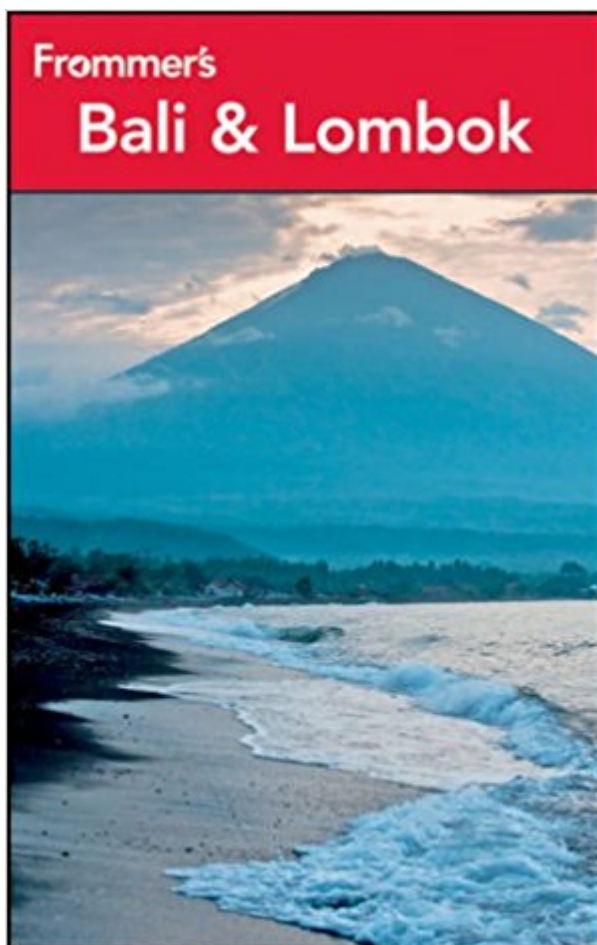




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Frommer's Bali And Lombok (Frommer's Complete Guides)



Synopsis

Insider advice on ancient seaside and cliff-top temples, strolling through rice terraces, learning traditional music and dance, and discovering hidden beaches. Where to find; the richest Balinese textiles, traditional Bali dance performances,Â classic handcrafts, unique paintings, and the best fresh fruit juices. Insightful commentary on the history and culture of both islands, Bali's religious and spiritual identity, arts and architecture, and a Balinese and Indonesian language guide.

Opinionated reviews. No bland descriptions and lukewarm recommendations. Our expert writers are passionate about their destinations--they tell it like it is in an engaging and helpful way. Exact prices listed for every establishment and activity--no other guides offer such detailed, candid reviews of hotels and restaurants. We include the very best, but also emphasize moderately priced choices for real people. User-friendly features including star ratings and special icons to point readers to great finds, excellent values, insider tips, best bets for kids, special moments, and overrated experiences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bird-watchers may come across the yellow-crested toucan on a guided bird walk. See chapter 4.

Easy-to-read maps throughout Exact prices, directions, opening hours, and other practical information Candid reviews of hotels and restaurants, plus sights, shopping, and nightlife

Itineraries, walking tours, and trip-planning ideas Insider tips from local expert authors Find news, deals, apps, expert advice, and travel forums at Frommers.com

After first visiting Bali in 2003, Jen Lin-Liu travels to the island frequently and has written about Bali and Lombok for numerous publications including The New York Times and Travel + Leisure. She is the author of *Serve the People: A Stir-Fried Journey Through China* (Harcourt, 2008) and a forthcoming book about the food of the Silk Road (Riverhead Press). She lives in Beijing, where she lives in the old traditional neighborhoods near the cooking school and restaurant she owns, Black Sesame Kitchen. Candice Lee has lived in Beijing for the past five years and has worked as a manager and cooking instructor at Black Sesame Kitchen for three years with previous experience working with HIV/AIDS, research, and event managing. She explores, eats, and scrappily finds her way through as many new places as possible (usually by bicycle).

I have a confession to make: I honestly didn't use this guide to its full potential. I traveled to Bali as part of a group, which meant that most of my trip accommodations and tours were predetermined. My purpose for purchasing this book came when I had two "free days" to myself and wanted to research activities and spas on the island.

Pros:

- 1) The book is divided into local regions, something that is extremely helpful when traveling to Bali. Staying in the right region can literally make the difference between enjoying your vacation or not understanding what all the fuss is about. For instance, Kuta is the town right outside of the airport. I found it to be overcrowded with tourists, tons of non-moving bumper-to-bumper traffic, and a seemingly endless amount of stores and boutiques that all look the same. Ubud, however, was a completely different story. Ubud is known as one of Bali's cultural centers and is home to the Sacred Monkey Forest, several talented woodcarving shops and jewelry.
- 2) The book does a pretty good job of explaining the most popular tourist attractions and what to expect.
- 3) The book does a good job of recommending activities. I wanted to do something active on my trip and the guide provided names of reputable companies that offered whitewater rafting, horseback riding and elephant rides, amongst other things.

