

# Ubud & Around



Ubud takes a Balinese holiday and makes it sublime. In one easy package you plunge into the incomparably rich culture of Bali while making certain that you never want for pleasure.

Compared to other parts of Bali where you might spend a day at the beach or on a tour or otherwise idling away, Ubud fills your time with walks, performances, art museums, fine food and much more. And it's all there ready for you. Generations of visitors haven't dimmed the natural openness of the locals, who are generally thrilled that you are interested in their beautiful temples, intriguing cultural ceremonies and beautiful land.

Set on the gentle slopes leading to Bali's highlands, Ubud enjoys weather that while tropical – and often wet! – during the day, cools off with gentle mountain breezes at night. Its fabric is striated with one surging river, stream and rice field channel after another. You're never more than a few steps away from fast-flowing clear water. Walks in the countryside and river valleys are journeys into natural beauty, where you will run out of words for 'green'.

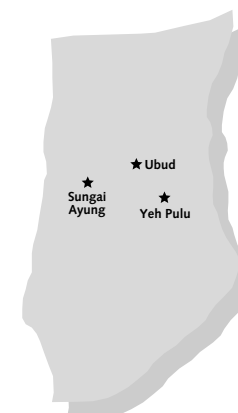
When you're ready to see others do the work, attend any of the myriad cultural shows staged nightly in and around town. These reveal the rich artistry of Balinese dance and music. The settings are simple, which enhances the authenticity.

When you're feeling consumptive, you can choose from an array of creative and inviting cafés, restaurants and shops. For rest, select from family-run guesthouses to world-class resorts, and revive yourself in a spa.

Ubud is the kind of place where a stay of days turns into weeks.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Becoming entranced by a traditional **dance** performance in and around Ubud (p197)
- Tasting the many delights in Ubud, capital of Balinese **cuisine** (p193)
- Walking through fabulous scenery of the gorgeous **Sungai Ayung valley** (p182)
- Indulging your health and yourself at world-class **spas** (p181)
- Exploring ancient wonders such as **Yeh Pulu** (p201), the home of 14th-century stone carvings depicting everyday life



## UBUD

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Ubud is culture, yes. It's also home to some of Bali's best restaurants, cafés and streets of shops, many selling goods from the region's artisans and craftsmakers. There's somewhere to stay for every budget, and no matter what the price you can enjoy lodgings that reflect the local *zeitgeist*: artful, creative and serene.

The weather is slightly cooler but much wetter than the south; expect it to rain at any time. At night mountain breezes obviate a slumberer's need for air-con.

Spend a few days in Ubud to appreciate it properly. It's one of those places where days can become weeks and weeks become months, as the noticeable expatriate community demonstrates.

For details on routes and sights to Ubud from South Bali, see the section South of Ubud, p204.

### HISTORY

Late in the 19th century, Cokorda Gede Sukawati established a branch of the Sukawati royal family in Ubud and began a series of alliances and confrontations with neighbouring kingdoms. In 1900, with the kingdom of Gianyar, Ubud became (at its own request) a Dutch protectorate and was able to concentrate on its religious and cultural life.

The Cokorda's descendants encouraged Western artists and intellectuals to visit the area in the 1930s, most notably Walter Spies, Colin McPhee and Rudolf Bonnet (see Western Visitors in the 1930s, p52). They provided an enormous stimulus to local art, introduced new ideas and techniques, and began a process of displaying and promoting Balinese culture worldwide. As mass tourism arrived on Bali, Ubud became an attraction not for beaches or bars, but for the arts.

For an in-depth look at Ubud's history and present-day culture, seek a copy of *Ubud Is A Mood*. This lavishly illustrated book includes photos by local Rio Helmi (see p180) and is far superior to your average tourist book.

### ORIENTATION

The once small village of Ubud has expanded to encompass its neighbours – Campuan, Penestanan, Padangtegal, Peliatan and Pengosekan are all part of what we see as Ubud

today. The centre of town is the junction of Monkey Forest Rd and Jl Raya Ubud, where the bustling market and crowded *bemo* (small minibus) stops are found, as well as Ubud Palace and the main temple, Pura Desa Ubud. Monkey Forest Rd (officially Jl Wanara Wana, but always known by its unofficial name) runs south to Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary and is lined with shops, hotels and restaurants.

Jl Raya Ubud ('Ubud Main Rd' – often Jl Raya for short) is the main east–west road. In the east, a mix of cheap accommodation, idiosyncratic shops and little cafés gives Jl Goutama a feel of Ubud 25 years ago. West of Ubud, the road drops steeply down to the ravine at Campuan, where an old suspension bridge, next to the new one, hangs over the Sungai Wos. West of Campuan, the pretty village of Penestanan is famous for its painters and bead-work. East and south of Ubud proper, the 'villages' of Peliatan, Nyuhkuning and Pengosekan and are known variously for painting, woodcarving and traditional dance. The latter has been the focus of recent development, with rice paddies giving way to new hotels. The area north of Ubud is less densely settled, with picturesque paddy fields interspersed with small villages, many of which specialise in a local craft.

### Maps

The maps in this guidebook will be sufficient for most visitors, but if you want to explore the surrounding villages on foot or by bicycle, the locally sold *Bali Pathfinder* map is useful.

### INFORMATION

Along the main roads, you'll find most services you need including travel agents and *wartel* (public telephone offices).

Ubud is home to many non-profit and volunteer groups; see p348 for details.

### Bookshops

Ubud is the best place on Bali for book shopping. Selections are wide and varied and you can get numerous books about Balinese art and culture. Many carry titles by small and obscure publishers. Shops typically carry newspapers such as the *International Herald Tribune*.

**ARMA** (p178) Large selection of cultural titles.

**Ary's Bookshop** (Map p188; ☎ 978203; Jl Raya Ubud) Good for art books and maps.

**Cinta Bookshop** (Map p188; ☎ 973295; Jl Dewi Sita) Nice assortment of used novels and vintage books about Bali.

**Ganesha Bookshop** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 970320; www.ganeshabooksali.com; Jl Raya Ubud) Ubud's best bookshop has an amazing amount of stock jammed into the small space. Excellent selection of titles on Indonesian studies, travel, arts and music, fiction (including used titles) and maps. Good recommendations and mail-order service.

**Neka Art Museum** (p178) Good range of art books.

**Periplus** (Map p188; ☎ 975178; Monkey Forest Rd) A typically glossy branch of the Bali chain. Also a new location in Campuan (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976149; Bintang Centre, Jl Raya Campuan) Large store with small café.

**Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre** (below) Regularly thins its collection and has some excellent fiction for sale.

**Rendezvousdoux** (Map p188; ☎ 747 0163; Jl Raya Ubud 14; ☎) Small selection of books, many French titles.

### Emergency

**Police station** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975316; Jl Raya Andong; ☎ 24hr) Located east, at Andong.

### Internet Access

The following two neighbouring places are a cut above average with fast broadband connections and large screens.

**@Highway** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972107; Jl Raya Ubud; per min 500Rp; ☎ 24hr; ☎) Full-service and very fast.

**Bali 3000** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 978538; Jl Raya Ubud; per hr 16,000Rp; ☎ 8am-11pm; ☎) Fashionable internet café with a full range of computing services and good sandwiches, coffees and juices.

Watch for Ubud's many cafés to adopt the trend to install wi-fi access. One already equipped is Coffee & Silver; see p194.

### Libraries

**Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre** (Map p188; ☎ 976194; Monkey Forest Rd, on the far side of the football field; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) A relaxed place, with a children's book section. Charges membership fees for library use. Small café and a pleasant reading area on the roof. See p185 for information on cultural courses.

### Medical Services

See Health (p366) for details on international clinics and hospitals in Bali.

**Mua Pharmacy** (Map p188; ☎ 974674; Monkey Forest Rd; ☎ 8am-9pm)

**Ubud Clinic** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974911; www.ubudclinic.com; Jl Raya Campuan 36; ☎ 24hr) Best medical centre in Ubud. Charges range from 200,000Rp for a clinical consultation.

### Money

Ubud has numerous banks, ATMs and money-changers along Jl Raya Ubud and Monkey Forest Rd.

### Post

**Main post office** (Map pp176-7; Jl Jembawan; ☎ 8am-6pm) Has a sort-it-yourself poste restante system – address poste restante mail to Kantor Pos, Ubud 80571, Bali, Indonesia.

### Tourist Information

**Ubud Tourist Information** (Yaysan Bina Wisata; Map p188; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; ☎ 8am-8pm) The one really useful tourist office on Bali. It has a good range of information and a notice board listing current happenings and activities. The staff can answer most regional questions and have up-to-date information on ceremonies and traditional dances held in the area; dance tickets are sold here.

### SIGHTS Palaces & Temples

**Ubud Palace and Puri Saren Agung** (Map p188; cnr Jl Raya Ubud & Jl Suweta) share space in the heart of Ubud. The compound has many ornate corners and was mostly built after the 1917 earthquake. The local royal family still lives here and you can wander around most of the large compound exploring the many traditional and not excessively ornate buildings. If you really like it, you can stay the night (p190).

Just north, **Pura Marajan Agung** (Map p188; Jl Suweta) has one of the finest gates you'll find and is the private temple for Ubud's royal family.

**Pura Desa Ubud** (Map p188; Jl Raya Ubud) is the main temple for the Ubud community. Just a bit west is the very picturesque **Pura Taman Saraswati** (Ubud Water Palace; Map p188; Jl Raya Ubud). Waters from the temple at the rear of the site feed the pond in the front, which overflows with pretty lotus blossoms. There are carvings that honour Dewi Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and the arts, who has clearly given her blessing to Ubud. There are weekly dance performances.

### Museums

#### MUSEUM PURI LUKISAN

**The Museum of Fine Arts** (Map p188; ☎ 975136; off Jl Raya Ubud; www.mpl-ubud.com; admission 20,000Rp; ☎ 9am-5pm) displays fine examples of all schools of Balinese art. Just look at the lush

**UBUD AREA**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>INFORMATION</b>	Blanco Renaissance Museum... Museum.....10 C4	Pura Dalerm Ubud.....21 C4 Pura Kebo Edan.....22 G5 Pura Penataran Sasih.....23 G4 Pura Pusering Jagat.....24 G4 Pura Samuan Tiga.....25 H5	To Penelokan (28km) 12
1 @Highway.....(see 1)	Bodyworks.....11 D5 Botanic Garden Ubud.....12 D1 Goa Gajah (Elephant Cave).....13 G5 Hotel Tjampuhan Spa.....(see 45)	Museum Purbakala (Archaeological Museum).....15 H5 Museum Rudana.....16 E6 Neka Art Museum.....17 B3 Neka Gallery.....18 D4 Nur Salon.....19 D5 Pura Dalem Agung.....20 C5	Textile Arts Center.....28 D3 Ubud Fitness Centre.....29 E4 Ubud Sari Health Resort.....(see 65)
2 Bali 3000.....1 D4 Bali Cares.....2 D5 Ganesha Bookshop.....3 D4 Main Post Office.....4 D4 Peripus.....(see 69) Police Station.....5 E4 Ubud Clinic.....6 C4	Mandara Spa.....(see 46) Murni's Studio.....14 D6	Women.....26 D4 Symon Studio.....27 B4 Threads of Life Indonesian Textile Arts Center.....28 D3 Ubud Fitness Centre.....29 E4 Ubud Sari Health Resort.....(see 65) Yeh Pulu.....30 H6 Zen.....31 D5	
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Abangan Bungalows.....32 C4 Alam Indah.....33 C6 Ala's Hibiscus 2.....34 C5 Amandari.....35 A3 Anom Cottages.....36 B3 ARMA Resort.....(see 51) Artini Cottages 1.....37 D5 Bali Spirit Hotel & Spa.....38 C6 Biang's.....39 E4 Candra Asri.....40 D5 Eka's Homestay.....41 D4 Family Guest House.....42 E5 Four Seasons Resort.....43 A4 Homestay Rumah Roda.....(see 81) Honeymoon Guesthouse.....44 C5 Hotel Tjampuhan.....45 B4 Ibah Luxury Villas & Spa.....46 C4 Kajeng Bungalows.....47 C3 Kakiang Bungalows.....48 D5	DRINKING Café Exiles.....87 D6	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> ARMA Open Stage.....(see 8) Jazz Café.....88 E4 Oka Kartini.....89 E4 Padangtegal Dance Stage.....90 D5 Peliatan Pura Dalem Puri.....91 E5 Pura Dalem Puri.....92 E4	<b>SHOPPING</b> Batavia 1885.....93 D5 Delta Dewata Supermarket.....71 E4 Tegun Galeri.....(see 2) Wild Ginger.....95 D4
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**UBUD & AROUND**

**UBUD IN...****One Day**

Stroll the streets of Ubud, enjoying the galleries and sampling the fine cuisine. Try to get out on one of the short nearby walks through the verdant rice fields. Go to an evening dance performance at the Ubud Palace.

**Three Days**

Take longer walks in the countryside, especially the Campuan Ridge and Satan Valley. Visit the Museum Puri Lukisan, Neka Art Museum and ARMA (Agung Rai Museum of Art). Attend dance performances not just in Ubud, but also in the nearby villages. Indulge at a local spa. Drop by the market in the morning.

**One Week or More**

Do everything we've listed but take time to simply chill out. Get in tune with Ubud's rhythm. Take naps, read books, wander about. Think about a course in Balinese culture. Compare and choose your favourite café, get out to craft villages and ancient sites.

composition of 'Balinese Market' by Anak Agung Gde Sobrat to see the vibrancy of local painting.

It was in Ubud that the modern Balinese art movement started; where artists first began to abandon purely religious themes and court subjects for scenes of everyday life. Rudolf Bonnet was part of the Pita Maha artists' cooperative, and together with Kokorda Gede Agung Sukawati (a prince of Ubud's royal family) they helped to establish a permanent collection.

The **first pavilion** straight ahead as you enter has a collection of early works from Ubud and the surrounding villages. These include examples of classical *wayang*-style paintings, fine ink drawings by I Gusti Nyoman Lempad and paintings by Pita Maha artists. Notice the level of detail in Lempad's *The Dream of Dharmawangsa*.

The **second pavilion** on the left has some colourful examples of the 'Young Artist' style of painting and a good selection of 'modern traditional' works.

The **third pavilion** on the right has classical and traditional paintings and is used for special exhibitions.

The museum's collection is well curated and labelled in English, and some of the artwork is often for sale. The museum has a good bookshop and a café.

**NEKA ART MUSEUM**

Quite distinct from Neka Gallery, the **Neka Art Museum** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975074; www.museumneka

.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; adult/child 20,000Rp/free; ☎ 9am-5pm) was opened in 1976, and is the creation of Suteja Neka, a private collector and dealer in Balinese art. It has an excellent and diverse collection and is the best place to learn about the development of painting on Bali.

You can get an overview of the myriad local painting styles in the **Balinese Painting Hall**. Look for the *wayang* works, which are influenced by shadow puppets.

The **Arie Smit Pavilion** features Smit's works on the upper level, and examples of the Young Artist school, which he inspired, on the lower level. Look for Bruegel-like *The Wedding Ceremony*, by I Nyoman Tjarka.

The **Lempad Pavilion** houses Bali's largest collection of works by I Gusti Nyoman Lempad.

The **Contemporary Indonesian Art Hall** has paintings by artists from other parts of Indonesia, many of whom have worked on Bali. The upper floor of the **East-West Art Annexe** is devoted to the work of foreign artists, such as Louise Koke, Miguel Covarrubias, Rudolf Bonnet, Han Snel, the Australian Donald Friend and Antonio Blanco.

