From the Editor
Mrs. Houri Nazaretian

Dear Reader / Colleagues:

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of Guidelines Internation@l. This issue of Guidelines invites you to discover Indonesia as you need to make an important decision to “Join the WFTGA Convention in Bali”.

We have all followed both happy and sad news about Bali and Indonesia in the past years. The media, certainly has created an image for us to dwell upon. However Indonesia as a country and Bali as one of its major islands will surprise and astound you. Just take a moment to read and learn of this beautiful island.

In this edition I wish to share the information I have gathered based on my researches, be that web based, tourism books, people who have lived in Indonesia and from visitors to Indonesia who have also visited Bali during their travels.

Whatever decision you make with regard to our Convention in Bali, I do hope that Guidelines Internation@l will assist you in your final decision. I take this opportunity to say “See you in Bali, January 2009”.

From the President
Mrs. Rosalind Newlands

I first heard about Bali when my daughter visited the island as part of her university travels. She sent emails and texts telling us how beautiful it was and even now 10 years later she is desperate to return.

Having visited Bali myself for the first time during the Inspection in May this year I fully understand her feelings. The welcome was outstanding, the facilities excellent and the enthusiasm of everyone we met for the WFTGA Convention was exceptional. Kandia Nyoman and his team have the complete support of everyone in tourism not only in Bali but in Indonesia as a whole. They are working extremely hard for us all. Even the President of Indonesia is supporting our Convention.

We have world-class speakers including Professor Sam Ham from the USA and all we need now for a successful Convention is YOU! See you there!
News
What’s happening in the world of the WFTGA

WFTGA executive board

WFTGA EXBO visit Bali, Indonesia

From May 27th to June 3rd, 2008

WFTGA President: Mrs Rosalind Newlands, Vice President: Mr Aladdin Khalifa, and ExBo Member: Mr Johnny Lee visited Bali and West Sumatra Indonesia as guests of the Indonesian Tourism Authority and the Indonesian Tourist Guides Association. For the complete coverage of their visit, kindly visit our web site.

Mr Aladdin Khalifa, WFTGA Vice-President

visited USA during the month of July, 2008. For full coverage and pictures of Mr Khalifa’s visit to United States, kindly visit our web site.

Available now WFTGA Web Store

Checklist for Professional Tourist Guides

This checklist gives useful tips and hints for tourist guides and acts as a good reminder
On what a tourist guide need do from the moment he/she accepts a booking.
You will also find tips on “how to survive as a tourist guide”.

Price: 10.00 Euros (including postage).

WFTGA Polo Shirts and Caps.
Beautiful bright colours
Wear them with pride

Available at our Convention for 7 Euros (Polo Shirts) or 3 Euros (Caps).
Samples available now for 7 Euros plus postage.

Please order from info@wftga.org
In other News
What’s happening in the world of the WFTGA

Service standardization:
tourist guide training

Requirements for the provision of professional tourist guide training and qualification programmes are now specified in DIN EN 15565

Cruise Guide Training:
Shetland Islands, Scotland.

The World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations launched its one day Cruise Guide Training Course in Shetland Island, Scotland on June 11th, 2008. The course was the first conducted in Northern Europe by WFTGA Senior Trainer and qualified Scottish Tourist Guide Ms Viola Lier.

For full coverage, kindly visit our web site.

Jane Orde Scholarship

We wish to thank all who submitted their application on time.

The winners will be notified in due course.

WFTGA Convention Intention to Bid

We wish to thank all who submitted their interest.

Good luck in preparing your bids, your next deadline is August 31st 2008, midnight GMT

Additional news

In 2001 at the WFTGA Convention, WFTGA President Mrs Deborah Androus and Past President Titina Loizidou placed a Sign of Peace in Ledra Street, Nicosia to remind people that tourist guides from all over the world want peace. On March 2008 the Greek Cypriot Leader and the Turkish Cypriot Leader met to start talks for the solution of the Cyprus problem. As the first step towards the solution Ledra Street in the heart of the old city of Nicosia was opened on 3rd April 2008 to give people the chance to go back and forth and interact and communicate.

Flowers were placed by the WFTGA peace Sign to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Celebrating

AIGU in Uruguay celebrated the 40th Anniversary in 2008. Our best wishes to our colleagues.
WFTGA 13th Convention pricing guide

WFTGA 13th Convention, Bali Island, Indonesia, January 11-16, 2009

WFTGA Members:

Single occupancy: US $ 1,093.00
Dbi occupancy: US $ 884.00

Non Members:

Single occupancy: 1,203.00
Dbi occupancy: US $ 972.00

Accompanying Person:

(Applicable for Dbl occupancy only) US $ 735.00

Early Bird Registration before October 1st, 2008

Visit www.baliwftga2009.com for registration
Welcome to Indonesia

Quick facts:

