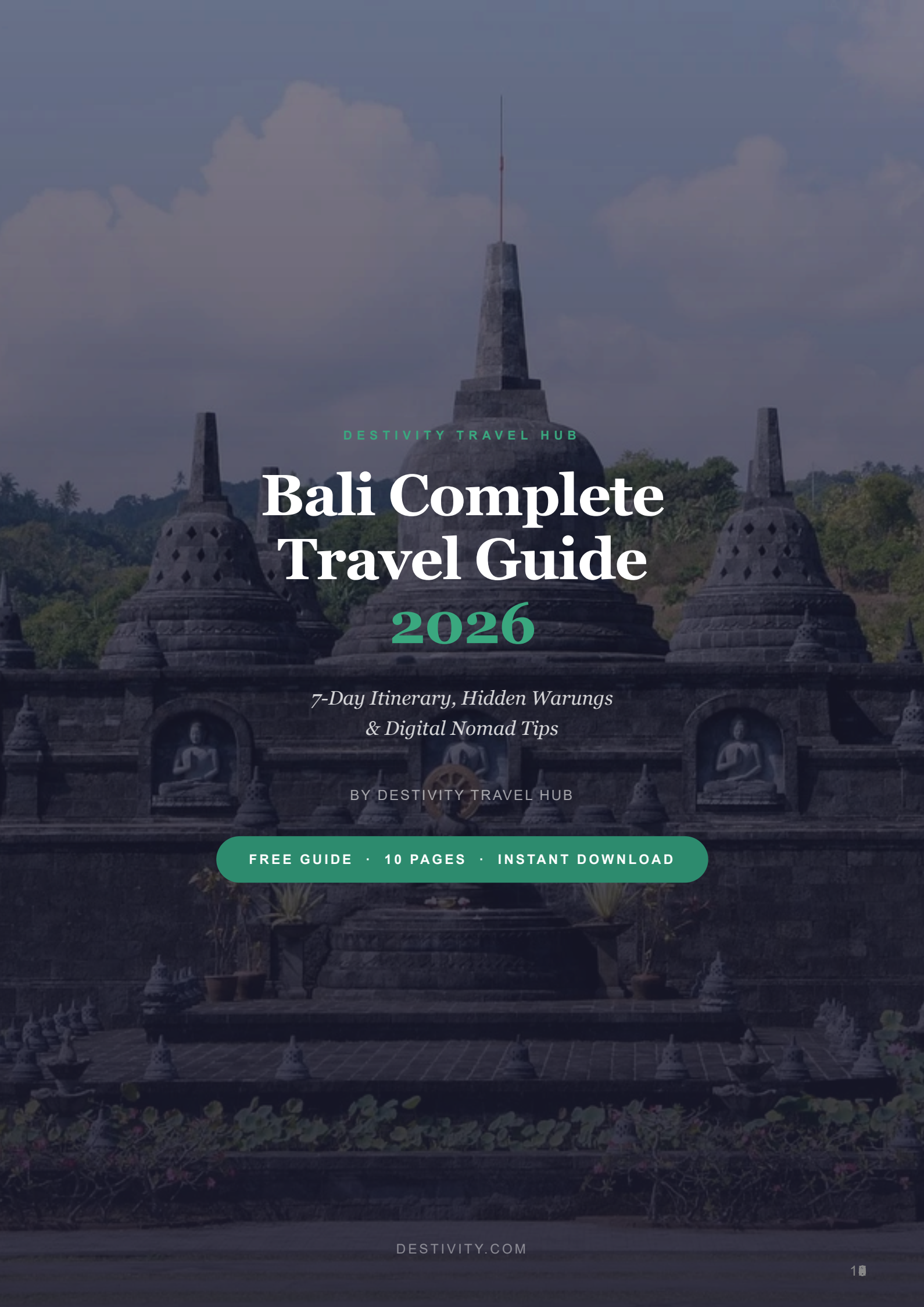

DESTIVITY TRAVEL HUB

Bali Complete Travel Guide 2026

7-Day Itinerary, Hidden Warungs & Digital Nomad Tips

BY DESTIVITY TRAVEL HUB

FREE GUIDE · 10 PAGES · INSTANT DOWNLOAD

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Bali on Any Budget

What It Actually Costs

Bali remains one of the cheapest tropical destinations in the world — yet it offers world-class infrastructure, stunning scenery, and a culture that's impossible to forget. Whether you're a backpacker counting every dollar or a luxury traveler seeking private infinity pools, this island delivers extraordinary value.

