

Bali



Bali may be small in size – you can drive around the entire coast in one long day – but its prominence as a destination is huge, and rightfully so. Ask travellers what Bali means to them and you'll get as many answers as there are flowers on a frangipani tree. Virescent rice terraces, pulse-pounding surf, enchanting temple ceremonies, mesmerising dance performances and ribbons of beaches are just some of the images people cherish.

And those are just some of the more obvious qualities. A visit to Bali means that you are in the most visitor-friendly island of Indonesia. There are pleasures of the body, whether a massage on the beach or a hedonistic interlude in a sybaritic spa. Shopping that will put 'extra bag' at the top of your list. Food and drink ranging from the freshest local cuisine bursting with the flavours of the markets to food from around the globe, often prepared by chefs and served in restaurants that are world class. From a cold Bintang at sunset to an epic night clubbing, your social whirl is limited only by your own fortitude.

Small obviously doesn't mean limited. The manic whirl of Kuta segues into the luxury of Seminyak. The artistic swirl of Ubud is a counterpoint to misty treks amid the volcanoes. Mellow beach towns like Amed, Lovina and Pemuteran can be found right round the coast and just offshore is the laid-back idyll of Nusa Lembangan.

As you stumble upon the exquisite little offerings left all over the island that materialise as if by magic, you'll see that the tiny tapestry of colours and textures is a metaphor for Bali itself.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunbathing and partying at **Kuta Beach** (p281)
- Hitting the latest bars, restaurants and clubs at **Seminyak** (p287)
- Experiencing Bali's elaborate cultural life in **Ubud** (p307) and surrounding villages
- Chilling out – or maybe catching a wave – on **Nusa Lembangan** (p346)
- Hiking through and enjoying the superb views of lush valleys from the region around **Munduk** (p364)



■ POPULATION: 3.2 MILLION

■ LAND AREA: 5632 SQ KM

■ HIGHEST PEAK: GUNUNG AGUNG (3142M)

HISTORY

It's certain that Bali has been populated since early prehistoric times, but the oldest human artefacts found are 3000-year-old stone tools and earthenware vessels from Cekik. Not much is known of Bali during the period when Indian traders brought Hinduism to the Indonesian archipelago, but the earliest written records are stone inscriptions dating from around the 9th century. By that time, rice was being grown under the complex irrigation system known as *subak*, and there were precursors of the religious and cultural traditions that can be traced to the present day.

Hindu Influence

Hindu Java began to spread its influence into Bali during the reign of King Airlangga, from 1019 to 1042. At the age of 16, Airlangga had fled into the forests of western Java when his uncle lost the throne. He gradually gained support, won back the kingdom once ruled by his uncle and went on to become one of Java's greatest kings. Airlangga's mother had moved to Bali and remarried shortly after his birth, so when he gained the throne there was an immediate link between Java and Bali. At this time, the courtly Javanese language known as Kawi came into use among the royalty of Bali, and the rock-cut memorials seen at Gunung Kawi (Mt Kawi) near Tampaksiring are a clear architectural link between Bali and 11th-century Java.

After Airlangga's death, Bali retained its semi-independent status until Kertanagara became king of the Singasari dynasty in Java two centuries later. Kertanagara conquered Bali in 1284, but his power lasted only eight years until he was murdered and his kingdom collapsed. With Java in turmoil, Bali regained its autonomy and the Pejeng dynasty, centred near modern-day Ubud, rose to great power. In 1343 Gajah Mada, the legendary chief minister of the Majapahit dynasty, defeated the Pejeng king Dalem Bedaulu and brought Bali back under Javanese influence.

Although Gajah Mada brought much of the Indonesian archipelago under Majapahit control, Bali was the furthest extent of its power. Here the 'capital' moved to Gelgel, near modern-day Semarapura (once known as Klungkung), around the late 14th

century, and for the next two centuries this was the base for the 'king of Bali', the Dewa Agung. The Majapahit kingdom collapsed into disputing sultanates. However, the Gelgel dynasty in Bali, under Dalem Batur Enggong, extended its power eastwards to the neighbouring island of Lombok and even crossed the strait to Java.

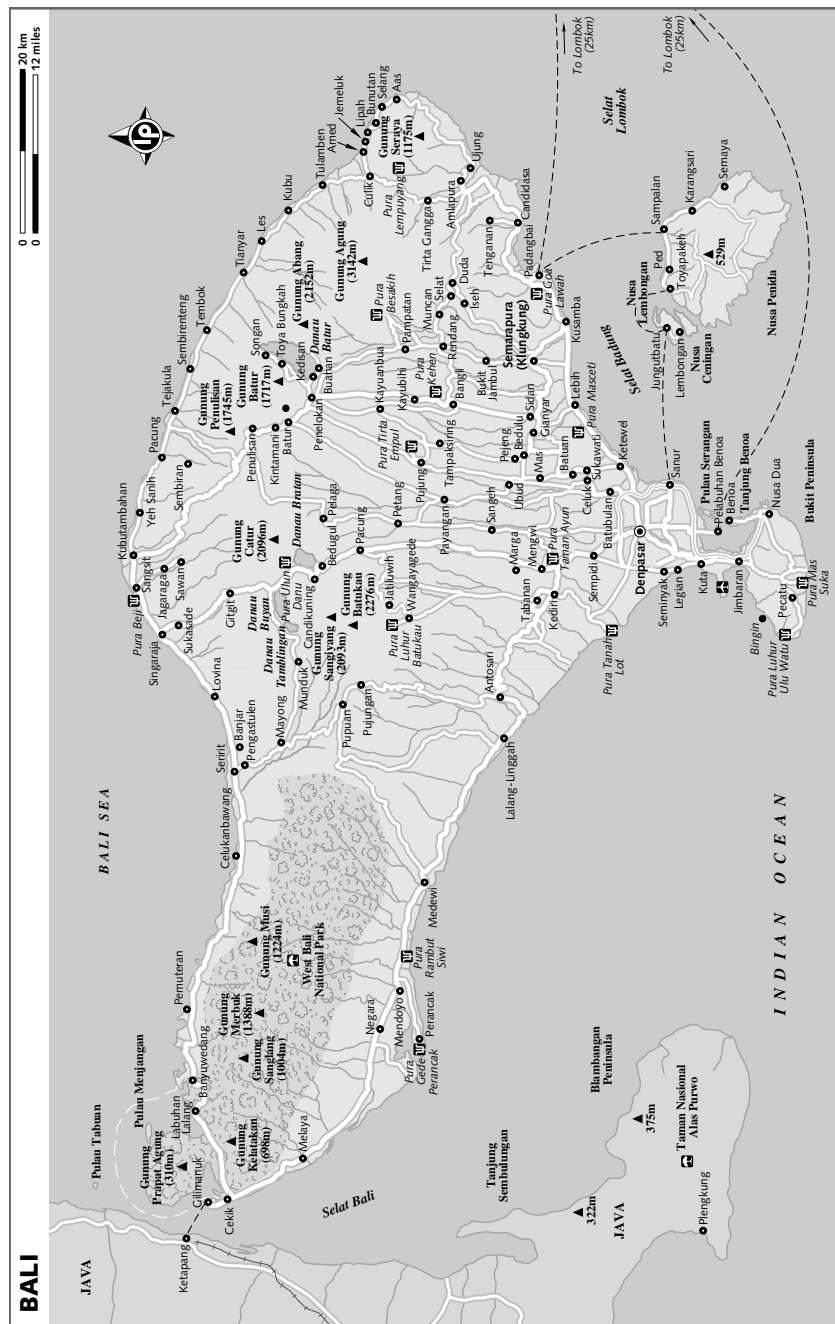
As the Majapahit kingdom fell apart, many of its intelligentsia moved to Bali, including the priest Nirartha, who is credited with introducing many of the complexities of Balinese religion to the island. Artists, dancers, musicians and actors also fled to Bali at this time, and the island experienced an explosion of cultural activities. The final great exodus to Bali took place in 1478.

European Contact

The first Europeans to set foot in Bali were Dutch seafarers in 1597. Setting a tradition that prevails to the present, they fell in love with the island, and when Cornelius Houtman – the ship's captain – prepared to set sail from Bali, some of his crew refused to leave with him. At that time, Balinese prosperity and artistic activity, at least among the royalty, were at a peak, and the king who befriended Houtman had 200 wives and a chariot pulled by two white buffaloes, not to mention a retinue of 50 dwarfs. When the Dutch returned to Indonesia in later years, they were interested in profit, not culture, and barely gave Bali a second glance.

Dutch Conquest

In 1710 the capital of the Gelgel kingdom was shifted to nearby Klungkung (now called Semarapura), but local discontent was growing, lesser rulers were breaking away from Gelgel domination and the Dutch began to move in, using the old policy of divide and conquer. In 1846 the Dutch used Balinese salvage claims over shipwrecks as the pretext to land military forces in northern Bali. In 1894 the Dutch chose to support the Sasaks of Lombok in a rebellion against their Balinese rajah. After some bloody battles, the Balinese were defeated in Lombok, and with northern Bali firmly under Dutch control, southern Bali was not likely to retain its independence for long. Once again, salvaging disputes gave



the Dutch the excuse they needed to move in. A Chinese ship was wrecked off Sanur in 1904 and ransacked by the Balinese. The Dutch demanded that the rajah of Badung pay 3000 silver dollars in damages – this was refused. In 1906 Dutch warships appeared at Sanur; Dutch forces landed and, despite Balinese opposition, marched the 5km to the outskirts of Denpasar.

On 20 September 1906, the Dutch mounted a naval bombardment of Denpasar and then commenced their final assault. The three rajahs of Badung (southern Bali) realised that they were outnumbered and outgunned, and that defeat was inevitable. Surrender and exile, however, was the worst imaginable outcome, so they decided to take the honourable path of a suicidal *puputan* – a fight to the death.

The Dutch begged the Balinese to surrender rather than make their hopeless stand, but their pleas went unheard and wave after wave of the Balinese nobility marched forward to their deaths. In all, nearly 4000 Balinese died in the *puputan*. Later, the Dutch marched east towards Tabanan, taking the rajah of Tabanan prisoner, but he committed suicide rather than face the disgrace of exile.

The kingdoms of Karangasem and Gianyar had already capitulated to the Dutch and were allowed to retain some powers, but other kingdoms were defeated and the rulers exiled. Finally, the rajah of Klungkung followed the lead of Badung and once more the Dutch faced a *puputan*. With this last obstacle disposed of, all of Bali was now under Dutch control and became part of the Dutch East Indies. Dutch rule over Bali was short-lived, however, as Indonesia fell to the Japanese in WWII.

Independence

On 17 August 1945, just after WWII ended, the Indonesian leader Soekarno proclaimed the nation's independence, but it took four years to convince the Dutch that they were not going to get their great colony back. In a virtual repeat of the *puputan* nearly half a century earlier, a Balinese resistance group was wiped out in the Battle of Marga on 20 November 1946; Bali's airport, Ngurah Rai, is named after its leader. It was not until 1949 that the Dutch finally recognised Indonesia's independence.

The huge eruption of Gunung Agung in 1963 killed thousands, devastated vast areas of the island and forced many Balinese to accept transmigration to other parts of Indonesia. Two years later, in the wake of the attempted communist coup, Bali became the scene of some of the bloodiest anticommunist killings in Indonesia. These were perhaps inflamed by some mystical desire to purge the land of evil, but also came about because the radical agenda of land reform and abolition of the caste system was a threat to traditional Balinese values. The brutality of the killings was in shocking contrast to the stereotype of the 'gentle' Balinese.

Modern Bali

The tourism boom, which started in the early 1970s, has brought many changes, and has helped pay for improvements in roads, telecommunications, education and health. Though tourism has had some marked adverse environmental and social effects, Bali's unique culture has proved to be remarkably resilient. Beginning in the 1990s there has been vocal public opposition to some controversial tourist developments, which indicates that Balinese people will play a more active role in the development of their island.

Bali, like most places, has also been affected by global politics. In October 2002, two simultaneous bomb explosions in Kuta – targeting an area frequented by tourists – injured or killed more than 500 people; see p281. The island's vital tourist industry was dealt a severe blow. It had mostly recovered by 2005 when in October of that year more bombs went off, albeit with less loss of life. Still, the bombs caused an immediate sharp drop in tourists and have forced the Balinese to yet again ponder their role in the world's greater geopolitics.

CULTURE

The population in Bali is almost all Indonesian; 95% are of Balinese Hindu descent and could be described as ethnic Balinese. The remaining residents are mostly from other parts of the country, particularly Java.

Balinese have traditional caste divisions that resemble the Indian Hindu system, although there are no 'untouchables'. Nor is there separation of labour based on caste, except for the Brahmana priesthood. Over

90% of the population belong to the common Sudra caste, which now includes many wealthy Balinese. The main significance of caste is in religious roles and rituals, and its influence on Balinese language.

The traditional Balinese society is intensely communal: the organisation of villages, the cultivation of farmlands and even the creative arts are communal efforts. A person belongs to their family, clan, caste and to the village as a whole. The roles of the sexes are fairly well delineated, with certain tasks handled by women and others reserved for men. For instance, the running of the household is very much the woman's task, while caring for animals is mostly a male preserve.

Balinese society is held together by collective responsibility. If a woman enters a temple while menstruating, for instance, it is a kind of irreverence, an insult to the gods, and their displeasure falls not just on the transgressor but on the whole community. This collective responsibility produces considerable pressure on the individual to conform to *adat* – the traditional values and customs that form the core of society.

Religion

The Balinese are nominally Hindus, but Balinese Hinduism is half a world away from that of India. When the Majapahits evacuated to Bali they took with them their religion and its rituals, as well as their art, literature, music and culture. The Balinese already had strong religious beliefs and an active cultural life, and the new influences were simply overlaid on existing practices – hence the peculiar Balinese interpretation of Hinduism.

The Balinese worship the same gods as the Hindus of India – the trinity of Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu – but they also have a supreme god, Sanghyang Widi. Unlike in India, the trinity is never seen – a vacant shrine or empty throne tells all. Nor is Sanghyang Widi often worshipped, though villagers may pray to him when they have settled new land and are about to build a new village. Other Hindu gods such as Ganesh, Shiva's elephant-headed son, may occasionally appear, but a great many purely Balinese gods, spirits and entities have far more relevance in everyday life.

The Balinese believe that spirits are everywhere, an indication that animism is the basis of much of their religion. Good spirits dwell in the mountains and bring prosperity to the people, while giants and demons lurk beneath the sea, and bad spirits haunt the woods and desolate beaches. The people live between these two opposites and their rituals strive to maintain this middle ground. Offerings are carefully put out every morning to pay homage to the good spirits and nonchalantly placed on the ground to placate the bad ones. You can't get away from religion in Bali – there are temples in every village, shrines in every field and offerings made at every corner.

TEMPLES

The word for temple is *pura*, which is a Sanskrit word meaning 'a space surrounded by a wall'. As in so much of Balinese religion, the temples, though nominally Hindu, owe much to the pre-Majapahit era. Their *kaja*, *kelod* or *kangin* (alignment towards the mountains, the sea or the sunrise) is in deference to spirits that are more animist than Hindu.

Almost every village has at least three temples. The most important is the *pura puseh* (temple of origin), which is dedicated to the village founders and is at the *kaja* end of the village. In the middle of the village is the *pura desa* for the spirits that protect the village community in its day-to-day life. At the *kelod* end of the village is the *pura dalem* (temple of the dead). The graveyard is also here and the temple will often include representations of Durga, the terrible incarnation of Shiva's wife.

Families worship their ancestors in family temples, clans in clan temples and the whole village in the *pura puseh*. Certain temples in Bali are of such importance that they are deemed to be owned by the whole island rather than by individual villages. These include Pura Besakih (p332) on the slopes of Gunung Agung, the most revered place in Bali, often called 'The Mother Temple'.

The simple shrines or thrones you see – for example, in rice fields or next to sacred old trees – are not real temples, as they are not walled. You'll find these shrines in all sorts of places, often overlooking intersections or dangerous curves in the road to protect road users.

For much of the year Balinese temples are deserted, but on holy days the deities and ancestral spirits descend from heaven to visit their devotees, and the temples come alive with days of frenetic activity and nights of drama and dance. Temple festivals come at least once every Balinese year (210 days). Because most villages have at least three temples, you're assured of at least five or six annual festivals in every village. The full-moon periods, around the end of September to the beginning of October, or early to mid-April, are often times of important festivals. *Galungan-Kuningan* is a 10-day festival when *lots* of activity takes place at family and community temples all over the island.

Arts

The Balinese had no words for 'art' and 'artist' because, traditionally, art has never been regarded as something to be treasured for its own sake. Prior to the tourism boom, art was just part of everyday life, and what was produced went into temples, palaces or festivals. Although respected, the painter or carver was not considered a member of some special elite, the artist's work was not signed and there were no galleries or craft shops.

It's a different story today, with thousands of art outlets tucked into every possible crevice. Although much Balinese art is churned out quickly as cheap souvenirs, buried beneath the reproductions of reproductions there's still much beautiful work to be found.

Even the simplest activities are carried out with care, precision and artistic flair. Just glance at those little offering trays thrown down on the ground for the demons every morning – each one a throwaway work of art. Look at the temple offerings, the artistically stacked pyramids of fruit or other beautifully decorated foods. Look for *penjor*, long decorated bamboo poles at doorways during festivals, the woven decorative palm-leaf strips called *lamak*, stylised female figures known as *cili* and the intricately carved coconut-shell wall-hangings.

Traditionally most visitors to the island have found the greatest concentration of the arts in and around Ubud (p307).

BALINESE PAINTING

The art form most influenced both by Western ideas and tourist demand is paint-

BALI MEDIA

To find out what's happening locally pick up any of a number of local publications, including the following.

Bali Advertiser Free newspaper with voluminous ads, comprehensive information, and idiosyncratic columnists.

Bali Style Glossy features for the posh set.

Hello Bali Good features and restaurant and entertainment reviews.

What's Up Bali Useful map-based weekly brochure with complete entertainment listings.

The website **Bali Discovery** (www.balidiscov ery.com) has a first-rate section on Bali news. For news from further afield, the *International Herald Tribune* is sold at convenience stores in South Bali and Ubud. Same-day copies of Australian newspapers are sold by vendors for ridiculous sums.

ing. Traditional painting was very limited in style and subject matter, and was used primarily for temple decoration. The arrival of Western artists following WWI introduced new subject matters and materials with which artists could work.

Traditional Balinese painting was strictly limited to three basic kinds: *langse*, *iders-iders* and calendars. *Langse* are the large, rectangular hangings used as decoration or curtains in palaces or temples. *Iders-iders* are scroll paintings that are hung along the eaves of temples. The calendars are usually astrological, showing the auspicious days of each month.

Most of the paintings were narratives with mythological themes, illustrating stories from Hindu epics and literature. Paintings were executed in the *wayang* style – the flat two-dimensional style that imitates the *wayang kulit* (shadow puppets), with the figures invariably shown in three-quarter view. The colours that artists could use were strictly limited to a set list of shades (red, blue, brown, yellow and light ochre for flesh).

In these narratives the same characters appeared in several different scenes, each depicting an episode from the story. The individual scenes were usually bordered by mountains, flames or ornamental walls. The deities, princes and heroes were

identified by opulent clothing, jewellery, elaborate headdresses and by their graceful postures and gestures; and the devils and giants by their bulging eyes, canine teeth, bulbous noses and bulky bodies. Semarapura (p330) is still a centre for traditional painting – the painted ceiling of the Kertha Gosa (p331) there is a fine example of the style.

ARCHITECTURE

The basic feature of Balinese architecture is the *bale* (pronounced 'bal-ay'), a rectangular, open-sided pavilion with a steeply pitched roof of palm thatch. A family compound will have a number of *bale* for eating, sleeping and working. The focus of a community is the *bale banjar*, a large pavilion for meeting, debate, gamelan practise and so on. Buildings such as restaurants and the lobby areas of hotels are often modelled on the *bale* – they are airy, spacious and handsomely proportioned.

Like the other arts, architecture has traditionally served the religious life of Bali. Balinese houses, although attractive, have never been lavished with the architectural attention that is given to temples. Even Balinese palaces are modest compared with the more important temples. Temples are designed to fixed rules and formulas, with sculpture serving as an adjunct, a finishing touch to these design guidelines.

SCULPTURE

In small or less-important temples, sculpture may be limited or even nonexistent, while in other temples – particularly some of the exuberantly detailed temples of northern Bali – it may be almost overwhelming in its detail and intricacy. Throughout the island you will see elaborate carved stone decorations and accents. These are relatively easy to produce in the soft local stones.

WOODCARVING

Like painting, woodcarving is no longer done simply for decoration or other symbolic purposes in temples and palaces but is now created for its own sake. Influences from outside inspired new subjects and styles, and some of the same Western artists provided the stimulus.

Especially around Ubud, carvers started producing highly stylised and elongated

figures, leaving the wood in its natural state rather than painting it, as was the traditional practice. Others carved delightful animal figures, some totally realistic and others wonderful caricatures, while other artists carved whole tree trunks into ghostly, intertwined 'totem poles' or curiously exaggerated and distorted figures.

DANCE

Music, dance and drama are closely related in Bali. In fact, dance and drama are synonymous, though some 'dances' are more drama and less dance, and others more dance and less drama.

Balinese dance tends to be precise, shifting and jerky, like the accompanying gamelan music, which has abrupt shifts of tempo and dramatic changes between silence and crashing noise. There's virtually no physical contact in Balinese dancing – each dancer moves independently, but every movement of wrist, hand and finger is important. Even facial expressions are carefully choreographed to convey the character of the dance.

The dances are a blend of seriousness and slapstick. Basically, they are straightforward ripping yarns, where you cheer the goodies and boo the baddies. Some dances have a comic element, with clowns who counterbalance the staid, noble characters. The clowns often have to convey the story to the audience, since the noble characters may use the classical Javanese Kawi language, while the clowns (usually servants of the noble characters) converse in Balinese.

Dances are a regular part of almost every temple festival, and Bali has no shortage of these. There are also dances virtually every night at tourist centres, although the most authentic are found in and around Ubud; admission to a first-class performance here, for example, costs around 50,000Rp.

Kecak

One of the best-known dances of Bali is the Kecak. It is unusual because it does not have a gamelan accompaniment. Instead, the background is provided by a chanting 'choir' of men who provide the 'chak-a-chak-a-chak' noise that distinguishes the dance.

The Kecak tells the tale of the Ramayana, the quest of Prince Rama to rescue his wife Sita after she had been kidnapped by

Rawana, the King of Lanka. Rama is accompanied to Lanka by Sugriwa, the king of the monkeys, with his monkey army. Throughout the Kecak dance, the circle of men, all bare-chested and wearing checked cloth around their waists, provide a non-stop accompaniment, rising to a crescendo as they play the monkey army and fight it out with Rawana and his cronies. The chanting is accompanied by the movements of the monkey army whose members sway back and forth, raise their hands in unison, flutter their fingers and lean left and right, all with an eerily exciting coordination.

Barong & Rangda

The Barong Keket is half shaggy dog, half lion – and is played by two men in much the same way as a circus clown-horse. Its opponent is the *rangda* (witch).

The Barong represents good and protects the village from the *rangda*, but is also a mischievous creature. It flounces into the temple courtyard, snaps its jaws at the gamelan, dances around and enjoys the acclaim of its supporters – a group of men with kris. Then the *rangda* makes her appearance, with long tongue lolling, pendulous breasts wobbling, human entrails draped around her neck, fangs protruding from her mouth and sabre-like fingernails clawing the air.

The two duel with their magical powers, and the Barong's supporters draw their kris and rush in to attack the witch. The *rangda* puts them in a trance and the men try to stab themselves, but the Barong also has

great magical powers and casts a spell that stops the kris from harming the men. This is the most dramatic part of the dance – as the gamelan rings crazily the men rush back and forth, waving their kris around, all but foaming at the mouth, sometimes even rolling on the ground in a desperate attempt to stab themselves. Finally, the *rangda* retires defeated – good has won again. Good must always triumph over evil in Bali, and no matter how many times the spectators have seen the performance or how well they know the outcome, the battle itself remains all-important.

Legong

This is the most graceful of Balinese dances and, to connoisseurs of Balinese dancing, the one of most interest.

There are various forms of the Legong but the Legong Kraton (Legong of the Palace) is the one most often performed. A performance involves just three dancers – the two Legongs and their 'attendant' known as the Condong. The Legongs are identically dressed in tightly bound gold brocade. So tightly are they encased that it's something of a mystery how they manage to move with such agility and speed. Their faces are elaborately made up, their eyebrows plucked and repainted, and their hair decorated with frangipanis.

The dance relates how a king takes a maiden, Rangkesari, captive. When Rangkesari's brother comes to release her, he begs the king to let her free rather than go

TOP FIVE BALI READS

The stacks of books about Bali are like coconuts on trees, there are so many they could easily topple over and hit you on the head. However, here's five you'll enjoy before or during your stay.

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert is, as the subtitle says, 'One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia'. The climax occurs in Bali and answers questions posed throughout the book.

Fragrant Rice by Janet De Neeffe follows her from her time as a naive backpacker from Melbourne to her life today as a mother of a Balinese family. She brings her experience running the wonderful Casa Luna empire in Ubud to her chapters, which cherish local food.

A House in Bali by Colin McPhee is the timeless classic about a Canadian who experienced Bali's cultural and village life to the core in the 1930s.

Our Hotel in Bali by Louise Koke is another classic about Westerners in Bali in the 1930s. She and her husband Bob created the first-ever Kuta Beach hotel and had numerous delightful encounters along the way. It's a quick and fun read with lots of photos.

Bali Blues by Jeremy Allan is a highly readable tale of love set in the tumultuous year after the 2002 bombings. It contains many an insight into life on the island.

to war. The king refuses and on his way to the battle meets a bird bringing ill omens. He ignores the bird and continues on to meet Rangkesari's brother, who kills him. The dance, however, relates only the lead up to the battle and ends with the bird's appearance. When the king leaves the stage he is going to the battle that will end in his death.

The dance starts with an introduction by the Condong. She departs as the Legongs enter. The Legongs dance solo, in close identical formation, and even in a mirror-image formation when they dance a nose-to-nose love scene. They relate the king's sad departure from his queen, Rangkesari's request that he release her and the king's departure for battle. Finally, the Condong reappears with tiny golden wings as the bird of ill fortune and the dance ends.

GAMELAN

As in Sumatra and Java, Balinese music is based around the gamelan orchestra. The whole gamelan orchestra is known as a *gong*—an old-fashioned *gong gede* or a more modern *gong kebyar*. There are even more ancient forms of the gamelan, such as the *gong selunding*, still occasionally played in Bali Aga villages like Tenganan.

Although the instruments used are much the same, Balinese gamelan is very different from the more gentle, reserved and formal form you'll hear in Java. Balinese gamelan often sounds like everyone is going for it full pelt. In Java gamelan music is rarely heard except at special performances, whereas in Bali you'll hear gamelan playing everywhere you go.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Bali's Ngurah Rai Airport (DPS) is just south of Kuta. It is named after a hero of the struggle for independence from the Dutch.

The airport is spacious and modern and is well-served with international flights. It has a hotel-booking counter, a left-luggage room, several moneychangers, an expensive duty-free shop and many souvenir shops, ATMs and lots of familiar fast-food places.

The domestic terminal (☎ 0361-751011) and international terminal (☎ 0361-751011) are a few hundred metres apart.

International airlines flying to and from Bali include the following:

Air Asia (airline code AK; ☎ 0361-760116; www.airasia.com) Hub Kuala Lumpur.

Cathay Pacific Airways (airline code CX; ☎ 0361-766931; www.cathaypacific.com) Hub Hong Kong.

Continental Airlines (airline code CO; ☎ 0361-768358; www.continental.com) Hubs Newark and Houston.

Eva Air (airline code BR; ☎ 0361-751011; www.evaair.com) Hub Taipei.

Japan Airlines (airline code JL; ☎ 0361-757077; www.jal.co.jp) Hub Tokyo.

Korean Air (airline code KE; ☎ 0361-768377; www.koreanair.com) Hub Seoul.

Malaysia Airlines (airline code MH; ☎ 0361-764995; www.mas.com.my) Hub Kuala Lumpur.

Qantas Airways (airline code QF; ☎ 0361-288331; www.qantas.com.au) Hubs Sydney and Melbourne. Plans to rebrand its service as Jetstar.

Singapore Airlines (airline code SQ; ☎ 0361-768388; www.singaporeair.com) Hub Singapore.

Thai Airways International (airline code TG; ☎ 0361-288141; www.thaiair.com) Hub Bangkok.

Domestic services in Bali seem to be in a constant state of flux. However competition is fierce and you can usually find flights to a range of destinations for under US\$100. The best thing to do is to go to the airport and shop at the airline ticket offices. Often you'll come close to long-distance bus and ferry fares. Places served often from Bali include Jakarta, Surabaya, Lombok, Yogyakarta, Bima, Maumere, Bandung, Kupang and more.

Garuda Indonesia (airline code GA; ☎ 0361-227824; www.garuda-indonesia.com) Hubs Bali and Jakarta.

Lion Air (airline code JT; ☎ 0361-763872; www.lionairlines.com)

Merpati Nusantara Airlines (airline code MZ; ☎ 0361-235358; www.merpati.co.id)

Mandala Airlines (airline code RL; ☎ 0361-751011; www.mandalaair.com)

Pelita (airline code 6D; ☎ 0361-762248; www.pelita-air.com)

Public Bus

JAVA

Many buses from numerous bus companies travel daily between the Ubung terminal in Denpasar and major cities in Java (via ferry); most travel overnight. Fares vary between operators, and depend on what sort of comfort you want – it's worth paying extra for a decent seat and air-con. For details, see p306.

Sea

JAVA

Ferries operate between Gilimanuk in western Bali and Ketapang (Java), see p358.

LOMBOK

This island is accessible by regular public boat from Padangbai, see p334.

OTHER INDONESIAN ISLANDS

Three ships from Pelni stop at Benoa Harbour (p297) as part of their regular loops throughout Indonesia. *Dobonsolo* travels to Java, Nusa Tenggara, Maluku and northern Papua; and *Awu* and *Tlongkabila* to Nusa Tenggara and southern Sulawesi. Prices are dependent on the route and the class of travel. Check for details locally.

You can inquire and book at the Pelni office (☎ 0361-763963; www.pelni.co.id; Jl Raya Kuta 299; 8am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Thu, 8-11.30am & 1-4pm Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) in Tuban and the Pelni office (☎ 0361-721377; 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12.30pm Sat) at Benoa Harbour.

GETTING AROUND

Bali is a small island with good roads and regular, inexpensive public transport. Traffic is heavy on the main roads from Denpasar south to the Kuta region and Sanur, east about as far as Semarapura and west across to the port of Gilimanuk. Roads are uncrowded on the rest of the island. If you rent your own vehicle, it's generally easy to find your way around – main roads are sign-posted and maps are readily available. Off the main routes, most roads are surfaced but often potholed and signage is not good.

It's worth noting that many pricier restaurants in places such as South Bali and Ubud will arrange free transport to/from the establishment. Just ask.

To/From the Airport

Ngurah Rai airport is just south of Kuta Beach, a 25-minute walk max. You can arrange usually hassle-free prepaid taxis from the official counters, just outside the terminals. See the boxed text (above) for approximate costs to various destinations.

If you have a surfboard, you will be charged at least 35,000Rp extra, depending on its size.

The thrifty can walk across the airport car park to the right from the terminals and

PREPAID TAXIS FROM NGURAH RAI AIRPORT

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Denpasar	70,000
Jimbaran	50,000
Kuta Beach	40,000
Legian	45,000
Nusa Dua	85,000
Sanur	85,000
Seminyak	55,000
Ubud	175,000

continue a couple of hundred metres to the airport road, where you can hail a regular cab for about half the above amounts. You can also get a bemo (minibus) into Denpasar here as well.

Bemo

Most of Bali's public transport is provided by cramped minibuses, usually called bemo, but on some longer routes the vehicle may be a full-sized bus. Denpasar is the transport hub of Bali and has bus/bemo terminals for all the various destinations. Travel in southern Bali often requires travelling via one or more of the Denpasar terminals, which can make for an inconvenient and time-consuming trip.

The fare between main towns may be posted at the terminals, or you can ask around. You can also flag down a bemo pretty much anywhere along its route, but you may be charged the *harga turis* (tourist price) – Bali bemos are notorious for overcharging tourists. Ask a local the correct fare before starting a journey, or watch what people pay and give the same when you get off. Local rides cost a minimum of 2000Rp.

Beware of pickpockets on bemos – they often have an accomplice to distract you, or use a package to hide the activity.

Boat

Small boats go to a number of islands around Bali, notably those in the Nusa Lembongan group. They will usually pull up to a beach, and you have to wade to and from the boat with your luggage and clamper aboard over the stern. Details of boat services are given in the relevant sections. There are also larger tourist boats to Nusa Lembongan (p349).

Car & Motorcycle

A small Suzuki or Toyota jeep is the typical rental vehicle in Bali. Typical costs are 80,000Rp to 120,000Rp per day, including insurance and unlimited kilometres but not including fuel. Hiring a car with driver will cost, all-inclusive, around 350,000Rp for an eight- to 10-hour day.

Motorcycles are a popular way to get around Bali, but can be dangerous. Most rental motorcycles are between 90cc and 125cc, with 100cc being the usual size. Rental charges vary with the bike, period of hire and demand. The longer the hire period the lower the rate; the bigger or newer the bike the higher the rate. Typically you can expect to pay from around 30,000Rp a day. This includes a flimsy helmet, which is compulsory and provides protection against sunburn but not much else.

You can arrange rentals from any place you are staying, or in tourist areas just by walking down the street. Offers will pour forth.

Taxi

Metered taxis are common in South Bali, Denpasar and Ubud. They are essential for getting around Kuta and Seminyak, where you can easily flag one down. Elsewhere, they're often a lot less hassle than haggling with bemo jockeys and charter drivers.

The usual rate for a taxi is 5000Rp flag fall and 2000Rp per kilometre, but the rate is higher in the evening. If you phone for a taxi, the minimum charge is 10,000Rp. Any driver who claims meter problems or who won't use it should be avoided.

The most reputable taxi agency is **Bali Taxi** (% 0361-701111), which uses distinctive blue vehicles with the words 'Bluebird Group' over the windshield. Drivers speak reasonable English and use the meter at all times. There's even a number to call with complaints (% 0361-701621).

After Bali Taxi, standards decline rapidly. Some are acceptable, although you may have a hassle getting the driver to use the meter and fending off offers for shopping, massage etc.

Tourist Shuttle Bus

Tourist shuttle buses travel between the main tourist centres in Bali and connect to destinations on Lombok. Shuttle buses are

quicker, more comfortable and more convenient than public transport, and though more expensive, they are very popular with budget and midrange travellers. If you're with a group of three or more people (or sometimes even two), it will probably be cheaper to charter a vehicle, however.

Perama (www.peramatour.com) is the main operator. It also has offices or agents in Kuta (p287), Sanur (p297), Ubud (p324), Lovina (p373), Padangbai (p337) and Candidasa (p340). At least one bus a day links these tourist centres with more frequent services to the airport. There are also services to Kiti-mani and along the east coast between Lovina and Candidasa via Amed by demand.

Fares are reasonable (for example Kuta to Lovina is 70,000Rp). Be sure to book your trip at least a day ahead in order to confirm schedules. It is also important to understand where Perama buses will pick you up and drop you off, as you may need to pay an extra 5000Rp to get to/from your hotel.

SOUTH BALI

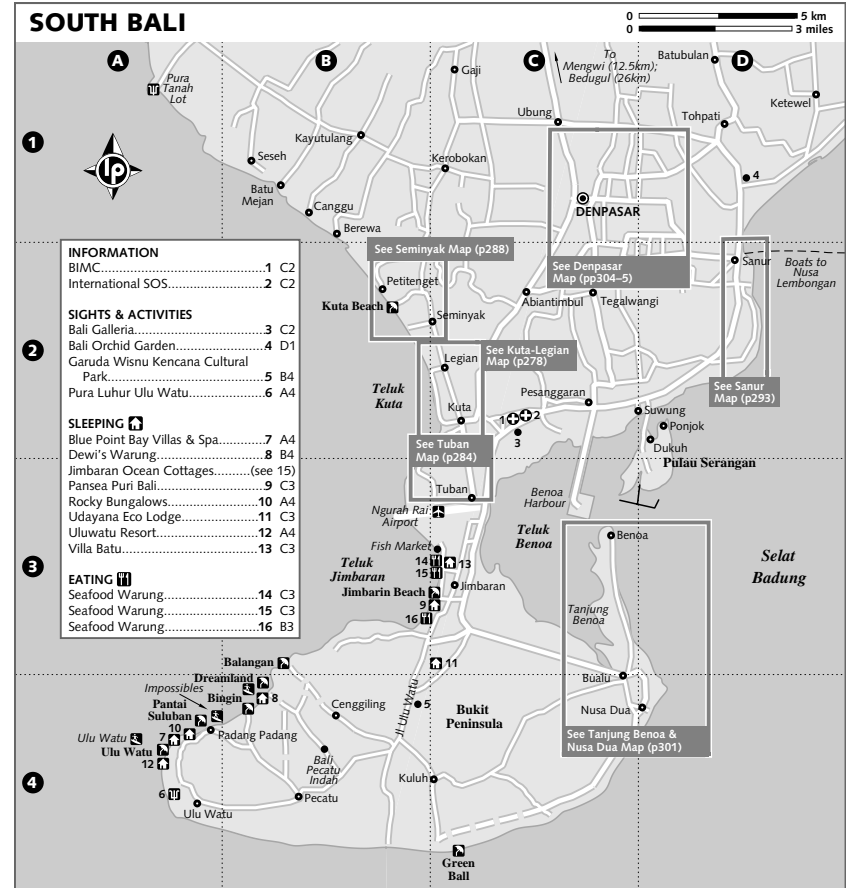
For many people South Bali *is* Bali; for many others it is anything but. Chaotic Kuta and upscale Seminyak throb around the clock. In the south, the Bukit Peninsula is home to some of the island's largest resorts, while in the east Sanur follows the subdued beat of its reef-protected surf. The coast features a fine range of beaches.

KUTA & LEGIAN

% 0361

The Kuta region is overwhelmingly Bali's largest and tackiest tourist beach resort. Most visitors come here sooner or later because it's close to the airport and has the greatest range of budget hotels, restaurants and tourist facilities. Some find the area overdeveloped and seedy, but if you have a taste for a busy beach scene, shopping and nightlife, you will probably have a great time. Go elsewhere on the island if you want a quiet, unspoilt tropical hideaway.

It is fashionable to disparage Kuta and its immediate neighbour to the north, Legian, for their rampant development, low-brow nightlife and crass commercialism, but the cosmopolitan mixture of beach-party he-



donism and entrepreneurial energy can be exciting. It's not pretty, but it's not dull either, and the amazing growth is evidence that a lot of people find something to like in Kuta.

Kuta has the most diversions and the best beach – but the worst traffic and most persistent hawkers.

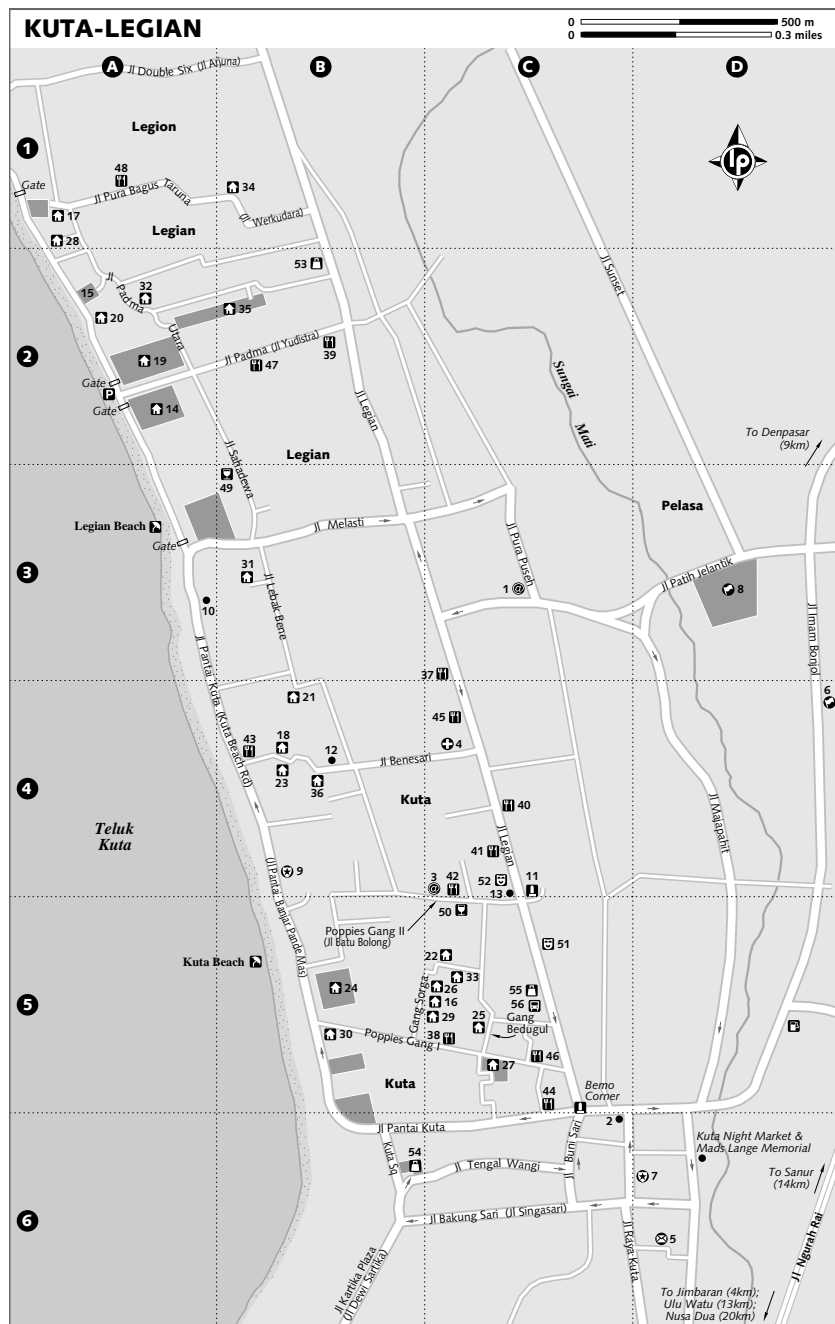
Legian is a slightly quieter version of Kuta and seems to appeal mostly to sun-seekers who have outgrown Kuta. The hotels are slightly more genteel, as is everything else.

Tuban, a small area between Kuta and the airport to the south, is short on character but does boast several large hotels and a vast new shopping centre.

History

Mads Lange, a Danish copra trader and an adventurer of the 19th century, established a successful trading enterprise near modern Kuta, and had some success in mediating between local rajahs and the Dutch, who were encroaching from the north. His business soured in the 1850s, and he died suddenly, perhaps murdered. His grave, and a monument erected later, are near Kuta's night market.

The original Kuta Beach Hotel was started by a Californian couple in the 1930s, but closed with the Japanese occupation of Bali in 1942. In the late 1960s, Kuta became a stop on the hippie trail between Australia and Europe, and an untouched



INFORMATION		Hotel Lusa.....18 B4		Kopi Pot.....41 C4	
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Hanafi.....2	C6	Hotel Puri Raja.....20	A2	La Cabana.....43	B4
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Legian Medical Clinic.....4	C4	Kedin's II.....22	C5	Mama's.....45	C4
Main Post Office.....5	D6	Komala Indah I.....23	B4	Poppies Restaurant.....46	C5
Netherlands Consulate.....6	D4	Kuta Seaview Cottages.....24	B5	Wayan & Friends.....47	B2
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		Rita's House.....29	C5	Tubes Surf Bar & Restaurant.....50	C5
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Jamu Spa.....10	A3	Sinar Indah.....32	A2	Apache Reggae Bar.....(see 51)	
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SLEEPING ☑		EATING ☑		Matahari Department Store.....54	B6
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Bali Niksoma Beach Resort.....15	A2	Indo-National.....39	B2	TRANSPORT	
Berlian Inn.....16	C5	Ketupat.....40	C4	Perama.....56	C5
Hotel Kumala Pantai.....17	A1				

'secret' surf spot. Accommodation opened and by the early 1970s Kuta had a delightfully laid-back atmosphere. Enterprising Indonesians seized opportunities to profit from the tourist trade, often in partnership with foreigners who wanted a pretext for staying longer.

As Kuta expanded, Legian further north became the quiet alternative, but now you can't tell where one ends and the other begins. Immediately north again, Seminyak continues north from Legian. All this has taken its toll, and the area is a chaotic mixture of shops, bars, restaurants and hotels on a confusing maze of streets and alleys, often congested with heavy traffic, thick with fumes and painfully noisy.

Orientation

The Kuta region is a disorienting place – it's flat, with few landmarks or signs, and the streets and alleys are crooked and often walled on one or both sides so it feels like a maze. The busy Jl Legian runs roughly parallel to the beach through Legian to Kuta. It's a two-way street in Legian, but in most of Kuta it's one way going south, except for an infuriating block near Jl Melasti where it's one way going north.

Between Jl Legian and the beach is a tangle of narrow side streets, with an amazing hodgepodge of tiny hotels, souvenir stalls, warung, bars, construction sites and even a few remaining stands of coconut palms.

A small lane or alley is known as a *gang*; most are unsigned and too small for cars, although this doesn't stop some drivers trying. The best known are called Poppies Gang I and II – use these as landmarks. Most of the bigger shops, restaurants and nightspots are along Jl Legian and a few of the main streets that head towards the beach.

Note, too, that many of the English street names such as Jl Double Six (named after the beachside nightclub) are being renamed with local names (in this case Jl Arjuna). Maps in this book show both street names, and you'll find that old or new work equally well.

Information

You'll find tourist-information offices and tour-bookings agencies every few metres along the main tourist streets of Kuta.

