

# BALI

ENCOUNTER

RYAN VER BERKMOES

Bali Encounter

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**Australia** Head Office, Locked Bag 1,  
Footscray, Victoria 3011  
☎ 03 8379 8000 fax 03 8379 8111  
talk2us@lonelyplanet.com.au  
**USA** 150 Linden St, Oakland, CA 94607  
☎ 510 250 6400  
toll free 800 275 8555  
fax 510 893 8572  
info@lonelyplanet.com  
**UK** 2nd fl, 186 City Rd,  
London EC1V 2NT  
☎ 020 7106 2100 fax 020 7106 2101  
go@lonelyplanet.co.uk

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**Coordinating Editor** Nigel Chin **Cartographer** Andras Bogdanovits **Coordinating Layout Designer** Frank Deim  
**Managing Editors** Bruce Evans, Liz Heynes **Managing Cartographer** Corey Hutchison **Managing Layout Designer** Celia Wood **Internal Image Researcher** Sabrina Dalbesio, lonelyplanetimages.com **Cover Researcher** Naomi Parker, lonelyplanetimages.com  
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## RYAN VER BERKMOES

Ryan Ver Berkmoes first visited Bali in 1993. On his visits since he has explored almost every corner of the island. Just when he thinks he's sampled every beach on the island, he goes down a little track and finds another sandy cove. Better yet, he simply never tires of the place. Five visits in two years shows this – sometimes his Bali social calendar is busier than anywhere else. Off-island, Ryan lives in Portland, Oregon and vows to sample every last microbrew in town – a lifetime avocation.



## RYAN'S T HANKS

This list just seems to grow. Many thanks to friends like Hanafi, Jeremy Allan, Eliot Cohen, Jamie James, Mary Justice Thomasson-Croll, Kerry and Milton Turner, Adyus, Kadek Gunarta, Ibu Cat, Patricia Miklautsch, Rucina Ballinger, Jack Daniels, Marilyn, Wayan Suarnata, Chrystine Hanley and many more. Seeing my friends in Bali always makes me want to double my stay while tripling the fun.

**Our readers** Many thanks to the travellers who wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes: Torsten Elsner, Simon Jones

**Cover photograph** Melasti ceremony on Kuta Beach celebrating Balinese New Year, Andrew Brownbill/Lonely Planet Images. **Internal photographs** p44, p50, p76, p97, p112 by Ryan Ver Berkmoes. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images; p10, p12, p23, p25, p26, p124, p129 Gregory Adams; p6, p20, p42, p95 Jerry Alexander; p21 Michael Aw; p127 John Banagan; p19, p27, p99 Paul Beinson; p105 Anders Blomquist; p58 John Borthwick; p4, p28, p38, p74 Andrew Brownbill; p86 Tom Cockrem; p28 Andrew Cubran; p28 Greg Elms; p14, p30 Alain Evrard; p121 Michael Gebicki; p68, p80, p102 Richard l'Anson; p6 Dennis Jones; p32, p60, p70, p126 Paul Kennedy; p110 Margie Politzes; p106 Tim Rock; p17, p48, p114 Wibowo Rusli; p6 Douglas Steakly; p22 Lawrence Worcester; p16, p18, p40, p53, p54, p65, p77, p91, p116, p120, p122, p123, p125 Stephanie Victor.

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Cultural relics and natural beauty – Bali at its best



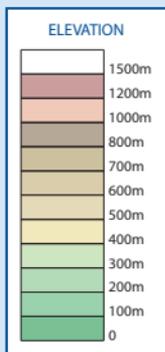
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INDIAN OCEAN



Java





# THIS IS BALI

Bali packs a lot into a little island. A single day can bring more sights, adventures and discoveries than a week's worth of travel elsewhere.

A religious procession brings the tourist-thronged streets of Seminyak to a stop, a dancer displays trance-like artistry at an Ubud cultural pavilion, a diver is transfixed by an untouched reef, a surfer finds the perfect break, a walker rubs her eyes trying to cope with the lush green beauty of the surrounding rice paddies, a jaded tourist is charmed by an unexpected act of kindness by a local – all of these things are part of a typical day in Bali. This is a destination that rises far above a typical tropical island destination by virtue of its culture, scenery and people.

Where else will you find intricate little offerings to the gods placed in serene little niches at world-class resorts? Or see a dance show with movements and music performed by a village dance troupe that has been perfecting their act for generations? And amid myriad palms and other lush growth, where else can you find sinuous ribbons of rice growing on green terraces wrapping around the hills?

Yes, Bali has many splendid beaches but it has so much more, from the world-class restaurants and nightlife of south Bali to hidden villages where travellers can escape the tourist hubbub and much of modern life as well. And it's all wrapped up in a rich and intriguing culture you'll find nowhere else.

It's also affordable in Bali. World-class meals and lodgings and an exhausting nightlife can be enjoyed by everyone; stay an extra day! It's no matter if you're on a surfer budget or willing to leave the bills to the little people, a day of delights in Bali won't have you singing the blues when you go home. Rather, you might just find yourself humming a gamelan tune, remembering your days in paradise.

**Top left** Rich greens of the rice terraces of Tabanan **Top right** A man considers many things, looking out over the rocks  
**Bottom** The much-photographed temple complex of Pura Tanah Lot (p114)