Cons:

- 1) I've come to discover that the book talks about accommodations on only a small number of places that exist. I couldn't find most of the hotels where I stayed in the book, and some of them were truly nice finds. I could have missed out on them had my group not booked them for me.
- 2) If you're looking for off-the-beaten path locations that not many people know about, this guide would do you a disservice. I found it sticks to what's known and popular.
- 3) You could possibly miss out on good restaurants as not all of them are listed in the book. My foolproof method of selecting places to eat is to ask either local people (if you want an authentic meal) or other tourists.

Recommendations:

- 1) Use Frommer's only as a either a pre-guide or backup guide to other research. I wouldn't use this as my be-all and end-all guidebook.
- 2) I HIGHLY recommend using consumer-rated websites such as

Trip Advisor or Lonely Planet. You're much more likely to get good insight there. 3) If you decide to purchase any type of guidebook, do NOT purchase the Kindle version. I've used both hard copies and electronic versions and the electronic version truly can be a little difficult to navigate. The one advantage I like about hard covers is the fact that different sections of the book have colored tabs along the page edges. It's much easier for you to go straight to a specific region and flip down "bunny ears" on the pages that contain the most relevant information. The one time I purchased a Kindle version I found myself reading the book cover-to-cover, something not practical with guidebooks. Trust me, I'm all about e-books but the format just doesn't work for guidebooks.

I looked forward to downloading this book for my research before my recent trip to Bali. The style of the book seem to suit my particular demographic. However I found it failing in two particular instances and so I now have doubts about the reliability of the remainder of the book. One instance was the article on the "Lotus Pond" restaurant in Sanur of which the owner was supposed to display interesting ceramics. Unfortunately this restaurant has since disappeared. Another was the reference for a Babi Guling (whole roast piglet) restaurant in Jalan Sutomo in Denpasar. The inadequate location of the restaurant lead me and my wife in a hot and fruitless search along the street dodging the traffic and the deep holes of the footpath. Based on its unreliability I cannot give it a better rating.

I went to a bookstore and browsed all the Bali travel guides and loved the layout of this one. When planning a trip, there is so much information and this book has really helped me sort it all out. What I love is that it has a 1-3 star rating system for sites, restaurants, and cities. This is so helpful when picking which of the hundred temples you want to narrow it down. A lack of a rating system dissuaded me from buying the Lonely Planet. Another thing I liked is the first chapter gives you a list of the 5-10 best temples, spas, restaurants, etc. It also suggests activities such as cooking classes and alternative healing. If Eat, Pray, Love partially inspired your trip, it even tells you how to look up the medicine man. For me, food is an essential part of any trip and the restaurant recs check out nicely with other sources. The only thing that could be improved is travel times, especially since it takes a while to travel on the roads within Bali. Overall, I couldn't be happier with this book, how it's organized and the valuable information given.

Frommer's Bali covered everything I needed for a recent trip to Bali and side trip to the Gilis. Your experience may be different from mine and that's expected. Book covered the treks and rafting which I had planned to do while out there and gave enough details for the areas which we visited. I

already had hotels booked and dined locally but for the activities and regions it was perfect and gave me great ideas for a return visit (hopefully soon)

The book was pretty informative about all the major places in Bali and Lombok. I found the book quite helpful in planning my trip based on the brief but useful introductions of each place. However, the part about hotels and accommodation is not very updated as when I looked online, I found many more options in terms of accommodation that looked really good and could have been included. Also, the dearth of pictures is a flip side of the book because I believe, it always helps to take decisions about visiting a place once you get to see pictures which speak more than words at any time. Besides those shortcomings, the book is pretty handy to carry with you once you figure out your itinerary on consultation with other books and websites.

There are very few pictures, which is something you need to help plan your site seeing itinerary. Descriptions are okay, but pictures are definitely needed

We just returned from our vacation in Bali. We stayed in Sanur and found the map to be a little inaccurate in relation to some of the highlighted spots. We figured it out easily enough, but not sure if this is an issue with all the maps, or just the Sanur area one. Great restaurant recommendations!

I recommend frommers over lonely planet guide to Bali. I'm in Bali and my friends have lonely planet and I am finding way more useful information in my guide. Going to Nusa Lembongan would have been double the price if I hadn't found perama tours in frommers. Great buy!

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