- Capital: Jakarta (and largest city)
- Official Languages: Indonesian
- Government: Presidential republic
- President: Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
- Independence Day: August 17th, 1945 (Formerly Dutch East Indies)
- Area: Total: 1,919,440 (land) sq km, 734,355 sq miles
- Water (%): 4.85
- Population:
  - 2000 census: 206,264,595
  - July 2007 estimate: 234,693,997
- Currency: Rupiah (IDR)
- Time zone: various (UTC + 7 to + 9)
- Internet TLD: .id
- Calling Code: + 62
- Motto: Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (old Javanese) Unity in Diversity
- National Ideology: Pancasila
- Anthem: Indonesia Raya
- Flag: Two equal horizontal bands of red and white

Etymology

The name Indonesia derives from the Latin Indus, meaning “India”, and the Greek nesos, meaning, “island”. The name dates to the 18th century, far predating the formation of independent Indonesia. In 1850, George Earl, an English ethnologist, proposed the terms Indonesians, and, his preference, Malayunese, for the inhabitants of the “Indian Archipelago or Malayan Archipelago.” In the same publication, a student of Earl’s, James Richardson Logan, used Indonesia as a synonym for Indian Archipelago. However, Dutch academics writing in East Indies publications were reluctant to use Indonesia. Instead, they used the terms Malay Archipelago; the Netherlands East Indies, popularly Indie, the East; and even Insulind. From 1990, the name Indonesia became more common in academic circles outside the Netherlands, and Indonesian nationalist groups adapted it for political expression. The first Indonesian scholar to use the name was Suwardi Suryaningrat, when he established a press bureau in the Netherlands with the name Indonesisch Pers-bureau in 1913.

Fossilized remains of Homo erectus, popularly known as the “Java Man”, suggest that the Indonesian archipelago was inhabited two million to 500,000 years ago. Austronesian people, who form the majority of the modern population, migrated to South East Asia from Taiwan. They arrived in Indonesia around 2000 BCE, and confined the native Melanesian people to the far eastern regions as they expanded. Ideal agriculture conditions, and the mastering of wet-field rice cultivation as early as the eighth century BCE, allowed villages, towns, and small kingdoms to flourish by the first century CE. Indonesia’s strategic sea-lane positions fostered inter island and international trade.

From the seventh century CE, the powerful Srivijaya naval kingdom flourished as a result of trade and the influences of Hinduism and Buddhism that were imported with it. Between the 8th and 10th centuries CE, the agricultural Buddhist Sailendra and Hindu Mataram dynasties thrived and declined in inland Java, leaving grand religious monuments such as Sailendras’s Borobudur and Mataram’s Prambanan. The Hindu Majapahit kingdom was founded in eastern Java in the late 13th century, and under Gajah Mada, its influence stretched over much of Indonesia; this period is often referred to as a “Golden Age” in Indonesian history.
Although Muslim traders first travelled through South East Asia early in the Islamic era, the earliest evidence of Islamized populations in Indonesia dates to the 13th century in northern Sumatra. Other Indonesian areas gradually adopted Islam, and it was the dominant religion in Java and Sumatra by the end of the 16th century. For the most part, Islam overlaid and mixed with existing cultural and religious influences, which shaped the predominant form of Islam in Indonesia, particularly in Java. The first Europeans arrived in Indonesia in 1512, when Portuguese traders, led by Francisco Serrao, sought to monopolize the sources of nutmeg, cloves, and cubeb pepper in Maluku. Dutch and British traders followed. In 1602 the Dutch established the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and became the dominant European power. Following bankruptcy, the VOC was formally dissolved in 1800, and the government of the Netherlands established the Dutch East Indies as a nationalized colony.

For most of the colonial period, Dutch control over these territories was tenuous; only in the early 20th century did Dutch dominance extend to what was to become Indonesia’s current boundaries. The Japanese invasion and subsequent occupation during World War II ended Dutch rule, and encouraged the previously suppressed Indonesian independence movement. Two days after the surrender of Japan in August 1945, Sukarno, an influential nationalist leader, declared independence and was appointed president. The Netherlands tries to re-establish their rule, and an armed and diplomatic struggle ended in December 1949, when in the face of international pressure, the Dutch formally recognized Indonesian independence.

Sukarno moved from democracy towards authoritarianism, and maintained his power base by balancing the opposing forces of the Military and the Communist Party of Indonesia. The army, who led a violent anti-communist purge, during which the Communist Party was blamed for the coup and effectively destroyed, countered an attempted coup on September 30, 1965. Between 500,000 and one million people were killed. The head of the military, General Suharto, out manoeuvred the politically weakened Sukarno, and was formally appointed president on March 1968. His new order administration was supported by the US government, and encouraged foreign direct investment in Indonesia, which was a major factor in the subsequent three decades of substantial economic growth. However, the authoritarian “New Order” was widely accused of corruption and suppression of political opposition.

In 1997 and 1998, Indonesia was the country hardest bit by the Asian Financial Crisis. This increased popular discontent with the New Order and led to popular protests.