The temporary exhibition hall has changing displays, while the **Photography Archive Centre** features black-and-white photography of Bali in the early 1930s and 1940s. The bookstore is noteworthy and there's a café.

**AGUNG RAI MUSEUM OF ART (ARMA)**

Founded by Agung Rai as a **museum, gallery and cultural centre** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976659; www.aramuseum.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; admission 25,000Rp;

☎ 9am-6pm), the impressive ARMA is the only place in Bali to see the haunting works by the influential German artist Walter Spies.

The museum is housed in several traditional buildings set in gardens with water coursing through channels. It features work by 19th-century Javanese artist Raden Saleh. It exhibits classical Kamasan paintings, Batuan-style work from the 1930s and '40s, and works by Lempad, Affandi, Sadali, Hofker, Bonnet and Le Mayeur. The collection is well labelled in English.

Look for the enigmatic *Portrait of a Javanese Nobleman and his Wife* by Raden Saleh, which predates the similar *American Gothic* by decades.

It's interesting to visit ARMA when local children practise **Balinese dancing** (☎ 3-5pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-noon Sun) and during **gamelan practice** (☎ hours vary). See p186 for details on regular Legong and Kecak (types of classic Balinese dance) dance performances. See p185 for details on the myriad of cultural courses offered here.

You can enter the museum grounds from the southern end of Jl Raya Pengosekan (there's parking near Kafe ARMA) or around the corner on Jl Pengosekan at the the Kafe ARMA. The Ubud-Gianyar bemo will drop you here.

**THREADS OF LIFE INDONESIA TEXTILE ARTS CENTER**

This small, professional **textile gallery and educational studio** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972187; www.threadsoffline.com; Jl Kajeng 24; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat) sponsors the production of naturally dyed, handmade ritual textiles, helping to recover skills in danger of being lost to modern dyeing and weaving methods. Commissioned pieces are displayed in the gallery, which has good explanatory material. It also runs regular textile appreciation courses (see p185) and has a good shop.

**MUSEUM RUDANA**

This large, imposing **museum** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975779; www.museumrudana.com; admission 20,000Rp; ☎ 9am-5pm) is the creation of local politician and art-lover Nyoman Rudana and his wife Ni Wayan Olasthini. The three floors contain over 400 traditional paintings, including a calendar dated to the 1840s, some Lempad drawings, and more modern pieces. The museum is beside the Rudana Gallery, which has a large selection of paintings for sale.

**BLANCO RENAISSANCE MUSEUM**

The picture of Antonio Blanco mugging with Michael Jackson says it all. His namesake **Blanco Renaissance Museum** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975502; Jl Raya Campuan; adult/child 20,000/10,000Rp; ☎ 9am-5pm) captures the artist's theatrical spirit. Blanco came to Bali from Spain via the Philippines. He specialised in erotic art, illustrated poetry and playing the role of an eccentric artist à la Dali. He died in Bali in 1999, and his flamboyant home is now this museum. The design of the compound is a pastiche of elaborate styles from around the world.

**Galleries**

Ubud is dotted with galleries – every street and lane seems to have a place exhibiting artwork for sale. They vary enormously in the choice and quality of items on display. Several major galleries display a huge variety of work, generally of a very high quality.

Often you will find local artists in the most unusual places, including your place to stay. A good example is **Nyoman Sudiarsa**, a painter who has a studio in the grounds of his family's Padma Accommodation (see p188).

**NEKA GALLERY**

Operated by Suteja Neka, the **Neka Gallery** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975034; Jl Raya Ubud; ☎ 9am-5pm) is separate entity from the Neka Art Museum. It has an extensive selection from all the schools of Balinese art, as well as works by European residents such as the renowned Arie Smit.

**SENIWATI GALLERY OF ART BY WOMEN**

This **gallery** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975485; www.seniwati.gallery.com; Jl Sriwedari 2B; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun) exhibits works by over 70 Balinese, Indonesian and resident foreign women artists. The information on many of the artists makes for fascinating reading. The gallery and workshop aims to publicise Balinese women artists and to encourage the next generation. The works span all media and this place is an excellent example of the kind of cultural and artistic organisation that can thrive in Ubud.

**SYMON STUDIO**

Danger! Art! screams the sign in Campuan. With this you know you've found the **gallery/studio** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974721; www.symonbali.com; Jl Raya Campuan; ☎ 9am-6pm) of the irrepressible



American artist Symon. The gallery is a spacious and airy place full of huge, colourful and exotic portraits. The work ranges from the sublime to the profane.

#### KOMANEKA ART GALLERY

Exhibiting works from established Balinese artists, the **gallery** (Map p188; ☎ 976090; Monkey Forest Rd) is a good place to see high-profile art. The space is large and lofty, making a good place for viewing.

#### AGUNG RAI GALLERY

In Peliatan, the **gallery** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975449; Jl Peliatan; ☎ 9am-6pm) is in a pretty compound and its collection covers the full range of Balinese styles. It works as a cooperative, with the work priced by the artist and the gallery adding a percentage.

#### RIO HELMI GALLERY

Noted photographer and Ubud resident Rio Helmi has a small **gallery** (Map p188; ☎ 972304; www.riohelmi.com; Jl Suweta 5; ☎ 10am-8pm) where you can see examples of journalistic and artistic work. Photos change often and show Helmi's travels worldwide. You can also see his work in many coffee-table books about Bali.

#### LEMPAD'S HOUSE

I Gusti Nyoman Lempad's **home** (Map p188; Jl Raya Ubud; admission free; ☎ daylight) is open to the public, but it's mainly used as a gallery for a group of artists, which includes Lempad's grandchildren. There are only a few of Lempad's own paintings and drawings here. The Puri Lukisan (p175) and Neka (p178) museums have more extensive collections of Lempad's drawings. The family compound itself is a good example

of traditional Balinese architecture and layout – Lempad was also an architect and sculptor. It's also home to many animals in cages.

#### PHO

You never know what you'll find at **Pho** (Map p188; ☎ 0813-3866 9382; Jl Goutama), an enigmatic and enthusiastic open-air gallery right beside the road. From performance art to wild installations it could be here.

#### Artists' Homes

The home of Walter Spies is now part of **Hotel Tjampuhan** (p182). Aficionados can stay in the 'Spies house' if they book well in advance. Dutch-born artist Han Snel lived in Ubud from the 1950s until his death in early 1999, and his family runs his namesake bungalows on Jl Kajeng (p191).

Music scholar Colin McPhee is well known thanks to his perennial favourite *A House in Bali*. Although the actual 1930s house is long gone, you can visit the riverside site (which shows up in photographs in the book) at the **Sayan Terrace** (p192). Sayan Terrace employee Wayan Ruma, whose mother was McPhee's cook, is good for a few stories. For more, see Western Visitors to Bali in the 1930s, p52.

Arie Smit (1916-) is the best-known and the longest surviving Western artist in Ubud. He worked in the Dutch colonial administration in the 1930s, was imprisoned during WWII, and came to Bali in 1956. In the 1960s, his influence sparked the Young Artists school of painting in Penestanan, earning him an enduring place in the history of Balinese art. His home is not open to the public.

#### Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary

This cool and dense swathe of jungle, officially called **Mandala Wisata Wanara Wana** (Map p188; ☎ 971304; Monkey Forest Rd; adult/child 10,000/5000Rp; ☎ 8.30am-6pm), houses three holy temples. The sanctuary is inhabited by a band of grey-haired and greedy long-tailed Balinese macaques who are nothing like the innocent-looking doe-eyed monkeys on the brochures. They are ever vigilant for passing tourists who just might have peanuts and ripe bananas available for a quick hand-out. Don't hand food directly to these creatures.

The interesting **Pura Dalem Agung** (Temple of the Dead) is in the forest and has a real Indiana Jones feel to it. Look for the Rangda figures devouring children at the entrance to the inner temple.

You can enter through one of the three gates: at the southern end of Monkey Forest Rd; 100m further east, near the car park; or from the southern side, on the lane from Nyuhkuning.

#### Botanic Garden Ubud

Care to feed a pitcher plant? A huge collection of these Sumatran meat-eaters is but one part of the amazing new **Botanic Garden Ubud** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 970951; www.botanicgardenbali.com; admission 50,000Rp; ☎ 8am-6pm) Spread over more than six hectares, the gardens – there are many – are devoted to various themes such as orchids (in greenhouses), Bali-grown plants like cinnamon and vanilla, flowering butterfly-friendly gardens, an enormous lotus pond and much more. The work of Stefan Reisner, this is a welcome addition to the Ubud scene. Get lost in the maze and when you finally escape, take comfort from Bali's medicinal plants. The exhibit about the cacti of East Bali is worth the cost of admission alone.

#### Petulu

Every evening at around 6 o'clock, thousands of big **herons** and **egrets** fly in to Petulu (Map pp176-7), squabbling over the prime perching places before settling into the trees beside the road, and becoming a minor tourist attraction. The herons, mainly the striped Java pond species, started their visits to Petulu in 1965 for no apparent reason. Villagers believe they bring good luck (as well as tourists), despite the smell and the mess. A few *warung* (food stalls) have been set up in the paddy fields, where you can have a drink while enjoying the spectacle. Walk quickly under the trees if the herons are already roosting – the copious droppings on the road will indicate if it's unwise to hang around.

A bemo from Ubud to Pujung will drop you off at the turn-off just south of Petulu (the trip should take about 10 to 15 minutes), but it's more convenient with your own transport. It would make a pleasant walk or bicycle ride on any of several routes north of Ubud, but if you stay for the birds you'll be heading back in the dark.

#### ACTIVITIES Massage, Spas & Salons

Ubud has several salons and spas where you can seriously pamper yourself. In fact visiting a spa is at the top of many visitors' itinerary.

#### A LUST FOR PAINT

Only 40 years old when she died in 2006, I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih's life was short but intense. Her influence on the lives of Balinese women will be felt for a long time to come.

At her studio in Pengosekan, Murni (everyone called her that) painted works that earned her street cred as Bali's most innovative contemporary painter. Breaking taboos, she explored her own sexuality, not through depictions of herself, but through distorted images of male and female genitalia.

Of the act itself, her canvases showed penises and vaginas and all sorts of acts you won't find painted by a man, let alone a woman, in the galleries of Bali. 'She broke every taboo while maintaining her very sincere and devout Balinese persona,' says Mary Northmore-Aziz, founder and director of the Seniwati Gallery of Art By Women in Ubud (see p179).

'She set new standards of personal honesty in a culture that prefers to idealise the role and life of women.'

Sexually abused as a child by her father, a farmer, Murni used paint to exorcise this lasting nightmare. Her first shows in the early 1990s shocked many. 'I recall fences, knives, headless women, it was very disturbing to a number of people,' says Northmore-Aziz.

'But over the years her work developed and a lovely sense of humour also emerged, she could laugh at herself and at human sexuality and invent weird and wonderful images.'

Murni was always most comfortable in her Ubud studio. As her work became better known, she found relative fame in the art world and her work was displayed worldwide, often in solo shows. In person, Murni was a witty, cheery and engaging person. It was quite a considerable transformation for a woman who as a child had sought refuge from abuse and poverty by drawing everything around her.

In 1993, Murni made another statement that will impact the lives of Balinese women for years to come. She was granted what is thought to be Bali's first legally issued divorce to a woman. Her husband had taken up with someone else and she wasn't going to have it.

Always a compulsive painter, Murni kept working, even after she was diagnosed with cancer. She told Carla Bianpoen, an author and journalist who writes about Indonesian culture, 'I paint for the feeling that I exist.'

'Her frankness and courage has certainly inspired more Balinese young women to come forward as an artist,' says Bianpoen, 'though none so far has come near what Murni has dared to do.'

For more on the joys of spas on Bali, see Ahhh, A Spa, p84.

For a basic workout, Ubud has a gym, **Ubud Fitness Centre** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974804; Jl Jero Gading; visitor/monthly 40,000/150,000Rp; ☎ 7am-9pm), which offers weight training and aerobics.

**Bodyworks** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975720; Jl Hanoman; 1hr massage 90,000Rp; ☎ 9am-9pm) is set in a traditional Balinese compound and treatment rooms are light-filled, although traffic noise competes with the gurgling fountains. A facial is 75,000Rp while a spice, salt, milk or seaweed bath costs from 125,000Rp to 150,000Rp.

**Cendana Resort & Spa** (Map p188; ☎ 971927; Monkey Forest Rd; 1hr massage US\$15; ☎ 9am-7pm) has a nice set-up, including an open-air Jacuzzi. The couples' massage room is particularly pleasant. One-day use of the hotel's pool, sauna and steam room is available for US\$5. You can have a bath of mud or milk with your massage or try one Hawaiian-style, which involves lots of aromatic oils.

**Eve Spa** (Map p188; ☎ 747 0910; Monkey Forest Rd; 1hr massage 75,000Rp; ☎ 9am-9pm) will cleanse you of toxins from eating an apple or other dubious substances. The menu is straight-forward and affordable, and you can go on something of a spa orgy: an all-day festival of treatments is 325,000Rp.

**Komaneka Resort & Spa** (Map p188; ☎ 976090; Monkey Forest Rd; 1hr massage US\$40; ☎ 9am-7pm) offers open-air treatments for singles and couples in lush surrounds.

**Ibah Spa** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974466; Ibah Luxury Villas & Spa, off Jl Raya Campuan; 1hr massage US\$40; ☎ 8am-8pm) looks to nature for calming inspiration. It has a very calm wooden interior and a Jacuzzi; treatments come with evocative names such as Mountain Ritual and Ibah Foot Fetish.

**Milano Salon** (Map p188; ☎ 973448; Monkey Forest Rd; 1hr massage 60,000Rp; ☎ 9am-8pm) offers facials and massages in a simple setting.

**Nur Salon** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975352; Jl Hanoman 28; 1hr massage 90,000Rp; ☎ 9am-8pm) is in a traditional Balinese compound. It offers a long menu of spa and salon services including a traditional Javanese massage that takes two hours and starts with a body scrub (245,000Rp).

**Hotel Tjampuhan Spa** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975368; Jl Raya Campuan; 1hr massage US\$25; ☎ 9am-7pm) is in a unique grotto setting, overlooking the river, and features organic carved stone reliefs. Use of all the facilities for a day for non-guests is US\$50.

**Ubud Sari Health Resort** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974393; Jl Kajeng; 1hr massage US\$15; ☎ 8am-8pm) is a spa and

hotel in one. Besides a long list of one-day spa and salon services, there are a vast range of packages that include stays at the hotel (see p191).

**Zen** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 970976; Jl Hanoman; 1hr massage 75,000Rp; ☎ 9am-8pm) has a good reputation. It offers body scrubs, 90-minute *mandi lulur* (Javanese body scrub) and massage treatments (90,000Rp).

## Cycling

Many shops, agencies and hotels in central Ubud, especially on Monkey Forest Rd, rent mountain bikes.

**Mutiara Corner** (Map p188; ☎ 80571; Jl Raya Ubud; per day 25,000Rp) Look for the bikes on display along the street in front of the store.

In general, the land is dissected by rivers running south, so any east-west route will involve a lot of ups and downs as you cross the river valleys. North-south routes run between the rivers, and are much easier going, but can have heavy traffic. Some of the walking routes (below) described are also suitable for cycling, especially southwest to Nyuhkuning and Penestanan, and southeast to Pejeng and Bedulu.

