BALI TRAVEL TIPS

The following is a list of useful information about travel to Bali. If you have any specific questions concerning your airline reservations or our itinerary, please contact BenchMark Travel Services at (978) 792-5150 or toll-free at (866) 535-8600 from the USA and Canada, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact us via e-mail at tut@benchmarkin.com or by fax at (978) 834-6082.

TRAVEL DATES
If you're flying with the group from Los Angeles, you will depart on Cathay Pacific Airways for Denpasar, Bali (DPS) at 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 (Tuesday night) and arrive on Thursday, April 9th at 3:00 p.m. Your flight back to Los Angeles departs at 4:10 p.m. a.m. on Thursday, April 16th and arrives back in Los Angeles at 10:10 p.m. on the same day.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?
Casual attire is fine for the entire trip. Some essentials we suggest:
• Walking shoes, sneakers or hiking boots
• Shorts, lightweight slacks or pants (polyester and nylon typically dry faster – jeans are fine, but might be a little heavy for the tropical climate, t-shirts and a light sweater, jacket or shawl for the ladies. Bali is very close to the equator, so light weight, breathable clothes are best.
• Swimsuit
• A hat or cap and a rain poncho
• Personal medications and prescription eyeglasses
• Small backpack
• Sunglasses and sunscreen
• Calculator or currency converter - if you have a smart phone, there’s an app for that
• Camera with charger or extra batteries
• Travel Insurance certificate, if you’ve purchased insurance (highly recommended)
• Passport and money
• A copy of the picture page of your passport – keep separate from your passport
• Electric converter

PASSPORTS
ALL travelers (regardless of nationality) must carry a passport, valid for at least six (6) months after your intended return date to your home country. If you hold a passport with an expiration date less than six (6) months after your return date, you must renew your passport prior to departure.

If you are not a U.S. Citizen, your National Consulate or Embassy can answer any questions you may have regarding the individual travel documents required. You can find a worldwide index of Embassies for Bali via the web at: www.embassyworld.com
PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WILL BE EXTENDING YOUR TRIP TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH THE CONSULATE OF THAT COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH IF A VISA OR ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE REQUIRED.

AIRPORT CHECK IN
Strict security measures at the airport may impact your travel plans and cause delays, which is why it is important that you allow plenty of time to get to the airport and check in at least two (2) hours prior to your flight’s departure time. Due to constant changes of flight schedules, it is highly recommended that you confirm your flight’s status before you leave for the airport.

Please take note of the check-in policies, carry-on restrictions and airport security rules that may impact your travel plans. Due to the fact that these security measures change regularly, we suggest that you visit the following website for the most up-to-date information: www.tsa.gov

PLEASE NOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUIRES AIRLINES TO SOLICIT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR U.S. PASSENGERS TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY. PLEASE BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER UPON CHECK IN.

CARRY-ON LUGGAGE
Most airlines now limit carry-on luggage to one piece, plus a purse, backpack, briefcase or laptop. The approximate size of your carry-on should be no larger than: 10”x13”x23” and it should weigh no more than 40 pounds. Passengers with more than one carry-on, plus a personal item will be required to check the additional luggage. Be sure to pack the essentials in your carry-on bag, such as your airline tickets, passport, a light change of clothing, any valuables, medications, toiletries, and perhaps a book or a snack.

Although regulations have recently changed, the TSA still recommends that sharp objects be placed in your checked luggage. It’s not just the obvious items, but includes such innocuous items as razors for shaving, nail files, Swiss army knives, and corkscrews. Lighters and matches, or any type of scissors (e.g., from a sewing kit or first aid kit) should also be packed in your checked luggage.

Additionally liquids and gels are forbidden as carry-on items unless they are under three (3) ounces and declared by showing them in a plastic, 1 quart bag. A few exceptions to this rule apply and include diabetic glucose medications such as insulin, baby formula, and prescription liquid medications labeled with a name that matches the passenger’s ticket. These items must be declared to the transportation security officers at the security checkpoint. Beverages and other items purchased in the secure boarding area may be brought onto the aircraft.

Laptop computers must still be screened separately at the security checkpoint, but will be allowed on board the aircraft.

CHECKED LUGGAGE
Cathay Pacific Airways allows one checked bag at no charge. The weight of any single piece of checked baggage should not be over 32kg (70lb). Acceptance of any bag weighing more than 32kg (70lb) is subject to prior approval and notification upon booking/reservation. The size limitation of your luggage is calculated by adding the total outside dimensions of each bag, length + width + height. Any bag exceeding the total dimensions of 203 cm (80 inches) may not be carried as accompanied baggage unless prior notification is made with us upon booking/reservation and approval is granted by the airline. Charges will apply for additional bags. If you are not flying with the group, please check with your carrier regarding their rules for checked baggage.