Suharto resigned on May 21st 1988. In 1999, East Timor voted to secede from Indonesia, after a twenty-five year military occupation that was marked by international condemnation of often-brutal repression of the East Timorese. The Reformasi era following Suharto’s resignation, has led to a strengthening of democratic processes, including a regional autonomy program, and the first direct presidential election in 2004. Political and economic instability, social unrest, corruption, and terrorism have slowed progress. Although relations among different religious and ethnic groups are largely harmonious, acute sectarian discontent and violence remain problems in some areas. A political settlement to an armed separatist conflict in Aceh was achieved in 2005.

**Government and Politics**

Indonesia is a republic with a presidential system. As a unitary state, power is concentrated in the national government. Following the resignation of President Suharto in 1998, Indonesian political and governmental structures have undergone major reforms. Four amendments to the 1945 Constitution of Indonesia have revamped the executive, judicial and legislative branches. The president of Indonesia is the head of state, commander in chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, and the director of domestic governance, policy making, and foreign affairs. The president appoints a council of ministers, which are required to be elected members of the legislature. The 2004 presidential election was the first in which the people directly elected the president and vice president. The president may serve a maximum of two consecutive five-year terms.

The highest representative body at national level is the People’s Consultative Assembly (MPR). Its main functions are supporting and amending the constitution, inaugurating the president, and formalizing broad outlines of state policy. It has the power to impeach the president. The MPR comprises two houses; the People’s Representative Council (DPR), with 550 members, and the Regional Representatives Council (DPD), with 128 members. The DPR passes legislation and monitors the executive branch; party aligned members are elected for five-
year terms by proportional representation. Reforms since 1998 have markedly increased the DPR's role in national governance. The DPD is a new chamber for matters of regional management.

Most civil disputes appear before a State Court; appeals are heard before the High Court. The Supreme Court is the country's highest court, and hears final cassation appeal and conducts case reviews. Other courts include the Commercial Court, which handles bankruptcy and insolvency; a State Administrative Court to hear administrative law cases against the government; a Constitutional Court to hear disputes concerning legality of law, general elections, dissolution of political parties, and the scope of authority of state institutions; and a Religious Court to deal with specific religious cases.

Foreign relations and military

In contrast to Sukarno’s anti-imperialistic antipathy towards western powers and tensions with Malaysia, Indonesia’s foreign relations since the Suharto “New Order” have been based on economic and political cooperation with Western Nations. Indonesia maintains close relationships with its neighbours in Asia, and is a founding member of ASEA and the East Asia Summit. The nation restored relations with the People’s Republic of China in 1990 following a freeze in place since anti-communist purges early in the Suharto era. Indonesia has been a member of the United Nations since 1950, and was founder of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Indonesia is signatory to the ASEAN Free Trade Area agreement, the Cairns Group, and the WTO, and has historically been a member of OPEC, although it is withdrawing as of 2008 as it is no longer a net exporter of oil. Indonesia has received humanitarian and development aid since 1966, in particular from the United States, western Europe, Australia and Japan.

Indonesia’s 300,000 member armed forces (TNI) include the Army (TNI-AD), Navy (TNI-AL, which includes marines), and Air Force (TNI-AU). The army has about 233,000 active duty personnel. Defence spending in the national budget was 4% of GDP in 2006, and is controversially supplemented by revenue from military commercial interests and foundations. In the post-Suharto period since 1998, formal TNI representation in parliament has been removed; though curtailed, its political influence remains extensive. Separatist movements in the provinces of Aceh and Papua have led to armed conflict, and subsequent allegations of human rights abuses and brutality of all sides. Following a sporadic thirty-year guerrilla war between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Indonesian military, a ceasefire agreement was reached in 2005. In Papua, there has been a significant, albeit imperfect, implementation of regional autonomy laws, and a reported decline in the levels of violence and human rights abuses, since the presidency of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Administrative Divisions

Administratively, Indonesia consists of 33 provinces, five of which have special status. Each province has its own political legislature and governor. The provinces are subdivided into regencies (kabupaten) and cities (kota), which are further subdivided into sub districts (kecamatan), and again into village groupings (either desa or kelurahan). Following the implementation of regional autonomy measures in 2001, the regencies and cities have become the key administrative units, responsible for providing most government services. The village administration level is the most influential on a citizen’s daily life, and handles matters of a village or neighbourhood through an elected lurah or kepala desa (village chief).

The provinces of Aceh, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Papua, and West Papua have greater legislative privileges and a higher degree of autonomy from the central government than the other provinces. The Acehnese government, for example, has the right to create an independent legal system; in 2003, it instituted a form of Sharia (Islamic law). Yogyakarta was granted the status of Special Region in recognition of its pivotal role in supporting Indonesian Republicans during the Indonesian Revolution.

