of tropical and cultural delights. Bask on the best beaches, drown in a sea of green rice paddies, let the aura of amazing temples flow over you like a warm bath and immerse yourself in Bali's incredible culture; it will be an island trip like no other.

## TROPICAL PLEASURES

**Two Weeks**

Don't stray far from the airport, as **Kuta** (p101), in all its party glory, is only 10 minutes away. Hit the bars and clubs after midnight and come back to earth on the beach by day. Be sure to get to the trendy restaurants and clubs of **Seminyak** (p118) before you leave this part of South Bali behind. Maybe you can learn how to surf, or at least brush up on your skills. Eventually, head south to sober up and mellow out. **Bingin** (p136) has groovy cliffside inns overlooking fab surfing. When you're ready and rested, get a boat from **Sanur** (p145) to **Nusa Lembongan** (p153). This little island still has the classic, simple charm of a rural beach town, with a string of hotels – from basic to semi-posh – lining the sands. It's a timeless travellers' scene with a backdrop of excellent surfing and splendid snorkelling and diving.

Return to Bali and press on from Sanur to the beaches along the southeast coast. Try some of wild beaches around **Lebih** (p208), where the surf pounds the grey sand. Stop and test the waters with a little surfing, or grab a meal at one of the warung (food stalls) lining the roads to the beach. When you get to **Padangbai** (p219), stop. This fun little port town is an ideal place to hang out for a couple of days before you hop a boat to Lombok, docking in **Senggigi** (p291), the heart of Lombok's beach scene. The coastline is lovely and as you're gazing back towards Bali, you'll already feel you've made a journey – fewer people visit Lombok than Bali.

Now it's time to push on to the ultimate reward for your island adventure: the **Gili Islands** (p295). Depart from Senggigi and compare the scenes on Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno and Gili Air – then pick your favourite.

Surf and swim  
by day and party  
by night. Sleep?  
That'll happen  
sometime. Start in  
timeless Kuta, then  
sample hidden  
beaches and great  
travellers' scenes  
south of Bali and  
off its coast. Then  
it's over to Lombok  
for more day and  
night action.



## BEST OF BALI

### One Week

Start with a large room by the pool, or on the beach at one of the resorts in **Legian** (p101) or **Seminyak** (p118). Sample the **Kuta Beach** (p101) surf and head to Seminyak for world-class **shopping** (p126). Maybe a seafood dinner on **Jimbaran Bay** (p135), or a trendy restaurant in **Seminyak** (p123). Then, hit the edgy clubs in Kuta or the scenerier joints in Seminyak.

Consider some day trips. Head down to surfing beaches like **Balangan Beach** (p136) for some sun and fun, then on to the spiritual centre (and monkey home) of **Pura Luhur Ulu Watu** (p137). Bali's ancient rice terraces will exhaust your abilities to describe green. Sample these in a drive up to the misty **Pura Luhur Batukau** (p252), followed by the terraces of **Jatiluwhi** (p252).

In the east, take the coast road to wild and unvisited beaches like the one near **Pura Masceti** (p208), followed by the well-mannered royal town of **Semarapura** (p210) with its ruins. Head north up the breathtaking **Sidemen Road** (p214), which combines ribbons of rice terraces with lush river valleys and cloud-shrouded mountains. Pass through **Muncan** (p218) and then go west to **Ubud** (p172), the crowning stop on any itinerary.

Bali's rich culture is most-celebrated and most-accessible in Ubud, as you can easily be enraptured by nightly dance performances. Hike through the surrounding rice fields to river valleys like the **Sungai Ayung** (p182), take a break in **museums** (p176) bursting with paintings in the many styles reflecting Bali, or head north to the imposing thousand-year-old rock monoliths at **Gunung Kawi** (p201).

To spoil yourself, stay in one of the many **hotels** (p184) near the centre with views across rice fields and rivers. Sample the offerings at a **spa** (p180) before you sample one of the myriad great **restaurants** (p191) to choose from.



First-time visitors to Bali as well as old hands love the island for its beaches, shopping, nightlife, culture and simply beautiful scenery. This itinerary gives you the best of all this and more. Start in the hedonistic south and end up in the cultured climes of Ubud. You may need more than a week!

## ROADS LESS TRAVELLED

### LEAVING THE CROWDS BEHIND

Two Weeks

Escape the day-trippers' trails and explore the central mountains. Tackle **Gunung Agung** (p216), the spiritual centre of the island. Start early to reach the top and take in the views before the daily onslaught of clouds and mist.