LOST LUGGAGE
In the event that one of your bags goes astray, you’ll want to file a Baggage Claim Report before going through customs at the airport. Also, be sure to inform a member of the TUT Travel Staff so that they can work with the airlines to recover your lost luggage as quickly as possible.

**EMERGENCY TRAVEL SERVICE**
If Benchmark Travel Services has arranged your flights, and you are in need of assistance on your travel days, you may contact us at the numbers listed above. If you are traveling before or after normal business hours, you may contact Emergency Travel Services at the number listed on the back of your airline ticket jacket – a representative will be available on a 24-hour basis to receive your call. If you have an emergency while in Bali, our TUT Travel Staff will be on-site with you throughout the trip to offer assistance.

**IMPORTANT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**
If you book your flights with Benchmark Travel Services, your airline ticket and/or e-ticket receipt will arrive, along with your final documents, approximately three (3) weeks prior to your departure date.

**Customs and Immigrations Forms**
The flight attendants on the airplane will hand out one (1) Customs Form per family and one (1) Immigration Form per person, both of which must completed prior to arrival in Bali.

**Tourist Card**
In addition to your passport, a completed Tourist Card will be required. For your convenience we will mail one Tourist Card per person to you prior to your departure. Simply complete the form and present it, along with your passport, to the Immigration Officials when you arrive in Bali. The Immigration Officials will take the top portion of the Tourist Card; you’ll need to hold on to the bottom half and return it upon airport check-in during departure. Make sure you complete both the top and bottom sections of the form to ensure quick passage through Immigration.

**HEALTH PRECAUTIONS**
The following general information has been provided only as a guideline. Please consult your personal physician for his or her advice based on your health history and current situation.

ALL TRAVELERS should make sure that your standard adult immunizations and ‘boosters’ are up to date — additional vaccines are not necessary. However, if you are traveling on your own before or after this program, and are planning to visit rural areas, it is important to take preventative measures against malaria.

**TIME ZONE**
In April Bali will be 12 hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time. If it’s 1:00 p.m. on April 8th in New York City, it is 1:00 a.m. on April 9th in Bali.

**COMMUNICATIONS**
You should have no problem making local, long-distance or international calls from your guest room at the Resort. However, it is recommended that you call home collect or by using a telephone calling card. You can dial direct from your hotel room; however the hotels will add a surcharge to your personal account, which will still be less expensive than charging the entire cost of your call to your room. If you plan to use a cell phone be sure to confirm with your wireless provider that you have an international calling plan. If family and friends need to contact you during the program, they can reach you at:

Evenings of April 9, 10, 11 & 12
Both resorts offer internet access from your room.

WEATHER
Bali is in the tropics, located about 6 degrees south of the equator. This means that the sun rises at 6am and sets at 6pm most of the year. The temperature variation is very small, and Bali does not have seasons, with the exception of the wet season, typically from September to February, and a dry season which is the time when TUT Adventurers Club will be visiting. But the difference is marginal; at the peak of the wet season you will see about a half-hour to an hour downpour in late afternoon. Expect temperatures to be quite warm, averaging 88°F during the day and 65°F at night with relatively high humidity and a light sea breeze. Plan to pack lightweight, natural fiber, casual clothing. Since nighttime temperatures are likely to be in the mid 60’s, we would recommend for most of our evenings a pair of chinos and a polo shirt for the gentlemen; a skirt or cropped pants with a sleeveless blouse for the ladies.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONVENTIONS
Ninety-five percent of the island’s population are Hindu, so please be respectful and cover up when you’re not at the beach; bikinis and board shorts are allowed on the beach, but are inappropriate in tourist areas inland and on the street far from the beach. Please cover your shoulders and knees when visiting Hindu temples or sacred landmarks as a sign of respect for the deities. Ladies might want to take a shawl along on excursions.

ELECTRONICS
Indonesia’s electricity power supply operates at 220volts / 50Hz (hertz/cycles), this is the same as Australia and many European countries that operate 220-240v / 50Hz. North America however, operates at 110-120volt and the electricity is generated at 60 Hz (cycles).