Riding a bike would be an excellent way to visit the many museums and cultural sites described in the Around Ubud section; see p192.

## Rafting

The nearby Sungai Ayung is the most popular river in Bali for white-water rafting, so Ubud is a convenient base for rafting trips. You start north of Ubud and end near the Amandari hotel in the west. Note that depending on rainfall, the run can range from sedate to thrilling. See p77 for names of operators.

## WALKS AROUND UBUD

For information on guided walks see p186. The growth of Ubud has engulfed a number of nearby villages, although they have still managed to retain distinct identities. There are lots of interesting walks in the area, to surrounding villages or through the paddy fields. You'll frequently see artists at work in open rooms and on verandas, and the timeless tasks of rice cultivation continue alongside luxury villas.

In most places there are plenty of warung or small shops selling snack foods and drinks, but bring your own water anyway. Also bring a good hat, decent shoes and wet-weather gear

for the afternoon showers; long pants are better for walking through thick vegetation.

It's good to start walks at daybreak, before it gets too hot. In the walks below, distances are approximate and are measured with the Ubud Palace as the start and end point. Walking times do not include any stops so you need to factor in your own eating, shopping and rest stops.

## Monkey Forest & Penestanan

This walk features a good range of rice paddy and rural Ubud scenery.

Take your time strolling through the Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary at the bottom of Monkey Forest Rd, then take the sealed road at the southwestern corner of the forest near the temple. Continue south on the lane to the village of **Nyuhkuning**, and turn west along the south end of the football field, then turn south down the narrow road. At the southern end of the village, turn right and follow the paved road across the bridge over Sungai Wos to Dangin Lebak (this busy road is the most unpleasant part of the trip but should only take around 15 minutes). Take the track to the right just after the large Bale Banjar Dangin Lebak (Dangin Lebak Community Hall). From here follow paths due north through the paddy fields, and veer left, westwards through the rice

paddies to a paved road to reach **Katik Lantang**, where you join a paved road that continues north to **Penestanan**. Many artists live here, and you can stop at their homes/studios/galleries and see paintings for sale at places like I Wayan Karja's Santra Putra gallery and lodging (see p185). Follow the rice field paths north to reach these places, then descend the steep concrete stairs to Campuan and on to Ubud.

## Campuan Ridge

This walk passes over the lush river valley of the Sungai Wos, offering views of Gunung Agung and glimpses of small village communities and rice fields.

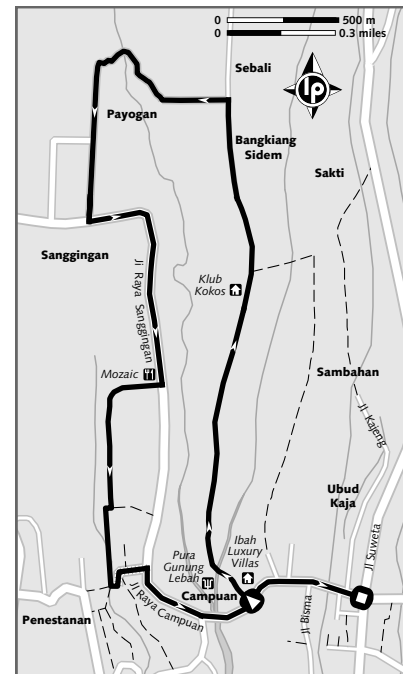
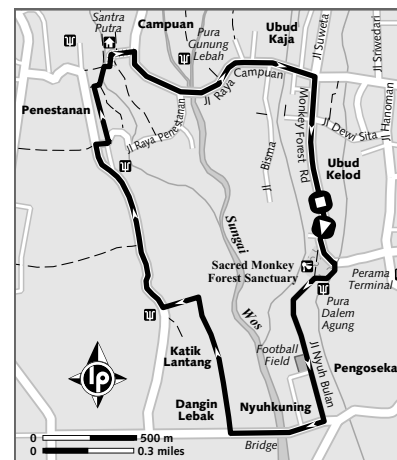
At the confluence of the Sungai Wos and Sungai Cerik is **Campuan**, which means 'Where Two Rivers Meet'. The walk leaves Jl Raya Campuan here at the Ibah Luxury Villas. Enter the hotel driveway and take the path to

### WALK FACTS

**Distance:** 7km  
**Duration:** 2½hr

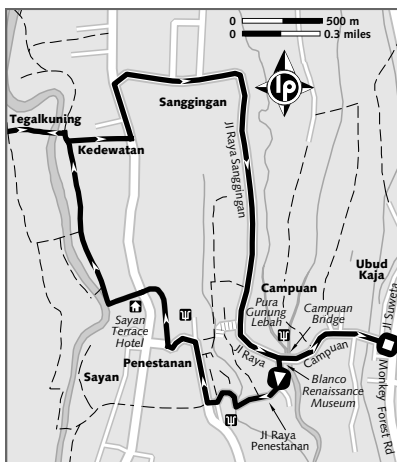
### WALK FACTS

**Distance:** 8km  
**Duration:** 3hr



the left, where a walkway crosses the river to Pura Gunung Lebah. From there follow the concrete path north, climbing up onto the ridge between the two rivers. Fields of elephant grass, traditionally used for thatched roofs, slope away on either side.

Continuing north along the Campuan ridge past the Klub Kokos lodging (a convenient drink stop; see p191), the road improves as it passes through paddy fields and the small village of **Bangkang Sidem**. On the outskirts of the village, an unsigned road heads west, winding down to Sungai Cerik (the west branch of Sungai Wos), then climbing steeply up to **Payogan**. From here you can walk south to the main road, and continue along Jl Raya Sanggingan to the restaurant Mozaic (see p197). Here, veer to the west onto trails that stay level with the rice fields as the main road drops away. It's a fantasyland of coursing waterways and good views among the rice and villas. When you come to the steep concrete steps, take them down to Campuan and back to Ubud.



#### WALK FACTS

**Distance:** 6.5km  
**Duration:** 4hr

### Penestanan & Sayan

The wonders of Sungai Ayung are the focus of this outing, where you will walk below the luxury hotels built to take advantage of this lush, tropical river valley.

Just west of the Campuan bridge, past the Blanco Renaissance Museum, a steep uphill road, Jl Raya Penestanan, bends left and winds across the forested gully of the Sungai Blangsuh to the artists village of Penestanan. West of Penestanan, take a small road north (it's before the busy main road) that curves around to **Sayan**. The Sayan Terrace hotel was Colin McPhee's home in the 1930s, as chronicled in his book *A House in Bali*. The views over the valley of the magnificent **Sungai Ayung** are superb. The best place to get to the riverside is just north of Sayan Terrace hotel (p192) – follow the increasingly narrower tracks down. (This part can be tricky but there are locals who'll show you for a tip of about 2000Rp.)

Following the rough trails north, along the eastern side of the Ayung, you traverse steep slopes, cross paddy fields and pass irrigation canals and tunnels. But for many people, it's a highlight of their walk as we're talking about serious tropical jungle here. After about 1.5km you'll reach the finishing point for many white-water rafting trips – a good but steep trail goes from there up to the main road at **Kedewatan**, where you can walk back to Ubud. Alterna-

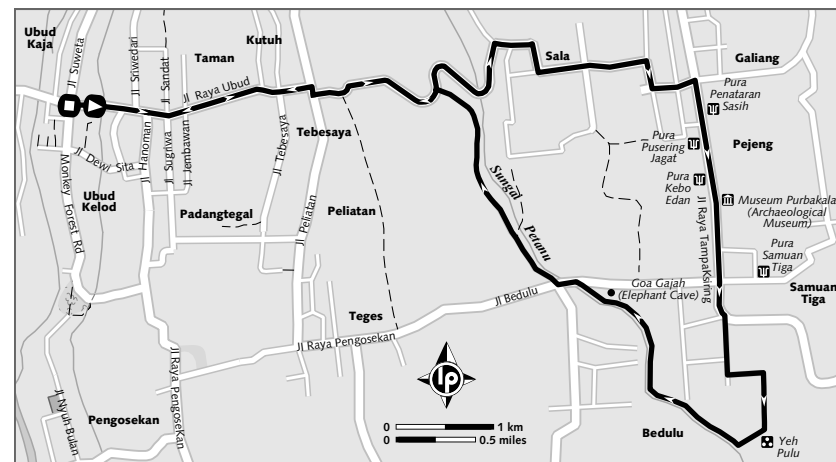
tively, cross the river on the nearby bridge and climb up to the very untouristy village of **Tegal Kuning** on the other side. There and back will add about 1km to your walk.

### Pejeng & Bedulu

The beautiful temples of Pejeng and archaeological sites of Bedulu can be visited in a day's outing. As most of the attractions are on sealed roads, you can also go by bicycle. Looking at the map, you'll see several places where you can shorten the route if your energies wane. Note that bemo to Ubud abound on Jl Bedulu.

If you have the time and energy, do the entire loop by going to the far eastern end of Jl Raya Ubud, and taking the small road that continues east from there. It passes the dump, descends steeply to cross the shady Sungai Petanu valley, then climbs to the village of Sala. Some back roads will take you east through Pejeng to the main road, where you turn south to pass several important temples and archaeological sites such as Pura Pusering Jagat and its ancient bronze bell (see p203).

Keep walking south down through Bedulu to the 14th-century carved cliffs of **Yeh Pulu** (see p201). From there follow Sungai Petanu upstream to **Goa Gajah** (Elephant Cave; see p200), but finding the right trail through the paddy



#### WALK FACTS

**Distance:** 10km  
**Duration:** 3hr

fields can be tricky so don't hesitate to ask anyone you see. Follow the trail by Sungai Petanu back to the small road by the dump – most of it is pretty, despite this landmark.

### COURSES

Ubud is a natural place to spend a few weeks developing your artistic or language skills, or learning about Balinese culture and cuisine. Two organisations, ARMA and the Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre, offer a wide range of cultural courses.

### Arts & Crafts

The Ubud area is the best place for art courses. A wide range of courses is available including batik, jewellery making and painting.

**ARMA** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976659; www.armamuseum.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; ☎ 9am-6pm) A cultural powerhouse offering classes in painting, woodcarving and batik. Other courses include Balinese history, Hinduism and architecture. Classes cost US\$25 to US\$50.

**Nirvana Batik Course** (Map p188; ☎ 975415; www.nirvanaku.com; Nirvana Pension & Gallery, Jl Goutama 10; ☎ classes 10am-3pm Mon, Wed & Sat) Nyoman Suradnya teaches the highly regarded batik courses. Classes cost US\$35 to US\$125 depending on duration (one to five days).

**Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre** (Map p188; ☎ 976194; Monkey Forest Rd, on the far side of the

football field; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) Painting and mask carving classes. Sessions cost from 50,000Rp for one hour. This is also a good place to find out about other courses being offered locally.

**Santra Putra** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977810; Penestan; classes per hr 100,000Rp) Intensive painting and drawing classes are run by abstract artist I Wayan Karja, whose studio is on site. Accommodation is also available; see p190.

**Studio Perak** (Map p188; ☎ 945749; www.studioperak.com; Jl Goutama) This studio has a friendly atmosphere and it specialises in Balinese-style silversmithing courses. A three-hour lesson, where you'll make a finished piece, costs 150,000Rp.

**Taman Harum Cottages** (Map p201; ☎ 975567; www.tamanharumcottages.com; Mas; lessons per hr from US\$7) In the centre of Bali's woodcarving district, this place offers carving and painting courses. You can also learn how to make the temple offerings found just about everywhere. See p207 for details on accommodation.

**Threads of Life Indonesian Textile Arts Center** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972187; www.threadsofflife.com; Jl Kajeng 24) Textile appreciation courses in the gallery and educational studio start at 150,000Rp. The range of classes includes ones that involve extensive travel around Bali.

### Cooking

**Balinese Cooking Courses** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973283; www.casalanabali.com; Honeymoon Guesthouse, Jl Bisma) Janet de Neeff runs regular cooking courses at her guesthouse. Half-day courses (250,000Rp) are held five days per week and cover ingredients, cooking techniques and the cultural background of the Balinese kitchen. Sunday gourmet tours cover sea salt and palm sugar production (300,000Rp).

**Bumbu Bali 2 Restaurant** (Map p188; ☎ 976698; Monkey Forest Rd) Balinese cooking course, with Indian



cuisine also offered. Courses start at the local market and end with lunch; 150,000Rp.

## Language

Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre (see p175) offers inexpensive courses. Its notice board has ads for the private tutors and teachers who provide courses on an ad hoc basis in both Bahasa Indonesia and the Balinese language.

## Meditation & Spiritual Interests

**ARMA** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976659; www.armamuseum.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; ☎ 9am-6pm) Has classes in Hindu and Balinese astrology.

**Meditation Shop** (Map p188; ☎ 976206; Monkey Forest Rd) Part of the Brahma Kumaris Society; offers silent meditation practice between 6pm and 7pm daily, and five-day meditation courses.

**Ubud Sari Health Resort** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974393; Jl Kajeng; ☎ 8am-8pm) Offers meditation and yoga classes.

## Music & Dance

The most visitor-friendly courses are in Ubud, where private teachers advertise instruction in various Balinese/Indonesian instruments. A well-recommended teacher of Balinese music is **Wayan Pasek Sucipta** (Map pp176-7; Eka's Homestay; ☎ 970550; Jl Sriwedari 8) who charges 50,000Rp for one hour, or lower rates for longer lessons.

Noted gamelan musician **Nyoman Warsa** (Map p188; ☎ 974807; Pondok Bamboo, Monkey Forest Rd; ☎) offers courses in that most basic of Balinese instruments. Simple mastery can take six months or more.

ARMA, Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre and Taman Harum Cottages also have courses in Balinese dance and music.

## TOURS

Taking a tour or two is a good idea as many of the attractions around Ubud are quite difficult to reach by public transport, and finding your way around this part of Bali can be a challenge – even with your own vehicle.

Specialised tours include thematic walks and cultural adventures.

**Bali Bird Walks** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975009; US\$33; ☎ Tue, Fri, Sat & Sun 9am-12.30pm from the former Beggar's Bush Bar) For the keen bird-watcher, this tour started by Victor Mason is still going strong. A gentle morning's walk will give you the opportunity to see maybe 30 of the 100 or so local species.

**Bali Eco and Educational Cycling Tour** (Bali Budaya Tours; ☎ 975557, 081 833 6580; per person 360,000Rp)

For the active, offers a combination of mountain biking (downhill!) and cultural and culinary activities.

**Bali Trekking** (☎ 975162; guided walks US\$30-125) Huge range of guided walks and treks around Ubud, including hills, river valleys, rice fields and villages.

**Herb Walks** (☎ 975051; walks US\$18; ☎ 8.30am Mon-Thu) Four-hour walks through lush Bali landscape; medicinal and cooking herbs and plants are identified and explained in their natural environment; includes herbal drinks. A great deal.

**Jaran Bali** (☎ 977121; ubudstable@yahoo.com; rides US\$16-38) See the Ubud area, including rice fields and small villages, from horseback and with a guide.

**Ubud Tourist Information** (Yaysan Bina Wisata; Map p188; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; 125,000-200,000Rp; ☎ 8am-8pm) Runs interesting and affordable half- and full-day trips to a huge range of places, not to mention Uluwatu, Mengwi, Alas Kedaton and Tanah Lot, or Goa Gajah, Pejeng, Gunung Kawi and Kintamani.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

One of the best places in Bali to see the many religious and cultural events celebrated on the island each year is in the Ubud area. See p337 for details of the events.

