

Bali



Impossibly green rice terraces, pulse-pounding surf, enchanting Hindu temple ceremonies, mesmerising dance performances, ribbons of beaches, a truly charming people: there are as many images of Bali as there are flowers on the ubiquitous frangipani trees.

This small island – you can drive the entire coast in one day – looms large for any visit to Indonesia. No place is more visitor-friendly. Hotels range from surfer dives where the fun never stops to sybaritic retreats in the lush mountains. The shopping, from hackneyed baubles to designer duds will put ‘extra bag’ at the top of your list. You can dine on local foods bursting with flavours fresh from the markets or let a world-class chef take you on a culinary journey around the globe. From a cold Bintang at sunset to an epic night clubbing, your social whirl is limited only by your own fortitude. And when comes time to relax, you can get a cheap beach massage or lose yourself in an all-day spa.

And small obviously doesn’t mean homogeneous. Manic Kuta segues into luxurious Seminyak. The artistic swirl of Ubud is a counterpoint to misty treks amid the volcanoes. Mellow beach towns like Amed, Lovina and Pemuteran are found right round the coast and just offshore is the laid-back idyll of Nusa Lembongan.

As you stumble upon the exquisite little religious offerings that seem to materialise everywhere as if by magic, you’ll see that their tiny tapestry of colours and textures is a metaphor for Bali itself.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Shopping by day and hitting the hotspots by night in **Seminyak** (p279)
- Discovering the string of hidden beaches in and around **Bingin** (p290)
- Revelling in Bali’s elaborate cultural life in **Ubud** (p306) and surrounding villages
- Gazing in awe at the rice terraces leading to the mystical temple **Pura Luhur Batukau** (p355)
- Feeling the mist of waterfalls while trekking the lush region around **Munduk** (p354)



■ POPULATION: 3.5 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 stunning rock-cut memorials seen at Gunung Kawi near Tampaksiring (p323) 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 kingdom, 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 raja. 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 raja of Badung (southern Bali) 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 rajas of Badung 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 raja 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 raja of Klungkung (p327) 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 Sukarno 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 volcanic 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 (p273). Tourism (meaning the economy) was devastated and was dealt another blow in 2005 when more bombs went off, albeit with less loss of life. Since then however, Bali has been on a roll. It elected the hero of the 2002 bombing investigations, Made Pastika, governor. A record two million visitors turned up in 2008 and development is everywhere. People are starting to ask: 'Can we be too popular?'

CULTURE

Bali's culture strips the cliché from the word unique. The version of Hinduism practiced with great fervour is found no place else in the world and has inspired fervent artistic expressions that charms visitors.

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.

BALI MEDIA

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

Bali Advertiser (www.baliadvertiser.biz) This newspaper and website has voluminous ads, comprehensive information and idiosyncratic columns.

Hello Bali Big and glossy with good features.

The Beat Excellent biweekly with extensive entertainment and cultural listings.

What's Up Bali Useful weekly brochure with entertainment listings.

Yak Glossy mag celebrating the expat swells of Seminyak and Ubud.

The website for **Bali Discovery** (www.balidiscovery.com) has an award-winning section with Bali news, including tourism 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.

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

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.

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.

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 (p329) 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 it's believed that 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.

Most visitors to the island discover the greatest concentration of the arts in and around Ubud (p306).

BALINESE PAINTING

The art form most influenced both by Western ideas and tourist demand is painting. 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*

TOP FIVE TEMPLES

- Pura Luhur Ulu Watu (p291), on the Bukit Peninsula, one of Bali's nine directional temples, with a spectacular cliff-top location.
- Pura Tirta Empul (p323) at Tampaksiring, renowned for its beauty and nearby springs and bathing pools.
- Pura Luhur Batukau (p355) on the slopes of Gunung Batukau, with its cool, misty atmosphere.
- Pura Kehen (p326), state temple of the Bangli kingdom and miniature version of Pura Besakih.
- Pura Maduwe Karang (p358), near Kubutambahan, an elaborate seaside temple with some surprising carvings.

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 a publishing sensation. Fans of the lurid, self-absorbed prose flock to Ubud looking for their own prince.

Diana Darling's *The Painted Alphabet* is based on a Balinese epic poem with all the usual ingredients: good, evil, a quest, baby-swapping and various mystical events. It's a gentle and beguiling way to get your head into Balinese folklore.

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

Gecko's Complaint is a morality tale presented as an old Balinese children's fable. The recent Periplus edition is richly illustrated.

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.

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 head-dresses and by their graceful postures and gestures; and the devils and giants by their bulging eyes, canine teeth, bulbous noses and bulky bodies. As always, Ubud is the place to both ponder the best paintings in museums (p307) and to sift through the works of many in galleries.

ARCHITECTURE

Architecture has an important role in Bali that transcends the mere visual and gets to the heart of matters spiritual. Much of the unique look of Bali's architecture has deep religious and cultural significance. For more, see p65.

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 with the soft local stones.

WOODCARVING

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

DANCE

Many visitors are seduced by the haunting and melodic charms of a dance performance in Ubud (p320), a quintessential Bali experience.

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.

