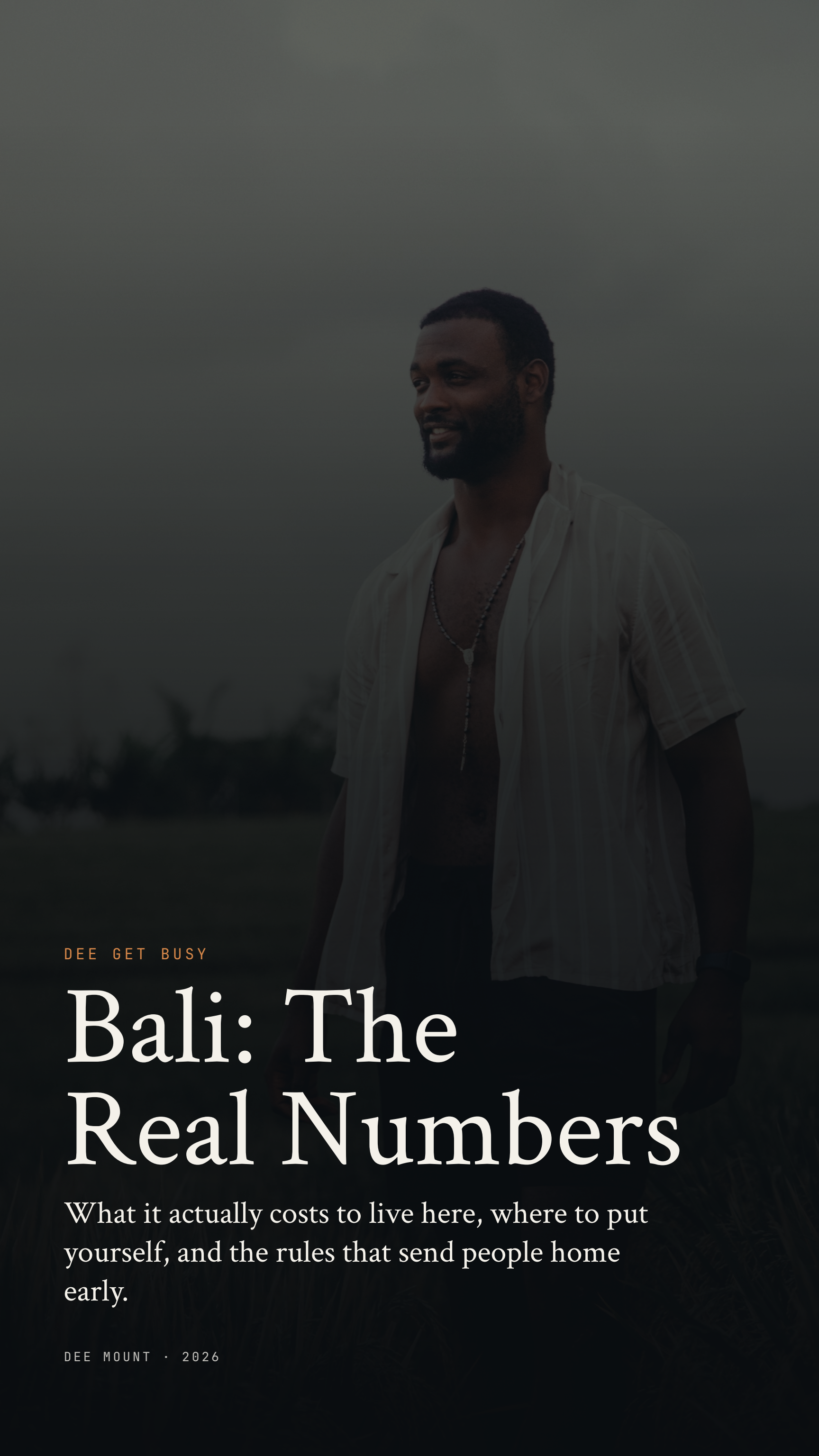


A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, stands in a field. He is looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and a body of water under a hazy sky. The entire image is overlaid with a dark, semi-transparent filter.

DEE GET BUSY

Bali: The Real Numbers

What it actually costs to live here, where to put yourself, and the rules that send people home early.

DEE MOUNT • 2026

You are not asking if Bali is beautiful

You already know that part. You saw the footage. What you actually want to know is whether the math works, where you would put yourself, and what the thing is that nobody warns you about.

I shot a feature film here as a DP and then kept coming back. This is the short version of what I learned with my own money, plus the current numbers checked against the sources that publish them.

Two honest notes before the numbers. Prices move, so treat every figure as the range to plan against and not a quote. And every rule here comes from the Indonesian immigration site, not from a blog.



IN THE BOOK / BALI, SPOT 12

Lahangan Sweet

Sunrise on the ridge, and the platform that puts Agung behind you. The book gives you the walk in, the hour, and the frame.

What a month costs

Per person, per month, in US dollars. These are the published 2026 ranges once rent, food, getting around and health cover are all counted.