The **Ubud Writers & Readers Festival** (www.ubudwritersfestival.com) brings together scores of writers and readers from around the world in a celebration of writing – especially that which touches on Bali. It is usually held in October.

## SLEEPING

Ubud has hundreds of places to stay. Choices range from simple little losmen (basic accommodation) to luxurious retreats that are among the best in the world. Generally, Ubud offers good value for money at any price level. A simple, clean room within a family home compound is the least expensive option.

Midrange hotels generally offer swimming pools and other amenities, while the top-end hotels are often perched on the edges of the deep river valleys, with superb views and service (although even some cheap places have amazing views that urge you to curl up with a book and simply contemplate). Neighbourhood descriptions in the Budget category apply to all price levels.

Addresses in Ubud can be imprecise – but signage at the end of a road will often list the names of all the places to stay. Away from the main roads there are no streetlights and it can be very difficult to find your way after dark. If walking you will definitely need a torch (flashlight).

## Rentals

There are many houses you can rent or share in the Ubud area. For information about options, check the notice boards at Pondok Pecak Library (see p175), Ubud Tourist Information (see p175) and Bali Buddha (see p195). Also look in the free *Bali Advertiser* (www.baliadvertiser.biz) newspaper.

## Budget

Many inexpensive family lodgings are very small, often with just two, three or four rooms. They tend to operate in clusters so you can easily look at a few before making your choice.

## CENTRAL UBUD

This was the first place developed for tourists in Ubud and there are many good-value places.

### Monkey Forest Rd

**Jungut Inn** (Map p188; ☎ 978237; Jl Arjuna; r 40,000-60,000Rp) The torch-bearer for value on thrift-seeker-friendly Jl Arjuna just off Monkey Forest Rd, Jungut's three rooms are bare bones but very cheap. The family is often sitting in the compound making offerings.

**Frog Pond Inn** (Map p188; Monkey Forest Rd; r 40,000-60,000Rp) It's quiet, ultra-basic, friendly and has seven rooms with open-air bathrooms and cold water. The breakfast is tasty.

**Nyuh Gading Accommodation** (Map p188; ☎ 973410; Monkey Forest Rd; s/d 50,000/70,000Rp) In a quiet garden enclosure opposite the football field, this place has seven clean, simple rooms with hot water in bungalow-style units.

**Pramesti** (Map p188; ☎ 970843; uni\_pramesti@hotmail.com; Monkey Forest Rd; s/d 70,000/80,000Rp) Linens with vibrant tropical scenes brighten the bungalow-style rooms with hot water. Enjoy the simple but groomed garden from your porch.

**Puri Muwa Bungalows** (Map p188; ☎ 976441; Monkey Forest Rd; r 75,000-125,000Rp) Near the top of Monkey Forest Rd in a thicket of basic places is this quiet family-run place. The cheaper rooms are cold-water only.

**Loka House** (Map p188; ☎ 973326; off Monkey Forest Rd; s/d 90,000/100,000Rp) Once through the lush entrance, Loka is a peaceful place, where the two-storey main building overlooks a small carp pond in the garden. The three rooms have hot water and fans.

**Ubud Terrace Bungalows** (Map p188; ☎ 975690; Monkey Forest Rd; r 120,000Rp; ☎) There's good

value here, as the basic rooms come with a pool and hot water.

**White House Bali** (Map p188 ☎ 974855; purietak@yahoo.com; Monkey Forest Rd; s/d 150,000/200,000Rp; ☎) Re-joice! A Bush-free White House (although this one does have the odd shrub in the garden). Back of the street amid rice fields, 17 hot-water rooms are scattered in one- and two-storey blocks. Statues spout into the pool.

**Gayatri Bungalows 2** (Map p188; ☎ 979129; megy292003@yahoo.com; off Monkey Forest Rd; r 150,000-200,000Rp; ☎) The 12 large rooms have hot water and fans. It's a nice jaunt over coursing water and past rice paddies.

**Kubuku** (Map p188; ☎ 971552; Monkey Forest Rd; r 200,000Rp) Kubuku has a small vegetarian café with lounging *bale* (open-sided pavilion with a steeply pitched thatched roof). The two bungalows here are way back amid rice fields.

### East of Monkey Forest Rd

Small streets east of Monkey Forest Rd, including Jl Karna, have numerous, family-style homestays, which are secluded but still handy to the centre.

**Gandra House** (Map p188; ☎ 976529; Jl Karna; r 40,000-70,000Rp) Modern bathrooms and spacious gardens are the highlights of this cold-water 10-room place. One of several on this street.

**Sayong House** (Map p188; ☎ 973305; Jl Maruti; r 100,000-140,000Rp; ☎) At the northern end of this quiet lane, Sayong has seven basic hot-water rooms. Cross the lane and dive into the azure pool.

**Sania's House** (Map p188; ☎ 975535; sania\_house@yahoo.com; Jl Karna 7; r 150,000-250,000Rp; ☎) Pets wander about this family-run place, where the pool with fountains, huge terrace and large rooms will have even you wagging your tail.

### Jl Goutama

This charming street has several cheap, quiet and accessible places to stay.

**Donald Homestay** (Map p188; ☎ 977156; Jl Goutama; r 50,000-80,000Rp) The four rooms – some with hot water – are in a nice back corner of the family compound. Like many family-compound places, the chickens running around have satay in their future.

### North of Jl Raya Ubud

Both Jl Kajeng and Jl Suweta, leading north from Jl Raya, offer an excellent choice of budget lodgings, some quite close to the centre of town.





through the fields off Jl Bisma. The clean rooms have exceptional views and hot water, and are decorated with local handicrafts.

**Pondok Indah** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 966323; off Jl Bisma; s/d 80,000/100,000Rp) Follow the swift-flowing paddy waterways for 150m off the road, to this peaceful place where the top-floor terraces look over paddy fields. All five rooms have hot water.

**Sama's Cottages** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973481; Jl Bisma; s/d 100,000/150,000Rp; 🏠) This lovely little hideaway is terraced down a hill. It also has a well maintained pool and for companionship you can befriend the cocks pecking about.

### Campuan & Penestanan

West of Ubud but still within walking distance, places in the paddy fields are pitched at those seeking low-priced, longer-term lodgings. Most will offer discounted weekly rates, and some bigger bungalows are quite economical if you can share with a group of people. There are many signs for rooms and villas in the area; walk around and see what you find.

Note that these places are a steep climb up a set of concrete stairs off Jl Raya Campuan. (You can avoid this by approaching from the west.)

**Londo Bungalows II** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976764; londo.bungalows@hotmail.com; off Jl Raya Campuan; bungalows 60,000Rp) It's great value. The three simple hot-water bungalows have gorgeous paddy views and morning views of Gunung Batukau.

**Santra Putra** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977810; karjabali@yahoo.com; off Jl Raya Campuan; Penestanan; r US\$12-15) Run by internationally exhibited abstract artist I Wayan Karja whose studio/gallery is also on site, this place has five big, open airy rooms with hot water. Enjoy paddy field views from all vantage points. Painting and drawing classes are offered by the artist; see p185.

### Midrange

Choices are many in this price range. Expect a pool, hot water, good service and some or more amenities such as river views, satellite TV, fridge, air-con and perhaps breakfast.

### CENTRAL UBUD

#### Jl Raya Ubud

Look for a place on Ubud's main street that is protected from road noise.

**Puri Saren Agung** (Map p188; ☎ 975057; fax 975137; Jl Raya Ubud; r US\$50-65; 🏠) Part of the Ubud royal

family's historic palace (see p175), this place is tucked behind the courtyard where the regular dance performances are held. Accommodation is in traditional Balinese pavilions, with big verandas, four-poster beds, antique furnishings and hot water. There's lots of over-stuffed chairs about.

**Puri Saraswati Bungalows** (Map p188; ☎ 975164; www.purisaraswati.com; Jl Raya Ubud; r US\$50-90; 🏠) Very central and pleasant with lovely gardens that open onto the Ubud Water Palace. The 18 rooms are well back from Jl Raya Ubud, so it's quiet. Cheaper rooms have fans.

### Monkey Forest Rd

**Ubud Bungalows** (Map p188; ☎ 975537; www.ubudbungalow.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$20-40; 🏠) Back from the road, there are 18 spacious rooms in bungalow-style units. Five have air-com. The pool and gardens are inviting.

**Sri Bungalows** (Map p188; ☎ 975394; sribungalows@hotmail.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$35; 🏠) Some 50m off the busy street, look for a traditional Balinese entrance sheltering 16 bright bungalow-style rooms. The pool is large and there's an internet café.

**Ubud Inn** (Map p188; ☎ 975071; www.ubudinn.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$18-60; 🏠) In a town where even the simplest place has a riot of plants and flowers, the Ubud Inn seems to have more than most. Rooms span several budgets: basic are fan-only; the size swells as you add cash and you get extras like fridges and air-con. The angular pool has a children's area.

**Oka Wati Hotel** (Map p188; ☎ 973386; www.okawatihotel.com; off Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$25-60; 🏠) Oki Wati (the owner) is an unassuming veteran with an old-Ubud style. The 19 rooms have large verandas where the delightful staff will deliver your choice of breakfast. The décor features vintage details like four-poster beds. The pool is commodious.

**Lumbung Sari** (Map p188; ☎ 976396; www.lumbung.sari.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$45-85; 🏠) Artwork decorates the walls at the smartish Sari, which has a nice breakfast *bale* by the pool. The eight rooms have tubs; cheaper ones have fans.

**Cendana Resort & Spa** (Map p188; ☎ 973242; www.cendanaresort-spa.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$45-95; 🏠) Rooms have TV and face a lone paddy field. Higher priced rooms have modern bathrooms and both face pools that are surrounded by classical statuary. The water appears to cascade over the rice paddies. See p182 for details of the spa.

### Jl Goutama

These three places have more style than the cheaper options on this street.

**Nirvana Pension & Gallery** (Map p188; ☎ 975415; www.nirvanaku.com; Jl Goutama 10; s/d 150,000/200,000Rp) There's *alang alang* (woven thatch) roofs, a plethora of paintings, ornate doorways and modern bathrooms with hot water here. Batik courses are also held (p185).

**Agung Cottages** (Map p188; ☎ 975414; Jl Goutama; r 150,000-250,000Rp, villa 300,000Rp; 🏠) Follow a short path to reach this slightly rural-feeling retreat with friendly staff. The six huge, spotless rooms (some fan-only) front lovely gardens, and local art hangs on the walls.

### North of Jl Raya Ubud

**Han Snel Bungalow** (Map p188; ☎ 975699; www.hansnelbungalow.com; Jl Kajeng 3; bungalows US\$30-60; 🏠) Owned by the family of the late Han Snel, a well-known Ubud painter, this quiet compound has eight bungalows with interesting stone designs. Some rooms are perched right on the edge of the river gorge; the pool is part way down.

### NORTH OF THE CENTRE

**Ubud Sari Health Resort** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974393; www.ubudsari.com; Jl Kajeng; r US\$45-75; 🏠) There's 10 back-to-nature rooms *and* colonic irrigation for all guests here. See p182 for details of the spa. The plants in the gardens are labelled for their medicinal qualities and the café serves organic, vegetarian fare. Week-long intensive health packages are available from US\$1450.

**Ketut's Place** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975304; www.indo.com/hotels/ketut-place; Jl Suweta 40; r US\$21-46; 🏠) The nine simply elegant rooms range from basic with fans to deluxe versions with air-con and bathtub. All enjoy the stunning pool glittering down the hillside and river valley views. See p195 for details of the popular Balinese feasts.

**Klub Kokos** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 978270; www.klubkokos.com; r from US\$45; 🏠) A beautiful 1.5km walk north along the Campuan ridge (see p183 for details), Klub Kokos is a secluded place with a big pool and seven spotless sizeable rooms. It's reachable by car from the north; call for directions. Among the amenities for guests are a massive selection of jigsaw puzzles.

**Abangan Bungalows** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975977; abangbungalows@yahoo.com; off Jl Raya Ubud; r from US\$25; 🏠) Up a steep driveway, Abangan has a lovely setting with views over the lush rice

fields and distant palms. Some of the 15 *lumbung*-style rooms are fan-only.

### EAST OF THE CENTRE

**Matahari Cottages** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975459; www.matahariubud.com; Jl Jembawan; r US\$25-60; 🏠) This wild place has flamboyant, themed rooms, including the 'Batavia Princess' and the 'Indian Pasha'. The Library is a vision out of a 1920s fantasy. You can wash those men right outa your hair in the South Pacific suite.

**Tiing Gading Bungalows** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973228; tiing@indosat.net.id; Jl Sukma; r from US\$50; 🏠) Overlooking a rainforest valley, the 11 bungalow-style rooms have lush, tropical views. Groves of bamboo provide shelter for the kidney-shaped pool and restaurant.

### SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

Jl Raya has quick access to the centre; other locales are more isolated.

**Kakiang Bungalows** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 978984; www.kakiang.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; r US\$50-80; 🏠) This elegant place has 10 bungalows with a rural design but modern conveniences. All have nice verandas. The pool area is attractive and a study in cut stone. There's also a good bakery.

**Alam Indah** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974629; www.alamindahbali.com; Jl Nyuh Bulan; r US\$50-95; 🏠) Just south of the Monkey Forest in Nyuhkuning, this isolated and spacious resort has 10 rooms that are beautifully finished in natural materials to traditional designs. The Wos river valley views are entrancing. The 'commute' to Ubud through the forest is a bonus.

### WEST OF THE CENTRE

#### Jl Bisma

Close to town, this area maintains rural charm while moving upmarket.

**Uma Sari Cottage** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 981538; www.umasari.com; Jl Bisma; r \$35-40; 🏠) While ducks patrol the rice in the surrounding fields, you can patrol the jade-green pool here looking for fun. Most of the eight large rooms are fan-only; go for the upper floor as the verandas have the best views.

**Honeymoon Guesthouse** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973282; www.casalunabali.com; Jl Bisma; r 350,000-600,000Rp; 🏠) Run by the Casa Luna (p194) clan and set in a family compound, there's a high rate of return visitors so it's recommended to book ahead. The 16 rooms have terraces, fans and tubs; it's worth paying extra to avoid a dark room. See p185 for details about the cooking classes held here.

## Campuan & Penestanan

Just west of the Campuan bridge, steep Jl Raya Penestanan branches off to the left, and climbs up and around to Penestanan. Stay on the east side going uphill for valley views.

**Taman Indrakila Hotel** (Map pp176-7; ☎ /fax 975017; Jl Raya Sanggingan; r US\$15-35; 🏠) One of Ubud's best deals; eight airy rooms tumble down the Sungai Cerik valley. Views from the bedrooms and verandas are sweeping. The ovoid pool is an oasis, the staff gracious.

**Pager Bungalows** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975433; Jl Raya Campuan; r 150,000-300,000Rp, family villas 500,000Rp) Run by painter Nyoman Pageh and his family, this cute homestay hugs a hillside location back from the main road. Cheapest are two large bungalows that face the compound. Five more rooms are comfortable and look into the recesses of the dense river valley. The family villa is a fully appointed apartment.

**Anom Cottages** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977234; www.anomcottages.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; r 300,000-350,000Rp; 🏠) Six art-filled bungalows are scattered around this hillside compound. Upstairs rooms have sweeping views of the river valley. Amenities include fridges and satellite TV.

