



LIVING · MOVING TO BALI

Moving to Bali: a step-by-step plan, from the first visa to buying a home

September 25, 2026 · 9 min read · Areas

People who move to Bali and stay happy tend to do it in the same order: the right visa, a trial stay, a short rental, paperwork, and only then a purchase. Each skipped step costs money.

Read online: <https://riserealbali.com/guides/moving-to-bali/>

IN SHORT

Moving to Bali works best in a set order: choose a visa, scout for 30 to 60 days on a visa on arrival (Rp 500,000, extendable once), rent short term, set up a phone and money, get a KITAS, then buy. Dogs and cats can't come with you: Bali has banned bringing them in since 2008.

60 days

the most a visa on arrival gives you

Rp 150,000

Bali's tourist levy, paid once per trip

1–2 months

the first lease we'd sign

Since 2008

dogs and cats barred from entering Bali

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Step 1. Pick the visa before you book the flight

Start with how long you plan to stay. A visa on arrival covers 30 days and one 30-day extension, at Rp 500,000 each time. That's enough to scout the island. It isn't enough to live here, and a long-stay permit is a separate application with its own paperwork.

For a year or more you'll want a KITAS, and the type depends on where your money comes from. Remote workers with clients abroad take the E33G. People who invest through their own Indonesian company take the E28A. Spouses and children of a permit holder go on a family KITAS, and retirees have their own route. Our long-stay visa guide compares them, and the Golden Visa guide covers the five- and ten-year investor track.

Which permit fits which move

YOUR PLAN	PERMIT	HOW LONG
Scouting trip	Visa on arrival or e-VOA	30 days + one 30-day extension
Several long trips a year	Multiple-entry visitor visa (D1)	Up to 60 days per entry
A year of remote work	KITAS E33G	1 year
Running your own company here	KITAS E28A	1–2 years
Joining a spouse or parent	Family KITAS	Tied to the sponsor's permit

Source: Directorate General of Immigration, visa index pages on evisa.imigrasi.go.id, September 2026

Step 2. Scout for a month before you commit

Your first trip shouldn't be the move itself. Use it to learn what brochures leave out: traffic, noise, humidity and how long it really takes to get anywhere. On a map, Canggu to Ubud is 25 km. At 5 p.m. on a weekday it's an hour or more on a scooter.

Live in two or three areas for a week each. The south coast feels nothing like the hills around Ubud, and the west coast is different again. People who pick an area from videos often move a second time within the year. Keep receipts for one ordinary week. That number beats any budget you'll find online, our own cost of living guide included.

- ✓ Drive your daily route at rush hour on a weekday
- ✓ Test the internet inside the house, not at a café on the main road
- ✓ Visit the school, clinic and gym you'd actually use
- ✓ Spend at least a few days in the wet season, December to March

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Step 3. Rent for a month or two first

Sign a short lease first. A one-year contract before you know the island usually ends with a second move inside Bali, and landlords here expect the whole term paid up front, so breaking it early costs real money.

Once you're sure, switch to a yearly lease. In our September 2026 sample of 480 listings, yearly leases were about a fifth cheaper than paying month to month, 22% at the median. The rent or buy guide has asking rents by area and a five-year comparison with owning.

Do	Avoid
● Write the contract down, with an inventory ● Photograph every room on the day you move in ● Check the water pressure, the generator and the internet speed before you pay anything ● Ask the landlord to report your stay to immigration	● A yearly contract on day one ● Paying the landlord in cash before there's a signed contract in your hands ● Choosing from photos without a visit ● A house on a main road to save on rent

Source: Rise Real Bali long-term rental sample, 480 listings, September 7, 2026

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Step 4. Phone, money and insurance

Buy a local SIM on day one. The seller registers it against your passport, and a phone bought abroad works on it for 90 days. If you're staying longer, register the phone's IMEI at the customs desk in the arrivals hall at Ngurah Rai when you land, up to two devices per passenger. Register later and you lose the duty-free allowance.

Most daily spending runs through QR payments and e-wallets. A standard Indonesian bank account comes later: banks ask for a stay permit or a Golden Visa first, and a tourist visa gets you only restricted options. Our money transfer guide covers what to do until then. Buy health insurance that explicitly covers riding a scooter. Many travel policies exclude it.

Source: Indonesian customs pages for Soekarno-Hatta and Ngurah Rai airports; Noble Asia, July 2026; Bank Mandiri account requirements, 2026

Step 5. Pets: the rule that stops most family moves

You can't bring a dog or cat to Bali. Governor Regulation 88/2008 bans bringing dogs, cats and monkeys onto the island or taking them off it, and the provincial agriculture office still publishes it as current. The reason is rabies. Bali logged 45,365 bites from animals that carry it in January to August 2026, and seven people died.

Routing the pet through Jakarta, then on by plane or ferry, doesn't work either. Moving an animal into Bali from another province needs a permit from the Bali side, and it isn't granted. Under the Quarantine Law 21/2019, illegal import carries up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to Rp 10 billion. An animal seized at the border goes to the quarantine service, not back to you.

