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Quick Guide To Bali

By Chic Retreats

Bali's idyllic location, constant warm temperature and welcoming people have made it a key destination for travellers from all over the world.

Where is it?

Bali is one of the Indonesian islands, set in the Indian Ocean, just 8 degrees south of the equator. It is popular for romantic breaks, honeymoons and weddings as well as being a key surfing destination.

Where can I stay?

Bali is a haven of warm climates, blue seas and wide sandy beaches. There are big hotels in Bali just as there are in any beach-led country, but the very best hotels are those that reduce the number of rooms and focus instead on giving guests the very best holiday experience. From a completely spoiled and luxurious boutique hotel to simple but perfectly designed accommodation, you can find a hotel that puts you at your ease and makes relaxation your only consideration. Take the Puri Ganesha Villas in the north of the island, bordered by green mountains on one side and the sea on the other, Puri Ganesha is a collection of just four two-storey villas, each with its access onto the private beach and its own seawater swimming pool. Or try the Nusa Dua, one of the newest boutique hotels on Bali, where 20 exclusive pavilions provide accommodation for their lucky occupants, with butler service and private pools.

What can I see?

One of the obvious attractions of Bali is the warm coastline and fabulous beaches. If you're not a total beach bum though, there are many other areas that are worth a visit, including Ganung Batur, a volcanic cone with a lake in the surrounding caldera. The landscape is worth the climb, but the climate at this height is very different from that of the beaches, so be prepared for much cooler, damp conditions. Romantics could try the Bali Orchid Garden - the climate in Bali particularly suits these gorgeous flowers - or visit one of the ancient shrines and temples that dot the landscape.

How do I get around?

If you ever decide to leave your villa to go anywhere other than the beach - and you should, because otherwise you'll miss nearly all that Bali has to offer - then use the cheap bus system, or for slightly more money, but also more comfort, use the regular tourist buses. You can also rent a motorcycle or bike for a slightly more adventurous trip around the island.

Chic Retreats is a collection of small, sophisticated hotels around the world that offer the traveller a true taste of luxury and service. Visit their website by clicking

<http://www.chicretreats.com>

Bali's Islands And Natural Treasures

By Naldo Camarones

Thinking about traveling to somewhere different on your next vacations? Then here is an interesting option for you: Bali.

Bali is found in Indonesia and is arguably one of the most beautiful and peaceful tourist resorts on earth. People enjoy visiting Bali because unlike other tropical destinations, Bali hasn't been broken into an array of hotels and water front resorts. The people of Bali take pride in their land and exhibit this in many ways.

One way that they do this is through their art. Local art is a cornerstone of life in Bali and it's also one of the first things most tourists notice. Everything from paintings to woodwork can be found in Bali. Dance is also a fundamental part of life in Bali and it's not uncommon to see local people engaged in a ritualistic dance.

The people who live in Bali don't normally speak English which can make the stay interesting for those who only speak the language. They speak Balinese but when staying at a hotel you will have the ability to converse in English with the staff. The native tongue is lovely to listen to though.

The water around Bali is pure heaven. You can stand near the edge and look out onto a sea of brilliant blue among the coral reefs. If you are particularly adventurous you can even arrange to travel by boat out into the water.

One of the most amazing sights you'll witness while in Bali is the serene beaches. Much of the sand in Bali is white. For someone venturing there from North America, where the sand is a dingy brown, this is a delight. Not to be outdone, there are also beaches in Bali, mainly in the southern regions that boast black sand.

Traveling around Bali can prove to be an adventure. Transportation is fast and efficient in the urban areas but when you wander into the more rural settings you'll find yourself faced with an unending maze of country roads. These are best left to the natives as they know how to navigate from point a to

point b without getting lost. You can arrange for a private tour of the islands of Bali and if you have the resources to do this, it's a wonderful way to fully experience the area.

The people of the islands of Bali are very cordial. They welcome visitors and you'll often find them sitting selling their wares.

It's been said that once you visit Bali it's very difficult to leave. The pure beauty of the surroundings and the climate make it a tiny corner of serenity. If you get a chance to visit the islands of Bali don't let the opportunity pass you by.

Read more from this author at:

<http://www.travelviaje-magazine.com>



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