Having climbed Bali's most legendary peak, head west to the village of **Munduk** (p250), which looks down to the north coast and the sea beyond. Go for a walk in the area and enjoy waterfalls, truly tiny villages, wild fruit trees and the sinuous bands of rice paddies lining the hills like ribbons. Then head south to the wonderful temple of **Pura Luhur Batukau** (p252), and consider a trek up Bali's second-highest mountain, **Gunung Batukau** (p252).

Next, bounce across the waves to **Nusa Penida** (p159), the island visible from much of the south and east – it's lush, arid and almost unpopulated. Take in the amazing vistas from its cliffs and dive under the waves to check out the marine life.

Head to Lombok, but ignore the resorts in the east. Instead, head south. Well off the beaten path, the south coast near Lombok's **Kuta** (p321) has stunning beaches and surfing to reward the intrepid. The little-driven back roads of the interior will thrill the adventurous and curious, with tiny villages where you can learn about the amazing local handicrafts. Many of these roads lead up the flanks of **Gunung Rinjani** (p314), the volcanic peak that shelters the lush and remote **Semabun Valley** (p313). Trekking from one village to the next on the rim can take days, but is one of the great walks.

First have fun in Bali's south, then get the heck out! This trip takes you up Bali's stunning and spiritual peaks before sending you hiking lush hillside hideaways and on to mostly undiscovered Nusa Penida. Then it's off to the quietest parts of Lombok.



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## TAILORED TRIPS

### DISCOVER LOMBOK

Just next door, but virtually unknown to most of Bali's millions of tourists and thousands of expats, Lombok is waiting to be discovered. Begin by taking advantage of the islands' proximity and hop one of the fast speedboat services from Bali (see p354) to **Gili Trawangan** (p304). By day, you'll dive into reefs teeming with marine life (p302), and on land you'll love the beaches, dining and nightlife on Gili T. p304 Take a Perama boat (p304) from the Gilis to **Senggigi** (p291), where you can motorbike between deserted fishing beaches, visit the lovely Pura Batu Balong (p291) and take advantage of terrific hotel deals. Hit the market in **Bertais** (p288) to get localised and recover from *bule* overload, then head through the craftsman towns of **Sukarara** (p320) and **Penujak** (p320) to rugged, majestic **Kuta** (p321). Take your time here – swim at **Tanjung Aan** (p325) and **Selong Blanak** (p325), and surf at **Mawan** (p325). Let the rural coastline burn into your brain, because by the time you return it may begin to resemble Nusa Dua. After arid Kuta, you'll dig the rice-paddy walk to Air Terjun Jukut (p318) in lush, fertile **Tetebatu**. After a night or two here, you'll be ready to climb the slopes of **Gunung Rinjani** (p314), dip into her hot springs, and bag her peak. While you're there remember to give thanks to Lombok's mountain gods.



### INCREDIBLE DIVES

Everyone can see the surfer on top of Bali's waves, but little do they realise that underwater there's even more action. Follow the coast around Bali and you'll be rewarded with one legendary dive spot after another, all with great dive shops and a place to kick back and relax in nearby towns. Head west to **Pulau Menjangan** (p280), in the Taman Nasional Bali Barat. It's renowned for its coral and sheer wall and has a fine beach ashore. The nearby **Pemuteran** (p267) hotels define relaxation; staying at these wonderfully isolated resorts is yet another reason why this is a good place to hang up your flippers. **Lovina** (p260) is a good diving base. As well as it being a snoozy beach town, from here you can reach many of Bali's best sites by day and still have time for one of the amazing local night dives.

Down the east coast is **Tulamben** (p236), where scores of people explore the shattered hulk of a WWII freighter. A smaller wreck lurks off the shores of **Aas** (p232) near Amed. **Padangbai** (p219) is another good diving base; there are lots of local sites to explore and the marine life encompasses everything from sharks to sunfish.

But wait, the brass ring for your dives might be in the distance, offshore. The islands of **Nusa Penida** (p159) and **Nusa Lembongan** (p153) both have scores of demanding dives to challenge experienced divers. The rewards are deep grottoes, drop-offs, and everything from mantas to turtles.



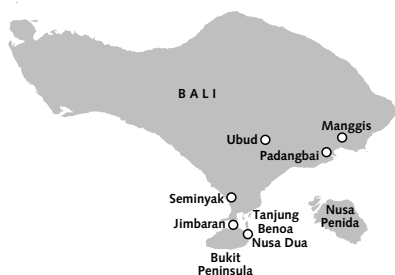
## SPOIL ME

Kilometre for kilometre, Bali has about the greatest density of fabulous resorts and spas you'll find anywhere. From incredible food to hedonistic pampering, you can give yourself every sensation you want and deserve. Massage, spa treatments or just lounging by a pool – you'll find the peace and pampering you want. Two great hotels – the serene **Samaya** (p122), and the understated **Oberoi** (p122) – are just north of Kuta in Seminyak. They set the standards for the clean, tropical look that has come to be known as 'Bali Style'.

