

Welcome to GCC's 2017 Bali Study Abroad

We hope that this study abroad experience will be everything you've dreamed of and more! We provide the following details in hopes that it will make your time in Bali enjoyable, comfortable and worry-free. Please email us if there are further details that you require or if you can suggest any improvements to this information packet.

The Climate in Bali

Bali has a tropical climate that is warm all year round. The average coastal temperature is about 86°F during the day with humidity levels making it feel warmer than it is. There are generally 2 seasons in Bali: the dry season from April to October and the wet season from November to March, although rain can be expected at any time of the year. The best months to visit are June to September, when the humidity is lower and there are more sunny days. Temperatures tend to be cooler in Ubud and in the mountains, so we recommend bringing at least 1 long-sleeve shirt or light sweater and a pair of light pants.

Availability of goods in Bali

Almost anything you need while traveling will be available in the tourist centers of Bali. A few things we do recommend that you bring are sunscreen (since the prices will be higher in Bali), prescription medications, any hair-care or makeup products that you have a special preference for (all of the accommodations will supply some shampoo, soap and shower gel/body wash), feminine napkins/tampons are readily available but may not be the brands you are familiar with. It isn't necessary to bring insect repellent unless you have allergies, since it is widely available and very inexpensive to obtain in all of the tourist areas.

Culture and what to wear

When entering temples in Bali Women and Men are required to wear a sarong and sash (we will provide these) to cover the lower half of the body which is considered the unclean or less holy part (no fuss is made about this requirement when it comes to children since they are believed to have come directly from the Gods-especially younger ones). Crossing legs and pointing toes toward people are also considered rude. The upper body and head are the most holy body parts and so we should avoid touching a person (especially a child) on the head.

The Balinese are still relatively conservative in dress and the women generally cover their shoulders and their legs above the knee. In the tourist areas the people have grown accustomed to tourists in shorts and tank-tops or swimsuits but, at the villa and in villages the local people will be more at ease if you only wear these next to the pool.

Putting the shoe on the other foot-when the Balinese bathe they consider themselves invisible (men and women have separate bathing places) and so if you see someone in a river or irrigation drainage don't be surprised by their partial or full nudity.

Another Packing consideration FOR THOSE FLYING ROUND-TRIP TO BALI is that most international flights allow two 23kg (50lb) checked bags. Since we will be moving around it is best to have only one bag and your carry-on to travel with and to have one bag that you can fill with your purchases (don't laugh-there are many inexpensive and beautiful carvings, textiles, jewelry, artwork etc.) This same bag could be used to transport donations to Bali since this is a developing country with many in poverty (especially in the north and west). Gently used shoes, clothing or classroom supplies are appreciated by the people.

BASIC PACKING LIST (Those flying LA-Bali-Sydney-LA should check just 1 bag no heavier than 23kg)

CLOTHES

- ____ 3-4 T-Shirts
- ____ 3-4 Pairs of Shorts (or Skirts)
- ____ 1-2 pairs of light pants (avoid denim-it is heavy and hard to dry)
- ____ 1-2 light long-sleeve shirts or sweaters
- ____ 7 pairs of underwear (undershirts, bras, slips as needed)
- ____ 2 sleeping outfits (something in light cotton works best)
- ____ 2-3 swimsuits
- ____ Swimming goggles
- ____ Flip-Flops (these are the king of shoes in Asia-a must for the pool or beach)
- ____ Sport Sandals (something water-resistant with straps and non-slip sole)

- ___ Comfortable running or short hiking shoes (for the volcano hike and jungle treks)
- ___ Just Remember the Basics (most people will supplement with the beautiful things for sale)
- ___ Minimal jewelry (to prevent loss - many will buy some of the beautiful silver available)
- ___ Ear-plugs (for sleeping if you are not accustomed to the sounds of a rural environment)