BOOKSHOPS

Little used bookstores and exchanges can be found scattered along the *gang* and roads, especially the Poppies.

Periplus Bookshop (Map p278; ☎ 763988; Matahari department store, Kuta Sq) On the 4th floor of this department store there is a good selection of books, magazines and newspapers. There is also a newsstand near the grocery section on the ground floor.

EMERGENCY

Police station (Map p278; ☎ 751598; Jl Raya Kuta; 17-24hr) Next to the Badung Tourist Office.

Tourist police post (Map p278; ☎ 224111; Jl Pantai Kuta; 𠄎 24hr) Is a branch of the main police station in Denpasar. Right across from the beach, the officers – who have a gig that is sort of like a Balinese Baywatch – are friendly and anxious to help.

INTERNET ACCESS

Slow internet shops abound. The following have broadband connections and many services. Expect to pay 3000Rp to 5000Rp for 10 minutes.

Bali@Cyber Café & Restaurant (Map p278;

☎ 761326; Jl Pura Puseh; 𠄎 8am–11pm) Has a full range of computer options as well as a good menu of snacks, meals and tasty smoothies.

Internet Outpost (Map p278; ☎ 763392; Poppies Gang II; 𠄎 8am–2am) Has desks, couches and cold drinks.

MEDICAL SERVICES

BIMC and International SOS are major clinics aimed at foreigners.

BIMC (Map p277; ☎ 761263; www.bimcbali.com; Jl Ngurah Rai 100X; 𠄎 24hr) On the bypass road just east of Kuta, near the Bali Galleria, and easily accessible from most of southern Bali. It's a modern Australian-run clinic that can do tests, hotel visits and arrange medical evacuation.

A basic consultation costs 600,000Rp.

International SOS (Map p277; ☎ 710505; www.sos-bali.com; Jl Ngurah Rai 505X; 𠄎 24hr) Near BIMC; offers similar services at similar prices.

Legian Medical Clinic (Map p278; ☎ 758503; Jl Benesari; 𠄎 on call 24hr) Has an ambulance and dental service. It's 300,000Rp for a consultation with an English-speaking Balinese doctor, or 700,000Rp for an emergency visit to your hotel room. It has a well-stocked pharmacy attached to the clinic.

MONEY

There are several banks along Jl Legian, at Kuta Sq and Jl Pantai Kuta. In addition, ATMs abound, including at the ubiquitous Circle K and Mini Mart convenience stores.

The numerous 'authorised' money-changers are efficient, faster, open long hours and offer better exchange rates. Rates can vary considerably, but be cautious, especially where the rates are markedly better than average – they may not have mentioned that they charge a commission or, judging by the number of readers' letters we've received, there may be a few that make their profit by adeptly short-changing their customers.

POST

There are plenty of postal agencies along the streets for uncomplicated transactions of the stamp-and-postcard type.

Main post office (Map p278; Jl Selamet; 𠄎 7am–2pm Mon–Thu, 7–11am Fri, 7am–1pm Sat) Is on a small road east of Jl Raya Kuta. It's small, efficient and has an easy, sort-it-yourself poste restante service. This post office is well-practised in shipping large packages.

TELEPHONE

Wartels (private telephone offices) are concentrated in the main tourist areas, particularly along Jl Legian and along the main *gang* between Jl Legian and the beach.

Dangers & Annoyances

Although the streets and *gang* are usually quite safe, beware of a dubious *gang* linking Poppies Gang I with Jl Pantai Kuta. Scooter-borne prostitutes (who may hassle single men late at night) consummate their business here.

HAWKERS

Occasional crackdowns mean that it's rare to find any food or souvenir carts in the Kuta tourist area, but street selling is common, especially on hassle street, Jl Legian. The beach is not unbearable, although the upper part features souvenir sellers and licensed massage ladies. Closer to the water, you can sunbake on the sand in peace – you'll soon find where the invisible line is. Most annoying are the touts pelting you with cries of 'Transport?'

SURF

The surf can be very dangerous, with a strong current on some tides, especially up north in Legian. Lifeguards patrol swimming areas of the beaches at Kuta and Legian, indicated by red-and-yellow flags. If they say the water is too rough or unsafe to swim in, they mean it.

THEFT

This is not a big problem, but visitors do lose things from unlocked hotel rooms or from the beach. Going into the water and leaving valuables on the beach is simply asking for trouble (in any country). Snatch thefts are rare. Valuable items can be left at your hotel reception.

THE BALI BOMBINGS

On Saturday 12 October 2002, two bombs exploded on Kuta's bustling Jl Legian. The first blew out the front of Paddy's Bar. A few seconds later a far more powerful bomb obliterated the Sari Club. The blast and fireballs that followed destroyed or damaged neighbouring clubs, pubs, shops and houses. More than 300 people from at least 23 countries were injured. The number dead, including those unaccounted for, reached over 200, although the exact number will probably never be known.

Beyond the human toll, the bombings were disastrous to Bali economically. But almost three years later the economy had largely recovered. Devastatingly, in 2005 more bombs went off at a Kuta restaurant and seaside restaurants in Jimbaran. Over 20 were killed and tourism took another hit.

Laying blame for the acts has been mired in controversy. Jemaah Islamiyah, an Islamic terror group, was blamed for the 2002 blasts. Dozens were convicted but many sentences were short. Much speculation centres on the role of terror groups such as al-Qaeda in all the blasts. What is certain is that Bali's innocence is truly over.

Meanwhile many people visit the site of the 2002 blasts. A **memorial** (Map p278) is across from the site of the Sari Club and has an emotional effect on many who view it.

WATER POLLUTION

The sea water around Kuta is quite commonly contaminated by run off from both built-up areas and surrounding farmland, especially after heavy rain.

Activities

From the Kuta region you can easily go surfing, sailing, diving, fishing or rafting anywhere in southern Bali, and be back for the start of the evening happy hour. Many of your activities in Kuta will centre on the superb beach. Hawkers will sell you sodas and beer, snacks and other treats. You can rent lounge chairs and umbrellas (negotiable at 10,000Rp to 20,000Rp) or just crash on the sand.

MASSAGES & SPAS

The sybaritic pleasures of a massage or an interlude at a spa are an important part of many people's visit, and the choices are many. Professional masseurs, with licence numbers on their conical hats, offer massages on the beach. A realistic price is about 20,000Rp for a half-hour massage, or 40,000Rp for one hour, but you might have to bargain hard to get near this price if things are busy. Most spas offer facials, waxing and numerous indulgent services.

In the typically calm setting at **Jamu Spa** (Map p278; ☎ 752520; www.jamutradingalspa.com; Alam Kul Kul, Jl Pantai Kuta; traditional massage US\$35; 𠄎 9am–9pm) you can enjoy indoor massage rooms that open onto a pretty garden

courtyard. If you've ever wanted to be a fruit salad, here's your chance, as you can have various treatments that involve tropical nuts, coconut, papaya and more.

There are many **Mandara Spas** (www.mandara-spa-asia.com) in top-end hotels including **Hotel Padma Bali** (Map p278; ☎ 752111; Jl Padma 1; massages from US\$35; 𠄎 10am–8pm), where the divine spa is decorated with water features and impressive stone sculptural reliefs.

Kuta for Children

Minigolf is available at many resort hotels and, if it's too hot to be outside, Timezone video arcades are located in the two Matahari department stores.

Le Speed Karts (Map p284; ☎ 757850; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; 5-min ride 40,000Rp; 𠄎 10am–10pm) Fun, small go-kart track.

Waterbom Park (Map p284; ☎ 755676; www.waterbom.com; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; adult/child/family US\$18.50/9.50/50; 𠄎 9am–6pm) Popular activities for kids include waterslides and pools at this park.

Tours

A vast range of tours all around Bali, from half-day to three-day tours, can be booked through travel agents or hotels in Kuta. These tours are a quick and easy way to see a few sights if your time is limited and you don't want to rent or charter a vehicle.

Sleeping

Kuta, Legian and Tuban have hundreds of places for you to stay. The top-end hotels

SURFING IN BALI

It really is a surfer's paradise in Bali. Breaks are found right around the south side of the island and there's a large infrastructure of schools, board rental places, cheap surfer dives and more that cater to the crowds.

Five famous spots you won't want to miss:

Kuta Beach (Map p277) Where surfing came to Asia. This is a good place for beginners, with long, steady breaks.

Dreamland (Map p277) Up-and-coming spot that of late has been all the rage. See p298.

Ulu Watu (Map p277) Some of the largest sets in Bali. See p299.

Medewi (Map p268) Famous point break with a ride right into a river mouth. See p355.

Nusa Lembongan (Map p347) The island is a mellow scene for surfers and non-surfers. The breaks are right in front of the places to stay. See p347.

Surfboard rentals start at 30,000Rp per day. One good place is **Redz** (Map p278; ☎ 763980; redzsurf@iol.it; Jl Benesari).

Tubes Surf Bar & Restaurant (Map p278; Poppies Gang II; 11-10-2am) is *the* surfers' hang-out. It shows surfing videos and publishes a tide chart, which is widely circulated. Also keep an eye out for free surfing magazines such as *Magic Wave*.

Quicksilver Boardriding School (Map p288; ☎ 751214; qbs@quicksilver.co.id; Jl Double Six; half-day lesson US\$40) is one of the major surf schools, with classes every day.

are along the beachfront, midrange places are mostly on the bigger roads between Jl Legian and the beach, and the cheapest losmen (basic, often family-run, accommodation) are generally along the smaller lanes in between.

BUDGET

The best budget accommodation is in a losmen with rooms facing a central garden. Look for a place that is far enough off the main roads to be quiet, but close enough so that getting to the beach, shops and restaurants is no problem. Many losmen offer a simple breakfast.

Kuta

Many of the cheap places are along the tiny alleys and lanes between Jl Legian and the beach in central Kuta. This is a good place to base yourself: it's quiet, but only a short walk from the beach, shops and nightlife.

Komala Indah I (Map p278; ☎ 753185; Jl Benesari; r 40,000-150,000Rp; a s) The range of rooms here is set around a pleasant garden. The cheapest of the 33 rooms have squat toilets, fans and twin beds only. Breakfast is included.

Rita's House (Map p278; ☎ 751760; s/d 50,000/60,000Rp) Since 1971 this cheap, clean, cramped and cheerful 23-room inn just north of Poppies Gang I has been renting rooms to weary surfers and budget travel-

lers. The showers are cold and the air is fan-driven.

Berlian Inn (Map p278; ☎ 751501; s/d 60,000/80,000Rp, with hot water 90,000/120,000Rp) Located off Poppies Gang I, this is a cut above other budget accommodation. The 24 rooms at Berlian Inn are quiet and have ikat (cloth where a pattern is produced by dyeing the individual threads before weaving) bedspreads and an unusual open-air bathroom design.

Mimpi Bungalows (Map p278; ☎ 751848; kumimipi@yahoo.com.sg; r 80,000R-150,000Rp; a s) The cheapest of the 10 rooms here, off Gang Sorga, are actually the best value. The gardens boast plenty of shade and privacy and the pool is a good-size.

Kedin's II (Map p278; ☎ 763554; Gang Sorga; s/d 70,000/90,000Rp; s) One of the best budget choices, the 16 cold-water rooms here have hints of style and are set in some fine gardens that feature a good-sized pool.

Hotel Lusa (Map p278; ☎ 753714; www.hotellusa.net; Jl Benesari; r US\$11-37; a s) Older rooms here lack the flash of the rooms in a new block but they are the better value. All guests of the 57 rooms can enjoy the pool, café and leafy grounds.

Lima Satu Cottages (Map p278; ☎ 754944; Gang Bedugul; s/d 120,000/170,000Rp; a s) On a *gang* of cheapies off Poppies Gang I, the 11 rooms here are the best of the lot and quite comfortable.

Legian

The streets are wider and the pace is less frenetic than just south in Kuta. Budget places tend to be larger as well.

Senen Beach Inn (Map p278; ☎ 755470; Gang Camplung Mas 25; s/d 50,000/60,000Rp) In a little *gang* near Jl Melasti, this low-key place is run by friendly young guys. Rooms have outdoor bathrooms and are set around a small garden. It's an atmospheric, quiet place to stay. It has a small café.

Sinar Indah (Map p278; ☎ 755905; Jl Padma Utara; r 150,000-200,000Rp; a) This standard, fairly basic losmen is handy to the beach. It offers 18 plain, clean rooms, which have hot water.

MIDRANGE

The bulk of accommodation in the Kuta area falls into the midrange category. Quality varies widely, with some places offering quite a bit in terms of location, amenities and service.

Kuta

Most of these places are handy to the beach.

Suji Bungalow (Map p278; ☎ 765804; www.sujibglw.com; r US\$19-29; a s) Off Poppies Gang I, this fine, friendly place has a choice of bungalows and 47 rooms set in a spacious, quiet garden around a pool. It's not flash, but it's better than many similarly priced options. There's also a shady poolside café.

Sari Yasa Samudra Bungalows (Map p278; ☎ 751562; fax 752948; Jl Pantai Kuta; s/d US\$20/23, with air-con US\$35/40; a s) An excellent location directly opposite the beach makes this place fine value. It has pleasant bungalows set in lush gardens and the large pool has been renovated. Breakfast is included.

Un's Hotel (Map p278; ☎ 757409; www.unshotel.com; Jl Benesari; s/d US\$25/28, with air-con US\$33/48; a s) Un's is one of those Kuta places that somehow feels like a remote resort even though it is the heart of the action. It's a two-storey place, with bougainvillea spilling over the balconies which face a pool. The 30 spacious rooms have solar hot water, antiques and open-air bathrooms.

Kuta Seaview Cottages (Map p278; ☎ 751961; www.kutaseaviewhotel.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r US\$60-85; a s) The 27 stylishly decorated cottages and 45 large rooms come complete with fresh flowers on the beds, and a lovely gar-

den setting. It's popular with a younger crowd and its azure pool is well-placed facing the ocean.

Poppies Cottages (Map p278; ☎ 751059; www.poppies.net; Poppies Gang I; r US\$70-85; a i s) This Kuta institution has a lush, green garden setting for its 20 thatch-roofed cottages, which have outdoor sunken baths. The peaceful pool is surrounded by stone sculptures and water fountains, and almost makes you forget you are in the heart of Kuta.

Legian

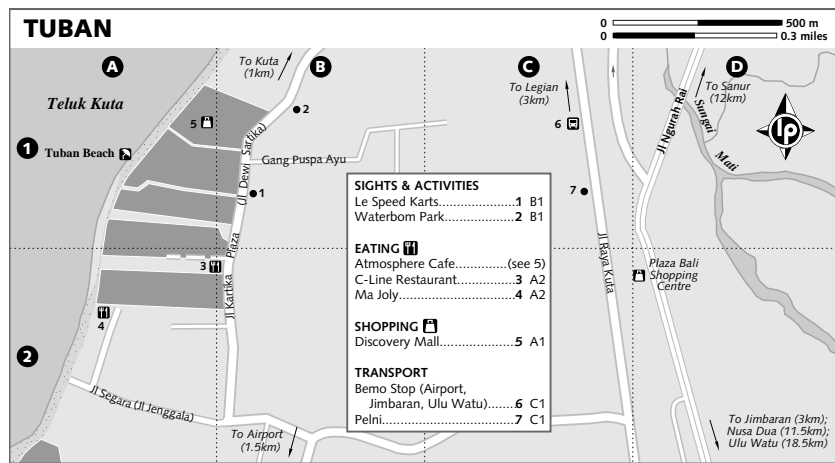
Hotel Sayang Maha Mertha (Hotel Sayang Beach Lodging; Map p278; ☎ 751249; www.sayanghotel.com; r US\$8-45; a i s) The 56 rooms here, off Jl Lebak Bene, range from basic with cold water to quite comfortable with a range of amenities like satellite TV. It has a bar and billiards, and is popular with surfers.

Three Brothers Inn (Map p278; ☎ 751566; www.threebrothersbungalows.com; Jl Padma Utara; r US\$20-35, with air-con US\$30-32; a s) Twisting banyan trees shade scores of brick bungalows holding 90 rooms in the Brothers' sprawling and garden-like grounds. The fan rooms are the best option, but all rooms are spacious, some have lovely outdoor bathrooms, and most have solar hot water.

Hotel Kumala Pantai (Map p278; ☎ 755500; www.kumalapantai.com; Jl Werkudara; r US\$30-50; a s) One of the great deals in Legian. The 88 rooms are large, with marble baths that have separate shower and tub. The three-storey blocks are set in nicely landscaped grounds across from the beach. The breakfast buffet is bountiful.

Puri Tantra Beach Bungalows (Map p278; ☎ 753195; puritantra@telkom.net; Jl Padma Utara 50X; s/d/f US\$35/40/55) These six charming, traditional, fan-only cottages are a step back in time and make for a mellow retreat. All have outdoor bathrooms and are right by the beach, which is reached through a small red door.

Hotel Puri Raja (Map p278; ☎ 755902; www.puriraja.com; Jl Padma Utara; r US\$45-65; a i s) Right on a great stretch of beach, the Puri Raja offers good value with its two large, circular pools and uncrowded grounds. The 72 rooms have balconies or patios and include satellite TV. More money gets you up by the pools or beach.



TOP END

Getting a room on Kuta Beach is one of Bali's great pleasures. Note that those in Kuta proper are separated from the beach by a busy main road.

Kuta

Alam Kul Kul (Map p278; % 752520; www.alamkulkul.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r/villas US\$125/250; a s) The Alam has a gorgeous setting among majestic, gnarled banyan trees. Rooms and villas have contemporary styling with lots of attention to detail and elaborate and romantic furnishings. There's a kids' daycare centre. The Jamu Spa (p281) is on-site.

Legian

Most of the top-end places in Legian are directly opposite the beach on stretches of road closed to traffic. These tend to be relaxed places favoured by families.

Bali Niksoma Beach Resort (Map p278; % 751946; www.baliniksoma.com; Jl Padma Utara; r US\$88-125, villas US\$438; a s) The mannered and minimalist style here comes right from the pages of a design magazine. There are two multilevel pools, one of which seems to disappear into the ocean and horizon. The 58 rooms are exquisite and the villas sublime. There is a health club and a noteworthy spa.

Bali Mandira Hotel (Map p278; % 751381; www.balimandira.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r US\$120, cottages from US\$150; a i s) Gardens filled with bird of paradise flowers set the tone at the Bali

Mandira. Cottages have modern interiors, and the bathrooms are partly open-air. A dramatic pool at the peak of a stone zigurat housing the spa offers uninterrupted ocean views. It also has a pleasant open-air beachfront café.

Eating

There's a profusion of places to eat around Kuta and Legian. Travellers' and surfers' cafés with their cheap menus of Indonesian standards, sandwiches and pizza are ubiquitous. Other forms of Asian fare can be found as well and numerous places serve fresh seafood, steaks and pasta.

If you're looking for the laid-back scene of a classic travellers' café, wander the various *gang* and look for the crowds. Often what's busy one night will be quiet the next. For quick snacks and other victuals, Circle K and Mini Mart convenience stores are everywhere and open 24 hours.

TUBAN

The beachfront hotels all have numerous restaurants. In most cases the best feature for nonguests are the beachside cafés, which are good for a tropical snack or a sunset drink.

C-Line Restaurant (Map p284; % 751285; Jl Kartika Plaza 33; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp) Local art lines the walls and bougainvillea shades the tables. Breakfasts, pasta, Indo standards, seafood and more are on the menu. The banana smoothies are tops.

Atmosphere Cafe (Map p284; % 769501; Discovery Mall, Jl Kartika Plaza; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp; 11am-1am; a) This posh, stylish café overlooks the surf. There's a large, umbrella-shaded patio and sleek lounge inside.

Ma Joly (Map p284; % 753708; Jl Segara; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp; 11 noon-11pm) An upscale restaurant right on the beach, Ma Joly has a creative menu of seafood and pasta, and a good wine list.

KUTA

On the Beach

Busy Jl Pantai Kuta keeps beachside businesses to a minimum in Kuta. Beach vendors are pretty much limited to drinks.

La Cabana (Map p278; % 766156; Jl Benesari at Jl Pantai Kuta; dishes 15,000-25,000Rp) A nice place on an otherwise barren strip, there are little fountains to cover the traffic noise and you have a clear view of sunsets. The menu has all the Kuta standards.

Central Kuta

Bamboo Corner (Map p278; Poppies Gang I; dishes 6000-9,000Rp) This surfer classic has vegetarian plus local dishes. It's very popular and the fast turnover keeps things ultra fresh. The atmosphere can be described as veteran.

Made's Warung (Map p278; % 755297; Jl Pantai Kuta; dishes 18,000-90,000Rp) Longtime visitors debate whether longtime favourite Made's still 'has it', but service has definitely improved over recent years. What's certain is that the menu of Indonesian classics is prepared and served with more flair and care than the usual warung.

Poppies Restaurant (Map p278; % 751059; Poppies Gang I; dishes 30,000-80,000Rp) Poppies was one of the first restaurants in Kuta (Poppies Gang I is named after it), and is popular for its lush garden setting and romantic atmosphere. Refined Balinese fare joins steaks and seafood on a menu that features many items made with local organic ingredients. You may need to book.

Along Jalan Legian

The eating choices along Jl Legian seem endless, but avoid tables close to the busy street.

Aroma's Café (Map p278; % 751003; Jl Legian; dishes 20,000-45,000Rp) A gentle garden setting encircled by water fountains is a perfect place to start the day over great juices, breakfasts and

coffee. Other times the menu has good versions of Western and Indonesian classics.

Kopi Pot (Map p278; % 752614; Jl Legian; dishes 22,000-40,000Rp) Shaded by trees, Kopi Pot is popular for its coffees, milk shakes and yummy desserts, as well as seafood and European and Indonesian main dishes. The upstairs dining area offers shelter if rain threatens the street-level outdoor tables.

Ketupat (Map p278; % 754209; Jl Legian; dishes 25,000-120,000Rp) Hidden behind the Jonathan Gallery, Ketupat is a calm, serene oasis. The dining pavilions all centre on a strikingly blue pool. Dishes originate from across Indonesia, including Javanese curries, such as *nasi hijau harum* (fried rice with greens, shrimp and herbs). Gelato is sold out front.

Mama's (Map p278; % 761151; Jl Legian; dishes 30,000-70,000Rp; 11 24hr) This German classic serves up schnitzel and other meaty dishes around the clock. The beer comes by the litre and the open-air bar is a fine place for enjoying satellite sports.

Poppies Gang II

Kori Restaurant & Bar (Map p278; % 758605; Poppies Gang II; meals 15,000-80,000Rp) Kori wanders through a gorgeous assemblage of gardens and ponds. Popular with expats, it has a good selection of steaks, pasta, upscale Indonesian, burgers and more. You can have a secluded rendezvous in the flower-bedecked nooks out back. The drink list is long and includes many non-clichéd tropical drinks. There's live jazz some nights.

LEGIAN

Legian has some good restaurants with good views of the surf in its seaside hotels. Many places on Jl Melasti don't aspire to anything more than luring in jet-lagged tourists.

Wayan & Friends (Map p278; % 761024; Jl Padma; dishes 9000-40,000Rp) Wayan and his pals have a relaxed place with vivid tablecloths and low lighting. It has delicious vegetable juices, and gourmet sandwiches, which you can customise, made with freshly baked baguettes. There's a small kids' menu.

Indo-National (Map p278; % 759883; Jl Padma; dishes 20,000-90,000Rp) Thanks to its popularity, the Indo-National has moved to larger quarters. Many of the dishes – there are nightly specials – are seafood, and the

mixed platter (45,000Rp) is a feast. The welcome is effusive and genuine. The hosts and staff remember you after one visit, and after a week you can feel like a longtime regular.

Yut'z (Map p278; ☎ 765047; Jl Pura Bagus Taruna 52; 30,000-70,000Rp) An upscale and modern version of a Swiss and European restaurant. Yut'z overlooks the street and a small garden. Fruhstuck fanatics can get their fix here. Later in the day, the menu has a changing selection of specials from the creative kitchen.

Entertainment

Around 6pm, the sunset at the beach is the big attraction, perhaps while enjoying a drink at a café with a sea view. After a good dinner, many visitors are happy with another drink (or two) and a stroll in the cooler evening air. But a lot of people are on holiday and here to party, and in Kuta that means lots of drinking, dancing and late nights. The more sophisticated nightspots are mainly in Seminyak, where the ambience is decidedly hipper, and where many clubs don't get going until after 11pm.

BALINESE DANCE & MUSIC

The Ubud area is really the place to go for authentic dance and you'll see offers in many hotels from tour operators. But note that you'll not get back to Kuta until after 10pm with most of these. Expect to pay around US\$20 each. Otherwise brochures touting Kuta-area performances can be found at every hotel reception.

BARS & CLUBS

Most bars are free to enter, and often have special drink promotions and 'happy hours' between about 5pm and 8pm. During the low season, when tourist numbers are down, you might have to visit quite a few venues to find one with any life. A cover charge is a rarity. Ambience ranges from the laid-back vibe of the surfer dives to the high-concept nightclubs with their long drink menus and hordes of prowling servers.

You'll find many low-key boozers, amid their flashier brethren, along Jl Legian.

Apache Reggae Bar (Map p278; ☎ 761212; Jl Legian 146; 11pm-3am) One of the rowdier spots in Kuta, Apache jams in locals and

visitors, many of whom are on the make. The music is highly variable but the *arak* (colourless, distilled palm wine) flows very freely (often in huge plastic jugs) and, the next day, there's a good chance you won't remember what you heard anyway.

Bounty (Map p278; ☎ 752529; Jl Legian; 10pm-6am) Set on a faux sailing boat, the Bounty is a vast open-air disco that humps, thumps and pumps all night. Climb the blue-lit staircase and get down on the poop deck to hip hop, techno, house and anything else the DJs come up with. Frequent foam parties.

Dolphin (Map p278; ☎ 755376; Jl Sahadewa; 11-11pm) A popular spot in the heart of Legian, the Dolphin draws crowds nightly for shows that include bands playing everything from pop to country.

Fuel (Map p278; ☎ 765777; Jl Legian 62; 11am-5am) This high-concept café has a stark red-and-black design and such popular additions as 'sexy dancers'. There are lots of shot specials and the motto is 'eat, drink, groove'.

Shopping

Parts of the Kuta region are door-to-door shops and over the years these have steadily become more sophisticated. But there are still many simple stalls, where T-shirts, souvenirs and beachwear are the main lines, and where the price depends on your bargaining ability. Many of these stalls are crowded together in 'art markets' like the one near the beach end of Jl Bakung Sari or the one on Jl Melasti.

The bigger, Western-style stores generally have higher quality goods at higher fixed prices. Jl Legian is lined with shops, and although there are exceptions, the quality generally gets better as you head north to Seminyak.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Kuta shops sell arts and crafts from almost every part of the island, from Mas wood-carvings to Kamasan paintings to Gianyar textiles, and just about everything else in between. There are also many interesting pieces from other parts of Indonesia, some of questionable authenticity and value. There's a good selection of quality craft shops on Jl Legian, between Poppies Gang II and Jl Padma.

BEACHWEAR & SURF SHOPS

A huge range of surf shops sell big-name surf gear – including brands such as Mambo, Rip Curl, Quicksilver and Billabong – although the quality may not be as good as you'll find overseas, and is only marginally cheaper. Local names include Surfer Girl and Dreamland.

CLOTHING

The local fashion industry has diversified from beach gear to sportswear to fashion clothing. Most of the fashion shops are on or near Jl Legian.

From the intersection of Jl Padma and Jl Legian, north to Seminyak, you'll find some of the more interesting women's (and men's) clothing shops as well as interesting home-ware shops (often the two are combined).

Uluwatu (Map p278; ☎ 751933; Jl Legian) There are numerous branches across South Bali. This is one of the largest and is an elegant shop for browsing through the collections of lace-accented linen and cotton clothing. The items are made in villages around Tabanan in West Bali.

Komodo (Map p278; ☎ 761147; Jl Legian 427, Legian) A licensed store for the well-known fun and funky UK label. It carries other lines as well.

DEPARTMENT STORES & MALLS

Discovery Mall (Map p284; ☎ 755522; www.discoveryshoppingmall.com; Jl Kartika Plaza; 10am-9pm) Your eyes follow the beautiful sweep of sand south along the Kuta shore until you see...this! Huge and hulking, this enormous new mall is built on the water and is filled with stores of every kind – most somewhat upscale.

Matahari department store (Map p278; ☎ 757588; Kuta Sq; 10am-10pm) This store has fairly staid clothing, a floor full of souvenirs, jewellery, a supermarket and the recommended Periplus bookshop.

Bali Galleria (Map p277; ☎ 758875; Jl Ngurah Rai) A large open-air Western-style mall that is busy with locals and tourists alike. There's numerous large stores and plenty of shops with well-known names (Body Shop, Marks & Spencer etc).

Getting There & Away

BEMO

Public bemos regularly travel between Kuta and the Tegal terminal in Denpasar – the fare should be 8000Rp. Most bemos go only

PERAMA TOURIST SHUTTLE BUSES FROM KUTA

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Candidasa	40,000
Lovina	70,000
Padangbai	40,000
Sanur	15,000
Ubud	30,000

to the terminal area in Kuta (on Jl Raya Kuta just east of Bemo Corner).

BUS

Public Bus

Travel agents in Kuta sell tickets to Java and Lombok for buses that depart from Ubung terminal in Denpasar; you'll have to get yourself to Ubung. The tickets will be slightly more expensive than if you buy them at Ubung, but it's worth it to avoid a trip into Ubung and to be sure of a seat when you want to go. For public buses to anywhere else in Bali you'll have to go first to the appropriate terminal in Denpasar, and pay your money there.

Tourist Shuttle Bus

Shuttle bus tickets are sold at most travel agents – buy them a day ahead, or call the company and pay when you check in.

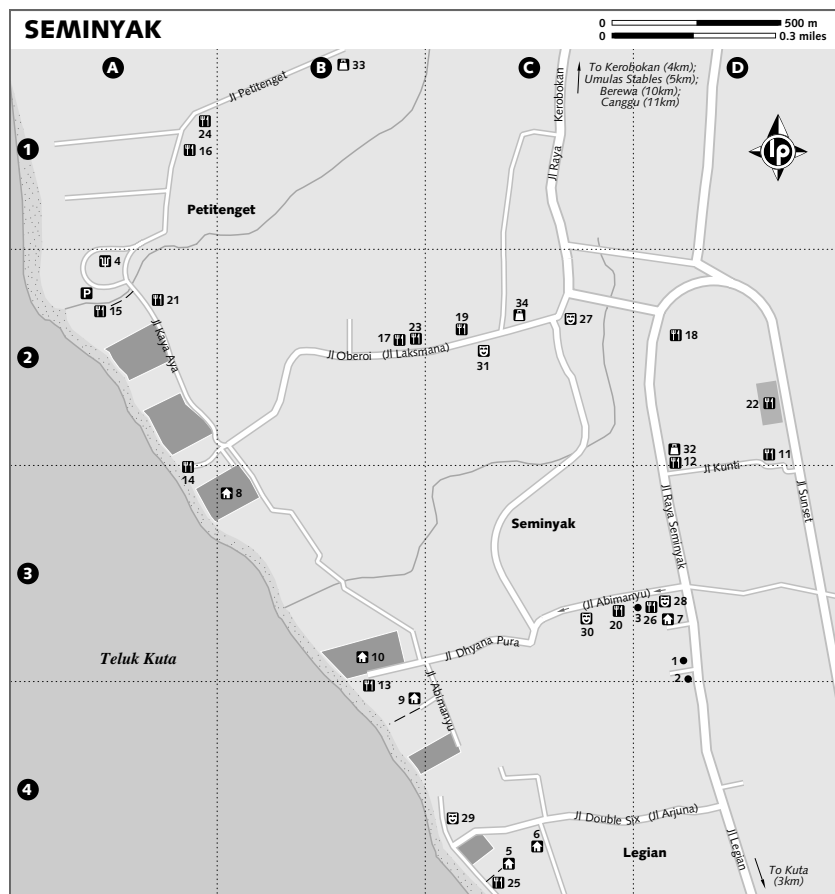
Perama (Map p278; ☎ 751551; www.peramatour.com; Jl Legian 39; 10am-10pm) is the main shuttle bus operation, and will sometimes pick you up from your hotel for free (confirm this when making arrangements). Perama usually has at least one bus a day to its destinations (see boxed text, above). In busy seasons, there will be three or more to popular spots like Ubud.

Getting Around

See p275 for details on getting around. Besides the frequent taxis, you can rent a scooter – often with a surfboard rack – or a bike. Just ask where you are staying. One of the nicest ways to get around the Kuta and Legian area is by foot, along the beach.

SEMINYAK

Seminyak is the most exciting part of South Bali. It's the home of the best restaurants, bars and clubs. In fact, new ones literally open every week.



All this creative energy is yours to enjoy, possibly from the luxury of one of the world-class hotels found along the water. Although all this fun comes at a price, Seminyak is an exciting place where half the fun is just finding out what's new.

Orientation

The southern border of Seminyak runs along Jl Double Six. The only road along the beach is down here, it passes several notable clubs and restaurants. Jl Raya Seminyak is the continuation of Jl Legian from Kuta. Jl Oberoi heads west to the resort of same name and meets Jl Kaya Aya, which passes most of the resorts on the land side.

Seminyak shares many services with Kuta and Legian immediately to the south.

Information

Most of the hotels have broadband connections for guests. Cheap and slow internet shops can be found along the main streets including Jl Dhyana Pura and Jl Oberoi. ATMs can be found along all the main roads.

For medical services, see the Kuta & Legian section (p280).

Bintang Supermarket (☎ 730552; Jl Raya Seminyak 17) Newspapers, magazines, best-sellers and art books.

Tiger Pharmacy (☎ 732621; Jl Raya Seminyak 19; 12hr) Has a full range of prescription medications.

INFORMATION		Raja Gardens.....9 B4	Tuesday Night Pizza Club.....23 B2
Bintang Supermarket.....1 D3	Sofitel Seminyak Bali.....10 B3	Waroeng Bonita.....24 A1	Zanzibar.....25 C4
Tiger Pharmacy.....2 D3		Zula Vegetarian Paradise.....26 D3	
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		EATING 🍴	
AJ Hackett Bungy.....(see 29)	Bali Deli.....11 D2	Bali Deli.....11 D2	Bali Pub.....28 D3
NT Health & Beauty Spa.....3 D3	Café Moka.....12 D2	Café Moka.....12 D2	Double Six Club.....29 C4
Pura Petitenget.....4 A2	Gado Gado.....13 B4	Gado Gado.....13 B4	Q Bar.....30 C3
Quicksilver Boarding School.....(see 5)	Ku De Ta.....14 A3	Ku De Ta.....14 A3	Woodstock.....31 C2
	La Lucciola.....15 A2	La Lucciola.....15 A2	
	Living Room.....16 A1	Living Room.....16 A1	
	Mykonos.....17 B2	Mykonos.....17 B2	
	Pondok Duo.....18 D2	Pondok Duo.....18 D2	
	Rumours.....19 C2	Rumours.....19 C2	
	Santa Fe Bar & Grill.....20 C3	Santa Fe Bar & Grill.....20 C3	
	Sate Bali.....21 A2	Sate Bali.....21 A2	
	Seminyak Night Market.....22 D2	Seminyak Night Market.....22 D2	
SLEEPING 🏠		SHOPPING 🛍️	
Blue Ocean.....5 C4	Blue Ocean.....32 D2	Blue Ocean.....32 D2	
Hotel Kumala.....6 C4	Ned's Hideaway.....7 D3	Ned's Hideaway.....7 D3	
Ned's Hideaway.....7 D3	Oberoi.....8 B3	Oberoi.....8 B3	
Oberoi.....8 B3		Richard Meyer Culture.....33 B1	
		Salim Gallery.....34 C2	

Sights

North of the string of hotels on Jl Kaya Aya, Pura Petitenget is an important temple and a scene of many ceremonies. It is one of a string of sea temples that stretches from Pura Luhur Ulu Watu on the Bukit Peninsula north to Tanah Lot in western Bali. It honours the visit of a 16th-century priest.

Activities

Because of the limited road access, the beach in Seminyak tends to be less crowded than further south in Kuta. This also means that it is less patrolled and the water conditions are less monitored. The odds of encountering dangerous riptides and other hazards are ever present especially as you head north.

The beach at the end of Jl Double Six is popular with locals and visitors alike for sports and general lounging.

SPAS

Look for lavish spas in all of the top hotels in Seminyak.

NT Health & Beauty Spa (☎ 732226; Jl Dhyana Pura 6B; 11am-10pm) offers a variety of services from simple haircuts (90,000Rp) to two-hour long treatments featuring exfoliations and other pleasures (200,000Rp).

BUNGY JUMPING

AJ Hackett Bungy (☎ 731144; Jl Arjuna; US\$50; 11am-7pm Sun-Thu, 10am-7pm & 2-4am Fri & Sat), beside the beach at the Double Six Club (p291), has a great view of the coast that means you can't see the hideous tower you're standing on (or bouncing from).

Sleeping

Seminyak isn't just about top-end hotels. There's a good bunch of cheaper places to

the south and they're close to the beach. But if you're looking for the best places to stay in Bali, you'll find several here.

BUDGET

Ned's Hide-Away (☎ 731270; nedshide@dps.centrin.net.id; Gang Bima 3; r from 80,000Rp) Named after Aussie icon Ned Kelly, this simple 15-room place is popular with those hoping to lie low between bouts of fun. Rooms have hot water and there's a character-filled bar. Look for the sign on Jl Legian, near Bintang Supermarket.

Blue Ocean (☎ 730289; r 120,000-130,000Rp, with air-con 150,000Rp; a) Right near the beach, the Blue Ocean is a clean and basic place with hot water and pleasant outdoor bathrooms. Many of the 24 rooms have kitchens and there's action nearby day and night.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Kumala (☎ 732186; Jl Pura Bagus Taruna; r US\$15-25; a s) Great value and convenient to both Legian and Seminyak, the Kumala has large older-style rooms with teak furniture, modern bathrooms, and two pools in a garden filled with bamboo stands, frangipani and bougainvillea.

Raja Gardens (☎ 730494; jdew@eksadata.com; Jl Abimanyu; r 200,000-300,000Rp; a s) Look for spacious, lush grounds in this quiet and secluded spot near the beach. The seven rooms are spotless and have touches of tropical style. The open-air bathrooms are filled with plants.

TOP END

Sofitel Seminyak Bali (☎ 730730; www.theroyal-seminyak.com; Jl Dhyana Pura; r from US\$150, villas from US\$500; a i s) This hotel's beachside location is ideal and you can walk to the clubs

A WALK ON THE BEACH

That fabulous stretch of sand that starts in Kuta and runs north right to the west coast can be the focus for a great day out exploring. Start where Jl Pantai Kuta meets the shore and head north. As your mood demands, frolic in and out of the surf while taking breaks on the sand. Time yourself so that at about noon you'll be at the patch of beach where Jl Double Six meets the sand. Here you'll find a strip of shady outdoor cafés that have ocean views. After lunch you can join the many locals and visitors in a variety of beach games that give this fine patch of beach relentless energy. Continue north along the sand and ponder your massage options: choose from one of the ladies on the beach or something more elaborate at one of the spas in the beachside hotels. With the afternoon starting to wind down, take a break on a rental lounge on the sand and enjoy a beverage from the vendor. Finally as the sun heads down in the west, finish up at Ku De Ta (opposite), the popular beachside club that's not just a café but a scene. Eventually you can have dinner at one of the many dining options in Seminyak and then grab a cab home.

and restaurants on Jl Dhyana Pura. The rooms are done in a smart contemporary style. What really sets the property apart are the private walled units where the feel is like an old Balinese village.

Oberoi (☎ 730361; www.oberoihotels.com; Jl Oberoi; r US\$255-300, villas US\$400-850; a i s) One of the world's top hotels, the Oberoi has been a refined beachside retreat since 1971. The low-rise architecture is understated, as is the service. But every detail is spot on, right down to the selection of fruit that graces your room. All accommodation here have a private lanai (veranda) each, and as you move up through the food chain additional features include private villas, ocean views and private, walled pools. From the café overlooking the almost private sweep of beach to the numerous luxuries found in each unit, this is a place to spoil yourself. Many find it hard to leave even though the best of Seminyak nightlife is nearby.

In addition to luxurious hotels, Seminyak and the coast north is home to many rental villas. At the minimum they have a kitchen, living room and private garden, and often two or more bedrooms, so they are suitable for a family or a group of friends. Rates can range anywhere from US\$500 for a modest villa to US\$4000 per week and beyond for your own tropical estate. The following agencies are two among many: **Bali Villas** (☎ 0361-703060; www.balivillas.com) and **Elite Havens** (☎ 0361-731074; www.elitehavens.com).

Eating

Seminyak is spread out, so you won't be walking among the many dining choices,

rather you'll be choosing a neighbourhood first. Note that, where indicated, some restaurants morph into clubs as the night wears on. Conversely some of the places listed under Bars & Clubs also do decent food.

JALAN DOUBLE SIX

Numerous places here near the beach have a funky atmosphere and are more hip than similar joints in Kuta.

Zanzibar (☎ 733529; Jl Double Six; dishes 20,000-45,000Rp) Sunset is prime time, but during the day you can enjoy the shade of the large trees overhead. The menu features vegetarian and pasta dishes with a dash of style. Breakfasts are good too.

JALAN DHYANA PURA

Zula Vegetarian Paradise (☎ 732723; Jl Dhyana Pura 5; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; 11 8am-4am) It's all vegetarian at this fun little place where you can get tofu cheese, a tofu spring roll, tofu cheesecake, not to mention a tofu-chickpea burger. The long list of juices includes the highly appropriate (for Jl Dhyana Pura) 'Liver Cleanser' special.

Santa Fe Bar & Grill (☎ 731147; Jl Dhyana Pura 11A; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp; 11 7am-4am) The pizza and Southwest food here is popular and deservedly so. People can be found dining here at all hours, especially late when there's live music (mostly rock). Not surprisingly, tequila is popular.

Gado Gado (☎ 736966; Jl Dhyana Pura; mains 90,000-190,000Rp; 11 lunch & dinner) This stylish place has a magical location on the beach. To the sound of the surf, enjoy the excellent service and the fine menu of Asian

and Mediterranean fusion dishes. The bar is popular and refined.

JALAN RAYA SEMINYAK

Bali Deli (☎ 738686; Jl Kunti 117X) The deli counter at this upscale market is loaded with imported cheeses, meats and baked goods. This is the place to get food from home. A small café has wi-fi.

Pondok Duo (☎ 738834; Jl Raya Seminyak; dishes 6000-9000Rp) Choose from an array of traditional dishes at this modest Padang-style spot. Its popularity ensures fast turnover of the prepared dishes.

Café Moka (☎ 731424; Jl Raya Seminyak; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; a) Enjoy French-style baked goods at this fine bakery, which is popular for breakfast. Fresh deli cuisine like superb salads and tapas is served for lunch and dinner. The bulletin board is a window into the local expat community.

JALAN OBEROI

Otherwise known as 'Eat St', the new name Jl Laksmana is slowly catching on.

Mykonos (☎ 733253; Jl Oberoi 52; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp; 11 5pm-midnight) The island food of Greece comes to the island of Bali at this wildly popular spot. All the classics are here from meze like tzatziki to various grilled souvlakis. Cheap wine fuels the fun.

Rumours (☎ 738720; Jl Oberoi 100; mains 20,000-50,000Rp; 11 6pm-midnight) The menu spans steaks and Italian favourites. Portions are large and the quality is good which ensures its popularity. Be ready to wait.

Tuesday Night Pizza Club (☎ 730614; Jl Oberoi; pizza 25,000-118,000Rp; 11 6pm-midnight) Pizzas come in four sizes at this simple joint and have a range of goofy names like Hawaii Five-O (ham and pineapple) and The Italian Job (mozzarella and tomato). And guess what? They deliver.

La Lucciola (☎ 730838; Jl Oberoi; dishes 80,000-140,000Rp) A sleek beachside restaurant offers good views across a lovely lawn and sand to the surf from the 2nd-floor tables. The bar downstairs is big with sunset watchers. The menu is modern Australian (a tasty melange of Mediterranean, Asian, seafood and more) and Italian (try the risotto).

Ku De Ta (☎ 736969; Jl Oberoi; dishes 100,000-200,000Rp; 11 7am-1pm) Restaurant? Bar? Way of life? Ku De Ta swarms with Bali's beautiful. Kids play in the stylish pool while adults

ponder drinks in the cigar bar and everyone ponders the gorgeous sunsets over the beach. The menu is a creative fusion mix and the service is professional.

Sate Bali (☎ 736734; Jl Oberoi 22; meals 195,000Rp; 11 lunch & dinner) Some very fine traditional Balinese meals are served at this small but artful café. Prepare for dozens of small plates of fresh food. Service is sublime.

NORTHERN SEMINYAK

Seminyak Night Market (Jl Sunset) Gets going around 6pm and plenty of warung sell delicious *bakso* (meatball soup) and *soto ayam* (chicken soup). Loud music plays and there's a convivial atmosphere.

Waroeng Bonita (☎ 731918; Jl Petitenget; dishes 17,000-49,000Rp) Balinese dishes such as *ikan rica-rica* (fresh fish in a spicy green chilli sauce) are the specialties at this cute little place with tables under the trees.

Living Room (☎ 735735; Jl Petitenget; mains 80,000-100,000Rp; 11 11am-11pm) At night hundreds of candles twinkle on and about the scores of outdoor tables at the new location of this lacy fantasy of a restaurant. The menu is Asian with good Thai, Vietnamese and Balinese dishes.

Entertainment

Jl Double Six is named for the legendary club on the beach and this area remains a centre of 3am Kuta-area club culture. Jl Dhyana Pura is popular for its ever-changing line-up of high-concept clubs and bars. Note that, where indicated, some of the places do good food in the evening while some of the places listed under Eating also do music.

JALAN DOUBLE SIX

The club of the same name is the big destination here. There are several other trendy clubs nearby.