Important: If your home supply is 110 volts and your electrical equipment does not have a 110/220 or 110/240 switch on it you will need to get a voltage converter to step the Indonesian 220 volts down to 110 volts. These are best purchased in your home country as they are surprisingly difficult to find in Bali and they may be bulky and of unreliable quality. Electronics you should check are your phone charger, camera chargers, electric toothbrush, travelling clothes irons, hair curlers, shavers, hair dryers, laptop chargers etc. many of these devices are “dual” voltage meaning they operate either at 110v or 220/240v. There should be a label on the appliance advising that it is capable of dual voltage, (if not or in doubt don’t use it).

WATER SAFETY
Drinking the Water
Drink a lot of water… but don’t drink from the tap. The tap water in Bali is of uncertain quality. When in Bali, stick to canned drinks or bottled water. The ice in Bali is safe – the island’s ice supply is quality-controlled by the local government. Try not to be without a ready supply of bottled water, as the weather in Bali is often sunny; heatstroke can occur if you allow yourself to go without water for long periods of time.
FOR YOUR PROTECTION
Remember, neither the airlines nor the resorts will take responsibility for lost or stolen valuables. We suggest you pack them in your carry-on bag and store them in the safe located in your room. While touring or shopping leave your passport and the bulk of your money in the hotel’s safe. Take with you only the money you intend to spend. Carry a copy of the picture page of your passport with you as you may need it to exchange traveler’s checks or in case your passport is lost.

THE LANGUAGE
Balinese and Indonesian are the most widely spoken languages in Bali, and the vast majority of Balinese people are bilingual or trilingual. The most common spoken language around the tourist areas is Indonesian, as many people in the tourist sector are not solely Balinese, but migrants from Java, Lombok, Sumatra, and other parts of Indonesia. Staff at the hotels will speak English or broken English and all of our guides will be English speaking. In addition, you will be accompanied throughout the trip by two American Travel Staff who will be ready to assist you at all times.

SHOPPING IN BALI
Virtually everybody comes to Bali to shop, and even if shopping isn’t the ultimate aim, you’ll still end up with fascinating and irresistible buys. Bali shopping will introduce you to a treasure trove of fine art and handicrafts, antique and semi-antique furniture, paintings, delicately carved jewelry, wood and stone carvings, masks, woven and dyed fabrics. PLEASE NOTE: Exporting tortoise shells, crocodile skin and ivory products is prohibited. Bargaining in markets, shops and art shops, is normal practice and getting a good price depends largely on one’s bargaining prowess. As bargaining forms a large part of the Bali shopping fun, remember to bring along some cash, as not all places accept credit cards - and be good humored. Shops are usually open 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

CUSTOMS
Upon Departing for Bali
If you have just bought a new and expensive digital camera, camcorder, watch, laptop computer or similar item, it will be worth your while to stop at the Customs Office at your international departure airport and register these items. It usually does not take much time and will save you from the possibility of delays and having to pay duty on these items on the return home.

Returning from Bali
Per the norm, you will need to declare everything that you may have bought in Bali or did not take with you when you left your home country. Of course, how much you will be permitted to bring home under “duty free” status varies by country and is often determined by the length of your trip. For those traveling from outside of the United States, it is wise to confirm details with the Customs personnel at your departure airport or contact your local Consulate prior to your departure.

Each U.S. citizen may bring back $800 USD worth of “duty free” items (a maximum of $1,600 USD per household) as long as they are in your possession or brought back as accompanied baggage. Duty will be waived on items that you mail home to yourself, if the value is $200 USD or less. Antiques that are at least 100 years old and fine art are considered “duty free.” PLEASE NOTE: Exporting tortoise shells, crocodile skin and ivory products is prohibited.

Citizens who individually declare between $800 USD and $1,000 USD will be charged a duty on the amount over $800 USD (up to $1,000 USD) by Customs officials at the first point of entry, so remember to keep your receipts handy. The $800 USD “duty free” exemption may include 200 cigarettes (1 carton) or 50 cigars and, if you are over the age of 21, one (1) liter (33.8 ounces) of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor, etc.).
CURRENCY
Indonesia’s monetary unit is the Rupiah (IDR). As of this printing $1.00 USD = 12,100.00 IDR.

MONEY MATTERS
Traveler’s Checks
We recommend that you use credit cards or cash while in Bali as Travelers’ Checks are not widely accepted, particularly those in currencies other than US dollars. Although, if you do plan to carry some of your funds using Traveler’s Checks, those offered through American Express are the most preferred. PLEASE NOTE: Before you depart for Bali, be sure to call your bank and/or credit card issuer(s) to alert them that you will be traveling to Bali and plan to use your card(s) while traveling.