Geography

Indonesia consists of 17,508 islands, about 6,000 of which are inhabited. These are scattered over both sides of the equator. The five largest islands are Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan (the Indonesian part of Borneo), New Guinea (shared with Papua New Guinea), and Sulawesi. Indonesia shares land borders with Malaysia on the Islands of Borneo and Sebatik, Papua New Guinea on the island of New Guinea, and East Timor on the island of Timor. Indonesia also shares borders with Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines to the north and Australia to the south across narrow straits of water. The capital, Jakarta, is on Java and is the nation’s largest city, followed by Surabaya, Bandung, Medan, and Semarang.

At 1,919,440 square kilometres (741,050 sq mi), Indonesia is the world’s 16th largest country in terms of land area. Its average population density is 134 people per square kilometre (347 per sq mi). At 4,884 meters (16,024 ft), Puncak Jaya in Papua is Indonesia’s highest peak, and Lake Toba in Sumatra its largest lake, with an area of 1,145 square kilometres (442 sq mi). The country’s largest rivers are in Kalimantan, and include the Mahakam and Barito; such rivers are communication and transport links between the island’s river settlements.

Indonesia’s location on the edges of the Pacific, Eurasian, and Australian tectonic plates makes it the site of numerous volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Indonesia has at least 150 active volcanoes, including Krakatoa and Tambora, both famous for their devastating eruptions in the 19th century. The eruption of the Toba super volcano, approximately 70,000 years ago, was one of the largest eruptions ever, and a global catastrophe. Recent disasters due to seismic activity include the 2004 tsunami that killed an estimated 167,736 in northern Sumatra, and the Yogyakarta earthquake in 2006. However,
volcanic ash is a major contributor to the high agricultural fertility that has historically sustained the high population densities of Java and Bali.

Lying along the equator, Indonesia has a tropical climate, with two distinct monsoonal wet and dry seasons. Average annual rainfall in the lowlands varies from 1,780 – 3,175 millimetres (70 – 125 in), and up to 6,100 millimetres (240 in) in mountainous regions. Mountainous areas – particularly in the west coast of Sumatra, West Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Papua – receive the highest rainfall. Humidity is generally high, averaging about 80%. Temperatures vary little throughout the year; the average daily temperature range of Jakarta is 26 – 30 C (79 – 86 F).

Ecology

Indonesia’s size, tropical climate, and archipelagic geography, support the world’s second highest level of biodiversity (after Brazil), and its flora and fauna is a mixture of Asian and Australasian species. Once linked to the Asian mainland, the islands of the Sunda Shelf (Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Bali) have a wealth of Asian fauna. Large species such as the tiger, rhinoceros, orang-utan, elephant, and leopard, were once abundant as Far East as Bali, but numbers and distribution have dwindled drastically.

Forests cover approximately 60% of the country. In Sumatra and Kalimantan, these are predominantly of Asian species. However, the forests of the smaller, and more densely populated Java, have largely been removed for human habitation and agriculture. Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara, and Maluku – having been long separated from the continental land-masses – have developed their own unique flora and fauna. Papua was part of the Australian landmass, and is home to a unique fauna and flora closely related to that of Australia, including over 600 bird species.

Indonesia is second only to Australia in its degree of endemism, with 26% of its 1,531 species of bird and 39% of its 515 species of mammal being endemic.

Surrounded by tropical seas; Indonesia’s 80,000 kilometres (50,000 mi) of coastline are contribute to the country’s high level of biodiversity. Indonesia has a range of sea and coastal ecosystems, including beaches, sand dunes, estuaries, mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass beds, coastal mudflats, tidal flats, algal beds, and small island ecosystems.

The British naturalist, Alfred Wallace, described a dividing line between the distribution and peace of Indonesia’s Asian and Australasian species. Known as the Wallace Line, it runs roughly north south along the edge of the Sunda Shelf, between Kalimantan and Sulawesi, and along the deep Lombok Strait, between Lombok and Bali. West of the line the flora and fauna are more Asian; moving east from Lombok, they are increasingly Australian. In his 1869 book, The Malay Archipelago, Wallace described numerous species unique to the surrounding area, which is now termed Wallacea.

Indonesia’s high population ad rapid industrialization present serious environmental issues, which are often given a lower priority due to high poverty levels and weak, under resourced governance. Issues include large scale deforestation (much of it illegal) ad related wildfires causing heavy smog over parts of western Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore; over exploitation of marine resources; and environmental problems associated with rapid urbanization ad economic development, including air pollution, traffic congestion, garbage management, and reliable water and waste water services. Habitat destruction threatens the survival of indigenous and endemic species, including 140 species of mammals identified by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as threatened, and 15 identified as critically endangered, including the Sumatran Orang-utan.

Economy

Indonesia’s estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2007 is US $408 billion (US $1,038 bn PPP). In 2007, estimated nominal per capita GDP is US $1,812 and per capita GDP PPP was US $4,616 (International Dollars). The services sector is the economy’s largest and accounts for 45.3% of GDP (2005). This is followed by industry (40.7%) and agriculture (14.0%). However, agriculture employs more people than other sectors, accounting for 44.3% of the 95 million strong workforces. This is followed by the services sector (36.9%) and industry (18.8%). Major Industries include petroleum and natural gas, textiles, apparel, and mining. Major agricultural products include palm oil, rice, tea, coffee, spices, and rubber.