Double Six Club (☎ 0812 462 7733; Jl Double Six; 11 11pm-6am) This veteran club got a massive remake, which has made it into a playground for the beautiful. The swimming pool is mostly for show and there are top international DJs playing hot mixes. An adjoining café seeks to nab sunset watchers.

JALAN DHYANA PURA

One of the joys of Jl Dhyana Pura is bouncing from place to place all night long. Many pure clubs snooze until after midnight.

Q-Bar (☎ 762361; Jl Dhyana Pura; 𠄎 8pm-3am) This bright bar caters to gay clubbers but by no means exclusively. Rainbow lovers will rejoice; the music of choice is house. There are good views of the action – inside and out – from the upper floor.

Bali Pub (Jl Dhyana Pura; 𠄎 6pm-1am) A laid-back place for cool jazz on a street of driving techno.

JALAN OBEROI

Aina Bar (☎ 730182; Jl Oberoi; 𠄎 6pm-2am) Mellow rock is the music of choice at this intimate little open-fronted bar. Pull up a stool and chat up the bartender.

Woodstock (☎ 730629; Jl Oberoi; 𠄎 6pm-3am) Love, peace and music. Hammocks hang from the rafters and there's a large garden out back. Music reflects the name.

Shopping

In Seminyak, fashion shops are much funkier than in Kuta. There are many interesting clothing stores and boutiques on this stretch of Jl Raya Seminyak. North of Jl Dhyana Pura there are numerous shops selling artworks, housewares, furniture and other designer goods aimed at helping you create your own 'Bali Style'.

Blue Glue (☎ 844 5956; Jl Raya Seminyak) Has a collection of Bali-made bathing suits from tee-shirt to trendy.

Richard Meyer Culture (☎ 744 5179; Jl Petitenget 200X) This gallery sells works – mostly photos – by renowned contemporary Bali artists and is known for its shows and historical collection.

Salim Gallery (Jl Oberoi) A good-sized space that frequently has shows by noted local artists, such as the luminous work of Martin Agam Sitepu.

Getting There & Around

Most transport information is the same as for Kuta. Metered taxis are easily hailed. A taxi to the heart of Kuta will be about 10,000Rp. You can beat the traffic and have a good stroll by walking the beach south – Legian is about 20 minutes.

NORTH OF SEMINYAK

☎ 0361

As Seminyak grows, the small towns to its north grow as well. Kerobokan is where Seminyak was 10 years ago – on the cusp

of major growth. Expats and land speculators are snatching up property here and in Canggu along the coast. Getting to most of the places listed is really only convenient with your own transport or by taxi. Think 20,000Rp or more from Kuta.

Kerobokan

Lots of interesting little places can be found here, a trend sure to continue. To get here from Kuta and other points in the south, follow Jl Legian north, through its Jl Raya Seminyak phase, until it becomes Jl Raya Kerobokan just north of Seminyak. Look for an ever-growing range of upscale shops and galleries along here.

Just past the jail off Jl Raya Kerobokan, **Warung Gossip** (☎ 0817 970 3209; Jl Pengubengan Kauh; meals 15,000-20,000Rp; 𠄎 lunch) serves top-notch versions of Balinese warung staples. The line-up of food changes daily. There's also a café area for more formal dining.

Canggu

A popular surf spot with right- and left-hand breaks, Canggu is literally getting on the map. You'll spot quite a few satellite dishes poking above the rice paddies, denoting the locations of lavish expat homes. Surfers congregate at beaches where various local roads hit the sand. There's usually a few unnamed warung a few metres from the beach.

To get to Canggu, go west at Kerobokan and south at Kayutulang. Bemos leave from Gunung Agung terminal in Denpasar (5000Rp). Taxis from Kuta will run to 30,000Rp or more.

Batu Mejan

The next popular bit of beach northwest of Canggu Beach is Batu Mejan or Echo Beach. Besides the surfers' warung, there's the **Beach House** (☎ 738471; Jl Pura Batu Mejan; dishes 5000-40,000Rp), which faces the waves. It has a variety of couches and tables where you can hang out, watch the waves and enjoy the breakfasts, sandwiches and salads.

SANUR

☎ 0361

Sanur is a slightly upmarket sea, sun and sand alternative to Kuta. The white-sand beach is sheltered by a reef. The resulting low-key surf contributes to Sanur's nick-

name 'Snore', although this is also attributable to the area's status as a haven for expat retirees. Some parents prefer the beach at Sanur because its calmness makes it a good place for small children to play.

Sanur was one of the places favoured by Westerners during their prewar discovery of Bali. Artists Miguel Covarrubias, Adrien Jean Le Mayeur and Walter Spies, anthropologist Jane Belo and choreographer Katharine Mereson all spent time here.

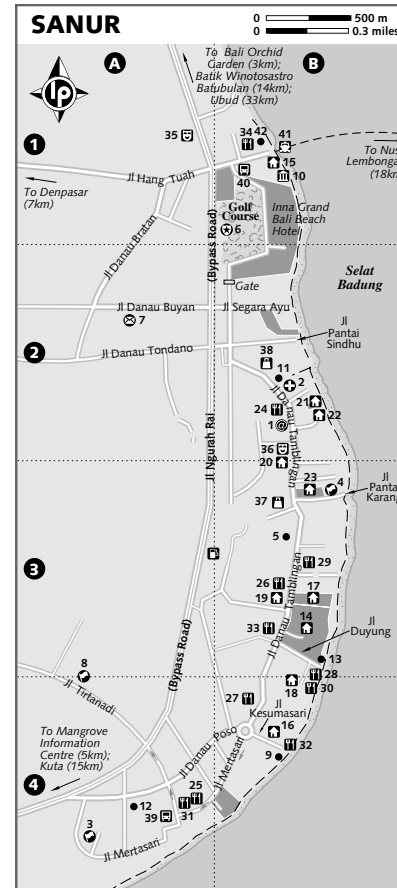
Orientation

Sanur stretches for about 5km along an east-facing coastline, with the lush and green landscaped grounds of resorts fronting right onto the sandy beach. The appal-

ling Grand Bali Beach Hotel, located at the northern end of the strip, fronts the best stretch of beach. West of the beachfront hotels is the noisy main drag, Jl Danau Tamblingan, with hotel entrances, oodles of tourist shops, restaurants and cafés.

Jl Ngurah Rai, commonly called Bypass Rd, skirts the western side of the resort area, and is the main link to Kuta and the airport.

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Information

Moneychangers here have a dubious reputation. There are numerous ATMs and banks along Jl Danau Tamblingan.

Other than a few used-book exchanges in hotels that will allow you to complete your Danielle Steele collection, Sanur lacks a good bookshop.

Some other services in town:

Cybergate (☎ 287274; Jl Danau Tamblingan; per hr 15,000Rp; 𠂆 8am-10pm) Broadband, burns CDs.

Dokter Paktek Umum (☎ 282678; Jl Danau Tamblingan 27; 𠂆 on call 24hr) Charges 100,000Rp per consultation.

Hardy's Supermarket (☎ 281914; Jl Danau Tamblingan 136; 𠂆 8am-10pm) Sells newspapers and magazines.

Police station (☎ 288597; Jl Ngurah Rai)

Post office (☎ 754012; Jl Danau Buyan; 𠂆 8am-7pm Mon-Sat) Located west of Jl Ngurah Rai.

Sights

MUSEUM LE MAYEUR

The Belgian artist Adrien Jean Le Mayeur de Merpes (1880-1958) arrived in Bali in 1932. Three years later he met and married the beautiful Legong dancer Ni Polok when she was 15. They lived in this compound when Sanur was still a quiet fishing village. The main house must have been a delightful place then – a peaceful and elegant home filled with art and antiques right by the tranquil beach. After his death, Ni Polok lived in the house until she died in 1985. The house is an interesting example of Balinese architecture – notice the beautifully carved shutters that recount the story of Rama and Sita from the Ramayana.

Some Le Mayeur paintings are displayed inside the museum (☎ 286201; adult/child 2000/1000Rp; 𠂆 7.30am-3.30pm Sun-Thu, 7.30am-1pm Fri), with information in Indonesian and English. Some of Le Mayeur's early works are interesting, Impressionist-style paintings from his travels in Africa, India, Italy, France and the South Pacific. Paintings from his early period on Bali are romantic depictions of Balinese daily life and beautiful Balinese women – often Ni Polok.

BALI ORCHID GARDEN

Given Bali's weather and volcanic soil, no one should be surprised that orchids grow very well. At this garden (Map p277; ☎ 466010; Jl Bypass Tohpati; adult/child 50,000/25,000Rp; 𠂆 8am-6pm) you can see thousands of orchids in a

variety of settings. It's 3km north of Sanur along Jl Ngurah Rai just past the major intersection with the coast road, Jl Bypass Tohpati.

STONE PILLAR

The pillar, behind Pura Belangjong, is Bali's oldest dated artefact and has ancient inscriptions recounting military victories of more than 1000 years ago. These inscriptions are in Sanskrit and are evidence of Hindu influence 300 years before the arrival of the Majapahit court.

Activities

DIVING & SNORKELLING

The diving near Sanur is not great, but the reef has a good variety of fish and offers quite good snorkelling. Sanur is the best departure point for dive trips to Nusa Lembongan. A recommended local operator is **Global Aquatic Diving Center** (☎ 282434; www.globalaquatic.com; Jl Kesumasari No 9; dive tours from €60), which is located right on the beach. Global can arrange trips throughout Bali.

SPAS

Natural Spa (☎ 283677; Jl Danau Tamblingan 23; 2-hr massage 450,000Rp; 𠂆 10am-10pm) is a huge operation, which offers various massages, reflexology and body treatments.

WATER SPORTS

Various water sports are offered at kiosks along the beach: close to Museum Le Mayeur; near Sanur Beach Market; and at **Surya Water Sports** (☎ 287956; Jl Duyung 10). Prices at all three places are similar, and are based on a minimum of two people. You can go parasailing (per go US\$15), jet-skiing (15 minutes US\$20), windsurfing (one hour US\$25) and more.

Sleeping

The best places are right on the beach; however, that doesn't mean they are any good. A few of the properties have been coasting for decades, while others offer wonderful experiences. Modest budgets will find comfort on the nonbeach side of Jl Danau Tamblingan.

BUDGET

Watering Hole I (☎ 288289; wateringhole_sanurball@yahoo.com; Jl Hang Tuah 37; r 60,000-100,000Rp; a)

In the northern part of Sanur, the Hole is a busy, friendly place, with 25 pleasant, clean rooms over a few storeys. The cheapest rooms have fan cooling and cold water. It also has the Watering Hole Restaurant, right.

Keke Homestay (☎ 287282; Jl Danau Tamblingan 96; s/d 60,000/75,000Rp; with air-con 100,000/150,000Rp; a) Set back a little from the noisy main road, Keke welcomes travellers with seven quiet, clean rooms. They all have cold water and fans.

Yulia 2 Homestay (☎ 287495; kf_billy@indo.net.id; Jl Danau Tamblingan; s/d 80,000/90,000Rp) Yulia 2 has seven clean, pleasant rooms in a somewhat cramped compound. All have hot water and fans and there's a fun little café.

Jati Homestay (☎ 281730; www.balivision.com/hotels/jatihomestay; Jl Danau Tamblingan; r 150,000-200,000Rp) Situated in pretty grounds, Jati has 15 pleasant and clean bungalows, with small but well-organised kitchen facilities and hot water.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Segara Agung (☎ 288446; www.segaraagung.com; Jl Duyung 43; r US\$20-35, f US\$50; a s) Down a quiet, unpaved residential street, this hotel is only a two-minute walk to the beach. The 16 rooms are clean and pleasant, staff are friendly and there's a big swimming pool.

Hotel Palm Gardens (☎ 287041; plmgrd@indosat.net.id; Jl Kesumasari 3; r from 250,000Rp; a s) Everything is peaceful here, from the 17 low-key rooms to the relaxed service. It's close to the beach and there is a nice medium-sized pool with a small waterfall.

Diwangkara Beach Hotel (☎ 288577; dhwballi@indosat.net.id; Jl Hang Tuah 54; r from US\$40; a i s) Facing the beach near the end of Jl Hang Tuah, this 38-room hotel is a tad old-fashioned (especially the pool), but the smaller bungalows are right by the beach.

Respati Bali (☎ 288427; brespati@indo.net.id; Jl Danau Tamblingan 33; r US\$40-60; a s) Despite its narrow site, the Respati's 32 contemporary bungalow-style rooms don't feel cramped. The beach frontage is a plus and the pool is a decent-size.

Hotel Paneeda View (☎ 288425; www.paneeda.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 89; r from US\$55; a s) Right on the beach, this hotel has three small pools and 55 rooms. Much attention to detail is devoted to the attractively decorated rooms; each has a patio.

TOP END

Bali Hyatt (☎ 281234; www.bali.resort.hyatt.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan; r US\$90-350; a i s) The gardens are an attraction themselves at this 390-room beachfront resort. Hibiscus, wild ginger, lotus and many more species can be found in profusion. Rooms are comfortable and the resort is regularly updated. The two pools are vast; one has a waterfall-shrouded cave.

Tandjung Sari (☎ 288441; www.tandjungsarihotel.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 29; bungalows US\$130-260; a s) The mature trees along the shaded driveway set the gracious tone at this Sanur veteran, which was one of the first Balinese bungalow hotels. Like a good tree it has flourished since its start in 1967; the 26 gorgeous traditional-style bungalows are superbly decorated with crafts and antiques. The staff is a delight. Highly recommended.

Eating

There's great eating in Sanur at every budget level. Cheap warung and street food carts can be found around the Pasar Sindhu night market, at the beach end of Jl Segara Ayu, and along Jl Danau Poso, at the southern end of Sanur, beyond the resort area.

NORTHERN SANUR

There are numerous little cafés and warungs down by the beach.

Watering Hole Restaurant (☎ 288289; Jl Hang Tuah; dishes 10,000-40,000Rp) Popular for Chinese, Indonesian and Western meals that are served at decent prices. This is a good travellers' hang-out at this end of town.

BEACH

The beach path offers restaurants, warung and bars where you can catch a meal, a drink or a sea breeze. There are several places near the end of each road that ends at the beach.

Stiff Chili (Jl Kesumasari; dishes 8000-20,000Rp) Besides the evocative name, this beachside hut features good sandwiches, pizza and gelato.

New Banjar Club (☎ 287359; dishes 20,000-40,000Rp) Near Jl Duyung, this is a nice beachfront restaurant. Look for a typical menu of pizza, pasta and Indo classics.

Sanur Bay (☎ 288153; Jl Duyung; 25,000-40,000Rp) Tables right on the sand allow for great views at this classic beachside seafood grill.

JALAN DANAU TAMBLINGAN

Lumut (☎ 270009; Jl Danau Tamblingan; dishes 15,000-55,000Rp; 11 10am-10pm) This gracious 2nd-floor café is set back from the road. The menu has the usuals but the emphasis is on fusion Asian cuisine and seafood. It's also good for a coffee or juice during the day.

Alise's Restaurant (☎ 282510; Tamu Kami Hotel, Jl Danau Tamblingan 64X; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp; 11 7.30-10pm Sun, Tue, Thu & Fri) Alise's has a romantic, lantern-lit outdoor dining area by the pool and serves a good range of European dishes. Local musicians perform Balinese and Western music while the solicitous owners chat you up.

Palay Restaurant (☎ 288335; Jl Danau Tamblingan 81; dishes 20,000-80,000Rp; 11 lunch & dinner) Like an upscale surfers joint, look for fine versions of pasta, burgers, pizza and local faves here. It's all served under a soaring thatched roof.

Retro Café & Gallery (☎ 282472; Jl Danau Tamblingan 126; dishes 25,000-45,000Rp) There's a relaxed back section here, well away from the traffic noise, with walls filled with paintings. The menu has all the classics.

Telaga Naga (☎ 281234; Jl Danau Tamblingan 180; dishes 25,000-100,000Rp; 11 dinner) Torches light the pathway to this jewel-like restaurant where red lanterns glow over tables. Offerings on the Chinese Szechwan menu are gourmand, such as *abalone masak jamur hitam* (abalone with black mushrooms). Fine gardens.

Massimo (☎ 288942; Jl Danau Tamblingan 206; dishes 30,000-125,000Rp) The interior here is like an open-air Milan café, the outside is like a Balinese garden – a perfect combo. The menu boasts highly authentic pastas, pizzas and more.

SOUTH SANUR

Sari Laut (☎ 289151; dishes 12,500-25,000Rp) Among a cluster of warungs offering cheap dining by the bemo stop, Sari Laut is always full of locals.

Cat & Fiddle (☎ 282218; Jl Cemara 36; dishes 25,000-50,000Rp) Look for Brit standards like fish and chips on the menu at this open-air place, which is, not surprisingly, popular with expats. Trad breakfasts in the morning balance live music many nights.

Entertainment

Many of Sanur's drinking establishments cater to retired expats and are thankfully air-conditioned. Several serve food. For a

real Sanur experience, have a drink at one of the many little beachside bars that can be found along the promenade.

Jazz Bar & Grille (☎ 285892; Komplek Sanur 15, Jl Ngurah Rai; dishes 35,000-75,000Rp; 11 10am-2am; a) There's live jazz from Sunday to Thursday and pop on Friday and Saturday.

Speakezy's (☎ 288825; Jl Danau Tamblingan 94; 11 4pm-1am) One of the few true bars on the strip, this place has a cheesy theme, lots of drink specials and cheap beer. There's live acoustic music many nights.

Shopping

Sanur is within easy reach of much of the good arts-and-crafts shopping around Ubud. Locally, there are several painting studio shops, with a wide selection of paintings on offer on Jl Danau Tamblingan and also around Jl Pantai Sindhu.

Rare Angon (☎ 288962; Jl Danau Tamblingan 17) A gallery with works from over a dozen local artists. Many are often working right in the shop.

Mama & Leon (☎ 288044; Jl Danau Tamblingan 99A) An upmarket women's fashion shop specialising in cool, classic cuts and colours, where many of the locally made works feature embroidery.

Getting There & Away**BEMO**

The public bemo stops are at the southern end of Sanur on Jl Mertasari, and just outside the main entrance to the Inna Grand Bali Beach Hotel on Jl Hang Tuah. You can hail a bemo anywhere along Jl Danau Tamblingan and Jl Danau Poso.

Green bemos go along Jl Hang Tuah and up Jl Hayam Wuruk to the Kereneng terminal in Denpasar (5000Rp).

BOAT

Public boats to Nusa Lembongan leave from the northern end of Sanur beach at 7.45am (40,000Rp, 1½ to two hours). This is the boat used by locals and you may have to share space with a chicken. The Perama tourist boat (more reliable) leaves at 10.30am (70,000Rp).

From Nusa Lembongan to Sanur, public boats leave Jungutbatu Beach at 7.45am. The Perama boat to Sanur leaves at 8.30am and connects with a through service to Kuta (85,000Rp) and Ubud (90,000Rp).

PERAMA TOURIST SHUTTLE BUSES FROM SANUR

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Candidasa	40,000
Kuta	15,000
Lovina	70,000
Padangbai	40,000
Ubud	30,000

For details about various other boats to Nusa Lembongan, see p349.

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

The Perama office (☎ 285592, Jl Hang Tuah 39; 11 7am-10pm) is at Warung Pojok at the northern end of town. It runs shuttles to various destinations (see boxed text, above), most only once daily.

Getting Around

Bemos go up and down Jl Danau Tamblingan and Jl Danau Poso for 3000Rp. Metered taxis can be flagged down in the street, or call **Bali Taxi** (☎ 701111).

BENOA HARBOUR

Bali's main port is at the entrance of Teluk Benoa (Benoa Bay), the wide but shallow bay east of the airport runway. Benoa Harbour is on the northern side of the bay – a square of docks and port buildings on reclaimed land, linked to mainland Bali by a 2km causeway.

Benoa Harbour is the port for tourist day-trip boats to Nusa Lembongan (see p349) and for Peln ships to other parts of Indonesia.

Visitors must pay a toll to go on the causeway (1000Rp per vehicle). Public bemos (5000Rp) leave from Sanglah terminal in Denpasar. A taxi from Kuta or Sanur should cost around 18,000Rp one way, plus the toll.

BUKIT PENINSULA

☎ 0361

The southern peninsula is known as Bukit (*bukit* means 'hill' in Indonesian). It's arid by Bali standards. Hotel developments can be found at Jimbaran, Tanjung Benoa and the tourist enclave of Nusa Dua. The western and southern coasts are magnificent, and have some lovely, isolated beaches and good surf.

Jimbaran

South of Kuta and the airport, Teluk Jimbaran (Jimbaran Bay) is a superb crescent of white sand and blue sea, fronted by a long string of seafood warung, and ending at the southern end in a bushy headland, home to the Four Seasons Resort. The sunset towering over the horizon is what brings travellers to Jimbaran to feast on seafood grilled over coconut husks, fresh from the local fishing fleet.

It's pretty sleepy here and facilities are very limited. Jl Raya Uluwatu has a couple of small markets for supplies like water but for most things you will need to head to Kuta or Nusa Dua.

SLEEPING

The Jimbaran area is home to luxurious resorts, as well as more modest accommodation options.

Villa Batu (Map p277; ☎ 703186; Jl Pemelisan Agung 21A; r 150,000-250,000Rp; a) Behind Café Layar, this simple place has small rooms with open-air cold-water bathrooms.

Jimbaran Ocean Cottages (Map p277; ☎ 702253; info@kirakira-stay.com; Jl Pantai Jimbaran 3; r 150,000Rp, with air-con 200,000-250,000Rp; a) Things are pretty tight here but you cannot beat the site across from the beach. All 15 rooms have hot water and there is a nice café, with good views, on the 2nd floor.

Udayana Eco Lodge (Map p277; ☎ 261204; www.ecolodgesindonesia.com; s/d US\$55/60; a s) Inland near Udayana University, this lodge has grand views over South Bali from its perch on a knoll in 70 hectares of bushland. The 15 rooms are comfortable and there is an inviting common area with a fine library.

Pansea Puri Bali (Map p277; ☎ 701605; www.pansea.com; Jl Yoga Perkanti; cottages US\$150-250; a i s) Set on nice grounds complete with a figure-eight pool that looks out on open ocean, the 48 cottages here have private gardens, deeply shaded patios and stylish room design.

EATING

The destination of many Kuta-area tourists, Jimbaran's three groups of seafood warung (Map p277) do fresh barbecued seafood every evening (and many are also open for lunch). The simple open-sided shacks are right by the beach and perfect for enjoying sea breezes and sunsets. The usual deal is to

select your seafood fresh from an ice bucket and pay according to weight. Per 100g, expect to pay around 25,000Rp for live lobster, 13,000Rp to 20,000Rp for prawns, and 5000Rp for fish, squid and clams. Prices are open to negotiation and the accuracy of the scales is a joke among locals. However, the best places can combine garlic and lime marinade with a chilli and oil dousing during grilling for fabulous results.

The longest row of restaurants is at the northern end of the beach, south of the fish market (Map p277). This is the area where you will be taken by taxi if you don't specify otherwise. The middle area, however, is a better choice and is just south of Jl Penelisan Agung. The atmosphere is more relaxed and the operators less avaricious.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Public bemos from Tegal terminal in Denpasar go via Kuta to Jimbaran (10,000Rp), and continue to Nusa Dua. They don't run after about 4pm, but plenty of taxis wait around the beachfront warung in the evening to take replete diners back to Kuta (about 25,000Rp), Seminyak or wherever.

Central Bukit

The centrepiece of Garuda Wisnu Kencana Cultural Park (GWK; % 703603; admission 15,000Rp, parking 5000Rp; 11 8am-10pm) is the yet to be completed 66m-high *garuda* (mythical man-bird) statue, to be erected on top of a shopping and gallery complex, for a total height of 146m. Well, that's the plan. So far the only completed part of the statue is the large bronze head. A shopping mall is completed as are two restaurants, but they are mostly empty. As it stands – or doesn't – the deserted site is not worth going out of your way for except for the views. Optimistic predictions for eventual completion of the site are regularly issued.

Dreamland

Once a remote surf break, Dreamland, as it's commonly known, is now a trendy scene. Reached by passing through the vast and mostly moribund development of Bali Pecatu Indah, this perfect cove of a beach is surrounded by cliffs. On most days, those in the know line the sands watching surfers and taking comfort at the growing number of simple cafés. It's all a little wild: plan-

ning is nonexistent as are pavements (after the grand boulevard ends) and it's not uncommon to see a cow wandering past lithe Versace-clad beauties.

Dewi's Warung (% 081 5555 1722; r 150,000-250,000) is right on the sand. The simple rooms have fans and stunning views.

Dreamland (locals call it Lemongkak) is 4km off the Ulu Watu road. There's an entrance fee of 5000Rp to park on the deeply rutted terrain. Taxis from the Kuta area cost 30,000Rp to 40,000Rp per hour for the round trip and waiting time.

Ulu Watu Area

The west coast around Ulu Watu has legendary surf breaks as well as the important Pura Luhur Ulu Watu.

The surf break at Padang Padang is the centre of development of late and boasts numerous small inns and warung that sell and rent surfboards, and provide food, drink, ding repairs or a massage – whatever you need most. It is the only good place to swim in the area. From its bluff, you get a good view of all the area surf breaks.

Coming from the east you will first encounter a gated parking area (car/motorcycle 2000/1000Rp), which is about a 400m walk from the water. Continuing on over a bridge, there is an older parking area (car/motorcycle 1000/500Rp) that is a hilly 200m from the water. Watch out for 'gatekeepers' looking for bonuses.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Pura Luhur Ulu Watu (admission incl sarong & sash rental 3000Rp; parking 1000Rp; 11 8am-7pm) is one of several important temples to the spirits of the sea along the south coast of Bali.

The temple is perched precipitously on the southwestern tip of the peninsula, atop sheer cliffs that drop straight into the pounding surf. You enter through an unusual arched gateway flanked by statues of Ganesha. At sunset, walk around the cliff top to the left (south) of the temple. Watch out for monkeys, who – when not reproducing – like to snatch sunglasses and anything else within reach.

An enchanting **Kecak dance** (tickets 35,000Rp; 11 6-7pm) is held in the temple grounds at sunset. Although obviously set up for tourists, the gorgeous setting makes it one of the more delightful performances on the island.

For the best surfing spots, a paved road goes northwest towards Padang Padang from Pecatu village (turn right at the small temple), passing a small side road branching off to Bingin, a popular beach with savage surf and a renowned left break. Impossibles is nearby.

Ulu Watu, or Ulu's, is a legendary surf spot – the stuff of dreams and nightmares. It's about 1km south of Padang Padang and its legend is nearly matched by nearby Pantai Suluban.

SLEEPING

There's a whole string of cheap and very basic surfing dives on the road from Padang Padang through Ulu Watu. Expect to pay about 50,000Rp for a room with cold water, a fan and a shared bath. Many surfers choose to stay in Kuta and make the drive, which is less than an hour.

Rocky Bungalows (% 0817 346 209; r 250,000-450,000Rp; a s) This low-key place off Jl Ulu Watu near Padang Padang has 10 rooms with great water views from the balconies. It's a three-minute walk to the water.

Uluwatu Resort (% 7420610; www.uluwaturoresort.com; Jl Pantai Suluban; villas US\$83-93; a i s) On the cliff top across the river from Padang Padang, this stylish place has impressive ocean views. It's laid-back and a good place to chill out.

Blue Point Bay Villas & Spa (% 7441077; www.bluepointbayvillas.com; Jl Labuansait; villas from US\$230; a s) A swanky 31-villa resort right above the Padang Padang break, it has stunning views. There's a high level of service and a good restaurant.

EATING

Most of the hotels and inns have restaurants and any beach where there are surfers will have a few warung selling necessities like beer, sandwiches and Indonesian staples. There are several cafés on the road from Pecatu.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

The best way to see the west coast is with your own vehicle or by chartering a taxi.

Public bemos to Ulu Watu are infrequent, and stop running by mid-afternoon. Some of the dark blue bemos from Kuta serve Jimbaran and Ulu Watu (8000Rp) –

it's best to catch one west of Tuban (on Jl Raya Kuta, outside the Supernova shopping centre) or Jimbaran (on Jl Ulu Watu).

You may encounter offers to see the sunset or the Kecak dance at the temple, these cost from about 80,000Rp and sometimes include a side trip to a beach or to Jimbaran.

Nusa Dua

Nusa Dua translates literally as 'Two Islands' – the islands are actually small raised headlands, each with a little temple. Nusa Dua is better known as Bali's gated beach-resort enclave – a gilded ghetto of enormous hotels. There are no independent developments, no hawkers, no warung, no traffic, no pollution and no noise. The drawback is the isolation from any sense of Balinese community life; in many ways, you could be at any international tropical beach resort the world over.

As a planned resort, Nusa Dua is very spread out. You enter the enclave through one of the big gateways, and inside there are expansive lawns, manicured gardens and sweeping driveways leading to the lobbies of large hotels.

ACTIVITIES

One of the nicest features of Nusa Dua is the 5km beach promenade that stretches the length of the resort and continues north along much of the beach in Tanjung Benoa as well. Not only is it a good stroll at any time but it also makes it easy to sample the pleasures of the other beachside resorts.

The reef-protected beach at Nusa Dua is shallow at low tide, and the wave action is pretty flaccid.

The **Bali Golf & Country Club** (% 771791; green fees US\$142) is a top-flight 18-hole course lined with timeshare condos. Designed by Nelson & Wright, it features the best links in Bali (and almost the *only* links in Bali).

SLEEPING

The eight Nusa Dua hotels are similar in several ways: they are all big (although some are just plain huge) and they have long beachfronts. Each has several restaurants and bars, as well as various pools and other resort amenities. Many of the properties cater primarily to groups and aren't terribly special, despite their size. But a couple

of choices are very good if you're ready for a full-on resort experience.

Westin Resort (☎ 771906; www.westin.com/bali; r from US\$220; a i s) There are 355 rooms on offer. Attached to a large convention centre, the Westin has an air-con lobby (one of three in Bali) and vast public spaces. Formerly a Sheraton, it has been comprehensively renovated. Its acres of pools are Nusa's best and feature waterfalls. The Kids Club has extensive activities and facilities.

Grand Hyatt Bali (☎ 771234; www.bali.grand.hyatt.com; r from US\$220; a i s) Sort of a little city, the 648-room Hyatt has directional signs scattered across the grounds, which have up to 21 arrows. Like any city, some neighbourhoods are better than others. Some in the West Village (there are four, the East and South Villages are best located) face the taxi parking lot. The riverlike pool is huge and has a fun slide. The children's club will keep the little buggers busy for days.

EATING

Restaurants in the hotels are abundant. South of the enclave, the various warung at the beach serve some typically fresh local standards.

Along Jl Pantai Mengiat, just outside the gate, there are a string of open-air eateries offering an unpretentious alternative to Nusa Dua dining. None will win any culinary awards but they are fun, and if you pause long enough in front of any, the staff will offer you escalating inducements to step inside.

SHOPPING

Bali Collection (☎ 771664; www.bali-collection.com) Built on the bones of the failed Galleria Nusa Dua, this upscale shopping mall is designed to milk the wallets of those staying at the huge local resorts. However the fate of its over 100 shops will rest upon whether it can attract a local following, much like the wildly popular malls in Kuta and Denpasar.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

Public bemos travel between Denpasar's Tegal terminal and the terminal at Bualu (8000Rp). From Bualu, it's at least 1km to the hotels. But who takes a bemo to a four-star resort? Call a taxi.

Find out what shuttle-bus services your hotel provides. A free shuttle bus (☎ 771662; 11 9am-10pm) connects Nusa Dua and Tanjung Benoa resort hotels with the Bali Collection shopping mall.

Tanjung Benoa

The peninsula of Tanjung Benoa extends about 4km north from Nusa Dua to the fishing village of Benoa. It is not a gated community by any means and resorts bump up against modest local homes.

Like beaches at Sanur and Nusa Dua, those here are protected from waves by an off-shore reef.

Restaurants and hotels are spread out along Jl Pratama, which runs the length of the peninsula. It may be one of the most perilous streets in South Bali for a stroll. There are few sidewalks and in many places nowhere to walk but on the narrow road. Fortunately, the delightful beach promenade is just steps away.

SIGHTS

Benoa is one of Bali's multi-denominational corners, with an interesting **Chinese Buddhist temple**, a **mosque** and a **Hindu temple** within 100m of each other. It's an interesting little fishing town that makes for a good stroll.

ACTIVITIES

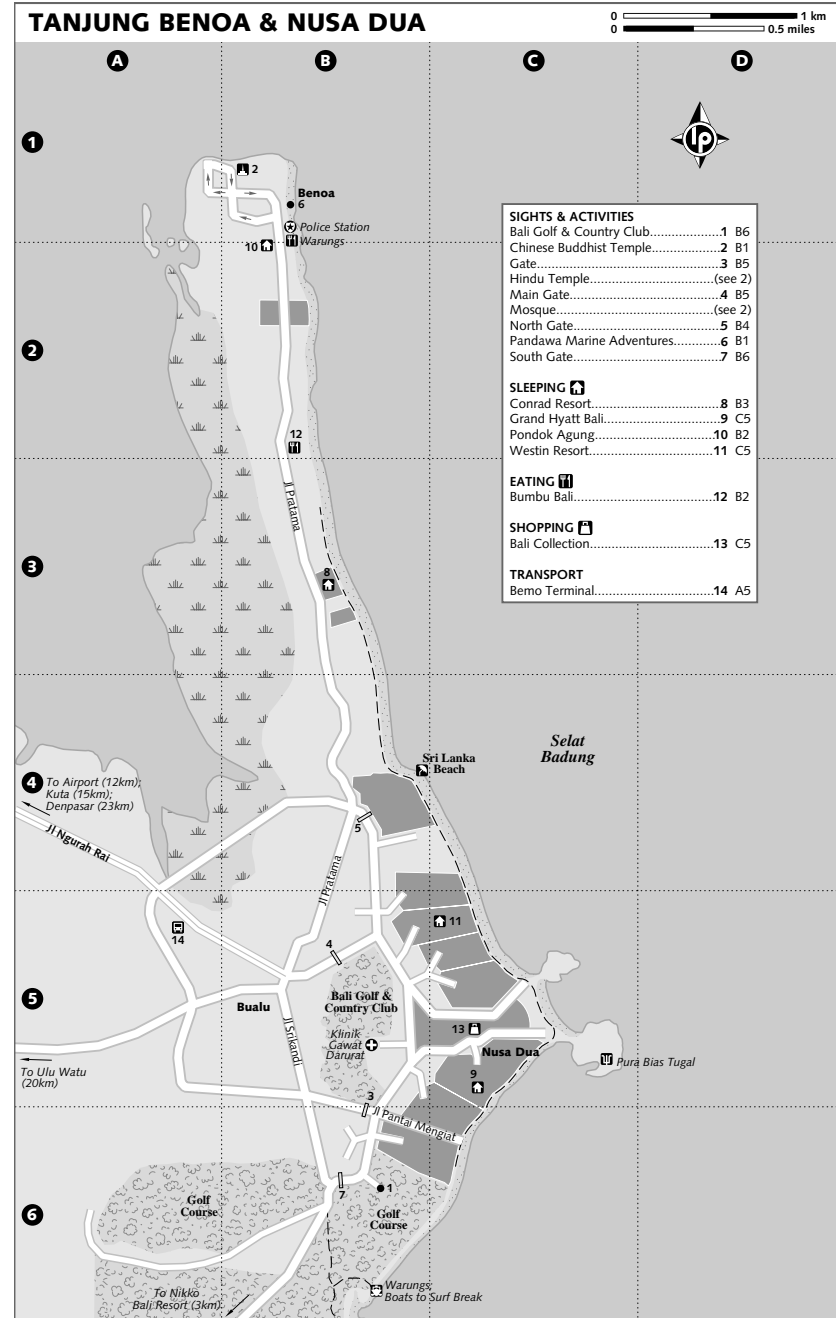
Quite a few water-sports centres along Jl Pratama offer daytime diving, cruises, wind-surfing, water-skiing etc. Check equipment and credentials before you sign up. Most have a thatched-roof bar and restaurant attached to their premises. Each morning convoys of buses arrive from all over South Bali bringing day-trippers to enjoy the calm waters and various activities.

Among the established water-sports operators is **Pandawa Marine Adventures** (☎ 778585). As if by magic, all operators have similar prices.

Water sports include the very popular parasailing (per round US\$25) and jet-skiing (per 15 minutes US\$25). You'll need at least two people for banana-boat rides (per 15 minutes US\$25), or glass-bottomed boat trips (90-minute tour with snack US\$35).

SLEEPING

Accommodation here is a mixed bag. Several lesser resorts along the beach charge



top-end prices. Some are time-share properties renting out rooms, while others are used almost exclusively by people on package tours.

Pondok Agung (☎ 771143; roland@eksadata.com; Jl Pratama; r 100,000-260,000Rp; a i s) The 11 cheery rooms in a large houselike building are good value here. Higher priced rooms come with air-con and a kitchen.

Conrad Resort (☎ 778788; www.conradhotels.com; Jl Pratama; r from US\$140; a i s) This impressive new property from the luxury branch of the Hilton chain combines Bali modern styling with a refreshing style. The 314 rooms are large and very comfortable. Some units have patios with steps down into the enormous pool, easing the way into a morning dip. Bungalows have their own private lagoon and there is a large kids' club.

EATING

Each hotel has several restaurants. There are also several tourist restaurants in or near Benoa.

Bumbu Bali (☎ 774502; Jl Pratama; dishes 45,000-60,000Rp; h lunch & dinner) One of the finest restaurants on the island, Bumbu Bali serves the best Balinese food you'll have during your visit. Long-time resident and cookbook author Heinz von Holzen, his wife Puji and an enthusiastic staff serve exquisitely flavoured dishes beautifully. Many diners opt for one of several set menus (170,000Rp).

Von Holzen also runs a cooking school; see p87.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

You can reach Nusa Dua by public bemo from Kuta (6000Rp), then take one of the infrequent green bemos that shuttle up and down Jl Pratama (3000Rp) – after about 3pm bemos become really scarce on both routes. A taxi (30,000Rp) will be easier and quicker.

DENPASAR

☎ 0361 / pop 400,000

The capital of Bali, Denpasar, has been the focus of much of the island's growth and wealth over the last 20 years. It has an important museum, an arts centre and

lots of shops. Denpasar means 'next to the market', and the main market (Pasar Badung) is the biggest and busiest in Bali. Denpasar still has some tree-lined streets and pleasant gardens, but the traffic, noise and pollution make it a difficult place to enjoy.

If you are using public transit in Bali it will be your inescapable hub. Otherwise you can fully enjoy its charms on a day visit from South Bali or Ubud.

ORIENTATION

The main road, Jl Gunung Agung, starts at the western side of town. Further east, it changes to Jl Gajah Mada in the middle of town, then Jl Surapati and finally Jl Hayam Wuruk. One infuriating aspect of visiting – and especially driving around – Denpasar is that roads regularly change names, often every time they cross another road.

Another problem is the proliferation of one-way traffic restrictions – sometimes for only part of a street's length – which often change and are rarely marked on any maps. The traffic jams can be intense and parking difficult, so avoid driving if you can; use taxis, bemos and your feet.

In contrast to the rest of Denpasar, the Renon area, southeast of the town centre, is laid out on a grand scale, with wide streets, large car parks and huge landscaped tracts. This is the area of impressive government offices, built with lavish budgets in modern Balinese style.

INFORMATION

All major Indonesian banks have offices in Denpasar, and most have ATMs. Several are on Jl Gajah Mada, near the corner of Jl Arjuna, and there are also plenty of ATMs in the shopping malls.

Rumah Sakit Umum Propinsi Sanglah (RSUP

Sanglah; ☎ 227911; Sanglah; h 24hr) The city's general hospital has English-speaking staff and a casualty room.

It's the best hospital on the island.

Tourist office (h 8am-2pm Mon-Thu, 8am-noon Fri)

This helpful office is located at the Ubung Bus and Bemo Terminal. It offers transport advice.

SIGHTS

Museum Negeri Propinsi Bali

This museum (☎ 222680; adult/child 2000/1000Rp; h 8am-12.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sun) is the main attraction of Denpasar, and it's a

good one. It gained prominence in 1932 when German artist Walter Spies and some Dutch officials revived the idea of collecting and preserving Balinese antiquities and cultural objects, and creating an ethnographic museum. Now it's quite well set up, and most displays are labelled in English. You can climb one of the towers inside the grounds for a better view of the whole complex.

The main building (Gedung Timur) has a collection of prehistoric pieces downstairs, including stone sarcophagi, and stone and bronze implements. Upstairs are examples of traditional tools and artefacts, including types still in everyday use.

The northern pavilion (Gedung Tabanan) houses shadow puppets, dance costumes and masks, including a sinister *rangda*, a healthy-looking Barong and a towering *barong landung* (giant puppet dance) figure. The central pavilion (Gedung Karangasem) is like the palace pavilions of Amlapura where rajahs held audiences. The southern pavilion (Gedung Buleleng) has a varied collection of textiles, including *endek* (a Balinese method of weaving with pre-dyed threads), double ikat (cloth in which the pattern is produced by dyeing individual threads before weaving), *songket* (silver- and gold-threaded cloth, hand-woven using a floating weft technique) and *prada* (the application of gold leaf or gold or silver thread in traditional Balinese clothes).

Museum staff often play music on a bamboo gamelan to magical effect.

Pura Jagatnatha

Next to the museum, the state Jagatnatha Temple was built in 1953, and is dedicated to the supreme god, Sanghyang Widi. Part of its significance is its statement of monotheism. The *padmasana* (shrine) is made of white coral, and consists of an empty throne (symbolic of heaven) on top of the cosmic turtle and two *naga* (mythological serpents) that symbolise the foundation of the world. The walls are decorated with carvings of scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Pura Jagatnatha is more frequently used than many Balinese temples, with local people coming every afternoon to pray and make offerings, so it can often be closed to tourists.

Taman Wedhi Budaya

This arts centre (☎ 222776; admission free; h 8am-5pm Tue-Sun) is a sprawling complex in the eastern part of Denpasar. It was established in 1973 as an academy and showplace for Balinese culture, and has lavish architecture and not much else for most of the year (there are no regular dance performances here). The impressive-looking art gallery has a fair collection.

From mid-June to mid-July, the centre hosts the Bali Arts Festival (below), with dances, music and craft displays from all over Bali. You may need to book tickets at the centre for more popular events.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

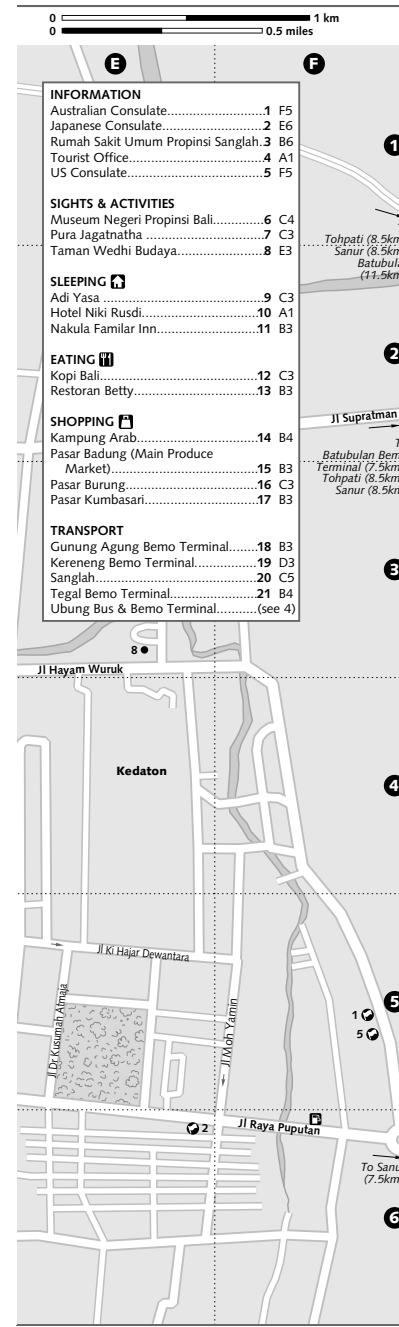
The annual Bali Arts Festival (www.baliartsfestival.com) is based at the Taman Wedhi Budaya arts centre (above) in Denpasar, and lasts for about one month from mid-June to mid-July. It's a great time to be visiting Bali, and the festival is an easy way to see an enormous variety of traditional dance, music and crafts from all over the island. The productions of the Ramayana and Mahabharata ballets are grand, and the opening ceremony and parade in Denpasar are particularly colourful.

The festival is the main event of the year for the scores of village dance and musical groups. Competition is fierce, with local pride on the line at each performance. To do well here sets a village on a good course for the year. Some events are held in a 6000-seat amphitheatre, a venue that allows you to realise the mass appeal of traditional Balinese culture. Tickets are usually available right before performances and schedules are widely available throughout South Bali and Ubud.

SLEEPING

Denpasar has several hotels, but it's hard to think of a compelling reason to stay here unless you want to be close to the bus terminals or have some other business here. At times when many Indonesians travel (July, August, around Christmas and Idul Fitri – November/December), it may be wise to book a room.

Adi Yasa (☎ 222679; Jl Nakula 23B; s/d 25,000/40,000Rp) Budget travellers have crashed here since the 1970s. It's centrally located and friendly, but the nine rooms are very basic.



Nakula Familiar Inn (☎ 226446; Jl Nakula 4; s/d 50,000/75,000Rp) Across the road and 100m west from the Adi Yasa, the eight rooms are decent (cold-water showers only) and clean, and all have a small balcony area. The traffic noise isn't too bad and there is a nice little enclave in the middle. Tegal-Kereneng bemos go along Jl Nakula.

Hotel Niki Rusdi (☎ 416397; Jl Pidada XIV; r 80,000-200,000Rp; a) This simple place is located right behind the Ubung Bus Terminal and is a good choice if you have an early or late bus. Rooms are very clean. There are other options nearby if this one is full.

