

# Bali travel confidence

**Secure Money Exchange, Seamless Connectivity,  
and Easy Rentals – Right at Your Fingertips**

Visiting Bali isn't just about stunning beaches and vibrant culture—it's also about comfort, peace of mind, and effortless living. Everyday essentials like exchanging money, staying connected, and getting around are simple and convenient thanks to the island's well-developed services.

From reliable money changers to easy SIM card setups and familiar driving conditions, Bali creates an environment where you can fully enjoy the island while the practical details are already taken care of.



### **Secure & convenient money exchange in Bali**

Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) comes in large denominations, but reliable money changers make currency exchange simple for foreign visitors.

### **Central Kuta Money Exchange (Branches Island-wide)**

- Established in 1985 and known for offering fair, honest exchange rates with no shady tactics.
- Headquartered in Kuta but with branches all over Bali (Seminyak, Canggu, Nusa Dua, Ubud, and more) for easy access wherever you stay.
- Every transaction comes with an official receipt for extra peace of mind, ensuring transparency and accurate counts .

## Bali Money Changer (BMC)

- Modern, boutique-style money changer with friendly, English-speaking staff and a reputation for straightforward, no-fuss service.
- Offers very competitive rates – in fact, BMC (along with Central Kuta) is known to provide some of the best exchange rates in Bali, with a plentiful supply of rupiah on hand.
- Convenient locations in all major tourist hubs (Seminyak, Legian, Canggu, Ubud, etc.), making it easy to find a branch and swap cash during your shopping sprees or before a day at the beach. (Tip: BMC branches can get busy at peak times, so visiting early in the day can save you time.)



### **National Banks & ATMs**

- **Major Banks:** When in doubt, you can always exchange money at Indonesian banks like BCA or Bank Mandiri. Banks give the official government rates with no hidden fees – the safest option possible . (Do bring your passport for bank exchanges, and note that banks close on weekends and public holidays.)

- **ATMs:** Bali has plenty of ATMs that accept international cards (look for Visa/Master Card logos). Withdrawing cash in Indonesian rupiah is a quick alternative to manuaexchange. It's best to use ATMs attached to banks for security, and be mindful of small bank fees per withdrawal – taking out a larger amount in one go can minimize fees. (Also, let your home bank know you're in Bali to avoid any "card declined" hiccups while abroad.)

### **PT. Made Putroe Bakri (MPB)**

- A newer but trusted addition to Bali's list of authorized money changers, quickly building a reputation for reliability and transparency.
- Offers competitive exchange rates and friendly service. MPB has multiple outlets (e.g. in Kuta, Legian, Sanur), all well-maintained and designed to make transactions stress-free.

## **Seamless connectivity: sim cards & mobile data**

Staying connected in Bali is effortless, thanks to a modern telecommunications network. Whether you need maps to navigate Ubud's streets or want to upload your surf photos, you'll find Bali's mobile providers affordable and fast. Prepaid local SIM cards are highly recommended for Australian visitors (they offer much more data for your dollar than international roaming), and setup is very straightforward. Here are the top options for getting your phone online in Bali



### Telkomsel – Best Coverage

- Bali's largest provider, famed for its reliable signal even in remote areas. Telkomsel's network offers the widest 4G/5G coverage – great for staying connected in places like Nusa Penida or rural parts of Ubud where other networks might drop out.
- Generous tourist packages are available. For example, the Telkomsel Tourist SIM comes with 25 GB of data plus local call minutes for about IDR 150,000 (~AUD \$15). You can choose physical SIMs or eSIM plans, and either way you'll enjoy a fast, consistent connection island-wide.

### XL Axiata – Great Value & Speed

- A popular alternative with high-speed data in the main tourist regions. XL's network delivers fast 4G/5G in South Bali (Denpasar, Kuta, Seminyak, etc.) and is continually expanding – perfect for streaming music or video calls in the city. (Coverage in far north or central Bali is improving, though Telkomsel still leads in very remote spots.)
- XL offers excellent value plans – for instance, ~14 GB of data can cost only IDR 46,000 (~AUD \$4.60). They have an easy-to-use English-friendly app ("myXL") for checking your balance and topping up, making it simple to manage your plan on the go.