The key to enjoying Bali affordably is understanding the **two-tier pricing system**: local prices and tourist prices. This guide shows you how to access the local tier wherever possible.

Daily Budget Breakdown

CATEGORY	BUDGET	MID-RANGE	LUXURY
Accommodation	$8–20 Hostel dorm / homestay	$40–80 Private villa with pool	$150–500 Luxury villa / resort
Meals	$5–10 Warungs & street food	$15–30 Cafés & restaurants	$50–100 Fine dining & beach clubs
Transport	$3–8 Scooter / Gojek rides	$15–25 Private driver (full day)	$40–80 Private car + driver
Activities	$0–10 Temples, beaches, walks	$15–35 Surf, yoga, rafting	$80–200 Diving, private tours
Daily Total	**$16–48**	**$85–170**	**$320–880**

> **Real talk:** A backpacker spending $30/day lives very well in Bali. That's a clean hostel, three warung meals, a scooter rental, and a temple visit. For context, that's less than a single meal in New York City.

5 Money-Saving Tips

PRO TIPS FROM DESTIVITY

1. **Eat at warungs** — Local eateries serve meals for $1.50–3.00 that are tastier than most tourist restaurants. See our *Hidden Warung Guide* on page 7.
2. **Rent a scooter** — $5–7/day gives you complete freedom. A Gojek ride across town costs $1–3, but adds up fast if you take 4–5 rides daily.
3. **Visit temples before 8am** — Most temples are free before opening hours, or charge a fraction of the entry fee. You'll also beat the crowds.

4. **Happy hour cocktails** — Many beach bars offer $3 cocktails from 4–7pm. In restaurants, cocktails are $8–15; at warungs, a Bintang beer is $1.50.
5. **Get a local SIM at the airport** — Telkomsel Tourist SIM is $5 for 15GB of data. Tourist cafés charge $8–12 for the same thing.

> **Insider Insight:** Bali's prices have crept up 10–15% since 2024, especially in Canggu and Seminyak. But move 20 minutes inland and prices drop by half. Ubud and Denpasar remain incredible value.

Ubud — Culture, Rice Terraces & Healing

Days 1–3 of your Bali adventure

Ubud is Bali's spiritual and cultural heart. Nested among terraced rice paddies and lush jungle, it's where you'll find ancient temples, traditional dance performances, and some of the best yoga studios in Southeast Asia. Plan to spend your first three days here to ease into Bali's rhythm.

DAY ONE

Arrival & Settling Into Ubud

Morning/Afternoon: Arrive at Ngurah Rai International Airport. Pick up your scooter rental at the airport ($6/day) or arrange a pickup with your accommodation. The drive to Ubud takes approximately 1.5 hours — budget $5 for fuel. The route takes you through charming villages and rice fields; enjoy the scenery.

Afternoon: Check into your accommodation, then head to the **Ubud Monkey Forest** ($5 entry). Walk among ancient banyan trees while hundreds of long-tailed macaques roam freely. Keep your sunglasses and phone in a zipped bag — these monkeys are professional thieves.

Evening: Stroll down **Jalan Hanoman** for street food. Try nasi goreng (fried rice, $2–3) or bakso (meatball soup, $1.50) from a roadside vendor. Total dinner cost: $5–8.

DAY TWO

Rice Terraces, Water Temple & Dance

Sunrise (6:30am): Head to **Tegallalang Rice Terraces**. Arrive before 8am and the terraces are free to walk — after 8am, operators charge $3 for entry and the crowds arrive. The morning light cascading over the emerald paddies is unforgettable.

Mid-morning: Stop at a **coffee plantation** along the way. Most offer free tastings of Balinese coffee, including the famous (and controversial) civet coffee. The views of the valley are worth the stop alone.