EATING

Most places cater to local people and Indonesian visitors, so they offer a good selection of authentic food at reasonable prices. The cheapest places are warungs at the bemo/bus terminals and the markets. At the Pasar Malam Kereneng (Kereneng Night Market) dozens of vendors dish up food till dawn. A number of places along Jl Teuku Umar cater to more affluent locals.

Restoran Betty (Jl Sumatra 56; mains 7000-12,000Rp) This calm place (compared to the madness of the street outside) has a good range of juices and Indonesian dishes. Don't be put off by the antique plastic food models.

Kopi Bali (☎ 224016; Jl Gajah Mada 80; coffee 3000Rp; h 9am-4pm Mon-Sat) Home to Bali's Coffee Co, this storefront sells locally grown beans and makes a mean cup of coffee or espresso, which you can enjoy at the two tiny tables while watching the bustle of Denpasar's old main drag.

SHOPPING

Denpasar's markets are vast and a good reason to visit.

Pasar Badung is a pungent market, and is the largest and oldest in Bali. It's very busy in the morning and evening, and a great place to browse and bargain, except for the unsolicited guides/commission-takers who sometimes attach themselves to you. Most visitors head to the clothing and handicrafts section on the top floor; the 'wet market' – the fruit and veg – is downstairs. Pasar Kumbasari, along the opposite side of the river from Pasar Badung, has handicrafts, fabrics and gold work. Pasar Burung is a bird market with hundreds of caged birds

and small animals for sale. It's lovely to listen to and very colourful to see, but the animals' conditions are hardly ideal. Kampung Arab, located near Pasar Badung, has plenty of gold shops (*toko mas*).

Jl Sulawesi, east of Pasar Badung, has many shops with batik, ikat and other fabrics.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Denpasar is *the* hub of road transport in Bali – you'll find buses and minibuses bound for all corners of the island. See p274 for details of air transport.

Bemo

The city has several bemo terminals, so if you're travelling independently from one part of Bali to another, you'll often have to go via Denpasar, and transfer from one terminal to another. The terminals for transport around Bali are Ubung, Batubulan and Tegal, while the Gunung Agung, Kereneng and Sanglah terminals serve destinations in and around Denpasar. Each terminal has regular bemo connections to the other terminals in Denpasar for 5000Rp. These can be cumbersome.

Bemos and minibuses cover shorter routes between towns and villages, while full-sized buses are often used on longer, more heavily travelled routes. Buses are quicker and more comfortable, but they're less frequent.

BATUBULAN

This terminal, a very inconvenient 6km northeast of Denpasar on a road to Ubud, is for destinations in eastern and central Bali (for fares, see the boxed text, above).

GUNUNG AGUNG

This terminal, at the northwestern corner of town (look for orange bemos), is on Jl Gunung Agung, and has bemos to Kerobokan and Canggü (6000Rp).

KERENENG

East of the town centre, Kereneng has bemos to Sanur (5000Rp).

SANGLAH

On Jl Diponegoro, near the general hospital in the south of the city, Sanglah has bemos to Suwung and Benoa Harbour (5000Rp).

FARES FROM BATUBULAN TERMINAL

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Amlapura	20,000
Kintamani (via Tampaksiring)	15,000
Nusa Dua (via Sanur)	6000
Padangbai (for the Lombok ferry)	15,000
Sanur	6000
Semarang	15,000
Singaraja (via Kintamani)	25,000
Singaraja (via Semarang & Amlapura)	25,000
Ubud	6000

TEGAL

On the western side of town on Jl Iman Bonjol, Tegal is the terminal for Kuta and the Bukit Peninsula (for fares, see the boxed text, below).

UBUNG

Well north of town, on the road to Gilimanuk, Ubung is the terminal for northern and western Bali as well as most long-distance bus services. In the complex, there is a very helpful **tourist office** (☎ 8am–2pm Mon–Thu, 8am–noon Fri), which can provide help with fares and schedules (see the boxed text, opposite, for fares). Arriving here by taxi guarantees a reception by baggage and ticket touts.

Bus

The usual route to Java is a bus from Denpasar's Ubung Terminal to Surabaya (120,000Rp, 10 hours), which includes the short ferry trip across the Bali Strait. Other buses go as far as Yogyakarta (180,000Rp, 16 hours) and Jakarta (275,000Rp, 24 hours), usually travelling overnight.

Book directly at offices in the Ubung terminal, 3km north of the city centre. To

FARES FROM TEGAL TERMINAL

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Airport	8000
Jimbaran	10,000
Kuta	8000
Legian	8000
Nusa Dua	10,000
Ulu Watu	15,000

FARES FROM UBUNG TERMINAL

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Gilimanuk (for the ferry to Java)	25,000
Kediri (for Tanah Lot)	6000
Mengwi	6000
Negara	20,000
Pancasari (for Danau Bratan)	15,000
Singaraja (via Pupuan or Bedugul)	28,000
Tabanan	6000

Surabaya or even Jakarta, you may get on a bus within an hour of arriving at Ubung, but at busy times you should buy your ticket at least one day ahead.

There are no tourist shuttle buses to/from Denpasar.

GETTING AROUND

Bemo

Bemos take various circuitous routes from and between the bus/bemo terminals. They line up for various destinations at each terminal, or you can hail them from anywhere along the main roads – look for the destination sign above the driver's window. The Tegal–Nusa Dua bemo (dark blue) is handy for Renon; and the Kereneng–Ubung bemo (turquoise) travels along Jl Gajah Mada, past the museum.

Taxi

As in South Bali, taxis prowl the streets of Denpasar looking for fares. As always, the blue cabs of **Bali Taxi** (☎ 701111) are the most reliable choice.

UBUD

☎ 0361

Perched on the gentle slopes leading up towards the central mountains, Ubud is the other half of Bali's tourism duopoly. Unlike South Bali, however, Ubud's focus remains on the remarkable Balinese culture in its myriad forms.

It's not surprising that many people come to Ubud for a day or two and end up staying longer, drawn in by the rich culture and many activities. Besides the very popular dance-and-music shows, there are numerous courses on offer that

allow you to become fully immersed in Balinese culture.

Sensory pursuits are amply catered to with some of the best food on the island. From fabled world-class resorts to surprisingly comfortable little family-run inns, there is a fine choice of hotels. Many places come complete with their own spas, for hours or days of pampering packages.

Around Ubud are temples, ancient sites and whole villages producing handicrafts (albeit mostly for visitors). Although the growth of Ubud has engulfed several neighbouring villages, leading to an urban sprawl, parts of the surrounding countryside remain unspoiled, with lush rice paddies and towering coconut trees. You'd be remiss if you didn't walk one or more of the dozens of paths during your stay.

ORIENTATION

The once small village of Ubud has now 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 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. The roughly parallel Jl Hanoman is also lined with shops, cafés and more.

Jl Raya Ubud ('Ubud Main Rd' – often Jl Raya for short) is the main east–west road. 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 Sungai Wos. West of Campuan, the pretty village of Penestanan is famous for its painters and beadwork. East and south of Ubud proper, the 'villages' of Peliatan, Nyuhkuning and Pengosekan 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 rice paddies interspersed with small villages, many of which specialise in a local craft.

INFORMATION

Along the main roads, you'll find most services you need. There are numerous travel agents and several wartels.

Bookshops

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

Ary's Bookshop (Map p312; ☎ 978203; Jl Raya Ubud) Good for art books, periodicals and maps.

Cinta Bookshop (Map p312; ☎ 973295; Jl Dewi Sita) A nice assortment of used novels and vintage books about Bali.

Ganesha Bookshop (Map pp310-11; ☎ 970320; www.ganeshabooksballi.com; Jl Raya Ubud) Ubud's best bookshop has an amazing amount of books jammed into a small space. Excellent selection of titles on Indonesian studies, travel, arts and music, fiction (including some used titles) and maps.

Periplus (Map p312; ☎ 975178; Monkey Forest Rd) A typically glossy branch of the Bali chain.

Emergency

Police station (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975316; Jl Raya Andong; 𠂆 24hr) Located on the eastern side of town at Andong.

Internet Access

Internet centres are common on the main streets; most have slow connections and charge 200Rp to 300Rp per minute. The

following places are a cut above average, with fast broadband connections.

Bali 3000 (Map pp310-11; ☎ 978538; Jl Raya Ubud; per hr 16,000Rp; 𠂆 8am-11pm; 𠂇) Like a fashionable internet café in Milan with a full range of computing services. Serves good sandwiches, coffees and juices.

Ubud Music (Map p312; ☎ 971837; Jl Raya Ubud; per 10min 5000Rp; 𠂆 8am-8pm) Sells music and has a photocopier.

Libraries

Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre (Map p312; ☎ 976194; Monkey Forest Rd; 𠂆 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) A relaxed place, which also has a children's book section. It charges a membership fee starting at 40,000Rp. It has a small café and a pleasant reading area on the roof. Located on the far side of the football field. See p314 for information on cultural courses.

Medical Services

See p280 for details on international clinics in Bali.

Mua Pharmacy (Map p312; ☎ 974674; Monkey Forest Rd; 𠂆 8am-9pm)

Ubud Clinic (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974911; Jl Raya Campuan 36; 𠂆 24hr) Best medical centre in Ubud. Charges from 200,000Rp for a clinical consultation.

Money

Ubud has numerous banks, ATMs and moneychangers along Jl Raya Ubud and Monkey Forest Rd.

Post

Main post office (Map pp310-11; Jl Jembawan; 𠂆 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 (Yayasan Bina Wisata; Map p312; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; 𠂆 8am-8pm) The one really useful tourist office in 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 p312; 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 (p318).

Just north, **Pura Marajan Agung** (Map p312; 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 p312; 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 p312; Jl Raya Ubud). Waters from the temple at the rear of the site feed the pond at the front, which is a riotous tangle of pink 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.

Art Museums

MUSEUM PURI LUKISAN

This **Palace of Fine Arts** (Map p312; ☎ 975136; www.museumpurilukisan.com; admission 20,000Rp; 𠂆 9am-5pm), off Jl Raya Ubud, displays excellent examples of all schools of Balinese art. The modern Balinese art movement started in Ubud, where artists first used modern materials, were influenced by foreign styles and began to depict scenes of everyday Balinese life.

The pavilion straight ahead as you enter has a collection of early works from Ubud and the surrounding villages. The pavilion on the left has some colourful examples

of the 'Young Artist' style of painting and a good selection of 'modern traditional' works. The pavilion on the right is used for temporary exhibitions, which change every month or so. Paintings are well displayed and labelled in English, and some of the artwork is often for sale.

You enter the museum by crossing a river gully beside the road and wander from building to building through a beautiful garden with pools, statues and fountains.

NEKA ART MUSEUM

Quite distinct from Neka Gallery, the **Neka Art Museum** (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975074; Jl Raya Sanggingan; adult/child 20,000Rp/free; 𠂆 9am-5pm) 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 in Bali.

The **Balinese Painting Hall** provides an overview of local painting, showing influences from classic *wayang kulit* puppetry through to abstract expressionism. The **Arie Smit Pavilion** features Smit's works and examples of the 'Young Artist' school, which he inspired. 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 in Bali. Abdul Aziz, Affandi, Dullah and Anton Kustia Wijaya, among others, are represented. The upper floor is devoted to the work of foreign artists, such as Louise Koke, Miguel Covarrubias, Rudolph Bonnet, Donald Friend, Han Snel and Antonio Blanco. It often hosts temporary exhibitions.

There is a good bookshop in the lobby. Bemos travelling between Ubud and Kintamani stop outside the museum.

AGUNG RAI MUSEUM OF ART (ARMA)

Founded by Agung Rai as a museum, gallery and cultural centre, the impressive **ARMA** (Map pp310-11; ☎ 976659; Jl Raya Pengosekan; admission 20,000Rp; 𠂆 9am-6pm) is the only place in Bali to see works by the influential German artist Walter Spies. It also has work by 19th-century Javanese artist Raden Saleh. It exhibits classical Kamasan paintings, Batuan-style work from the 1930s and 1940s,

UBUD IN...

One Day

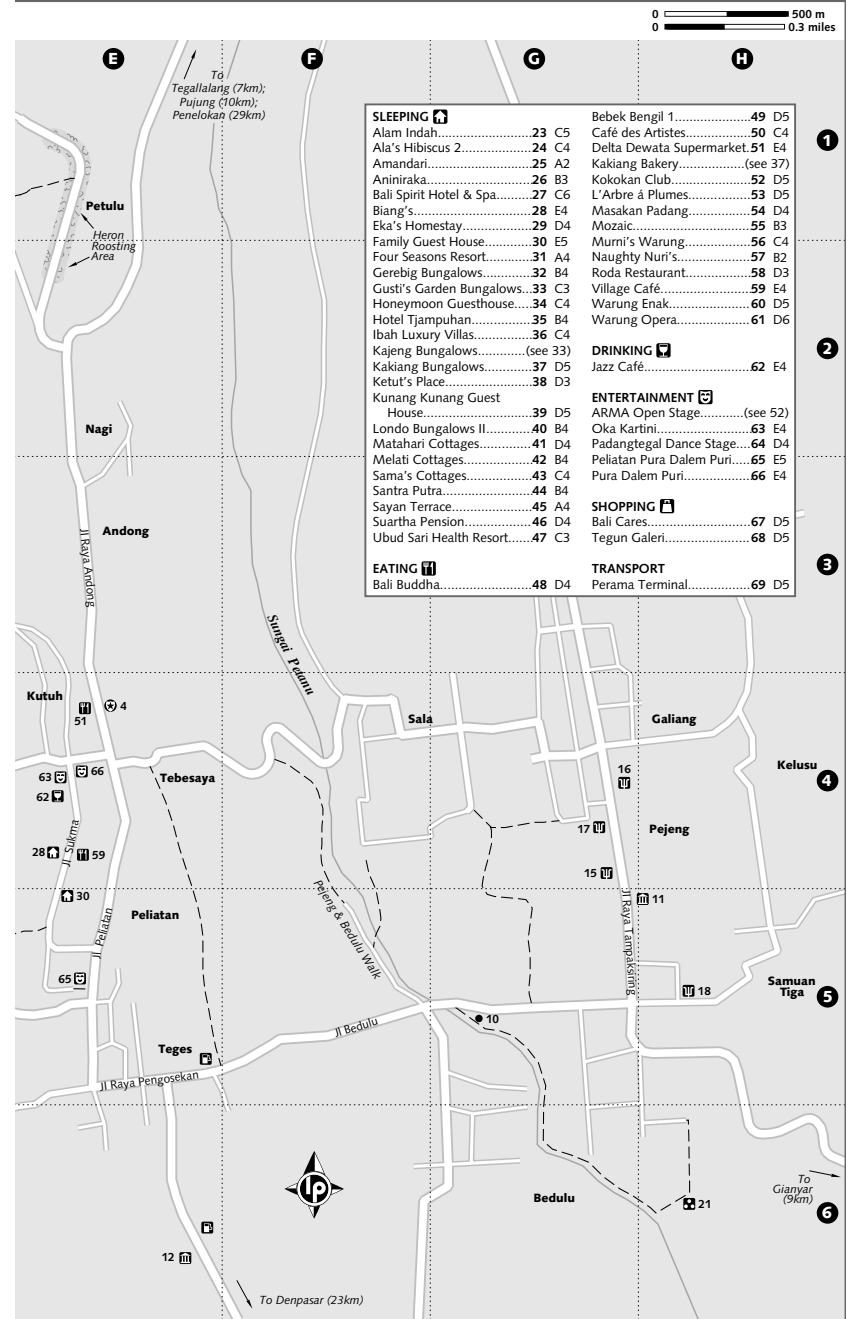
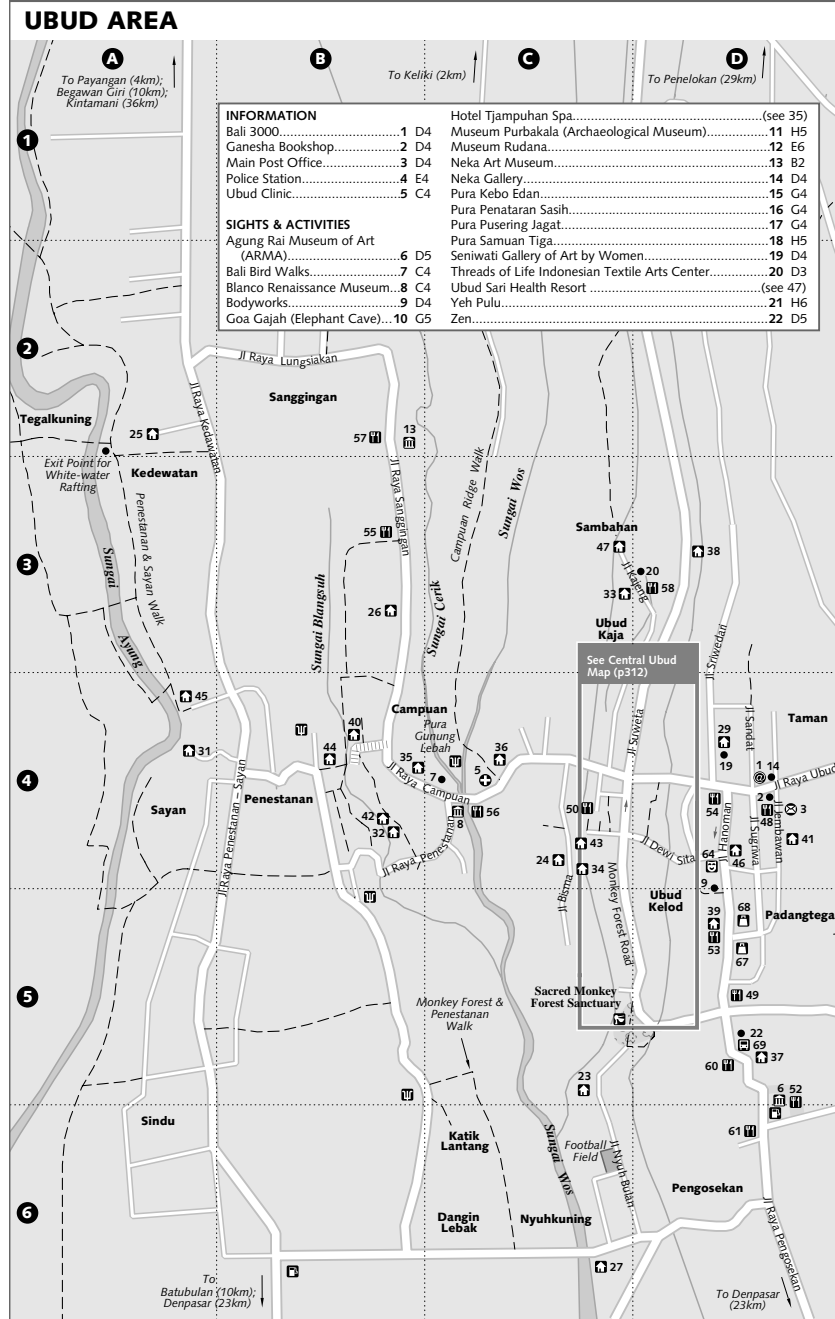
Stroll the streets of Ubud, enjoying the galleries and sampling the fine cuisine. Try to get out on one of the short nearby walks through the verdant rice fields. Go to an evening dance performance in the centre.

Three Days

Take longer walks in the countryside, especially the Campuan Ridge and Satan Valley. Visit the art museums and attend dance performances not just in Ubud, but in the nearby villages. Indulge at a local spa. Drop by the market in the morning.

One Week or More

Do everything above 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.



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 Salih.

It's interesting to visit ARMA when local children practise Balinese dancing (11 3-5pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-noon Sun) and during gamelan practise (hours vary). See p323 for details on regular Legong and Kecak (types of classic Balinese dance) dance performances. See p314 for details on the numerous 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 Kafe ARMA. The Ubud-Gianyar bemo will drop you here.

MUSEUM RUDANA

This large, imposing museum (Map pp310-11; % 975779; admission 20,000Rp; 11 8am-5pm) is run by local politician and art lover Nyoman Rudana. The three floors contain interesting traditional paintings, including a calendar dated to the 1840s, some Lempad drawings and more modern pieces.

BLANCO RENAISSANCE MUSEUM

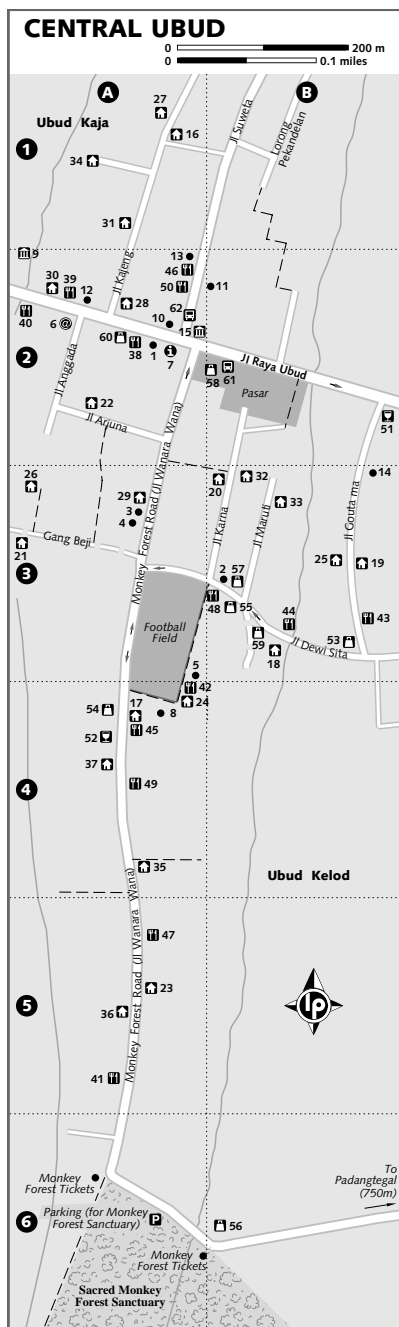
Beside the Campuan bridge, a driveway leads to the superbly theatrical Blanco Renaissance Museum (Map pp310-11; % 975502; Jl Raya Campuan; adult/student 20,000/10,000Rp; 11 9am-5pm) and house of Antonio Blanco. He came to Bali from Spain via the Philippines. Blanco specialised in erotic art, illustrated poetry and playing the role of an eccentric, self-adulatory artist. He died in Bali in 1999, and his flamboyant home is now a museum and a fun place to visit.

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.

SENIWATI GALLERY OF ART BY WOMEN

This gallery (Map pp310-11; 11 975485; www.seniwatigallery.com; Jl Sriwedari 2B; 11 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 works



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span all mediums and many are for sale to aid charitable causes.

THREADS OF LIFE INDONESIAN TEXTILE ARTS CENTER

This small, professional textile gallery and educational studio (Map pp310-11; % 972187; Jl Kajeng 24; 11 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 (p314) and has a good shop.

NEKA GALLERY

Operated by Suteja Neka, the Neka Gallery (Map pp310-11; % 975034; Jl Raya Ubud; 11 9am-5pm) is separate 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.

RIO HELMI GALLERY

The man who has taken photographs for many of those coffee-table books about Bali lives in Ubud and has a small gallery (Map p312; % 972304; Jl Suweta 5; 11 10am-6pm) where you can see examples of some of his works.

Artists' Homes

The home of Walter Spies is now part of Hotel Tjampuhan (p319). Dutch-born artist Han Snel lived in Ubud from the 1950s until his death in early 1999, and his family runs Siti Bungalows on Jl Kajeng (p318), where his work is exhibited in a gallery.

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 Sayan Terrace (p319).

Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary

This cool and dense swathe of jungle, officially called Mandala Wisata Wanara Wana (Map p312; % 971304; Monkey Forest Rd; adult/child 10,000/5000Rp; 11 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.

ACTIVITIES

Massage, Spas & Salons

Ubud has numerous salons and spas where you can seriously pamper yourself.

Bodyworks (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975720; Jl Hanoman; 1-hr massage 90,000Rp; 11 9am-9pm) is set in a traditional Balinese compound. 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.

Milano Salon (Map p312; ☎ 973448; Monkey Forest Rd; 1-hr massage 60,000Rp; 11 9am-8pm) offers facials and massages in a simple setting.

Ubud Sari Health Resort (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974393; Jl Kajeng; 1-hr massage US\$15; 11 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 (p318).

Zen (Map pp310-11; ☎ 970976; Jl Hanoman; 1-hr massage 75,000Rp; 11 9am-8pm) has a good reputation. It offers body scrubs, 90-minute *mandi lulur* and massage treatments (90,000Rp).

Rafting

The nearby Sungai Ayung is the most popular river in Bali for white-water rafting. **Bali Adventure Tours** (☎ 721480; www.baliadventuretours.com) offers trips down Sungai Ayung from US\$42 to US\$66, and can combine rafting with a big choice of other outdoor activities.

Another operator offering rafting and other adventurous outings is **Sobek** (☎ 287059; www.balisobek.com).

COURSES

Ubud is a very pleasant place to spend a few weeks developing your artistic skills, or learning about Balinese culture. Most places ask that you register in advance. Cooking courses are also offered, see p87.

ARMA (Map pp310-11; ☎ 976659; www.armacampus.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; 11 9am-6pm) A cultural powerhouse offering classes in painting, woodcarving and batik. Other courses include Balinese history, Hinduism and

architecture. Classes cost US\$22 to US\$50 depending on duration and materials used.

Nirvana Batik Course (☎ 975415; Nirvana Pension & Gallery, Jl Goutama 10; 11 classes 10am-3pm Mon, Wed & Sat) Nyoman Suradnya teaches the highly regarded batik courses here. One-day courses are \$35, two- to three-day courses are \$30 per day, and four- to five-day courses are \$25 per day. Courses are conducted at Nirvana Pension & Gallery (Map p312).

Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre (Map p312; ☎ 976194; Monkey Forest Rd; 11 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) Painting and mask-carving classes are run here for tourists. Sessions cost from 50,000Rp for one hour. This is also a good place to find out about other courses being offered in the Ubud area, including language classes.

Santra Putra (Map pp310-11; ☎ 977810; Penestanan; classes per hr 100,000Rp) Intensive painting and drawing classes are run by abstract artist I Wayan Karja, whose studio is also on-site. Accommodation is also available, see p317.

Studio Perak (Map p312; ☎ 0812 365 1809; 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.

Threads of Life Indonesian Textile Arts Center (Map pp310-11; ☎ 972187; www.threadssoflife.com; Jl Kajeng 24) Textile appreciation courses are run in the gallery and educational studio. There is a range of classes, including ones lasting eight days that involves extensive travel around Bali.

TOURS

Day tours around Ubud are popular. Many nearby attractions are quite difficult to reach by public transport, and finding your way around the back roads isn't always easy.

All travel agencies in Ubud can arrange tours, but it's worth shopping around as some will include entrance fees and some don't.

Bali Bird Walks (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975009; US\$33; 11 Tue, Fri, Sat & Sun 9am-12.30pm) For the keen bird-watcher, this tour 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.

Ubud Tourist Information (Yayasan Bina Wisata; Map p312; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; 11 8am-8pm) Runs interesting and affordable half- and full-day trips (125,000Rp to 200,000Rp) to a huge range of places, including Uluwatu, Mengwi, Alas Kedaton and Tanah Lot, or Goa Gajah, Pejeng, Gunung Kawi and Kintamani.

WALKS AROUND UBUD

There are lots of awe-inspiring walks to surrounding villages or through the rice paddies.

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.

Monkey Forest & Penestanan

This 8km walk features a good range of rice paddies and rural Ubud scenery.

Take your time strolling through the **Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary** (p313). 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. 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 rice paddies, 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, where many artists live. Follow the paved road through the village, veering east, and go down through a deep cutting and back to Ubud.

Campuan Ridge

This 7km walk passes over the lush river valley of Sungai Wos, offering views of Gunung Agung and glimpses of small village communities and rice fields.

The walk leaves Jl Raya Campuan at the Ibah Luxury Villas (p319). Enter the hotel driveway and take the path to 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.

Continuing north along the Campuan ridge, the road improves as it passes through rice paddies and the small village of **Bangkiang Sidem**. On the outskirts of the village, an unsigned road heads west, which winds down to Sungai Cerik (the west branch of Sungai Wos), then climbs steeply up to **Payogan**. From here you can walk south to the main road and on to the centre of Ubud.

Penestanan & Sayan

The wonders of Sungai Ayung are the focus of this 6.5km walk, where you will walk below the luxury hotels built to take advantage of this lush, tropical river valley.

Just west of the Campuan bridge, a steep uphill road, Jl Raya Penestanan, bends away to the left and winds across the forested gully of Sungai Blangsuh to the artists' village of Penestanan. West of Penestanan, take a small road north that curves around to **Sayan** and the Sayan Terrace hotel (p313). The best place to get down to the riverside is just north of Sayan Terrace – follow the narrow tracks down.

Head north along the eastern side of the Ayung, traversing steep slopes and rice paddies. After about 1.5km you'll reach the finishing point for many of the 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.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The Ubud area is one of the best places in Bali to see the many religious and cultural events that are celebrated on the island each year.

The **Ubud Writers & Readers Festival** (www.ubudwritersfestival.com) brings together scores of writers and authors 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 lodges to luxurious retreats that are among the best in the world. Generally, Ubud accommodation offers good value for money at any price level. A simple, clean room within a family home compound is the least expensive option. The 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 some very cheap places also boast amazing views that urge you to curl up with a book and contemplate.)

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 street-lights and it can be very difficult to find your way after dark. If walking, you will definitely want a torch (flashlight).

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

Monkey Forest Rd

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

Jungut Inn (Map p312; % 978237; Jl Arjuna; s/d 30,000/40,000Rp) The torch-bearer for value on budget-friendly Jl Arjuna just off Monkey Forest Rd. Jungut's three rooms are bare-bones but very cheap. The family is usually sitting in the compound making offerings.

Kubu Saren (Map p312; % 975704; Monkey Forest Rd; s/d 60,000/75,000Rp) This old-style simple place has eight bungalow rooms in a dark and shady compound.

Puri Muwa Bungalows (Map p312; % 976441; Monkey Forest Rd; r 75,000-125,000Rp) Near the top of Monkey Forest Rd in a thicket places is this basic family-run establishment. It's reasonably quiet considering its location, and everything is very mellow. Cheaper rooms are cold-water only.

Loka House (Map p312; % 973326; 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. Located off Monkey Forest Rd.

Ubud Terrace Bungalows (Map p312; % 975690; Monkey Forest Rd; r 100,000Rp; ☺) Good value, as the basic rooms come with a pool and hot water.

Gayatri Bungalows 2 (Map p312; % 979129; meggy292003@yahoo.com; r 150,000-200,000Rp; ☺) The 12

large rooms have hot water and fans. It's a nice jaunt past rice paddies off Monkey Forest Rd.

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 p312; % 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 p312; % 973305; Jl Maruti; s/d 80,000/100,000Rp; ☺) At the northern end of this deliciously quiet lane, Sayong has seven basic hot-water rooms, and there's a gorgeous pool in a private location across the lane from the rooms.

Sania's House (Map p312; % 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 you wagging your tail.

Jalan Goutama

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

Donald Homestay (Map p312; % 977156; Jl Goutama; r 40,000-70,000Rp) The four rooms – some with hot water – are in a nice back corner of the family compound. Chickens run about, some shortly to be turned into satay.

North of Jalan 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.

Arjana Accommodation (Map p312; % 975583; Jl Kajeng 6; s/d 40,000/50,000Rp) The good-value leader. Bathrooms are outdoors in a mini-jungle, and the simple rooms are clean.

Roja's Bungalows (Map p312; % 975107; Jl Kajeng 1; r 70,000-90,000Rp) One of the first of several places on Jl Kajeng, Roja's maintains a friendly atmosphere. Rooms are clean and well kept; some have hot water.

Padma Accommodation (Map p312; % 977247; aswatama@hotmail.com; Jl Kajeng 13; r 120,000Rp) A very friendly place, Padma has only two adjoining, very private bungalows in a tropical

garden. Rooms are decorated with local crafts and the modern outdoor bathroom has hot water. Nyoman Sudiarsa, a painter and family member, has a studio on the grounds and offers bike tours.

NORTH OF THE CENTRE

Things get quiet as you head north from Jl Raya Ubud, but note that some places are almost a kilometre to the north.

Kajeng Bungalows (Map pp310-11; % 975018; Jl Kajeng; r 60,000-150,000Rp; ☺) There are two big features here: a pool and a stunning setting overlooking a lush valley. The most expensive rooms have hot water, tubs and the best views.

Gusti's Garden Bungalows (Map pp310-11; % 973311; gustigarden@yahoo.com; Jl Kajeng 27; s/d 140,000/170,000Rp; ☺) Gusti opens onto a lavish garden, where the comfortable rooms are perched overlooking a swimming pool with a café. Excellent valley panorama.

EAST OF THE CENTRE

Eka's Homestay (Map pp310-11; % 970550; Jl Sriwedari 8; r 50,000Rp) In a nice little family compound Eka's has six peaceful cold-water rooms. It is the home of Wayan Pasek Sucipta, a teacher of Balinese music.

Biangs (Map pp310-11; % 976520; Jl Sukma 28; r 50,000-100,000Rp) In a little garden, Biangs – which means 'mama' – has six well-maintained rooms, with hot water. The views expand as you rise up the price chart.

Suartha Pension (Map pp310-11; % 974244; Jl Hanoman 17; r 50,000-150,000Rp) There's a charming, traditional family setting here. Ikut and decorative features like fresh flowers strewn about make for a welcoming setting. More expensive rooms have hot water.

Family Guest House (Map pp310-11; % 974054; familyhouse@telkom.net; Jl Sukma; r 80,000-350,000Rp) A gem, this popular place is set in a pleasant garden. Healthy breakfasts featuring brown bread are served. Some of the 12 rooms have hot water.

Kunang Kunang Guest House (Map pp310-11; % 976052; Jl Hanoman; r 90,000-160,000Rp) All nine rooms in this quiet retreat have hot water. More money buys you sublime rice-paddy views from 2nd-floor rooms.

WEST OF THE CENTRE

Ala's Hibiscus 2 (Map pp310-11; % /fax 970476; r 80,000-100,000Rp) Smack bang in the middle

of rice paddies, this good place is about 150m down a path off Jl Bisma. The clean rooms have exceptional views, hot water and mosquito nets and are decorated with local handicrafts.

Sama's Cottages (Map pp310-11; % 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 rice paddies are pitched at those seeking low-priced, longer-term lodgings. These places are a steep climb up a set of concrete stairs off Jl Raya Campuan.

Londo Bungalows II (Map pp310-11; % 976764; londobungalows@hotmail.com; bungalows 60,000Rp) Off Jl Raya Campuan, this is ridiculously cheap. The three simple hot-water bungalows have gorgeous rice paddy- and morning-views of Gunung Batukau.

Santra Putra (Map pp310-11; % 977810; karja.bali@yahoo.com; 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 p314. Located off Jl Raya Campuan.

Gerebig Bungalows (Map pp310-11; % /fax 974582; s/d 125,000/150,000Rp) Walking through rice paddies 150m south of Londo Bungalows II rewards with wonderful views and good-value two-storey hot-water bungalows. South of Jl Raya Campuan.

Midrange

There is no end to the options at this price range.

CENTRAL UBUD

Nirvana Pension & Gallery (Map p312; % 975415; rodanet@denpasar.wasantara.net.id; Jl Goutama 10; r 150,000-300,000Rp) There are *alang alang* (grass) roofs, a plethora of paintings, ornate doorways and modern bathrooms with hot water here. Batik courses also take place here (see p314).

Dewangga Bungalows (Map p312; % 973302; www.dewangga-ubud.com; Jl Dewi Sita; r 150,000-

400,000Rp) Close to Jl Goutama, the 10 rooms here – some very large – have a variety of wood and stone carvings, some playfully lurid. The grounds are large and decorated with colourful mosaic tiles.

Siti Bungalows (Map p312; ☎ 975699; fax 975643; Jl Kajeng 3; bungalows US\$30-60; a s) Owned by the family of the late Han Snel, a well-known Ubud painter for many years, this quiet compound has eight bungalows and a small pool. Some rooms are perched right on the edge of the river gorge and have sweeping views.

Sri Bungalows (Map p312; ☎ 975394; sribungalows@hotmail.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$35; i s) Some 50m off the busy road, this place has 16 bright bungalow-style rooms with hot water. The pool is large and there's an internet café.

Oka Wati Hotel (Map p312; ☎ 973386; www.okawatihotel.com; r US\$25-60; s) Opened in 1977, the Oka Wati is an unassuming veteran in 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 very large and the site, off Monkey Forest Rd, is surrounded by rice paddies and lush tropical foliage.

Cendana Resort & Spa (Map p312; ☎ 973243; www.cendanaresort-spa.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$45-95; a s) Rooms have TV and face a lone paddy field. Both higher priced rooms have modern bathrooms and face pools. The landscaping is superb, with the two pools appearing to cascade over the rice paddies.

Pradha Guesthouse & Restaurant (Map p312; ☎ 975122; www.pradhaubud.com; Jl Kajeng 1; r from US\$50; a s) Overlooking a deep, lush pool and nice café, the Pradha has six stylish and comfortable rooms; traffic noise from Jl Raya Ubud is minimal.

Puri Saren Agung (Map p312; ☎ 975057; fax 975137; Jl Raya Ubud; r US\$50-65; a) Part of the Ubud royal family's palace, this place is 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 are lots of over-stuffed chairs about.

Puri Saraswati Bungalows (Map p312; ☎ 975164; www.purisaraswati.com; Jl Raya Ubud; r US\$50-90; a s) This 18-room place is very central and pleasant, with lovely gardens that open

onto the Ubud Water Palace. Rooms are well back from Jl Raya Ubud, so it's quiet. Cheaper rooms have fans.

NORTH OF THE CENTRE

Ketut's Place (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975304; www.indo.com/hotels/ketut-place; Jl Suweta 40; r US\$20-48; a s) The elegant rooms here range from simple with fans to deluxe with air-con and bathtub. All have stunning views of the pool glittering down the hillside and the river valley. See p321 for details on its popular Balinese feasts.

Ubud Sari Health Resort (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974393; www.ubudsari.com; Jl Kajeng; r US\$25-45; villas US\$45-75; a s) There's charming accommodation and colonic irrigation for all guests here. See p314 for details on the spa. Daily health classes are held and even the plants in the gardens are labelled for their medicinal qualities. The 10 rooms feature lots of glass and white linen.

EAST OF THE CENTRE

Matahari Cottages (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975459; www.matahariubud.com; Jl Jembawan; r US\$25-60; a) 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.

Alam Indah (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974629; www.alamindahbali.com; Jl Nyuh Bulan; r US\$50-95; a s) Just south of the Monkey Forest in Nyuhkuning, this isolated and spacious 10-room resort has a good riverside location and rooms that are beautifully finished in natural materials to traditional designs. The Wos river-valley views are tranquil, especially from the serene pool area where you can take your lunch while soaking up the sun. In the background a small waterfall burbles away peacefully. At night a trail of candles leads you down the winding drive through the trees to the hotel. The 'commute' to Ubud through the Monkey Forest is a bonus.

SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

Kakiang Bungalows (Map pp310-11; ☎ 978984; www.kakiang.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; r US\$50-80; a s) 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 the good Kakiang Bakery (p322).

WEST OF THE CENTRE

Honeymoon Guesthouse (Map pp310-11; ☎ 973282; www.casalunabali.com; Jl Bisma; r 325,000-550,000Rp; s) Run by the Casa Luna (p320) clan and set in a family compound, there's a high rate of return visitors, so it's recommended to book ahead here. The 16 rooms have terraces, fans and tubs. More money gets you fridges and better views. The café is suitably tasty. See p87 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.

Melati Cottages (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974650; melaticottages@hotmail.com; r US\$30-50; s) You can quack like a classic Ubud rice-paddy duck as you stroll out to these traditional-style rooms set around a café by the pool. Located off Jl Raya Penestanan; walk in from the north or south.

Aniniraka (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975213; www.aniniraka.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; r US\$75-125; a i s) On the western side of the road in a paddy field, the inn has a soaring public area and a wonderfully situated swimming pool with Jacuzzi. The 11 rooms are attractive, with the current trend for dark woods and light fabrics well-represented.

Sayan & Ayung Valley

Sayan Terrace (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974384; www.sayanterraceresort.com; Jl Raya Sayan; r US\$60-150; a i s) With a million-dollar view of Sungai Ayung Valley below and the tops of palm trees stretching west, the Sayan Terrace is a good place to relax. The nine rooms are large and open onto terraces and are best value at the lower end of the price range. This is the site of Colin McPhee's *A House in Bali*; see p313 for details.

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. Excellent service is a given.

CENTRAL UBUD

Ubud Village Hotel (Map p312; ☎ 975571; www.theubudvillage.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$70-150; a s) Close to Ubud's urban action – such as it is – the Village features a big pool, lush garden and 28 tasteful, fully equipped rooms. The hotel also has an impressive two-level restaurant and an open-air spa. Open-air bathrooms let you know you're in the tropics.

SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

Bali Spirit Hotel & Spa (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974013; www.balispirithotel.com; Nyuhkuning Village; r US\$100-160; a i s) Overlooking the Wos Valley, the Bali Spirit has stylish rooms and stunning views. The 19 rooms tumble down the hillside and feature Balinese art works and antiques. The spring-fed pool sits in a tropical bowl down by the rapids. The hotel also boasts a winsome spa and complimentary car service to area locations.

WEST OF THE CENTRE

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

Hotel Tjampuhan (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975368; www.indo.com/hotels/tjampuhan; Jl Raya Campuan; r US\$70, with air-con US\$115; a s) This venerable place overlooks the confluence of Sungai Wos and Sungai Cerik. 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 modern bungalows in the wonderful garden. The hillside swimming pool is especially delightful with a verdant view in all directions.

Ibah Luxury Villas (Map pp310-11; ☎ 974466; www.ibahbali.com; ste from US\$250, villas from US\$450; a i s) Off Jl Raya Campuan, and overlooking the lush Wos Valley, the Ibah offers an elegant environment and 18 spacious, stylish individual suites scattered across the hillside. The garden is decorated with stone carvings, handcrafted pots and antique doors, and the saltwater 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 rice paddies or draped in thick rainforest. Overlooking this

verdant valley are some of the most stylish, luxurious and expensive hotels in Bali.

Four Seasons Resort (Map pp310-11; ☎ 977577; www.fourseasons.com; ste US\$450, villas from US\$575; a i s) Set slightly into the valley, the curved open-air reception area is looks like a Cinerama screen of virescent Ubud landscape. Many of the villas have private pools and all units share the same amazing views. If you don't like green, consider a desert holiday. The many services include a spa.

Amandari (Map p312; ☎ 975333; www.amanresorts.com; ste from US\$600; a i s) In Kedewatan village, the Amandari is unquestionably classy with superb views over the paddies and down to the river – the main 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. The best units have their own private pool.

NORTHWEST OF UBUD

Begawan Giri (☎ 978888; www.begawan.com; ste US\$500-3000; a i s) Secluded in a remote location 10km northwest of Ubud is the most fabled hotel in Bali. Set amid 20 acres of riverside forest and rice paddies, the 22 unique suites are grouped into five 'residences', each with its own swimming pool, library, kitchen and butler. The design by Cheong Yew Kuan emphasises the natural surroundings and combines new and old materials from the archipelago.

EATING

Ubud's restaurants offer the most diverse and interesting food on the island. 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.

Central Ubud

JALAN RAYA UBUD

There's plenty to choose from on Ubud's main street.

Casa Luna (Map p312; ☎ 977409; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 9000-35,000Rp) This well-known bakery has a creative international menu and a delicious range of bread, pastries, cakes and

more. Crisp salads, homemade pasta and simple main courses are not to be missed. The owner, Janet de Neefe, runs regular Balinese cooking courses (p87).

Café Lotus (Map p312; ☎ 975357; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 26,000-55,000Rp) A leisurely meal at this shady Ubud classic overlooking the lotus pond is a relaxing option. 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.

Ary's Warung (Map p312; ☎ 978359; Jl Raya Ubud; mains 30,000-85,000Rp) 'Warung' is something of a misnomer, as crisp table linen, architectural food presentation, well-trained waiters and high prices won't be found in any other warung. Organic ingredients are favoured on the seasonally changing menu.

MONKEY FOREST RD

Deli Cat (Map p312; ☎ 971284; dishes 12,000-30,000Rp) A character-filled place filled with characters, Deli Cat (off Monkey Forest Rd behind the football field) is like a little tropical bodega. Wine – some delightfully cheap – is sold along with snacks and cheese and larger dishes like sandwiches, meatballs and soups, including an excellent mushroom. Try the little grilled sausages outside at the tables right on the football field. Or you can get carried away and have a bottle of French champagne for 225,000Rp – not a bad deal, actually. There are shared tables inside and out and a bed if it all becomes too much. Many people end their Ubud evenings with a nightcap here.

Waroeng (Map p312; ☎ 970928; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes from 15,000Rp) A small and artful upmarket warung with music befitting its owners (it's behind the Jazz Café – see p322). Create your own *nasi campur* from an array of fresh items.

Coffee & Silver (Map p312; ☎ 975354; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp; 11am-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.

Three Monkeys (Map p312; ☎ 974830; Monkey Forest Rd; mains 20,000-70,000Rp) A top choice, the dining room opens onto rice fields out back. Add in 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 art decorates the walls.

Lamak (Map p312; ☎ 974668; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 40,000-155,000Rp; 11am-midnight) Artful presentations from the eclectic menu set the mood at this excellent place. 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.

EAST OF MONKEY FOREST RD

Dewa Warung (Map p312; Jl Goutama; dishes 4000-10,000Rp) You feel like you're in the country at this place with its tin roof and its shady position above the street. Inexpensive offerings include local curries. Beers are cheap.

Tutmak Café (Map p312; ☎ 975754; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) The location here facing both Jl Dewi Sita and the football field makes this a breezy stop on a hot day. It's also a stylish one with several levels of seating. Break the banana shackles and have a blueberry shake or try one of the sandwiches, burgers, juices or coffees.

