



Bali

POP 4.2 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sardine (p223)
- ➔ Mama San (p221)
- ➔ Cashew Tree (p231)
- ➔ Locavore (p261)
- ➔ Tékor Bali (p300)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Temple Lodge (p231)
- ➔ Bambu Indah (p258)
- ➔ Samanvaya (p270)
- ➔ Meditasi (p281)
- ➔ Sedasa (p227)

Why Go?

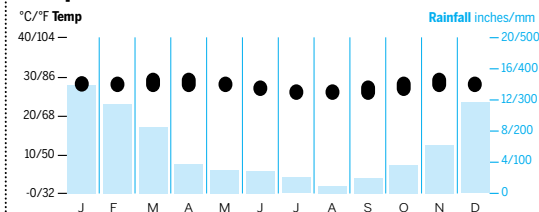
Impossibly green rice terraces, pounding surf, enchanting Hindu temple ceremonies, mesmerising dance performances, ribbons of beaches and truly charming people: there are as many images of Bali as there are flowers on the island's ubiquitous frangipani trees.

This small island looms large for any visit to Indonesia, and no other place is more visitor-friendly. Hotels range from surfer dives to lavish retreats in the lush mountains. You can dine on local foods bursting with flavours fresh from the markets or let world-class chefs take you on a global culinary journey. From a cold Bintang beer at sunset to an epic night of clubbing, your social whirl is limited only by your fortitude.

Small in size doesn't mean homogenous: manic Kuta segues into glitzy Seminyak; the artistic swirl of Ubud is a counterpoint to misty hikes amid volcanoes; and mellow beach towns such as Bingin, Amed and Pemuteran lie dotted along the coast.

When to Go

Denpasar



Jul & Aug High season is Bali's busiest and buzziest time. Book ahead for rooms.

May, Jun & Sep Often the best weather: slightly cooler and drier; less crowded.

Jan–Apr, Oct & Nov Low season makes spontaneous travel easy. Things go quiet for the Nyepi holiday.



Bali Highlights

① Shopping by day and hitting the hotspots by night in **Seminyak**, **Kerobokan** (p216) and **Canggu** (p225).

② Discovering the beautiful string of hidden beaches in and around **Bingin** (p231), where the surfing is also fab.

③ Revelling in Bali's elaborate cultural life in **Ubud**

(p247), where you can enjoy your choice of the island's iconic dance and gamelan performances nightly.

④ Zipping along the nontouristy **Sidemen road**