



Taman Ayun Royal Temple

Art and culture are strongly bonded to Bali's unique form of Hinduism called "Hindu Dharma". Classical dance dramas are based on the old Hindu epics of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, but contain an element of local folklore peculiar to the island. The very soul of Bali is rooted in religion and is expressed in art forms that have been passionately preserved over the centuries. It seems that almost every person is an artist. Whether expressed through beautiful and intricate paintings and dances, extraordinary carvings, superb weaving or even in decorations made for the myriad shrines, the island is alive with art. Regular performances of the popular dances such as the Legong Kraton, the Barong Kris and the Bans dances, are easily found throughout Bali. They are usually staged for tourists by the village people. The Kecak is performed at night by torchlight. They have managed to preserve their culture despite overwhelming foreign influences brought to the region by an ever-increasing number of tourists. Water sports have naturally gained in popularity and Bali offers superb surfing, windsurfing, sailing, scuba diving and white water rafting.

Bali Tourism Board

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Getting there:

Bali's international airport, Ngurah Rai, is in the south of the island and is served by numerous international airlines and charters.



Tourism Events

Two of the major festivals are Galungan and Nyepi

There are several festivals on Bali, most involving music, dance, religion and art; all of which are held very close to the hearts of the people.

Makepung Festival, a tradition of bull racing which has been passed through generations in Bali's society, specifically in Jembrana. It symbolizes a mutual help of farmers carrying their harvest using carts pulled by two buffaloes.

Tanah Lot Kite Festival, where contestants come from foreign countries and surrounding regions to participate.

Tampak Siring

The temple of Pura Tirta Empul is built around the sacred spring at Tampak Siring. Over 1000 years old, the temple and its two bathing pools have been valued by the people because of the spring water's curative powers. Regular ceremonies are held for purification. Specialties of the area are bone and ivory carvings.



Dreamland Beach, Bali

The Museum of Le Mayeur Kelandis Village. The fine art museum was established by a Belgium artist, Le Mayeur. It is about 200 meters to the north of the Grand Bali Beach Hotel. The main attraction of the museum is a painting of Ni Polok, a local Balinese woman, Le Mayeur's wife. Ni Polok was a famous traditional Balinese dancer.

Sanur Tourism Beach Resort. It is located 6km from Denpasar City and only 20 minutes from Denpasar. It can be reached by public transportation or motorbike. Sanur Beach was the first beach where the Dutch landed on 20 September 1906 during the Puputan war. All international facilities are available for tourists and also many marine activities.

Werdhi Budaya Art Center. The center is a tertiary level Conservatorium Dance and Drama School for Traditional Balinese Performing Arts.

Kuta. It is a popular beach for surfing although currents make it less suitable for swimming. Life guards are on constant duty during the day. Kuta offers beautiful sunsets. Accommodations range from international hotels to home-stays. The village abounds with restaurants, shops, discotheques and other tourist facilities. It is easier to find regular performances of Balinese music and dance in Kuta, staged specially for tourists. Some performances are staged nightly. The village is ideal for meeting and mixing with locals as well as visitors from abroad.



Panji Semirang Dance

Batubulan. Driving northeast from Denpasar, stone figures on the roadside mark the village of Batubulan. Divinities and demons are carved from sandstone for ornaments on houses and temples. Workshops can be visited to watch artists at work.

Batuan. An old and famous center of the arts, it is now known for its dancing, wood panel carving and paintings.

Celuk. Northeast of Denpasar, the village of Celuk is noted for its silver and gold works of jewelry in many styles. Mas, is a village of woodcarvers, many of Bali's old masters still live there. Art galleries exhibit some of their best works. Visitors can wander through the Balinese-style houses to view the carved

Nusa Dua

The Nusa Dua tourist resort is part of the Bukit Peninsula in southern Bali. Some of the most beautiful and luxurious hotels are found here. The resort is known for its clean white beaches and clear waters. The surf is gentle along the northern side of the peninsula, bigger along the south. The most convenient form of transportation to and from Nusa Dua is by taxi.



wooden pillars and the artists' instructions to their apprentices.