TOILETRIES & OTHER

- ___ toothbrush, toothpaste and floss
- ___ deodorant
- ___ hairbrush
- ___ hair accessories
- ___ shampoo and conditioner (Note: accommodations will provide local brands of them)
- ___ sun block
- ___ bug repellent (if you have sensitivities- it is widely available and cheap)
- ___ prescription medications
- ___ nail-clipper with file
- ___ glasses/contacts/case/solutions
- ___ shaving kit
- ___ make up bag
- ___ eye-drops (for the flight if you get dry eyes)
- ___ body powder (can help keep your skin from feeling sticky in humid areas)
- ___ a journal with pens or pencils
- ___ camera (with any charger or batteries it requires)
- ___ a small flashlight
- ___ a small daypack for daytime activities (the beach, snorkeling, shopping, etc.)
- ___ glue stick, scissors and small stapler (as needed for assignments and journal)
- ___ a mask and snorkel (fins can be rented if they are needed)

DANGERS and ANNOYANCES

- First and foremost, **ask your doctor** and consult the CDC website regarding health concerns
- Malaria is present in Indonesia but NOT reported in Bali (still, try NOT to get bitten by mozzies)
- **DENGUE FEVER** is present in Bali and transmitted by mosquitoes. There is no immunization (one is being developed by Sonofi Pasteur) and no antidote, so the best course of action is to NOT get bitten by mosquitoes. Dengue is more of an issue during the wet season. Still, even though we are traveling in the dry season, make sure to wear insect repellent – even during the daytime and especially from the toes to the knees when sitting at tables. Make sure to keep windows, screens and doors closed at sunset and throughout the night. Spray your bedroom before you leave for dinner so that you don't become a mosquito's dinner.
- **Consider asking your doctor for a prescription of Ciprofloxacin (Cipro) in case you get Bali-Belly**
- **CONSIDER A COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY over the ISIC policy**
- In Bali, cars drive on the opposite side of the road than we do. It takes a few days to get used to this as a pedestrian or passenger. It takes way longer as a driver, so please don't drive in Bali. Motorcycles drive on both sides of the road, and they enter and merge without warning, seemingly without regard to rules. The road rules are indeed in place, and the Balinese understand them much better than we do. So, **PLEASE DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO RENT AND RIDE MOTORCYCLES/SCOOTERS IN BALI.** This is how most tourists get hurt in Bali, and your insurance won't cover a motorcycle accident – your fault or not. Lastly, be VERY careful as a PEDESTRIAN when it comes to motorcycles. You may be about to cross the road looking for a gap between cars, only to step into the path of a motorcycle coming from the other direction. When crossing the road, make sure to continuously look both ways.
- **Floors and pavements can become very SLIPPERY in Bali, especially when wet.** Take extra precaution when walking on wet tiles – especially in bathrooms, kitchens, and adjacent to swimming pools.

Departing LAX

For the early morning flight on June 25th make sure to check in at LAX on the night of June 24th. Check your bag(s) all the way to Denpasar (Bali). Make sure to keep an eye on your carry-on bags and your passport at all times. When you get to Taipei make sure to locate your connecting flight's gate before checking out the shops and restaurants. Please don't miss that connecting flight! Make sure to pack a few extra clothes in your carry-on just in case your checked bags are delayed or lost. This rarely happens, but it's always best to be prepared.

Arriving in Bali:

Visa on Arrival (VOA)

On arrival at Ngurah Rai Airport (Denpasar, Bali) you will head to the immigration hall, where you will see cubicles with signs that read Visa on Arrival (VOA). If you're carrying a US passport (valid at least 6 months) you don't need to purchase a visa (free for US and some other countries). Instead, go directly to the immigration line to obtain your visa by showing your passport, your boarding pass stub from the flight you were just on, and a printout of your flight out of Bali.

You will be given back your passport with the visa sticker inside. **Your Visa On Arrival is good for a stay of up to 30 days (cannot be extended) and requires that your passport is good for 6 months or longer from the date of entry into Indonesia.** Children are not exempt. **If you overstay your Visa** – the charge is US\$ 25.00/day to be paid in Rupiah.

Proceed to the baggage claim area. **There are porters available to hire** in this area and they may try to grab your bags from you. They are not just being helpful, they do expect to be paid on a per case basis, as this is their livelihood. The recommended fee is US\$5 but we recommend you just tell them **'no thanks'** and take care of your own bags.

