

Bringing Memories

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Last trip (Sep/Oct 2006) we decided not to ship a container of furniture and stuff, but to air freight a collection of cartons which would have photos, papers, books, music, gifts and mementos -- basically memories from many years. This costs about Aus\$2 per kilo (double the sea shipping rate) but is quick and supposedly has less drama. We ended up with 39 packages weighing 1000 Kg (yes that's a tonne) and a volume of 4 cubic metres.

You apply at the Indonesian Consulate, bringing a detailed inventory and showing your visa status, and they then permit your shipment to be categorised as personal effects exempt from duty - there are some rules like electrical equipment should be "used" and "not too new".

Australiasian Relocations was the Sydney company that advised us, picked up the shipment, documented it and despatched it. This was a "home to port" consignment - meaning that we would arrange to pick it up from Denpasar Airport and have it trucked to our new home.

We considered using an agent, but were shocked by the fee requested. So we went direct to the airport to do our best, and there, after much talking we agreed to use another agent who was much, much cheaper. The outcome was no customs inspection of any boxes, no customs duty, and just the modest agent's fee.

We had used our car rental person to get us a truck at a pretty aggressive price - but it turned up as an open truck with no serviceable tarpaulin, and there were thunderstorms about. A tarp was purchased and draped over, then came the next challenge. The driver and his two assistants did not know where Lovina was (just a bit more than 100 Km from the airport), and again after much talking the only solution was that I should lead with our rented car, and they would follow. I am still pretty new to Bali roads and take wrong turns and sometimes get lost. I dreaded the prospect - but off we went. We lost them once when they turned into a "pumpa benzin" to re-fuel, then went through thick fog on the mountain road at Bedugul, then later nearly took them down a "no trucks" street in Singaraja. But we got here, no great downpours, and got everything off-loaded into our house. All the cartons we have looked in so far seem fine with no breakages.