Afternoon: Visit **Tirta Empul Water Temple** ($5 entry). This active Hindu temple features sacred spring pools where Balinese come for purification ceremonies. You're welcome to participate — rent a sarong at the entrance and follow the ritual flow from pool to pool. Allow 1–1.5 hours.

Evening: Choose between the **Kecak fire dance** at Uluwatu temple ($10, sunset — book ahead) or the free performance at **Ubud Palace** (nightly at 7:30pm, donations welcome). The Kecak dance, performed by 100+ men chanting "cak-cak-cak" around a fire, is one of Bali's most mesmerizing experiences.

DAY THREE

Mount Batur Sunrise & Waterfall

2:00am start — yes, really: The **Mount Batur sunrise trek** ($35 with local guide, includes breakfast cooked by volcanic steam at the summit) is worth every exhausted minute. You'll hike for 2 hours in darkness, reach the 1,717m summit, and watch the sun paint the caldera gold. Book through your accommodation the day before.

Afternoon: Recover with a visit to **Tegenungan Waterfall** ($3 entry). It's Bali's most photographed waterfall — a powerful 20m cascade surrounded by lush greenery. Bring a waterproof phone case for photos.

Evening: Wind down with a yoga class. **The Yoga Barn** ($8–12 per class) offers everything from vinyasa flow to sound healing. **Ubud Yoga Centre** is another excellent option with an open-air studio overlooking rice fields. No experience necessary for most classes.

Hidden Gems in Ubud

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

- **Gunung Kawi Temple** — Older and less crowded than Tirta Empul, with carved stone shrines set in a river valley. Entry $2.

- **Campuhan Ridge Walk** — Free sunrise walk along a narrow ridge between two river valleys. Start at the Warwick Ibah hotel entrance.
- **Ubud Art Market** — Bargain hard. Start your offer at 30% of the asking price and settle around 50%. Best buys: hand-painted batik, silver jewelry, woven bags.

Seminyak & Canggu — Beach, Surf & Sunset

Days 4–5 of your Bali adventure

Trade Ubud's rice terraces for Bali's most vibrant coastline. Canggu is the island's surf-and-café capital, a buzzy mix of digital nomads, surfers, and health-conscious creatives. Seminyak, just south, offers upscale shopping, world-class beach clubs, and sunset cocktails that belong on a postcard.

DAY FOUR

Canggu — Surf, Beach Clubs & Tanah Lot

Morning: Drive from Ubud to Canggu (45 minutes, $3 in fuel). Check into your accommodation and head straight to **Batu Bolong Beach** — free entry, one of Bali's best beginner surf breaks.

Late Morning: Take a **surf lesson** at Batu Bolong ($15–20 for a 2-hour group lesson with board rental included). The wave here is a gentle, rolling left-hander perfect for first-timers. Instructors are everywhere along the beach — negotiate, especially in low season.

Afternoon: Relax at **La Brisa**, a stunning beach club built from reclaimed fishing boats. Minimum spend is around $10 — you get a daybed, pool access, and incredible ocean views. Alternatively, many Canggu cafés have pools you can use with a single food/drink order ($5–8).

Evening: Drive 30 minutes to **Tanah Lot Temple** ($3 entry) for sunset. Arrive at least 1 hour before sunset to explore the temple grounds and find your spot. The sea temple sits on a rocky outcrop surrounded by crashing waves — one of Bali's most iconic images.

DAY FIVE

Seminyak — Beach Clubs, Food & Shopping

Morning: Head to **Double Six Beach** in Seminyak (free). It's wider and less crowded than Kuta, with good waves and plenty of warungs serving fresh juices along the shore.

Midday: Visit the famous **Potato Head Beach Club** — minimum spend is around $20, but the infinity pool, vinyl soundtrack, and architecture make it a Bali bucket-list experience. If you'd rather save, the beach outside is free and the views are just as good.

Lunch: Eat at **Motel Mexicola** ($8–12, vibrant Mexican in a colorful tiled courtyard) or **Sisterfields** ($10–15, Australian-style brunch — try the ricotta hotcakes).