## Indosat Ooredoo – Budget-Friendly Option

- Indosat provides affordable prepaid SIM deals, which are ideal for travelers on shorter trips or those who don't need huge amounts of data. You get plenty of bang for your buck – and if you do need more data, Indosat lets you add Booster packages once you've used up your initial quota.
- While its 5G coverage in Bali is still growing (a consideration if you're a heavy data user), Indosat's 4G network is solid and covers most of the island. It's a reliable choice to stay connected on a budget, without sacrificing too much on speed or service quality.



## Smartfren – eSIM Specialist

- Smartfren is known for catering to the eSIM crowd – great if you have a newer phone and prefer not to swap physical SIM cards. Their tourist eSIM plans come with generous data allowances and even include extras like 15 minutes of local call time . Activation is done digitally, so you can set it up online and be ready to go right when you land.
- One big perk for travelers: Smartfren's packages often include a dedicated allocation for WhatsApp usage. If you primarily communicate via WhatsApp, this means your texting and calling on that app won't eat into your main data bundle. It's an excellent convenience for staying in touch with friends, drivers, and tour guides in Bali. (Note: Smartfren is mostly focused on data and digital services – it's an eSIM-only provider for tourists, with coverage that is good in cities and towns.)

Getting a SIM card in Bali is a quick and easy process. You can purchase a SIM at the airport on arrival or at any official provider store or phone kiosk in town – in many cases, you'll be set up and connected in under 10 minutes . By Indonesian law, SIM cards must be registered to your passport, but the staff will handle this paperwork for you when you buy the SIM (just be sure to bring your passport along) . The good news is that shop staff are very experienced with tourists and usually speak both English and Indonesian, guiding you through setup or top-ups with a smile. Topping up your credit or data is equally convenient: you can recharge online via apps (like MyTelkomsel or MyXL) or simply buy refill vouchers at any convenience store and follow the instructions. And if you're only on a brief holiday and prefer to keep your Australian number, all major Aussie providers (Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, etc.) offer roaming plans (around AUD \$5–10 per day for calls and data) – though for longer stays, a local SIM will save you significantly and give you far more data.

## **Freedom on the Road: Renting Scooters & Cars**

Renting a scooter to explore Bali gives you the freedom to discover hidden spots at your own pace – just remember to drive on the left side, as in Australia.

Exploring Bali on your own wheels is an adventure many Australians embrace. The great news is that driving in Bali can feel familiar – like Australia, Indonesians drive on the left-hand side of the road. Whether you choose a nimble scooter or a comfortable car, rental options are abundant, affordable, and straightforward. Here's how to make the most of Bali's rental scene, safely and confidently



## Scooter & Motorbike Rentals

- **Easy and Affordable:** Scooters (known locally as "motorbikes") are the go-to mode of transport for many visitors, letting you weave through traffic and reach places cars can't. Rental rates are very budget-friendly – typically around IDR 70,000 to 100,000 per day (roughly AUD \$7-10) for a standard 110-125cc scooter. Discounts often apply for multi-day or weekly rentals, making this a cost-effective way to get around.

- **Requirements:** To rent and ride a scooter legally in Bali, you must have an International Driving Permit (IDP) endorsed for motorcycles, along with your home country license. Police in Bali have become stricter about this rule, and being properly licensed will keep you out of trouble and ensure any travel insurance remains valid. Rental shops might not always ask, but it's important for your safety and compliance to carry an IDP.



- **Safety First:** Helmets are mandatory by law – every reputable rental shop will provide helmets, and you should always wear one (locals do, too). Take it slow until you get used to the road conditions. Bali's traffic can be busy and unpredictable in urban areas, so defensive driving is key. Stick to left-side driving, use your horn lightly to signal your presence (a common practice in Indonesia), and be cautious of dogs, chickens, or sudden stops in village areas. If you're new to scooters, consider practicing in a quieter area or parking lot; some rental agencies or tour guides even offer short lessons for beginners.
- **Convenience:** You can rent a scooter almost anywhere – from dedicated rental companies to your hotel reception arranging one. Many rentals include a rain poncho (useful in wet season) and a lock. Fuel is very cheap in Indonesia (a full tank of petrol might cost only a few dollars), and mini "petrol kiosks" selling bottles of fuel are found on many roadside corners. This means you can explore all day without worrying about running out of gas or breaking the bank.