There are a number of ATM's in the baggage claim area and there are moneychangers as you leave the customs area. They will all be waving and smiling to get your attention. See the Hints for Handling your money section below if you wish to get local currency right away (Our drivers will not require tips or payment right away as they will be with you throughout the trip). **DO NOT CHANGE MONEY AT THE AIRPORT...VERY POOR EXCHANGE RATES THERE.**

Once you have your bags (checked AND carry-on) keep moving with your luggage to the customs inspection area with your completed customs card ready for inspection (this should have been handed out on the plane as well). Once through customs inspection exit the building to the sea of waiting people. Darren will meet you just outside the main doors. Therefore, again, **if you do not wish to hire a porter be polite and firm in saying "No, thank you"-“Tidak, Terima Kasih”.**

There are public toilets available once you exit the airport building.

Hints for handling your money in Bali:

The local currency is the Indonesian Rupiah-Currently ~ Rp 13,300 to US\$1, We recommend using ATM machines so that you receive the most current exchange rate and skip the inconvenience of visiting money change offices (do make sure that your PIN code has 4-digits not 5-digits and check with your bank to determine what the transaction charges will be). If you choose to bring cash to exchange we recommend that you use larger bills when changing money and that you look for money changers whose rates have rounded numbers (for example Rp.13,300 for US\$1 not Rp.13,467 for US\$1). The best rates are reserved for \$100 bills and it is more complicated to determine what you should receive per dollar if the numbers aren't rounded (this allows for mistakes or intentional scams to take place). Bank notes should be 2003 or newer with no rips or marks on them.

Hints for understanding Balinese culture:

Speaking of Money- Bargaining is customary in Balinese culture and may seem daunting at first for those who haven't experienced it before. Just keep in mind that the first price given may be at least 5 times what you should end up paying and that the seller will not sell to you if they don't earn enough to cover their costs (they may laugh at an offer that is too low, but this is all part of the cultural exchange-people in Bali develop community and friendship ties through this daily banter with one another). Always wear a smile as you bargain and don't place hands on hips or point with your index finger as these are signs of anger or aggression to the Balinese. As one final gesture always give your payment to the seller with your right hand.

What about the Language?

The national language is Bahasa Indonesia, which is used as the medium of instruction in schools. English is commonly spoken throughout Bali particularly in commercial tourist centers and is taught in the schools beginning in about 3rd Grade. The people of Bali also speak a Balinese Language at home, in their community and in the market place. This language has three levels so it is recommended that tourists who are eager to learn use Bahasa Indonesia since it will reach more people in more places.

Some common expressions in Bahasa Indonesia

Selamat datang -> Welcome

Selamat pagi -> Good morning

Selamat sore -> Good afternoon

Selamat siang -> Good day

Apa kabar? -> How are you?

Baik ! Terima kasih -> Fine ! Thank you

Siapa nama Anda? -> What is your name?

Nama saya John Doe -> My name is John Doe

Berapa Harganya? -> How much is it?

Mahal ! -> Expensive !

Murah ! -> Cheap !

Boleh tawar? -> Can I bargain?

Harga pas -> Fixed price

Selamat makan -> Have a nice meal

Selamat jalan -> Good bye (to person leaving)

Selamat tinggal -> Good bye (if you are leaving)

Our Accommodation Locations are as follows:

Villa Agung Khalia

Banjar Sala, Ubud,

Bali , Indonesia

Phone: +62-812-398-3940

Puri Bagus Lovina

Pemaron, Buleleng Sub-District, Buleleng Regency

Bali 81119, Indonesia

Phone: +62 362 21430

Puri Bagus Candidasa

Jalan Raya Candidasa

Dusun Sumuh, Desa Bugbug 80801 Bali

Phone: +62-363-41131

Sri Bungalows Ubud

Monkey Forest Road

Ubud, Bali 80571, Indonesia

Phone: +62-361-975-394

Bali Time Difference: During our summer Bali is 15 hours ahead of LA's (PDT) time zone. If it's 11am in Bali it would be 8pm the prior day in LA. If it's 11pm in LA it would be 2pm the following day in Bali.

Internet: There are many internet cafes in the tourist areas. Our hotels have free internet but the bandwidth is small.

Electricity: Electrical Outlets are 240 volt with a two prong like that used in Western Europe.