Indonesia’s main export market (2005) is Japan (22.3%), the United States (13.9%), China (9.1%), and Singapore (8.9%). The major suppliers of imports to Indonesia are Japan (16.0%), China (16.1%), and Singapore (12.8%). In 2005, Indonesia ran a trade surplus with export revenues of US $83.64 billion and import expenditure of US $62.02 billion. The country has extensive natural resources, including crude oil, natural gas, tin, copper, and gold. Indonesia’s major imports include machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels, and foodstuffs.
WFTGA Training Committee

Success through Education

- Setting the standard
  - Training
  - Continuous education

- What we can accomplish as a team
  - Believe, invest
  - One Team, One Goal

- Educating the Industry
  - Join, invite
  - advice, achieve

WFTGA Regional Training Centre
Nicosia, Cyprus

In House Training

Cruise Training

Consulting
The attractive flavours of Indonesia include its hospitable people, beautiful scenery, great cultural and natural diversity, the enthusiastic expertise of the local tourist guides.

We are looking forward to welcome you with our hosts to the WFTGA 13th Convention in Bali 2009, and wish to make your visit a memorable one, whether you are joining us only for the convention or decide to explore this beautiful land, hope you make the most of the pre-departure information.

a pre-departure checklist....

Passport

✴ Make sure it is valid at least 6 months after your trip,
✴ Keep a copy of the picture page of your passport in a separate place while travelling.
✴ Carry an extra passport photo in case you need to apply for a quick replacement.

Visa

✴ If you are planning a stop over, please verify entry requirement of that country.
✴ The Government of Indonesia has changed its visa policy for foreign tourists effective February 1st 2004.
✴ Entering Indonesia without any visa is possible now only for nationals of the following 11 countries and territories:
  ✴ Brunei, Darussalam, Chile, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Morocco, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
✴ Citizens of the above countries will be issued on arrival a stay permit for 30 days free of charge upon presentation of a passport that is valid at least for another 6 months. This stay permit cannot be extended or converted into another type of visa.
✴ Visa on Arrival (VoA). This facility is now available for nationals of the following countries:
  ✴ Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Libya, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, People’s Republic of China, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America.
  ✴ Citizens of these countries will be able to apply for a VoA valid for either 7 or 30 days upon arrival by air in Bali, Jakarta and a few other international airports or by ship at a limited number of Indonesian seaports. A 7-day visa costs US $10 and a 30-day visa costs US $25.
  ✴ The VoA cannot be extended or converted into any other kind of visa. Also be aware that Immigration officials calculate the 30-day period as follows: your arrival day is counted as your first day, and you must leave the country on the 30th day.
✴ How to obtain the “Visa on Arrival” (VoA):
  ✴ Travellers from the above countries must be in possession of a passport, which is valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival and the completed embarkation/disembarkation card they received from their airline. They must also be able to prove they have sufficient funds for their stay in Indonesia. (Make sure you have your registration and your payment confirmation).
  ✴ Travellers with Visa on Arrival status have to go first to one of the VoA counters to pay the appropriate fee and have their passports tamped with the VoA before proceeding to the Immigration Clearance Desk. An official bank is part of the VoA service counters. Payment is accepted: in all major currencies or by Visa or MasterCard.
✴ Citizens of countries neither on the VoA nor Visa Free lists are required to apply for a visa overseas before travelling to Indonesia. For details of various types of visa, please visit the page Visa of the Republic of Indonesia. (Please note ‘Letter of Support’ are available thru the Indonesian Tourist Guide Association, Kindly visit Convention website.

Health Immunizations
None is required for entry. You can verify with your local travellers health services (web site) or speak with your physician.

However, standard immunizations include: Typhoid, polio, tetanus, MMR, hepatitis A & B.

Time Difference
- Indonesia has three time zones, divided by region:
  - West Indonesia: Bali, Java, Lombok, and Sumatra, is +7 GMT.
  - Central Indonesia: Kalimantan, Nusatenggara, Sulawesi, is +8 GMT
  - East Indonesia: Maluku, Irian Jaya, is +9 GMT

Due to the fact that all the islands are either on or very close to the equator, the days are always about the same length. Sunrise is generally around 5:30 or 6:00 and sunset at 5:30 or 6:00, depending on how far from the equator you are. There is little or no twilight.

Climate & Weather:
- Although Indonesia has an equatorial climate, with days all the same length and the weather generally hot and wet, the mountains and volcanoes do make a difference.
- The upland areas provide some contrast to the constant heat of the lowlands. Those who travel up into the hills and mountains will find that it can be very chilly at night.
- There are no distinguishable “seasons” as westerners think of them, and the climate is much the same the year round, but Indonesians divide their year into “hot” and “wet” seasons. The hot season generally runs from May to October; the wet season runs from November to March or April.
- Because of the humidity, it is actually always wet. In the “wetter” season, an umbrella or poncho is helpful.