Kafé Batan Waru (Map p312; ☎ 977528; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp; 11am-midnight) One of Bali's best restaurants, Batan Waru serves consistently excellent Indonesian food. Western dishes include sandwiches and salads. The care and talent in the kitchen is apparent in the presentations. Most of the ingredients are organic. Smoked duck (*bebek betutu*) and suckling pig (*babi gul-ing*) can be ordered in advance.

NORTH OF JALAN RAYA UBUD

Warung Ibu Oka (Map p312; Jl Suweta; dishes 15,000Rp) Noontime crowds of locals opposite Ubud Palace are here for one thing: the Balinese-style roast piglet. Line up and find a place at the communal tables 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 p312; ☎ 974217; Jl Suweta 1; dishes 18,000-50,000Rp) Indian, Balinese and vegetarian influences combine at this excellent restaurant where many of its candlelit tables face Ubud Palace. Dishes are inventive and the flavours complex.

Terazo (Map p312; ☎ 978941; Jl Suweta; dishes 30,000-80,000Rp 11am-lunch & dinner) This stylish place serves brilliantly presented, eclectic Balinese fusion cuisine. The wine list is long and features numerous French, Italian and

Australian choices. The austere interior is accented by vintage travel posters.

North of the Centre

Roda Restaurant (Map pp310-11; Jl Kajeng 24; dishes 6000-15,000Rp) Above Threads of Life Indonesian Textile Art Center, Roda is a pleasant little restaurant. It has good Indonesian dishes, including hard-to-find Balinese desserts, such as the Moorish *jaja Bali* (sticky rice, coconut, palm sugar and fruit steamed in banana leaves). Roda also holds traditional meals (30,000Rp per person; minimum five people); book in advance.

Ketut's Place (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975304; Jl Suweta 40; feast 100,000Rp; 11am-dinner Sun, Wed & Fri) Ketut's famous traditional Balinese feast is an excellent introduction to Balinese life and customs. The range of dishes is amazing and the quality is tops. There's usually an interesting group, so it's very sociable. See p318 for details on accommodation.

East of the Centre

Delta Dewata Supermarket (Map pp310-11; ☎ 973049; Jl Raya Andong) Located on the eastern side of town, this place gives you a Wal-Mart-like shopping experience (vast array of goods) without the social guilt.

Masakan Padang (Map pp310-11; Jl Hanoman; dishes 6000-12,000Rp; 11am-noon-1am) This Padang-style eatery – where you choose from the plates on display – has some of the cheapest, tastiest eats in town. Food is fresh and much of it is spicy.

Village Café (Map pp310-11; ☎ 973229; Rona Inn, Jl Sukma; dishes 7500-20,000Rp) Friendly staff serve up the usual suspects as well as extra-tasty juice concoctions featuring watermelon, carrot and apple juice. There's also internet access.

L'Arbre à Plumes (Map pp310-11; Jl Hanoman; dishes 8000-20,000Rp) There's good northern light for letter writing at this tiny French café. Baguette sandwiches and crepes lead the small menu. French publications line the walls.

Bali Buddha (Map pp310-11; ☎ 976324; Jl Jembawan 1; dishes 12,000-35,000Rp) This second-storey place offers a full range of vegetarian *jamu* (health tonics), salads, tofu curries, savoury crepes, pizza and bagels, as well as gelato. It has a comfy lounging area and is candlelit 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, other healthy foods such as muesli and olive oil, and home-baked date bars, breads and cookies. Other items include cosmetics.

Bebek Bengil 1 (Dirty Duck Diner; Map pp310-11; ☎ 975489; Jl Hanoman; dishes 18,000-50,000Rp; 10am-10pm) This sprawling place does a special line in crispy deep-fried duck dishes. Water courses through the delightful dining area with its low tables and cushions on the floor.

South of the Centre

Kakiang Bakery (Map pp310-11; ☎ 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.

Warung Opera (Map pp310-11; ☎ 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.

Warung Enak (Map pp310-11; ☎ 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 *rijstafel* (selection of Indonesian dishes served with rice) is always a good choice and you can wash it down with a long list of imported wines.

Kokolan Club (Map pp310-11; ☎ 973495; Jl Raya Pengosekan; mains 35,000-55,000Rp; 11am-lunch & dinner) On the grounds of the ARMA Resort, this elegant restaurant serves superb southern Thai and seafood dishes. *Hor mok goong* (prawns steamed in banana leaf) is as good as you'll find anywhere. The open-sided upstairs dining area has an air of understated elegance. Phone for transport.

West of the Centre

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

Murni's Warung (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975233; Jl Raya Campuan; dishes 16,000-50,000Rp) Since 1977 Murni's has been an Ubud favourite. The setting is beautiful and a four-level dining room overlooks the lush river valley. The diverse menu includes many desserts. There's a nice bar on the 2nd level down.

One quibble: the gift shop gets bigger every year.

Café des Artistes (Map pp310-11; ☎ 972706; Jl Bisma 9X; dishes 22,000-86,000Rp; 11am-midnight) In a quiet and cultured perch off Jl Raya Ubud, the popular Café des Artistes brings Belgian food to Ubud. But the menu strays into France and Indonesia as well, with a foray to other places for sandwiches and salads at lunch. Dinner mains show the care in the kitchen from the talented staff. Art by locals such as Theo Zantman is on display. The wicker chairs are most comfortable.

SANGGINGAN

Naughty Nuri's (Map pp310-11; ☎ 977547; Jl Raya Sanggingan; dishes 15,000-50,000Rp) Huge burgers are the speciality here – you can get them to go. Or choose from local items or steaks, ribs and seafood. Thursday night grilled tuna specials are very popular at this rustic place, as are the martinis.

Mozaic (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975768; Jl Raya Sanggingan; menus 295,000-395,000Rp; 11am-lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) Chef Chris Salans has created a fine restaurant that brings excellent French fusion cuisine into a lush garden setting. One of Bali's finest, Mozaic is consistently popular for its high standards, putting it on par with top international restaurants. There are many vegetarian choices.

DRINKING

No one comes to Ubud for wild nightlife. A few bars do get quite lively around sunset and later into the night, but the venues certainly don't aspire to the extremes of beer-swilling debauchery and first-world hip clubs found in Kuta and Seminyak.

Bars close early in Ubud – around 1am – by local ordinance. Many places listed under Eating, such as Deli Cat (p320) or Warung Opera (left), are also good just for a drink.

Nomad (Map p312; ☎ 977169; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp) There's a barbecue here daily and often a gamelan player as well. It's a good central spot for a drink, especially back in the dark corners.

Jazz Café (Map pp310-11; ☎ 976594; Jl Sukma 2; dishes 35,000-60,000Rp; 11pm-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 free pick-up and drop-off around Ubud.

Putra Bar (Map p312; Monkey Forest Rd; draught beer 12,000Rp) Ubud's rasta wannabes hang out at this dark place, which features live reggae music from 9pm on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and movies or sports telecasts on Marley-free evenings.

ENTERTAINMENT

The joy of Ubud – and what makes people stay weeks instead of days – is the cultural entertainment. This is where you can base yourself not only for the nightly array of performances, but also to keep up with news of scheduled events in surrounding villages.

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 the Ubud Palace (Map p312; Jl Raya Ubud), Padangtegal Dance Stage (Map pp310-11; Jl Hanoman), Pura Dalem Puri (Map pp310-11; Jl Raya Ubud), the ARMA Open Stage (Map pp310-11; ☎ 976659; Jl Raya Pengosekan), and Peliatan Pura Dalem Puri (Map pp310-11; Jl Peliatan). Other performances are in nearby towns like Batuan, Mawang and Kutuh.

You can also find shadow-puppet shows – although these are greatly attenuated from traditional village performances that often last the entire night. Regular performances are held at Oka Kartini (Map pp310-11; ☎ 975193; Jl Raya Ubud; tickets 50,000Rp).

Ubud's Tourist Information office (Yayasan Bina Wisata; Map p312; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; 11am-8pm) has performance information, and sells tickets (from 50,000Rp). For performances outside Ubud, transport is usually included in the price. Tickets are also sold at the venues. Vendors sell drinks at the performances, which typically last about 90 minutes.

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.

The euphemistically named Pasar Seni (Art Market; Map p312; Jl Raya Ubud) is a busy two-storey place that sells a wide range of clothing, sarongs, footwear and souvenirs of variable quality at negotiable prices. Decent souve-

nirs 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. The following is just a taste of what's available.

Tegun Galeri (Map pp310-11; ☎ 973361; Jl Hanoman 44) Everything the souvenir stores are not; beautiful handmade items from around the island.

Thebb (Map p312; ☎ 975880; Jl Dewi Sita) Smart and hip houseware in distinctive designs made in Bali.

Alamkara Monkey Forest Rd (Map p312; ☎ 972213; Jl Dewi Sita (Map p312; ☎ 971004) One of the best jewellery galleries in Ubud, if not Bali, where the craftsmanship is of a high standard. On display are unusual, but very wearable designs in gold and silver, featuring black pearls and gems. The work of foreign and local jewellers is on display.

Treasures – a Gallery of Gold Creations (Map p312; ☎ 976697; Jl Raya Ubud) A posh place with ornate and expensive gold jewellery encrusted with gems.

Kou (Map p312; ☎ 971905; Jl Dewi Sita) Luscious handmade organic soaps made locally. Breathe deep on the way in.

Bali Cares (Map pp310-11; ☎ 981504; www.idep foundation.org; Jl Hanoman 44B) This lovely shop sells goods to benefit several local charities. Items range from woodcarvings made from sustainable woods to paintings, handicrafts and other items produced by local people. There's an adjoining small café.

Kertas Gingsir (Map p312; ☎ 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 pp310-11; ☎ 970924; Monkey Forest Rd) There are colourful wind-born creations such as dragons and sailing ships. A small frog goes for 25,000Rp.

GETTING THERE & AWAY Bemo

Ubud is on two bemo routes. Orange bemos travel from Gianyar to Ubud (7000Rp) and larger brown bemos from Batubulan terminal in Denpasar to Ubud (6000Rp), and

then head to Kintamani via Payangan. Ubud doesn't have a bemo terminal; bemos stop 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.

Tourist Shuttle Bus

Perama (Map pp310-11; % 973316; Jl Hanoman; 11 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. See the boxed text (below) for information on fares.

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

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

Bemo

Bemos 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. Small bemos to Gianyar travel along eastern Jl Raya, down Jl Peliatan and east to Bedulu. To Pujung, bemos head east along Jl Raya and then north through Andong and past the turn-off to Petulu. Larger brown bemos to Batubulan terminal go east along Jl Raya and down Jl Hanoman.

Bicycle

Many shops, agencies and hotels in central Ubud rent mountain bikes. The standard

charge is around 20,000Rp per day. Ask at your accommodation.

Car & Motorcycle

With numerous nearby attractions, many of which are difficult to reach by bemo, renting a vehicle is sensible. Ask at your accommodation.

AROUND UBUD

% 0361

The region east and north of Ubud has many of the most ancient monuments and relics in Bali. Many of them predate the Majapahit era and raise as yet unanswered questions about Bali's history. Some are more recent, and newer structures have also been built on and around the ancient remains. They're interesting to history and archaeology buffs but, with the exception of Gunung Kawi and Yeh Pulu, which are both very impressive and beautiful, may not be so interesting to others. 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 as a destination in itself.

If you're travelling by public transport, start early and take a bemo to the Bedulu intersection, and another to Tirta Empul (about 15km from Ubud). See the temple of Tirta Empul, then follow the path beside the river down to Gunung Kawi – you may need to ask directions. From there you can return to the main road and walk downhill about 8km to Pejeng, or flag down a bemo going towards Gianyar. The temples and museum at Pejeng and the archaeological sites at Bedulu are all within about 3km of each other.

South of Ubud, the main road connecting the region to South Bali is lined with literally hundreds of craft and artisan shops. Stone and wood are carved into a myriad shapes – including custom orders – and you won't want for jewellery.

BEDULU

Bedulu was once the capital of a great kingdom. The legendary Dalem Bedaulu ruled the Pejeng dynasty from here, and was the last Balinese king to withstand the onslaught of the powerful Majapahits from

Java. He was eventually defeated by Gajah Mada in 1343. The capital shifted several times after this, to Gelgel and then later to Semarang.

Sights

GOA GAJAH

About 1km east of Teges is **Goa Gajah** (Elephant Cave; Map pp310-11; adult/child 4100/2100Rp, car parking 1000Rp, motorbike parking 300Rp; 11 8am-6pm). 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 at least to the 11th century, and it was certainly in existence at the time of the Majapahit takeover of Bali. In modern times the cave was rediscovered by Dutch archaeologists in 1923; the fountains and bathing pool were not unearthed until 1954.

The small 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. Inside the T-shaped cave you can see fragmentary remains of lingam, the phallic symbols of the Hindu god Shiva, and their female counterpart the yoni, plus a statue of the elephant-headed god Ganesha. In the courtyard in front of the cave are two square bathing pools with water gushing into them from waterspouts held by six female figures. 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.

If you're travelling independently, arrive before 10am, when the tour groups start to arrive.

YEH PULU

This 25m-long carved cliff face (Map pp310-11; adult/child 4100/2100Rp; 11 8am-6pm) is believed to be a hermitage dating from the late 14th century. It was rediscovered by a local official in 1925, and excavated by the Dutch in 1929. Apart from the figure of elephant-headed Ganesha, the son of Shiva, there are no obviously religious scenes here. The energetic frieze includes various scenes of everyday life (check out the horse and owner struggling uphill and the woman

peering from behind her doorway), and 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.

The Ganesha figures of Yeh Pulu and Goa Gajah are similar, indicating a close relationship between the two sites. You can walk between the sites, following small paths through the rice fields, but you might need to pay a local to guide you. If travelling by car or bicycle, look for the signs to 'Relief Yeh Pulu' or 'Villa Yeh Pulu' east of Goa Gajah. The entry fee includes a small brochure with an explanation in creative English.

PURA SAMUAN TIGA

The majestic **Pura Samuan Tiga** (Temple of the Meeting of the Three; Map pp310-11) 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 pp310-11; % 942354; Jl Raya Tampaksiring; admission by donation; 11 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. Any Ubud to Gianyar bemo will drop you off at the Bedulu junction, from where you can walk. The road from Ubud is reasonably flat, so coming by bicycle is a good option.

PERAMA TOURIST SHUTTLE BUSES FROM UBUD

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

PEJENG

Further up the road to Tampaksiring is Pejeng and its famous temples. Like Bedulu, Pejeng was once an important seat of power, the capital of the Pejeng kingdom, which fell to the Majapahit invaders in 1343.

Pura Kebo Edan

Also called the Crazy Buffalo Temple (Map pp310-11; 7am-6pm), this is not an imposing structure but is famous for its 3m-high statue, known as the Giant of Pejeng and thought to be about 700 years old. The temple is a place where prayer and offerings are thought to cure sick animals. It's on the western side of the road.

Pura Pusering Jagat

This large temple (Navel of the World Temple; Map pp310-11) is said to be the centre of the old Pejeng kingdom. Dating from 1329, it 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 temple (Map pp310-11; Jl Raya Tampaksiring) was once the state temple of the Pejeng kingdom. In the inner courtyard, high up in a pavilion and difficult to see in any detail, is the huge bronze drum known as the Moon of Pejeng. The hourglass-shaped drum is more than 2m long, the largest single-piece cast drum in the world. Estimates of its age vary from 1000 to 2000 years, and it is not certain whether it was made locally.

TAMPAKSIRING

Tampaksiring is a small town where Gunung Kawi, the most impressive ancient monument in Bali, is located. There's also a large and important temple, with bathing pools, nearby at Tirta Empul. There is nowhere to stay in Tampaksiring.

Sights

GUNUNG KAWI

On the southern outskirts of town a sign points east off the main road to the wondrous Gunung Kawi (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, most charming and certainly 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 7m-high sheltered niches cut into the sheer cliff face. A solitary *candi* stands about 1km 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 is believed to be a memorial to a member of 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 and his brothers Anak Wungsu and Marakata. While Airlangga ruled eastern Java, Anak Wungsu ruled Bali. The four monuments on the western side are, according to this theory, dedicated 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*, a royal minister.

The steps require a steep 10-minute hike up on the way back. The valley is hot and doesn't get much breeze, so wear a hat and take water. The hawkers are persistent, but there are, thankfully, few within the temple compound itself. You'll need a temple sarong and sash, and if you're travelling independently go early or late to avoid the tour groups; it's simply a wonderful place when it's quiet.

TIRTA EMPUL

A well-signposted fork in the road north of Tampaksiring leads to the holy springs at Tirta Empul (adult/child 4100/2100Rp; 7am-6pm). Founded in 962, the springs are believed to have magical powers, so the temple is important. The springs are a source of Sungai Pakerisan, which rushes by Gunung Kawi only 1km or so away. The actual springs

bubble up into a large, crystal-clear tank within the temple and gush out through waterspouts into a bathing pool. Despite its antiquity, the temple looks glossy and new – it was totally restored in the late 1960s – but you still need to wear long pants or a temple sarong. The bathing pools can be visited, but you probably won't be able to bathe in them.

Overlooking Tirta Empul springs is Soekarno's palace, Istana Negara. It's a simple single-storey structure built on a ridge, and was designed by Soekarno himself. It was erected in 1954 on the site of a Dutch rest house. It's sometimes open to the public.

The exit route from the temple is through a lengthy warren of souvenir stalls – grit your teeth and follow the painted arrows on the ground to find your way out.

Getting There & Away

Tampaksiring is an easy day trip from Ubud, or a stopover between Ubud and Danau Batur. If travelling by bemo, get a connection in Bedulu. Tirta Empul and Gunung Kawi are easy to find along the Penelokan to Ubud road, and are only about 1.5km apart.

NORTH OF UBUD

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 through Tegallalang and Pujung, to bring you out on the crater rim between Penelokan and Batur. It's a sealed road all the way. Tegallalang, Jati and Pujung are all noted woodcarving centres.

A good lunch stop about 12km from Ubud, with picturesque paddy-field views, is Blue Yogi Cafe (901368; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; 7am-5pm). After lunch, walk things off with a stroll among the rice.

SOUTH OF UBUD

The road from Ubud to Denpasar, Sanur and South Bali, via Mas, Batuan, Sukawati, Celuk and Batubulan is lined with places making and selling handicrafts. (You may not have realised there could be so many stone-carvers on one island.) Many tourists stop and shop along this route, but there are

some quieter back roads where much of the craft work is done in small workshops and family compounds; this means the selection is better, and cutting out the retailer means that prices are cheaper and more money stays with the craftsman.

There are regular bemos along this route, but if you want to stop at craft workshops it's more convenient to have 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.

Mas

Mas means 'gold', but woodcarving, particularly mask carving, is the craft practised here. The road through Mas is lined with craft shops for the tour-bus loads, but there are plenty of smaller carving operations in the back lanes.

Along the main road in Mas is the Taman Harum Cottages (975567; www.tamanharumcottages.com; r from US\$35, villas US\$50-75; a s). There are 17 rooms and villas – some are quite large and excellent value. By all means get one overlooking the paddy fields. It has a gallery, which is a venue for a range of art and cultural courses.

Batuan

Batuan is a noted painting centre with a number of art galleries. It came under the influence of Bonnet, Spies and the Pita Maha artists' cooperative at an early stage. Traditionally, Batuan painters produced dynamic black-ink drawings, but the newer 'Batuan style' of painting is noted for including a large number of different subjects in a single canvas, even the odd windsurfer or a tourist with a video camera. Batuan is also noted for the ancient Gambuh dance performed in the *pura puseh* every full moon.

Taman Burung Bali Bird Park & Rimba Reptil Park

Just north of Tegaltama, the bird park (9299352; www.bali-bird-park.com; adult/child US\$8/4; 7am-6pm) boasts more than 1000 birds

from over 250 species, including rare *cen-drawasih* (birds of paradise) from Papua and highly endangered Bali starlings – many of which are housed in special walk-through aviaries. The 2 hectares of landscaped gardens feature a fine collection of tropical plants and a couple of non-native Komodo dragons.

Next door, **Timba Reptil Park** (☎ 299344; adult/child US\$8/4; ⌚ 8am–6pm) has about 20 species of creatures from Indonesia and Africa, including turtles, crocodiles, a python and 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.

Sukawati

Sukawati is a centre for the manufacture of wind chimes, temple umbrellas and *lontar* (palm leaf) baskets dyed with intricate patterns. It has a busy craft market in an obvious, two-storey building on the main road – bemos stop right outside. Every type of quality craftwork and touristy trinket is on sale, at cheap prices for those who bargain hard. Across the road is the colourful morning produce-market, with the old royal palace behind; it's worth a stop.

Wayang kulit (shadow puppets) and *topeng* (masks) are also made in the backstreets of Sukawati and in Puaya, about 1km northwest of the main road.

Celuk

Celuk is a silver- and gold-smithing centre with numerous jewellery specialists and a wide variety of pieces on sale. Most of the work is done in workshops in the back streets; after the main line of showrooms turn left (if you're coming from Denpasar) into Jl Jagaraga and check out the artisans at work.

Batubulan

Stonecarving is the main craft of Batubulan, which means 'moon stone', and the temples around Batubulan are noted for their fine sculptures. You'll see hundreds of

statues beside the road, and you're welcome to watch the workers, many of them young boys, chipping away at big blocks of soft volcanic stone.

Batubulan also has some well-regarded dance troupes. Dances are performed daily at several venues along the road, with Barong usually at 9.30am and Fire and/or Kecak dances at 6.30pm. The shows last for an hour or so, and cost 50,000Rp. The *pura puseh*, about 200m to the east of the busy main road, is worth a visit; there may be a morning Barong dance performed there.

Batubulan is the major bemo terminal for eastern and central Bali – see p306 for details.

EAST BALI

The eastern end of Bali is dominated by the mighty Gunung Agung, the 'navel of the world' and Bali's 'mother mountain'. The slopes of this and the other peaks at this end of the island hold some of the most verdant rice fields and tropical vistas you can imagine. It's a good place to have your own transport, as you can simply 'get lost' wandering side roads and revel in the exquisite scenery.

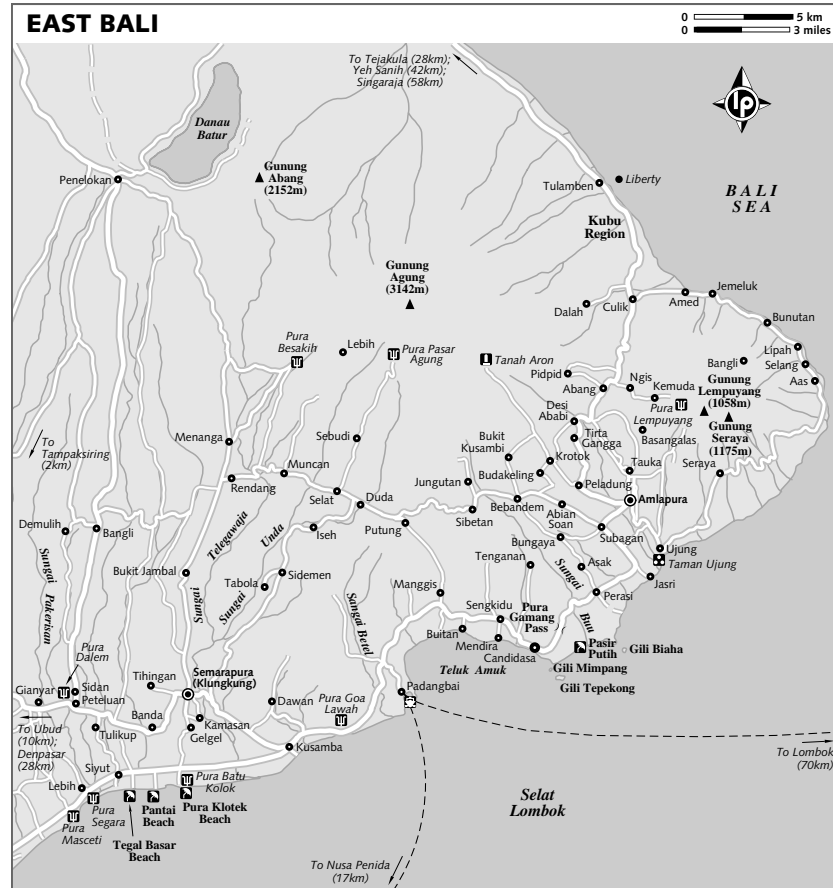
At the coast, there are attractive beaches galore, especially those south of Semarapura, that are now easily accessible thanks to the ever-lengthening coastal road. Add in some ancient cultural sites and the popular areas of Candidasa and Amed and you have an area that will figure in the itinerary of anyone who breaks free from the South Bali–Ubud juggernaut.

GIANYAR

☎ 0361

Gianyar is the capital of Gianyar district (which includes Ubud). It has some small textile factories on the west side of town, where you can see ikat being woven and buy fabric and clothes. It's a place that most tourists will pass through, rather than spend time in.

The Gianyar royal family saved its palace, and its position, by capitulating to the Dutch. The original 18th-century Puri Gianyar was destroyed in a conflict with the Klungkung kingdom in the mid-1880s, was rebuilt and then severely damaged again in the 1917 earthquake. It's a fine example of traditional



palace architecture, and though foreigners are not normally allowed inside, you can get a good sense of it from the outside.

Gianyar's warung on the main street and market are noted for their fine *babi guling* (roast pig), a local speciality.

Regular bemo travel is between the main terminal in Gianyar and Batubulan terminal (8000Rp). Gianyar is the junction for Ubud and Tampaksiring. The bemo terminal is on the west side of town, about 500 metres from the centre.

BANGLI

☎ 0366

Halfway up the slope to Penelokan, Bangli – once the capital of a kingdom – has

an interesting temple and cultural centre, though if there's no ceremony or festival happening, it's pretty quiet.

Sights

PURA KEHEN

Pura Kehen (admission 4100Rp; ⌚ 9am–5pm), the state temple of the Bangli kingdom, is one of the finest temples in east Bali; it's a little like a miniature version of Pura Besakih.

The temple is terraced up the hillside, with a great flight of steps leading to the beautifully decorated entrance. The first courtyard has a huge banyan tree with a *kulkul* (alarm drum) entwined in its branches. The inner courtyard has a *meru* (multiroofed shrine) with 11 roofs, and

thrones for the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu. The carvings are particularly intricate.

Tickets are sold at a gate about 100m to the west, but there may not be anyone there. Some sleepy souvenir stalls are in the car park, a few metres to the east of the temple gate.

PURA DALEM PENUNGGEKAN

Just south of the centre, the exterior wall of this fascinating 'temple of the dead' features vivid relief carvings of wrong-doers getting their just desserts in the afterlife. One panel addresses the lurid fate of adulterers (men may find the viewing uncomfortable). Other panels portray sinners as monkeys, while another is a good representation of evil-doers begging to be spared the fires of hell.

BUKIT DEMULIH

Approximately 3km west of Bangli is the village of Demulih and a hill known as Bukit Demulih. If you can't find the sign pointing to it, ask the local children to direct you. After a short climb up to the top, you'll see a small temple with good views back over Bangli and southern Bali.

On the way, a steep side road leads down to Tirta Buana, a public swimming pool in a lovely location deep in the valley, visible through the trees from the road above. You can take a vehicle most of the way down, but the track peters out and you'll need to walk the last 100m or so.

BALI'S 'NEW' BEACHES

The new road running from Sanur east along the coast has made it easy to get to large stretches of shore that were until recently pretty inaccessible.

The coast is striking, with seaside temples, black-sand beaches and pounding waves. Here are some places worth exploring, starting in the west and heading east.

Pura Masceti One of Bali's most important temples, is on the beach. Gaudy statuary and a few drink vendors complete the scene.

Pura Segara Looks across the strait to Nusa Penida, home of Jero Gede Macaling – the temple helps protect Bali from his evil influence. The site is very quiet.

Lebih Has a beach made of mica that sparkles with a billion points of light. There are a couple of cafés.

Tegal Basar Beach A turtle sanctuary with a good view of Nusa Lembongan.

Pantai Beach A must for fans of the tautological (*pantai* means beach). There's a tiny café and long row of dunes at this picture-perfect spot.

Pura Klotek Beach Has a small temple and some very fine black sand.

Note that swimming in the often pounding surf is dangerous. You'll need your own transport to visit these places and you'll find services are few, so bring your own water and towels.

Sleeping & Eating

A *pasar malam* (night market), on the street beside the bemo terminal, has some excellent warung, and you'll also find some in the market area during the day.

Artha Sastra Inn (☎ 91179; Jl Merdeka; s/d 35,000/50,000Rp) Still run by descendants of the last royal family, Artha Sastra is a bare-bones former royal residence and is cheap and friendly.

Getting There & Away

Bangli is located on the main road between Denpasar's Batubulan terminal (9000Rp) and Gunung Batur, via Penelokan.

SEMARAPURA (KLUNGKUNG)

☎ 0366

Semarang was once the centre of Bali's most important kingdom, and a great artistic and cultural focal point. But on 28 April 1908 it was the site of a terrible *puputan*, one of the battles when Balinese – armed only with hand-weapons – fought to an honourable death rather than surrender to the bullet-spraying Dutch. Today the remains of the palace make for a fascinating stop on your eastern explorations.

The town is still commonly called Klungkung, but has been officially renamed Semarang; the latter appears on most signs and maps. Even if the coastal road is completed and you no longer need to detour through Semarang, it will remain an important stop for visitors.

Sights

SEMARA PURA COMPLEX

When the Dewa Agung dynasty moved here in 1710, a new palace, the *Semara Pura* (adult/child 5000/2000Rp, parking 1000Rp; 17 7am–6pm), was established. Most of the original palace and grounds were destroyed during Dutch attacks in 1908, and the *Pemedal Agung*, the gateway on the southern side of the square, is all that remains of the palace itself – the carved wooden doors are beautiful.

Kertha Gosa

The 'Hall of Justice' was effectively the supreme court of the Klungkung kingdom, where disputes and cases that could not be settled at the village level were brought. This open-sided pavilion is a superb example of Klungkung architecture, and its ceiling is covered with fine paintings in the Klungkung style. The paintings, done on asbestos sheeting, were installed in the 1940s, replacing cloth paintings that had deteriorated.

Bale Kambang

The ceiling of the beautiful 'Floating Pavilion' is painted in Klungkung style. As in the Kertha Gosa, the different rows of paintings deal with different subjects. The first row is based on the astrological calendar; the second on the folk tale of Pan and Men Brayut and their 18 children; and the upper rows on the adventures of the hero Sutasona.

Museum Semarajaya

This recently renovated museum has an interesting collection of archaeological and other pieces. There are exhibits of *songket* weaving, salt-making, palm toddy and palm-sugar extraction, and a moving display about the 1908 *puputan*, along with some interesting old photos.

Getting There & Away

Frequent bemos from Denpasar (Batubulan terminal) pass through Semarang (9000Rp) on the way to Padangbai, Amlapura, Selat and Singaraja. They can be hailed from near the Puputan Monument.

Bemos heading north to Besakih (9000Rp) leave from the centre of Semarang, a block northeast of Kertha Gosa. Most other bemos leave from the inconvenient Terminal Kelod, about 2km south of the city centre.

Perama shuttle buses between South Bali or Ubud and the east will stop in Semarang on request, although this may change when the coastal road is completed.

AROUND SEMARAPURA

Nyoman Gunarsa, one of the most respected and successful modern artists in Indonesia, established the *Museum Seni Lukis Klasik* (☎ 0366-22255; adult/child 20,000Rp/free; 17 9am–4pm), a museum and arts centre, near his home village. The huge three-storey building exhibits an impressive variety of older pieces, including carvings in stone and wood, architectural antiques, masks, ceramics and textiles. Many of the classical paintings are on bark paper and are some of the oldest surviving examples of this style. The top floor is devoted to Gunarsa's own work of colourful, semi-abstract depictions of traditional dancers and musicians.

The museum is about 6km west from Semarang, near a bend on the road to Denpasar – look for the dummy policemen at the base of a large statue nearby.

SIDEMEN ROAD

☎ 0366

A less-travelled road to Pura Besakih goes northeast from Semarang, via Sidemen and Iseh, to the Rendang–Amlapura road. The area offers marvellous paddy-field scenery, a delightful rural character and exciting views of Gunung Agung (when the clouds permit). The road is in good shape and regular bemos shuttle up and down from Semarang.

Sidemen has a spectacular location and is a centre for culture and arts, particularly *endek* (ikat) cloth and *songket*, which is woven with threads of silver and gold. German artist Walter Spies lived in Iseh for some time from 1932 in order to escape the perpetual party of his own making in Ubud. Later, the Swiss painter, Theo Meier, nearly as famous as Spies for his influence on Balinese art, lived in the same house.

There are many walks throughout the verdant valley.

Sleeping & Eating

Near the centre of Sidemen, a small road heads west, signposted with the names of several places to stay. Views throughout the

area are often spectacular, from terraced green hills to Gunung Agung. Places to stay always have restaurants.

Lihat Sawah (% /fax 24183; r 150,000-250,000Rp) Take the right fork in the road to this very friendly place with great gardens. All nine rooms (the cheapest have cold water) have views of the valley and mountain. The surrounding rice fields course with water. Lihat Sawah also has food on offer – dishes cost 12,500Rp to 25,000Rp.

Patal Kikian (% /fax 23005; villas US\$50-70; S) Two kilometres north of Sideman, look for a steep driveway on the eastern side of the road. This retreat has four spacious, stylishly furnished villas with vast verandas overlooking terraced hillsides for one of the best views in East Bali. Rates include all meals, which are served as private banquets on your own veranda. Rooms have hot water and there is a soaking pool.

Sacred Mountain Sanctuary (% 24330; www.sacredmountainresortresort.com; villas US\$90-140; i S) Close to the river, this remote and rusticated resort has a New Age vibe and a huge spring-fed swimming pool. The 19 bamboo villas have open-air bathrooms and many artistic touches. The resort can arrange treks of Gunung Agung (from US\$55), as well as a range of courses. Massage is available, as is food (dishes 20,000Rp to 35,000Rp).

PURA BESAKIH

Perched nearly 1000m up the side of Gunung Agung is Bali's most important temple, Pura Besakih. In fact, it is an extensive complex of 23 separate-but-related temples, with the largest and most important being Pura Penataran Agung. Unfortunately, many people find it a deeply disappointing

experience due to the avarice of numerous local characters. See the boxed text, below, for the details, which may well help you decide whether to skip it.

Orientation

The main entrance is 2km south of the complex on the road from Menanga and the south. The fees are as follows: adult/child 7500/6000Rp, still camera 1000Rp, video camera 2500Rp and car park 1000Rp. The fact that you may well be charged for a video camera whether you have one or not gives you a taste of things to come.

About 200m past the ticket office, there is a fork in the road with a sign indicating Besakih to the right and Kintamani to the left. Go left because going to the right puts you in a large parking lot at the bottom of a hill some 300m from the complex. Going past the road to Kintamani, where there is another ticket office, puts you in a parking lot only 20m from the complex. Snack stands and warung are found along the trash-strewn approaches and at both parking lots.

Sights

The largest and most important temple is Pura Penataran Agung. It is built on six levels, terraced up the slope, with the entrance approached from below, up a flight of steps. This entrance is an imposing *candi bentar* (split gateway) and, beyond it, the even more impressive *kori agung* is the gateway to the second courtyard. It's most enjoyable during one of the frequent festivals, when hundreds, perhaps thousands, of gorgeously dressed devotees turn up with beautifully arranged offerings. Note that

tourists are not allowed inside this temple. The other temples – all with individual significance and often closed to visitors – are markedly less scenic.

When it's mist-free, the view down to the coast is superb.

Getting There & Away

The best way to visit is with your own transportation, which allows you to explore the many gorgeous drives in the area.

You can visit by bemo from Semarapura (9000Rp), but from other parts of Bali this can make the outing an all-day affair. Be sure to ask the driver to take you to the temple entrance, not to the village about 1km from the temple complex. Make certain you leave the temple by 3pm if you want to return to either Semarapura or Denpasar by bemo.

RENDANG TO AMLAPURA ROAD

% 0366

A scenic road goes around the southern slopes of Gunung Agung from Rendang to near Amlapura. It runs through some superb countryside, descending more or less gradually as it goes further east.

Starting in the west, Rendang is an attractive town, easily reached by bemo from Semarapura or via a particularly pretty minor road from Bangli. About 4km along a winding road is the old-fashioned village of Muncan with its quaint shingle roofs.

The road then passes through some of the most attractive rice country in Bali before reaching Selat, where you turn north to get to Pura Pasar Agung, a starting point for climbing Gunung Agung. Puri Agung Inn (% 23037; r 125,000-175,000Rp) has 10 clean and comfortable rooms with rice-field views. Here you can arrange rice-field walks or climbs up Gunung Agung (right).

Further on is Duda, where the scenic Sideman Road (p331) branches southwest to Semarapura.

Continuing east, Sibetan is famous for growing *salak*, the delicious fruit with a curious 'snakeskin' covering that you can buy between December and April. *Salak* are the spiky low palm trees you'll see, and the fruit grows in clusters at the base of the trunks. Nearby, a poorly signposted road leads north to Jungutan, with its Tirta Tega Tista, a pleasant fish pool and garden

complex built for the water-loving rajah of Karangasem. It's a good spot for a picnic if you've got time and your own transport, but it's not a place for swimming.

The scenic road finishes at Bebandem, where there's a cattle market every three days, with plenty of other stuff for sale as well. Bebandem and several nearby villages are home to members of the traditional metalworkers caste, which includes silver-smiths and blacksmiths.

GUNUNG AGUNG

Bali's highest and most revered mountain, Gunung Agung is an imposing peak seen from most of South and East Bali, although it's often obscured by cloud and mist. Many references give its height as 3142m, but some say it lost its top in the 1963 eruption and opinion varies as to the real height. The summit is an oval crater, about 700m across, with its highest point on the western edge above Besakih.

Climbing Gunung Agung

It's possible to climb Agung from various directions. The two shortest and most popular routes are from Pura Besakih, on the southwest side of the mountain, and from Pura Pasar Agung, on the southern slopes. The latter route goes to the lower edge of the crater rim (2900m), but you can't make your way from there around to the very highest point. You'll have great views south and east, but you won't be able to see central Bali.

To have the best chance of seeing the view before the clouds form, get to the top before 8am. You'll have to start at night, so plan your climb when there will be some moonlight. Take a strong flashlight, extra batteries, plenty of water (2L per person), snack food, waterproof clothing and a warm jumper (sweater). The descent is especially hard on the feet, so you'll appreciate strong shoes or boots and pedicured toes.

You should take a guide for either route. Early in the climb the guide will stop at a shrine to make an offering and say some prayers. This is a holy mountain and you should show respect.

It's best to climb during the dry season (April to September); July to September are the most reliable months. At other times, the paths can be slippery and dangerous

AN UNHOLY EXPERIENCE

So intrusive are the scams and irritations faced by visitors to Besakih that many wish they had skipped the complex altogether. What follows are some of the ploys you should be aware of before a visit.

- Near the main parking area is a building labelled Tourist Information Office. Guides here may emphatically tell you that you need their services. You don't. You may always walk among the temples. No 'guide' can get you into a closed temple.
- Other 'guides' may foist their services on you throughout your visit. There have been reports of people agreeing to a guide's services only to be hit with a huge fee at the end.
- Once inside the complex, you may receive offers to 'come pray with me'. Visitors who seize on this chance to get into a forbidden temple can face demands of 50,000Rp or more.

and the views are clouded over. Climbing Gunung Agung is not allowed when major religious events are being held at Pura Besakih, which generally includes most of April. No guide will take you up at these times.

GUIDES

Trips with guides on either of the following routes up Gunung Agung generally include breakfast and other meals and a place to stay, but be sure to confirm all details in advance. They can also arrange transportation.

Most of the places to stay in the region, including those around Sidemen and Tirta Gangga, will recommend guides for Gunung Agung climbs, but it's more convenient to start from a base nearer the mountain, and the local guides from places like Selat (p333) and Muncan (p333) are more experienced. Expect to pay a negotiable 300,000Rp to 600,000Rp per person for your climb.

Recommended guides:

Gung Bawa Trekking (% 0366-24379; gbtrek@yahoo.com; Selat) A reliable operation near the market.

Ketut Uriada (% 0812 3646 426; Muncan) It's easiest if you have your own car, but this experienced guide can arrange transport for an extra fee (look for his small sign on the road east of the village).

FROM PURA BESAKIH

This climb is much tougher than from the south and is only for the very physically fit. For the best chance of a clear view before the clouds close in, you should start at midnight. Allow at least six hours for the climb, and four to five hours for the descent. The starting point is Pura Pengubengan, north-east of the main temple complex, but it's easy to get lost on the lower trails, so definitely hire a guide.

FROM PURA PASAR AGUNG

This route involves the least walking, because Pura Pasar Agung (Agung Market Temple) is high on the southern slopes of the mountain (around 1500m) and can be reached by a good road north from Selat. From the temple you can climb to the top in three or four hours, but it's a pretty demanding trek. With or without a guide, you must report to the police station at Selat before you start; if you don't have a guide,

the police will strongly encourage you to take one.

It is much better to stay the night near Muncan or Selat so that you can drive up early in the morning to Pura Pasar Agung. This temple has been greatly enlarged and improved, in part as a monument to the 1963 eruption that devastated this area.

Start climbing from the temple at around 3am. There are numerous trails through the pine forest but after an hour or so you'll climb above the tree line. Then you're climbing on solidified lava, which can be loose and broken in places, but a good guide will keep you on solid ground. At the top, you can gawk into the crater, watch the sun rise over Lombok and see the shadow of Agung in the morning haze over southern Bali.

Allow at least two hours to get back down to the temple. If you don't have a car waiting for you, walk down to Sebudi, from where there are public bemos down to Selat.

PADANGBAI

% 0363

Located on a perfect little bay, tiny Padangbai is the port for ferries between Bali and Lombok, and passenger boats to Nusa Penida. It is also a popular place to break a journey and relax while you plan your assault on Bali or Lombok (depending on which way you're heading), and it's a smaller, quieter, more beachy option than Candidasa. It takes about 10 minutes to walk from one end of town to the other. Take time to choose one of the many places to stay and eat; they're all very close together.

Information

Moneychangers along Jl Pelabuhan offer rates lower than in the South Bali tourist resorts – check the rates at Bank BRI (Bank Rakyat Indonesia; Jl Pelabuhan) first. There are ATMs here.

You can find internet access at numerous places along the main streets such as Gang Segara and Jl Pelabuhan.

Dangers & Annoyances

Female travellers will notice a change in attitude towards women around the ferry terminal area. Expect a few snide remarks and unwanted stares. Ferry ticket touts and

freelance porters can also cause irritation. Don't let anyone touch your luggage without agreeing to a price first, or better yet just don't let anyone touch it.

Sights

With its protected bay, Padangbai has a good beach. Others are nearby; walk southwest from the ferry terminal and follow the trail up the hill to idyllic Bias Tugal, also called Pantai Kecil (Little Beach), on the exposed coast outside the bay. Be careful in the water; it is subject to strong currents. There are a couple of daytime warung here.

On a headland at the northeast corner of the bay, a path uphill leads to three temples. On the other side is the small, light-sand Blue Lagoon Beach.

Activities

DIVING

There's some pretty good diving on the coral reefs around Padangbai, but the water can be a little cold and visibility is not always ideal. The most popular local dives are Blue Lagoon and Teluk Jepun (Jepun

Bay), both in Teluk Amuk, the bay just east of Padangbai. There are a good variety of soft and hard corals and varied marine life, including sharks, turtles and wrasse, and a 40m wall at the Blue Lagoon.

Several good local outfits offer diving trips in the area, including to Gili Tepekong and Gili Biaha, and on to Tulamben and Nusa Penida. All dive prices are competitive, costing US\$40 to US\$90 for two boat dives, depending on the site. Dive courses are available.

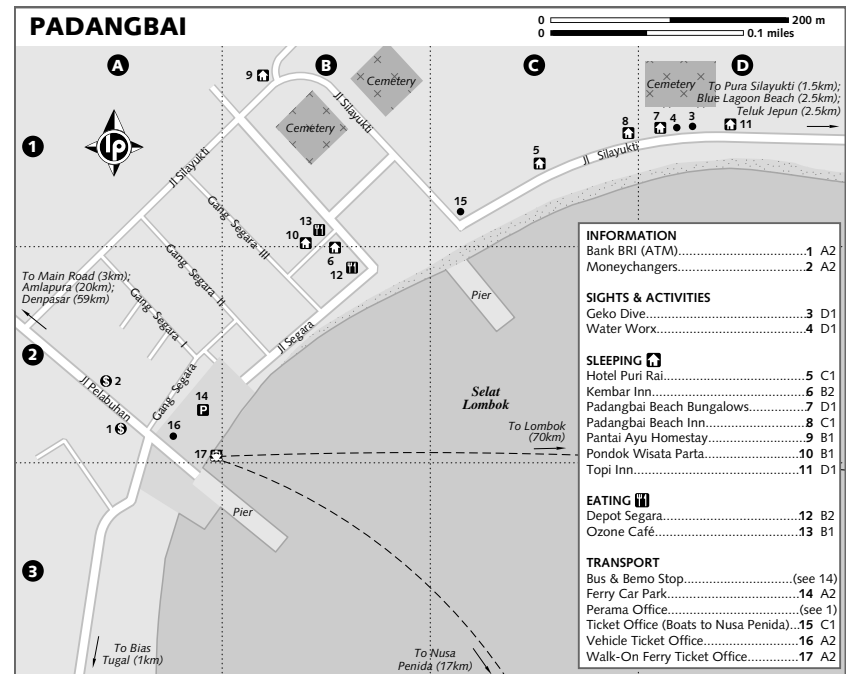
Recommended operators:

Geko Dive (% 41516; www.gekodive.com; Jl Silayukti) The longest-established operator; nice café across from the beach.