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 nonstop 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 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

For important visa information, see p839.

Air

The only airport in Bali, Ngurah Rai Airport (DPS) is just south of Kuta, however it is sometimes referred to internationally as Denpasar (which is 15km north) or on some internet flight booking sites as Bali.

The airport is modern; renovations planned for 2010 will greatly expand it. Services include, internet centres, upscale lounges, left-luggage, ATMs, exchange counters etc.

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

International airlines flying to and from Bali include:

AirAsia (AK; ☎ 0361-760116; www.airasia.com; ticket office outside international terminal) Serves Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur and Kuching in Malaysia, connects to London.

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

China Airlines (CI; ☎ 0361-754856; www.china-airlines.com) Serves Taipei.

Eva Air (BR; ☎ 0361-751011; www.evaair.com) Serves Taipei.

Garuda Indonesia (GA; Map pp298-9; ☎ 0361-227824; www.garuda-indonesia.com; Jl Sugianyar 5, Denpasar) Serves Australia and major cities in Asia direct.

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

Jetstar/Qantas Airways (QF; Map p286; ☎ 0361-288331; www.qantas.com.au; Grand Bali Beach Hotel, Sanur) Serves Australia.

Korean Air (KE; ☎ 0361-768377; www.koreanair.com) Serves Seoul.

Lion Air (JT; ☎ 0804-177 8899; www.lionair.co.id) Serves Singapore.

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

Pacific Blue (D); ☎ +61 7 3295 2296; www.flypacificblue.com) Offshoot of Australia's Virgin Blue.

Singapore Airlines (SQ; Map p270; ☎ 0361-768388; www.singaporeair.com; GOI Bldg, Airport Parking Lot) Several Singapore flights daily.

Thai Airways International (TG; Map p286; ☎ 0361-288141; www.thaiair.com; Grand Bali Beach Hotel, Sanur) Serves 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.

AirAsia (AK; www.airasia.com) Fast-growing Malaysian-based budget carrier with a web of Indonesian domestic flights.

Batavia Air (7P; www.batavia-air.co.id) Serves numerous destinations; has the enigmatic slogan: 'Trust us to fly'.

Garuda Indonesia (GA; www.garuda-indonesia.com) The national carrier serves numerous cities.

Lion Air (JT; www.lionair.co.id) Fast-expanding budget carrier has a web of services across the archipelago; carried the most passengers in 2008.

DEPARTURE TAX

The departure tax from Bali and Lombok is 30,000Rp domestic and 150,000Rp international. Have the exact amount for the officer.

Mandala Airlines (RI; www.mandalaair.com) Serves major routes.

Merpati Airlines (MZ; www.merpati.co.id) Serves many smaller Indonesian cities, in addition to the main ones.

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 p300.

Sea

JAVA

Ferries operate between Gilimanuk in western Bali and Ketapang (Java), see p346.

LOMBOK

This island is accessible by regular public boat from Padangbai, see p331. Fast boats for tourists serve the Gili Islands (p492).

OTHER INDONESIAN ISLANDS

The Pelni ship *Kelimutu* wanders the archipelago on a month-long route that links Bali (Benoa Harbour; p289) with Surabaya and then Bima, Makassar, Ambon, Banda, Tual and points further east. Prices are dependent on the route and the class of travel, and this can vary widely in price. Check for details locally but in general, fares, even in 1st class, are very low, eg Bali to Surabaya on Java is US\$35.

You can inquire and book at the **Pelni offices** in Tuban (Map p270; ☎ 0361-763963, 021-7918 0606; www.pelni.co.id; Jl Raya Kuta 299; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm Sat) and at the harbour in Benoa (Map p270; ☎ 0361-721377; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, 8am-12.30pm Sat).

GETTING AROUND

Bali is a small island with good roads and regular, inexpensive public transport. Traffic is heavy throughout the south and east as far as Semarapura and west across to the port of Gilimanuk. Roads are more pleasant on the rest of the island. If you rent your own vehicle, it's generally not hard to find your way around – main roads have some signs 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

From the official counters, just outside the airport terminals, there are supposedly fixed-price taxis. However, efforts may be made to charge you at the high end of each range and if you say you don't have a room booking, there will be heavy pressure to go to a commission-paying hotel. The costs are (depending on drop-off point):

Destination	Cost
Denpasar	70,000-90,000Rp
Jimbaran	75,000-95,000Rp
Kuta Beach	45,000-50,000Rp
Legian	55,000-65,000Rp
Nusa Dua	95,000-105,000Rp
Sanur	95,000Rp
Seminyak	70,000-80,000Rp
Ubud	195,000-225,000Rp

If you have a surfboard, you'll be charged at least 35,000Rp extra, depending on its size. Ignore any touts that aren't part of the official scheme. Many hotels will offer to pick you up at the airport, however there's no need to use this service if it costs more than the above rates.

The thrifty can walk from the international and domestic terminals across the airport car park to the right (northeast) and continue a couple of hundred metres through the vehicle exit to the airport road (ignoring any touts along the way), where you can hail a regular cab for about half the above amounts.

Any taxi will take you to the airport at a metered rate that should be much less than the taxis from the airport.

