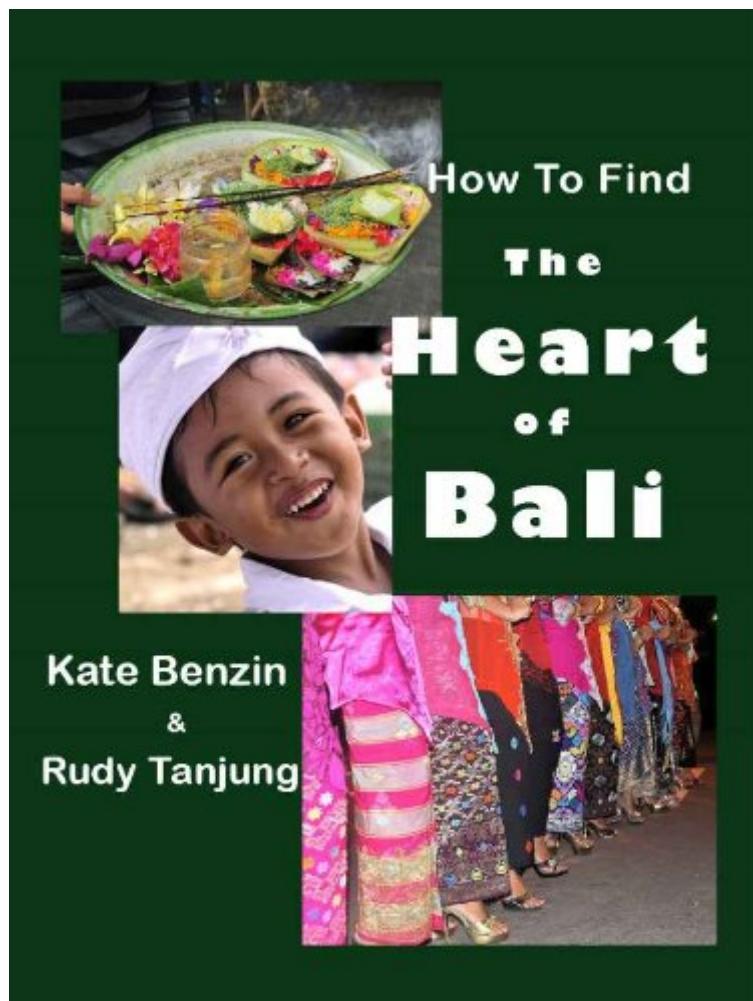


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# How To Find The Heart Of Bali



## Synopsis

Bali has become a top vacation spot for travelers from all over the world who often become enchanted with the island and return over and over. Mick Jagger brought Bali to the world's attention when he got married there to Jerry Hall. The marriage did not last, but Bali is still considered by many to be the Home of the Gods. Later, everyone could see the beauty of Bali in Julia Roberts' movie Eat Pray Love. In How To Find The Heart Of Bali, you will discover for yourself the passion that Bali has inspired in Western visitors for more than a hundred years. Kate Benzin is a highly experienced tour director who has lived in Indonesia for more than 30 years and knows the island as few other outsiders do. As Kate makes clear in her Introduction, this is not a typical guidebook and does not recommend specific hotels or restaurants. Rather, it is an introduction to social and cultural Bali so that the first time traveler to Bali can experience a dream holiday in this iconic 'tropical island paradise' destination full of culture and wonder. Note for Kindle users: This book has been specially formatted for the Kindle to provide you with the best possible reading experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I recently read another book by Kate Benzin ~A Transformative Travel: One Person's Journey to Fulfill a Dream~ and loved it. So I decided to buy How to Find the Heart of Bali. First, Kate is very clear that this is not a guide book. It's filled with extensive information that a friend would give another about what it's like to visit Bali. I think the title is very apt ~ the book is about finding the heart of Bali. There's information about when to travel to Bali, how long to stay, safety, food, immunizations, shopping, haggling, spas, cell phones, scams to avoid, drugs, what to wear, what not to miss. And there's more! There's also information about the friendly Balinese people and their culture. I found the section on festivals and rituals really fascinating. Indonesia is Muslim but the people of Bali follow Hinduism. Kate also provides snapshot information for many of the towns in Bali to not miss. In the back there's a sample itinerary, a list of consulates, a list of 24 hour hospitals and a list of clinics where English is spoken. Last but definitely not least ~ the photographs are numerous and beautiful. This is a great travel book that really does give you a feel for the heart of Bali.

This is a short book, I'm a slow reader and I reached the end in an hour. Whilst I did appreciate the section highlighting different geographical areas worth visiting, and a general overview through a cultural lens, I thought the narrative as a whole was aimed at those who have never really travelled previously, and further, was a little too American-centric in its focus. I didn't expect this to be a travel guide at all, but what I did expect for my money was more insightful depth in the book generally, more personal anecdotes from someone who states they've spent many years on the Indonesian archipelago. It does contain broad, basic advice but should - in its advertising - state that it is for those who have not travelled before. Further, I find the book a little patronizing with its 'bring another suitcase for all the things you'll buy, and bring pocket loads of batteries and memory cards for your camera, and you'll take many amazing photographs here'. Don't waste your money on this book if you've travelled abroad previously.

This travel book is concise and very practical, especially in helping a first time visitor to Bali (who may have limited time there) to plan a great holiday before leaving to this fascinating tropical island. It doesn't try to be a detailed guidebook, and in fact Ms. Benzin advises visitors to definitely bring a traditional guide book as well. Rather, she reveals "not to miss" cultural and sightseeing highlights, gives insight into the Balinese way of life, and offers practical advice on such useful areas as bargaining and shopping - and the dos and don'ts of what to wear. Overall, she is someone who knows and loves Bali after 30 years of living in Indonesia, and wants to share her passion with other

visitors to help them to have the most positive experience possible.

I bought this book thinking it would give me a nice insight into Bali. I have been there before, and I can tell you I know more info then the author has presented here. It is really just a brochure. Sorry to give such a bad review, but it was a waste of money. Just go and enjoy this beautiful island.

Reading this book is easy because it's like having a conversation with a local about the place she knows and loves. It gives you enough practical information to make you more eager than ever to plan a trip to Bali. Thanks to this book I now have specific things I will do on this island and I know how to do them. Especially intriguing for shoppers are the step by step bargaining hints.

Although this book has some valuable points, I believe it could be improved. The language is too plain and the photos are too small for Kindle. I had to read the book on the computer because it's not really suited for Kindle (being black and white). Most of the author's observations are valid throughout SE Asia, not just in Bali. This book is a nice and short overall presentation of Bali, if you are thinking about visiting, but you'll need another book (a guide) when you actually decide to go.

The Heart of Bali is written by someone who has years of experience in travel and guiding tours. This is obvious throughout the book. The level of detail is excellent and really important when it comes to preparing a trip to Bali. I enjoyed the personal suggestions throughout the book that will help me really enjoy all that Bali has to offer. I also appreciated the author's insights about the wonderful people of Bali and their generous spirit. From shopping to sightseeing to festival joining, this book is a great resource on how to get the most out of a trip to Bali! I highly recommend!

The book is lovely, very "smooth". When I started reading I didn't notice how I turned pages. It catches you and makes you wish to know what is next. I must say it was quite easy for me to read it although there were maybe more than a dozen of words that I didn't know (sorry, I'm Russian). But generally it's a good reading. No, not reading. It's like a talk with a real friend, it's involving into the narration. And pictures... The book is very integral. And very friendly, like you, Kate )) I can't express all what I feel, but the general impression is warm and sweet. One day we'll go there...

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