Water Worx (% 41220; www.waterworx.com; Jl Silayukti) Another good dive operator.

SNORKELLING

One of the best and most accessible walk-in snorkel sites is off Blue Lagoon Beach. Note that it is subject to strong currents when the tide is out. Other sites such as Teluk Jepun can be reached by local boat (or check with the dive operators to see if they have any



room on their dive boats). Snorkel sets cost about 20,000Rp per day.

Local *jukung* (boats) offer snorkelling trips for two passengers (bring your own snorkelling gear) around Padangbai (140,000Rp), and as far away as Nusa Lem-bongan (250,000Rp).

Sleeping

Accommodation in Padangbai – like the town – is pretty laid-back. Prices are fairly cheap and it's pleasant enough here that there's no need to hurry to or from Lombok if you want to hang out in the beach and cafés with other travellers.

VILLAGE

In the village, there are several tiny places in the alleys, some with a choice of small, cheap downstairs rooms or bigger, brighter upstairs rooms.

Pondok Wisata Parta (% 41475; r 40,000-150,000Rp; a) The pick of the 10 rooms in this nice place is the 'honeymoon room', which has a harbour view and good breezes. The most expensive rooms have air-con. Located off Gang Segara III.

Kembar Inn (% 41364; kembarinn@hotmail.com; r 50,000-150,000Rp; a) There are six rooms here linked by a steep and narrow staircase. The best awaits at the top and has a nice private terrace.

JALAN SILAYUKTI

This little strip of simple beach makes for a mellow hangout.

Topi Inn (% 41424; www.topiinn.com; Jl Silayukti; r 40,000Rp, f 150,000Rp) Sitting at the end of the bay in a serene location, Topi has five pleasant rooms. The enthusiastic owners plan to offer cultural courses, among other diversions.

Padangbai Beach Inn (% 41439; Jl Silayukti; r 60,000-100,000Rp) Go with the bungalows; avoid the rice-barn style two-storey cottages which have a bathroom downstairs and an oppressively hot, boxy bedroom upstairs.

Padangbai Beach Bungalows (% 41417; Jl Silayukti; r 75,000-100,000Rp, with air-con 200,000Rp; a) The bungalows here are attractive, with open-air bathrooms, and set in a classic Balinese garden setting.

Hotel Puri Rai (% 41385; purirai_hotel@yahoo.com; Jl Silayukti 3; r 250,000Rp, with air-con 300,000Rp; a s) The most upmarket option in town,

the Puri Rai has 30 rooms, some with fans in a double-storey stone building, pleasantly facing the pool. Others with air-con enjoy harbour views or overlook a parking area.

Eating & Drinking

Beach fare and backpackers' staples are on offer in Padangbai – lots of fresh seafood, Indonesian classics, pizza and, yes, banana pancakes. Most of the places to stay have a café. The beachfront restaurants on Jl Segara and Jl Silayukti have similar menus and prices, harbour views during the day and cool breezes in the evening.

Depot Segara (% 41443; Jl Segara; dishes 10,000-20,000Rp) Fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of ways at this popular café with a touch of style. Ponder the murals while you gobble down one of the good breakfasts.

Ozone Café (% 41501; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) This popular travellers' gathering-spot has been spruced up with a full bar and incomprehensible slogans on the wall (example: Acting like a monkey when you see a nice girl is so important for you).

Topi Inn (% 41424; Jl Silayukti; mains 18,000-40,000Rp) The renovated café here serves up yummy vegetarian fare, as well as seafood off the barbie and Balinese buffets.

Getting There & Away

BEMO

Padangbai is 2km south of the main Semarapura–Amlapura road. Bemos leave from the car park in front of the port; orange bemos go east through Candidasa to Amlapura (7000Rp); blue or white bemos go to Semarapura (8000Rp).

BOAT

Lombok

Public ferries (adult/child 15,000/9350Rp) travel nonstop between Padangbai and Lembar (in Lombok, p499) all day. One-way trips cost 152,000/322,000Rp for motor-cycles/cars – go through the Vehicle Ticket Office at the west corner of the car park. Depending on conditions, the trip can take three to five hours. Boats leave about every 1½ hours; food and drink is sold on board. Passenger tickets are sold near the pier.

Perama has a boat (60,000Rp, four hours) that holds 40 passengers – it usually leaves at 9am for Senggigi, from where you can get another boat to the Gilis (125,000Rp).

PERAMA TOURIST SHUTTLE BUSES FROM PADANGBAI

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Candidasa	15,000
Kuta	40,000
Lovina	100,000
Sanur	40,000
Ubud	40,000

Nusa Penida

On the beach just east of the car park you'll find the twin-engine fibreglass boats that run across the strait to Buyuk on Nusa Penida (50,000Rp, one hour). The inconspicuous ticket office is nearby. Boats leave at infrequent intervals.

BUS

To connect with Denpasar, catch a bemo out to the main road and hail a bus to the Batubulan terminal (15,000Rp).

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

Perama (% 41419; Café Dona, Jl Pelabuhan; h 7am-8pm) has a stop here for its services around the east coast. See the boxed text (above) for information on fares.

AROUND PADANGBAI

Pura Goa Lawah

About 3km west of Padangbai is **Pura Goa Lawah** (Bat Cave Temple; admission 3000Rp, car park 1000Rp, sash rental 1000Rp; h 8am-6pm). The cave in the cliff face is jam-packed full of bats that fly out after dusk, and the complex is equally overcrowded with tour groups later in the day; the hawkers are a hassle. The temple itself is small, although it's very old and of great significance to the Balinese.

The cave is said to lead all the way to Besakih, but it seems nobody has volunteered to confirm this. The bats provide sustenance for the legendary giant snake Naga Basuki, which is also believed to live in the cave. There has been no evidence found of stately Wayne Manor above the bat cave, either.

Kusamba

A side road southwest of Padangbai goes to this fishing and salt-making village, where you'll see lines of colourful fishing

perahu (outriggers) lined up on the beach. Fishing is normally done at night and the 'eyes' on the front of the boats help navigation through the darkness. East and west of Kusamba, the thatched roofs of salt-making huts can be seen along the beach.

PADANGBAI TO CANDIDASA BUITAN

% 0363

Balina Beach is the name bestowed on the tourist development in the village of Buitan. It is pretty and quiet, but beach-lovers may be disappointed with the black sand and rocks along the high-tide line.

One of Bali's best resorts, the **Amankila** (% 41333; www.amankila.com; villas from US\$650; a i s), is hidden by jutting cliffs. About 5.6km beyond the Padangbai turn-off and 500m past the road to Manggis, a discreetly marked side road leads to the hotel. It features an isolated seaside location with views to Lombok and understated architecture – classically simple rectangular structures with thatched roofs and lots of natural wood and stone. The three main swimming pools step down into the sea, in matching shades of blue. The Beachclub pool (150,000Rp) is on a stretch of sand and is open to nonguests. It has a café and water sports. The restaurants at the Amankila are open to nonguests. The superb Terrace (lunch 80,000Rp to 200,000Rp) has creative and varied cuisine.

Mendira

% 0366

Mendira has a few scattered places to stay. It's a pretty area and a quieter alternative to Padangbai or Candidasa.

Amarta Beach Inn Bungalows (% 41230; r 100,000-150,000Rp) has 10 units right on the sea. They're in a gorgeous location and are great value. The more expensive ones have hot water and spiffy open-air bathrooms. At low tide there is a tiny beach; at other times you can sit and watch the bananas grow.

Lotus Bungalows (% 41104; www.lotusbungalows.com; r US\$20-45; a i s) has 24 rooms (some with air-con, all with hot water) in bungalow-style units. Four (numbers one, two, 13 and 14) are right on the ocean, with the last being the top pick. The décor is bright and airy and there is a large pool.

Candi Beach Cottage (☎ 41234; www.candi-beachbali.com; r US\$60-80, bungalows US\$110-130; a i s) is a delightfully low-key resort. It has two pools and lovely grounds right at the crashing waves. There are 32 rooms and 32 bungalows, all with satellite TV.

TENGANAN

Tenganan is occupied by the Bali Aga people, descendants of the original Balinese who inhabited Bali prior to the Majapahit arrival. The village is surrounded by a wall, and basically consists of two rows of identical houses stretching up the gentle slope of the hill.

Tenganan retains strong and distinct craft traditions that include basket weaving, *lon-tar* strips (specially prepared palm leaves with hand-drawn stories) and the weaving of double and single ikat. A peculiar, old-fashioned version of the gamelan known as the *gamelan selunding* is still played here, and girls dance an equally ancient dance known as the Rejang.

As you enter the village you may be greeted by a guide who will take you on a tour of the village – and generally lead you back to his or her family compound to look at various craft items. Delightfully, its all very low-key, but you should offer to pay 20,000Rp or so for your guide's time.

Getting There & Away

Tenganan is at the end of a road 4km uphill from a coast road junction just west

of Candidasa. At the turn-off, a posse of *ojeks* (motorcycles that take passengers) offer rides to the village for about 6000Rp. If you're using public transport, take an *ojek* up, and enjoy the gentle walk back downhill to the main road.

CANDIDASA

☎ 0363

Tourist development ran amok in Candidasa and now there's shoulder-to-shoulder development, an unattractive proposition for many. The main drawback is the lack of a beach, which, except for the far eastern stretch, has eroded away as fast as hotels were built. Most of the coastline has breakwaters, so you can't even walk along it. The main drag is noisy and doesn't get sea breezes.

Despite all this, Candidasa is much less hectic than South Bali and is often as sleepy as the lotus blossom-filled lagoon. Many find it a fine base to explore eastern Bali and there are some good restaurants. It's popular with divers and snorkellers, although beach-lovers will prefer Padangbai.

Information

There are several moneychangers near Foto Asri, as is a Bank BPD ATM. There are plenty of not-very-fast internet options along Jl Raya Candidasa.

Foto Asri (☎ 41098; Jl Raya Candidasa) Sells groceries and sundries and has a postal agency.

Happy's Internet (☎ 41052; Jl Raya Candidasa; per 20min 8000Rp) This suitably amiable spot is a good choice.

Activities

Diving and snorkelling are popular activities in Candidasa. Gili Tepekong, which has a series of coral heads at the top of a sheer drop-off, is perhaps the best dive site. It offers the chance to see lots of fish, including some larger marine life.

A recommended dive operator is **Dive Lite** (☎ 41660; www.divelite.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; 2 dives US\$60-95), which offers dives at Tulamben, Amed, Nusa Penida/Lembongan and Menjangan. A four-day PADI open-water course is US\$360. Snorkelling tours are US\$25.

Hotels and shops along the main road rent snorkel sets for about 20,000Rp per day. For the best snorkelling, take a boat to offshore sites or to Gili Mimpang (a one-hour boat trip for up to three people should cost about 70,000Rp to 100,000Rp).

Sleeping

Candidasa's main drag is well supplied with seaside accommodation, as well as restaurants and other tourist facilities. More relaxed, and only slightly less convenient, are the places east of the lagoon, hidden among the palm trees near the original fishing village.

BUDGET

Seaside Cottages (☎ 41629; www.bali-seafirst-bungalows.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; cottages 30,000-230,000Rp; a) There are lodging options galore at this clean and well-run place. Basic

rooms have cold water and fan. As you move up the rate card you add hot water, air-con, open-air garden bathrooms, kitchens and delightful views. The Temple Café (p340) here is a fun place.

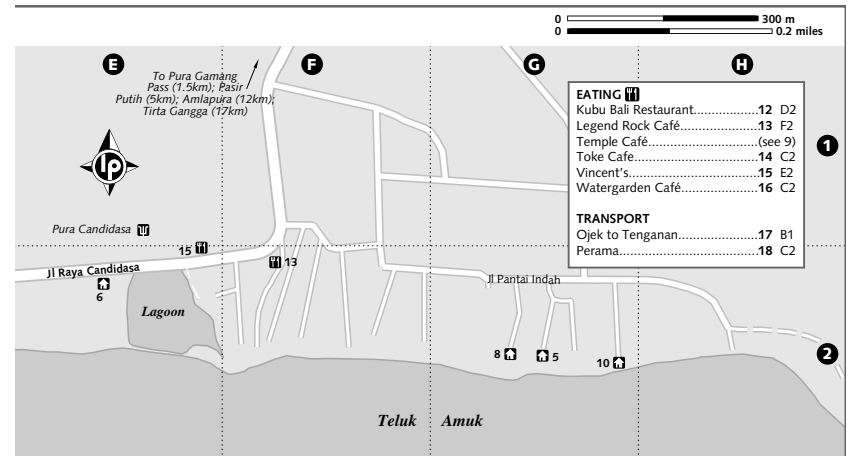
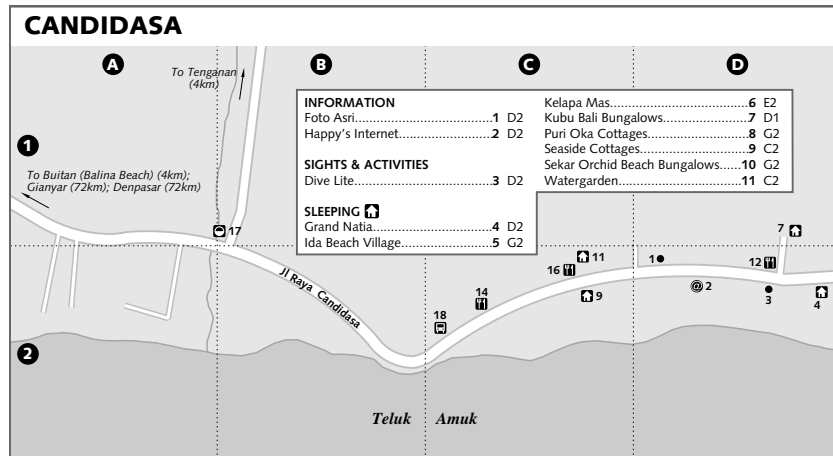
Puri Oka Cottages (☎ 41092; puri_oka@hotmail.com; Jl Pantai Indah; r 100,000-250,000Rp; a s) Hidden by a banana grove east of town, the cheapest of the 24 rooms here are small, while the better ones have tasteful décor and water views. The pool is medium-sized, and at low tide there's a small beach out the front.

Sekar Orchid Beach Bungalows (☎ 41086; www.sekar-orchid.com; Jl Pantai Indah 26; bungalows 120,000-150,000Rp) The grounds here live up to the name with orchids growing in profusion. There's a small beach and the seven large rooms are very good value with nice views from the 2nd floor. The site is nicely isolated.

Kelapa Mas (☎ 41369; www.kelapamas.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; r 150,000-250,000Rp; a) This relaxing hideaway deserves its name – the grounds are filled with tall coconut palms. Bamboo rooms with lounging verandas are set in lush gardens, with even a little sand lining the seashore. Some have views; others have hot water and air-con.

MIDRANGE

Ida Beach Village (☎ 41118; fax 41041; Jl Pantai Indah; bungalows US\$45-60; a s) Accommodation ranges from Balinese rice-barn-style bungalows with private gardens to more



modest cottages for 17 units in all. The seaside swimming pool is a highlight; the location is very quiet.

Kubu Bali Bungalows (9% 41532; www.kububali.com; s/d US\$50/55, ste US\$60-65; a s) Behind Kubu Bali restaurant and up a lane, there are 20 beautifully finished individual bungalows. Streams, ponds and a swimming pool are landscaped into the steep hillside, with views over palm trees, the coast and the sea. You'll have to climb a bit to get to your room. There's also a café by the pool with wonderful views.

Grand Natia (9% 42007; hotelnatia@yahoo.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; r US\$50-85; a s) This hotel resembles a modern water palace – elegant pathways are lined with waterways teeming with carp. Each of the 12 rooms has an open-air bathroom. The small pool drops away to a gorgeous ocean view, although the two 'ocean-view' rooms are not worth the extra swag.

TOP END

Watergarden (9% 41540; www.watergardenhotel.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; r US\$70-85, 2-bedroom ste US\$160; a s) The best choice in town, the Watergarden lives up to its name with a swimming pool and fish-filled ponds that wind around the buildings and through the lovely garden. The design has a Japanese influence, and each of the 14 rooms has a veranda projecting over the lily ponds. See right for details on its Watergarden Café.

Eating & Drinking

There's a good range of eating options in Candidasa. Most restaurants are dotted along Jl Raya Candidasa and the traffic noise can be particularly unpleasant, although it improves after dark. Many of these places are also good for a drink.

Legend Rock Café (Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 9000-24,000Rp) A bar that also serves Western and Indonesian meals, this has live music many nights each week. It's a well-mannered place, but as wild as things get in Candidasa.

Temple Café (9% 41629; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) Travellers from around the world can get a taste of home at this café attached to the Seaside Cottages. The menu has wraps, Vegemite, cabbage rolls, meat pies and other mundane treats. The popular bar has a long drink list.

Watergarden Café (9% 41540; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp) Overlooking a carp pond, this stylish café somehow manages to maintain a peaceful atmosphere amid the zooming trucks. The food is excellent, including Asian specialities. Breakfast here comes with oodles of fresh fruit.

Kubu Bali Restaurant (9% 41532; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 18,000-50,000Rp) This big stylish place has an open kitchen out the front, where Indonesian and Chinese dishes are turned out with great energy and panache. The seafood is excellent.

Toke Café (9% 41991; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 20,000-35,000Rp) The open kitchen on the street serves up some top seafood. It's got a nice old bar and is a good place for a drink or something for the munchies.

Vincent's (9% 41368; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp) A long and open place with several distinct rooms and a lovely rear garden with rattan lounge furniture. There's a plethora of artfully prepared Thai and veggie options but the real stars are the local dishes.

Getting There & Away

Candidasa is on the main road between Amlapura and South Bali, but there's no terminal, so hail down bemos (buses probably won't stop). You'll need to change in either Padangbai or Semarang.

Perama (9% 41114; Jl Raya Candidasa; h 7am-7pm) is at the western end of the strip. See the boxed text (below) for information on bus fares. Two or more people can charter a ride to Amed in the far east for about 60,000Rp each. Ask at the place you're staying at about vehicle rental.

AROUND CANDIDASA

Although Candidasa lacks good beaches, about 5km east is Pasir Putih, an idyllic white-sand beach. When you see a sign

PERAMA TOURIST SHUTTLE BUSES FROM CANDIDASA

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Kuta	40,000
Lovina	100,000
Padangbai	15,000
Sanur	40,000
Ubud	40,000

with 'Virgin Beach Club', turn off the main road and follow a paved track for about 1km to a bridge where locals will collect a fee (5000Rp). Another 1km brings you to a small temple that has good parking. You can drive a further 600m directly to the beach but the road is a disaster and the walk is quite pretty.

The beach is almost a cliché: a long crescent of white sand backed by coconut trees. At one end cliffs provide shade; at the other is a little line of fishing boats. At times a stand sells drinks.

AMLAPURA

9% 0363

Amlapura is the main town and transport junction in eastern Bali, and the capital of the Karangasem district. It's known for the frayed grandeur of its palaces (although that's changing), and is on the way to or from Tirta Gangga. It has a confusing array of one-way streets; persevere, and keep asking your way to a palace. Like many regional towns it's short on places to stay or eat.

Banks and ATMs can be found on Jl Gajah Mada. They are the last going around the island until Singaraja.

Sights

Amlapura's three palaces, on Jl Teuku Umar, are stolid reminders of Karangasem's period as a kingdom at its most important when supported by Dutch colonial power in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Outside the Puri Agung Karangasem (Jl Teuku Umar; admission 5000Rp; h 8am-6pm), there is an impressive three-tiered entry gate and beautiful sculpted panels. After you pass through the entry courtyard, a left turn takes you to the main building, known as the Maskerdam (Amsterdam), because it was the Karangasem kingdom's acquiescence to Dutch rule that allowed it to hang on long after the demise of the other Balinese kingdoms. Inside you can see several rooms, including the royal bedroom and a living room with furniture that was a gift from the Dutch royal family.

Across the street, Puri Gede (Jl Teuku Umar; admission free; h 8am-6pm) is being extensively renovated. The rambling palace grounds feature many brick buildings dating from the Dutch colonial period. Look for stone and wood carvings from the 19th century.

The Rangki (a sort of pavilion) has been returned to its glory and is surrounded by fish ponds. Look for the stern portrait of the late king AA Gede Putu; his wife still lives in one of the buildings.

The other royal palace building, Puri Kertasura, is not open to visitors.

Getting There & Away

Amlapura is a major transport hub. Buses and bemo regularly ply the main road to Denpasar's Batubulan terminal (20,000Rp), via Candidasa and Padangbai. Plenty of buses also go around the north coast to Singaraja (about 15,000Rp), via Tirta Gangga, Amed and Tulamben.

If you are driving to Amed and beyond, fill up at the petrol station on the road to Tirta Gangga. It's the last one until Yeh Sanih in the north.

AROUND AMLAPURA

Five kilometres south of Amlapura, Taman Ujung is a major complex that may leave you slack-jawed – and not with wonder. The last king of Karangasem completed the construction of a grand water palace here in 1921, which was extensively damaged by an earthquake in 1979. A tiny vestige of the old palace is surrounded by vast new ponds and terraces built for untold billions of rupiah. Today it is backed by a failed hotel and the wind-swept grounds are seldom trod by visitors. A better bet is the neighbouring fishing village of Ujung. It has authentic colour and the surf in these parts can be dramatic.

TIRTA GANGGA

9% 0363

The tiny village of Tirta Gangga (Water of the Ganges), high on a ridge with sublime views of rice paddies sprawling over the hills down to the sea, is a relaxing place to stop. The main attraction is the old water palace and guided treks through the gorgeous landscape. Facilities are limited.

Sights

Amlapura's water-loving rajah, after completing his lost masterpiece at Ujung, had another go at Taman Tirta Gangga (adult/child 5100/3100Rp, parking 1000Rp; h site 24hr, ticket office 6am-6pm). Originally built in 1948, the water palace was damaged in the 1963 eruption of Gunung Agung. The palace has several

swimming pools and ornamental ponds, which serve as a fascinating reminder of the old days of the Balinese rajahs. 'Pool A' (adult/child 6000/4000Rp) is the cleanest and is in the top part of the complex. It's a good place for a break and a stroll.

Activities

HIKING AROUND TIRTA GANGGA

The rice terraces around Tirta Gangga are some of the most beautiful in Bali. They sweep out from Tirta Gangga, almost like a sea surrounding an island. Back roads and walking paths take you through a world of green to many picturesque traditional villages. Going to smaller, more remote villages, it's sensible and inexpensive to engage a guide – ask at your accommodation or at the Good Karma café (right). Guide prices are negotiable at around 15,000Rp per person per hour for local treks, plus transport and food.

Some of the more interesting hikes include Pura Lempuyang (768m), one of Bali's nine directional temples (five hours return from Ngis); Bukit Kusambi, a small hill with a big view (five hours return); and Budakeling village, home to several Buddhist communities (about six hours return from Tirta Gangga).

Sleeping & Eating

Most places to stay have cafés and there's another cluster by the sedate shops around the parking area.

Dhingin Taman (‰ 22059; r 40,000-80,000Rp) Adjacent to the water palace, this fascinating place features elaborate tiled artworks in a garden. It has a range of 14 simple rooms – the cheapest ones facing the rice paddies are the best – and a restaurant (dishes 5000Rp to 8000Rp) with tables overlooking the palace. You leave your breakfast order hanging on the door, just like the Hilton.

Pondok Lembah Dukah (r 50,000-100,000Rp) Down the path to the right of Good Karma and past Dua Homestay, this basic place is a 300m walk, but worth it. It has three bungalows; rooms are clean, have fans and cold water and incredible views.

Puri Prima (‰ /fax 21316; r 50,000-100,000Rp) About 1km north of Tirta Gangga, this offers outstanding views and nine pleasant rooms. It has a small restaurant (dishes 10,000Rp to 16,000Rp). Staff can also or-

ganise trekking to Gunung Agung (two people 600,000Rp).

Good Karma (‰ 22445; s/d 70,000/90,000Rp) In the middle of a picturesque rice paddy, Good Karma has good vibes thanks to four very clean and simple bungalows. The restaurant serves excellent food (dishes 10,000Rp to 16,000Rp) in a comfortable setting; there are many vegetarian options. It's right off the main parking lot.

Puri Sawah Bungalows (‰ 21847; fax 21939; bungalows 100,000-200,000Rp) Just up the road from the palace, Puri Sawah has four comfortable and spacious rooms with great views. It also has larger, two-bedroom bungalows, which sleep six (with hot water). The restaurant (dishes 16,000Rp to 22,000Rp) has rice-paddy views and serves sandwiches and local food.

Tirta Ayu Homestay (‰ 22697; fax 21383; r 150,000-250,000Rp, villas US\$50-150; ☹) Right in the palace compound, this has four pleasant bungalows (cold water only) and three spacious villas with nice outdoor bathrooms. Free use of the palace swimming pool is included. A café (dishes 10,000Rp to 25,000Rp) overlooks the palace grounds. One of the villas is huge and has its own plunge pool.

Ryoshi (‰ 081 2368 2791; dishes 10,000-35,000Rp; h 10am-10pm) This last outpost heading east of the Bali Japanese restaurant chain, is about 500m past central Tirta Gangga and enjoys fabulous views of the region. The grilled seafood is good and you can dine under a canopy of frangipani.

Getting There & Away

Bemo and minibuses making the haul between Amlapura and Singaraja stop at Tirta Gangga right outside the water palace or any hotel further north. The fare to Amlapura should be 3000Rp.

AMED & THE FAR EAST COAST

‰ 0363

This once-remote stretch of coast, from Amed to Bali's far eastern tip, has reached that nefarious critical mass where it becomes a destination just because of its size. Yet unlike some other places on the Bali coast, it is holding onto the charms that drove the development in the first place.

The mostly arid coastline has superb views across to Lombok and behind to

Gunung Agung. Hotels, restaurants, dive operators and other facilities serve visitors who come to enjoy the fine scenery, the relaxed atmosphere and the excellent diving and snorkelling.

Amed itself has no standard tourist centre but is instead a series of small villages in scalloped inlets. It's the perfect hideaway if you want to simply stay put and never leave your village.

Orientation & Information

In the rest of Bali, and to identify itself as a destination, this whole strip of coast is commonly called 'Amed' but, strictly speaking, Amed is just the first of several *dusun* (small villages) set in a dramatic landscape of black-sand beaches spread over 10km.

Visitors may be charged a tourist tax. Enforcement of a 5000Rp per person fee at a tollbooth on the outskirts of Amed is sporadic. Phone lines only extend as far as Lipah; after that it's cell phones only. Internet service is limited to a couple of places between Amed and Lipah. There are no ATMs or banks.

Activities

DIVING & SNORKELLING

Snorkelling is excellent at several places along the coast. Jemeluk is a protected area where you can admire live coral and plentiful fish within 100m of the beach. There's a wreck of a Japanese fishing boat near Aas, offshore from Eka Purnama bungalows, and coral gardens and colourful marine life at Selang. Almost every hotel rents snorkelling equipment for about 20,000Rp per day.

Scuba diving is good and the *Liberty* wreck at Tulamben (p344) is only a 20-minute drive away. Two good operators with similar prices (local dives from about US\$45, open-water dive course about US\$300):

Eco-dive (‰ 081 658 1935; www.ecodivebali.com;

Jemeluk; dives from US\$45) Full-service shop with simple accommodation for clients.

Euro Dive (‰ 23469; www.eurodivebali.com; dives from US\$45) Located east of Amed. Has a long list of services.

TREKKING

Quite a few trails go inland from the coast, up the slopes of Gunung Seraya (1175m) and to some little-visited villages. The countryside is sparsely vegetated and most trails are

well defined, so you won't need a guide for shorter walks. Allow a good three hours to get to the top of Seraya, starting from the rocky ridge just east of Jemeluk Bay.

Sleeping

For accommodation, you'll have to make the choice between places in the little beachside villages or places on the sunny and dry headlands connecting the inlets. The former put you right on the sand and offer a small amount of life while the latter give you broad, sweeping vistas and isolation.

Accommodation can be found in every price category, and rates are often negotiable. Almost every place has a modestly priced restaurant or café.

EAST OF AMED VILLAGE

Three Brothers Bungalows (‰ 23472; r 80,000-120,000Rp) The boys have popular and basic beachfront accommodation, plus an adjoining café with a few tables right on the sand. You can't get closer to the water.

JEMELUK

Galang K angin Bungalows (s/d from 50,000/80,000Rp) One of several budget places, it has clean, basic cold-water rooms.

Waeni's Sunset View Bungalows & Restaurant (‰ 23515; madesani@hotmail.com; r 80,000-100,000Rp) Waeni's has unusual rustic stone cottages with gorgeous views of the mountains behind and the bay below. The café with its views is a good place for a sunset drink.

Hotel Prema Liong (‰ 23486; www.bali-amed.com; r 150,000-400,000Rp) Javanese-style two-storey bungalows are terraced up the hillside and have a New Age ethos. The cold-water, open-air bathrooms are lush and almost double as a garden, while the balconies have comfy cushions and day beds.

Santai (‰ 23487; www.santaitbali.com; r US\$50-95; a ☹) This stylish top-end option is a great little retreat. The six rooms have four-poster beds, timber floors, open-air bathrooms and big comfy balcony sofas. A snaking swimming pool, fringed by purple bougainvillea, adds to the atmosphere.

Apa Kabar (‰ 23492; www.apakabarvillas.com; bungalows US\$75-95, villas US\$110-150; a ☹) Right in front of fishing boats on the beach, Apa Kabar has stylish and spacious villas overlooking a swimming pool that gurgles with a small waterfall. Some units have ocean views.

LIPAH

Bayu Cottages (% 23495; www.bayucottages.com; r US\$22-28; a s) The good-value Bayu has rooms with balconies overlooking the coast from the knoll. There's a pool and amenities including open-air marble bathrooms.

SELANG

Eka Purnama (% 0868 1212 1685; www.eka-purnama.com; r 100,000-180,000Rp) This gorgeous, cold water-only place is set high on a hill. The balconies, complete with hammocks, have pure ocean views.

Blue Moon Villas (% 0817 4738 100; www.blue-moonvilla.com; r from US\$55, villas US\$120-185; a s) On a knoll across the road from the cliffs, Blue Moon is a small and upmarket place, complete with a little pool. The five rooms set in three villas have open-air stone bathrooms. The café takes usual fare and gives it a dash of panache.

AAS

Meditasi (fax 22166; r 150,000-200,000Rp) Rooms are close to good swimming and snorkelling at this chilled out yet tidy place where the bamboo bungalows have balconies overlooking the beach.

Eating

Most of the hotels listed have places for a meal or a sunset drink.

Cafe Senang (dishes 6000-15,000Rp) Located east of Amed at Euro Dive, this small bar/café is popular with travellers.

Sama Sama Cafe (Jemeluk; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) Prawns, barracuda, and other seafood almost jump from the boats onto the grill at this four-table beachside joint.

Café Garam (% 23462; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp) East of Amed, this place has ambience and a good Asian menu that goes beyond the norm. The café has a small exhibition on local salt-making, and local salt is on sale.

Getting There & Around

Most people drive here via the main highway from Amlapura and Culik. The spectacular road going all the way around the headlands has been improved; it's possible to do the journey as a circle, with the foreknowledge that conditions between Ujung and Aas are twisting and narrow.

All the places east of Culik are difficult to reach by public transport. Minibuses

and bemos from Singaraja and Amlapura pass through Culik, the turn-off for Amed. Infrequent public bemos go from Culik to Amed (3.5km), and some continue to Seraya until 1pm. A public bemo should cost around 7000Rp from Culik to Lipah.

You can also charter transport from Culik for a negotiable 40,000Rp (by *ojek* it costs less than half this price). Be careful to specify which hotel you wish to go to – if you agree on a price to 'Amed', you may be taken only to Amed village, far short of your destination.

Perama offers charter tourist-bus services from Candidasa (p340) and Lovina (p373), but you can do usually do better by hiring a car and driver.

KUBU REGION

Driving along the main road you will pass through vast old lava flows from Gunung Agung down to the sea. The landscape is strewn with lava, boulders and is nothing like the lush rice paddies elsewhere.

TULAMBEN

% 0363

The big attraction here is the wreck of the US cargo ship *Liberty* – among the best and most popular dive sites in Bali. Other great dive sites are nearby, and even snorkellers can easily swim out and enjoy the wreck and the coral. Tulamben's beachfront is quite different from other beach resorts – heavy, black, round boulders and pebbles make it unappealing for sunbathers or casual swimmers. Services beyond the hotels are few.

Activities**DIVING & SNORKELLING**

The wreck of the *Liberty* is about 50m directly offshore from Puri Madha Bungalows (there's also a shady car park here; 1000Rp). Swim straight out and you'll see the stern rearing up from the depths, heavily encrusted with coral, and swarming with dozens of species of colourful fish – and with scuba divers most of the day. Many divers commute to Tulamben from Candidasa or Lovina, and in busy times it can get quite crowded between 11am and 4pm, with up to 50 divers around the wreck at a time. Stay the night in Tulamben or – better – in nearby Amed and get an early start.

THE WRECK OF THE LIBERTY

In January 1942 the US Navy cargo ship *USAT Liberty* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine near Lombok. Taken in tow, it was beached at Tulamben so that its cargo of rubber and railway parts could be saved. The Japanese invasion prevented this and the ship sat on the beach until the 1963 eruption of Gunung Agung broke it in two and left it just off the shoreline, much to the delight of divers.

Most hotels have their own diving centre, and some will give a discount on accommodation if you dive with their centre, but not all of them can be recommended to inexperienced divers.

Expect to pay as little as US\$25/40 for one/two dives at Tulamben, and a little more for a night dive or dives around Amed.

Most hotels and dive centres rent out snorkelling gear for a negotiable 20,000Rp.

Among the many dive operators, **Tauch Terminal** (% 0361-730200; www.tauch-terminal.com) is one of the longest-established, and runs the Tauch Terminal Hotel (below). A four-day PADI open-water certificate course costs about US\$400.

Sleeping & Eating

At high tide, none of the places situated on the water have much rocky beach at all, but the waves are dramatic. Look for signs along the main road for the following places; most have their own dive operations. Every place to stay has at least a café.

Puri Madha Bungalows (% 22921; r 60,000Rp) This is the first hotel you approach from the northwest; it faces the wreck and the day-use parking area. There are nine small, clean cold-water rooms on the water.

Bali Coral Bungalows (% /fax 22909; r 100,000Rp, with air-con 200,000Rp; a s) Ten pleasant, clean bungalows with modern bathrooms huddle here, some with sea views. Food is also available (dishes 10,000Rp to 25,000Rp).

Tauch Terminal Resort (% 0361-730200, 22911; www.tauch-terminal.com; r US\$40-80; a s) Down a side road, this is the pick of Tulamben accommodation. Rooms have large terraces; the cheaper ones in bungalows are actually more atmospheric. There is an idyllic water-

front pool, beach bar and restaurant with a menu spanning Europe and Asia.

Mimpi Resort (% 21642; www.mimpi.com; r US\$80-150; a s) Overlooking a picturesque stretch of waterfront, Mimpi has a range of 30 stylish bungalows with outdoor bathrooms, and an ocean-front pool, dive centre and spa.

Getting There & Away

Plenty of buses and bemos travel between Amlapura and Singaraja and will stop anywhere along the Tulamben road, but they're infrequent after 2pm. Expect to pay 6000Rp to 8000Rp to either town.

Perama offers charter tourist-bus services from Candidasa (p340) and Lovina (p373), but you can probably match their rates by hiring a car and driver.

TULAMBEN TO YEH SANIH

North of Tulamben, the road continues to skirt the slopes of Gunung Agung, with frequent evidence of lava flows from the 1963 eruption. Further around, the outer crater of Gunung Batur slopes steeply down to the sea. The rainfall is low and you can generally count on sunny weather. The scenery is very stark in the dry season and it's thinly populated. The route has regular public transport, but it's easier to make stops and detours with your own vehicle.

At Les, a road goes inland to lovely Air Terjun Yeh Mampeh (Yeh Mampeh Waterfall), said to be one of Bali's highest. Look for a large sign on the main road and then turn inland for 2km. Walk the last 2.5km or so on an obvious path by the stream. A 2000Rp donation is requested; there's no need for a guide.

The next main town is Tejakula, famous for its stream-fed public bathing area, said to have been built for washing horses, and often called the horse bath. The renovated bathing areas (separate for men and women) are behind walls topped by rows of elaborately decorated arches, and are regarded as a sacred area. The baths are 100m inland on a narrow road with lots of small shops – it's a quaint village, with some finely carved *kulkul* towers. Take a stroll above the baths, past irrigation channels flowing in all directions.

At Pacung, about 10km before Yeh Sanih, you can turn inland to Sembiran, which is

believed to be a Bali Aga village, although it doesn't promote itself as such. The most striking thing about the place is its hillside location and brilliant coastal views.

NUSA LEMBONGAN & ISLANDS

One of three islands just off the southern coast of East Bali, Nusa Lembongan is overshadowed by its much larger sibling Nusa Penida, but it is first and foremost in terms of traveller popularity thanks to its enjoyable beach scene, great diving and surfing and an ever-expanding visitor-based economy.

Nusa Lembongan is easily reached from Bali. The island of Nusa Penida has several villages, but is right off the tourist track and has few facilities for visitors, while Nusa Ceningan is sparsely populated. The waters around the three islands have some of the best dive spots in Indonesia.

Lembongan is a delightful place, where surfers and nonsurfers alike can get away from the relative chaos of southern Bali. For a short visit, take a comfortable cruise boat, stopping to snorkel or bask on a beach, or do a more specialised diving or surfing trip.

It's been a poor region for many years. Income from tourists is padded with seaweed cultivation. You'll see plots of cultivation in the waters off Jungutbatu and smell the stuff drying on land. Extracts are used as food additives in products like ice cream. Yum.

NUSA LEMBONGAN

☎ 0366

The most developed island for tourism is the delightfully laid-back Nusa Lembongan, which is free of cars, motorcycle noise and hassles. It has a local population of about 7000 people, mostly living in two small villages, Jungutbatu and Lembongan. Tourism money means that the power now stays on around the clock.

Orientation

Most surfers, divers and budget travellers stay at Jungutbatu beach or one of the ever-growing number of places along the

crescent of coast to Mushroom Bay, where many of the day-trip cruise boats stop.

About 4km southwest along the sealed road from Jungutbatu is Lembongan village, the island's other town. You can go right around the island, following the rough track that eventually comes back to Jungutbatu, but the roads are steep for cyclists and walkers.

There's no jetty at Jungutbatu – the boats usually beach in the shallows by the village. Local businesses do a good job of keeping the beach clean.

Information

It's advisable to bring sufficient cash with you, as rates are poor; there is no ATM or post office. Small markets can be found on the main street with the bank. Pondok Baruna has internet access, and any of the hotels can refer you to a small medical clinic in Jungutbatu village.

Bank BPD (⌒ 8am–3pm Mon–Thu, 8am–1pm Fri) Can exchange traveller's cheques and cash.

Mainsky Inn (☎ 0361-283065) Operates a wartel (private telephone office).

Sights

JUNGUTBATU

The beach here, a lovely arc of white sand with clear blue water, has superb views across to Gunung Agung in Bali. The village itself is pleasant, with quiet lanes, no cars and a couple of temples, including Pura Segara and its enormous banyan tree.

MUSHROOM BAY

This gorgeous little bay, unofficially named for the mushroom corals offshore, has a perfect crescent of white-sand beach. During the day, the tranquillity may be disturbed by banana-boat rides or parasailing. In the morning and the evening, it's delightful.

The most pleasant way to get here from Jungutbatu is to walk along the trail that starts from the southern end of the main beach and follows the coastline for a kilometre or so past a couple of little beaches.

Activities

Most places will rent bicycles for 25,000Rp per day, surfboards for 50,000Rp, snorkelling gear for 20,000Rp to 30,000Rp per day, and motorbikes for 30,000Rp per hour.

SURFING

Surfing here is best in the dry season (April to September), when the winds come from the southeast. It's definitely not for beginners, and can be dangerous even for experts. There are three main breaks on the reef, all aptly named. From north to south are Shipwreck, Lacerations and Playground. Depending on where you're staying, you can paddle directly out to whichever of the three is closest; for others it's better to hire a boat. Prices are negotiable – from 20,000Rp for a one-way trip, and around 100,000Rp waiting time.

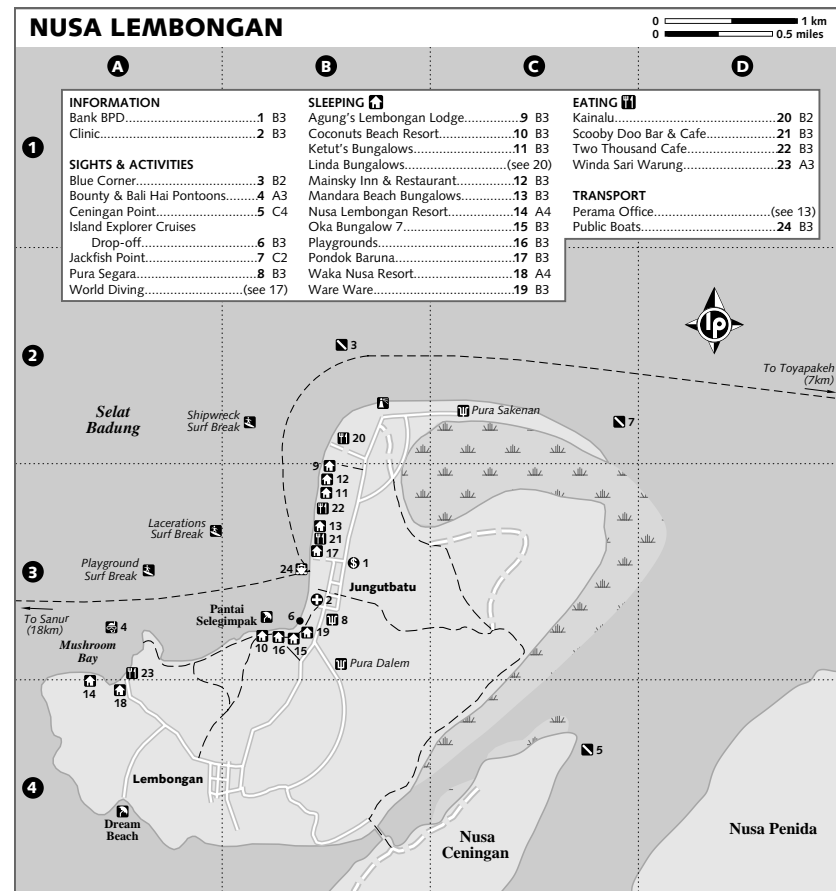
DIVING

The excellent **World Diving** (☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com), based at Pondok Baruna

on Jungutbatu Beach, has full PADI Resort status. It offers a range of courses, including five-day PADI open-water courses for US\$345, and dive trips from US\$60 to sites around all three islands. Other operators can be found in various hotels. See *Diving the Islands*, p349 for details on the area's dive sites.

SNORKELLING

There's good snorkelling just off the day-cruise pontoons off Jungutbatu Beach, as well as in areas off the north coast of the island. You can charter a boat from 40,000Rp to 50,000Rp per hour, depending on demand, distance and the number of passengers; for more information ask at



your hotel. **World Diving** (☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com; Pondok Baruna, Jungutbatu Beach) allows snorkellers to join dive trips.

CRUISES

A number of cruise boats offer day trips to Nusa Lembongan from Benoa Harbour in South Bali. Trips include hotel transfer from South Bali, basic water sports, snorkelling, banana-boat rides and a buffet lunch. Note that with hotel transfers, the following day trips can make for a very long day.

Bounty Cruises (☎ 0361-726666; www.balibountycruises.com; adult/child US\$85/42.50) has a huge off-shore pontoon with slides and other tools of frolic; and does day trips.

Island Explorer Cruises (☎ 0361-728088; www.bali-activities.com; adult/child US\$55/27.50) has three ways to get to Lembongan, which all get you back to Bali around 5pm: relaxing and slow-sailing catamaran (8.30am), party boat (8.30am) and fast boat (10.30am). The latter two maximise your time in the water at Lembongan, although the buffet lunch at the outfit's Coconuts Beach Resort (right) can keep you from swimming for hours.

Sleeping

JUNGUTBATU

Most places to stay in Jungutbatu are basic. Most of the following places have beachfront restaurants serving typical travellers' fare. The strip of beachfront joints is going through the classic Bali development cycle: each year more rooms are added and old ones are spruced up. Unless noted otherwise, amenities are limited to cold water and fans.

Budget

Agung's Lembongan Lodge (☎ 24483; r 50,000-150,000Rp) The simple rooms are mostly in colourful bungalows. The restaurant has hanging bird cages, ocean views, a pool table and a much nicer atmosphere than many others.

Linda Bungalows (☎ 24495; r 70,000-90,000Rp) Of the 12 very clean cold-water rooms, one offers an ocean view. The beach out front is especially fine.

Pondok Baruna (☎ 0812 3900 686; www.world-diving.com; r 75,000-100,000Rp; j) Run by World Diving, this is one of the best places to stay. Staff are friendly, the seven rooms are pleasant and porches face the ocean.

The restaurant serves good meals (dishes 10,000Rp to 18,000Rp).

Mandara Beach Bungalows (☎ 24470; www.mandara-lembongan.com; r 100,000-160,000Rp, with air-con 250,000Rp; a) Eight large rooms are set around a popular café. There's a nascent garden away from the water.

Ware-Ware (☎ 0812 3970 572; r 120,000-200,000Rp) The eight units at this hillside place are a mix of traditional square and groovy circular numbers with thatched roofs. Rooms are large, with rattan couches and big bathrooms. The café has good, breezy views.

Ketut's Bungalows (☎ 24487; r 150,000-350,000Rp; a) The 12 rooms run the gamut from humble to modest. More expensive ones come with hot water, fridges, air-con and big beds. Upstairs rooms get good breezes and views of the ocean from the balconies. The small sandy area out the front fills with lounging travellers by day.