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; you will likely be charged the *harga turis* (tourist price). 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 4000Rp.

Note that as seemingly everyone on Bali has bought a motorbike, the bemo/bus network has suffered. Service hours are short and frequencies may be few.

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

Bicycle

A famous temple carving (p358) shows the Dutch artist WOJ Nieuwenkamp pedalling through Bali in 1904. Bali's roads have improved greatly since then and more and more people are touring the island by *sepeda* (bicycle). Many visitors are using bikes around the towns and for day trips in Bali. Ask at your accommodation about where you can rent a good bike; hotels often have their own. Generally, prices range from 20,000Rp to 30,000Rp per day.

Boat

Boats of various sizes serve Nusa Lembongan (p304) and Nusa Penida (p305) from Benoa Harbour, Sanur and Padangbai.

Car & Motorcycle

A small Suzuki or Toyota 4WD is the typical rental vehicle in Bali. Typical costs are 150,000Rp to 180,000Rp per day, including insurance and unlimited kilometres but not including fuel. Hiring a car with driver will cost around 350,000Rp to 600,000Rp 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 30,000 to 40,000Rp 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. 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 4000Rp 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.

By far the most reputable taxi agency is **Bali Taxi** (☎ 0361-701111; www.bluebirdgroup.com), which uses distinctive blue vehicles with the words 'Bluebird Group' over the windshield (watch out for fakes). Drivers speak reasonable English, won't offer you illicit opportunities and use the meter at all times. Many expats will use no other firm and the drivers are often fascinating conversationalists.

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. But if you're with a group of three or more people (or sometimes even two), it may be cheaper to charter a vehicle.

Perama (www.peramatour.com) has a near monopoly on this service in Bali. At least one bus a day links the main Bali tourist centres with more frequent services to the airport. There are also services along the east coast between Lovina and Candidasa via Amed by demand.

Fares are reasonable (for example, Kuta to Lovina is 100,000Rp). Be sure to book your trip at least a day ahead in order to confirm schedules. It is important to understand where Perama buses stop as you may need to pay an extra 5000Rp to get to/from your hotel. Some routes involve changing buses.

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 coasts feature 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, souvenir shopping and bawdy nightlife, you will probably have a great time. Go elsewhere on the island if you want an actual Balinese experience.

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 hedonism and entrepreneurial energy can be fun. 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 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 rajas and the Dutch, who were encroaching from the north. His business soured in the 1850s, and in 1856 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 during WWII. In the late 1960s, Kuta became a stop on the hippie trail between Australia and Europe, and an untouched '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 and 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, warungs (food stalls), bars, construction sites and even a few remaining 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 from trying. The best known are called Poppies Gang I and II – use these as landmarks. You'll find most of the bigger shops, restaurants and nightspots situated along Jl Legian and a few of the main streets that head towards the beach.

Many streets have more than one name. See the boxed text, p282, for more information on the confusing street names in the region.

Information

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

BOOKSHOPS

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

Periplus Bookshop Discovery Shopping Mall (Map p270; ☎ 769757; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban); Bali Galleria (Map p270; ☎ 752670; Ngurah Rai Bypass) Has the largest selection of new books in Bali.

EMERGENCY

Police station (Map p272; ☎ 751598; Jl Raya Kuta; ☎ 24hr) Next to the Tourist Information Centre.

Tourist police post (Map p272; ☎ 7845988; Jl Pantai Kuta; ☎ 24hr) This is a branch of the main police station in Denpasar. Situated right across from the beach, the officers have a gig that is sort of like a Balinese Bay-watch.

INTERNET ACCESS

There are scores of places to connect to the internet. Most have poky connections and charge about 300Rp a minute. The following places have fast broadband connections and offer numerous services. Connection rates average 600Rp per minute.

Bali@Cyber Café (Map p272; ☎ 761326; www.balicyber.net; Jl Patih Jelantik; meals 20,000-30,000Rp; ☎ 8am-11pm) Has a full range of computer options, parking and a good menu of snacks, meals and tasty smoothies. Many expats use it as their office.

VIP Bali Internet (Map p272; ☎ 081 3371 96105; Poppies Gang 1; ☎ 8.30am-midnight) Decent speed, plus wi-fi, scanning, Skype etc.

MEDICAL SERVICES

BIMC (Map p270; ☎ 761263; www.bimcbali.com; Jl Ngurah Rai 100X; ☎ 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 Western-style clinic that can do tests, hotel visits and arrange medical evacuation. A basic consultation costs 600,000Rp.

Guardian Melasti (Map p272; ☎ 765217; Jl Melasti; ☎ 8am-10pm) Modern chain pharmacy; a good stop if you need prescription drugs.

Kimia Farma (Map p270; ☎ 757483; Jl Raya Kuta 15; ☎ 24hr) Part of a local chain of pharmacies, it's well stocked and carries hard-to-find items.

Legian Medical Clinic (Map p272; ☎ 758503; Jl Benesari; ☎ on call 24hr) Has an ambulance and dental service. It's 400,000Rp for a consultation with an English-

speaking Balinese doctor, or 800,000Rp for an emergency visit to your hotel room.

