Topdeck

Delve Deep: Bali & the Gili Islands 2025-26

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader.

Bali. There's so much more to it than Bintang tank tops and spring rolls. Join us and get ready to do paradise properly. Rolling jungle landscapes, white sandy beaches, sea life in every shape and colour... Mother Nature sure as hell wasn't messing about when she created Bali and Gili T. Wanna broaden those horizons of yours? Simple. Meet us in Canggu and get ready to dive into the temples, culture, local life, crazy-good food and unforgettable experiences on offer.

About your trip notes

These trip notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

Frii Bali Echo Beach @ 17:00

Jl. Munduk Catu No.32, Canggu, 80361

Frii Bali Echo Beach @ 10:00

Canggu

Worth noting

FYI – when you're chilling on Gili T, you'll explore it on foot or by bike as the island has no motorised vehicles.

Included activities

- Sunset welcome dinner in Canggu
- Orientation walk of Ubud with Trip Leader
- Afternoon drink at Ubud rice fields café
- Visit to Kaura Day Club
- Orientation walk of Manggis with an offering workshop
- Speedboat to Gili Trawangan
- Orientation bike ride of Gili Trawangan with Trip Leader
- Sunrise beach breakfast picnic
- Speedboat to Bali

Trip options

- Mount Batur sunrise hike: from 1,280,000 IRD
- Traditional cooking class: from 829,000 IRD
- Evening pub crawl around Gili Trawangan: from 270,000 IRD
- Glass-bottom boat tour with snorkelling: from 405,000 IRD
- Eco stand-up paddleboarding: from 220,000 IRD

Currencies you'll use

- Indonesia - IDR

Your itinerary

Day 1 | Canggu (Bali, Indonesia)

Ready to embrace the new and exotic? Discover the unknown? Change your view and challenge your expectations? Well, this is the place to do it – welcome to Bali. Meet us in Canggu as we kick off the adventure with a group dinner at a local eatery. Then: pull up a deck chair and sip on a cocktail as the sky turns into a million different shades of pink and orange. This is gonna be good.

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

FRii Bali Echo Beach or similar

Activities

+ Sunset welcome dinner in Canggu

Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | Canggu – Ubud

Time for one last swim before we set our sights on the tropical rainforests of Ubud. There's more here than #Insta swings – trust us. Bit of a nature buff? You've come to the right place. First up: our fact-filled Trip Leader will give us a whip around the area, passing Ubud Palace (for allll the carvings), the traditional craft market and lushhh af rice paddies. After a pit stop at a local café where your drink's on us, the evening's all yours.

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

The Artini Dijiwa Ubud or similar

Activities

+ Orientation walk of Ubud with Trip Leader
+ Afternoon drink at Ubud rice fields café

Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 3 | Ubud

An early riser? If you can drag yourself out of bed, there's an optional trek up Mount Batur on the cards. You'll reach the top just in time to see the sunrise over the island. Cue: all the goosebumps. Return to the hotel in time for an included brekkie. Then, you'll have an entire day to explore more of Ubud. Take a closer look at those rice paddies. Find a local yoga class to try out. Or browse for souvenirs among Ubud's many boutiques before cooling off at an Insta-perfect café (try an iced Balinese coffee – you won't regret it). Later: keep the food theme rolling with an optional Indonesian cooking class.

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

The Artini Dijiwa Ubud or similar

Meals

+ Breakfast

Your options

+ Mount Batur sunrise hike: from 1,280,000 IRD
+ Traditional cooking class: from 829,000 IRD

Day 4 | Ubud – Manggis

You don't want to skim the surface. You want to delve deeper. So today, we'll be heading to the Kaura Day Club – a STUNNING eco retreat in the unspoilt village Manggis. Fuel up with a delish lunch before we dive into an orientation tour. Meet the locals and find out about their numerous development initiatives. Learn how to craft a canang sari: a Balinese Hindu temple offering. Afterwards, you'll have some free time at Kaura. Pull up a sunbed by the beaut infinity pool or treat yourself to a massage. And later? We'll head to our next hotel where there's a Balinese dinner on the cards. Delish!

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

Ramayana Candidasa or similar

Activities

+ Visit to Kaura Day Club
+ Orientation walk of Manggis with an offering workshop

Meals

+ Breakfast
+ Lunch
+ Dinner

Day 5 | Manggis – Gili Trawangan (Gili Islands)

Pack an overnight bag (we'll store your suitcase) and wave goodbye to Bali as we speedboat our way to the Gili Islands. We're heading north to the biggest of the Gili archipelago trio: Gili Trawangan. Insert: sun-bleached sandy beaches, shimmering turquoise water and sipping fresh coconuts under palm trees. Get your bearings with an orientation bike ride around the island. Then: the rest is up to you. Do the obvious and get horizontal on one of Gili T's gorgeous beaches. Or relax and unwind with a beachfront massage. Later, there's an optional pub crawl on the cards. Think fruity cocktails and heaps of awesome prizes. It's gonna be LEGENDARY.