Visa TravelMoney is the newest way to carry money abroad since the invention of the Traveler’s Check. It is simply a card, which you “pre-pay” with your spending money before you travel. Then you can use your Visa TravelMoney card to withdraw cash from ATMs or to spend money in shops, restaurants and hotels while you’re away, exactly as you would use a bankcard at home.

You can buy Visa TravelMoney at branches of Travelex and also at AAA, CAA, CUNA, ICBA and ABA. Visa TravelMoney is just as secure as a Traveler’s Check. It has PIN and signature protection, and you can choose to take a second card with you, which will still be active if the first card is lost or stolen. Plus you are covered by 24-hour emergency assistance to help with replacement cash in a hurry.

Credit Cards
The resorts as well as most shops and restaurants, will accept Visa, American Express and MasterCard. Some of the smaller establishments do not accept American Express or any credit cards, so it is always good to ask if you do not see a sign in the window or at a register. Credit cards are used at lots of businesses on the island, though caution should be taken when paying with plastic.

When you receive your monthly credit card statement it will show the converted costs and will reflect the rate of exchange at the time of your purchase. Please be aware that in most cases, an extra fee for converting from foreign currency will be added to your credit card.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO TAKE CASH ADVANCES OUT ON YOUR CREDIT CARD PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE.

ATM Transactions
In Ubud and Nusa Dua you are never far from an ATM machine, most will take international ATM cards and even give you the option to choose English language instructions. The machines will dispense 50,000 IDR or 100,000 IDR notes, and you can take out anywhere from 500,000 IDR to 2.5 million IDR per transaction.

PLEASE NOTE: THE AMOUNT THAT CAN BE WITHDRAWN FROM YOUR ACCOUNT MAY VARY FROM BANK TO BANK.

If you’re heading off the beaten track, carrying a bit of cash is always a good idea as access to banking facilities may be less convenient. Keep in mind that many businesses do not accept foreign currency, so you should plan to carry some Rupiah along with you.

TIPPING
Tipping is always appreciated in Bali, especially because many workers here make less in a month than what you might make in a day. Some restaurants and hotels add a service charge to the bill, but if they don’t, it’s a nice gesture to leave about 5% as a tip for good service. Every little bit of generosity is bound to get you huge smiles in
Bali. Gratuities for all included meals, bellmen and for housekeeping services at the hotels are built in to the cost of your trip. We suggest the following tips for local guides and drivers per person per day:
Tour Guide $4.00
Driver $2.00
Your American TUT Travel Staff will not expect or accept any tips.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
BenchMark Travel Services strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance* before any TUT trip! Travel insurance offers travelers coverage for unforeseen problems, from a cancelled flight to a serious illness—or in rare cases, even an act of terrorism or the financial default of a travel supplier. If you miss a travel connection, even for reasons beyond your control, you are NOT necessarily protected from financial loss unless you have travel insurance. For example, if you encounter mechanical problems, flight delays, or inclement weather that causes you to miss connections, the airline carrier might re-book you, although in many cases (such as bad weather) it is NOT guaranteed (in which case you may either have to purchase an entirely new round-trip ticket or forego the entire prepaid trip without any reimbursement). Travel insurance can cover new flights or provide trip cancellation coverage (for a covered loss), as well as emergency medical expenses and medical transportation. Travel insurance also provides 24 hour “911” emergency travel service, in case a traveler has to change a flight or a hotel room, in addition to assistance with emergency cash transfers, lost baggage, and pre-trip consultation services (travel advisories, passport requirements, inoculation information, etc.).

*Please note that Travel Guard insurance is only available to US and Canadian residents at this time. If you live elsewhere, please check for such coverage within your home country from independent providers.

HOW TO PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE: You can obtain travel insurance from Travel Guard International. To view the various policies offered, log onto www.travelguard.com. You will have two options to purchase travel insurance: 1. US and Canadian residents may call Travel Guard directly at 1-800-826-1300. 2. Visit Travel Guard’s website at www.TravelGuard.com to process the insurance yourself. In this case you will be asked for a travel agent code, please give Travel Guard the code 22735731 as this code will identify your booking with BenchMark Travel Services. Please be sure to read all policy information thoroughly and note that if you have a pre-existing condition you must apply for the insurance within 14 days of the trip deposit date.

MORE QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions prior to traveling, please contact BenchMark Travel Services at the numbers below. We expect that questions will arise during your stay in Bali; therefore the TUT Travel Staff will be readily available at the Hospitality Desk, located in a convenient area at each of the hotels. If you need assistance, feel free to stop by or call the Hospitality Desk any day during the trip. Just dial the hotel operator and ask for the TUT Hospitality Desk.