

# Complete Travel Guide for Bali Family Holidays

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Bali "the island of Gods" is the most popular vacation destination in Indonesia and there is a very good reason. There is so much for everyone to do. Bali is amazing with its pristine beaches perfect for surfing, great hiking and trekking, friendly locals, kid friendly, culturally rich, world-class dining and moreover it's affordable. Thinking of Bali as your next family holiday destination? Look no further. Here's your Complete Travel Guide for Bali Family Holidays.

Bali is in Indonesia with Denpasar as its capital. It hosts the biggest Hindu population with temples and Balinese culture embracing us the minute we exit the airport. Bali also boasts of rich and diverse art forms like woodcarving, handicrafts, paintings and dances.

## Bali Weather

Bali has an even tropical climate all year round since it is so close to the equator. It's fairly hot with temperature averaging around 30° C, with high levels of humidity. The wet season is from **October to April** and this time Bali receives a considerable amount of rainfall so there are hardly any tourists around.

## Best Time to Visit Bali

The tourist season starts right after the wet season ends so it's pretty crowded from **May to September**. The best time to visit is just before and after the peak season to avoid the heavy influx of tourists. July and August are the heavy tourist seasons. But if surfing is your main priority then it's from March to November at Kuta beach and from November to March at Sanur beach.

## Getting to Bali

About 140 Nationals do not need a Visa when entering Bali for a stay of max 30 days. India being one of them. However you do need a passport with at least 6 months validity which is stamped for 30 days visa exemption upon entry.

## Flights

Denpasar the capital of Bali is well-connected to all major cities of the world via its Ngurah Rai International Airport.

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## **[Airport Transfers](#)**

In Bali public transport is non-existent but taxis are readily available. We booked our airport transfers via [Klook](#) for a reasonable and hassle free ride.

## **[Taxis in Bali](#)**

Bali is one place where you do not need a tour operator to plan your sightseeing. You can plan your own itinerary and then just rent a car to do all the activities as per your plan. We did exactly this and pre-booked our ride on [Klook](#).

## **[Sim Card](#)**

It's always a better idea to have a local number to stay connected in a new country. Sim cards are cheap and can be booked online on [here on Klook](#) with delivery immediately upon your arrival at the airport. In fact the minute we exited the airport the Klook delivery guy who was waiting for us with a sign board in the arrival area delivered our card.

# **Things to do in Bali**

## **Visit the Temples**

Bali is the Island of Gods so religion is major part of Balinese culture. There are many temples in Bali each one is worth visiting for its exquisite architecture. I have listed the major ones here but feel free to list more in the comments section below.

*Pro Tip 1: It is mandatory to dress decently when visiting the temples. A **sarong** is usually available at the ticket counter or at temple entrance for visitors to use which needs to be returned back while exiting. So to enter the temples, you don't need to purchase the sarong from the pestering local shops outside the temples, unless you actually want to buy them.*

## **Sunset at Pura Tanah Lot**

This iconic temple is on a rock just near the shore of the Indian Ocean. It gets surrounded by the sea during high tide. [Sunset at Tanah Lot](#) is one of the main tourist attractions in Bali and is mainly known for the picturesque view of this monument with the backdrop of the setting sun. It's around 30-40 minutes drive from Seminyak.

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## **Sunset at Pura Luhur Uluwatu**



*At Uluwatu Temple*

Ulu means head and Watu is rock. This temple is on a cliff top open to the vast expanse of the ocean. The temple lies 70 meters above the roaring sea which is famous among the surfers. It takes 1.5 hours to reach this place from Seminyak but the sunset view is worth the time taken. Many monkeys who inhabit this place are believed to guard the temple. Visitors are not allowed inside the main temple but the courtyard is free to roam around.

## **Goa Gajah**

Goa Gajah or Elephant Cave Temple is an ancient temple but do not get fooled by the name. There are no elephants here but the temple is dedicated to elephant headed Hindu God Ganesha. This temple dates back to the 11th century. It consists of a cave whose doorway is the open mouth of a menacing giant. A Buddhist temple is also present in the same premise. There is a pool also with beautiful stone carvings on the spouts.

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## **Tirta Empul**

This holy water temple has great importance in the Balinese culture. There is a holy water spring which is then distributed to many outlets in a pool where people can bathe in for the purification process. After the purification process the devotees have to pray to Lord Indra in the inner courtyard. This temple complex overlooks a contemporary mansion which houses the president itself.