**Sri Rath Cottages** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975638; sriath@dps.centrin.net.id; Jl Raya Penestanan; r US\$20-40; 🏠) There's a pool with a view of the lotus flower-inspired roof of Antonio Blanco's house, spacious grounds and 26 clean-if simply designed rooms here, some fan-only. Breakfasts are bounteous and fruitful.

**Melati Cottages** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974650; melaticottages@hotmail.com; off Jl Raya Penestanan; r US\$25-35; 🏠) Quack like a classic Ubud rice-field duck as you stroll out to these traditional-style rooms set around a café by a pool. You can walk in from the north or south. After dark, listen to nature's night music wafting in from the fields.

**Hotel Tjampuhan** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975368; www.indo.com/hotels/tjampuhan; Jl Raya Campuan; r US\$70, with air-con US\$115; 🏠) This venerable place overlooks the confluence of Sungai Wos and Campuan. The influential German artist Walter Spies lived here in the 1930s, and his former home, which sleeps four people (US\$175), is now part of the hotel. There are shared garden bungalows that spill down the hill. The two swimming pools have verdant views in all directions. See p182 for details of the spa.

## Sayan & Ayung Valley

**Sayan Terrace** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974384; www.sayanterraceresort.com; Jl Raya Sayan; r US\$60-150; 🏠) Revel in Balinese culture at the hotel

With a jaw-dropping view of the Sungai Ayung Valley below and the tops of palm trees stretching west, the Sayan Terrace is the place to gaze off into space. Many of the hotels built along here are luxury properties where rooms start at well over US\$300. Here you can enjoy the verdant views for a fraction of the price. The 11 rooms are large and open onto terraces; the cheapest are best value. Don't expect décor out of books like *Bali Style*, but that doesn't matter when you sink back on the lounging chairs and wonder at the panorama in front of you. This is the site of Colin McPhee's *A House in Bali*; see p181 for details. Once here, you'll understand why he built his house here.

## Top End

At this price range you have your choice of prime properties in the area. The big decision: close to town or not. Look for views, expansive pools, rooms with architectural features such as marble and/or outdoor bathrooms and a full range of amenities. Many hotels provide shuttle service around the Ubud area.

## CENTRAL UBUD

**Ubud Village Hotel & Resort** (Map p188; ☎ 975571; www.theubudvillage.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$80-150, villas from US\$350; 🏠) Close to Ubud's urban action – such as it is – the Village features a big pool, lush garden and 28 tasteful, fully equipped rooms and 25 posh new villas with rice field views and small private pools.

**Barong Resort** (Map p188; ☎ 971759; www.barong-resort.com; Monkey Forest Rd; villas from US\$150; 🏠) Eleven walled villas are hidden away in this discreet compound in central Ubud. The design is contemporary with Balinese flair in the use of natural materials. The marble bathrooms are large and roomy.

**Komaneka Resort & Spa** (Map p188; ☎ 976090; www.komaneka.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r from US\$200; 🏠) Set back behind a bubbling fountain, this 20-unit resort exudes contemporary, minimalist elegance. Rooms are beautifully decorated in rough-hewn furniture and feature sunken marble tubs. The Komaneka Art Gallery (p180) is at the front of the hotel. See p182 for details of the spa.

## SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

**ARMA Resort** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976659; www.armsaresort.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; r US\$80-175, villas from US\$375; 🏠) Revel in Balinese culture at the hotel

enclave of the ARMA compound (see p178 for details about the excellent museum and p185 for details of the range of courses offered). The resort features fine views, imaginative architecture and attractive décor. Villas come with private pools.

**Bali Spirit Hotel & Spa** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974013; www.balispirithotel.com; Nyuh Kuning Village; r US\$100-160; 🏠) Overlooking the Wos Valley, the Bali Spirit has stylish rooms and stunning views. The 19 rooms tumble down the hillside and feature Balinese artworks and antiques. The spring-fed pool sits in a tropical bowl down by the rapids. There's complimentary transport.

## WEST OF THE CENTRE

Properties generally go from posh to posher as you near the fabled Ayung Valley.

## Jl Bisma

**Samhita Garden** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975443; www.samhitagarden.com; Jl Bisma; r US\$85, villa US\$250; 🏠) From the moment you step through the traditional entrance this small boutique hotel charms. There are 11 rooms and two villas, the latter with private plunge pools. All have traditional *alang alang* (woven thatch) ceilings and the balconies are draped in white bougainvillea. The mosaic-tiled pool is spectacular.

## Campuan

**Ibah Luxury Villas & Spa** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974466; www.ibahbali.com; off Jl Raya Campuan; suites US\$150-500; 🏠) Overlooking the lush Wos Valley, the Ibah offers an elegant environment, superb spa facilities (see p182), and 15 spacious, stylish individual suites and villas which combine rustic and modern details. The swimming pool is set into the hillside beneath an ancient-looking stone wall.

## Sayan & Ayung Valley

Two kilometres west of Ubud, the fast flowing Sungai Ayung has carved out a deep valley, its sides sculpted into terraced paddy fields or draped in thick rainforest. Overlooking this verdant valley are some of the most stylish, luxurious and expensive hotels on Bali.

**Four Seasons Resort** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975577; www.fourseasons.com; ste from US\$550, villa from US\$575; 🏠) Set slightly into the valley, the curved open-air reception area looks like a Cinerama screen of verdant Ubud landscape. Electric carts ferry guests around the secluded

rooms and villas. Many have private pools and all share the same amazing views. At night you hear just the water rushing below.

**Amandari** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975333; www.amanresorts.com; ste from US\$675; 🏠) In Kedewatan village, the Amandari is unquestionably classy with superb views over the paddies and down to the river – the 30m green-tiled swimming pool seems to drop right over the edge. The 30 private pavilions have stone gateways and private gardens. They are spacious and exquisitely decorated. Some have their own private swimming pool.

## NORTHWEST OF UBUD

**Alila Ubud** (Map p201; ☎ 975963; www.alilahotels.com; r from US\$250, villa US\$450; 🏠) Near Payangan, the Alila offers great views and modern luxury amid rural tranquillity. It has a stunning ebony pool that rises out of the green like a stark vision. Rooms are lined with natural wood and entire sides open up so guests can savour the views (which are better in some than others).

## EATING

Ubud's restaurants are some of the best on Bali. It's a good place to try authentic Balinese dishes, as well as a range of other Asian and international cuisine. The quintessential Ubud restaurant has fresh ingredients, a delightful ambience and an eclectic menu, with dishes fusing inspiration from around the world.

Many make beautiful use of natural design elements and some offer serene settings with views out over the rice fields. Cafés where you can sip an excellent coffee or juice are all the rage – some people never seem to leave. There are also many inexpensive warung serving Indonesian dishes. Many of the places listed under Drinking (p197) also serve food. And don't wait past 9pm to eat or you won't.

The small local chain of convenience stores, **Delta Mart**, is useful for snacks and sundries. Among the many are two central locations (Both: Map p188; Monkey Forest Rd; ☎ 24hr). For organic foods, try **Bali Buddha** (see p195).

The new **Bintang Supermarket** (Map pp176-7; Bintang Centre, Jl Raya Campuan) is well located and has a large range of food and other essentials. The older **Delta Dewata Supermarket** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973049; Jl Raya Andong) has a vast range of goods.



## Central Ubud

### JL RAYA UBUD

There are broad choices on Ubud's main street.

**Rendezvousdoux** (Map p188; ☎ 747 0163; Jl Raya Ubud 14; dishes 20,000-35,000Rp; ☎) This cute place is a fusion of French-accented forms: café, library and bookshop. There's a light menu, global music (at times live) and historic films on Ubud on loop.

**Casa Luna** (Map p188; ☎ 977409; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 10,000-50,000Rp) One of Ubud's top choices has a creative Indonesian-focused menu and a delicious range of bread, pastries, cakes and more from its well-known bakery. The bamboo skewers on the addictive seafood satay will skewer your heart. The owner, Janet de Neeffe, runs regular Balinese cooking courses (see p185).

**Nomad** (Map p188; ☎ 977169; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 15,000-60,000Rp) There's a daily barbeque and often a gamelan player as well. Balinese food is served in tapas-sized portions. It's a good central spot for a drink, especially back in the dark corners.

**Café Lotus** (Map p188; ☎ 975357; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 25,000-55,000Rp) A leisurely meal at this Ubud classic overlooking the lotus pond is a relaxing treat for many when they first arrive in Ubud. The menu features Western and Indonesian fare that's well prepared. For 50,000Rp you can book front-row seats for dance performances at Pura Taman Saraswati (see p175).

**Ryoshi** (Map p188; ☎ 972192; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 25,000-60,000Rp; ☎ 11am-midnight) The Ubud branch of the local chain of good Japanese sushi restaurants is attractively perched off the road.

**Ary's Warung** (Map p188; ☎ 978359; Jl Raya Ubud; mains 30,000-90,000Rp) The name Ary's Warung is something of a misnomer – crisp table linen, architectural food presentation, well-trained waiters and high prices won't be found in any other warung. The spare design opens the ground floor to the street. Alluring bar.

### MONKEY FOREST RD

**Lamak** (Map p188; ☎ 974668; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 40,000-155,000Rp; ☎ 11am-midnight) Artful presentations from the eclectic menu set the mood at this excellent eatery. The large kitchen is open and each day there are specials of Indonesian food that are not found on your average menu. Long wine list.

**Three Monkeys** (Map p188; ☎ 974830; Monkey Forest Rd; mains 20,000-70,000Rp) A top choice, the dining room opens onto rice fields at the back. Add

the glow of tiki torches for a magical effect. By day there are sandwiches, salads and gelato. At night there's a fusion menu of Asian classics, pasta and steaks. Local children's art decorates the walls.

**Coffee & Silver** (Map p188; ☎ 975354; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp; ☎ 10am-midnight; ☎) Tapas and more substantial items make up the menu at this comfortable place with seating inside and out. Vintage photos of Ubud line the walls. Good coffee drinks and free wi-fi.

**The Waroeng** (Map p188; ☎ 970928; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes from 15,000Rp) A small and artful upmarket warung with wooden benches and music befitting its owners (they're behind the Jazz Cafe – see p197). Create your own *nasi campur* (steamed rice with meat and vegetable side dishes) from an array of fresh items.

**Bumbu Bali 2** (Map p188; ☎ 976698; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp) Unlike the varied Asian cuisine at the original a few hundred metres north, the menu here is almost entirely Balinese featuring items such as *lawar* (green bean salad), *bebek betutu* (smoked duck) and *sate lilit* (minced meat and grated coconut skewers). It's a large and attractive place.

**Café Wayan & Bakery** (Map p188; ☎ 975447; Monkey Forest Rd; mains 20,000-50,000Rp) Another old Ubud favourite, Café Wayan has relaxed a garden-setting ambience. Its food and baked goods draw many repeat customers, especially upscale locals. Sunday night Balinese buffets (120,000Rp) are a festive treat.

### EAST OF MONKEY FOREST RD

**Deli Cat** (Map p188; ☎ 971284; off Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp; 10am-midnight) A character-filled place filled with characters, Deli Cat is like a little tropical bodega. Wine – some delightfully cheap – is sold along with snacks, cheese and meaty mains. Try the little grilled sausages outside at the tables right on the football field. Many people end their Ubud evenings with a nightcap here.

**Tutmak Café** (Map p188; ☎ 975754; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) The multi-level location here facing both Jl Dewi Sita and the football field makes this a breezy stop on a hot day. Try one of the artful sandwiches, burgers, juices or coffees.

**Dragonfly** (Map p188; ☎ 972973; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp) Large and small plates feature foods from east and west at this popular café. Treats from India, Mexico, Vietnam, Italy and many more, including Bali, showcase the

range of the kitchen. The wine list by the glass is long and welcome.

**Kafe Batan Waru** (Map p188; ☎ 977528; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp) This café serves consistently excellent Indonesian food. Tired of tired *mie gorengs* made from instant noodles? With noodles made fresh daily, this version celebrates a lost art. Western dishes include sandwiches and salads. Smoked duck (*bebek betutu*) and suckling pig (*babi guling*) can be ordered in advance. Patio tables are a pleasure.

### JL GOUTAMA

**Toko Tako** (Map p188; Jl Goutama; tea 3000Rp) This tiny outdoor Japanese teashop is an ethereal vision at night when scores of tiny lanterns cast their glow. Enjoy chai, coffee and juices.

**Kintarou** (Map p188; ☎ 746 2550; Jl Goutama; dishes 5000-25,000Rp) A cute little juice and Balinese food café run by engaging guys. A bonus for all customers is the free sample of their house-made glycerine soaps.

**Dewa Warung** (Map p188; Jl Goutama; dishes 5000-10,000Rp) You feel like you're at a rural warung with its shady position elevated above the street. Enjoy fresh and authentic local standards under the tin roof.

### NORTH OF JL RAYA UBUD

**Warung Ibu Oka** (Map p188; Jl Suweta; dishes 7000-10,000Rp; ☎ 11am-4pm) You'll see lunchtime crowds opposite Ubud Palace waiting for one thing: the eponymous Balinese-style roast suckling pig. Line up and find a place under the shelter for one of the best meals you'll have in Ubud. Order a *special* to get the best cut.

**Bumbu Bali Restaurant** (Map p188; ☎ 974217; Jl Suweta 1; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp) Balinese, Indian and vegetarian influences combine at this excellent restaurant where many of its candle-lit tables face Ubud Palace. Dishes are inventive and the flavours complex.

**Terazo** (Map p188; ☎ 978941; Jl Suweta; dishes 30,000-80,000Rp) A popular place serving stylish, eclectic Balinese fusion cuisine. The wine list is long and features numerous French, Italian and Australian choices. The spare interior is accented by evocative vintage travel posters and bold flower arrangements.

### North of the Centre

**Roda Restaurant** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975487; Jl Kajeng 24; dishes 7000-18,000Rp) Above Threads of Life (see p179), Roda serves Balinese dishes with wonderful overlay of local culture. Dishes include

hard-to-find Balinese desserts, such as the Moorish *jaja Bali* (sticky rice, coconut, palm sugar and fruit steamed in banana leaves). You can book a traditional meal (30,000Rp per person; minimum five people) in advance.

**Ketut's Place** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975304; Jl Suweta 40; feast 100,000Rp; ☎ Sun, Wed & Fri night) Ketut's famous traditional Balinese feast is an excellent introduction to Balinese life and customs. The range of tasty dishes covers just about everything from *bebek betutu* (smoked duck) to various bamboo-skewer satays made from minced meats – a classic Balinese style of satay that varies from the little chunks of meat elsewhere in Indonesia and Asia. Other dishes include a piquant *jukut ares* (banana tree curry), a delightful something we call 'tapioca surprise' and unusual palm sugar desserts. It's very sociable and you'll have fun just comparing some of the fruits not found at any supermarket at home. Call to confirm times and book; see p191 for details of accommodation.

### East of the Centre

**Masakan Padang** (Map pp176-7; Jl Hanoman; dishes 6000-12,000Rp; ☎ noon-1am) This Padang-style eatery – where you choose from the plates on display – has some of the freshest, tastiest eats in town. Food is fresh and much of it is spicy.

**Warung Igelanca** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 974153; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 8000-15,000Rp) Noodle fans rejoice; this orzo-sized street side den has 'em in everything, from a Jakarta chicken noodle soup to North Sumatra fried rice noodles.

