

FROMMER'S – ATAS OMBAK



How to Book Beach Houses & Villas Around the World

Published May 2012

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If you have ever planned a beach vacation, you've weighed the potentially hefty price of a hotel and the costs on top of it (dining, resort fees, activities, cabana rentals). If you haven't budgeted for all the extra fees, the charges can add up to an eye-popping total that can derail your quest for a relaxing vacation.

Vacation rentals can be an alternative that's lighter on the wallet -- and one that comes with more space, more privacy, and often the same amenities as a full-service resort like a concierge, a cleaning staff, and chefs.

From a five-bedroom villa near a white-sand beach in Jamaica to a thatched-roof bungalow in Bali, these fabulous beach rentals for families and large groups are all more than affordable than staying in a nearby hotel.

How to Rent a Villa in Bali

Rental Tips: Rental scams in Bali are not uncommon, according to a recent flurry of posts on TripAdvisor's community board. Even sites and agencies that appear legitimate can prove to be spurious (and expensive) affairs. Check to see if your agency is accredited by reputable trade organizations, like ASTA or PATA; they should be working with rentals whose owners have both a license to rent and a tax registration number. Other signs of a legitimate business: it accepts

credit cards. Make sure your quote includes the mandatory 15% local tax (which comprises a government tax and service charge).

Our Pick: Kuta, Bali

Property: www.marketingvillas.com

Minimum Night Stay: Five nights

How Much: From \$260 per person per night during high season or \$189 during low season (or \$12,975/\$9,475 total based on 10 people for five nights)

Why We Love It: Atas Ombak, Indonesian for "villa on top of the waves" is exactly what its name suggests. Views of the crystalline ocean are best from the living room, housed in a thatched roof pavilion behind the pool. The full staff (from the villa manager to the room attendants to the cooks) stand at the ready for sprucing up the master suite (furnished with a deep soaking tub and private plunge pool) as well as restocking the entertainment pavilion with DVDs and CDs.

Compare To: \$800 for a deluxe suite at a luxury hotel in Legian during high season -- a nightly savings of \$140 per person.

www.AtasOmbak.com