

## **Bali Trip – June, 2023 (9N/10D)**

### **General Notes:**

- **Entry into Bali** → For Entry, three things to be done:
  - i) Download Satusehat App and upload Covid Vaccination certificates, **OR**; simply download the App and show vaccination certificates from your mobile phones;
  - ii) Visa on Arrival [\$35 per person VISA fee to be paid at Bali airport in cash / card (as on June, 2023), and;
  - iii) Electronic Custom Declaration form (**e-CD**) needs to be filled 48 hours prior to arrival in Bali. [<https://ecd.beacukai.go.id/cdonline.html>]
- **Money Exchanger** → Money Exchangers are there at Bali airport and in the city. For conversion, best currency to carry is USD. You also get local SIM cards at airport and in the city. But, airports, Hotels, cafes, restaurants, pubs, etc. have free Wifi.
- **Local currency** → You will need Local currency (Indonesian Rupiah) for local shopping, departmental stores, buying Bintang beers. Rest everywhere Forex Card / Credit Card (**VISA Cards**) can be used to make payment.
- **Drinking Water** → In Bali, you need to purchase drinking water everywhere – it is not free. So, carry 1 litre bottle (per person) and keep getting it refilled. Even Hotels/Resorts do not provide free bottles beyond 500ml / 1 litre per day. So, save unnecessary expense on this account.
- **Overall food experience** →
  - (i) Non-vegetarian - plenty of options. Try Nasi Goreng, which is a local dish consisting of chicken/lamb; crispy duck; prawns; burgers, etc.
  - (ii) For vegetarians, you have Mi Goreng(noodles), pasta, Margarita pizza, aglio olio, rice, vegetable spring rolls, etc. You get this everywhere. So, vegetarians can get Ready to Eat food from their hometown also if they want.
  - (iii) In Bali, there is no concept of Dal, vegetables, or gravy like we eat in India. They also don't have any local desserts. You **must try** - Dragon fruit shake and smoothie.
- **Weather / Rains** → As per the locals, December and January are the wettest months in Bali, when it rains heavily. Rest of the year, weather is almost the same.
- **Resort check-in and check-out timings** → In Bali, the check-in time is usually 3pm and check-out time is 12pm.

### **DAY WISE EXPERIENCE IN BALI**

#### **DAY 1: UBUD (North Bali)**

We landed at Denpasar airport, Bali around 3.45pm. The VISA and immigration process at the airport is swift and does not take more than half an hour. Around 4.30pm, we left for **Sankara Suites & Villas, Ubud**, which is 40 kms from the airport (2 hour drive). Since, it was a long journey from New Delhi to Bali, we decided to stay at the resort and enjoy their local cuisine and wine for dinner. Just for information – all good resorts/hotels in Bali offer free shuttle services (pick up & drop) to nearest market area.

## DAY 2: UBUD (North Bali)

Ubud is the Coffee plantation area in North Bali because of the climatic condition. The weather in Ubud is pleasant and cool unlike central or south Bali. So, you will enjoy the drive and site seeing.

After having early breakfast, we left around 8.30am and visited a **Coffee plantation** to see how the famous “**Luwak Coffee**” is manufactured. It’s a free guided tour for tourists and after the tour, they offer free tasting of variety of Coffee and Tea, which they make. However, “Luwak Coffee” is not for free. 1(one) small Cup is for 50 IDR if you want to taste. While sipping freshly brewed coffee/tea, you can enjoy the view of rice fields. Also, these plantations have small shops from where you can buy coffee/tea for yourself.

Thereafter, our next stop was **Tegalalang Rice fields**. Though, the view is spectacular, however, in case, you want to go to the rice fields to click some pictures, you need to trek a bit. There are more than 100-150 broad stairs. Going down on stairs is quite easy but, climbing up is a bit difficult. In the middle of your trek, you can buy Bintang Beers and other refreshments.

After refreshing ourselves with some Beers, we visited the **Kintamani**, where the main attraction is the epic Mount Batur Volcano and Lake Batur, which is a big volcanic crater lake that sits across from Kintamani village. Nothing much to do here except clicking some pictures.