MONEY

There are banks along Jl Legian and at Kuta Sq. In addition, ATMs abound and can be found everywhere, including in the ubiquitous Circle K and Mini Mart convenience stores.

The numerous 'authorised' moneychangers are faster and efficient, open long hours and may offer better exchange rates. Be cautious, though, especially where the rates are markedly better than average. Extra fees may apply or, judging by the number of readers' letters we continue to receive, they may be 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 p272; Jl Selamet; ☎ 7am-2pm Mon-Thu, 7-11am Fri, 7am-1pm Sat) On a small road east of Jl Raya Kuta, this small and efficient post office has an easy, sort-it-yourself poste restante service. It's well practised in shipping large packages.

Dangers & Annoyances

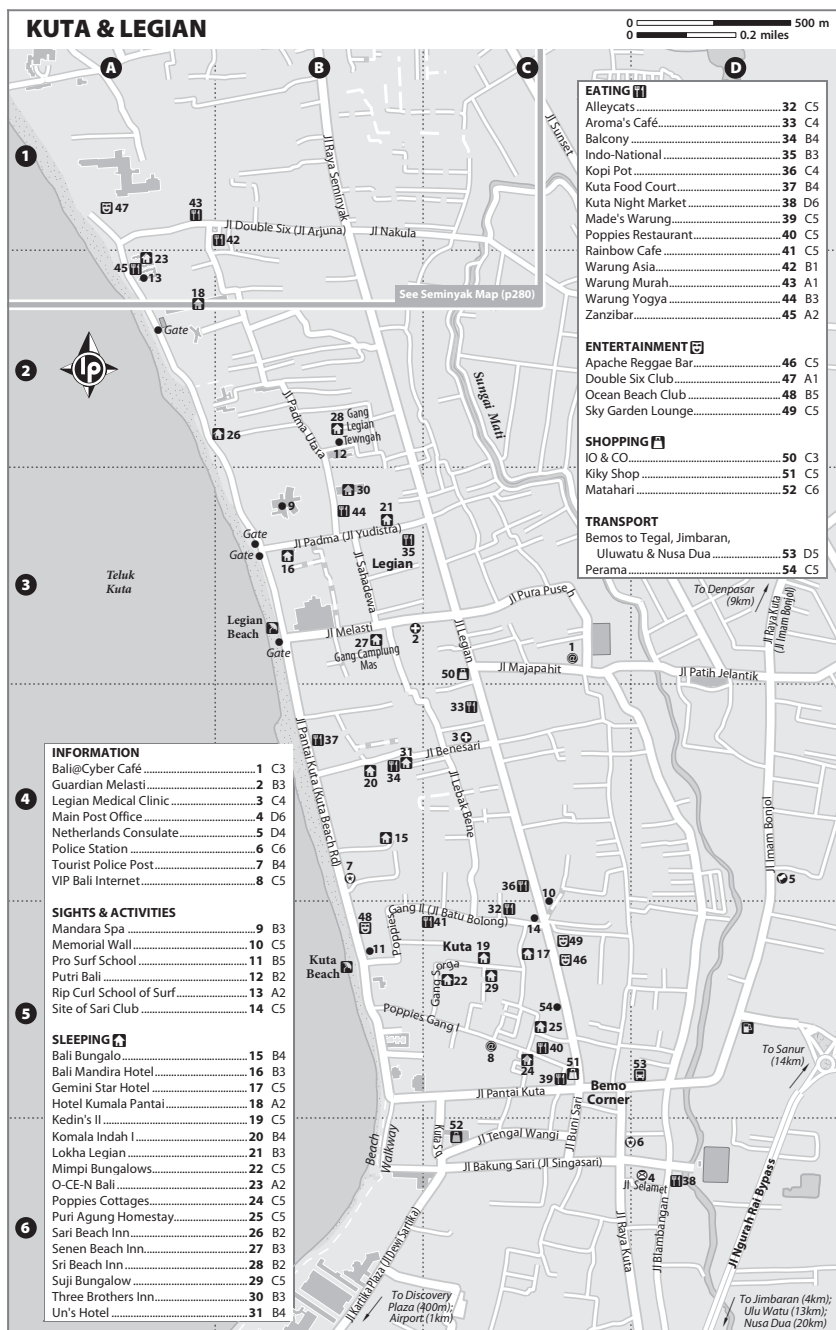
The streets and *gang* are usually safe but there are annoyances. Scooter-borne prostitutes (who hassle single men late at night) cruise after dark. Walking along you may hear: 'massage' followed by 'young girl' and the ubiquitous 'transport' followed by 'blow'. But your biggest irritation will likely be the ever-worsening traffic.

HAWKERS

Crackdowns mean that it's rare to find carts in the Kuta tourist area, but street selling is common, especially on hassle street, Jl Legian, where selling and begging can be aggressive. The beach isn't unbearable, but the upper part has souvenir sellers and masseuses (who may grab hold of you and not let go). Closer to the water you can sunbake on the sand in peace – you'll see where the invisible line is.

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

Visitors lose things from unlocked (and some locked) hotel rooms and 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, but valuable items can be left at your hotel reception.