**Surya's Warung** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 0813-3805 2998; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 15,000-20,000Rp) A simple street side place with a menu of Thai and Indonesian food with one twist: organic baby food. Carrot and banana goop? Yum!

**Warung Taman** (Map pp176-7; Jl Sriwedari; dishes 10,000-30,000Rp; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) The woks are busy at this neighbourhood warung, which serves consistently good Indonesian and Chinese food. Rough-hewn tables and friendly staff make it a relaxed choice.

**Bali Buddha** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976324; Jl Jembawan 1; dishes 12,000-35,000Rp) This breezy upper-floor place offers a full range of vegetarian *jamu* (health tonics), salads, tofu curries, savoury crepes, pizza and gelato. It has a comfy lounging area and is candle-lit in the evening. The café also doubles as an exhibition space for local artists. On the ground floor, a market sells fresh organic fruit and vegetables, home

baked date bars, breads and cookies. The bulletin board is a community resource.

**Matahari Cottages** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975459; Jl Jembawan; high tea 60,000Rp; ☎ 2-5pm) This flamboyant inn serves extravagant high tea in open-air pavilions. Call to confirm. See p191 for details of accommodation.

## JL HANOMAN

**Hanoman Juice Ja** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 971056; Jl Hanoman 12; dishes 6000-18,000Rp) Cleanse your system at this appropriately fruit-coloured café serving health juices, including wheat germ grass and ginseng shots. Non-liquid items include salads and sandwiches.

**Kafe** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 970992; www.balispirit.com; Jl Hanoman 44; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp) Part of Bali Spirit, an umbrella organisation for a number of Ubud-based charitable organisations (see p348, Kafe's menu is great for veggie grazing or just having a coffee or juice.

**Bebek Bengil** (Map pp176-7; Dirty Duck Diner; ☎ 975489; Jl Hanoman; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 11am-10pm) This rambling place does a special line in crispy deep-fried duck dishes and has a wide-open dining area. Views of rice fields include ducks who should be worried...

## TEBESAYA

**Village Café** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973229; Jl Sukma; dishes 7500-20,000Rp; ☎ ) You gotta love a place where the owner calls himself 'Mr Chicken'. You can find his namesake on the menu as well as juice concoctions. There's also internet access.

## South of Ubud

In recent years many highly regarded restaurants have opened on Jl Raya Pengosekan. It's always worth seeing what's new.

**Kokokan Club** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973495; ARMA, Jl Raya Pengosekan; mains 35,000-65,000Rp; ☎ noon-10pm) On the grounds of the ARMA Resort, this elegant restaurant serves superb southern Thai and seafood dishes such as *hor mok goong* (prawns steamed in banana leaf). The open-sided, upstairs dining area defines understated elegance. Phone for transport.

**Warung Opera** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977564; Jl Raya Pengosekan; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp) This big, open place is popular for its diverse menu of snacks, steaks, sandwiches and local fare. The chicken salad and crispy duck are two favourites. Many come for the sophisticated entertainment that includes live jazz and blues many nights; free transport.

**Warung Enak** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972911; Jl Raya Pengosekan; dishes 15,000-150,000Rp) There are peaceful rice paddy views from the breezy upper level of this brightly coloured place that specialises in Indonesian food. The *rijstaffel* is always an excellent choice and you can wash it down with imported wine from a long list.

**Kakiang Bakery** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 978984; Jl Raya Pengosekan; dishes 8000-20,000Rp; ☎ ) This modern little café is a good place for a coffee, a snack or sandwich. You could even share a tart.

**Pizza Bagus** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 978520; Jl Raya Pengosekan; dishes 18,000-30,000Rp) Ubud's best pizza bakes up with a crispy thin crust at this small place. Besides the long list of pizza options, there's pasta and sandwiches. They deliver.

## West of Ubud

The restaurants and cafés in this section are all pretty spread out.

## JL BISMA

**Café des Artistes** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972706; Jl Bisma 9X; dishes 22,000-90,000Rp; ☎ 10am-midnight) In a quiet and cultured perch up off Jl Raya Ubud, the popular Café des Artistes brings Belgian-accented food to Ubud. But the menu strays into France and Indonesia as well, with a foray or two to other places for sandwiches and salads. Local art is on display and the bar is refreshingly cultured. Enjoy the sinfully pleasant wicker seating.

## CAMPUAN

**Murni's Warung** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975233; Jl Raya Campuan; dishes 16,000-50,000Rp) Since 1977, Murni's has been an Ubud favourite. The riverside setting is beautiful and a four-level dining room and bar overlooks the lush valley. The menu has good versions of Indo and Western classics. You may find the sizeable gift shop not unlike fly paper.

## SANGGINGAN

**Fly Café** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975440; Jl Raya Lungsiakan; 17,000-55,000Rp) Buzz in to this popular place with a silly name for good meals of Western and Indonesian food. A good coffee bar and very comfortable wicker seats pull in loungers and talkers.

**Naughty Nuri's** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977547; Jl Raya Sanggingan; dishes 15,000-60,000Rp) This legendary expat hangout packs 'em in for grilled steaks, ribs and burgers. Thursday night grilled tuna specials are wildly popular and something of a scene.

**Indus Restaurant** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977684; Jl Raya Sanggingan; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp) Perched on a ridge above the Sungai Cerik Valley, this branch of the Casa Luna (p194) empire combines excellent river and rice terrace views with creative Indonesian fare.

**Mozaic** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975768; www.mozaic-bali.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; meals 150,000-300,000Rp; ☎ 6-10pm Tue-Sun) Chef Chris Salans has created a much-lauded restaurant that brings fine French fusion cuisine to Ubud. Dine in an elegant garden or ornate pavilion. One of Bali's finest, Mozaic is consistently popular for its high standards. Tasting menus are very popular.

## PENESTANAN

**Ibu Puthi's Warung** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976146; off Jl Raya Campuan; dishes 6000-15,000Rp) This shady place on the Everest-like cement stairs leading to Penestanan serves simple and tasty food. There's always a few funky folks hanging around and you may end up hanging out for a while – especially if the stairs have caused you to seize up.

## SAYAN & AYUNG VALLEY

The top-end resorts have excellent restaurants that can make for a special night out from Ubud.

**Restaurant** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975333; Amandari; dinner per person US\$25-50) Thanks to the name you won't end up in, you guessed it, Bar asking for food. A vision in teak, the Amandari's (see p193) place to eat is perched over the valley below. The changing menu draws from Western and Asian influences. The wine selection befits a celebration.

**Ayung Terrace** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977577; Four Seasons Resort; dinner per person US\$25-50) The same stunning view that makes the Four Seasons (see p193) such a dramatic place to stay awaits diners here. During the day it's casual, but at night it's fine Pan-Asian fusion fare. Menus change almost nightly.

## DRINKING

Ubud. Bacchanalia. Mutually exclusive. No-one comes to Ubud for wild nightlife. A few bars get lively around sunset and later into the night, but the venues certainly don't aspire to the extremes of beer-swilling debauchery and club partying found in Kuta and Seminyak.

Bars close early in Ubud, often by 11pm. Many eating places listed above are also good just for a drink, including Ary's Warung, Deli

Cat, Nomad, Terazo, Waring Opera, Café des Artistes, Murni's Warung and Naughty Nuri's.

**Napi Orti** (Map p188; ☎ 970982; Monkey Forest Rd; drinks from 12,000Rp; ☎ noon-late) This upstairs place is your best bet for a late night drink. Get boozy under the hazy gaze of Jim Morrison and Sid Vicious.

**Jazz Café** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976594; Jl Sukma 2; dishes 35,000-60,000Rp; ☎ 5pm-midnight) An expat meeting place, Jazz Café has a relaxed atmosphere in a garden of coconut palms and ferns, good Asian fusion food and live music Tuesday to Saturday from 7.30pm. The cocktail list is long. It provides transport around Ubud.

**Putra Bar** (Map p188; Monkey Forest Rd; draught beer 14,000Rp; ☎ 11am-11pm) Ubud's rasta wannabes hang out at this Kuta-wannabe place where the happy hour motto is 'Get yourself drunk'.

**AngKaSa** (Map p188; ☎ 977395; Jl Suweta; drinks from 12,000Rp) This cute little bar-café with a Japanese accent has papaya-coloured walls to go with papaya drinks on the menu.

**Café Exiles** (Map p188; ☎ 974812; Jl Raya Pengosekan; dishes 19,000-28,000Rp; ☎ 11am-midnight) You'll feel exiled at Exiles, an open-air café-bar with a grassy outlook south of town. There's live music most nights.

## ENTERTAINMENT

The joy of Ubud – and what keeps people coming back – is the cultural entertainment. It's a good base not only for the nightly array of performances, but also for keeping up with news of scheduled events in surrounding villages.

## Dance

If you're in the right place at the right time you may see dances performed in temple ceremonies for an essentially local audience. These dances are often quite long and not as accessible to the uninitiated.

Dances performed for visitors are usually adapted and abbreviated to some extent to make them more enjoyable, but most are done with a high degree of skill and commitment, and usually have appreciative locals in the audience (or peering over the screen!). It's also common to combine the features of more than one traditional dance in a single performance. For the perspective on the state of dance on Bali today from one of its top dancers, see A Classic Balinese Dancer, p143.

In a week in Ubud, you can see Kecak, Legong and Barong dances, *Mahabharata* and

*Ramayana* ballets, *wayang kulit* puppets and gamelan orchestras. The main venues are:

**ARMA Open Stage** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 976659; Jl Raya Pengosekan) See also p178.

**Padangtegal Dance Stage** (Map pp176-7; Jl Hanoman)

**Peliatan Pura Dalem Puri** (Map pp176-7; Jl Peliatan)

**Pura Dalem Puri** (Map pp176-7; Jl Raya Ubud)

**Pura Dalem Ubud** (Map pp176-7; Jl Raya Ubud)

**Pura Taman Saraswati** (Water Palace; Map p188; Jl Raya Ubud) See p175.

**Ubud Palace** (Map p188; Jl Raya Ubud) Nightly performances in a beautiful setting; see p175.

**Ubud Wantilan** (Map p188; Jl Raya Ubud) Large meeting *bale* across from Ubud Palace.

Other performances can be found in nearby towns like Batuan, Mawang and Kutuh.

**Ubud Tourist Information** (see p175) has performance information and sells tickets (usually 50,000Rp). For performances outside Ubud, transport is often included in the price. Tickets are also sold at many hotels, and by street vendors who hang around outside Ubud Palace – all charge the same price as the tourist office.

Vendors sell drinks at the performances, which typically last about one to 1½ hours. Before the show, you might notice the musicians checking out the size of the crowd – ticket sales fund the troupes. Also watch for potential members of the next generation of performers: local children avidly watch from under the screens, behind stage and from a musician's lap or two.

One word to the wise about a problem unimaginable just a few years ago: turn off your mobile phone! Nobody wants to hear it.

## Shadow Puppets

You can also find shadow puppet shows – although these are greatly attenuated from traditional performances that often last the entire night. Regular performances are held at **Oka Kartini** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 975193; Jl Raya Ubud; tickets 50,000Rp), which has bungalows and a gallery.

## SHOPPING

Ubud has a huge variety of quality art shops, boutiques and galleries. Many places have clever and unique items made in and around the area. You can use Ubud as a base to explore craft and antique shops all the way down to Batubulan (see p204).

The euphemistically named **Pasar Seni** (Art Market; Map p188) is a busy two-storey place that

sells a wide range of clothing, sarongs, footwear and souvenirs of variable quality at negotiable prices. Decent souvenirs include leather goods, batiks, baskets and silverware.

More interesting is Ubud's colourful **produce market**, which operates to a greater or lesser extent every day and is buried within Pasar Seni. It starts early in the morning and winds up by lunch time.

You can spend days in and around Ubud shopping. Jl Raya Ubud, Monkey Forest Rd, Jl Hanoman and Jl Dewi Sita should be the focus of your expeditions.

## Arts & Crafts

You'll find paintings for sale everywhere. Check the gallery listings (p179) for recommendations. Prices in galleries range from cheap to collector-level depending on the artist. Prices often are lower if you buy directly from the artist's workshop.

Small shops at Pasar Seni and by Monkey Forest Rd often have good woodcarvings, particularly masks. There are other good woodcarving places along Jl Bedulu east of Teges, and along the road between Nyuhkuning and the southern entrance to Monkey Forest Sanctuary.

Surrounding villages also specialise in different styles or subjects of masks. Along the road from Teges to Mas (see p206), look for masks and some of the most original carved pieces with natural wood finishes. North of Ubud, look for carved Garudas in Junjungan, and painted flowers and fruit in Tegallalang.

Just southeast of Ubud, Peliatan produces shadow puppets and statuary that is serious, artistic and profane.

**Bali Cares** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 981504; www.idepfoundation.org; Jl Hanoman 44) This lovely shop sells goods to benefit several local charities including IDEP (see p348). Items range from wood-carvings made from sustainable woods to paintings, handicrafts and other items produced by local people. It adjoins Kafe (p196) and the shop is an excellent resource for information on charitable and non-profit groups.

**Moari** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 977367; Jl Raya Ubud) New and restored Balinese musical instruments are sold here.

**Pondok Bamboo** (Map p188; ☎ 974807; Monkey Forest Rd) Hear the music of a thousand bamboo wind chimes at this store owned by noted gamelan musician Nyoman Warsa (see p186 for details of his music lessons).

**Tegun Galeri** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973361; Jl Hanoman 44) Everything the souvenir stores are not; beautiful handmade items from around the island. Next to Bali Cares.

**Threads of Life Indonesian Textile Arts Center** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972187; Jl Kajeng 24) This center stocks exquisite handmade traditional fabrics. See p185 for information about the courses in weaving.

## Clothes

For fashion and fabrics, the most interesting shops are found on Monkey Forest Rd, Jl Dewi Siti and Jl Hanoman. Many will make or alter to order.

**Pusaka** (Map p188; ☎ 978619; Monkey Forest 71) 'Modern ethnic clothing' is the motto here, which translates into cool, comfy yet stylish cottons. Need a gift for somebody small (or not so small)? Adorable house-made plush toys are only 5000Rp. Look for the fountain out front.

**Wild Ginger** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 979248; Jl Hanoman 1) This small air-con boutique has gorgeous displays of unique Bali-made hand-painted gauzy women's wear.

**Zarong** (Map p188; ☎ 977601; Monkey Forest Rd) A slightly offbeat, hippy chic fashion store. There's lots of cool cottons here that will be at home in any Balinese situation. Among the local lines sold here is Aryti, which makes boldly patterned sarongs.

## Housewares

**Batavia 1885** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 972885; Jl Hanoman 32) It's not a shop, it's an adventure. Who knows what you'll find in this musty, dusty lit by just a couple of lights. Urns, bowls, forlorn puppets, statues and a lot more. You'll be asking 'Is this a Ming original of a Balinese knock-off?'. Look for the plates embedded in the wall outside.

**Masery** (Map p188; ☎ 744 3175; Jl Dewi Sita) Large air-con shop with boldly coloured Asian-influenced interiors and clothes. Cushions to bags to housewares, it could be called 'World of Accents'.

**Thebb** (Map p188; ☎ 975880; Jl Dewi Sita) Smart and hip housewares in distinctive designs made in Bali.

**Toko East** (Map p188; ☎ 978306; Jl Raya Ubud; ☎) High-end Balinese-made housewares and handicrafts; quite stylish and some, like the exquisite small picture frames, might just fit into your already full luggage.