Since it was almost lunch time, we decided to go to **Cretya Ubud** by Alas Harum. Upon reaching there, we were informed that there is a long que of 1 hour to buy entry tickets (50IDR per person) and then, there is a waiting of almost 2 hours to get a seating place. So, we decided to skip it and instead, we went to **Bebek Joni Restaurant** (near Cretya) for lunch. The restaurant has a spectacular view of rice fields. The food is also delicious here. You must try is – crispy duck. They have plenty of options for vegetarians as well.

After having lunch, we decided to head back to our Resort. Later, in the evening at around 5.30pm, we went to the **Ubud Traditional Market** near Ubud Palace. It’s a very good market to buy bamboo bags, souvenirs, etc., however, you need to bargain a lot. You have good restaurants to eat also (including Indian restaurants). We had dinner at **Ibu Rai Bar & Restaurant**. Overall, a good place to stroll around.

## DAY 3: UBUD (North Bali)

The day when we had to wake up at 3am!!

So, today, we decided to visit the famous **Lempuyang Temple** or **Gate of Heaven** in Ubud, as it is called. On Instagram, one sees a lot of influencers promoting this place, however, no one tells us the pain, which it takes to reach this place. For starters, you will have to wake up at around 3am in the morning (depends on where you are coming from) so that you reach the place to buy ticket for shuttle bus service by 4.30am. The ticket costs 55,000 IDR per person. The bus will take you to the place, where you will buy entry ticket to the Temple. The cost of ticket is the same that is, 55,000 IDR per person. At this time, usually you will get a slot for photograph at Temple between 7.30am to 8.30am (you will get token number between 30-50) as after sunrise, you get a clearer view of Mt. Batur, which is behind the Gate of Heaven. Do not take early numbers because you won’t be able to get a nice photograph.

After you have taken the entry ticket, now, you have make a steep climb to the Temple, which takes 15-20 minutes (approx.). Once you are at the Temple, wait for your turn. The photography starts from 6.30am. Don’t be late for tickets; otherwise, you will end up wasting a lot of time

there. Personally, for just one photograph at Lempuyang Temple, it seems like too much pain to go the Temple.

After this, you can visit **Tirta Ganga** in Ubud, which is another place, which is promoted by influencers. The entry fee to this place is 20,000 IDR per person. You can spend 15-20 minutes at this place, but apart from taking photographs and feeding the fishes, there is nothing much to do here.

Since we walked too much till Lunch time, therefore, we decided to head back to **Ubud market** for lunch, beers, and gelatos. Thereafter, we reached our Resort and booked a massage to relax.

#### **DAY 4: GILI ISLANDS (Day tour) + SEMINYAK (Central Bali)**

The famous **Gili Islands** and the Romantic Statute.

So, Gili Islands is around 100 kms from Bali and, therefore, you go by Speedboats. It takes 1.30 hours to reach Gili Islands from Bali. If anyone has sea sickness, then be careful because the speedboat goes really fast, and the ride is bumpy.

Gili Islands or as I call it the “smelly Island” 😊, is a beautiful place. The front side / harbour side of the Island is very crowded and all the Restaurants, Bars, etc. are situated on this side. Predominantly, you will find Australians, Chinese, and Japanese people here. The good resorts are situated on the back side of Island. It takes about 1 hour to take full circle of the Island. Interestingly, you have horse carts or bicycles only here as means of transport. No motor / electric vehicle.

The Island is famous for **four things** – Scuba diving (to see Manta Ray), Turtle watching point, snorkeling (to see coral reef and fishes), and The Romantic Statute. It takes 5-6 hours to do all these activities. The Speedboat arrives from Bali at 10.30am and then, leaves from Gili Islands at 4.30pm. So, you get exact time to do all activities. You will have to buy tour package (whatever you want to do) for this Island in advance.

Also, there is a Harbour Tax which is required to be paid while going to Gili Islands and while leaving from Gili Islands. It is 10,000 IDR per person. Personally, I would not recommend anyone to stay here. Vegetarians would also find it difficult to get good food here. So, day trip is good enough.

From Gili Islands, we came straight to **Seminyak** and checked into **The Bali Dream Villa 2**. Each villa comes with a private swimming pool. Walking distance from this Resort is a local mart from where you can buy beer and wine. Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian food is also good in the resort.