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.

Sights

Much of your time in Kuta will centre on the superb beach. Hawkers will sell you sodas and beer, snacks and other treats, and you can rent lounge chairs and umbrellas (negotiable at 10,000Rp to 20,000Rp) or just crash on the sand. An excellent new **Beach Walkway** runs south from where Jl Pantai Kuta meets the beach. Stretching almost to the airport, it has fine views of the ocean as well as the efforts to augment Tuban's endangered beach. Sunsets can be spectacular.

Reflecting the international character of the 2002 bombings is the **memorial wall** (Map p272; Jl Legian), where people from many nationalities pay their respects. Listing the names of the 202 known victims, including 88 Australians and 35 Indonesians, it has an emotional effect on

many who view it. Across the street, a vacant lot is all that is left of the Sari Club. Plans to turn the site into a memorial park (www.balipeacepark.com) are proving difficult as no one really knows who owns the land.

Activities

From the Kuta region you can easily go surfing (see boxed text, below), sailing, diving, fishing or rafting anywhere in southern Bali, and be back for the start of the evening happy hour.

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 30,000Rp for a half-hour massage, or 50,000Rp 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.

The top-end **Mandara Spa** (Map p272; ☎ 752111; www.mandaraspaspa.com; Jl Padma 1; massages from US\$35; ☎ 10am-8pm) is in the Hotel Padma Bali. This divine spa is decorated with water features and impressive stone sculptural reliefs.

The delightfully relaxed spa at **Putri Bali** (Map p272; ☎ 755987; Jl Padma Utara; massage from 60,000Rp;

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 p272) Where surfing came to Asia. This is a good place for beginners, with long, steady breaks.

Bingin (Map p292) A white-sand beach backed by funky accommodation make this a natural. See p290.

Ulu Watu (Map p292) Some of the largest sets in Bali. See p291.

Medewi (Map p260) Famous point break with a ride right into a river mouth. See p345

Nusa Lembongan (Map p302) The island is a mellow scene for surfers and nonsurfers. The breaks are right in front of the places to stay. See p301.

Stalls on the side streets hire out surfboards (for a negotiable 30,000Rp per day) and boogie boards, repair dings and sell new and used boards.

Pro Surf School (Map p272; ☎ 7441466; www.prosurfschool.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; lessons from US\$45; ☎ classes from 9am) is right across from the classic stretch of Kuta Beach. Facilities here include a swimming pool and semiprivate lesson areas.

Rip Curl School of Surf (Map p272; ☎ 735858; www.ripcurlschoolsofsurf.com; Jl Arjuna; lessons from US\$45; ☎ classes from 8am) run by the high-profile, local surf-wear conglomerate. The school offers classes for beginners and experts alike. Located right on ever-popular Double Six beach.

(☎ 10am-9pm) at the Wisata Beach Inn offers a cream bath that has set the hearts of many spa-o-philes a-twitter with delight. Located off the main street, this lovely spa has very competitive prices.

Kuta for Children

Except for the traffic, the Kuta area is a pretty good place for kids. With supervision – and sunscreen! – they can cavort on the beach for hours. Almost all the hotels and resorts above the surfer-dude category have pools.

Amazon (Map p270; Discovery Shopping Mall, Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; ☎ 10am-10pm) Has hundreds of screeching arcade games on the top floor of the mall.

Waterbom Park (Map p270; ☎ 755676; www.waterbom.com; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; adult/child US\$21/11; ☎ 9am-6pm) Popular activities for kids at this park include waterslides and pools.

Further afield, see p313 for details on popular rafting trips in Bali's hills and p325 for info on the popular Bali Safari and Marine Park.

Tours

A vast range of tours all around Bali, from half-day to three-day tours, can be booked through touts 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. Prices range from US\$25 to US\$50.

Sleeping

Kuta, Legian and Tuban have hundreds of places for you to stay. The top-end hotels 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 isn't a problem. Luxuries like air-con and pools have become common, although the cheapest rooms are fan- and cold-water-only.

Kuta

Many of the cheap places in Kuta 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. Jl Benesari is a great place to stay, close to the beach and quieter than the Poppies Gangs. Gang Sorga is another top pick, with scores of options.

Puri Agung Homestay (Map p272; ☎ 750054; off Poppies Gang I; s/d 30,000/50,000Rp) The budget winner in Kuta. Hungover surfers will appreciate the 12 dark, cold-water-only rooms at this attractive little place that features a tiny grotto-like garden. Nonvampires can find more light on the top floor.

Komala Indah I (Map p272; ☎ 753185; Jl Benesari; r 50,000-150,000Rp; ☎) The rooms here are set around a pleasant garden; the cheapest of the 30 rooms have squat toilets, fans and twin beds only. It's part of the Komala empire that dates back to the early days of Kuta tourism.

Kedin's II (Map p272; ☎ 763554; Gang Sorga; s/d from 80,000/110,000Rp; ☎) One of the best budget choices. Here the 16 cold-water-only rooms (with showers) have hints of style and verandahs with fine views of the gardens and the good-sized pool.