*The Holy Bath area at Tirta Empul*

## **Pura Basakih**

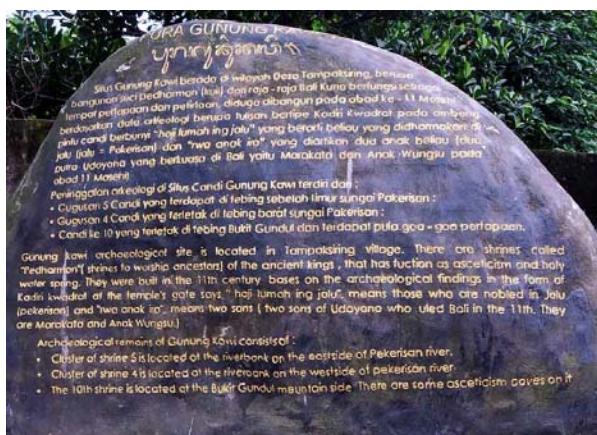
Pura Basakih is Bali's Mother Temple and is the most important one. It's on the slopes of the active volcano Mount Agung and is also hit by the volcano many times. The temple premise comprises of 80 small temples. It's at a height of 1000 meters and is surrounded by lush greenery and beautiful landscapes.

*Pro Tip 2: This temple has many ancient legends attached to it so its advisable to hire a local guide to explain them.*

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## Gunung Kawi Temple

This stone cut out temple belongs to the 11th century and is said to be the oldest temple, but is still used for daily rituals. Apart from carvings of deities Gunung Kawi is also said to have the remains of its ancient king and his wives. To reach the temple one needs to descend 370 steps overlooking lush green landscapes. It is pretty easy to climb down the stairs to reach the temple but climbing back up takes an effort especially in the sweltering heat. This temple might be ancient but the stone carvings still look majestic. This temple is 20 km from Ubud village.



*The Ancient Stone Carvings*

*Pro Tip 3: This temple is just 2 km from Tirta Empul so you can club both.*

## Pura Luhur Lempuyang

This temple is one of the most difficult temples to get to. It's on the slopes of Mount Lempuyang and consists of 1700 steps to reach the top. The ascend requires a fair amount of physical strength and is a mix of religion and adventure. The view from the top is worth the climb had shows a side of Bali in complete contrast to the south.

*Pro Tip 4: In case you are not willing to trek to the top there is Pura Penataran Agung temple at the foot of the mountain with intricately carved dragons sculptures.*

## Garuda Wisnu Kencana (GWK)

**Garuda Wisnu Kencana** is a 120 meters gigantic statue dedicated to Lord Vishnu riding a garuda bird. This area is built as a cultural park with many attractions like cultural shows, souvenir shops, restaurants, villas etc. This statue is made of brass and copper and consists of 24 segments. It's still under construction but it is magnificent nonetheless.

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## **Pura Taman Ayun**

This temple stands out because of its unique traditional architecture. The temple consists of towering tiers as a tribute to their ancestors. The temple compound has 4 sections one considered higher than the other, with a small garden and a beautiful fountain.



*Taman Ayun*

*Pro Tip 5: This temple can be visited on the way to Tanah Lot temple as its midway from Ubud Village.*

## **Ulun Danu Batur**

This Water temple is dedicated to the Goddess of lakes and rivers. Water is considered sacred by Balinese so this temple is built to worship water. This temple ground has 9 smaller temples with around 300 tributes to other god and goddesses of Balinese culture. This temple is located in Batur Village at the foothills of Mount Batur.

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## **Surfing**

Surfing is a major attraction for people visiting Bali. It boasts of many surfing spots that are suitable for beginners as well as seasoned surfers alike. The High performance waves are found in Padang Paadang, Uluwatu and Canggu. Mellow beach breaks are seen in Kuta and Seminyak region.

For tourists there are surfing packages available all over Bali that provide surfing boards on rent as well as provide local knowledge on the weather and beach conditions plus these packages come with transfers which makes it more convenient. There are also surfing lessons provided for beginners.



## **Party like no other**



*Potato Head Beach Club, Seminyak*

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Multiple clubs with laser lights and pumping music with DJs from around the world Bali has it all. Watering holes with stunning beach facing neon lit infinity pools is a perfect place to unwind. Kuta, Legian and Seminyak in the south of Bali is the hub of Bali's nightlife. The nightlife come alive as soon as the sun sets and lasts till early morning.

*Pro Tip 6: If you want to party along with kids, Seminyak is a better option and not Kuta which is a more hippy kind of atmosphere. Potato Head Beach Club is a must visit even with kids.*

## **Trekking**

If you are the adventurous type then no trip to Bali is complete without hiking to one of the volcano peaks. The most popular one is trekking the 1700 m high [Mount Batur](#). It last erupted in 2000 and the trek is not very difficult and takes about 2 hours. Its best to reach the peak early as the view of the sunrise from here is breathtaking.