Penalties under Quarantine Law 21/2019

OFFENSE	PRISON	FINE
Bringing an animal into Indonesia illegally	Up to 10 years	Up to Rp 10 bn
Taking an animal out illegally	Up to 3 years	Up to Rp 3 bn
Moving an animal between regions illegally	Up to 2 years	Up to Rp 2 bn

Families who move anyway usually pick one of three routes. They leave the pet with relatives and visit, they settle in another province such as Java or Lombok, or they adopt a vaccinated animal from a Bali shelter.

Source: Pergub Bali 88/2008; Law 21/2019, Articles 86–88; Bali Health Office via ANTARA, August 2026

Step 6. Driving, schools and doctors

A scooter solves most transport, but ride it legally. A visitor can ride on an International Driving Permit with a motorcycle endorsement, carried with the home license. Once you live here on a KITAS, police expect an Indonesian SIM C. Riding unlicensed carries a fine of up to Rp 1 million, and it can void your insurance after a crash, which costs far more.

For families, the school run decides the area more than the view does. A 6 km drive can take 40 minutes at school time. International school fees run from about Rp 117 million a year for early years to Rp 319 million for the final two grades, before one-off fees, and our cost of living guide lists them school by school.

Source: Law 22/2009 on road traffic, Article 281; school fee sheets for 2025–2027

Step 7. Buy after your third month, not your first week

The most expensive mistake we see is buying on the first trip. The island makes a strong impression, and a wrong call on area or property type is expensive to undo. Live through at least one wet season before you choose where to own. February in Canggu and February in Uluwatu are different experiences.

When you're ready, check three things before any deposit: the form of ownership, the years left on it, and whether the zoning allows what you plan to do. Our buying guide walks through the deal, and what foreigners can own explains leasehold and Hak Pakai.

- **MONTHS 1-2**
Scout and rent short
Visa on arrival, two or three areas, a short lease.
- **MONTH 3**
Long-stay permit
KITAS filed, bank account opened once it's issued.
- **MONTHS 3-6**
Shortlist
One area, a budget and a form of ownership.
- **AFTER A WET SEASON**
Buy
Due diligence first, deposit second.

How we can help

We're a Bali agency that checks titles and permits before any deposit and runs the numbers on the property you're weighing. A buyer abroad can close remotely through video viewings and a notarized power of attorney. Tell us when you plan to arrive and which areas you're considering, and we'll send a shortlist from the catalog or an area comparison.

What this means for buyers

- 01 Choose the visa first: a visa on arrival gives 60 days at most, and a KITAS is a separate application.
- 02 Scout for a month and rent short before signing a yearly lease.
- 03 Standard bank accounts open against a KITAS, KITAP or Golden Visa, not a tourist visa.

04 Dogs and cats can't enter Bali, including via Jakarta.

05 Buy after a wet season on the island, with the title, term and zoning checked.

FAQ

What visa do I need to move to Bali?

Scout on a visa on arrival, good for 30 days and one extension, Rp 500,000 each time. To live here you need a KITAS: the E33G for remote workers, the E28A for company investors, a family KITAS or the retirement route.

Can I move to Bali with my dog or cat?

No. Governor Regulation 88/2008 bans bringing dogs, cats and monkeys into Bali, and moving them in from another Indonesian province isn't permitted either. Illegal import carries up to ten years in prison under the Quarantine Law 21/2019.

Should I rent or buy when I first move to Bali?

Rent first, for one or two months, then switch to a yearly lease once you know the area. Annual contracts ran 22% cheaper than monthly ones in our September 2026 sample. Buy after you've lived through a wet season.

Can I open a bank account in Bali on a tourist visa?

Usually not a standard one. Regular accounts need a stay permit (KITAS or KITAP) or a Golden Visa, and tourist-visa options are restricted. Until then, people live on cards, QR payments and transfers from their home bank.

Do I need to register my phone in Bali?

A phone bought abroad works on a local tourist SIM for 90 days. If you're staying longer, register its IMEI at the customs desk when you arrive, up to two devices per passenger. Registering later loses the duty-free allowance.

How we know this

The order of steps comes from our team's practice and from clients who moved to Bali in 2023–2026. Visa rules follow the immigration directorate's visa index pages. The pet ban follows the text of Pergub Bali 88/2008 and the Quarantine Law 21/2019, and the rabies figures come from the Bali Health Office as reported by ANTARA. The rent discount comes from our own sample of 480

listings. Rules change, so confirm visa and bank requirements on the date you apply. This isn't legal or immigration advice.

- Directorate General of Immigration, evisa.imigrasi.go.id, visa index pages, September 2026
- Pergub Bali 88/2008 on the ban on dogs, cats and monkeys, December 1, 2008; Bali agriculture office page updated September 14, 2026
- Law 21/2019 on animal, fish and plant quarantine, Articles 86–88
- Bali Provincial Health Office via ANTARA News Bali, August 13, 2026
- Indonesian customs, IMEI registration pages for Ngurah Rai airport, 2026; Noble Asia, July 10, 2026
- Rise Real Bali long-term rental sample, 480 listings, September 7, 2026

By Dmitrii Rogov, Rise Real Bali.

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