Afternoon: Browse the boutiques along **Jalan Laksmana** and **Jalan Petitenget**. Expect curated fashion, handmade jewelry, and surf-inspired homewares. Prices are higher than Ubud's art market, but the quality is a step above.

Evening: Sunset drinks at a Seminyak rooftop bar. **Mason** and **La Favela** are popular options. Dinner at a beachfront warung — fresh grilled seafood with your feet in the sand, $6–10.

Surf Breaks by Level

Bali has a wave for every ability. Here's where to paddle out based on your experience:

BEGINNER **Batu Bolong (Canggu)** — Gentle, consistent wave. Wide sandy beach. Board rental and lessons available on the sand.

BEGINNER **Kuta Beach** — Bali's most famous beginner spot. Long sandy beach with whitewash waves perfect for learning to stand up.

INTERMEDIATE **Berawa (Canggu)** — Slightly more powerful than Batu Bolong. A fun reef break with multiple peaks.

INTERMEDIATE **Echo Beach (Canggu)** — A powerful left-hander over reef. Best at mid to high tide. Consistent and long rides.

ADVANCED **Uluwatu** — Bali's most famous wave. Multiple sections (Racetrack, Temples, Bombie). World-class left-hander over shallow reef. Only paddle out if you're confident over reef.

ADVANCED **Padang Padang** — A powerful, hollow left-hander. Tubing waves over sharp reef. Featured in the movie *Eat Pray Love*. Not for the faint-hearted.

Canggu Digital Nomad Scene

Canggu is Southeast Asia's nomad capital. Co-working spaces are social hubs as much as offices:

- **Dojo Bali** ($15/day) — The OG. Fast WiFi, pool, community events, ocean views from the upper deck.
- **Outpost** ($12/day) — Multiple locations. Sleek design, quiet zones, meeting rooms.
- **Tribal Bali** ($10/day) — Budget-friendly with solid WiFi and a growing community.

Uluwatu & Nusa Islands — Bali's Best Kept Secrets

Days 6–7 of your Bali adventure

Save the most dramatic scenery for last. Uluwatu's cliff-top temples and world-class surf breaks are Bali at its most cinematic. Then take a boat to the Nusa Islands — where turquoise waters, manta rays, and T-Rex-shaped cliffs await. These final two days will leave you planning your return before you've even left.

DAY SIX

Uluwatu — Cliffs, Surf & Fire Dance

Morning: Drive from Canggu to Uluwatu (1.5 hours, $6 fuel). The southern Bukit Peninsula is drier and more rugged than the rest of Bali — think limestone cliffs dropping into electric-blue water.

Late Morning: Surf at **Uluwatu Beach**. To reach the break, you walk down a cliff path and paddle out through a cave opening in the reef — it feels like entering a secret world. The wave is a long, fast left-hander suitable for intermediate-to-advanced surfers. Board rental: $5. Entry: free.

Afternoon: Walk down to **Padang Padang Beach** ($2 entry) — a tiny, photogenic cove tucked between two cliff walls. Crystal-clear water, white sand, and usually fewer people than you'd expect. Grab a fresh coconut from a beach vendor ($1.50).

Sunset (5:30pm): Head to **Uluwatu Temple** ($10 entry) for the Kecak fire dance. **Book your ticket in advance** — it sells out nightly. The performance happens on a clifftop stage as the sun sets over the Indian Ocean. Fifty minutes of chanting, fire, and storytelling against the most dramatic backdrop in Bali.

DAY SEVEN

Nusa Penida — Island Adventure

Early Morning: Take a **fast boat to Nusa Penida** from Sanur harbor ($25 return, 45-minute crossing). Book with Rocky Fast Cruises or Blue Star — check reviews and departure times the day before. The boat ride itself is thrilling, bouncing across open water with Bali's volcano in the distance.

Mid-Morning: Visit **Kelingking Beach** (the famous T-Rex cliff viewpoint, free). The view from the top is jaw-dropping — a cliff formation that looks exactly like a dinosaur head diving into turquoise water. **Warning:** The hike down to the beach is steep and difficult (45 minutes). Only descend if you're fit and wearing proper shoes.