Electricity
- 230 V, 50 Hz in many places, but some are still on 127 V.

As a general rule, the sockets fit two round prongs, European style, with no grounding hole, and you may also find rectangular pronged plus outlets.

Money & Currency
- The unit of currency in Indonesia is the “rupiah”, issued in: 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000 and 10,000 notes.
- It is a good idea to bring newer dated currency that has no rips, marks, folds or holes.
- When you exchange money, as for small bills as merchants may not have change for large bills.
- US dollars and traveller’s checks are widely accepted in exchange for the rupiah.
- The most convenient place to exchange money is the airport, hotel (this may be most costly). The best exchange rate is at the banks in tourist towns, and you will need your passport to make a transaction.
- Credit cards are accepted in most large hotels, better restaurants, and department stores in the bigger cities. (Do not forget to advise your credit card / financial institution of your upcoming visit to and the countries/cities en route to Indonesia, where you expect to use your credit card).

Kindly note departure taxes apply to departures from Jakarta and Denpasar about 100,000 rupiahs or about US $ 10.00 (subject to change). As well as departure tax applies on domestic flights fluctuates between 12,000 and 20,000 should you decide to extend your visit to Indonesia and explore.

Tipping:
- At your discretion.
- A service charge of 10% (in addition to a 11% Government tax) is added to the bill in most leading hotels and restaurants. When it is not included a tip between 5-10% of the bill is appropriate.
- Airport porters and hotel bellboys are usually tipped $1-2 (equal to IDR 10,000 to 20,000).
- Taxi drivers receive about the same amount.

Restroom Facilities:
- It is very good idea (during visits to remote areas) to carry your own small supply of toilet paper. In cities where there are flush toilets you will usually find a wastebasket next to the toilet (most sewage systems can not handle paper. As most bathrooms outside the tourist areas will neither look nor smell as sanitary as those you are used to).

Safety:
- Observe the same precautions taken at home.
- Do not flaunt a bulging wallet.
- Use common sense.

Shopping:
- Markets offer a wonderful opportunity for shopping for native arts and crafts. Carvings, jewellery, metalwork, paintings, batiks, weavings, plaitings, ceramics, unusual musical instruments, and an assortment of other native handicrafts are available.
- Many villages specialize in their own form of crafts using wood, horn, feathers, shells, and whatever it is at hand (should you stay and explore).
Quality pottery is available at attractive prices, especially in Java.
What can probably be considered the world’s greatest collection of traditional textiles can also be found. Each island or region has its own unique patterns and designs used to express their art.
You will find the love Indonesians have toward their animals expressed in their work with batik, a process which is hand done using wax resist dye method.
A favourite of many shoppers in Indonesia is the excellent coffee. In addition to commercially packaged coffees, whole coffee beans or stone-ground coffee can be purchased in the markets.
Remember that what is only a few dollars to you may mean a great deal to the average seller or artisan. Never barter unless you intend to buy. For bartering is the norm and is expected of you.

Photographs:
- It is best to ask permission before taking portrait photos. If in doubt, ask your tourist guide.
- In some traditional or strongly Islamic areas taking pictures of people or women in particular may be taboo, and in other areas family portraits are highly valued. Kindly use sensitivity and always ask your tourist guide.
- Always ask permission before photographing the inside of churches, mosques, or temples. It is highly unlikely that you will be refused.
- All over Indonesia, do not take pictures of ports, military installations, and railroad stations.

Easy Living:
- Relax and enjoy the “easy going” rhythm.
- Do not expect everything to happen on time; remember that in some places time is not as important as it is back home, and there is often little concern for punctuality.

Cultural Awareness:
- Indonesians are very friendly and welcoming people.
- Like most Asians, Indonesians have strong feelings about being touched on the head. The head is the centre of the soul, and it is grievously offensive to be touched there.
- It is also bad manners to reach out with the left hand to give or receive something.
- It is very good manners for both men and women to shake hands when being introduced or greeting someone.
- It is rude to point the soles of your feet at a person as the feet are considered to be the lowliest part of the body. Along the same lines, it is not acceptable behavior to point your toes.
- When hailing a taxi, you should extend your right hand with your fingers pointing downwards and avoid crooking your index finger or pointing with your forefinger. If you must point, you should use your right thumb.
- You should wait until you are given permission to partake of a meal. Also remember to give permission when hosting, as this is the accepted norm.
- Sometimes it is best for divorced westerners to keep their marital status to themselves. To many Indonesians, the idea that anyone would not want to be married is ridiculous, and divorce is shameful. Widowhood seems less tragic.
- Indonesians of the opposite sex do not openly demonstrate affection for each other as do westerners. Indonesians of the same sex tend to touch, link arms, or hold hands with their peers.
- No close dancing or other expression of intimacy ever occurs between people of the opposite sex, especially lovers, and would be considered shameful behavior. Please keep in mind Indonesians are very conservative people.
- Aggressive gestures and posturing during conversations with people may be misread as being rude and insulting. Anger is not openly displayed. Usually, the more serious the topic, the lower the voice, as loud voices are particularly offensive and will draw unwanted attention to the speaker.

