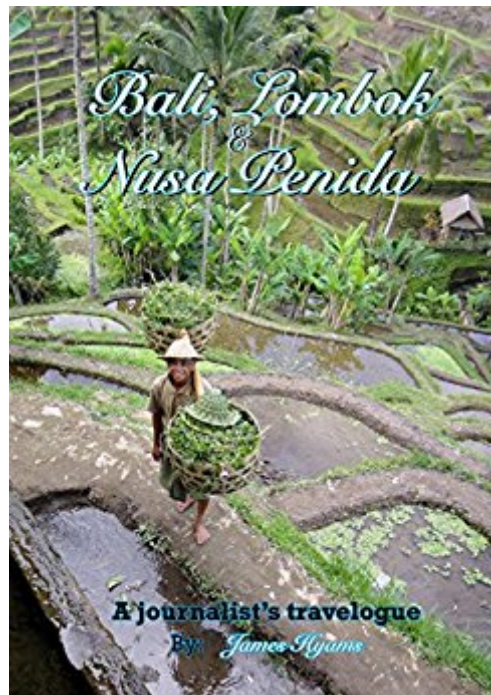




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Bali, Nusa Penida, & Lombok: A Journalist's Travelogue



Synopsis

Bali, Lombok and Nusa Pineda were sold to us as the penultimate paradise. Our colleagues shared stories of beautiful beaches, great shopping, wonderful hotels, a fun environment, and a place to find peace. We researched our journey for several weeks using the Lonely Planet guidebook, online blogs, photos and video on Google maps and YouTube. This research was therapeutic as it took my mind away from a stressful and unhappy work environment. Like most people choosing a holiday destination, we focused on finding the paradise that was missing from our stressful lives. What we found during our travel in and around Bali was nothing short of amazing. There was systematic chaos in the Kuta area, wonderful locals trying to make a few dollars from tourism, corrupt police, heart wrenching stories, a beautiful landscape, some world class hotels, a battle between tourism development and traditional cultural practices, magnificent wealth, poor business acumen on the street, plenty of drugs, a slightly hidden sex industry, and abject poverty. It became apparent that the ethnocentrism and purchasing power of many tourists (us included) strongly destroyed the traditional Balinese life and culture. In this travelogue we document our journey, talk with locals and hear their stories, review cities, beaches, hotels, restaurants, ships, planes, and travel systems along the way. We will share some of our story, photos and experiences from the trip. If you intend to travel to Bali or Lombok then you should read this book to get a realistic understanding of what to expect.

Foreword: Luckylisaonline.com: Wow! What a great travelogue! Thank you for going to the effort of articulating so well all that you experienced. It was interesting reading the trip from the very start as it set a completely different tone to your level of, what I considered, extremely tolerant and reasonable observations. In fact, in many moments when you were challenged I would have become extremely agitated, e.g. the mosque singing. But you balanced this out thoughtfully and reasonably with your appreciation of the beauty in the madness. I also liked your take on the wild dogs. That would have saddened or even scared me, but your wonderment at them was beautiful in its own right and gave me a completely fresh perspective. So, I would like to say, keep being who you are and talking as you do because I found you absolutely a real breath of fresh air. No pretense, no fakery, no nonsense and very accessible on screen. This is a rare skill. It's clear you had a budget you had to work with so you presented an opinion for anyone wishing to travel with a similar constraint. Well done.

I'm about to hit Bali for the first time next month and am going in for the rest, relaxation recover and rebuild for 2014 option. I am thankful I have a realistic view of what to expect when I land at the airport, as this will assuage any unexpected frustration I would have most certainly felt. This is a great body of work and I, for one, am extremely impressed and grateful for the time and effort you put into this. Don't censor your next project whatever

you do. Cheers! Lisa [Ian] Razza I've been to Bali three times and still found your [book] a good laugh, as well as being nicely presented. Your wide-eyed and utterly unworldly description of everything you observed is a perfect primer for Aussies setting out for their first trip overseas and I liked your deadpan delivery with such classic lines as: "It also felt good for me to be able to give him a little extra for being honest and fair." "Warung Jawa I and Warung Jawa II (no points for originality here LOL)." You sound genuinely interested in the local people and the horrible inequalities of the world that are so brazenly on display in Bali. I also do feel you're pretty much spot on about the two types of people who come to Bali, no matter what the faux do-gooding LP writers say.

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