## Jewellery

**Alamkara** Monkey Forest Rd (Map p188; ☎ 972213); Jl Dewi Sita (Map p188; ☎ 971004) One of the best jewellery galleries in Ubud. On display are unusual but very wearable designs in gold and silver, featuring black pearls and gems, some made locally.

## Other Items

For concentrated souvenir shopping besides Pasar Seni, go Jl Hanoman and Monkey Forest Rd. Shops are stocked to the brim with baskets, textiles, paintings, mirrors, mosaics, bags, kites, drums, umbrellas – and much more.

Places with DVDs of dubious origin have proliferated. Most also have large selections of CDs both legitimate and pirated.

**Kou** (Map p188; ☎ 971905; Jl Dewi Sita) Luscious handmade organic soaps made locally. Breathe deep on the way in.

**Kertas Gingsir** (Map p188; ☎ 973030 Jl Dewi Sita) Specialises in interesting paper handmade from banana, pineapple and taro plants. If you're a real fan, ask about factory visits.

**Kites Centre** (Map p188; ☎ 970924; Monkey Forest Rd) There are colourful wind-born creations such as dragons and sailing ships. A sweet little frog goes for 25,000Rp.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY To/From the Airport

Official taxis from the airport to Ubud cost 175,000Rp. A taxi or car with driver to the airport will cost about half.

## Bemo

Ubud is on two bemo routes. Orange bemo travel from Gianyar to Ubud (8000Rp) and larger brown bemo from Batubulan terminal in Denpasar to Ubud (6000Rp), and then head to Kintamani via Payangan. Ubud doesn't have a bemo terminal; **bemo stops** (Map p188) are near the market in the centre of town.

## Taxi

There are very few taxis in Ubud – those that honk their horns at you have usually dropped off passengers from southern Bali in Ubud and are hoping for a fare back. Instead, use one of the drivers with private vehicles hanging around on the street corners. From Central Ubud to, say, Sanggingan should cost about 10,000-15,000Rp.



## Tourist Shuttle Bus

**Perama** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 973316; Jl Hanoman; 🕒 9am-9pm) is the major tourist shuttle operator, but its terminal is inconveniently located in Padangtegal; to get to your final destination in Ubud will cost another 5000Rp.

Destination	Fare
Candidasa	40,000Rp
Kuta	30,000Rp
Lovina	70,000Rp
Padangbai	40,000Rp
Sanur	20,000Rp

## GETTING AROUND Bemo

Bemo don't directly link Ubud with nearby villages; you'll have to catch one going to Denpasar, Gianyar, Pujung or Kintamani and get off where you need to. Bemo to Gianyar travel along eastern Jl Raya, down Jl Peliatan and east to Bedulu. To Pujung, bemo head east along Jl Raya and then north through Andong and past the turn-off to Petulu.

To Payangan, they travel west along Jl Raya Ubud, go up past the many places on Jl Raya Campuan and Jl Raya Sanggingan and turn north at the junction after Sanggingan. Larger brown bemo to Batubulan terminal go east along Jl Raya and down Jl Hanoman.

The fare for a ride within the Ubud area shouldn't be more than 4000Rp.

## Bicycle

See bike rental information under Activities, p182.

## Car & Motorcycle

With numerous nearby attractions, many of which are difficult to reach by bemo, renting a vehicle is sensible. Ask at your accommodation or hire a car and driver. See p356 for details.

## AROUND UBUD

The region east and north of Ubud has many of the most ancient monuments and relics on Bali. Some of them predate the Majapahit era and raise as-yet-unanswered questions about Bali's history. Others are more recent, and in other instances, newer structures have been built on and around the ancient remains.

They're interesting to history and archaeology buffs, but not that spectacular to look at – with the exception of Gunung Kawi. Perhaps the best approach is to plan a whole day walking or cycling around the area, stopping at the places that interest you, but not treating any one as a destination in itself.

If you're travelling by public transport, start early and take a bemo to the Bedulu intersection southeast of Ubud, and another due north to Tirta Empul, about 15km from Ubud. From the temple of Tirta Empul, follow the path beside the river down to Gunung Kawi, then return to the main road and walk south for about 8km to Pejeng, or flag down a bemo going towards Gianyar.

## BEDULU

Bedulu was once the capital of a great kingdom. The legendary Dalem Bedaulu (see the Legend of Dalem Bedaulu, p203) ruled the Pejeng dynasty from here, and was the last Balinese king to withstand the onslaught of the powerful Majapahit from Java. He was defeated by Gajah Mada in 1343. The capital shifted several times after this, to Gelgel and then later to Semarapura (Klungkung). For a walking tour around this area see p184.

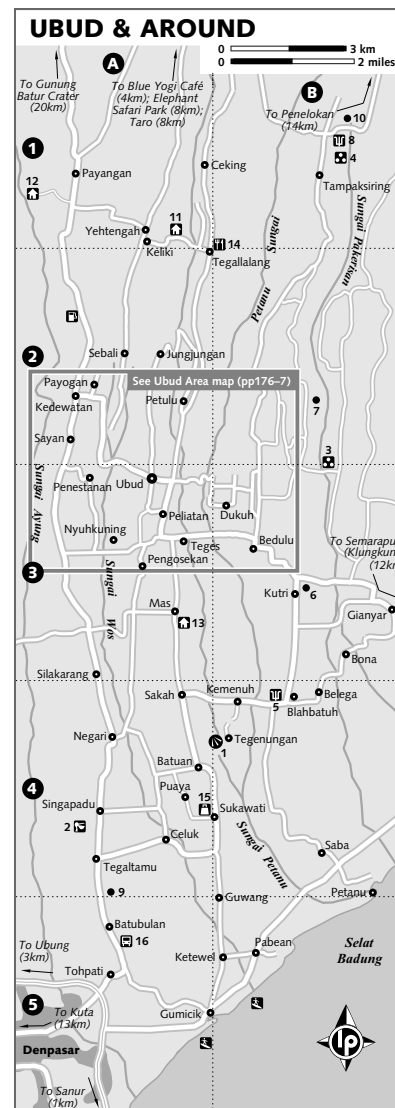
## Sights

### GOA GAJAH

Two kilometres southeast of Ubud on the road to Bedulu, a large car park and a few of souvenir shops indicate that you've reached a big tourist attraction – **Goa Gajah** (Elephant Cave; Map pp176-7; adult/child 4100/2100Rp, car parking 1000Rp, motorbike parking 300Rp; 🕒 8am-6pm). There were never any elephants on Bali; the cave probably takes its name from the nearby Sungai Petanu, which at one time was known as Elephant River, or perhaps because the face over the cave entrance might resemble an elephant.

The origins of the cave are uncertain – one tale relates that it was created by the fingernail of the legendary giant Kebo Iwa. It probably dates to the 11th century, and was certainly in existence during the Majapahit takeover of Bali. The cave was rediscovered by Dutch archaeologists in 1923, but the fountains and pool were not found until 1954.

The cave is carved into a rock face and you enter through the cavernous mouth of a demon. The gigantic fingertips pressed beside the face of the demon push back a riotous jungle of surrounding stone carvings.



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	
Air Terjun Tegenungan.....	1 B4
Bali Bird Park & Rimba Reptil Park.....	2 A4
Goa Garba.....	3 B2
Gunung Kawi.....	4 B1
Pura Gaduh.....	5 B4
Pura Kedarman.....	6 B3
Pura Krobokan.....	7 B2
Pura Mengening.....	8 B1
Pura Puseh.....	9 A4
Tirta Empul.....	10 B1
SLEEPING 🏠	
Alam Sari.....	11 A1
Alila Ubud.....	12 A1
Taman Harum Cottages.....	13 A3
EATING 🍴	
Cafe Kampung.....	14 B1
SHOPPING 🛍️	
Pasar Seni (Craft Market).....	15 A4
TRANSPORT 🚗	
Batubulan Bus/Bemo Terminal.....	16 A5

To the left of the cave entrance, in a small pavilion, is a statue of Hariti, surrounded by children. In Buddhist lore, Hariti was an evil woman who devoured children, but under the influence of Buddhism she reformed completely to become a protector of children and a symbol of fertility.

From Goa Gajah you can clamber down through the rice paddies to Sungai Petanu, where there are crumbling **rock carvings** of *stupas* (domes for housing Buddhist relics) on a cliff face, and a small **cave**.

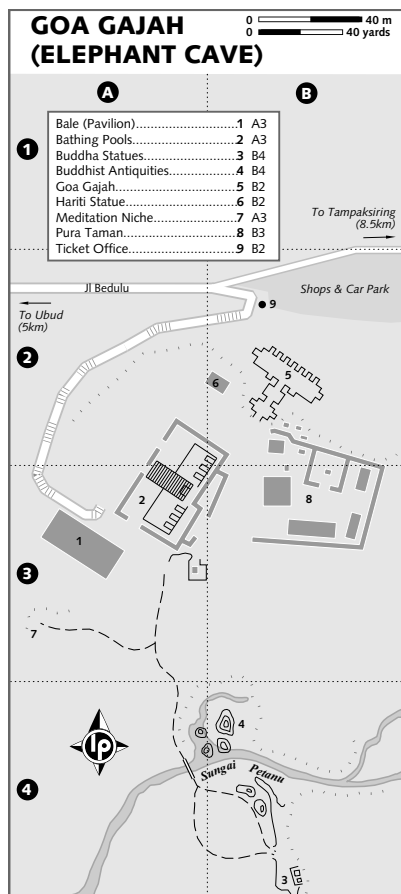
Try to get here before 10am, when the big tourist buses start to arrive.

## YEH PULU

This 25m-long **carved cliff face** (Map pp176-7; adult/child 4100/2100Rp) is believed to be a hermitage dating from the late 14th century. Apart from the figure of elephant-headed Ganesha, the son of Shiva, there are no obvious religious scenes here. The energetic frenzy includes various scenes of everyday life, although the position and movement of the figures suggests that it could be read from left to right as a story. One theory is that they are events from the life of Krishna, the Hindu god.

One of the first recognisable images is of a man carrying a shoulder pole with two jugs, possibly full of *tuak* (palm wine). He is following a woman whose jewellery suggests wealth and power. There's a whimsical figure peering round a doorway, who seems to have armour on his front and a weapon on his back. The

Inside the T-shaped cave you can see fragmentary remains of the *lingam*, the phallic symbol of the Hindu god Shiva, and its female counterpart the *yoni*, plus a statue of Shiva's son, the elephant-headed god Ganesha. In the courtyard in front of the cave are two square bathing pools with water trickling into them from waterspouts held by six female figures.



the paddy fields, but you might need to pay a local to guide you. By car or bicycle, look for the signs to 'Relief Yeh Pulu' or 'Villa Yeh Pulu', east of Goa Gajah.

Even if your interest in carved Hindu art is minor, this site is really quite lovely and rarely will you have much company. From the entrance, it's a pleasant 300m walk to Yeh Pulu.

### PURA SAMUAN TIGA

The majestic **Pura Samuan Tiga** (Temple of the Meeting of the Three; Map pp176-7) is about 200m east of the Bedulu junction. The name is possibly a reference to the Hindu trinity, or it may refer to meetings held here in the early 11th century. Despite these early associations, all the temple buildings have been rebuilt since the 1917 earthquake. The imposing main gate was designed and built by I Gusti Nyoman Lempad, one of Bali's renowned artists and a native of Bedulu.

### MUSEUM PURBAKALA

This archaeological **museum** (Map pp176-7; ☎ 942354; admission by donation; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Thu, 8am-12.30pm Fri) has a reasonable collection of artefacts from all over Bali, and most displays are in English. The exhibits in several small buildings include some of Bali's first pottery from near Gilimanuk, and sarcophagi dating from as early as 300 BC – some originating from Bangli are carved in the shape of a turtle, which has important cosmic associations in Balinese mythology. The museum is about 500m north of the Bedulu junction, and easy to reach by bemo or by bicycle.

### Getting There & Away

About 3km east of Teges, the road from Ubud reaches a junction where you can turn south to Gianyar or north to Pejeng, Tampaksiring and Penelokan. Ubud-Gianyar bemo will drop you off at this junction, from where you can walk to the attractions. The road from Ubud is reasonably flat, so coming by bicycle is a good option.

### PEJENG

Continuing up the road towards Tampaksiring you soon come to Pejeng and its famous temples. Like Bedulu, this was once an important seat of power, as it was the capital of the Pejeng kingdom, which fell to the Majapahit invaders in 1343.

### Sights

#### PURA KEBO EDAN

Also called the **Crazy Buffalo Temple** (Map pp176-7), this is not an imposing structure, but it is famous for its 3m-high statue, known as the **Giant of Pejeng**, thought to be approximately 700 years old. Details are sketchy, but it may represent Bima, a hero of the *Mahabharata*, dancing on a dead body, as in a myth related to the Hindu Shiva cult. There is some conjecture about the giant's giant genitalia – it has what appear to be pins on the side. Some claim this was to give the woman more pleasure – an early version of what is often sold by vending machines in men's toilets.

#### PURA PUSERING JAGAT

The large **Pura Pusering Jagat** (Navel of the World Temple; Map pp176-7) is said to be the centre of the old Pejeng kingdom. Dating from 1329, this temple is visited by young couples who pray at the stone *lingam* and *yoni*. Further back is a large stone urn, with elaborate but worn carvings of gods and demons searching for the elixir of life in a depiction of the *Mahabharata* tale 'Churning the Sea of Milk'. The temple is on a small track running west of the main road.

#### PURA PENATARAN SASIH

This was once the state **temple** (Map pp176-7; Jl Raya Tampaksiring) of the Pejeng kingdom. In the inner courtyard, high up in a pavilion and difficult to see, is the huge bronze drum known as the **Fallen Moon of Pejeng**. The hourglass-shaped drum is 186cm-long, the largest single-piece cast drum in the world. Estimates of its age

#### THE LEGEND OF DALEM BEDAULU

A legend relates how Dalem Bedaulu possessed magical powers that allowed him to have his head chopped off and then replaced. Performing this unique party trick one day, the servant entrusted with lopping off his head and then replacing it unfortunately dropped it in a river and, to his horror, watched it float away. Looking around in panic for a replacement, he grabbed a pig, cut off its head and popped it upon the king's shoulders. Thereafter, the king was forced to sit on a high throne and forbade his subjects to look up at him; Bedaulu means 'he who changed heads'.

vary from 1000 to 2000 years, and it is not certain whether it was made locally or imported – the intricate geometric decorations are said to resemble patterns from as far apart as Irian Jaya and Vietnam. Even in its inaccessible position, you can make out these patterns and the distinctive heart-shaped face designs.

Balinese legend relates that the drum came to earth as a fallen moon, landing in a tree and shining so brightly that it prevented a band of thieves from going about their unlawful purpose. One of the thieves decided to put the light out by urinating on it, but the moon exploded and fell to earth as a drum, with a crack across its base as a result of the fall.

Although the big noise here is all about the drum, be sure to notice the **statuary** in the temple courtyard that dates from the 10th to the 12th century.

### TAMPAKSIRING

Tampaksiring is a small town about 18km northeast of Ubud with a large and important temple and the most impressive ancient monument in Bali.

### Sights

#### GUNUNG KAWI

On the southern outskirts of town, a sign points east off the main road to Gunung Kawi and its **ancient monuments** (Map p201; adult/child 4100/2100Rp; ☎ 7am-5pm). From the end of the access road, a steep, stone stairway leads down to the river, at one point making a cutting through an embankment of solid rock. There, in the bottom of this lush green valley, is one of Bali's oldest and largest ancient monuments.