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

Aston Sunset Beach Resort - Gili Trawangan or similar

Activities

+ Speedboat to Gili Trawangan
+ Orientation bike ride of Gili Trawangan with Trip Leader

Meals

+ Breakfast

Your options

+ Evening pub crawl around Gili Trawangan: from 270,000 IRD

Day 6 | Gili Trawangan

Head feeling a little sore after last night's antics? No drama - you've got the whole day to just do you. Need some suggestions? Snap on a snorkel and step into a glass bottom boat to see which awesome creatures live *in Sebastian's voice* *under the sea* . Or do your good deed for the day and help clear the ocean of rubbish on a stand-up paddleboard (the sea turtles salute you). Prefer to keep your feet on solid ground? Easy. Practice mindfulness at one of Gili T's many yoga studios. Go for a pedal and café-hop your way around the island. Or park up at a beach club that suits your vibe. Tonight, head to Trawangan night market for a feed. Here you can try everything from *nasi gorang* and *bakso meatball soup* to fresh lobster, squid, king prawns and snapper. Basically? You want it, they'll grill it.

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

Aston Sunset Beach Resort - Gili Trawangan or similar

Meals

+ Breakfast

Your options

+ Glass-bottom boat tour with snorkelling: from 405,000 IRD
+ Eco stand-up paddleboarding: from 220,000 IRD

Day 7 | Gili Trawangan – Canggu

Not an early bird? You'll wanna wake up for today's dreamy sunrise beach picnic (trust us). Once your belly's stuffed and your camera roll is full, we'll be making tracks back to Bali via speedboat. If it's sunny, claim a spot on the top deck, grab a cold one and soak up those rays. When you reach Canggu (your final stop *tries not to cry*), they'll be time to chill or take a last stroll along the sand. Later: catch up with the gang at our final group dinner, and watch the sun set in paradise one last time.

Your Inclusions

Accommodation

FRii Bali Echo Beach or similar

Activities

+ Sunrise beach breakfast picnic
+ Speedboat to Bali

Meals

+ Breakfast
+ Dinner

Day 8 | Canggu

A week's worth of incred Indonesian adventures? Completed. But now it's time to say goodbye. Staying on in Bali? Some people have all the luck. Swap those Insta handles – you'll need them for next year's reunion trip. Where to next? Thailand. Vietnam. Cambodia. All the above?

Your Inclusions

🍴 **Meals**

+ Breakfast

Travel advice

Finances

Changing money

Cash: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

Credit cards: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

Cash machines: ATMS are widely available.

Tipping

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

Topdeck app

Locked in your next adventure? It's time to download the Topdeck Travel app and get REAL excited! It's like that organised mate who keeps everything in check, leaving you to enjoy allll the vibes completely hassle-free. Think: a fun trip countdown clock and full access to Your Topdeck Experience (including Local Lowdown Maps featuring awesome local recs for specific cities). Plus, your day-by-day itinerary at your fingertips. Nice!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Will I have regular access to Wi-Fi?

Yup! Most of the places we stay offer free Wi-Fi (except in the middle of the Sahara Desert or while sailing on a felucca down the Nile... obvs).

When you're out and about, most restaurants and cafes will allow you to jump on their Wi-Fi when you order something. Or you can buy your Topdeck eSIM from here and save $$$ on roaming fees. Easy.

Insurance

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

Head to our FAQs for more info here.

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team.

Passports and visas

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home too – so they're sure to know some tried- and-tested ways to beat the blues
- Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (fact!)

Night out

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, remember to avoid walking alone – particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking – and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy –

you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

Drug use

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana – even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip immediately. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER: if you are found in possession of drugs, you risk getting in trouble with the local police.

Respecting fellow travellers

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow tripmates. The golden rules? Respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation, and treat others how you'd wish to be treated. Easy!

How to be a responsible traveller

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome adventure AND a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your room towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth

- Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets, and book tours and activities run by local guides
- Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

What to Pack

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

Clothing

- Shirts/T-shirts
- Sweaters/jumpers
- Jeans/trousers
- Shorts/skirts
- Warm jacket
- Rainproof jacket
- Underwear
- Socks
- Swimwear
- Smart casual evening wear
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Thongs/jandals/flip-flops

Other essentials

- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear
- Basic medical kit (plasters, aspirin etc)

That's everything!

We can't wait to smush your face. Well, we won't do that exactly, but the sentiment is there.