The next page includes a printable checklist for you to complete before you travel to Bali, for the 13th WFTGA convention.
Pre Departure Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obtain or renew passport / obtain visa as per country requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy traveller checks in low denominations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate and obtain trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult with physician for immunizations and prescription medicine recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break in primary footwear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clothing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pack business casual attire as per WFTGA convention requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not forget to pack your national / ethnic costume for the international ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not forget to pack for the President Gala Dinner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightweight hiking boots or comfortable athletic or walking shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfortable, light weight pants and long sleeve shirts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirts, short sleeve shirts and/or tank tops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweater or light jacket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain gear and/or poncho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun hat or cap with wide brim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming suits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 spare passport photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money belt or pouch for valuables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copies of all important documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day pack / soft duffel bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead bag / containers to protect film in x-ray machines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small packable umbrella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuff sacks or plastic bags for organizing inside luggage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zyploc type bags for packing shampoo or other liquids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plug adapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camera, memory cards, film, batteries, charger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunglasses, extra eyeglasses, contacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal First Aid Kit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescription medicines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head ache medecine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold relief tablets, cough drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandaids, gauze pads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotics (please discuss with your physician)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aloe gel or lotion in case of sunburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti diarrhea medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antibiotic cream/ointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion sickness tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earplugs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Carry On

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic and international air tickets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travellers checks, money and credit cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address and telephone number of emergency contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription medicines (please use zip lock or any other plastic bags)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra set of underclothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toiletries in small leak proof bottles (please review travel restrictions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camera gear, film and other valuables</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address book, writing paper, pen and pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet wipes / moist towelettes and Kleenex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorite snack foods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to Bali

Quick facts

The Island of Bali

Capital: Denpasar

Languages: Indonesian, Balinese

Governor: Made Mangku Pastika

Ethnic groups: Balinese (89%), Javanese (7%), Ballaga (1%), Madurese (1%)

Area: 5,632.86 sq km, 2,175sq miles

Population: 3,150,000

Religion: Hindu (93.18%), Muslim (4.79%), Christian (1.38%), Buddhist (0.64%)

Time zone: UTC + 8

Motto: Bali Dwipa Jaya, Glorious Bali Island

Bali is the westernmost of the Lesser Sunda Islands, lying between Java to the west and Lombok to the east. It’s capital Denpasar is located to the south of the island. Flying time to Jakarta is about 1.5 hours, to Singapore and Perth (Australia) is 2.5 and 3 hours, to Hong Kong about 4.5 hours, and to Sydney/Melbourne about 5.5 to 6 hours.

Bali’s population as per 2005 is 3,151,000, the island is home to the vast majority of Indonesia’s small Hindu minority, and 93.18% of Bali’s population adheres to Balinese Hinduism, while most of the remainder follow Islam.

Most people live in the coastal areas in the south, and the island’s largest town and administrative centre is fast growing (Denpasar) with a population of over 370,000. The villages between the town of Ubud and Denpasar, Kuta (including Jimbaran, Tuban, and Legian, Seminyak, Basangkasa, etc), Sunur, and Nusa Dua are spreading rapidly in all directions, and before long the whole area from Ubud in the North to Sanur in the East, Berawa/Canggu in the West, and Nusa Dua in the South will be urbanized.

The island of Bali has an area of only 5,632 sq km (2,175sq ml) and measures just 90 km (55 mi) along the north south axis and less than about 140 km (90 mi) from East to West. Hence, you may visit the island and explore it on single day tours.

Located only two kilometres east of Java, Bali’s climate, flora and fauna are quite similar to its much larger neighbour. The island is famous for its beautiful landscape. A chain of six volcanoes, between 1,350 meters and 3,014 meters high, stretches from west to east. There are lush tropical forests, pristine crater lakes, fast flowing rivers and deep ravines, picturesque rice terraces, and fertile vegetable and fruit gardens. The beaches in the South consist of white sand; beaches in other parts of the island are covered with gray or black volcanic sand.

Flora in Bali provides a wide variety of tropical plants quite. You’ll see huge banyan trees in villages and temple grounds, tamarind trees in the North, clove trees in the highlands, acacia trees, flame trees, and mangroves in the South. In Bali you will come to see a dozen species of coconut palms and even more varieties of bamboo.

The flowers are everywhere. You will enjoy and smell the fragrances of hibiscus, bougainvillea, jasmine, and water lilies. The magnolia, frangipani, and a vast variety of orchids are found in many front yards and gardens, along the roads and in temple grounds. Flowers are also used as decorations in temples, on status, as offerings for the Gods, and during prayers. Dancers wear blossoms in their crowns. You may even find a flower behind the ear of your waitress, so very natural in Bali.

