NEWS LESSON

Who Benefits from Bali's Tourism Boom?



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. What can make a beautiful holiday destination disappointing?
2. Would you pay a visitor fee if it helped a place you loved?
3. When do visitors start changing what they came to enjoy?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**authorities**	☐
2	**permit**	☐
3	**influencers**	☐
4	**restricted**	☐
5	**decades**	☐
6	**disrespectfully**	☐
7	**salaries**	☐
8	**neighbourhoods**	☐

A	the people or groups who have official power
B	periods of ten years
C	in a way that shows you do not care about other people
D	people who are famous online and tell their followers what to buy or do
E	parts of a town where people live
F	an official paper that says you are allowed to do something
G	limited, so that less is allowed
H	money that people get every month for their work

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Tourists and remote workers bring money, but they also change housing, business and everyday life.

1 On a phone screen, Bali can look like a perfect office: a laptop beside a swimming pool, warm weather and the beach after work. Now imagine seeing the same picture from the other side. New villas and cafés can bring jobs, but they can also change neighbourhoods and make land more expensive. Bali's argument is not simply about whether foreign visitors are welcome. It is about who benefits when a home becomes a global lifestyle.

2 Bali welcomed almost seven million international visitors in 2025, according to figures reported by Business Insider. Tourism supports hotels, restaurants, guides and thousands of other jobs. Many foreign visitors respect the island's customs and spend money with local businesses. Others, however, have been accused of breaking rules or behaving disrespectfully, especially at sacred sites that matter deeply in Balinese religious life.

3 One issue is work. Some foreigners enter Indonesia on tourist visas and then carry out activities that require a different permit. In August 2026, Channel NewsAsia reported that Bali's immigration authorities were checking more closely whether foreign social-media creators were making money or promoting businesses without the right permission. Indonesian officials said 342 foreign nationals had been deported from Bali during the first six months of 2026 for various immigration and legal violations. The figure does not mean they were all influencers.

4 There are also concerns about housing and business. In popular areas, new villas, shops and cafés have changed neighbourhoods and pushed up the value of land. People who earn salaries from other countries may be able to pay far more for accommodation than local workers. Bali has restricted new foreign investment applications in some small business categories, including certain tourism and food businesses, to protect opportunities for local people.

5 The situation is not as simple as locals against foreigners. Some international residents have lived in Bali for decades, built friendships and created businesses that employ local people. Tourism experts also say videos made by travellers can help small restaurants reach customers around the world. Even content creators who disagree with the current rules often say that people who earn money from local companies should follow Indonesian law. They want clearer information about which activities need permission.

6 Bali faces a difficult choice. Tourism brings in money and opportunities, but it can also change the places people love. The island is not just a beautiful background for holiday videos. It is home to communities with their own traditions, jobs and everyday problems. Visitors may be welcome, but being welcomed does not mean they can ignore the people who live there.

Sources: Channel NewsAsia. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Almost seven million foreign tourists visited Bali in 2025. T F NG
2. Some foreigners have been living in Bali for many years. T F NG
3. Most Balinese people want fewer tourists on the island. T F NG
4. All 342 people deported in early 2026 were social-media influencers. T F NG
5. Bali has banned all foreign investment in local businesses. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

accommodation	customs	investment	permission	pollution	revenue	violations

1. Visitors should respect local _____ , such as the way people behave at temples.
2. Foreign creators need _____ from the authorities before they earn money in Bali.
3. Hotel rooms and rented villas are types of _____ for visitors.
4. Visitors who commit immigration _____ can be sent home.
5. Foreign _____ in small businesses is now limited in some categories.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Bali _____ almost seven million international visitors in 2025. (WELCOME)
2. Some visitors _____ of breaking rules or behaving disrespectfully. (ACCUSE)
3. Tourism _____ hotels, restaurants, guides and thousands of other jobs. (SUPPORT)
4. Some international residents _____ friendships and businesses in Bali. (BUILD)
5. In popular areas, land prices _____ fast. (RISE)

7 Language focus: linking words

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Use but and however to show a difference, because for a reason and so for a result.

although	because	but	despite	however	so	unless

1. Tourism creates jobs, _____ it can also make land more expensive.
2. Some creators want clear rules _____ they do not want to break the law.
3. Bali is popular with foreigners. _____ , local people worry about rising prices.
4. _____ many visitors are polite, a few break the rules.
5. Land is more expensive, _____ many local people cannot afford to buy it.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. What should a destination protect even if it means fewer tourists?
2. Who should have the strongest say over tourism in a place?
3. Would you choose a quieter trip if it meant giving up a famous photo?

9 Role-play: a spare room for tourists

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the neighbour who rents out a room

You rent a spare room to tourists and earn extra money. Your neighbour is unhappy about it. Explain why it helps you and what you will do to keep things calm.

Student B · the worried neighbour

Tourists are noisy and rents on your street are rising. Explain your worries, ask questions and try to agree on some rules.

Useful phrases

I'd like to talk to you about the guests.

It's not easy for me to pay my bills.

I understand that, but the noise is a problem.

We're not trying to cause trouble.

Would you be willing to set some quiet hours?

Let's try it for a month and see.

Afterwards, tell the class: did you agree on any rules, and are they fair to both neighbours?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 A · 2 F · 3 D · 4 G · 5 B · 6 C · 7 H · 8 E

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 T · 3 NG · 4 F · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 customs · 2 permission · 3 accommodation · 4 violations · 5 investment

6 Verb forms

1 welcomed · 2 have been accused · 3 supports · 4 built · 5 rose

7 Language focus

1 but · 2 because · 3 However · 4 Although · 5 so

This lesson is free. If it saved you time, you can support johnplusnews at **ko-fi.com/johnplusenglish**