

# LESSEN YOUR TRAVEL FOOTPRINT

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It doesn't take much to see that Bali is currently facing some pretty serious environmental issues. With ever increasing numbers of tourists arriving on the island each month, rampant development is taking its toll. Rice fields are being razed to make way for hotels and villas, water table levels

are dropping at a rapid pace, and plastics are clogging the rivers and coastlines. We all contribute to the issues just by being here, but there are some steps you can take to travel more sustainably and lessen your environmental footprint.

## Travel Less

It's a nice idea to try to see as much of the island as you possibly can, but the more cars, buses and motorbike rides you take, the more carbon emissions you create. Plus, how can you really get to know a place if you only spend a day or two there? Take the time to immerse yourself in one spot. Walk or cycle to visit local shops, cafes and restaurants. If you want to explore a bit, visit places that are closer to where you are based. You'll probably find that the less you travel, the more enriching your holiday will be. Use Public Transportation or Shared Rides When Possible

If you've ever been stuck in a Bali traffic jam, then you've witnessed first-hand the ridiculous and unnecessary amount of vehicles plying Bali's roads, each burning fossil fuels and emitting noxious fumes into the air. One way you can avoid contributing to the problem is by taking public transport or share rides. The Kura Kura bus is a great option because fares are very reasonably priced and they have pick-up and drop-off points in key locations around the island. If you do have to take a car, try to find other travellers you can share the ride with.

[www.kura2bus.com](http://www.kura2bus.com)

## Treat Your Hotel Like Your Home

One of the biggest draws to staying in a hotel, villa or guesthouse is that you don't have to worry about things like cleaning, electricity and water, so it's easy to get carried away. A little bit of mindfulness can go a long way when it comes to reducing your impact. Think of your accommodation like you would your home and make an effort to turn off the lights, TV and air-con when you're not using them, avoid getting clean towels or sheets if you don't need them, and take shorter showers instead of baths.

## Eat Locally

Being the lush tropical island that it is, Bali has an abundance of fresh ingredients available, so there really is no need to eat imported products. After all, the further an item has to be flown or shipped, the more carbon emissions are created. Seek out restaurants that use local products like fresh Bali-grown fruits and vegetables, local coconut oil, seafood caught offshore and meat from animals raised on farms in Bali or the neighbouring islands. If you really want to see local produce elevated to epic heights, book a table at Locavore - [www.locavore.co.id](http://www.locavore.co.id)

## Bring or Buy Your Own Eco-Friendly Products

Have you ever stopped to think about what goes into the products we use every day like soaps, shampoos and sunscreens? Many contain harsh chemicals that aren't great for our bodies and get washed out into the rice paddies, rivers and oceans. Consider bringing your own natural products from home or buying green products here. Sensatia is a fabulous Bali brand that makes all-natural products that won't harm your skin or the Earth. You can find shops all over the island.

[www.sensatia.com](http://www.sensatia.com)

## Support Eco-friendly Businesses

Nowadays more Bali business owners are realising that they need to preserve the natural beauty that draws people to the island and that their customers want to be part a solution rather than a problem. Some things to look for in an eco-friendly business include green practices like recycling, solar energy, water usage reduction, zero or reduced waste and bans on single-use plastics. You can find a comprehensive list of eco-friendly Bali businesses on the BGreener website.

[www.bgreener.org](http://www.bgreener.org)

## Cut Back on Your Plastic Usage

It's no secret that Bali has a huge plastic problem. While the government is taking steps to tackle the issue, there is still a long way to go. You can do your part by refusing to use single-use plastics whilst on the island. Bring your own reusable bags for shopping and don't buy products wrapped in plastic. You can also bring your own refillable water bottle and download the RefillMyBottle app, which has an online map of places you can fill up your water bottle for free or a minimal fee.

[www.refillmybottle.com](http://www.refillmybottle.com)