Let us discuss fauna! Elephants and tigers do not exist any more in Bali, since early 19th century. Wildlife, however, includes various species of monkeys, civets, barking deer and mouse deer. Bali is heaven for bird lovers, with 300 plus of species, including: wild fowl, dollar birds, blue kingfishers, sea eagles, sandpipers, white herons and egrets, cuckoos, wood swallows, sparrows, and starlings. You can find schools of dolphins near Lovina, Candi Dasa, and Padangbai. Divers among you will be astonished to see many colourful coral fish and small reef fish, moral eels, and plankton eating whale sharks as well as crustaceans, sponges, and colourful coral along the east coast and around Menjagan island near Gilimanuk.
The climate: what to expect. You can expect a pleasant day temperature between 20 to 33 degrees Celsius or 68 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit year round. From December to March, the West monsoon can bring heavy showers and high humidity, however the days are sunny. Usually it rains during the night, and rain passes quickly. From June to September the humidity is low, and it can be quite cool in the evenings. During this time of the year, you will have hardly any rain in the coastal areas.

They say, even when it rains in most parts of Bali you can often enjoy sunny days on the “Bukit”, the hill south of Jimbaran Beach. On the other hand, in Ubud and the mountains you must expect cloudy skies and showers throughout the year (this is why the international weather reports for “Denpasar” or “Bali” mention showers and rain storms during all times of the year). In higher regions such as in Bedegul or Kintamani you will also need either a sweater or a jacket after the sunsets.

Bali the most popular island in respect to tourism, renowned for its highly developed arts, including dance, sculpture, painting, leather, metalworking and music what stands as major industry. Hence, let us discuss the economy in the southern part of Bali where most jobs are found in either, the hotel and tourism industry, textile and garment, in small scale and home industries producing handicrafts and souvenirs.

Textiles, garments, and handicrafts have become the backbone of Bali’s economy providing 300,000 jobs, and exports have been increasing by around 15% per year to over US $400 million. Textiles and garments contribute about 45%, and wood products including statues, furniture and other handicrafts 22% to the province’s total income from exports. Silver work is ranked third (4.65%) with 5,000 workers employed. Main buyers are the US and Europe with 38% each, and Japan with 9%.

Important agriculture products besides rice are tea, coffee, tobacco, cacao, copra, vanilla, soya beans, chillies, fruits, and vegetable (there are now even vineyards near the northeast coast). Bali’s fishing industry and seaweed farming provide other products which quite important for exports.

The new free trade regulations will create some problems for Bali’s exports, as it is against the law at present to employ children. Most children here work for their parents, and this is part of the process of acquiring professional skills and kind of an informal education; which has been very important in the Balinese society for centuries.

What to expect and see! Jessica’s dad (my friend) lived in Indonesia, (for her father worked for Goodyear and managed the plant in Indonesia for a very good decade). In her words and I quote: “As you step off the plane, you will sense the difference. In the villages you will notice the quietness and wisdom in old people’s faces, and the interest and respect in the young’s. Old men sit at the roadside caressing their fighting cocks. Beautifully dressed women walk proudly through rice fields and forests carrying offerings on their heads to the next temple. There is the smell of flowers, and in the distance you hear the sound of gamelan music”.

God’s and spirits have been an important part of Bali’s daily life for hundreds of years. Gunung Agung, Bali’s holy mountain, is internationally regarded as one of the eight “Chakra” points of the world. This may be more than a coincident. Watch out, the moment you feel the magic of the Island; you are addicted for the rest of your life.

Prehistoric Komodo o Bali Island

Komodo National Park is located in the centre of the Indonesian archipelago, between the island of Sumbawa and Flores. Established in 1980, initially the main purpose of the Park was to conserve the unique Komodo dragon (Varanus Komodoensis) and its habitat. However, over the years, the goals for the park have extended to protecting its entire biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine. In 1986, the park was declared a “World Heritage Site” and a “Man and Biosphere Reserve” by UNESCO, both indications of the park’s biological importance.

Komodo National Park calls home the following islands: Komodo, Rinca and Padar, as well as numerous smaller islands. Hence you may choose tours from 2 to 7 days.

Next to being home to komodo dragon, the park provides refuge for many other notable terrestrial species such as the orange footed scrub fowl, and endemic rat, and the timor deer. The park includes one of the richest marine environments including coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, seamounts, and semi enclosed bays. These habitats harbor more than 1000 species of fish, some 260 species of reef building coral, and 70 species of sponges. Dugong, sharks, manta rays, at least 14 species of whales, dolphins, and sea turtles call komodo national park home.

How to get there?

By Air:
Flights available from Denpasar Airport Daily, twice a day.

By Land:
The gateway cities of Labuan Bajo and Bima are connected to Denpasar, Bali by overland buses.

By Sea (ferry):
Travel time: approximately 36 hours.
The gateway cities of Labuan Bajo and Bima are connected to Denpasar, Bali by inter island ferry.