## Car Rentals

- **Wide Range of Options:** If you prefer four wheels, Bali has plenty of car rental agencies. International companies like Avis operate here alongside trusted local operators (e.g. Bali Car Hire, Echo Bali Car Rental) . You can pick from compact city cars, SUVs for family trips, or even vans for larger groups. It's often cheapest to rent through local providers outside the airport – airport car rentals tend to add a premium of 20-25% , so if you can take a taxi to a nearby rental office, you'll likely get a better deal.

- **Cost & Insurance:** Renting a car in Bali can be very economical compared to Australia. On average, expect around AUD \$50-60 per day for a standard car (automatic transmission is common) . This typically includes basic insurance, but always check the terms – you might consider a slight upgrade for full coverage which usually only adds a few dollars a day. Fuel is inexpensive, and vehicles are generally fuel-efficient, so driving around all day won't hurt your wallet. Parking in tourist areas might cost a small fee (or a friendly tip to a local attendant), but is usually easy to find.

- **Driving Experience:** Driving a car in Bali is manageable for Australians, especially given the left-side driving. Roads between popular towns are mostly paved and well- signposted, though they can be narrow and traffic can slow down due to bikes and trucks. Patience is important – the pace is a bit slower and more relaxed. You'll notice local habits like using the horn gently (to signal intent to overtake or alert others at bends) and a lot of improvisational merging. Embrace it as part [of the experience. Using Google Maps or Waze is highly recommended for navigation; they are up-to-date and will help you avoid wrong turns. Also, be aware that some smaller streets can turn into one-ways or have traffic restrictions – apps usually note this.

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a silhouette of a person standing on a vehicle, possibly a jeep or a small truck, against a bright, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The horizon is a dark line, and the sky transitions from a pale yellow near the horizon to a soft blue at the top.

# ELYSIUM

- **Driver or Self-Drive?:** If you're not keen on personally driving, an extremely popular alternative is hiring a car with a private driver. It's surprisingly affordable – about AUD \$45–50 for a full day of chauffeured service, car and fuel included. Many Australian visitors love this option: you get a knowledgeable local driver who knows all the shortcuts and scenic spots, and you can relax completely. It's perfect if you're doing a temple tour or a long day trip (like Ubud or Uluwatu sights) – no stress about parking or navigating. Plus, your driver can double as a guide, often sharing insights about Balinese culture along the way. In short, whether you drive yourself or hire a driver, having a car at your disposal opens up the whole island for exploration.

## Why Australians Feel at Ease in Bali

Bali manages to deliver an exotic adventure and the comforts of home, which is why Australians feel so comfortable here. Everyday transactions are simple: you can swap Aussie dollars for rupiah at a legit money changer without worry, get online instantly with a cheap local SIM, and hit the road knowing the rules of driving aren't far off from back home. Importantly, English is widely spoken in Bali's tourist areas – it's the third most common language on the island after Indonesian and Balinese – so communication is usually straightforward. Balinese hospitality and warmth are legendary, and locals are often eager to help if you have a question or need assistance. All these factors mean that as an Australian in Bali, you can focus on enjoying the sun, surf, and spirituality of the island, feeling confident that the logistics are sorted. In Bali, you truly get the best of both worlds: a dreamy tropical getaway that still feels easy, safe, and user- friendly for overseas visitors. So pack your bags and bring your sense of adventure – Bali is ready to welcome you with open arms and make you feel right at home in paradise.

## Reputable Bali Bike & Scooter Rental Options for Aussies

- **Bikago (Multiple Locations)** – A premium scooter rental service with 11 branches across Bali (from Kuta and Seminyak to Ubud and Nusa Dua) that's hugely popular with Australian and international visitors. Bikes are newer models (from nimble 125cc scooters up to powerful 250cc options), and while not the absolute cheapest, their rates are fair for the quality and peace of mind you get. Every rental comes fully equipped – you'll receive helmets, a full tank of petrol, a phone holder for navigation, and even a first-aid kit, plus 24/7 roadside assistance if anything goes wrong. They also offer free delivery and pick-up at your hotel or villa and optional insurance coverage, making it an ultra-convenient and safe choice for tourists. With thousands of positive reviews, English-speaking staff, and proper licensing, Bikago has earned a reputation as one of Bali's most trusted rental providers for hassle-free bike hire.