Gemini Star Hotel (Map p272; ☎ 750558; aquariusuho tel@yahoo.com; Poppies Gang II; r 90,000-185,000Rp; ☎) Only the monosyllabic mutterings of lounging surfers interrupt the peace at this small, quiet hotel on a narrow alley. Two two-storey blocks shelter the sunny and surprisingly large pool area. Cheap rooms have fans and hot water; more money adds air-con and fridges.

Mimpi Bungalows (Map p272; ☎ 751848; kumimpi@yahoo.com.sg; Gang Sorga; r 150,000-200,000Rp; ☎) The cheapest of the 10 bungalow-style rooms here are the best value. The private gardens boast orchids and shade, and the pool is a good size. The owner, Made Supatra, is a tireless promoter of Kuta.

Legian

The streets are wider here and the pace is less frenetic than just south in Kuta. Budget places tend to be larger as well. Wander off the main roads for some quiet gems.

Senen Beach Inn (Map p272; ☎ 755470; Gang Camplung Mas 25; r 50,000-70,000Rp) In a quiet little *gang* near Jl Melasti, this 18-room, cold-water-only place is run by friendly young guys. Rooms have outdoor bathrooms and are set around a small garden. There are several other family-run cheapies hidden back here.

Sri Beach Inn (Map p272; ☎ 755897; Gang Legian Tewngah; r 60,000Rp) Follow a series of paths into

the heart of old Legian. When you hear the rustle of palms overhead, you're close to this homestay with eight simple, clean rooms. The gardens get lovelier by the year; agree to a monthly rate and watch them grow.

MIDRANGE

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

Kuta

These places are handy to the beach.

Suji Bungalov (Map p272; ☎ 765804; www.suji.bglw.com; off Poppies Gang I; r US\$20-32; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺 📺 📺) You can have your choice of 47 bungalows and rooms in two-storey blocks set in a spacious, quiet garden around a pool (which has a slide into the kiddie area) at this cheery place. The verandahs and terraces are good for relaxing.

Un's Hotel (Map p272; ☎ 757409; www.unshotel.com; Jl Benesari; s/d US\$26/36, with air-con US\$38/45; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺 📺 📺) A hidden entrance sets the tone for the secluded feel of Un's. It's a two-storey place with bougainvillea spilling over the pool-facing balconies. The 30 spacious rooms in a facing pair of two-storey blocks (the southern one is quieter) feature antiques, comfy cane loungers and open-air bathrooms.

Bali Bungalo (Map p272; ☎ 755109; www.bali-bungalo.com; off Jl Pantai Kuta; r from 375,000Rp; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺) Large rooms close to the beach yet away from irritations are a big part of the appeal of this older, 44-room hotel. It's well maintained and there are prancing statues of horses to inspire horseplay in the pool. Rooms are in two-storey buildings and have patios/porches.

Poppies Cottages (Map p272; ☎ 751059; www.poppiesbali.com; Poppies Gang I; r US\$75-100; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺 📺 📺) This Kuta institution has a lush, green garden setting for its 20 thatch-roofed cottages with outdoor sunken baths. Bed choices include kings and twins. The pool is surrounded by stone sculptures and water fountains in a garden that almost makes you forget you are in the heart of Kuta.

Legian

Further north, many hotels have great locations on the beach. There's a crop of good-value places along Jl Lebak Bene.

Three Brothers Inn (Map p272; ☎ 751566; www.threebrothersbungalows.com; off Jl Padma Utara; r US\$20-35, with air-con US\$25-45; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺) Twisting banyan trees shade scores of brick bungalows holding 83 rooms in the Brothers' sprawling and garden-like grounds. The fan rooms are the best option, but all rooms are spacious, some with alluring outdoor bathrooms (all have tubs). Top-end rooms have DVD players.

Hotel Kumala Pantai (Map p272; ☎ 755500; www.kumalapantai.com; Jl Werkudara; r US\$50-70; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺 📺 📺) One of the better deals in Legian. The 108 rooms (20 in a new building) are large, with marble bathrooms that have a separate shower and tub. The three-storey blocks are set in nicely landscaped grounds across from popular Double Six beach.

Sari Beach Inn (Map p272; ☎ 751635; sbi@indo.net.id; off Jl Padma Utara; r US\$50-90; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺) Follow your ears down a long *gang* to the roar of the surf at this great-value beachside hotel that defines mellow. The 24 rooms have patios and the best have big soaking tubs. The grassy grounds boast many little statues and water features.

Lokha Legian (Map p272; ☎ 7667601; www.thelokha.legian.com; Jl Padma; r from US\$90; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺 📺 📺) This modern and stylish place in Legian sets the midrange standard. The 49 rooms are not huge but neither are the prices. The closed-in, U-shaped block overlooks a large pool, and pals from Perth shout from one terrace to the next. The beach is a five-minute walk.

TOP END

Beachfront hotels in Kuta actually front busy Jl Pantai Kuta while most of Legian's top hotels (and some more modest ones) front a fine swath of beach and a road closed to traffic – in effect, a long promenade.