Ubud. The center of Balinese painting, Ubud's Museum "Puri Lukisan" has a permanent collection of modern works of Balinese art dating from the turn of the century. There are several art galleries and homes of famous artists, such as

Dutch-born Hans Snel and American Antonio Blanco. Ubud has several small hotels, located in the foothills of the central mountain range and terraced paddy fields, giving it a cool and pleasant climate.

Peliatan. Peliatan is located between Ubud and Mas. It is known as the center of traditional music and dance.

Kintamani. The villages of Kintamani and Penelokan give a view of Lake Batur and the active Mt. Batur. The caldera of Batur is 7 miles in diameter and 60 feet deep. From Penelokan, a road leads to Kedisan on the shores of the lake where boats can be hired to cross over to Trunyan. This ancient village is inhabited by people who call themselves "Bali Aga" or "original" Balinese, and have maintained many of their old ways.

Bangli. Pura Kehon is Bali's second largest temple. Three terraced courtyards are connected by steps and their balustrades are decorated with carvings and statues. A large Banyan tree with a tower shades the lowest and second courtyard, while in the third courtyard several shrines for the gods and ancestors are found.

Terraces of Ubud





Besakih Temple

Goa Gajah

Goa Gajah dates back to the 11th century and is believed to have been built as a monastery. Carvings on the wall show a demon head over the entrance, flanked by two statues. The cave contains a statue of Ganesha. Excavations have uncovered a bathing place with six statues of nymphs holding water-spouts.



Barong Dance

Klungkung. The former seat of the Javanese Hindu Kingdom in Bali, from which Balinese royalty draws its blood line. Klungkung was the oldest kingdom on the island and its "Raja" the most exalted. The Kerta Gosa or Royal Court of Justice, built in the 18th century, is known for its ceiling murals, painted in the traditional wayang style, portraying punishment in hell and the rewards in heaven. The floating pavillion, garden and lotus ponds in this walled-in complex are a reminder of the former glory of this kingdom.

Besakih. Known as the "Mother of Bali Temple", the sanctuary of Besakih on the slopes of Mt. Agung is the biggest and holiest of all Balinese temples. Over a thousand years old, steps ascend through split gates to the main temples dedicated to the Trinity (Shiva, Brahma and Visnu) and 18 separate sanctuaries belonging to different regencies and caste groups. To the Balinese, a visit to the temple's sanctuaries is a special pilgrimage. Each has its own anniversary celebration or "Odalan".

Sangeh. Ten hectares of nutmeg trees in the Sangeh forest abound with monkeys.



Ulun Danu Temple

The forest is considered sacred, so no wood is allowed to be chopped here. Two temples stand in the middle of the forest and another at the edge. As they live in this sacred forest, the monkeys are also held sacred and are rather tame, but it is advisable not to play with them

Bedugul. The mountain resort of Bedugul, 18 km north of Denpasar, is known for its excellent golf course. Located beside Lake Bratan, it is surrounded by forested hills. A beautiful sight is the "Ulun Danu" temple which seems to rise out of the lake. The area offers good walks. Boats are available for water skiing and parasailing. The Bali Handara Country Club has bungalows for rent and a restaurant.

Tenganan. Protected for centuries from



Tanah Lot

One of Bali's most important sea temples, the temple sanctuary at Tanah Lot is built atop a huge rock surrounded by the sea. Built by one of the last priests that came to Bali from Java in the 16th century, it is an offering ritual to the guardian spirits of the sea. Poisonous sea snakes found at the base of the rocky island are believed to guard the temple from evil spirits and intruders. The best time to see Tanah Lot is in the late afternoon when the temple is in silhouette.



Pendet Dance

the outside world by its surrounding walls, the one village of Tenganan has maintained its ancient pre-Hindu customs through a strong code of non fraternization with outsiders. Here unique rituals, dances, and gladiator like battles between youths take place. Tenganan is famous for its "double ikat" woven material called gringsing, which is supposed to protect from the weather with its magic powers.

Sanur. Sanur offers many good hotels, restaurants, shops and other tourist facilities. It is only a short drive from Denpasar. Public transportation is easily available until nighttime. Offshore reefs protect the beach and make it popular for windsurfing, boating and other watersports



Bali Indonesia

Keeping the balance between other human beings, nature, and God is a priority for Balinese