	BUDGET	MID
RENT	250 to 500	500 to 1,000
FOOD	150 to 250	300 to 500
TRANSPORT	60 to 100	80 to 150
HEALTH COVER	60 to 80	80 to 120
LIFE	100 to 150	200 to 300
TOTAL	800 to 1,200	1,200 to 1,800

READ IT HONESTLY

Most remote workers land in the mid column. Budget is real, but it means cooking, a homestay, and a scooter instead of a car. The number people get wrong is health cover, because they leave it out entirely and then need a clinic.

A dinner for two with drinks runs a few dollars at a warung and around 15 at a good restaurant. Laundry is charged by the kilo and costs almost nothing, which is why you pack less than you think.



IN THE BOOK / NUSA PENIDA, SPOT 13

Kelingking Beach

Everybody has seen it. Almost nobody plans for the climb back. The book gives you both.

Three ways to move

SCOOTER	Around 70,000 to 100,000 rupiah a day, less on a monthly deal. Cheapest and the most freedom. Also how most visitors get hurt.
PRIVATE DRIVER	Roughly 600,000 to 850,000 rupiah for a day with an air conditioned car. You sit in traffic instead of inside it, and you can work in the back.
GRAB AND GOJEK	On your phone, priced per kilometer, cheap for one-off trips. Grab is the car. Gojek puts you on the back of a stranger's bike.

THE SCOOTER RULES NOBODY TELLS YOU

Helmets are the law. An international permit matters the moment anything goes wrong, and it takes ten minutes to get at home before you fly. Photograph the existing damage before you ride off, because they will look for it when you bring it back.

Traffic does not follow lanes. Right of way goes to whoever commits first. Ride defensive, and stay off the road between seven and nine in the morning and five to seven at night.

My own rule after a few trips: rent the scooter for the freedom, and book a driver the moment the day involves luggage, distance, or a camera I care about.

Pick the wrong town and you will hate it here

Ubud, away from the center

MID TIER

Rice fields, quieter people, actual character. Stay in Penestanan or Campuhan, not the main drag, and you get the place without the queues.

Canggu

PREMIUM TIER

Coworking, coffee meetings, and everybody building something. Real if that is your crowd. Skip it if you came to disappear, and know you will hear the beach clubs at two in the morning.

Sanur

MID TIER, LOWER END

A fishing town with a beach and actual locals. This is where you live in Bali without living inside the tourist machine. Cheap, quiet, walkable.

Uluwatu

PREMIUM TIER

Cliffs, real sunsets, good surf below. Windy enough to fight you if you are filming, and thin on restaurants. Better for a week than a month.

THE MOVE THAT WORKS

Book two weeks somewhere, then decide. Listing photos lie about the noise, the road, and how far you actually are from anything.



IN THE BOOK / NUSA PENIDA, SPOT 15

Thousand Islands View Point

Rumah Pohon sits inside the same stop. The wait changes, the access changes, and the frame is still worth the morning.

The visa, and the fine

Most people arrive on a Visa on Arrival. Immigration calls it a B1. One entry, 30 days from the day you land, and you can extend it once for 30 more. Sixty days is the ceiling.

It costs 500,000 rupiah, about 30 dollars. Apply online at evisa.imigrasi.go.id before you fly and you walk past the payment counter when you land. Your passport needs six months left on it, and you carry an onward ticket.

IF YOU WANT A YEAR

The E33G remote worker permit is the one people mean by the digital nomad visa. One year, no extension, and you reapply to stay longer. It requires a foreign employer and an income floor around 60,000 dollars a year, so it is not the casual option.

DO NOT OVERSTAY

The fine is one million rupiah per day, around 60 dollars, and it is not negotiable. Past 60 days it stops being a fine and becomes deportation. Set a reminder the week you land.

One day a year the island stops

Nyepi is the Balinese New Year and it is a full stop, six in the morning to six the next morning. No going outside. No lights. The airport shuts for the whole day, so nothing flies in or out.

Pecalang, the village security, walk the streets and they will turn you around. You are a guest inside somebody else's holy day. Abide by it.

It moves every year and usually lands in March. Published dates for future years disagree with each other, so confirm yours with your accommodation before you book flights around it.

TWO MORE THAT COST REAL MONEY

Use ATMs inside a bank or an Alfamart, never a street machine. And take Grab instead of a metered taxi. Those two habits cover the scams that actually empty people's accounts here.

At a temple, cover your knees and shoulders, and watch your feet. Small offerings sit on the ground everywhere and you never move one for a better photograph.

WHAT THE BOOK ACTUALLY IS

Nineteen places, one frame each

Bali, Nusa Penida, Sumba and Java. Every location gets the photograph, the composition broken down over it, and a plan page: where to stand, what it cost, what I would do differently.



Come for a month and see if you stay

Bali is not paradise. It is a real place with real people and real problems, and if you work remote the math is absurdly in your favor.

Most people who come for two weeks end up staying longer. Some leave after a month and were right to. Both answers are fine. You just want to find out with real numbers instead of a feed.

When you are ready to actually shoot the place, I built the other half of this. Nineteen locations across Bali, Nusa Penida and Sumba, with the frame, the walk in, and what each one cost me.

GET THE BOOK

Indonesia: 19 locations, and the frame at each one

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