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 Mandira Hotel (Map p272; ☎ 751381; www.balimandira.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r US\$110-180, cottage from US\$160; 🏠 🚿 📺 📺 📺 📺) Gardens filled with bird of paradise flowers set the tone at this 191-room full-service resort. Cottages have modern interiors, and the bathrooms are partly open-air. A dramatic pool at the peak of a stone ziggurat (which houses a spa) offers sweeping ocean views, as does the café. Wi-fi is best near reception.

O-CE-N Bali (Map p272; ☎ 737400; www.outrigger.com; Jl Arjuna 88X; r US\$150-300; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) Flashy but not trashy, this vowel-challenged resort looms over a very popular stretch of Double Six Beach. The 112 rooms scattered about the concrete complex range from hotel-simple to apartment-deluxe; none are far from the myriad of water features.

Eating

There's a profusion of places to eat around Kuta and Legian. Cafes with their cheap menus of Indonesian standards, sandwiches and pizza are ubiquitous. Other forms of Asian fare can be found as well and there are numerous places serving fresh seafood. But don't expect a village experience: signs bearing come-ons like 'Bloody good tucker mate' abound.

If you're looking for the laid-back scene of a classic travellers cafe, wander the *gang* and look for the crowds. Often what's busy one night will be quiet the next. For quick snacks and 4am stubbies, Circle K convenience stores are everywhere and are open 24 hours.

TUBAN

In most cases the best feature of the beachfront hotels for nonguests are the beachside cafes, which are good for a tropical snack or a sunset drink.

Kafe Batan Waru (Map p270; ☎ 766303; Jl Kartika Plaza; mains 25,000-50,000Rp) The Tuban branch of one of Ubud's best eateries (p318) is a slicked-up version of a warung (food stall), albeit with excellent and creative Asian and local fare. There's also good coffee, baked goods and magazines.

B Couple Bar n' Grill (Map p270; ☎ 761414; Jl Kartika Plaza; mains from 30,000Rp; 🍷 24hr) A vibrant mix of upscale local families and a swath of tourists (menus are even in Russian) tuck into Jimbaran-style grilled seafood in this slick operation. Pool tables and live music add to the din while flames flare in the open kitchens.

KUTA

On the Beach

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

Kuta Food Court (Map p272; Jl Pantai Kuta; meals from 7000Rp; 🍷 5pm-3am) A slick, modern version of a night market, this open-air collection of food stalls is as tidy as they come. Choose from a

vast array of local specialities plus seafood from Jimbaran. Dine for as little as 7000Rp with karaoke and cover bands thrown in for free (although some may say this is a cost).

Central Kuta

Kuta night market (Map p272; Jl Blambangan; dishes 5000-15,000Rp; 🍷 6pm-midnight) This enclave of stalls and plastic chairs bustles with locals and tourism workers chowing down on hot-off-the-wok treats, grilled goods and other fresh foods.

Made's Warung (Map p272; ☎ 755297; Jl Pantai Kuta; dishes 15,000-90,000Rp) Made's was the original tourist warung in Kuta. Through the years, the Westernised Indonesian menu has been much copied. Classic dishes such as *nasi campur* (rice served with side dishes) are served with attitude and authority. Although not the hub it once was, Made's is still a pleasant spot.

Poppies Restaurant (Map p272; ☎ 751059; Poppies Gang I; dishes 30,000-100,000Rp; ☎) Right on its namesake *gang*, long-running Poppies is popular for its lush garden setting, which has a timeless romance. The menu combines upscale Western (avocado and shrimp) and Balinese (your own little grill of sate) tastes.

Along Jalan Legian

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

Aroma's Café (Map p272; ☎ 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 p272; ☎ 752614; Jl Legian; dishes 25,000-60,000Rp; ☎) Shaded by trees, Kopi Pot is a favourite, popular for its coffees, milkshakes and desserts. The multilevel, open-air dining area sits back from noxious Jl Legian.

On & Near Poppies Gang II

Rainbow Cafe (Map p272; ☎ 765730; Poppies Gang II; mains from 20,000Rp) Join generations of Kuta denizens quaffing the afternoon away. Deeply shaded, the vibe here is little changed in years. Many current customers are the offspring of backpackers who met at adjoining tables.

Alleycats (Map p272; ☎ 08 1747 65148; off Poppies Gang II; dishes 20,000-40,000Rp) Homesick Brits can tuck into a Sunday roast or a breakfast replete with beans at this shady cafe in a courtyard off the Poppies II madness.

Balcony (Map p272; ☎ 757409; Jl Benesari 16; dishes 20,000-80,000Rp) The Balcony has a breezy tropical design and sits above the din of Jl Benesari below. Get ready for the day with a long menu of eggs and pancakes. At night there's something for everyone, although the grilled steak and seafood skewers are a speciality.

LEGIAN

Some of the beachside hotels have restaurants – often Italian – with nice views. Better still is the clutch of places at the end of Jl Double Six that afford views of sandy action by day, strolling fun-seekers by night and sunsets in between. Along the streets of Legian, the hohum mix with the superb, so take your time choosing.

