

BALI

ENCOUNTER

RYAN VER BERKMOES

Bali Encounter

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd
ABN 36 005 607 983

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This title was commissioned in Lonely Planet's Melbourne office and produced by: **Commissioning Editors** Shawn Low, Ilaria Walker, Tashi Wheeler
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Thanks to Errol Hunt, Indra Kilfoyle, Lisa Knights

ISBN 978 1 74179 717 6

Printed by Hang Tai Printing Company, Hong Kong.
Printed in China.

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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 THANKS

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 Evard; p121 Michael Gebicki; p68, p80, p102 Richard l'Anson; p6 Dennis Jones; p32, p60, p70, p126 Paul Kennedy; p110 Margie Politizes; 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



CONTENTS

THE AUTHOR	03
THIS IS BALI	07
HIGHLIGHTS	10
BALI DIARY	23
ITINERARIES	27
REGIONS	32
> KUTA & LEGIAN	36
> SEMINYAK	46
> KEROBOKAN	56
> JIMBARAN	62
> ULU WATU & AROUND	66
> NUSA DUA & TANJUNG BENOA	72
> SANUR	78
> DENPASAR	84
> UBUD	88
> EAST BALI	100
FURTHER AFIELD	105
SNAPSHOTS	116
> ACCOMMODATION	118
> FOOD	120
> BARS & CLUBS	122
> SHOPPING & MARKETS	124
> HEALTH & WELLBEING	125
> KIDS	126
> LOST IN BALI	127
> GAY BALI	128
BACKGROUND	129
DIRECTORY	141
INDEX	153

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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)