#### **DAY 5: SEMINYAK (Central Bali)**

After a tiring day at Gili Islands, we chose to relax a bit today and not, run around. So, after breakfast, we went for site seeing to **Tanha Lot temple**. It is 45 minute drive from Seminyak and is in Ubud district. So, if you are staying in Ubud, I would suggest you go to Tanha Lot from here as it is closer. Now, in Tanha Lot, you need to walk a lot. The view of temple and ocean is spectacular from here. On way to the parking lot, there is a **fixed price shop** from where you can buy various things. The prices are lower as compared to Ubud and other areas. So, you can save some money for this place.

Thereafter, we went to **Starbucks Reserve** at **Dewata**, Seminyak. It is apparently the biggest Starbuck Reserve in Asia. You will easily find Starbucks in Ubud, Seminyak, Kuta if you are craving for coffee while out on a tour.

After having lunch at a **Dimsum & Inn** (near Starbucks Reserve), we proceeded to **Seminyak Square** for some shopping and strolling. Look for **Seminyak Art Markets** (fixed price shop) [2mins walking distance from Seminyak Square] for buying local stuff and gift items. They offer genuine stuff, which are reasonably priced. Don't go to individual shops here because shop keepers are a bit rude and, therefore, no point in bargaining with them. Also, keep a look out for **Mixue Ice Cream** parlour. They have amazing strawberry and mango sundaes. You will find it across Bali. Try try 😊.

In the evening, we decided to check out the much-hyped **Finn's Beach Club** in Kuta during the sunset hour. There is no entry fee and one can just walk in. The place was quite crowded, but the music was good. Food was average for its price.

## **DAY 6: SEMINYAK (Central Bali)**

Today, we had planned some adventure trip for us. In Bali, you will find black sand beaches (north-west Bali only). Since it is quite different from other beaches in the world, we decided to go to **Keramas Beach, Ubud** and **Pantai Purnama beach, Ubud** and spend some time there.

After strolling around for half an hour, we went to see **Tegenungan Waterfall**. Though, it's a beautiful place to be, but it is not an easy task to reach the waterfall. There are around 200 broad stairs, which you will have to climb, which is not a joke. If you manage to reach the waterfall, there is a famous Day Club – **The Omma**, where you can relax and chill for some time.

Thereafter, we went to the **Bali Swing** or **the Aloha Swings**. It's quite a crowded place. There are seven different kinds of swings. The best one is the Adrenalin swing and Tandem Swing. So, my suggestion is - you should first do the Adrenalin Swing as it is the most crowded, and then, you can do other swings. You can also get your pictures clicked there by a photographer there and get it by paying 2 lac IDR per person.

Now comes the adventure part :D. After completing the above three things, we went for **ATV Bike ride**, which was organized by Beji Adventure in Ubud. For those, who are interested in off road activities, this is the best thing to do in Bali. Even those people, who don't know how to ride ATV bike, can ride it as it is very easy. You have two types of ride – 1.30 hours or 4 hours. You should definitely try do this as it is very different and refreshing. They take you through rice fields, river, waterfalls, etc. The last bike ride tour starts at 3.30pm.

Our activities for the day ended by 7pm. So, we came back to our Resort and relaxed.

## **DAY 7: NUSA DUA (South Bali)**

After covering the prominent tourist destinations in Central Bali, we now, moved to South Bali, away from crowd, and to a beach destination – **Nusa dua**. This place is around 40minute drive from Seminyak and here, almost all Resorts have a private beach. There are many private beach clubs where you can party. They open at 10am and close by 8pm. Best time to visit is around sunset, when they have live music, bonfire, etc.

On our way from Seminyak to Nusa Dua, we went to **Seminyak Square** for shopping. Look for **Seminyak Art Markets** (fixed price shop) [2mins walking distance from Seminyak Square] for buying local stuff and gift items. They offer genuine stuff, which are reasonably priced. Don't go to individual shops here because shop keepers are a bit rude and, therefore, no point in bargaining.

After this, if you love **coffee**, you don't want to miss **Revolver Espresso**. It has got amazing coffee cocktails and so many varieties of coffee, which you won't find in India. A must try place for coffee lovers. This place is hardly 1 minute walk from Seminyak Art Market. This place is also at **Bali airport**.