Late Morning: Stop at **Angel's Billabong** ($2 entry) — a natural infinity pool carved into the cliff edge with crystal-clear water. Visit at low tide for the best experience. Be extremely careful near the edge — waves can surge unexpectedly.

Afternoon: Crystal Bay snorkeling ($10 including mask, snorkel, and fins). The water here is impossibly clear — visibility regularly exceeds 20 meters. If you're lucky, you'll spot manta rays (best chance at Manta Point, $15 boat ride).

Evening: Catch the last fast boat back to Bali (usually departs 4:30–5:00pm).

ALTERNATIVE: NUSA LEMBONGAN

If Nusa Penida feels too adventurous (the roads are rough and unpaved), consider **Nusa Lembongan** instead — a calmer island just 30 minutes by boat ($15 return). It has great snorkeling, mangrove tours, and a laid-back village atmosphere. Perfect for a relaxed final day.

> **Full 2-Day Budget (Uluwatu + Nusa Islands):** $60–100 per person, including boat, temple entries, snorkeling, food, and transport. Split costs with travel companions to save further.

12 Hidden Warungs Tourists Never Find

The real Bali eats here

A warung is a small, family-run eatery — the backbone of Balinese food culture. The best ones don't have Instagram pages, English menus, or air conditioning. What they do have is one dish, done perfectly, for a fraction of what you'd pay at a tourist restaurant. Here are twelve worth seeking out.

1

Warung Biah Biah

Ubud · Jalan Raya Ubud — Famous for nasi campur (mixed rice plate) with 10+ small portions of different dishes. Generous, fresh, and deeply flavorful. **$2.50**

2

Sari Organik

Ubud (rice terrace) · Follow the signs through the rice paddies — literally set inside a working rice field. Organic nasi goreng and fresh juices with a view no restaurant can match. **$3**

3

Warung Mak Beng

Sanur · Jalan Danau Tamblingan — The locals have been queuing here since the 1950s. One set meal: deep-fried fish, rice, soup, sambal, and vegetables. No menu. No choices. No need. **$2.50**

4

Warung Nia

Seminyak · Jalan Petitenget — Sate lilit (minced fish satay wrapped around lemongrass sticks) that locals consider the best in Bali. Get there before noon or expect a wait. **$3**

5

Mala Madre

Canggu · Jalan Batu Bolong — Indonesian-Mexican fusion in a casual open-air setting. Their wood-fired pizzas are genuinely excellent. Try the rendang pizza — it sounds wrong but tastes incredible. **$4**

6

Warung Local

Uluwatu · Hidden in a residential area off Jalan Pantai Suluban — nasi ayam (chicken rice) with perfectly spiced sambal. The kind of place where you're the only tourist. **$2**

7

I Am Vegan Babe

Canggu · Jalan Pantai Berawa — Plant-based smoothie bowls, açaí, and raw desserts that rival anything in Bali's health-café scene. Colorful, Instagram-worthy, and genuinely delicious. **$5**

8

Warung Dandelion

Seminyak · Jalan Kayu Aya — Bali's most famous babi guling (suckling pig). Crispy skin, tender meat, spicy lawar, and steaming rice. Arrive before 11:30am or risk missing out. **$4**

9

Nook

Canggu · Jalan Pantai Batu Bolong — Riverside dining overlooking rice fields and the river below. Mix of Western and Indonesian dishes. Go for the setting, stay for the nasi goreng. **$6–8**

10

Warung Babi Guling Chandra

Denpasar · Jalan Teuku Umar — The original babi guling that started Bali's suckling pig craze. Been serving the same recipe for decades. Arrive early — they sell out by 1pm. **$2**

11

The Sayan House

Ubud · Jalan Raya Sayan — Japanese-Balinese fusion perched on a river gorge. The views are extraordinary — dining on a platform over the Ayung River. Worth the splurge for a special meal. **$10–15**

12

Mumbul Seafood

Jimbaran · Jimbaran Bay beach — Seafood BBQ on the beach at sunset. Pick your fish, prawns, or squid from the display, they grill it over coconut husks. Fresh, smoky, unforgettable. **$8–12**

THE GOLDEN RULE

If the menu has photos and English everywhere, skip it. Real warungs have no AC, plastic chairs, a single dish done perfectly, and zero pretension. Follow the locals — if a place is full of Balinese people at noon, eat there.