Great places circle the Bukit Peninsula like a pearl necklace. The **Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay** (p134) in Jimbaran, with its white sand and blue sea, pushes exclusivity while the **Ritz Carlton** (p134) pushes posh. Across the peninsula, the new **St Regis Bali Resort** (p141) and the **Conrad** (p144) are beacons of luxe in Nusa Dua and Tanjung Benoa. At the Conrad you can plunge off your own patio into the vast pool that encircles the hotel.

Some of the most famous places in Bali can be found in the lush lands around Ubud. Along the Ayung Valley, another **Four Seasons Resort** (p191) blends effortlessly with its verdant surrounds. John Hardy's village fantasy, **Bambu Indah** (p191), and the reborn **Amandari** (p191) both head the A-list going north along the valley.

Along the east coast, with its remote beaches and its views, you can be pampered at two excellent places with sweeping views of Nusa Penida: the environmentally conscious **Bloo Lagoon Village** (p221) on a beautiful beach near Padangbai and, near Manggis, the stunning **Amankila** (p223).



## BALI'S SPIRITUAL CENTRE

Start at **Pura Luhur Ulu Watu** (p137) right at the southern tip of Bali. On the Bukit Peninsula, it's one of only nine directional temples on the island, as well as being a sea temple honouring the many gods in the waters right around the island. Head east around the peninsula to **Pura Mas Suka** (p139), with its remote outlook over the Indian Ocean. From here, go north, following the sea temples along the west coast of South Bali – **Pura Petitenget** (p119) in Seminyak is a classic example. Time your visit to **Pura Tanah Lot** (p271), one of the most important and photographed sea temples, for the morning when crowds are few. One glimpse of its perfect location and you'll understand why the hordes descend for sunset.

In **Ubud** (p172), settle in for a few days at one of the amazing hotels and experience Balinese art and culture. It won't take long to see how beauty of the mind and spirit merge so easily here. You will find the best of Balinese culture both here and in the surrounding villages.

Heading east, **Semarapura** (p210), commonly known as Klungkung, was once the centre of Bali's most important kingdom. While here, learn about how the Balinese held out against the Dutch among its fascinating palace ruins. Or, head into the verdant hills and valleys of East Bali to find your own spiritual centre. End your journey in **Amed** (p232), with its dramatic and contemplative ocean overlooks.



# The Authors



## RYAN VER BERKMOES

Ryan Ver Berkmoes first visited Bali in 1993. On his visits since he has explored almost every corner of the island – along with side trips to Nusas Lembongan and Penida, and Lombok. Just when he thinks Bali holds no more surprises, he, for example, ducks behind Pura Luhur Batukau. Better yet, he simply never tires of the place. Four times in two years shows that; sometimes his Bali social calendar is busier than anywhere else. Off-island, Ryan lives in Portland, Oregon and writes about Bali and more at [www.ryanverberkmoes.com](http://www.ryanverberkmoes.com).



## MARIAN CARROLL

Marian first visited Bali at the age of six on a family holiday. Her earliest memories include horse-and-cart rides, crowded markets, heat rash and rocketing off diving boards into the hotel pool. It would be almost two decades before she returned and fell under the island's spell for good, as she stumbled across timeless rice-farming villages and the friendliest people you could ever meet. She now lives the dream, having moved to Bali as a freelance journalist in 2002. She previously co-authored Lonely Planet's *Best of Bali*. Home is an open-air house with her husband, their mongrel dog and more recently, their two (sometimes mongrel) children.



## ADAM SKOLNICK

Adam Skolnick became travel-obsessed while working as an environmental activist in the mid '90s. He has since wandered six continents, and visited over 20 islands in his beloved Indonesia. A freelance journalist, he writes about travel, culture, health, sports and the environment for Lonely Planet, *Men's Health*, *Outside*, *Travel & Leisure*, and *Spa*. He has co-authored four previous Lonely Planet guidebooks, *Southeast Asia on a Shoestring*, *East Timor*, *Mexico*, and *The Carolinas, Georgia and the South Trips*, and he is the author of *Phuket Encounter*. You can read more of his work at [www.adamskolnick.com](http://www.adamskolnick.com).

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