Gunung Kawi consists of 10 rock-cut *candi* (shrines) – memorials cut out of the rock face in imitation of actual statues. They stand in awe-inspiring 7m-high sheltered niches cut into the sheer cliff face. A solitary *candi* stands about a kilometre further down the valley to the south; this is reached by a trek through the rice paddies on the western side of the river.

Each *candi* is believed to be a memorial to a member of the 11th-century Balinese royalty, but little is known for certain. Legends relate that the whole group of memorials was carved out of the rock face in one hard-working night by the mighty fingernails of Kebo Iwa.

The five monuments on the eastern bank are probably dedicated to King Udayana, Queen Mahendradatta, their son Airlangga

thoughtful seated figure wears a turban, which suggests he is a priest.

The hunting scene starts with a horseman and a man throwing a spear. Another man seems to be thrusting a weapon into the mouth of a large beast, while a frog imitates him by disposing of a snake in the same manner. Above the frog, two figures kneel over a smoking pot, while to the right, two men carry off a slain animal on a pole. Then there's the depiction of the woman holding the horse's tail – is she begging the rider to stay or being dragged off as his captive?

The Ganesha figures of Yeh Pulu and Goa Gajah are quite similar, indicating a close relationship between them. You can walk between the sites, following small paths through

and his brothers Anak Wungsu and Marakata. While Airlangga ruled eastern Java, Anak Wungsu ruled Bali. The four monuments on the western side are, by this theory, to Anak Wungsu's chief concubines. Another theory is that the whole complex is dedicated to Anak Wungsu, his wives, concubines and, in the case of the remote 10th *candi*, to a royal minister.

### TIRTA EMPUL

A well-signposted fork in the road north of Tampaksiring leads to the popular holy springs at **Tirta Empul** (Map p201; adult/child 4100/2100Rp; ☎ 8am–6pm), discovered in AD 962 and believed to have magical powers. The springs bubble up into a large, crystal-clear tank within the temple and gush out through waterspouts into a bathing pool – they're the main source of Sungai Pakerisan, the river that rushes by Gunung Kawi only 1km or so away. Next to the springs, **Pura Tirta Empul** is one of Bali's most important temples.

You'll need a sarong or long pants, and maybe a scarf. Come in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid the tourist buses. You can also use the clean, segregated and free public baths in the grounds.

### OTHER SITES

There are other groups of *candi* and monks' cells in the area encompassed by the ancient Pejeng kingdom, notably **Pura Krobokan** (Map p201) and **Goa Garba** (Map p201), but none so grand as Gunung Kawi. Between Gunung Kawi and Tirta Empul, **Pura Mengening** (Map p201) temple has a freestanding *candi*, similar in design to those at Gunung Kawi.

### NORTH OF UBUD

Abused and abandoned logging elephants from Sumatra have been given refuge on Bali at the **Elephant Safari Park** (Map p201; ☎ 721480; www.baliadventuretours.com; adult/child US\$16/8; ☎ 9am–5pm). Located in the cool, wet highlands of **Taro** (12km north of Ubud), the park is home to almost 30 elephants. Besides a full complement of exhibits about elephants, most people will probably want to *ride* an elephant (adult/child including admission US\$68/47). The park has received praise for its conservation efforts; however, be careful you don't end up at one of the rogue parks, designed to divert the unwary to unsanctioned displays of elephants.

A good lunch stop near the park, with picturesque paddy-field views is **Blue Yogi Cafe** (Map p201; ☎ 901368; dishes 15,000–40,000Rp; ☎ 8am–5pm). After lunch, walk things off with a stroll among the rice.

A smaller road goes north through **Keliki**, where you'll find **Alam Sari** (☎ 240308; www.alam.sari.com; r from US\$55; ☎ ☎), a fine, small hotel in a wonderfully isolated location. There are 12 luxurious yet rustic rooms, a pool and a great view. The hotel is one of the few on the island that treats its own wastewater.

### SOUTH OF UBUD

The road between South Bali and Ubud is lined with places making and selling handicrafts. Many visitors shop along the route as they head to Ubud, sometimes by the busload, but much of the craftwork is actually done in small workshops and family compounds on quiet back roads. You may enjoy these places more after visiting Ubud, where you'll see some of the best Balinese arts and develop some appreciation of the styles and themes.

For serious shopping and real flexibility in exploring these villages, it's worth renting or chartering your own transport, so you can explore the back roads and carry your purchases without any hassles. If you decide to charter a vehicle, the driver may receive a commission from any place you spend your money – this can add 10% or more to the cost of purchases. Also, a driver may steer you to workshops or artisans that he favours, rather than those of most interest to you.

From the **Batubulan Bus/Bemo terminal** (Map p201; see p171), bemo to Ubud stop at the craft villages along the main road through Negari. The following places are presented in the order you'll encounter them on the way to Ubud from the south.

### Batubulan

The start of the road from South Bali is lined with outlets for stone sculptures – **stone carving** is the main craft of Batubulan (moonstone), and workshops are found right along the road to Tegaltamu, with another batch further north around Silakarang. Batubulan is the source of the stunning temple-gate guardians seen all over Bali. The stone used for these sculptures is a porous grey volcanic rock called *paras*, which resembles pumice; it's soft and surprisingly light.

The temples around Batubulan are, naturally, noted for their fine stonework. Just 200m to the east of the busy main road, **Pura Puseh** (Map p201) is worth a visit for its unusual decorations. The statues draw on ancient Hindu and Buddhist iconography and Balinese mythology; however, they are not old – many are based on illustrations from books on Javanese archaeology.

Batubulan is also a centre for making 'antiques', textiles and woodwork, and has numerous craft and antique shops. Several venues offer regular performances of traditional Barong (mythical lion-dog creature) and Rangda (widow-witch who represents evil in Balinese theatre and dance) dances, often during the day, and commonly included in tours from southern Bali.

### Bali Bird Park & Rimba Reptil Park

Just north of Tegaltamu, the **bird park** (Map p201; ☎ 299352; www.bali-bird-park.com; adult/child US\$8/4; ☎ 8am–6pm) boasts more than 1000 birds from over 250 different species, including rare *cedrawasih* (birds of paradise) from Irian Jaya and highly endangered Bali starlings (see On a Wing and a Prayer, p282) – many of these birds are housed in special walk-through aviaries. In one of them you follow a walk at tree-level – or what some with feathers might say is bird-level. The two hectares of landscaped gardens feature a fine collection of tropical plants.

Next door, **Rimba Reptil Park** (☎ 299344; adult/child US\$8/4; ☎ 8am–6pm) has about 20 species of

creatures from Indonesia and Africa, as well as turtles, crocodiles, a python and yet more Komodo dragons.

Both places are popular with kids. You can buy a combination ticket to both parks (adult/child US\$15/7.50). Allow at least two hours for the bird park alone, which also has a good restaurant.

Many tours stop at the parks, or you can take a Batubulan–Ubud bemo, get off at the junction at Tegaltamu, and follow the signs north for about 600m. There is a large parking lot.

### Singapadu

Singapadu is largely uncommercial and preserves a traditional appearance, with walled family compounds and shady trees. The area has a strong history of music and dance, specifically the *gong gede* (large orchestra) gamelan, the older, but smaller *gong saron* gamelan and the Barong dance. Local artisans specialise in producing **masks** for Topeng and Barong dances.

Singapadu's dancers now perform mostly at large venues in the tourist areas – there are no regular public performances. There are not many obvious places in the town to buy locally produced crafts, as most of the better products are sold directly to dance troupes or quality art shops. Ask around to find some of the workshops, but even at the source, the best quality masks will still be rather expensive. If you are relying on public transport wait for a bemo at the junction at Tegaltamu.

### Celuk

Celuk is the **silver** and **gold** centre of Bali. The bigger showrooms are on the main road, and have marked prices that are quite high, although negotiation is possible. The variety and quality of the designs on display is not as good as those in the shops of Ubud, and the prices are no cheaper, except for commercial buyers.

Hundreds of silversmiths and goldsmiths work in their homes on the backstreets north and east of the main road. Most of these artisans are from *pande* families, members of a sub-caste of blacksmiths whose knowledge of fire and metal has traditionally put them outside the usual caste hierarchy. Their small workshops are interesting to visit, and have the lowest prices, but they don't keep a

### DETOUR

The usual road from Ubud to Batur is through Tampaksiring, but there are other lesser roads up the gentle mountain slope. One of the most attractive goes north from Peliatan, past Petulu and its birds (see p181), and through Tegallalang and Ceking, to bring you out on the crater rim between Penelokan and Batur. It's a sealed road all the way and you pass through wood-carving towns like **Jati** and **Pujung**.

In **Tegallalang** you can pause at **Cafe Kampung** (Map p201; ☎ 901201; dishes 20,000–50,000Rp, r from US\$85), a remote and rustic warung and upscale guesthouse. The design makes great use of natural rock and the views are excellent.



large stock of finished work. They will make something to order if you bring a sample or sketch.

### Sukawati & Puaya

Once a royal capital, Sukawati is now known for a number of specialised crafts and for the daily **Pasar Seni** (Art Market; Map p201), a two-storey **craft market** where every type of quality craftwork and touristy trinket is on sale. One group of artisans, the *tukang prada*, make temple umbrellas, beautifully decorated with stencilled gold paint, which can be seen at roadside shops. The *tukang wadiah* make cremation towers, which you're less likely to see. Other craft products include intricate patterned *lontar* (specially prepared palm leaves) baskets and wind chimes.

The craft market is on the western side of the main road – public bemo stop right outside. Across the road is the colourful morning **produce market**, which also sells sarongs and temple ceremony paraphernalia.

Sukawati is also renowned for its traditional dances and *wayang kulit* (shadow puppet) performances.

Puaya, about 1km northwest of Sukawati, specialises in high-quality **leather shadow puppets** and Topeng masks.

### Batuan

Batuan's recorded history goes back 1000 years, and in the 17th century its royal family controlled most of southern Bali. The decline of its power is attributed to a priest's curse, which scattered the royal family to different parts of the island.

In the 1930s two local artists began experimenting with a new style of **painting** using black ink on white paper. Their dynamic drawings featured all sorts of scenes from daily life – markets, paddy fields, animals and

people crowded onto each painting – while the black-and-white technique evoked the Balinese view of the supernatural.

Today, this distinct Batuan style of painting is noted for its inclusion of modern elements. Sea scenes often include a windsurfer, while tourists with gadgets or riding motorcycles pop up in the otherwise traditional Balinese scenery. There are good examples in galleries along, or just off, the main road in Batuan, and in Ubud's Museum Puri Lukisan (p175).

Batuan is also noted for its traditional dance, and is a centre for carved wooden relief panels and screens. The ancient Gambuh dance is performed in Batuan's Pura Puseh every full moon.

### Mas

Mas means 'gold' in Bahasa Indonesia, but **woodcarving** is the principal craft in this village. The great Majapahit priest Nirartha once lived here, and **Pura Taman Pule** is said to be built on the site of his home. During the three-day Kuningan festival (see p336), a performance of *wayang wong* (an older version of the *Ramayana* ballet) is held in the temple's courtyard.

Carving was a traditional art of the priestly Brahmana caste, and the skills are said to have been a gift of the gods. Historically, carving was limited to temple decorations, dance masks and musical instruments, but in the 1930s carvers began to depict people and animals in a naturalistic way, and the growth of tourism provided a market for woodcarving, which has become a major cottage industry.

Generally the carving for sale in Mas is priced quite high – you should see items for less elsewhere as you shop around. Although this is the place to come if you want something custom-made in sandalwood – just be

prepared to pony up. Mas is also the centre of Bali's booming furniture industry, producing chairs, tables and reproduction antiques, mainly from teak imported from other Indonesian islands.

Along the main road in Mas are the **Taman Harum Cottages** (Map p201; ☎ 9755567; www.tamanharumcottages.com; r from US\$35, villas US\$50-75; 🚽 🚿 🚰). There are 17 rooms and villas – some quite large. By all means get one overlooking the rice fields. It's behind a gallery, which is also a venue for a huge range of art and cultural courses (see p185). Airport pickups and Ubud shuttles are free.

North of Mas, woodcarving shops make way for art galleries, cafés and hotels, and you soon know that you're approaching Ubud.

### Alternative Routes

From Sakah, along the road between Batuan and Ubud, you can continue east for a few kilometres to the turn-off to Blahbatuh and continue to Ubud via Kutri and Bedulu.

In Blahbatuh, **Pura Gaduh** (Map p201) has a one-metre-high stone head, believed to be a portrait of Kebo Iwa, the legendary strongman and minister to the last king of the Bedulu kingdom. Gajah Mada – the Majapahit strongman – realised that it wouldn't be possible to conquer Bedulu (Bali's strongest kingdom) while Kebo Iwa was there. So Gajah Mada lured him away to Java (with promises of women and song) and had him murdered. The stone head possibly predates the Javanese influence in Bali, but the temple is simply a reconstruction of an earlier one destroyed in the earthquake of 1917.

About 2km southwest of Blahbatuh, along Sungai Petanu, is **Air Terjun Tegenungan** (Tegenungan Waterfall; also known as Srog Srogan). Follow the signs from Kemenuh village

### THE STATUE OF KUTRI

This statue on the hilltop shrine at Kutri is thought to date from the 11th century and shows strong Indian influences.

One theory is that the image is of Airlangga's mother, Mahendradatta, who married King Udayana, Bali's 10th-century ruler. When her son succeeded to the throne she hatched a plot against him and unleashed *leyak* (evil spirits) upon his kingdom. She was defeated, but this led to the legend of Rangda, the widow-witch and ruler of evil spirits.

The temple at the base of the hill has images of Durga, and the body of a *Barong*, the mythical lion-dog creature, can be seen in one of the pavilions (the sacred head of the Barong is kept elsewhere).

for the best view of the falls, from the western side of the river.

### KUTRI

Heading north from Blahbatuh, Kutri has the interesting **Pura Kedarmas** (aka Pura Bukit Dharma; Map p201). If you climb up Bukit Dharma behind the temple, there's a great panoramic **view** and a **hilltop shrine**, with a stone statue of the six-armed goddess of death and destruction, Durga, killing a demon-possessed water buffalo.

### BONA & BELEGA

On the back road between Blahbatuh and Gianyar, Bona is a **basket-weaving** centre and features many articles made from *lontar* leaves. (Note: most road signs in the area read 'Bone' instead of Bona, so if you end up getting lost, you'll have to ask: 'Do you know the way to Bone?') Nearby, the village of Belega is a centre for **bamboo furniture** production.

### DETOUR

An alternative route between Denpasar and Ubud goes through the coastal village of **Gumicik**, which has a broad, black deserted **beach**. This bypasses the congested roads of Batubulan and Celuk, and is part of the new east coast road going via Lebih to Kusamba.

The coast around here has some good wet-season surfing: **Padang Galak**, a right-hand beach break at low- to mid-tide; and **Ketewel**, a barrelling right-hander at high tide.

The beach at **Pabean** is a site for irregular religious purification ceremonies, and cremated ashes are ritually scattered here, near the mouth of the Sungai Wos (Wos River). Just north of Ketewel town, **Guwang** is another small woodcarving centre.

From Gumicik, head north through Ketewel and Guwang to **Sukawati** and the tourist mobs at the Pasar Seni (see above).

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