Temple Etiquette & Digital Nomad Guide

Respect the culture, set up your office

Temple Etiquette

Bali is called the “Island of a Thousand Temples” — there are over 20,000 Hindu temples across the island. Visiting them is one of Bali’s greatest privileges, but requires understanding and respect for local customs.

ESSENTIAL RULES

- **Wear a sarong and sash** — Required at every temple. You can rent one at the entrance ($1) or buy one locally ($3–5). Bring your own to save time and money.
- **Women on their period** — Cultural belief prohibits menstruating women from entering temple grounds. This is deeply respected in Balinese Hindu culture. Please honor it.
- **Never stand higher than the shrine** — When walking through temple grounds, stay at or below the level of the sacred structures. This shows humility.
- **Don’t point your feet toward sacred objects** — Sit cross-legged or with feet tucked behind you. Feet are considered the lowest and least clean part of the body in Balinese culture.
- **Ask before photographing** — Most temples welcome photography, but always ask before photographing people during prayer or ceremonies.
- **Never climb on or sit on shrines** — Even for a photo. This is deeply offensive and can result in being asked to leave.

Best Temples to Visit

TANAH LOT

Iconic sea temple, best at sunset ($3)

ULUWATU

Clifftop temple with Kecak dance ($10)

TIRTA EMPUL

Sacred water purification temple ($5)

BESAKIH

The “Mother Temple” — Bali’s largest ($3)

LEMPUYANG

The “Gates of Heaven” photo spot ($2)

TAMAN AYUN

Royal temple with moat, peaceful ($2)

Digital Nomad Guide

Bali has been a top digital nomad destination for over a decade. The infrastructure is mature, the community is welcoming, and the lifestyle is hard to beat. Here's everything you need to set up your remote office.

BEST CO-WORKING SPACES

SPACE	LOCATION	PRICE	HIGHLIGHTS
Dojo Bali	Canggu	$15/day	The original. Fast WiFi, pool, ocean-view deck, weekly community events
Outpost	Canggu, Ubud	$12/day	Sleek design, quiet zones, meeting rooms, phone booths
Hubud	Ubud	$10/day	Bamboo structure in the rice fields. Creative, community-driven
Tribal Bali	**Canggu**	**$10/day**	**Budget-friendly, solid WiFi, growing nomad community**

CONNECTIVITY & ESSENTIALS

SIM CARD

Telkomsel Tourist SIM: $5 for 15GB (buy at airport)

VPN

NordVPN or ExpressVPN: $8–10/month. Essential for some sites

POWER PLUGS

Type C/F (EU plugs), 230V. Bring an adapter

WIFI SPEED

10–30 Mbps average in cafes and villas

BEST AREAS FOR NOMADS

WHERE TO BASE YOURSELF

- **Canggu** — The social hub. Best for networking, meeting other nomads, surf breaks between meetings. Lively nightlife.
- **Ubud** — The creative hub. Best for writers, artists, and those seeking inspiration. Quieter, more spiritual energy.
- **Seminyak** — The upscale hub. Best for those who want beach clubs, fine dining, and a more polished environment.

Where to Stay in Bali

Handpicked stays at every budget level

Bali's accommodation scene is one of the best in the world — you can sleep in a bamboo treehouse for $10 or a private infinity-pool villa for $500. The sweet spot for most travelers is the mid-range: beautiful private villas with pools for $40–80/night. Here's our curated guide.

Budget ($8–25/night)

Hostels

- **The Farm (Canggu)** — $12 dorm — Pool, co-working space, weekly BBQs. Social atmosphere, great for solo travelers. One of Canggu's best-known nomad hostels.
- **Puri Garden (Ubud)** — $10 dorm — Lush garden setting, communal kitchen, walking distance to Monkey Forest. Quiet and well-maintained.
- **M Boutique (Seminyak)** — $15 dorm — Modern design, capsule-style pods with curtains for privacy. Walking distance to beach and restaurants.