*Mount and Lake Batur*

*Pro Tip 7: If trekking is not your cup of tea then too you can enjoy this majestic Mt. Batur. Kintamani is a place where you can enjoy lunch amidst the backdrop of Mount Batur with Lake Batur at its side.*



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## **Visit the Rice Terraces**

A visit to the rice terrace can easily fill your memory card with countless pictures of its beautiful landscape. The myriad shades of green on the undulated scope is an experience to cherish forever. The Tegalalang rice terrace is an amazing place to visit. You can even watch the local farmers carrying out their daily chores of rice cultivation. There are many cafes dotting the area giving you the opportunity to enjoy a drink with a view.



*Tegalalang Rice Terraces*

## **Experience Balinese Culture**

Bali culture and Traditions are fascinating with many people visiting Bali just to experience this. The Dances, their ceremonies, rituals even the daily offering they make is so intriguing that you cannot resist to be a part of it. There are many shows like [Devdan Show](#), [Fire and Kecak dance](#) and Agung Show that showcase the traditional dances of Indonesia and worth every dime.

### **Kecak and Fire Dance at Pura Luhur Uluwatu**



*Fire and Kecak Dance at Uluwatu Temple*

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*Pro Tip 8: Uluwatu Temple also has a special dance performance called [Fire and Kecak Dance](#) in the evenings at an additional cost of IDR 100,000 per person. Since it is generally overcrowded here, you can give it a miss. You can get the same or even better experiences at Ubud Palace or at the Devdan Show where the performances are more elegant and are not so crowded.*

## **Devdan Show at Nusa Dua Theatre**

The [Devdan show](#) is a 90 Minutes musical extravaganza that shows a glimpse of all the traditional dances of not just Bali but all of Indonesia. The performances include allusions, artificial rain, fire balls, giant puppets, aerial silk dances, pyrotechnic lasers that make it a treat for the eyes.

[Watch the Glimpse of Devdan show here.](#)

## **Batubulan Village**

This traditional village in Sukawati is the place to be to see wood carvers and stone carvers create amazing pieces of art. This village also has cultural dance performances every day.

## **Heron bird watching at Petulu Village**

You can see hundreds of heron birds returning from the rice fields every evening around 5PM at the Petulu village. It is a remarkable sight to see the white herons flying in. They all settle in the big trees along the road and stay there throughout the night. If you enjoy bird watching or photography, this is the place for you.

## **Balinese Dress Up**

Playing dress up is a favorite fun activity for women of all age groups and it's more fun when this dress up is dipped in rich tradition. Balinese clothes are colorful and extravagant with exquisite headgear and jewelry. This dress up was part of the kids club activity in our resort and my LO absolutely loved it.

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## **Indulge yourself in the local cuisine**



*Nasi Goreng (Indonesian Fried Rice)*

Like the other things in Bali even the local cuisine is rich in culture and tradition. Balinese food is varied and diverse and no visit should be complete without experiencing their local cuisine. We loved the Nasi Goreng - their take on the fried rice which is served with chicken satay, shrimp crackers, fresh veggies, pickles and topped with a sunny side up. Jimbaran Bay is the place from where the islands seafood supply comes from. This place is dotted with restaurants facing the rather menacing looking sea and is a heaven for the sea food lovers.

*Pro Tip 9: Jimbaran Bay is on the way from Uluwatu to Kuta area so you can watch the sunset at Uluwatu and stop at Jimbaran for dinner.*

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## **Bali Safari and Marine Park**

[Bali Safari and Marine Park](#) is one fun day activity your kids will never stop thanking you for. This is one place where you can literally eat and sleep with wildlife. The Bali safari houses over 100 species and including the rare komodo dragon. Elephant rides, animal feeding, safari ride, animal encounter shows. restaurants facing the animal exhibits will keep the kids entertained for a whole day. But in case they crave for more you can also stay in the resort facing the lion enclosure. Imagine waking up to the lion's roar. Still not satisfied there is even a water park to beat the heat. Make sure you catch the Agung show in the amphitheater to get the glimpse of the traditional dances of Bali.



*White Tiger at Bali Safari and Marine Park*

*Pro Tip 10: Safari Packages are available depending on the type of activities you want to do. You can choose the package accordingly.*

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## **Ubud Monkey Forests**

Ubud Monkey Forest or Mandala Suci Wenara Wana is a monkey conservation and education center that houses around 700 Balinese macaques. This rain forest with around 200 different species of trees is located just 3 kms away from Ubud market. There are 3 temples on these grounds are considered sacred along with these monkeys.



*At Ubud Monkey Forest*

## **Black Sand Beach**

Beaches for me has always been blue waters and pristine white sand so the idea of seeing a black beach intrigued me. The Keramas Beach in Ubud is a black sand beach not grey but jet black. Its black due to the black volcanic ash. This beach is popular among the locals for purification so you can see them offering prayers at all times.