Oka Bungalow Number 7 (☎ 24497; r 250,000Rp) This good, clean and friendly place has three rooms, each with a good veranda and views down to the water. Units are clean and spacious.

Midrange

Playgrounds (☎ 24524; www.playgroundslombok.com; r 400,000-500,000Rp; a s) On the hillside, Playgrounds' six rooms have good views, satellite TV and fridges. The cheaper rooms don't have air-con but do have better views from their long porch. There's also an adjoining private house for 700,000Rp a night.

Coconuts Beach Resort (☎ 0361-728088; www.bali-activities.com; d US\$70, with air-con US\$90; a i s) South of the village, Coconuts has unusual, spacious, circular bungalows staggered up the hillside overlooking a lovely pool and the sea. It's part of Island Explorer Cruises (left); look for package deals.

MUSHROOM BAY

Waka Nusa Resort (☎ 0361-723629; www.wakaexperience.com; bungalows from US\$100) This pretty little place has 10 thatch-roofed bungalows set in sandy grounds. The beachside restaurant and bar is delightfully located under coconut palms. Transfers from Bali are aboard a sailing boat.

Nusa Lembongan Resort (☎ 0361-725864; www.nusa-lembongan.com; villas from US\$175; a s) Twelve secluded and stylish villas overlook-

ing a gorgeous sweep of ocean are the draw here. The resort has a creative restaurant with patio views over the bay.

Eating

JUNGUTBATU

Many of the places listed under Sleeping also have cafés and restaurants. The usual menu of Indonesian and Western dishes is omnipresent. There are some delightful warung on the path to Pura Sakenan.

Scooby Doo Bar & Cafe (dishes 7500-15,000Rp) Although probably not licensed to use the name of the popular pooch, Scooby's serves up a long list of snacks and drinks right on the sand to a big crowd every night. There are sofas for lounging.

Kainalu (dishes 12,000-30,000) Spread over two levels right on the sand, it has a pool table, serves up surfer classics and has chairs for sunbathing.

Two Thousand Cafe (☎ 0812 394 1273; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) This pleasant café-bar is right on the sand and is a good sunset spot.

MUSHROOM BAY

Winda Sari Warung (dishes 10,000-30,000Rp) Near the Bali Hai Beach Club, this fun warung has a good spot overlooking the fishing boats at Mushroom Bay.

Getting There & Away

Getting to or from Nusa Lembongan offers numerous choices. In descending order of

comfort are the Island Explorer boats used by day-trippers, the Perama boat and the public boats. Getting between the boats and shore and getting around once on land is not especially easy, so this is the time to travel very light.

BENOA HARBOUR

Island Explorer Cruises (☎ 0361-728088; www.bali-activities.com; return US\$35) offers passage on its boats to the island. Drop-off is at either Coconuts Beach Resort or on the beach. This is the best way to make a day trip. See opposite for more info.

SANUR & SOUTH BALI

Public boats to Nusa Lembongan leave from the northern end of Sanur beach at roughly 7.45am (50,000Rp, 1½ to two hours). This is the boat used by locals and you may have to share space with a chicken. The Perama tourist boat (which is more reliable) leaves at 8.30am (70,000Rp, 1½ hours); the Lembongan office is in the Mandara Beach Bungalows (opposite). The ride is often rough and you're likely to get wet. You can charter a boat for 600,000Rp.

Getting Around

The island is fairly small and you can easily walk around it in a few hours; however, the roads across the middle of the island are quite steep. Bicycles and scooters are widely available for rent.

DIVING THE ISLANDS

There are great diving possibilities around the islands, from shallow and sheltered reefs, mainly on the northern side of Lembongan and Penida, to very demanding drift dives in the channel between Penida and the other two islands. Vigilant locals have protected their waters from dynamite bombing by renegade fishing boats, so the reefs are mostly still intact.

If you arrange a dive trip from Candidasa or South Bali, stick with the most reputable operators, as conditions here can be tricky and local knowledge is essential. A particular attraction are the large marine animals, including turtles, sharks and manta rays. The large (3m fin-to-fin) and unusual *mola mola* (sunfish) is sometimes seen around the islands between July and September, while manta rays are often seen south of Nusa Penida.

The best dive sites include **Blue Corner** and **Jackfish Point** off Nusa Lembongan and **Ceningan Point** at the tip of Nusa Ceningan. The channel between Ceningan and Penida is renowned for drift diving but it is essential that you have a good operator who can judge fast-changing currents and other conditions. Upwells can bring cold water from the open ocean to sites such as **Ceningan Wall**. This is one of the world's deepest natural channels and attracts all manner and sizes of fish.

Sites close to Nusa Penida include **Big Rock**, **Crystal Bay**, **SD**, **Pura Ped** and **Manta Point**. Of these, Crystal Bay, SD and Pura Ped are suitable for novice divers and are good for snorkelling.

NUSA CENINGAN

There is a narrow suspension bridge crossing the lagoon between Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan, which makes it quite easy to explore the network of tracks on foot or by bicycle – not that there is much to see. The lagoon is filled with frames for seaweed farming and there's also a fishing village and several small agricultural plots. The island is quite hilly, and if you're up for it, you'll get glimpses of great scenery as you wander or cycle around the rough tracks.

NUSA PENIDA

☞ 0366

The arid island of Nusa Penida is a limestone plateau with white-sand beaches on its north coast, and views over the water to the volcanoes in Bali. The beaches are not good for swimming as most of the shallows are filled with bamboo frames used for seaweed farming. The south coast has limestone cliffs dropping straight down to the sea and a row of offshore islets – it's rugged and spectacular scenery. The interior is hilly, with sparse-looking crops and old-fashioned villages. Nusa Penida can make for an adventurous daytrip from Nusa Lembongan.

Sampalan

Sampalan, the main town on thinly populated Penida, is quiet and pleasant, with a market, schools and shops strung out along the curving coast road. The market area, where the bemos congregate, is in the middle of town.

SLEEPING & EATING

Bungalow Pemda (☞ 21448, 23580; r 25,000-100,000Rp) Opposite the police station, a few hundred metres east of the market, is the government rest-house, which has four good-value renovated rooms with hot water. The older rooms are basic.

There are a few warungs along the main road and around the market.

Toyapakeh

If you come by boat from Lembongan, you'll probably be dropped at the beach at Toyapakeh, a pretty town with lots of shady trees. The beach has clean white sand, clear blue water, a neat line of boats, and Gunung Agung as a backdrop. Step up from the

beach and you're at the road head, where bemos can take you to Ped or Sampalan (2000Rp).

Around the Island

A trip around the island, following the north and east coasts, and crossing the hilly interior, can be completed in a few hours by motorcycle. The following description goes clockwise from Sampalan.

The coastal road from Sampalan curves and dips past bays with rows of fishing boats and offshore seaweed gardens. After about 6km, just before the village of Karangari, steps go up on the right side of the road to the narrow entrance of Goa Karangari caves. There are usually people who can provide a lantern and guide you through the cave for a small negotiable fee of around 20,000Rp each. The limestone cave is over 15m tall in some sections. It extends more than 200m through the hill and emerges on the other side to overlook a verdant valley.

Continue south past a naval station and several temples to Suana. Here the main road swings inland and climbs up into the hills, while a very rough side track goes southeast, past more interesting temples to Semaya, a fishing village with a sheltered beach and one of Bali's best dive sites offshore.

About 9km southwest of Suana, **Tanglad** is an old-fashioned village and a centre for traditional weaving. Rough roads south and east lead to isolated parts of the coast.

A scenic ridge-top road goes northwest from Tanglad. At Batukandik, a rough road leads to a spectacular air terjun (waterfall). Limestone cliffs drop hundreds of feet into the sea, with offshore rock pinnacles surrounded by crashing surf.

Back on the main road, continue to Batumadeg, past **Bukit Mundi** (the highest point on the island at 529m), through Klumpu to Sakti, which has traditional stone buildings. Return to the north coast at Toyapakeh.

The important temple of **Pura Dalem Pene-taran Ped** is near the beach at Ped, a few kilometres east of Toyapakeh. It houses a shrine for the demon Jero Gede Macaling. The temple structure is crude, which gives it an appropriately sinister ambience. From there, the road is straight and flat back to Sampalan.

Getting There & Away

The strait between Nusa Penida and southern Bali is very deep and subject to heavy swells – if there is a strong tide, boats often have to wait. You may also have to wait a while for the public boat to fill up with passengers. Boats to and from Kusamba are not recommended.

NUSA LEMBONGAN

There is a public boat connection (5000Rp, 20 minutes) between Toyapakeh and Jungutbatu (Nusa Lembongan) between 5am and 6am. Ask at your hotel or on the beach. Alternatively, charter a whole boat between the two islands for a negotiable 200,000Rp.

PADANGBAI

On the beach just east of the car park you'll find the twin-engine fibreglass boats that run across the strait to Buyuk, just west of Sampalan on Nusa Penida (50,000Rp, one hour). The inconspicuous ticket office is nearby. Boats leave at infrequent intervals.

Getting Around

To see the island you should charter your own bemo or private vehicle with driver for about 60,000Rp to 100,000Rp.

WEST BALI

Most places regularly visited in West Bali, like Sangeh or Tanah Lot, are easy day trips from Ubud or the Kuta region. The rest of the west tends to be a region travellers zip through on their way to or from Java, but it does offer a few secluded places to stay, the West Bali National Park (Taman Nasional Bali Barat) and long stretches of black-sand beach and rolling surf. Countless tracks run south of the main road, usually to fishing villages, which rarely see a tourist despite being so close to a main transport route.

TANAH LOT

☞ 0361

The brilliantly located **Pura Tanah Lot** (adult/child 3300/1800Rp, car park 1500Rp) is possibly the best-known and most photographed temple in Bali. It's an obligatory stop on many tours from South Bali, very commercialised,

and especially crowded at sunset. It has all the authenticity of a stage set – even the tower of rock the temple sits upon was artfully reconstructed with Japanese money, as the entire structure was crumbling. Over one-third of the rock you see is artificial.

For the Balinese, Pura Tanah Lot is one of the most important and venerated sea temples. Like Pura Luhur Ulu Watu (p298), at the tip of the southern Bukit Peninsula, it is closely associated with the Majapahit priest, Nirartha.

Tanah Lot, however, is a well-organised tourist trap. To reach the temple, a walkway runs through a sort of sideshow alley with dozens of souvenir shops down to the sea. To ease the task of making purchases, there is an ATM.

To visit the temple you should pick the correct time – everybody shows up for sunset and the mobs obliterate any spiritual feel the place has. If you visit before noon, crowds are few and the vendors are all but asleep.

You can walk over to the temple itself at low tide (but non-Balinese are not allowed to enter), or if you need a pricey drink, walk up the slope to the left and sit at one of the many tables along the cliff top.

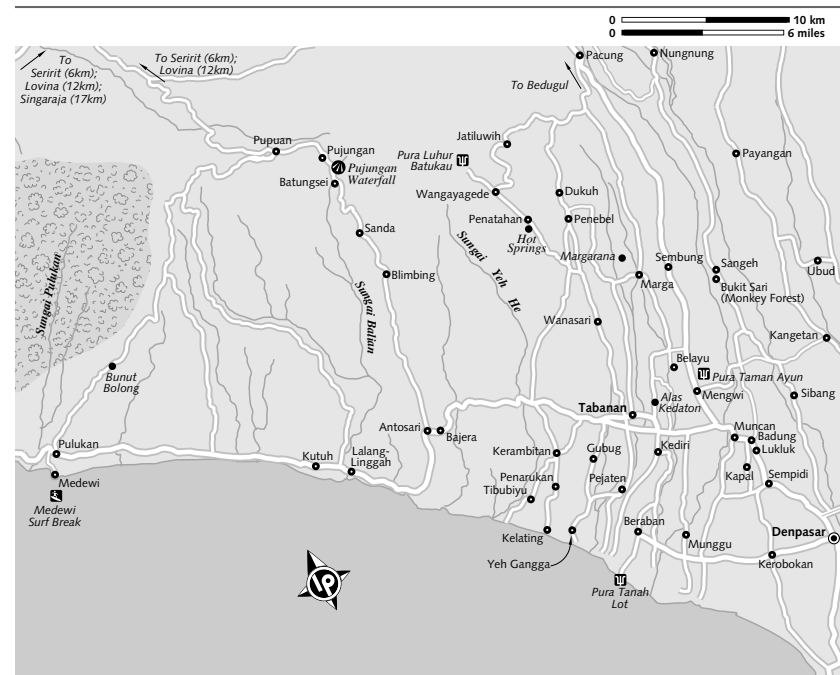
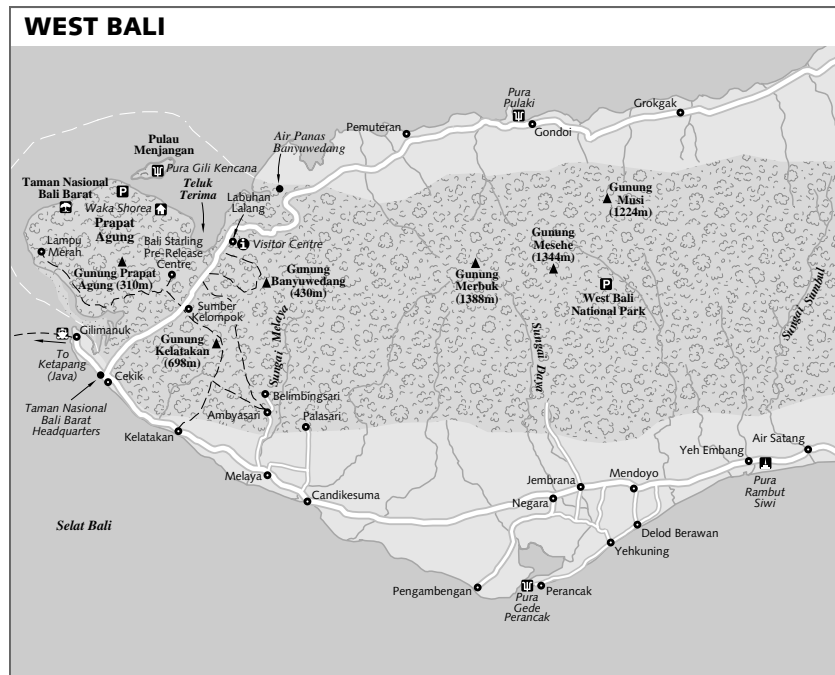
Sleeping & Eating

If you want to enjoy the sunset spectacle and also avoid traffic afterwards, there are lodging options near Tanah Lot. There are cheap warungs around the car park, and more expensive restaurants inside the grounds and on the cliff tops facing the temple.

Dewi Sinta Restaurant & Villa (☞ 812933; dewisinta@denpasar.wasantara.net.id; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp, buffet lunches 50,000Rp; a s) Off a souvenir-shop gang, not far from the ticket office, lies this midrange hotel. There's a range of rooms (US\$16 to US\$55), and some look across the pool and beyond to rural views. The restaurant offers standard buffet lunches and Balinese dance performances some nights.

Getting There & Away

Coming from South Bali with your own transport, take the coastal road west from Kerobokan, which is north of the Kuta region, and follow the signs or the traffic. From other parts of Bali, turn off the



Denpasar–Gilimanuk road near Kediri and follow the signs.

By bemo, go from Denpasar's Ubung terminal to Tanah Lot (7000Rp) via Kediri. Alternatively, take an organised tour from Ubud or South Bali, which may include other sites such as Bedugul, Mengwi and Sangeh.

PURA TAMAN AYUN

The huge state temple of Pura Taman Ayun (adult/child 3300/1800Rp; 11 8am–6pm), surrounded by a wide, elegant moat, was the main temple of the Mengwi kingdom, which survived until 1891, when it was conquered by the neighbouring kingdoms of Tabanan and Badung. The large, spacious temple was built in 1634 and extensively renovated in 1937. It's a lovely place to wander around, especially before the tour buses arrive. The first courtyard is a large, open, grassy expanse and the inner courtyard has a multitude of *meru*.

Getting There & Away

Any bemo running between Denpasar (Ubung terminal) and Bedugul or Singa-

raja can drop you off at the roundabout in Mengwi, where signs indicate the road (250m) to the temple. Pura Taman Ayun is a stop-off on many organised tours from Ubud or southern Bali.

MARGA

Northwest of the village, Margarana memorial (admission by donation of around 5000Rp; 11 8am–4pm) commemorates the battle of Marga. On 20 November 1946, a force of 96 independence fighters was surrounded by a much larger and better-armed Dutch force fighting to regain Bali as a colony after the departure of the Japanese. The outcome was similar to the *puputan* of 40 years before. There was, however, one important difference: this time the Dutch suffered heavy casualties too, and this may have helped weaken their resolve to hang on to this rebellious colony.

On the site is a small museum, with a few photos, homemade weapons and other artefacts from the conflict. Get off any bemo between Denpasar and Bedugul or Singaraja, about 6km north of Mengwi, and walk

westward about 2km through Marga. It's easy to get lost, so ask for directions.

SANGEH

About 20km north of Denpasar, near the village of Sangeh, stands the monkey forest of Bukit Sari. There's a rare grove of nutmeg trees in the monkey forest and a temple, Pura Bukit Sari, with an interesting old *garuda* statue. Take note: the monkeys are all about business and will jump on you if you have a pocketful of peanuts and don't dispense them fast enough. The cheeky monkeys have also been known to steal hats, sunglasses and even sandals, from fleeing tourists. This place is definitely touristy, but the forest is cool, green and shady. The souvenir sellers are restricted to certain areas and are easy to avoid.

Getting There & Away

You can reach Sangeh and Bukit Sari on any bemo heading to Pelaga from Wangaya terminal in Denpasar (6000Rp). There is also road access from Mengwi and Ubud, but no public transport. Most people visit on an organised tour or drive themselves.

TABANAN

☎ 0361

Tabanan is the capital of the district of the same name. Like many such towns in Bali, it's a large, well-organised place. It is also a renowned centre for dancing and gamelan playing, although public performances are essentially nil. Mario, the renowned dancer of the prewar period, hailed from Tabanan. His greatest achievement was to perfect the Kebyar dance, and he is also featured in Miguel Covarrubias' classic book, *Island of Bali*.

A *subak* is the village association that deals with water, water rights and irrigation. The Mandala Mathika Subak (☎ 810315; Jl Raya Kediri) is quite a large complex devoted to Tabanan's *subak* organisations and incorporates the rather forlorn Subak Museum, which has displays about the irrigation and cultivation of rice, and the intricate social systems that govern it. The exhibits are poorly labelled and it's really only for rice-growing enthusiasts; this is a shame as there's a good story to tell here and the local waterways are some of the most impressive in Bali.

SOUTH OF TABANAN

There are not a lot of tourist attractions in the southern part of Tabanan district, but it's easy to access with your own transport. You can reach the main villages by local bemo from Tabanan, especially in the mornings. Kediri has Pasar Hewan, one of Bali's busiest cattle markets, and is the terminal for bemos to Pura Tanah Lot. About 10km south of Tabanan is Pejaten, a centre for the production of traditional pottery, including elaborate ornamental roof tiles. Porcelain clay objects, which are made purely for decorative use, can be seen in a few workshops in the village.

A little west of Tabanan, a road goes 8km south via Gubug to the secluded coast at Yeh Gangga. The next road west from Tabanan turns down to the coast via Kerambitan, a village noted for its beautiful old buildings (including two 17th-century palaces); a tradition of *wayang*-style painting; and its own styles of music and dance, especially *Tektekan*, a ceremonial procession.

South of Kerambitan, you will pass through Penarukan, known for its stone- and wood-carvers, and also its dancers. Continue to the coast, where you'll find the beach at Kelating wide, black and usually deserted.

About 4km from southern Kerambitan is Tibubiyu. For a gorgeous drive through huge bamboo, fruit trees, rice paddies and more, take the scenic road northwest from Kerambitan to the main road.

To stay the night, consider Puri Dewa (☎ 081 2360 4517; Tibubiyu; bungalows 150,000-200,000Rp, dishes 12,000-25,000Rp). To find Puri Dewa, head straight south from Puri Anyar and turn right at the T-intersection. At the huge banyan tree, turn right and follow the road through to Tibubiyu. Bibi's is signposted on the left. It's wonderfully isolated, perfectly tranquil and has five rather nice bungalows. There are amazing rice-paddy views with the ocean beyond. There's a small, breezy restaurant for guests only.

NORTH OF TABANAN

The area north of Tabanan is good to travel around with your own transport. There are some strictly B-level attractions; the real appeal here is just driving the back roads with trees canopying the road for a full-on

tropical experience. Here you will see some of the finest rice terraces in Bali.

About 9km north of Tabanan the road reaches a fork. The left road goes to Pura Luhur Batukau via the hot springs at Penatahan. A few kilometres north of the hot springs, take a right turn at Wangayagede village and follow the road as it winds and soars through some beautiful country. At Jatiluwih you will be rewarded with vistas that exhaust your ability to describe green. The locals will also be rewarded with your green, as there's a road toll (per person 3300Rp, plus 1500Rp per car). This is a good place for a rice-field hike. Any road heading south will eventually take you back to the main Tabanan-Denpasar road.

Sights & Activities

PURA LUHUR BATUKAU

On the slopes of Gunung Batukau, Pura Luhur Batukau (donation 5000Rp) was the state temple when Tabanan was an independent kingdom. It has a seven-roofed *meru* dedicated to Maha Dewa, the mountain's guardian spirit, as well as shrines for Bratan, Buyan and Tamblingan lakes. It's surrounded by forest and is often damp and misty. Sarongs can be rented and a donation to the temple is requested.

The main pagoda-like structures have little doors shielding small ceremonial items. This is certainly the most spiritual temple you can easily visit in Bali. There's a general lack of touts and other characters – including hordes of tourists. Facing the temple take a short walk around to the left to see a small white-water stream. The air vibrates with the coursing of water.

GUNUNG BATUKAU

At Pura Luhur Batukau you are fairly well up the side of Gunung Batukau, and you may wish to go for a climb. To reach the top of the 2276m peak, you'll need a guide. This can be arranged at the temple ticket booth. Expect to pay at least 800,000Rp for a muddy trek that will take at least seven hours in one direction. The rewards are amazing views, verdant scenery and the knowledge that you've taken the trail that is much less travelled compared to the peaks in the east.

Sleeping & Eating

Past the village of Wangayagede and signposted to the left off the main Pura Luhur

Batukau road, Prana Dewi Mountain Resort (☎ 732032; www.balipranaresort.com; bungalows from US\$40) is set among rice paddies and coursing waterways. The eight rustic, beautifully furnished bungalows have thick slab timber floors and hot water. The restaurant, surrounded by low, terraced red-rice fields and a bamboo forest, has a lush vista. Most of the vegetables used in the creative dishes (15,000Rp to 35,000Rp) are grown organically in the surrounding fields.

LALANG-LINGGAH

☎ 0361

A little to the west of Lalang-Linggah, a road leads to the surf breaks near the mouth of Sungai Balian (Balian River). The main break, at the river mouth, is sometimes called Soka.

Among the smattering of places to stay hidden away on this quiet coast, Gajah Mina (☎ 0812 3811 630; www.gajahminaresort.com; villas from US\$80; a s) is one of the nicer ones. There are eight private, exquisitely furnished bungalow-style villas. All have an outdoor and indoor bathroom, and inviting day lounges on the balcony. From the pool, there are views of the ocean in the near distance. The restaurant features an international Asian menu. The turn-off from the main road is near the village market and there is a gate where 1000Rp is collected before you make the very pretty 1km drive.

JEMBRANA COAST

About 34km west of Tabanan you cross into Bali's most sparsely populated district, Jembrana. The main road follows the south coast most of the way to Negara. There's some beautiful scenery but little tourist development along the way, with the exception of the surf action at Medewi.

Medewi

☎ 0365

Along the main road, a large sign points down the paved road (200m) to the surfing mecca of Pantai Medewi. The beach is a stretch of huge, smooth grey rocks interspersed among round black pebbles. It's a placid place where cattle graze by the beach. Medewi is noted not for its beach but for its *long* left-hand wave – there is little else here.

SLEEPING & EATING

For a casual meal, some of the finest fare is served up freshly stir-fried at a cart right by the beach.

Mai Malu Restaurant & Guesthouse (☎ 43897; s/d 60,000/80,000Rp) Near the highway on the Medewi side road, Mai Malu is popular with surfers, serving crowd-pleasing pizza, burgers and Indonesian meals (10,000Rp to 35,000Rp) in its modern, breezy upstairs eating area. The three rooms have cold water and fans. Other cheapies huddle nearby.

Medewi Beach Cottages (☎ 40029; r US\$15-60; a s) These cottages have an ordinary two-storey building on the western side of the road with seven second-rate standard cold-water rooms aimed at surfers, and a more stylish wing on the other side with 22 well-furnished rooms around a pool. The posh side features satellite TV and lush grounds, but security measures have obstructed what should be a good view.

Puri Dajuma Cottages (☎ 43955; www.dajuma.com; r US\$70-90; a i s) Coming from the east, you won't be able to miss this seaside resort, thanks to its prolific signage. Happily, the 18 large rooms actually live up to the billing. Bathrooms are both inside and out, and its location on a pounding body-surfing break is dramatic. Medewi Beach is a 2km walk west. Ask for a deal on the listed rates.

NEGARA

☎ 0365

Negara, the district capital, is a prosperous little town and is useful for a pit stop, though there's not much to see. The town springs to life when the famous bull races (p356) are held nearby in July, August, September and/or October. Most banks change money and have ATMs.

Sleeping & Eating

The main road bypasses the town to the north – you'll need to turn in to the main drag, Jl Ngurah Rai. There are assorted warung in the market area.

Hotel Wira Pada (☎ 41161; Jl Ngurah Rai 107; r with fan/air-con 90,000/130,000Rp; a) The cheap rooms are dark and dreary, while the more expensive ones have air-con. The setting is reasonably pleasant, however, and you can make friends with the talking mynah bird.

Rumah Makan Puas (Jl Ngurah Rai; dishes 6000-12,000Rp) A nice shady spot with good Padang-style food.

Hardy's Supermarket (☎ 40709; Jl Ngurah Rai) Hardy's has the best selection of goods in western Bali.

Getting There & Away

Most bemos and minibuses from Denpasar (Ubung terminal) to Gilimanuk drop you in Negara (12,000Rp).

AROUND NEGARA

At the southern fringe of Negara, **Loloan Timur** is largely a Bugis community (originally from Sulawesi) that retains 300-year-old traditions. Look for the distinctive houses on stilts, some decorated with wooden fretwork.

To reach **Delod Berawan**, turn off the main Gilimanuk-Denpasar road at Mendoyo and go south to the coast, which has a black-sand beach and irregular surf. You can see bull-race practices Sunday mornings at the nearby football field.

Perancak is the site of Nirartha's arrival in Bali in 1546, commemorated by a small temple, **Pura Gede Perancak**. Bull races are run at **Taman Wisata Perancak** (☎ 0365-42173), and Balinese buffets are sometimes staged for organised tours from South Bali. If you're travelling independently, give the park a ring before you go out there. In Perancak go for a walk along the picturesque fishing harbour.

Once capital of the region, **Jembrana** is the centre of the *gamelan jegog*, a gamelan using huge bamboo instruments that produce a very low-pitched, resonant sound. Perform-

ances often feature a number of gamelan groups engaging in musical contest. To see and hear them in action, time your arrival with a local festival, or ask in Negara where you might find a group practising.

TAMAN NASIONAL BALI BARAT

☎ 0365

The **Taman Nasional Bali Barat** (West Bali National Park) covers 19,003 hectares of the western tip of Bali. An additional 50,000 hectares are protected in the national park extension, as well as almost 7000 hectares of coral reef and coastal waters. On an island as small and densely populated as Bali, this represents a major commitment to nature conservation. Unfortunately, you'll soon see a lot of firewood vendors along the road, who cut down trees and replace them with coffee plants.

The **park headquarters** (☎ 61060; 7am-5pm) at **Cekik** displays a topographic model of the park area, and has a little information about plants and wildlife. You can arrange trekking guides and permits here. There is also a small visitors centre at **Labuhan Lalang** (p358) on the northern coast, where boats leave for Pulau Menjangan.

The main roads to Gilimanuk go through the national park, but you don't have to pay an entrance fee just to drive through. If you want to stop and visit any of the sites within the park, you must buy a ticket (2500Rp).

What most strikes many visitors who venture into the park is the symphony from the birds and the rustling trees. Just getting off the road a bit on one of the many trails (see opposite) transports you into the heart of nature.

Sights & Activities

WILDLIFE

Most of the natural vegetation in the park is not tropical rainforest, which requires rain year-round, but coastal savannah, with deciduous trees that become bare in the dry season. The southern slopes receive more regular rainfall, and hence have more tropical vegetation, while the coastal lowlands have extensive mangroves.

There are more than 200 species of plants in the park. Local fauna includes black monkeys, leaf monkeys and macaques (seen in the afternoon along the main road near **Sumber Kelompok**); rusa, barking, sambar, Java and mouse deer (*muncak*); and some wild pigs, squirrels, buffalo, iguanas, pythons and green snakes. There were once tigers, but the last confirmed sighting was in 1937 – and that one was shot. The bird life is prolific, with many of Bali's 300 species found here, including the extremely rare Bali starling.

TREKKING

All trekkers must be accompanied by an authorised guide. It's best to arrive the day before you want to trek, and make inquiries at the park headquarters at **Cekik**, the visitors' centre at **Labuhan Lalang** or any hotel in Gilimanuk. Guides may miraculously appear at your hotel within minutes of your arrival, but first make sure they are authorised.

The set rates for guides in the park depend on the size of the group and the length of the trek – with one or two people it's 150,000Rp for one or two hours, 200,000Rp for three or four hours, and 400,000Rp for five to seven hours; with three to five people it's 250,000Rp, 300,000Rp or 500,000Rp. Transport and food are extra and all the prices are very negotiable. Early morning, say 6am, is the best time to start – it's cooler and you're more likely to see some wildlife. The following are two of the more popular treks.

From a trail west of **Labuhan Lalang**, hike around the mangroves at **Teluk Terima**. Then partially follow **Sungai Terima** into the hills and walk back down to the road along the steps at **Makam Jayaprana**. You might see grey macaques, deer and black monkeys (allow two to three hours).

From **Sumber Kelompok**, go up **Gunung Kelatakan** (698m), then down to the main road near **Kelatakan** village (six to seven

hours). You may be able to get permission from park headquarters to stay overnight in the forest – if you don't have a tent, your guide can make a shelter from branches and leaves, which will be an adventure in itself. Clear streams abound in the dense woods.

BOAT TRIPS

The best way to explore the mangroves of **Teluk Gilimanuk** or the west side of **Prapat Agung** is by chartering a boat (maximum of two people) for about 120,000Rp per boat per hour. You can arrange this at either of the park offices. A guide will cost another 100,000Rp. This is the ideal way to see bird life, including the kingfisher and the Javanese heron.

DIVING

Teluk Gilimanuk is a shallow bay with marine life quite different from that in other parts of Bali – it's especially interesting for divers with a strong interest in marine biology. The closest and most convenient dive operators are found at **Pemuteran** (p373) and **Lovina** (p370).

Pulau Menjangan is one of Bali's best-known dive areas, with a dozen distinct dive sites. The diving is excellent – lots of tropical fish (including clown fish, parrot fish, sharks and barracuda), soft corals, great visibility (usually), caves and a spectacular drop-off.

Sleeping

There's rough – and free – camping at the park headquarters in **Cekik**, although one of the guides hanging around may ask for a 10,000Rp donation. Besides the somewhat dire choices in Gilimanuk, there are nice options in the northwest, east of **Labuhan Lalang**. Your best bet is to go for **Pemuteran** (p373).

Waka Shorea (☎ 0362-94666; www.wakaexperience.com; units from US\$165; a s) Located in splendid isolation in the park, **Waka Shorea** is a 10-minute boat ride from the hotel's recreation area just east of **Labuhan Lalang**. It's a luxurious boutique resort and the emphasis is on nature, whether through diving, trekking or bird-watching.

Getting There & Away

The national park is too far away for a comfortable day trip from Ubud or South

BULL RACES

This part of Bali is famous for the bull races, known as *mekeprung*, which culminate in the **Bupati Cup** in Negara in early August. The racing animals are actually the normally docile water buffalo, which charge down a 2km-long stretch of road or beach pulling tiny chariots. Gaily clad riders stand or kneel on top of the chariots forcing the bullocks on, sometimes by twisting their tails to make them follow the curve of the makeshift racetrack. The winner, however, is not necessarily first past the post. Style also plays a part and points are awarded to the most elegant runner. Gambling is not legal in Bali, but...

Important races are held during the dry season, from July to October. Occasional races are set up for tourist groups at a park in Perancak on the coast, and minor races and practices are held at several Perancak and other sites on Sunday mornings, including **Delod Berawan** (see above) and **Yeh Embang**. Check with your hotel or the **Jembrana Government Tourist Office** (☎ 41210, ext 224) for details.

Bali, though many dive operators do it. It is much more accessible from Lovina or Pemuteran – just get any Gilimanuk-bound bus or bemo to drop you at either the Labuhan Lalang visitors centre or the park headquarters at Cekik. Alternatively, you can take an organised tour or rent a vehicle.

LABUHAN LALANG

The jetty at this small harbour is the place to catch a boat to Pulau Menjangan (p357) in the national park. There's a visitors centre (7.30am-3pm) here, where you can pay the park entrance fee (2500Rp), as well as several warungs and a pleasant beach 200m to the east. Some of the warung rent snorkelling gear (50,000Rp for four hours) and can point out where the best sites are.

Local boat owners have a strict cartel and fixed prices: it costs 250,000Rp for a four-hour trip to Menjangan, and 20,000Rp for every subsequent hour in a boat holding 10 people (or five scuba divers with equipment). A guide costs an additional 60,000Rp.

GILIMANUK

% 0365

Gilimanuk is the terminus for ferries that shuttle back and forth across the narrow strait to Java.

Most travellers to or from Java can get an onward ferry or bus straight away, and won't need to stop in Gilimanuk. The museum is the only attraction – the town is really a place one passes through quickly. Services are few; there are no ATMs.

This part of Bali has been occupied for thousands of years. The Museum Situs Purbakala Gilimanuk (% 61328; donation 5000Rp; 7.30am-4pm Mon-Fri) is centred on a family of skeletons thought to be 4000 years old, which were found locally in 2004. It's 500m east from the ferry port.

Hotel Sari (% 61264; r 100,000Rp, with air-con 175,000Rp; a) is the best of a dubious lot of hotels. On the ocean side of Jl Raya, it has basic rooms and a karaoke bar next door.

Getting There & Away

Frequent buses hurtle along the main road between Gilimanuk's huge bus depot and Denpasar's Ubung terminal (25,000Rp), or along the north coast road to Singaraja (20,000Rp).

FERRY

Boats to and from Ketapang on Java (adult/child 4300/2900Rp, car and driver 81,500Rp) run every 30 minutes round the clock, and are the main reason for coming here.

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS

Most of Bali's mountains are volcanoes; some are dormant, but some are definitely active. The mountains divide the gentle sweep of fertile land to the south from the narrow, more arid strip to the north. Northwest of Gunung Agung is the stark and spectacular caldera that contains the volcanic cone of Gunung Batur (1717m), the waters of Danau Batur and numerous smaller craters. In central Bali, around Bedugul, is another complex of volcanic craters and lakes, with much lush vegetation. A string of smaller mountains stretches off into the sparsely inhabited western region.

It's all a big change from the coastal areas. Temperatures fall and you may need something more than shorts! There are two main routes through the mountains to the north coast (via Gunung Batur and via Bedugul), which allow you to make a circuit. There are treks to be had, clear lake waters to enjoy, plus a few other natural and sacred sites of note.

GUNUNG BATUR

% 0366

Most day-visitors come on organised tours and stop at the crater rim at Penelokan for views and lunch; most overnight visitors stay in the villages around the lake. The views both from above and from lake level are truly wonderful – if you hit the area on a clear day.

Orientation & Information

There are two main roads in the Gunung Batur area. The outer caldera-rim road links Penulisan and Penelokan, and from Penelokan you drop down onto the inner-rim road. The latter is rough in parts, especially the western side of the circuit, but drivable for all vehicles.

If you arrive by private vehicle, you will be stopped at ticket offices at Penelokan

or Kubupenelokan; to save any hassle, you should stop and buy a ticket. Entry is 4000/2000Rp per adult/child. Bicycles are free (and should be, given the climb needed to get here). This ticket is for the whole Gunung Batur area; you shouldn't be charged any more down at the lakeside.

Dangers & Annoyances

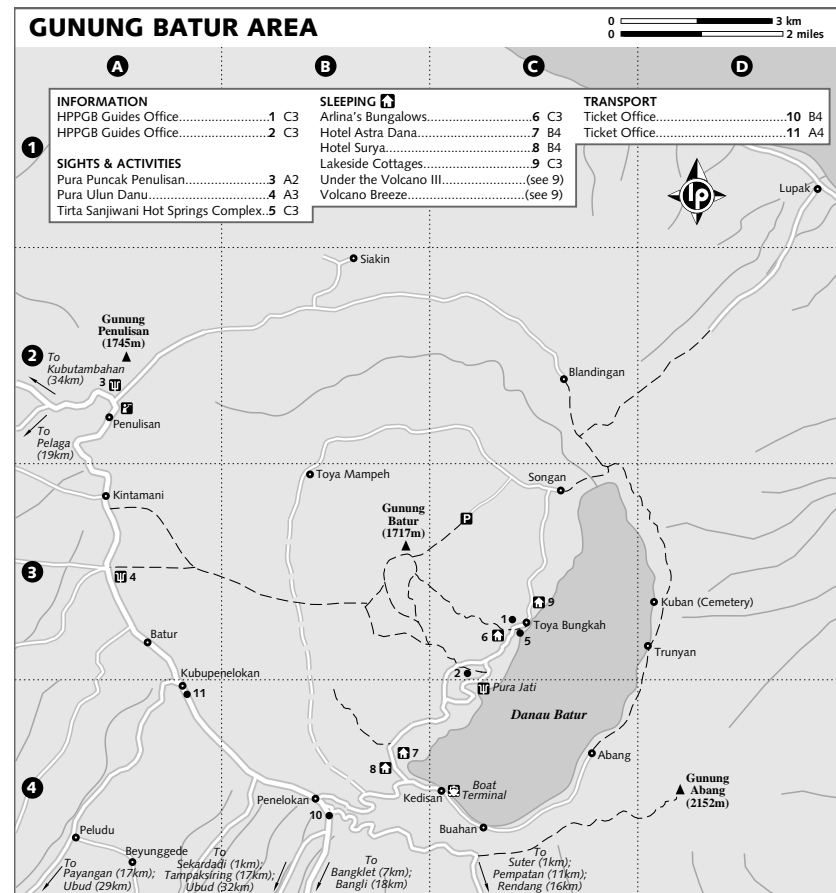
Gunung Batur has developed a well-deserved reputation as a money-grubbing place where visitors (mainly around Penelokan) are hassled by touts and wannabe mountain guides (mainly around the lake area). Of course the guides themselves can be a problem, see p360). Don't leave valuables in your car, especially at any car park at the start of a

volcano trail. Don't even leave a helmet with a motorcycle.

Trekking

The setting for Gunung Batur is otherworldly: it's like a giant dish, with the bottom half covered with water and a set of volcanic cones growing in the middle. Visit the area on a clear day and you'll understand what all the fuss is about. Soaring up in the centre of the huge outer crater is the cone of Gunung Batur (1717m), formed by a 1917 eruption. A cluster of smaller cones lies beside, created variously by eruptions in 1926, 1963, 1974 and 1994.

But is it worthwhile to go through the hassle and the expense of making the



climb? You'll get some amazing pictures and come close to volcanic action not easily seen anywhere. But the flip side is that it's costly, you have to deal with various characters and at some point you may just say, 'I could have enjoyed all this from the parking lot viewpoint in Penelokan.'

Even reputable and highly competent adventure tour operators from elsewhere in Bali cannot take their customers up Gunung Batur without paying the HPPGB (see below) and using one of their guides, so these tours are relatively expensive.

Pretty much all the accommodation in the area can help you put a trek together. They can recommend alternatives to the classic Batur climb such as the outer rim of the crater, or to other mountains such as Gunung Agung (p333).

HPPGB

The notorious HPPGB (☎ 52362; Toya Bungkah office 7 5am-9pm; Pura Jati office 7 3am-noon) has a monopoly on guided climbs up Gunung Batur. HPPGB requires that all trekking agencies hire at least one of its guides for trips up the mountain. In addition the HPPGB has developed an unsavoury reputation for intimidation in requiring climbers to use its guides. Reported tactics have ranged from dire warnings given to people who inquired at its offices to outright physical threats against people attempting to climb without a guide. There have also been reports of guides stationing themselves outside hotels to intercept climbers.

WHEN TO TREK

The volcanically active area west of the main peak can be deadly, with explosions of steam and hot lava, unstable ground and sulphurous gases. To find out about current conditions, ask at your accommodation or in Toya Bungkah. Alternatively look at the website of the **Directorate of Volcanology and Geographical Hazard Mitigation** (www.vsi.esdm.go.id).

The active areas are sometimes closed to visitors for safety reasons – if this is the case, don't try it alone, and don't pay extra for an extended main crater trek that you won't be able to complete.

HPPGB GUIDED CLIMBS

Trek	Duration	Cost (Rp)
Batur Sunrise	4am-8am	200,000-300,000
Gunung Batur main crater	4am-10am	200,000-300,000

Pinning these guys down on rates can be enough to send you back to South Bali, but see the boxed text (above) for what you can expect to pay.

EQUIPMENT

If you're climbing before sunrise, take a torch (flashlight) or be absolutely sure that your guide provides you with one. You'll need good strong footwear, a hat, a jumper and drinking water.

ROUTES

Most travellers use one of two trails that start near Toya Bungkah.

The shorter one is straight up (three to four hours return), while a longer trek (five to six hours return) links the summit climb with the other craters.

The route from Toya Bungkah is pretty straightforward. Climbers have reported that they have easily made this journey without a HPPGB guide, although it shouldn't be tried while dark. The major obstacle is actually avoiding any hassle from the guides themselves. There are a few separate paths at first, but they all rejoin sooner or later and after about 30 minutes you'll be on a ridge with quite a well-defined track. It gets pretty steep towards the top and it can be hard walking over the loose volcanic sand – climbing up three steps and sliding back two. Allow about two hours to get to the top.

There is another route from the north-east, where a track enables you to use private transport to within about 45 minutes' walk of the top. From Toya Bungkah, take the road northeast towards Songan and take the left fork after about 3.5km at Serongga, just before Songan. Follow this inner-rim road for another 1.7km to a well-signposted track on the left, which climbs another 1km or so to a car park. From here, the walking track is easy to follow to the top. If you do this without an HPPGB guide, you can be sure that guides on motorbikes will appear to hassle you.

The Outer-Rim Road PENELOKAN

On a clear day, Penelokan has superb views across to Gunung Batur and down to the lake at the bottom of the crater. It has numerous huge places catering to busloads of tourists. Enjoy the view and leave.

KINTAMANI

The village of Batur used to be down in the crater. A violent eruption in 1917 killed thousands of people and destroyed more than 60,000 homes and 2000 temples. The village was rebuilt, but Gunung Batur erupted again in 1926. This time the lava flow covered all but the loftiest temple shrine. The village was relocated up on the crater rim, and the surviving shrine was also moved up and placed in the temple, Pura Ulun Danu.

PENULISAN

At a bend in the road, at the junction to Singaraja, several steep flights of steps lead to Bali's highest temple, Pura Puncak Penulisan (admission 4100Rp) at 1745m. The views from the temple are superb: facing north you can see over the rice terraces clear to the Singaraja coast.

The Inner-Rim Road

The farming villages down on the lakeside grow onions and other aromatic crops. It's a crisp setting with often superb lake and mountain views.

KEDISAN

A hairpin-bend road winds its way down from Penelokan to Kedisan on the shore of the lake. There are a few good places to stay here if you are trekking.

Sleeping & Eating

Hotel Surya (☎ 51139; www.indo.com/hotels/surya; r 40,000-100,000Rp) Right at the bottom of the road from Penelokan, the Surya has a range of 22 decent rooms – the more expensive have views, hot water and bathtubs. Its restaurant has a fine view. Pick-up is offered from Ubud.

Hotel Astra Dana (☎ 52091; r 50,000-80,000Rp) The more expensive of the 12 rooms have hot water and views to the lake across onion and cabbage fields. This is the home of the always delightful Dizzy, local guide extraordinaire.

TOYA BUNGKAH

The main tourist centre is Toya Bungkah, which is scruffy but has a cute charm and a serene lakeside setting.

Hot springs bubble out in a couple of spots, and have long been used for bathing pools. Beside the lake, with a wonderful mountain backdrop, Tirta Sanjiwani Hot Springs Complex (☎ 51204; adult/child US\$5/2.50; 7 8am-8pm) has lovely gardens near the lake. Entry includes use of the big cold-water pool (20°C) and hot spa (40°C).

Sleeping & Eating

Unless noted, hotels only have cold water, which can be a boon for waking up for a sunset climb. Most have restaurants, some of which serve *ikan mujair*, a delicious small lake fish, which is barbecued to a crisp with onion, garlic and bamboo shoots.

Under the Volcano III (☎ 0813 3860 081; r 60,000Rp) With a lovely, quiet lakeside location opposite vegetable plots, this inn has six clean and pretty rooms; go for room one right on the water. There are two other nearby inns in the Volcano empire, all run by the same cheery family.

Arlina's Bungalows (☎ 51165; s/d 50,000/80,000Rp, with hot water 70,000/100,000Rp) Clean, comfortable, friendly and above the average standard. Breakfast is included.

Lakeside Cottages (☎ 51249; jero_wijaya@hotmail.com; r US\$10-35; s) At the end of the track on the water's edge, this is definitely one of the better places. The top-end rooms feature hot water and satellite TV.

