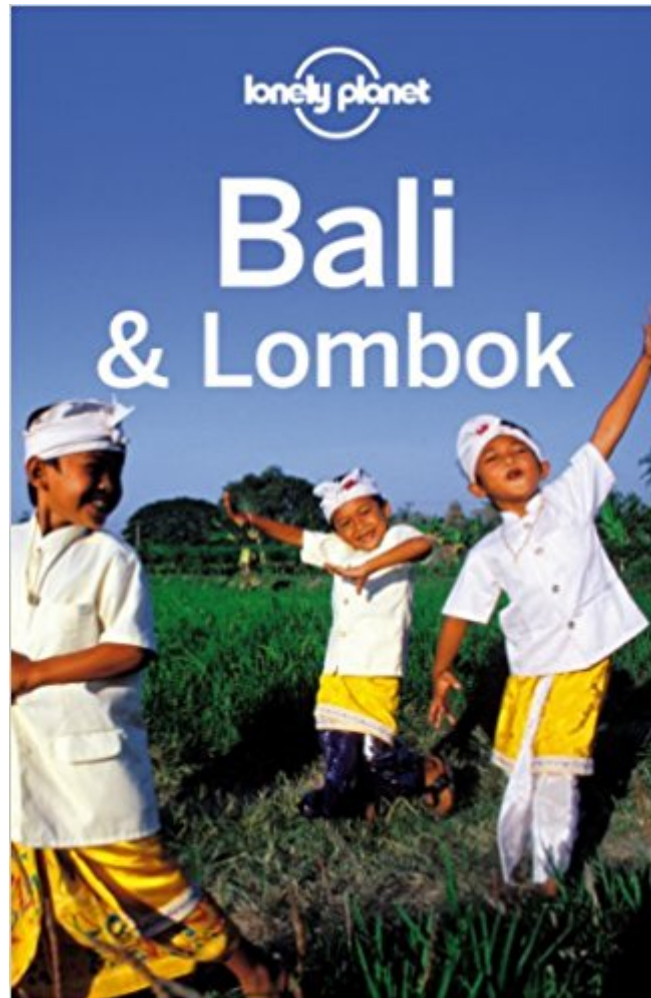




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Lonely Planet Bali & Lombok (Regional Travel Guide)



Synopsis

“The mere mention of Bali evokes thoughts of a paradise. It’s more than a place; it’s a mood, an aspiration, a tropical state of mind.”
Ryan Ver Berkmoes, Lonely Planet WriterOur PromiseYou can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, and you can rely on us to tell it like we see it.
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Customer Reviews

“Lonely Planet, the intrepid traveler’s bible...” --Los Angeles Times, April 2005 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travellers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travellers the world’s richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. * We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. * When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. * We always offer the trusted filter for

those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing community of travellers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travellers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved looking at the pictures and reading about Bali. It was informative and put together good. I enjoyed the book.

The guide itself is a typical lonely planet, my only word of advice, DON'T BUY IT FOR KINDLE. Normally I would buy the paperback for a guide, but I live in Japan and its too expensive, so I chose Kindle. The formatting is horrible, you can't read any of the maps, none of the pictures display properly, and so on. On Lonely Planet's website they sell pdfs that are about the same price (or half the price if you catch them on sale) and the formatting and display is world's better. I really wish I could get money back on this and buy the Lonely Planet electronic version.

A good little number for checking out where to go and just about everything you need to know about Bali. Gone is the hippy type slant these books used to have when we used their recommendations as guides for hotels and things to avoid. We learnt the hard way too. At times we felt guilty going anywhere else but one star or eating anywhere air conditioned. It was all bungalows, back to basics and Dengue fever back then. But we are back now and ready to listen again.

My travel companion and I agreed that Lonely Planet's quality has really declined. The important information (how to get around the country, currency information, etc.) was hard to find--often at the back. One thing I really missed was descriptions on how to travel from one city to the next. While the information was up-to-date, the guide wasn't intuitive to use.

-Hard to follow, never clear which chapter you're in-Hotels and destinations impossible to find on maps-Note-taking is a pretense, not a reality digitally-Other travelers' highlights interfere with yours-Reviews are short, weak and unsubstantiated by detail.

A review of a travel guide necessarily reflects the needs and attitudes of the author. In the interest of full disclosure, my background (as cogent to this review): I have done a great deal of budget travel

over the past 25 years, focusing on cultural and natural attractions, particularly in Asia, much targeted to develop my knowledge and understanding as a world history teacher. I did a year's sabbatical traveling throughout Southeast Asia in the late 90's using Lonely Planet guides, and they were wonderful resources both in terms of providing basic background on the places I was visiting (history, culture, etc.) AND highly useful guidance on traveling there. I've heard that Lonely Planet was sold to another entity; whether or not that's the reason, I have to say that as I am traveling in Bali I am finding this guide to be not only of little use, and targeted to a different type of traveler (i.e., one with a ton of money and interested mostly in the "extractive" aspects of travel), but in many ways actually offensive. To make that final point, and then to leave it because you're probably much more interested in the guide's usefulness or lack thereof, an illustrative quote: "Denpasar...is a vibrant place...even as it threatens to absorb the tourist hubs of Seminyak, Kuta and Sanur." (If you don't get why I chose that quote, you probably won't agree with my review in general.) On the usefulness front: things like restaurants and hotels used to be separated into "budget", "mid-range" and "high-end." Not like I can't separate them on my own, but the fact is there's almost nothing listed that would fit into that first category, and the "Top Choices" (a new feature) are almost always glitzy tourist-oriented places. There are a few statements here and there that give you some guidance on how to find things that are a bit more, shall we say, "authentic", but they're few and far between. (Where they do exist, they're useful.) Clearly, the target audience has changed, and for someone like me (and likely you, if you're a similar type of traveler), this is NOT the guide of choice, or even A guide of choice -- frankly, it's a waste of money. A final illustration: the sections about history, culture, etc. are tucked away in the back of the book rather than being in the front as they used to be in all the Lonely Planet guides I used. Again, I think that's a clear reflection of the change in emphasis in the book -- away from a respectful attitude towards, and one of deep interest in, the culture/society being visited and towards one of exploitation. I find that sad. As a teacher and an avid (and, I hope, responsible and culturally sensitive) traveler, I miss the old guides! Sigh...

very good book to get informed about bali, i got the old version which was still ok but newer ones are probably better.perfect highly recommended

Wife loved it...Happy wife...Happy life!!!!

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