*A local offering his prayers*

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## **Handicrafts**

Bali is a treasure trove of handicrafts. You can find amazing paintings, wood and stone carving and also cute little sling bags which I could not resist buying. Its a haven for pretty little trinkets and souvenirs.



*Handicrafts at Ubud Market*

## **Waterfall**

Bali is a treasure house of happy gurgling waterfalls cascading down stony mountains covered in lush green foliage. It's a paradise for nature lovers. Many of the waterfalls are close to the city and a short ride away. Normally the water is strongest in the wet season but during the dry season too it's worth a visit. Do not forget to pack your swimsuit to enjoy a dip here. We visited the Tegenungan Waterfall. It was close to the Bali Safari and Marine Park so we clubbed it on the same day.



*Tegenungan Waterfall*

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## **Bali Luwak Coffee**



You must have heard about Kopi Luwak, the most expensive coffee in the world. These coffee beans are the digested coffee cherries of Luwak or the Asian palm civet found in Bali. After fermenting in the digestive track, the coffee beans found in the fecal remains of this animal are collected, processed and then sold around \$700 per kg. There are coffee plantations around Ubud that house these civet and you can sample and buy coffee from them.



*Kopi Luwak (Luwak Coffee)*

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## **Places to Stay in Bali**

### **Stay in a Private Villa with your own swimming pool**

The best part of a tropical holiday is lazing around in a pool all day. Now imagine doing so in your own private pool. This is an experience you have to try. Villas are perfect for honeymooners too for the solace they offer. It is a blessing for families with kids as they will be happily splashing around all day and happy kids make happy holidays. In fact this private villa was the best part of my LO's Bali holiday.



*Our own Villa with Private swimming pool*

We stayed at [The Awan Villas](#) at Seminyak and it was perfect for us. It came with a pool, a complete functional kitchen area, living area, dining area, bedroom and a Balinese style open bath. The best part was that it was just 5 minutes walk from the beach and 10 minute drive from Seminyak Square with free Shuttle services available.

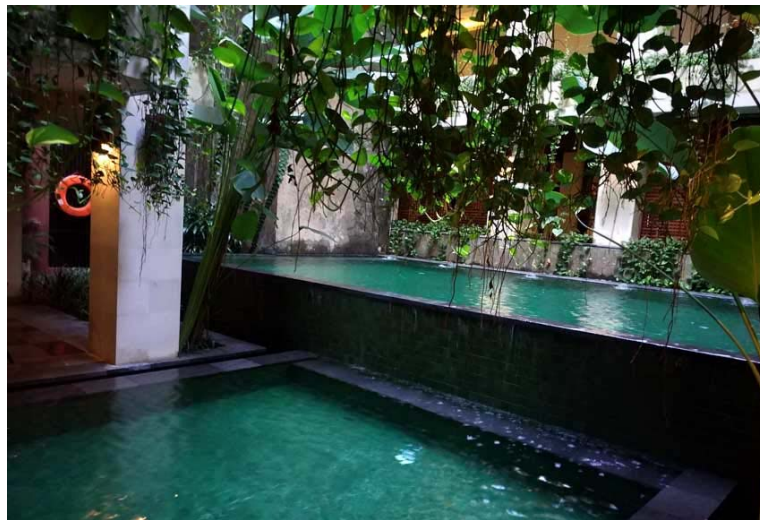


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## **Ubud**

We prefer to stay near the main hub to experience the nightlife of the place. [The Ubud Village Hotel](#) is located near the market and we could try a new restaurant everyday for our meals. This place has two pools and two restaurants. It's walking distance from popular tourist attractions like Ubud Palace and Ubud monkey forest.



*One of the two Pools of the Hotel*

## **Nusa Dua**

Nusa Dua is an all inclusive type of beach resort destination. It consists of the best hotel chains of the world with pristine clear beaches and up market shopping complexes. This was an experience in itself. We stayed at [Ayodya Resort](#). This beach front resort suited our motto of a laid back holiday as we could literally spend a week lounging here. The rooms, the lake with its flock of ducks, infinity pool, many multi-cuisine restaurants, spa and cultural shows in their very own amphi theater made it one of the best resorts we stayed at. The The Kids club was a hit with my daughter.



*Ayodya Resort Foyer*

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In case you found the above read interesting, you might also like the following:

[Read Also: Singapore Night Safari – A Family Night out](#)

[Read Also: Singapore Zoo – A Complete Family Experience](#)

[Read Also: Complete Guide to Andaman Family Holidays](#)

*Hope you find this Bali Family Holidays Guide of use to you. Do let us know about your stay in Bali or if we are missing something, please [contact us](#) or comment below and I will update this blog soon. Your comments and/or feedback are welcome.*