Volcano Breeze (☎ 51824; dishes 10,000-21,000Rp) A delightful and sociable travellers' café. Fresh lake fish in many forms is the speciality here.

Getting There & Away

From Batubulan terminal in Denpasar, bemos travel regularly to Kintamani (15,000Rp). You can also get a bus on the busy Denpasar (Batabulan) to Singaraja route, which will stop in Penelokan and Kintamani (about 15,000Rp).

Alternatively, you can just hire a car or use a driver. From South Bali expect to pay at least 400,000Rp.

Getting Around

Orange bemos regularly shuttle back and forth around the crater rim, between

Penelokan and Kintamani (7000Rp for tourists). Public bemos from Penelokan down to the lakeside villages go mostly in the morning (tourist price is about 5000Rp to Toya Bungkah). Later in the day, you may have to charter transport (40,000Rp or more).

DANAU BRATAN

☎ 0368

Driving inland from the humidity of southern Bali, you gradually leave the rice terraces behind and ascend into the cool, damp mountain country around Danau Bratan. This lovely area is an excellent place to relax and use as a base for hiking around the lakes and surrounding hills mentioned later in this section.

The neighbouring towns of Candikuning and Bedugul have a picturesque temple, botanical gardens and a colourful market where you can buy the local fruit that grows in profusion. Thankfully, the area lacks the tourists and touts found around Gunung Batur, though Sunday and public holidays are usually very busy with local visitors.

In the west, the area around Munduk is great for trekking and you can enjoy views all the way down to the north coast.

Bedugul & Candikuning

The name Bedugul is sometimes used to refer to the whole lakeside area, but strictly speaking, Bedugul is just the first place you

reach at the top of the hill when coming up from South Bali.

Spread out along the western side of the lake, Candikuning is the horticultural focus of central Bali. Its daily market was once the main supplier of vegetables, fruit and flowers for the southern hotels, but now its patrons are mostly tourists with a smattering of locals shopping for herbs, spices and potted plants. There's a wartel beside the market, and several moneychangers.

SIGHTS

There's a number of good sights up here. Note that Taman Rekreasi Bedugul, which is on the lake at Bedugul, is a pretty charmless amusement park aimed at day-tripping Balinese.

Bali Botanical Gardens

Established in 1959 as a branch of the national botanical gardens at Bogor, near Jakarta, the Bali Botanical Gardens (Kebun Raya Eka Karya Bali; ☎ 21273; admission 3500Rp, car parking 1500Rp; ⌚ 7am-6pm) are a showplace. They cover over 154 hectares on the lower slopes of Gunung Pohen. The gardens boast an extensive collection of trees and flowers, including wild orchids. Some plants are labelled with their botanical names, and the booklet *Six Self Guided Walks in the Bali Botanical Gardens*, sold at the ticket office for 20,000Rp, is helpful. The gorgeous orchid area is often locked to foil flower filchers; ask that it be unlocked.

Coming north from Bedugul, at a junction conspicuously marked with a large, phallic corncob sculpture, a small side road goes 600m west to the gardens. Although normally cool, shady, scenic and uncrowded, on Sunday and public holidays they're very popular with Balinese families.

Pura Ulun Danu Bratan

About a kilometre north of the market, this very important Hindu-Buddhist temple (adult/child 3300/1800Rp, parking 2000Rp; ⌚ tickets 7am-5pm, site 24hr) was founded in the 17th century. It is dedicated to Dewi Danu, the goddess of the waters, and is actually built on small islands, which means it is completely surrounded by the lake. Both pilgrimages and ceremonies are held here to ensure that there is a supply of water for farmers all over Bali.

It is truly beautiful, with classical Hindu thatch-roofed *meru* reflected in the water and silhouetted against the often cloudy mountain backdrop – one of the most common photographic images of Bali. A large banyan tree shades the entrance, and you walk through manicured gardens and past an impressive Buddhist stupa to reach the lakeside.

An unfortunate aspect is the small animal zoo, left of the main entrance, where tourists are encouraged to be photographed alongside snakes, bats and iguanas, all of which appear to be kept in less than humane conditions.

If you are feeling hungry, Perama Ulundanu (☎ 21191; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp; ⌚ 9am-5pm) in the grounds has a pleasant outdoor terrace and the usual Indonesian and Western standards.

ACTIVITIES

Trekking

From the water sports area, a trail around the south side of the lake goes to the mundane Goa Jepang (Japanese Cave), which was dug during WWII. From there, a difficult path ascends to the top of Gunung Catur (2096m), where the old Pura Puncak Mangu temple is popular with monkeys. Allow about four hours to go up and back from Taman Rekreasi Bedugul.

Water Sports

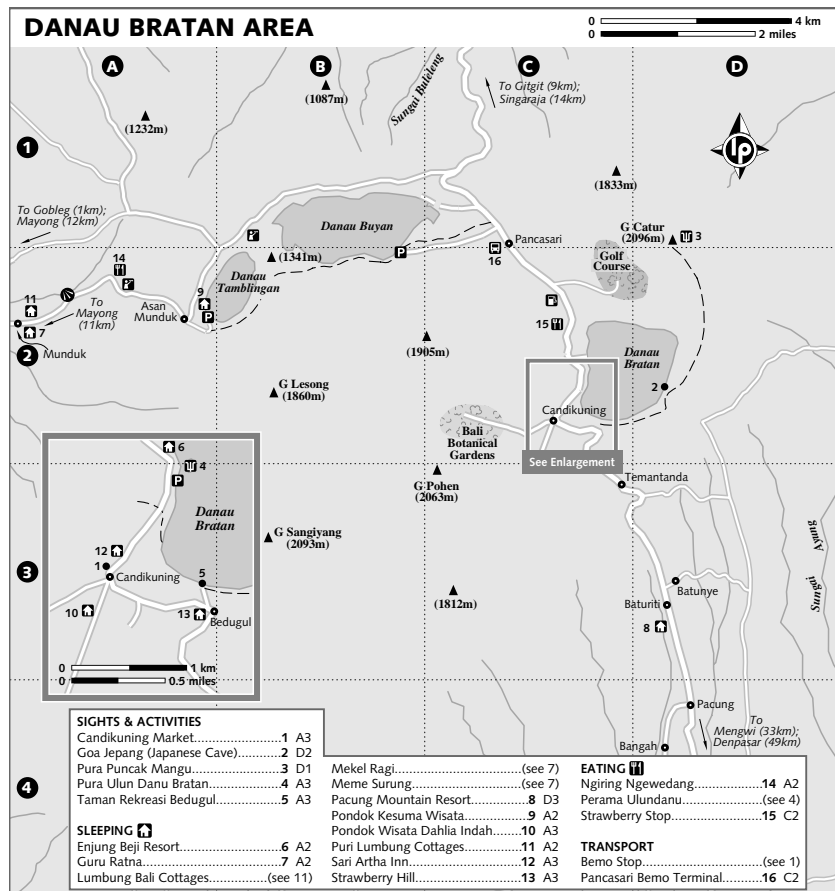
At the temple gardens, you can hire a four-passenger speedboat with a driver (per 30 minutes 125,000Rp), a five-person boat with boatman (per 30 minutes 80,000Rp), or a two-person pedal boat (per 30 minutes 35,000Rp).

For an almost surreal experience, take a quiet paddle across the lake and see Pura Ulun Danu Bratan at sunrise – arrange it with a boatman the night before.

SLEEPING

The Bedugul and Candikuning area can make a good place for a break in exploring the highlands. Upmarket hotels on the slope south of Bedugul offer outstanding views to the east and west.

Pondok Wisata Dahlia Indah (☎ 21233; r 50,000Rp, with hot water 80,000-125,000Rp) In Candikuning, along a lane near the road to the botanical gardens, this is a decent budget option with 17 comfortable, clean rooms.



Sari Artha Inn (9% 21011; r 50,000Rp) Close to the market and lacking views, this place has five basic hot-water rooms.

Strawberry Hill (Bukit Stroberi; 9% 21265; r from 60,000Rp) Opposite the Taman Rekreasi turn-off, this cosy place has 10 basic rooms with hot water – a fine budget choice. The excellent restaurant (dishes 10,000Rp to 18,000Rp) has polished floorboards and on a clear day you can see Kuta. It has a good bar and tasty burgers.

Enjung Beji Resort (9% 21490; fax 21022; cottages 250,000–500,000Rp) Just north of Pura Ulun Danu Bratan and overlooking the lake, this 23-room place is a peaceful, pleasant option. The superior cottages are excellent quality and have outdoor showers and sunken baths. All have hot water, good on cool misty days.

Pacung Mountain Resort (9% 21038; r US\$90–200; S) Well down the road to the south from the ridge, this resort is built on a steep terraced slope overlooking an exquisite valley carved with rice fields and early morning views of Gunung Batukau.

EATING

Food stalls at Candikuning market offer cheap eats, and there are food carts further north at the car park overlooking the lake. At the entrance to Pura Ulun Danu Bratan are several Padang warungs, and there's a restaurant on the grounds.

Strawberry Stop (9% 21060; dishes 6000–15,000Rp, strawberry wine 65,000Rp; 11 8am–6pm) North of Candikuning, Strawberry Stop makes good use of locally grown strawberries in milk shakes, juices and pancakes. Jaffles and other simple snacks and dishes are also available. The wine will remind you of your misspent teenage years drinking plonk behind a fence.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Danau Bratan is beside a main north–south road, so it's easy to reach from South Bali or Singaraja.

Most minibuses and bemos will stop along the main road in Bedugul and Candikuning. There are frequent connections from Denpasar's Ubung terminal (15,000Rp) and Singaraja's Sukasada terminal (15,000Rp). For Gunung Batur, you have to connect through Singaraja or hire transport.

Pancasari

The broad, green valley northwest of Danau Bratan is actually the crater of an extinct volcano. In the middle of the valley, on the main road, Pancasari is a nontourist town with a bustling market and the main terminal for public bemos.

Danau Buyan & Danau Tamblingan

Also northwest of Danau Bratan are two more lakes, Danau Buyan and Danau Tamblingan – neither has been heavily developed for tourism, which is an advantage. There are several tiny villages and abandoned temples along the shores of both lakes, and although the frequently swampy ground makes it unpleasant in parts to explore, this is still a good place for taking a walk.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Danau Buyan (admission 2000Rp, parking 1000Rp) has parking right on the lake, a delightful 1.5km drive off the main road. The entire area is home to market gardens growing produce such as strawberries.

A 4km hiking trail goes around the southern side of Danau Buyan from the parking lot, then over the saddle to Danau Tamblingan and on to Asan Munduk. It combines forest and lake views.

Danau Tamblingan (adult/child 3000/1500Rp, parking 1000Rp) also has a parking lot at the end of the road from the village of Asan Munduk. The lake is a 400m walk and this is where you can catch the trail to Danau Buyan. If you have a driver, you could walk this path in one direction and be met at the other end. There's usually a couple of guides hanging around the parking lot (you don't need them for the lake path) who will take you up and around Gunung Lesong (six hours, 300,000Rp).

SLEEPING & EATING

Pondok Kesuma Wisata (9% 0817 472 8826; r 200,000Rp) This cute little guesthouse with hot-water rooms and a nice café (dishes 8000Rp to 20,000Rp) just up from the Danau Tamblingan parking lot has a surprise or two: you may be greeted by a monkey.

Munduk & Around

9% 0362

Heading north from Pancasari, the main road climbs steeply up the rim of the old

volcanic crater. It's worth stopping to enjoy the views back over the valley and lakes – watch out for the typically ill-behaved monkeys on the road. Turning right at the top will take you on a scenic descent to the coastal town of Singaraja, via the Gitgit waterfalls (p369). Taking a sharp left turn, you follow a ridge-top road with Danau Buyan on one side and a slope to the sea on the other; coffee is a big crop in the area.

The road winds beautifully through the lush scenery to the main village of Munduk. Watch for superb panoramas of North Bali and the ocean. About 2km west of Munduk look for signs indicating parking for a 15m waterfall near the road.

There's archaeological evidence of a developed community in the Munduk region between the 10th and 14th centuries, and accounts of the first Majapahit emissaries visiting the area. When the Dutch took control of North Bali in the 1890s, they experimented with commercial crops, establishing plantations for coffee, vanilla, cloves and cocoa. Quite a few Dutch buildings are still intact along the road in Munduk and further west, and the mountain scenery is sublime.

Almost everything is at an elevation of at least 1000m. Numerous trails are suitable for two-hour or much longer treks to coffee plantations, rice fields, four waterfalls, villages, and around both Danau Tamblingan and Danau Buyan. You will be able to arrange a guide through your lodgings. Many people come here to trek for a day and stay a week.

SLEEPING & EATING

Guru Ratna (9% 92182; r 100,000–200,000Rp) The cheapest place right in town has five comfortable cold-water rooms in an old Dutch house. The best rooms have some style and nice porches. The restaurant does good meals (dishes 12,500Rp).

Meme Surung and Mekel Ragi (9% 92811; r 200,000Rp) are atmospheric old Dutch houses right next to each other right in town and run by the same owner. The former has excellent views down the valleys.

Lumbung Bali Cottages (9% 92818; r from US\$40) About 800m west of Munduk, this place has nine two-level villas overlooking the lush local terrain. The open-air bathrooms are refreshing just as the porches are relaxing.

Like all local places, there are a wide range of hikes on offer here.

Puri Lumbung Cottages (9% 92810; www.purilumbung.com; s/d cottages US\$67/75, f cottages US\$95–149; j) This great hotel has bright two-storey cottages that have stunning views (units three, eight, 10 and 11 have the best views) all the way down to the coast from their upstairs balconies. Rice grows right outside each unit. Fifteen trekking options and a range of courses, including dance and cooking, are offered. The hotel's restaurant, Warung Kopi Bali, has a great outlook onto the lush valleys and also serves great food (dishes 15,000Rp to 24,000Rp), including the local dish *timbangan bi iap* (clear chicken soup with sliced cassava and fried shallots). The hotel is on the right-hand side of the road 700m before Munduk from Bedugul.

Ngiring Ngewedang (9% 082 836 5146; dishes 15,000–40,000Rp; 11 10am–4pm) This coffee house 5km east of Munduk has views of the ocean when it's not clouded over. The café sells its own brand of coffee and staff will also take you through the coffee-production process.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Bemos leave Ubung terminal in Denpasar for Munduk frequently (20,000Rp). Morning bemos from Candikuning also stop in Munduk (12,000Rp). If you're driving to or from the north coast, a decent road west of Munduk goes through a number of picturesque villages to Mayong, then down to the sea at Seririt.

ROUTES THROUGH PUPUAN

The two most popular routes between the southern and northern coasts are the roads via Kintamani and Bedugul, but there are two other routes over the mountains. Both branch north from the Denpasar to Gilimanuk road, one from Pulukan and the other from Antasari, and meet at Pupuan before dropping down to Seririt, west of Lovina.

The Pulukan to Pupuan road climbs steeply up from the coast, providing fine views back down to the sea. The route runs through spice-growing country. At one point, the narrow and winding road runs right through an enormous *bunut* tree, which bridges the road. This road was built by the Dutch using

forced local labour – many Balinese died during its construction and this, together with the sacrilege of chopping into the living tree, makes the **Bunut Bolong** a sacred place. The views beyond the tree into the rainforest are gorgeous and the birdsong can be deafening. Further on, the road spirals down to Pupuan through some of Bali's most beautiful rice terraces.

The road from Antasari initially travels through rice fields, then climbs into the spice-growing country and finally descends through the coffee plantations to Pupuan. If you continue another 12km or so towards the north coast you reach Mayong, where you can turn east to Munduk and on to Danau Tamblingan and Danau Buyan.

NORTH BALI

Before people arrived by plane in South Bali, most people arrived at the island by steamship at the old port in Singaraja. It was a time of great prominence for the Buleleng area, which comprises most of

North Bali. Although in recent decades it has been eclipsed by the south, the region retains its fierce pride.

There is a strong and distinct artistic and cultural tradition here. Dance troupes are highly regarded and a number of dance styles originated here, including Joged and Janger. Work in gold and silver, weaving, pottery, musical-instrument making and temple design all feature distinctive local styles. Distinctive too is the terrain: it's much drier here than in the lush south.

And in recent years Buleleng has developed its own resort area, Lovina, to draw people away from the hectic south. Each year this strip adds just enough polish to increase its allure to visitors. Many come here for the relaxing part of their holiday, and, for active sorts, Pemuteran at the west end of the coast has excellent diving.

YEH SANIH

☎ 0362

About 15km east of Singaraja, Yeh Sanih (also called Air Sanih) is a hassle-free seaside spot with a few guesthouses on a

black-sand beachfront (albeit with a retaining wall). It's named for its fresh-water springs, **Air Sanih** (adult/child 2000/1000Rp; 11 8am-6pm), which are channelled into large swimming pools before flowing into the sea. The pools are particularly picturesque at sunset, when throngs of locals bathe under heavily blooming frangipani trees.

Pura Ponjok Batu has a commanding location between the sea and the road, some 7km east of Yeh Sanih. It has some very fine limestone carvings in the central temple area.

A surprise in the area is **Art Zoo** (11 8am-6pm), 5.7km east of Yeh Sanih on the Singaraja road. The American artist Symon has a gallery bursting with vibrant, exotic and often homoerotic paintings and sculpture. You can chat up his models.

Sleeping & Eating

Cilik's Beach Garden (☎ 26561; www.ciliksbachgarden.com; s/d €40/60, villas €75-110; j) Coming here is like visiting your rich friends. These villas, 1km east of Yeh Sanih, are large and have vast private gardens. Other accom-

modation is in stylish *Jumbungs* (rice barns with round roofs) set in a delightful garden facing the ocean. Meals (dishes 20,000Rp to 40,000Rp) are served in a pavilion.

Getting There & Away

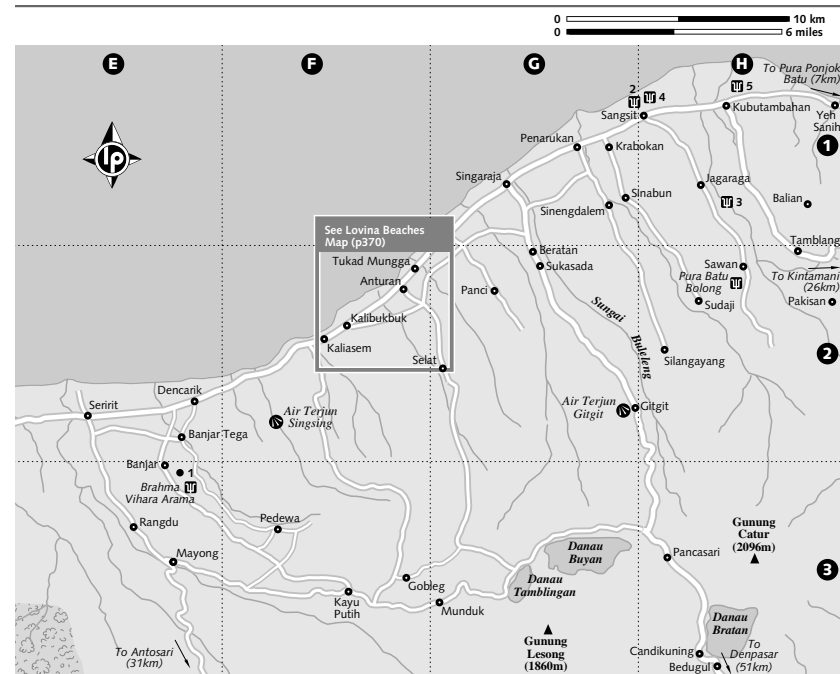
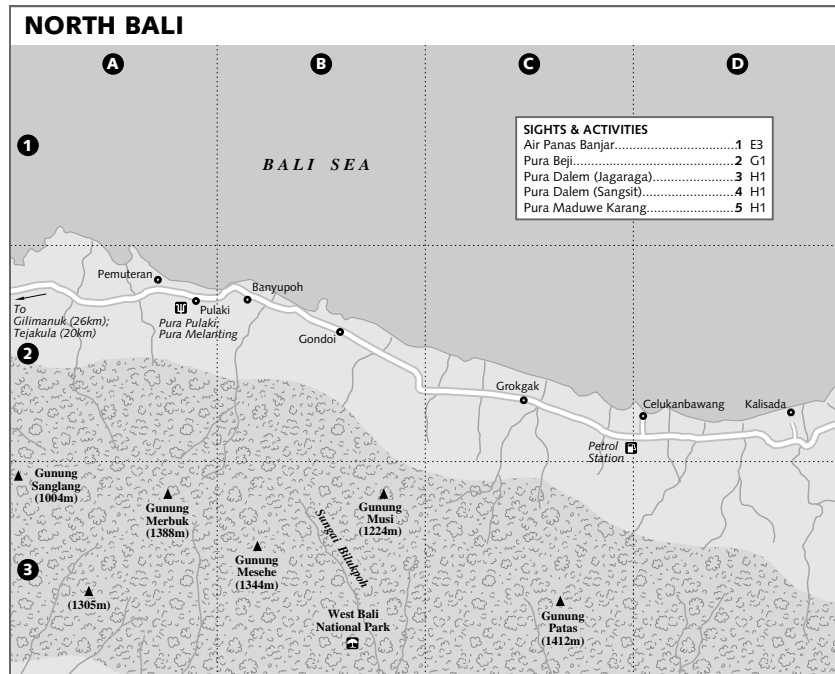
Yeh Sanih is on the main road along the north coast. Frequent bemos and buses from Singaraja stop outside the springs (7000Rp).

If you are driving the coast road to Amed and beyond, be sure to fill up at the petrol station just east of Yeh Sanih as there is not another until almost Amlapura.

SINGARAJA

☎ 0362

Singaraja (Lion King) is Bali's second largest city, and it's downright tidy compared to Denpasar. Singaraja was the centre of Dutch power in Bali and remained the administrative centre for the Lesser Sunda Islands (Bali through to Timor) until 1953. It is one of the few places in Bali where there are visible reminders of the Dutch period in the many colonial houses.



Sparkling gutters aside, it's not a place where travellers linger. It has few real attractions other than services and roads you're bound to travel whether by bus, bemo or car. However, a couple of royal museums are worth a pause.

Information

Facilities include the following:

Diparda (☎ 25141; cnr Jl Veteran & Jl Gajah Mada; 𠄎 7.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) The regional tourist office loves visitors. Ask about dance and other cultural events.

RSUP Hospital (☎ 22046; Jl Ngurah Rai; 𠄎 24hr) Singaraja's hospital is the largest in northern Bali.

Sights

OLD HARBOUR & WATERFRONT

The conspicuous **Yudha Mandala Tama** monument commemorates a freedom fighter killed by gunfire from a Dutch warship early in the struggle for independence. Close by, there's the colourful Chinese temple **Ling Gwan Kiong**. There are a few old canals here as well and you can still get a little feel of the old colonial port.

GEDONG KIRTYA LIBRARY & MUSEUM

This small historical library (☎ 22645; admission 5000Rp; 𠄎 8am-4pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri, 8am-noon Sat & Sun) was established in 1928 by Dutch colonialists and named after the Sanskrit word 'to try'. It has a collection of *lontar* (dried palm leaves) books as well as some even older written works.

The nearby museum (donation 5000Rp; 𠄎 7am-3pm) recalls the life of the last Radja (rajah) of Buleleng, Pandji Tisna, who is credited with developing tourism in Lovina.

Festivals & Events

Every May or June, Singaraja is host to the **Bali Art Festival of Buleleng**. Over one week dancers and musicians from some of the region's most renowned village troupes, such as those of Jagaraga, perform. Consult the **Diparda tourist office** (☎ 25141; cnr Jl Veteran & Jl Gajah Mada; 𠄎 7.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) for details.

Sleeping & Eating

There is no good reason to bed down in Singaraja, especially with dozens of atmospheric places just a few kilometres west in Lovina.

Hardy's Supermarket (Jl Pramuka; 𠄎 8am-8pm) is a large grocery and variety store that has

the best selection of goods this side of the volcanoes.

Getting There & Away

BEMO & BUS

Singaraja is the transport hub for the northern coast, with three main bemo/bus terminals. From the main Sukasada terminal, about 3km south of town, minibuses go to Denpasar (Ubung terminal, 28,000Rp) via Bedugul/Pancasari (13,000Rp) about every 30 minutes from 6am to 4pm.

The Banyuasri terminal, on the western side of town, has buses heading to Gilimanuk (15,000Rp, two hours) and Java, and plenty of blue bemos to Lovina (6000Rp).

The Penarukan terminal, 2km east of town, has bemos to Yeh Sanih (7000Rp) and Amlapura (15,000Rp, three hours) via the coastal road; and also minibuses to Denpasar (Batubulan terminal; 25,000Rp) via Kintamani.

To Java

From Singaraja, several bus companies have overnight services to Surabaya (110,000Rp, 13 hours), which include the short ferry trip across the Bali Strait. Other buses go as far as Yogyakarta (170,000Rp, 16 hours) and Jakarta (250,000Rp, 24 hours), usually travelling overnight. Book at Banyuasri terminal a day before.

AROUND SINGARAJA

☎ 0362

Sights around Singaraja include some of Bali's best-known temples. The north-coast sandstone is soft and easily carved, allowing local sculptors to give free rein to their imaginations. You'll find some delightfully whimsical scenes carved into a number of the temples here.

Sangsit

A few kilometres east of Singaraja, there are two good examples of the colourful architectural style of northern Bali. **Sangsit's Pura Beji** is a *subak* (irrigated rice system) temple, dedicated to the goddess Dewi Sri, who looks after irrigated rice fields. It's about 500m off the main road towards the coast. Close to Pura Beji is a *pura dalem* that shows scenes of punishment in the afterlife, and other pictures that are humorous and/or

erotic. Turn left about 50m south of Pura Beji, and left again after about 100m. It's another 100m down the road.

All forms of public transport between Singaraja's Penarukan terminal and Amlapura will stop at Sangsit and Berdikari Cottages.

Jagaraga & Sawan

Jagaraga has an interesting *pura dalem*, with delightful sculpted panels along its front wall, both inside and out. On the outer wall look for a vintage car sedately driving past, a steamer at sea and an aerial dogfight.

Several kilometres inland from Jagaraga, Sawan is a centre for the manufacture of gamelan gongs. Around Sawan are cold water springs believed to cure all sorts of illnesses.

Regular bemos from Penarukan terminal in Singaraja stop at Jagaraga on the way to Sawan.

Kubutambahan

About 1km east of the turn-off to Kintamani is **Pura Maduwe Karang** (Temple of the Landowner). Like Pura Beji at Sangsit, the temple is dedicated to agricultural spirits, but this one looks after unirrigated land. This is one of the best temples in northern Bali, and is particularly noted for its sculpted panels, including the famous bicycle panel depicting a gentleman riding a bicycle with flower petals for wheels. **Kubutambahan** is on the Singaraja to Amlapura road, and there are regular bemos and buses.

Gitgit

About 11km south of Singaraja are the pretty – and pretty touristy – waterfalls of **Air Terjun Gitgit** (adult/child 3300/1600Rp) The well-signposted path (800m) from the main road in the village is lined with souvenir stalls and warung. The 40m falls are a good place for a picnic when it's not too busy, but litter can be an issue. There is another small waterfall, sometimes called **Gitgit Multi-Tier Waterfall** (donation 5000Rp) about 2km further up the hill from the main falls and about 600m off the main road.

Regular buses and minibuses travel between the main Sukasada terminal in Singaraja and Denpasar (Ubung terminal), via Bedugul, and stop at Gitgit.

LOVINA

☎ 0362

Lovina manages to exude a sedate charm even as the number of hotels and other tourist places grows. Almost merging into Singaraja to the west, the town is really a string of coastal villages – Pamaron, Tukad Mungga, Anturan, Kalibukbuk, Kaliasem and Temukus – that have taken on this collective name.

Lovina is a convenient base for trips around the north coast or the central mountains. The beaches are made up of washed-out grey and black volcanic sand, and they are mostly clean near the hotel areas, but generally unspectacular. Reefs protect the shore, so the water is usually calm and clear.

Orientation & Information

The Lovina tourist area stretches over 8km, but the main focus is Kalibukbuk, 10.5km west of Singaraja.

If you are planning a reading holiday in Lovina, come prepared. There's no decent place to buy a new book (there's lots of places for well-thumbed old bestsellers) and you can't buy a newspaper. The main post office is 1km west of central Kalibukbuk.

There are plenty of moneychangers around Lovina, especially in Kalibukbuk. There are ATMs on Jl Bina Ria and at the Jl Raya Lovina intersection.

Other facilities:

Police station (Jl Raya Lovina)

Spice Cyber (☎ 41305; Jl Bina Ria; per min 300Rp; 𠄎 8am-midnight; ☎) The best place for internet access, and it's air-conditioned.

Sights & Activities

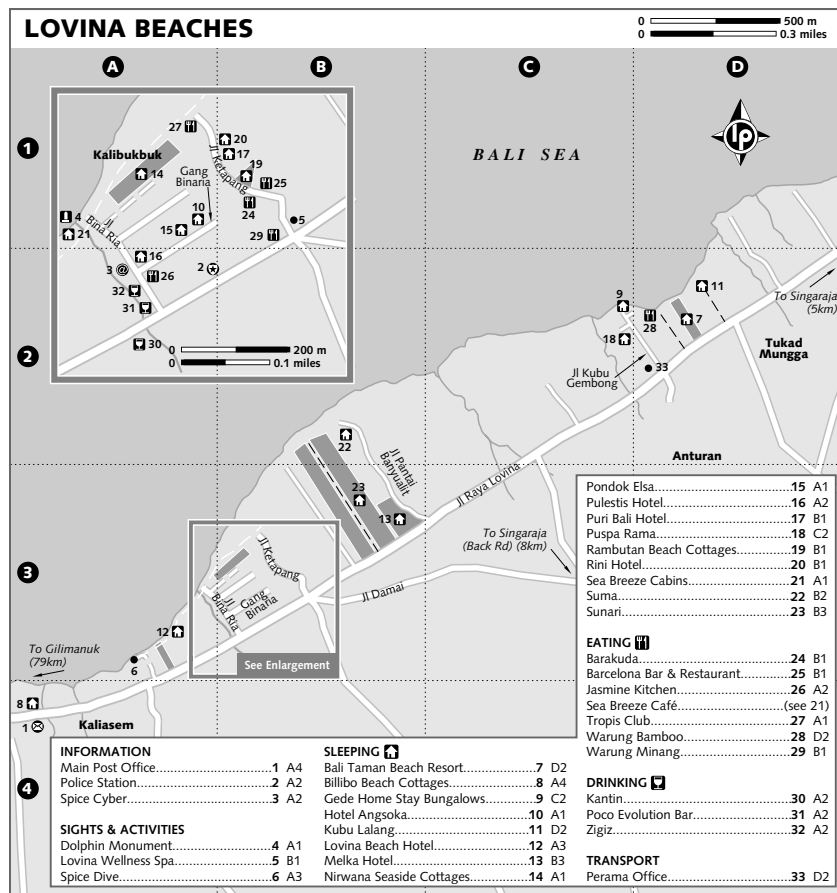
BEACHES

A paved beach path runs along the sand in Kalibukbuk. It greatly eases a beach stroll – even if it is popular with scooters.

Otherwise, the best beach areas include the main beach east of the Dolphin Monument as well as the curving stretch a bit west. The cluster of cheap hotels in Anturan also enjoy a good beach.

DOLPHIN WATCHING

Sunrise boat trips to see dolphins are Lovina's much-hyped tourist attraction – so much so that a large concrete crowned monument has been erected in honour of



the over-touted cetaceans. Some days, no dolphins are sighted, but most of the time at least a few surface.

Expect constant hassle from your hotel and touts selling dolphin trips – and if you want to go, it's best to buy a ticket the day before. The price is fixed at 40,000Rp per person by the boat owners' cartel. Trips start at 6am and last two hours. Note that the ocean can get pretty crowded with loud and belching power boats and there's great debate about what all this means to the dolphins.

DIVING

Scuba diving on the local reef is better at lower depths, and night diving is par-

ticularly recommended. Many people stay here to dive off Pulau Menjangan (p357), a two- to three-hour drive west.

Spice Dive (% 41509; www.balispicedive.com) has the best reputation locally. It runs four-day PADI open-water certificate courses for US\$250. Spice Dive is based at the pleasant Café Spice, found at the end of the beach path.

SNORKELLING

Generally, the water is clear and some parts of the reef are quite good for snorkelling. The best place is to the west, a few-hundred metres offshore from Billibo Beach Cottages. Snorkelling gear costs about 20,000Rp per day.

MASSAGE & SPAS

Lovina Wellness Spa (% 0812 377 2046; Jl Ketapang; massage from 70,000Rp; 10am-7pm) offers Balinese, Ayurveda, and foot massage, as well as 'rebirthing' (for those who missed the fun the first time?).

Sleeping

Hotels are spread out along Jl Raya Lovina, and on the side roads going off to the beach. There are decent places to stay in every price range.

BUDGET

Singaraja to Anturan

Kubu Lalang (% 42207; http://kubu.balihilotelguide.com; r 75,000-170,000Rp) The five bungalows here are designed in traditional rice-barn style. Edged in between rice fields, each one is different and exotically decorated, and has a modern open-air bathroom, some with hot water and tubs.

Anturan

A few tiny side tracks and one proper sealed road, Jl Kubu Gembong, lead to this lively little fishing village, busy with swimming locals and moored fishing boats. It's a real travellers' hang-out.

Gede Home Stay Bungalows (% 41526; Jl Kubu Gembong; r 50,000-120,000Rp; a) The friendly staff here win praise. Cheap rooms have cold water while better ones have hot water and air-con.

Puspa Rama (% 42070; Jl Kubu Gembong; s/d 60,000/70,000Rp) This is one of several cheap places on this street. The six rooms have hot water and are set in very lush grounds.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Jl Pantai Banyualit has a good selection of hotels, although the beachfront area is not very inspiring.

Suma (% 41566; Jl Pantai Banyualit; r US\$10-30; a s) In a mannered stone building, Suma has views of the sea from its upstairs rooms. The pool is large and there's also a pleasant café.

Kalibukbuk

A little over 10km from Singaraja, the 'centre' of Lovina is the village of Kalibukbuk. Jl Ketapang is marginally quieter and more pleasant than Jl Bina Ria. There are small gang off both.

Hotel Angsoka (% 41841; www.angsoka.com; Gang Binaria; r 40,000-200,000Rp; a s) There's a large range of rooms here, from cold-water basic to large with air-con and hot water. All enjoy the benefits of the good-sized pool and quiet gardens.

Pondok Elsa (% 41186; Gang Binaria; r 65,000Rp, with air-con 90,000Rp; a) This two-storey heavily ornate building has seven clean, pleasant rooms.

Pulestis Hotel (% 41035; jokoartawan@hotmail.com; Jl Bina Ria; r 70,000-100,000Rp; a s) The 14 rooms here have funky exteriors, clean interiors and pebbled open-air bathrooms – some with hot water. The café overlooks an indigo pool.

Puri Bali Hotel (% 41485; www.puribalilovina.com; Jl Ketapang; r 80,000-180,000Rp; a s) The pool area is very attractive and has lush plantings. The better rooms, with hot water and air-con, are plain but comfortable.

Rini Hotel (% /fax 41386; rinihotel@telkom.net; Jl Ketapang; r 80,000-300,000Rp; a s) A super-clean 30-room place with a large saltwater pool. Cheaper rooms are basic but more expensive ones are huge, with air-con and hot water.

West of Kalibukbuk

Lovina Beach Hotel (% 41005; www.lovinabeachhotel.com; Jl Raya Lovina; r 75,000-250,000Rp, bungalows 250,000Rp; a s) Clean rooms in heavily detailed Balinese bungalows are set in pleasant grounds right on the beach. Better ones come with hot water; private bungalows have air-con and views.

Billibo Beach Cottages (% 41355; Jl Raya Lovina; r 125,000-200,000Rp; a) Located near one of the best spots for snorkelling, the cottages here are clean and comfortable and come with hot water and good access to the beach.

MIDRANGE

Anturan

Bali Taman Beach Resort (% 41126; www.indo.com/hotels/bali_taman; Jl Raya Lovina; r US\$35-85; a s) Facing the busy road but extending down to the beach, the Bali Taman has 30 rooms that vary greatly. The best ones are bungalows with ocean views. The pool faces the ocean and is surrounded by leafy gardens. There's a spa.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Melka Hotel (% 41552; www.melkahotel.com; Jl Pantai Banyualit; r US\$30-45; a s) Complete with its

own animal menagerie (deer, snakes, birds etc), the Melka defines idiosyncratic. There is a range of rooms, from those with cold water and fan to those in a flash new addition with air-con, hot water, balconies with views and satellite TV. Plans to have dolphins in a tank may horrify some.

Kalibukbuk

Nirwana Seaside Cottages (% 41288; www.nirwana.seaside.com; bungalows 100,000-125,000Rp, deluxe r 210,000-300,000Rp; a s) On large and lovely beachfront grounds off Jl Bina Ria, the 58-unit Nirwana has a vast beachfront site. All bungalows have some character and hot water. Those with beach views are a great deal. A newer wing has hotel-style air-con rooms.

Sea Breeze Cabins (% 41138; r US\$15, bungalows US\$35-40; a s) An excellent choice in the heart of Kalibukbuk, off Jl Bina Ria, the Sea Breeze has lovely bungalows right on the beach, some with sensational views from their verandas.

Rambutan Beach Cottages (% 41388; www.rambutan.org; Jl Ketepang; r 300,000-500,000Rp; a s) The hotel, on a large area of land, features two swimming pools and charming gardens. The 48 rooms and villas are tasteful, with lashings of Balinese style. There are a few cold-water economy rooms for about 120,000Rp. The owner is a real Lovina booster.

TOP END

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Sunari (% 41775; www.sunari.com; r US\$85-130, villas US\$240-360; a i s) Off Jl Raya Lovina, the imposing entrance to this place leads to a large beachfront resort with redecorated rooms and good services. Villas come vari-ously with private plunge pools, whirlpools and ocean views. Grounds are verdant with banana trees and a profusion of posies.

Eating

Just about every hotel has a café or restaurant. In addition, Kalibukbuk has food carts, warung, cafés and some fine restaurants. Many of the places listed here are also good for an end-of-the-day drink.

ANTURAN

Warung Bamboo (dishes 7000-30,000Rp; h 4am-10pm) A small, open-fronted place, Bamboo faces

a lively section of beach. It serves typical travellers' fare and cheapish beer and has a relaxed feel. To find it, walk east along the beach from the end of Jl Kubu Gembong.

KALIBUKBUK

Warung Minang (% 0812 393 0792; Jl Raya Lovina; dishes 6000-8000Rp) This stylish Padang-style café is a great find. Choose from numerous fresh dishes on display, then savour the local art on the walls.

Barcelona Bar & Restaurant (% 41894; Jl Ketepang; dishes 10,000-30,000Rp) This restaurant has a lovely, open-air, shady area out the back. The food is excellent, and includes *sate pel-ecing* (fish satay with Balinese spices).

Barakuda (Jl Ketepang; dishes 13,000-25,000Rp) Seafood is the speciality here. The prawns in many forms are excellent. On many nights you can get giant lobster for 135,000Rp. Balinese specialities can be ordered the day before.

Sea Breeze Cafe (% 41138; dishes 13,000-38,000Rp) Right by the beach off Jl Bina Ria, with an uninterrupted outlook. There's a range of Indonesian and Western dishes and good breakfasts. It's another spot for sunset drinks. The Sea Breeze Cabins here are good too (left).

Jasmine Kitchen (% 41565; Gang Binaria; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) Enjoy excellent Thai fare in this elegant two-level restaurant. The menu is long and authentic; the staff gracious. Try the homemade ice cream for dessert amid the stylish surroundings.

Tropis Club (% 42090; Jl Ketepang; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) The long menu at this beachside place includes wood-fired pizza, which may not transport you to Italy but may get you as far as Oman. It's an attractive place with a soaring roof.

Drinking

Lovina's social scene centres on Jl Bina Ria, which is happy-hour HQ and has several bar-restaurants.

Kantin (% 0812 460 7791; Jl Raya Lovina; dishes 6000-12,000Rp; h 11am-2am) Funky open-air place where you can watch traffic by day and groove to acoustic guitar by night. It offers a long drinks list, fresh juices and coffees and a few local snacks.

Poco Evolution Bar (% 41535; Jl Bina Ria; dishes 12,000-18,000Rp; h 11am-1am) At various times movies are shown and cover bands perform

PERAMA TOURIST SHUTTLE BUSES FROM LOVINA

Destination	Fare (Rp)
Candidasa	100,000
Kuta	70,000
Padangbai	100,000
Sanur	70,000
Ubud	30,000

at this popular place. There is an internet area off the bar. Classic travellers' fare is served.

Zigiz (Jl Bina Ria; small/large Bintang 6000/11,000Rp; h 6pm-1am) This small place has walls covered in artwork and live music some nights. Other times you just keep hearing *'Play that funky music white boy.'*

Getting There & Away

BUS & BEMO

To reach Lovina from South Bali by public transport, you'll need to change in Singa- raja (see p368). Regular blue bemos go from Singaraja's Banyuasri terminal to Kalibuk- buk (about 6000Rp) – you can flag them down anywhere on the main road.

If you are coming by long-distance bus from the west, you can ask to be dropped off anywhere along the main road.

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

Perama buses stop at its office in front of Hotel Perama (% 41161; Jl Raya Lovina) in Anturan. Passengers are then ferried to other points on the Lovina strip (5000Rp). See the boxed text (above) for information on fares.

Getting Around

The Lovina strip is *very* spread out, but you can easily travel back and forth on bemos (2000Rp).

AROUND LOVINA

% 0362

There are some interesting sites in the slopes of the mountains behind the north coast.

Air Terjun Singing

About 5km west of Kalibukbuk, turn left opposite Puri Singing Hotel in Temukus vil- lage to reach this waterfall. It's about a 300m walk in, and the waterfall is not huge, but the

pool underneath is good for swimming. The water isn't crystal clear, though it's cooler than the sea and very refreshing. You can clamber further up the hill to another water- fall (Singsing Dua), which is slightly bigger and has a mud bath that is supposedly good for the skin. This waterfall also cascades into a deep pool in which you can swim. Come in the wet season (October to March).

Air Panas Banjar

% 0362

Not far from Brahma Vihara Arama mon- astery, these **hot springs** (adult/child 4100/2000Rp, parking 1000Rp; h 8am-6pm) are beautifully land- scaped with lush tropical plants. You can relax here for a few hours and have lunch at the restaurant, or even stay the night.

Eight fierce-faced carved stone *naga* pour water from a natural hot spring into the first bath, which then overflows (via the mouths of five more *naga*), into a second, larger pool. In a third pool, water pours from 3m-high spouts to give you a pum- melling massage.

It's only about 3km from the monastery to the hot springs if you take the short cut – go down to Banjar Tega, turn left in the cen- tre of the village and follow the small road west, then south to Banjar village. From there it's a short distance uphill before you see the 'Air Panas 1km' sign on the left (on the corner by the police station).

Celukanbawang

Celukanbawang is the main cargo port for North Bali, and has a large wharf. Bugis schooners – the magnificent sailing ships that take their name from the seafaring Bugis people of Sulawesi – can sometimes be seen anchoring here.

West of Celukanbawang the road is sparsely populated.

PEMUTERAN

% 0362

This wonderfully isolated area, with limited facilities, has extensive, untouched coral reefs about 3km offshore, good snorkel- ing, and is handy for dive sites on Pulau Menjangan (p357) to the west.

The area is home to the Reef Seen Turtle Project, run by the Australian-owned Reef Seen Aquatics (% 93001; www.reefseen.com). Tur- tle eggs and small turtles purchased from

locals are looked after here until they're ready for ocean release. More than 6000 turtles have been released since 1994. You can visit the small hatchery, see Boomer, the turtle who wouldn't leave, and make a donation to sponsor and release a tiny turtle.

Reef Seen also offers diving, boat cruises and horse riding. A PADI introductory dive costs US\$55, and dives at Pemuteran/Pulau Menjangan are US\$55/65 for two dives. Horse-riding treks pass through the local villages and beaches (250,000Rp for one hour). Simple accommodation (per room 150,000Rp) is available to dive guests and horse riders.

Pemuteran's hotels all have their own dive operations.

SLEEPING & EATING

Pemuteran is a delightful place to stay, with many midrange and top-end choices. There are several small warung along the main drag, otherwise all the hotels have good restaurants.

Jubawa Home Stay (☎ 94745; r 150,000-200,000Rp; a i) Not far from the Matahari, this cheery place is a good budget choice. The best rooms have hot water and air-con and guests have free internet access. The café serves Balinese and Thai food and there is a long list of cocktails. It's on the mountain side of the road.

Taman Sari Bali Cottages (☎ 288096; www.balitamansari.com; bungalows US\$35-65, ste US\$80-150;

a s) Thirty-one rooms are set in gorgeous bungalows that feature intricate carvings and other traditional artwork. It's located on a long stretch of quiet beach. The resort is also involved in an off-shore reef restoration project – look for the wires snaking through the sand and water that provide low amounts of energy that stimulate growth.

Pondok Sari (☎ 92337; www.pondoksari.com; r US\$38-45; a) There are pleasant bungalows here with traditional rooms and lovely flower-filled open-air bathrooms. Snorkeling is possible off the beach. The restaurant (dishes 14,000Rp to 30,000Rp) features Western and Indonesian classics.

Matahari Beach Resort & Spa (☎ 92312; www.matahari-beach-resort.com; r US\$169-440; a i s) One of Bali's best hotels, the Matahari is an elegant place in an isolated location on the eastern outskirts of Pemuteran. Beautiful and traditionally furnished bungalows are set in attractive gardens, and the pool overlooks the black-sand beach. The most intriguing part of the resort, however, is the spa, which is like a grand water palace and is open to nonguests.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Buses making the journey from Singaraja (12,000Rp) to the ferry port in Gilimanuk (8000Rp) pass Pemuteran. To reach South Bali, get a bus west and change in Cekik or Gilimanuk (p358).