Homestays

$10–15/night for a private room with breakfast. Book on Booking.com and filter by "homestay" or "guesthouse." The best ones include a daily Balinese breakfast (banana pancakes, fruit, coffee). Look for properties with 9+ ratings and at least 50 reviews. Many hosts become genuine friends — ask them for local recommendations.

Mid-Range ($40–100/night)

Private Villas with Pool

- **Canggu:** $40–60/night — Beautiful modern villas with private pools, outdoor showers, and tropical gardens. Best value in Bali.
- **Seminyak:** $50–80/night — Slightly more polished. Walking distance to beach clubs and restaurants.
- **Ubud:** $30–50/night — Rice field villas with jungle views. Traditional Balinese architecture meets modern comfort.

Best value platforms: Booking.com (reliable), Airbnb (negotiate weekly discounts — many hosts offer 15–20% off for 7+ nights). Always message the host directly to ask about discounts.

Luxury ($150–500+/night)

The Best of Bali

- **Hanging Gardens of Ubud** — The iconic infinity pool suspended over the jungle. A once-in-a-lifetime experience.
- **The Mulia (Seminyak)** — Beachfront luxury with impeccable service, world-class spa, and multiple restaurants.
- **Viceroy (Ubud)** — Valley-view villas with private pools. Intimate, exclusive, and breathtakingly beautiful.

BOOKING TIPS THAT SAVE YOU MONEY

- **Direct booking saves 15–20%** — WhatsApp the property directly. Ask for their best rate without platform fees. Most will match or beat OTA prices.
- **Ask for monthly rates** — If staying 30+ days, monthly rates are typically 50% off the daily rate. A $50/night villa can be yours for $750/month.
- **Avoid high season if possible** — July–August and Christmas–New Year see 2x pricing. May–June and September offer the best weather-to-price ratio.
- **Negotiate everything** — Outside of luxury hotels, prices are rarely fixed. Politely negotiate, especially for longer stays.

Resources, Packing & Quick Reference

Everything else you need to know

Packing Checklist

- ☐ Scooter helmet (some rentals don't include one — your safety)
- ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen (SPF 50+ — the sun is stronger than you think)
- ☐ Sarong (temple visits + beach + light blanket)
- ☐ Mosquito repellent (DEET-based — dengue is real)
- ☐ Waterproof phone case (for waterfalls, snorkeling, rain)
- ☐ Light rain jacket (essential during wet season: Nov–Mar)
- ☐ Flip-flops + one pair of sturdy sandals
- ☐ Snorkel gear (or rent on the islands for $5–10)
- ☐ Reusable water bottle (stay hydrated, reduce plastic)
- ☐ Copies of passport & travel insurance documents

Quick Reference Card

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

112 (general) · 118 (ambulance) · 110 (police)

CURRENCY

IDR (Rp) — approx. 15,500 Rp = $1 USD

LANGUAGE

Bahasa Indonesia (English widely spoken in tourist areas)

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Apr–Oct (dry season). May–Sep is the sweet spot.

VISA

30-day VOA ($35 at airport), extendable once for another 30 days

SCOOTER RENTAL

$5–7/day. International driving permit recommended but rarely checked.

TIPPING

Not expected but appreciated. Round up or leave 10% at restaurants.

TIME ZONE

WITA (GMT+8). Same as Singapore, Hong Kong, Perth.

Essential Apps

DOWNLOAD BEFORE YOU GO

- **Gojek** — The everything app. Rides, food delivery, massage, cleaning, shopping. Bali's equivalent of Uber + DoorDash + more. Essential.
- **Grab** — Rides and food. Good alternative to Gojek. Having both gives you options and price comparisons.
- **Google Translate** — Download the offline Indonesian language pack before your trip. The camera feature translates menus and signs instantly.
- **Maps.me** — Offline maps that work without data. Better than Google Maps in rural Bali where signal is patchy.

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