- **GFS-Bike (Island-Wide Service)** – A newer but highly rated scooter rental company (est. 2022) that meets international standards for safety and service . GFS-Bike has over 100 brand-new scooters and covers all major regions (Canggu, Seminyak, Ubud, Sanur, Jimbaran/Nusa Dua, etc.) with a simple online booking system and 24/7 customer support. They have a strong reputation for reliability – thousands of travellers from 100+ countries have used GFS-Bike, praising its well-maintained bikes and exceptional service. Rentals include free helmets, unlimited mileage, and free delivery to your accommodation or even the airport . The staff are English-speaking (with multilingual support available) and can assist with insurance, IDPs, and local riding tips, so Aussie visitors can ride with confidence. GFS-Bike's transparent pricing and comprehensive support make it a top choice for tourists seeking a smooth, worry-free scooter hire.

- **Santi Star's Scooter Rental (Ubud & Tourists' Favourite)** – A family-run rental service known for its near-perfect reviews (rated about 4.9–5.0 from over 370 Google reviews) and personal touch . Based near Ubud but serving visitors island-wide, Santi Star's fleet includes dozens of new scooters (many travellers love their Yamaha Nmax bikes for extra power) and all rentals come with two helmets and a phone holder for navigation – ideal for Aussies exploring Bali's backroads. Their team is praised for being extremely helpful and English-speaking , making communication and planning easy. Santi's also offers free delivery of the scooter to your hotel and flexible return options – one guest noted they dropped the bike at their hotel reception for pickup, which "couldn't have been more convenient". Prices are reasonable (no "tourist tax"), and they even throw in little extras (some renters mentioned friendly gifts). With honest practices (they document the bike's condition on video to avoid disputes) and optional guided tours around Ubud, Santi Star's has earned the trust of many expats and visitors looking for a safe, hassle-free scooter hire experience.

- **Bali Bike Hire (Island-Wide Bicycle Rental & Tours)** – A trusted bicycle rental company that was one of the first in Bali to cater to international cyclists. They offer a wide range of pedal bikes: from standard city cruisers and ladies' bikes to mountain bikes and high-end road bikes – all well maintained for a smooth ride. Bali Bike Hire is popular among Aussie travellers who want to cycle the island's scenic routes; they provide helmets, locks, and even guided tour options for those keen on exploring with an expert. In fact, they run group rides led by an English-speaking Balinese ex-champion cyclist, and can arrange everything from short village rides to multi-day cycling tours around Bali. Casual riders can rent bikes for beachside pathways or rice field trails (great in areas like Sanur or Ubud), while serious cyclists can join their sunrise road-bike tours or tackle a 4-5 day "Bike the Island" adventure. With English-speaking staff, comprehensive insurance options, and delivery available, Bali Bike Hire ensures you have a quality bike and full support to enjoy Bali at your own pace.



- **BaikBike Rental (Sanur)** – A highly rated bicycle hire shop in Sanur that's perfect for cruising the coastal boardwalks. Located on Jalan Cemara near the beach, BaikBike carries a large selection of well-maintained bikes (including tandems and kids' bikes) and has earned a 4.8 rating from customers. They include a helmet and lock with every bike, and are open long hours (10am–10pm daily) for convenient pick-up and drop-off. This shop is popular with international visitors – many overseas tourists have left glowing reviews about the friendly, English-speaking service and the quality of the bicycles. Prices are budget-friendly (around IDR 50k per day for standard bikes), and you can cycle straight from the shop to Sanur's scenic bike paths. If you're staying in Sanur or the south, BaikBike is a trusted option for a leisurely pedal around town, offering peace of mind with its well-reviewed service and properly licensed operation.

# ELYSIUM

Each of these rental providers has a strong reputation and caters specifically to tourists, so you can explore Bali on two wheels with confidence. Remember to always wear the provided helmets, carry the proper license (an International Driving Permit for scooters), and enjoy the freedom of Bali's roads knowing you've got a reliable bike and support when needed. Safe riding!



ELYSIUM



**Brock Fayle**

Founder & Director at Elysium

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brock Fayle'.

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