

EXPATLIVING SINGAPORE TRAVEL GUIDE – BHM VILLAS

Edition 2009 - 2009



COUNTRY FOCUS

PRIVATE VILLA RENTALS IN BALI

Bali is renowned the world over for its cultural offerings, gentle people, and some of the world's most famous luxury hotels. One of the island's best-kept secrets has been its private villas, which offer a more personal style of accommodation.

There are many villa-style rooms at the boutique hotels on the island, but a true villa is one with multiple bedrooms and independent access away from the complex. Private villas in Bali all feature extensive, dedicated teams of staff, and each villa comes with a private pool and everything else you would expect in an upscale home – living and dining rooms, stereo systems, wireless internet, and expansive tropical gardens, complemented by a cook, maid, chauffeur and security. Villas provide the ability to entertain in style, or stay at home surrounded by creature comforts in privacy.

Villa options range from two to nine bedrooms and can be found in every locale on the island from Jimbaran, Sanur, Seminyak, to Ubud. They are ideal for groups of friends, or families travelling together. Numerous extras can be organised to facilitate any stay. These services range from chauffeured cars and VIP arrival service at the airport, to such things as cots, highchairs and nannies. All villas are rented on an exclusive basis – you'll never wind up sharing a villa, the facilities are all just for you.

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For all their bespoke luxury, villas in Bali are considerably cheaper than hotels in terms of price per room for size and service. One of the other economic benefits of staying in villas is that most just charge the grocery costs for meals. The staff do the shopping, prepare the meals, and bill only for what has been purchased.

From a cultural perspective, with villas found everywhere from urban areas to Balinese villages surrounded by terraced rice fields, guests will see more of real day-to-day life and find themselves on a friendly basis with the villa's staff.

Dinner parties and private tours with your own car and driver are for the asking, allowing you to choose the pace of your holiday on this sublime island.

Remember, each villa is unique. They range from the sumptuous five-bedroom Istana Villa, on over an acre of sunset-facing cliff-top land, with over 25 dedicated staff (US\$1450 to US\$2900 per night), to the more modest such as the Villa Bahagia, with four bedrooms on half an acre in the district of Umalas (US\$360 to US\$535 per night). Look into each carefully to see which is the right one for you.

Some of the larger and more reputable villa agencies on the island include Elite Havens and BHM. Visit their websites at www.EliteHavens.com and www.BHMVillas.com.

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