On our way to Nusa Dua, we strolled in **Kuta Market**, and proceeded to have lunch at **Hard Rock Café, Kuta**. Excellent place to dine with some good rock music (80s and 90s).

Finally, we arrived in Nusa Dua and checked into **The Grand Bali Resort**. It's a beautiful resort and has rooms, which has direct access to the swimming pool. After munching, we left for our dream destination – **The Sundays Beach Club, Uluwatu**, which is around 35 minute drive from our resort. This Beach club is owned by Ungasan Resorts, which is a 6 Star property. Save your money for this place :D – worth spending. The Espresso Martini and Margaritas are out of the world. The vibe of this place was beyond imagination. One gets to travel in a cable car also to reach the beach club, which is quite rare. The view from the cable car is awesome. The club also provides snorkelling kit, surfboard, and beach towel. We went on a Monday, which felt like a Sunday 😊.

## **DAY 8: NUSA DUA (South Bali) + NUSA PENIDA ISLANDS**

After having early breakfast, we left for **Nusa Penida Islands** Day trip. It is a one-hour boat ride from Bali. You will need to wear shoes for this trip. Also, carry slippers and one set of clothes because weather is unpredictable here. For site seeing, you will have to walk a lot. We covered almost 12,000 steps. Lastly, if you are taking this tour, then book a **private tour** so that you are not dependent on others and can freely move around.

While booking the Nusa Penida tour, you will find three types of tours – (1) West Island tour, (2) East Island tour, and (3) Combined tour. We had taken West Island tour as we were not informed about other two tours. However, we would **recommend** opting for the **Combined tour** as it has best of both the other tours. The time taken to cover all three tours is the same – 6 hours (10am to 4pm). **Must see places** are: Kelingking Beach, Angel Billabong, Broken Beach, Diamond Beach, and Tree House Mollenteng. **Note** – Crystal Bay Beach can be ignored if you are short on time or exhausted. Nothing so great about it.

All the tour guides stop at one restaurant for Lunch, where apart from Balinese food, you also get Indian food – biryani (vegetarian & non-vegetarian). It is actually good in taste.

After enjoying the breathtaking views, we reached Nusa Dusa and ended our day with delicious Pizzas and beers.

## **DAY 9: NUSA DUA & ULLUWATU (South Bali)**

For the last leg in Bali, we had nothing much to do. So, the first half we relaxed in the Resort, and went for a **Balinese massage** at a nearby place. For information – price of massage in Hotels/Resorts in Bali is 3 times higher than the price in the market. So, look for a good massage parlour in the market. Hotel/Resort people also suggest the same here.

After having lunch, we started our tour from **Nusa Dua market**, which is near to our Resort (walking distance). You will get similar stuff as you got in Ubud and, more or less, prices are also same as in Ubud (provided you bargain).

After shopping, we went to **Waterblow, Nusa Dua**. The view from this place is picturesque, but the only problem is that you will have to walk in blazing sun for around 1.5 kms to reach this place. Therefore, my suggestion is to visit this place when its cloudy or raining or in the evening.

Thereafter, we went to **Pandawa Beach, Uluwatu**. The approach road to the beach is beautiful. You can do water sports activities like – kayaking, paragliding, etc. Apart from this, there is nothing much to do here.

The last place, which we visited is the **Uluwatu temple** to witness the **Kecak dance** and **fire show**. This show is based on Ramayana. Only if you are really interested in theatrical shows, you should go, otherwise, you can skip it. In case, you are going, you should try to buy tickets for the first show, which starts at 6pm, because you can see the sunset from this place. For that, you will have to reach the place by 3.45-4pm (max). Each show is of 45-50 minute. Also, beware of monkeys here – they are aggressive. Don't make eye contact with them. You will have to walk to a lot here from parking lot to the Temple and inside the Temple also. From buying tickets to watching the show is about 3-3.30 hours (4pm to 7.30pm). Personally speaking, if you have sufficient time in Bali, then only visit this place.

#### **DAY 10: BACK TO NEW DELHI FROM BALI VIA MALAYSIA**

After having an amazing trip and enjoyed every bit of it, finally our trip ended. Now, we head back to New Delhi via Malaysia. **Note** – you will have to reach Bali Airport 2.30 hours before the departure time of your flight. Check-in and Immigration will take about 1.30 hours.

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