

Directory

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ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Indonesia ranges from a basic box with a mattress to the finest five-star luxury resorts. Costs vary considerably across the archipelago, but in general Indonesia is one of the better bargains in Southeast Asia.

Travellers' centres have plenty of reasonably priced food and accommodation; Bali has the highest standards and whether you want to spend US\$5, US\$50 or US\$500 per night you will get excellent value. Accommodation prices don't necessarily increase in outer and

more remote provinces, but less competition often means lower standards.

Some hotels have fixed prices and display them, but prices are often flexible, especially in quiet periods. This applies particularly to midrange and top-end hotels, where discounts of 10% to 50% are readily available both in person and online.

Accommodation reviews in this book are chosen at the authors' discretion and based solely on merit. Reviews are listed in order of price, starting with budget and winding up with the most expensive option, unless otherwise stated. Quoted rates are high season (May to September and Christmas/New Year) and may drop by 20% or more during low season.

The range of prices used in this book is based on the average price per night in high-season rooms at a property (except in Bali):

Budget Less than 200,000Rp.

Midrange Between 200,000Rp and 700,000Rp.

Top End More than 700,000Rp (more than US\$70).

On Bali and the nearby Gili Islands off Lombok the prices, which are often quoted in US dollars, are as follows:

Budget Less than 280,000Rp (less than US\$30).

Midrange Between 280,000Rp (around US\$30) and 1,100,000Rp (around US\$120).

Top End More than 1,100,000Rp (more than US\$120).

'Budget' often consists of a fan-cooled room in a losmen (simple, family-run hotel) or basic hotel, with a bed and shared *mandi* (Indonesian-type bath), although in the main cities like Jakarta and Yogyakarta rooms often come with a private *mandi*. Midrange accommodation is usually in a hotel and you can expect a private *mandi* or Western bathroom,

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider low-down on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

PRACTICALITIES

- English-language press includes the *Jakarta Post* and the impressive new *Jakarta Globe*. *Kompas* is a respected Indonesian-language daily out of Jakarta. Others include *Pos Kota*, *Jawa Pos*, *Suara Pembaruan*, *Republika*, *Pikiran Rakyat* and *Media Indonesia*. Popular news and features magazines include *Gatra* and *Tempo*. See also the boxed text, p262, for Bali-specific media.
- Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI) is the national radio service and broadcasts 24 hours a day in Bahasa Indonesia. There are also numerous privately run stations. There is one government TV service, TVRI, and many private stations, which have a variety of energetic and often flamboyant programs. Satellite TV is common in tourist hotels.
- Videos you buy or watch are based on the PAL system, also used in Australia, New Zealand, the UK and most of Europe. Pirated and genuine DVDs are abundant and most can be played on all-region software, although you usually get what you pay for with the former.
- Electricity supply is 220V AC, 50Hz. The sockets accommodate two round prongs, the same as in most of Europe.
- Indonesia uses the international metric system for weights and measures.

more comfortable beds with a modicum of furniture, air-con and TV. Of course standards vary greatly depending on where you are. Top end is generally a more comfortable version of midrange, with newer interiors and satellite TV. Luxury resorts in Bali rival those anywhere in the world. Hotel and resort rooms reviewed in this book have a bathroom unless otherwise stated.

All hotels charge a 10% government tax, although many cheap hotels either ignore the tax or absorb it into their room rates. Midrange and top-end hotels have a 21% tax-and-service charge (called 'plus plus'), but not all include it in their advertised tariffs, so ask when checking in to avoid a headache on your way out. Prices in this book include tax unless otherwise stated.

For hotels, especially midrange and top-end places, you can often find the best deal by shopping around online. Some hotels offer internet deals on their websites; many more work with agents and brokers to sell their rooms at discounts off the published rates.

Besides the main internet travel bookers such as Expedia, Orbitz and Travelocity, the following sites often have good rates on rooms in Java, Bali and other well-touristed areas.

- www.asiarooms.com
- www.balidiscovery.com
- www.directrooms.com
- www.hotelclub.net
- www.otel.com
- www.zuji.com

Camping

Camping in national parks is popular among Indonesian youth, though formal camping grounds with power and other facilities are rare. Outside of the parks, camping is unknown, and villagers will regard campers as a source of entertainment.

A sleeping sleeve or just a sarong will be sufficient for the lowlands, but you must be properly equipped to camp at higher elevations. Late-afternoon or night rain is common in mountain areas all year round, which can pose a danger of exposure to the inexperienced or unprepared. You'll also want a mosquito net, to guard against insects and other things that crawl and slither in the night.

Hostels

Indonesia doesn't have many hostels, mainly because there are so many inexpensive hotels. One exception is Jakarta, where there are places offering dormitory accommodation. There are a handful of hostels in a few other places, but it's easy to travel through Indonesia on a tight budget without ever staying in one.

The main thing to be cautious about in hostels is security. Few places provide lockers, and it's not just local thieves you must worry about – foreigners have been known to rip off other people's valuables.

If you want to avoid nocturnal visits by rats, don't store food in your room, or at least have it sealed in jars or containers.