Warung Yogya (Map p272; ☎ 750835; Jl Padma Utara; dishes 10,000-15,000Rp) A real find in the tourist heart of Legian, this basic warung is spotless and serves up hearty portions of Balinese classics. The *gado gado* comes with a huge bowl of peanut sauce.

Warung Asia (Map p272; ☎ 742 0202; off Jl Double Six & Jl Pura Bagus Taruna; dishes 10,000-30,000Rp; ☎) Look down a couple of little *gang* for this dollhouse of a cafe. Traditional Thai dishes are paired with an authentic Italian espresso machine; lose your afternoon over the many newspapers.

Warung Murah (Map p272; ☎ 732082; Jl Arjuna; meals from 20,000Rp) Lunch goes swimmingly at this authentic warung specialising in seafood. An array of grilled fish awaits; if you prefer fowl over fin, the *sate ayam* (chicken sate) is succulent and a bargain.

our pick Indo-National (Map p272; ☎ 759883; Jl Padma 17; mains 20,000-90,000Rp) Kerry and Milton Turner's popular restaurant is a home-away-from-home for legions of fans. Grab a cold one with the crew up front at the bar with a sweeping view of Legian's action. Or head back to a pair of shady and romantic tables. Order the heaping grilled seafood platter and Bali's best garlic bread.

Double Six Beach

These places are right on the popular beach, which is always thronging with locals and visitors alike. The following is good come sunset.

Zanzibar (Map p272; ☎ 733529; Jl Double Six; dishes 30,000-70,000Rp) A flash rehab has added a second level with views over the shady trees. The menu is a typical mix of Indo-pasta-

sandwiches and very good thin-crust pizza, but that's not your priority – get a large table with a group and enjoy the beachy views.

Entertainment

Around 6pm every day, sunset on the beach is the big attraction, perhaps while enjoying a drink at a cafe with a sea view. Later on, even as the temperature diminishes, the action heats up, especially at the raging clubs of Kuta. Many spend their evening at one of the hipster joints in Seminyak (p283) before working their way south to oblivion.

Check out the free mag, *The Beat* (www.beatmag.com), for good club listings and other 'what's on' news.

BALINESE DANCE & MUSIC

The Ubud area (p320) is really the place to go for authentic dance, and you'll see offers from tour operators in many hotels. But note that you won't get back to Kuta until after 10pm with most of these. Local performances are geared for tourists who treat culture like vitamins and are often perfunctory at best.

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. 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 p272; ☎ 761212; Jl Legian 146; ☎ 11pm-4am) One of the rowdier spots in Kuta, Apache jams in locals and visitors, many of whom are on the make. The music is loud, but that pounding you feel the next day is from the free-flowing *arak* (colourless, distilled palm wine) served in huge plastic jugs.

Double Six Club (Map p272; ☎ 081 2462 7733; www.doublesixclub.com; Jl Double Six; ☎ 11pm-6am) This legendary club (and namesake for the beach, road and more) continues reinventing itself. The swimming pool is still there and so is the bungee jump. Top international DJs play a mix of dance tunes in a sleek open-air pavilion. A café up front adds glitz to sunset drinks.

Ocean Beach Club (Map p272; ☎ 755423; www.escbali.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; ☎ 11am-late) This flash place

occupies a swath of prime real estate across from the beach. Lounge on vivid red pillows and watch the sunset, or plunge into the pool – before or after your stint at the pool bar.

Sky Garden Lounge (Map p272; ☎ 756362; www.escbali.com; Jl Legian 61; ☎ 24hr) Part of the ESC empire (which includes the Ocean Beach Club, p277), this multilevel palace of flash, flirts with height restrictions from its rooftop bar. Look for top DJs, a ground-level cafe and paparazzi-wannabes.

Shopping

Many people spend – literally – a major part of their trip shopping. Kuta has a vast concentration of cheap places, as well as huge, flashy surf-gear emporiums on Kuta Sq and Jl Legian. As you head north along the latter into Legian, the quality of the shops improves and you start finding cute little boutiques, especially past Jl Melasti. Jl Double Six (Arjuna) is lined with wholesale fabric, clothing and craft stores, giving it a bazaar feel. Continue into Seminyak (see p283) for absolutely fabulous shopping.

Simple stalls with T-shirts, souvenirs and schlock – especially schlock – are everywhere (especially along the Poppies). The top-selling gift for those left at home are penis-shaped bottle openers in a range of colours and sizes. Bargain hard to avoid paying a stiff price.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Shops in Kuta and Legian sell arts and crafts from almost every part of the island, from Mas woodcarvings to Kamasan paintings to Gianyar textiles. There are also many interesting pieces from other parts of Indonesia, some of questionable authenticity and value.

Kiky Shop (Map p272; ☎ 081 9161 24351; Jl Pantai Kuta 6) The place to live the cliché and buy a bongo drum. Finely crafted instruments from around Indonesia are on sale.

BEACHWEAR & SURF SHOPS

A huge range of surf shops sells big-name surf gear – including Mambo, Rip Curl and Billabong – although goods may be only marginally cheaper than overseas. Local names include Surfer Girl and Quicksilver. Most have numerous locations in South Bali.

CLOTHING

The local fashion industry has diversified from beach gear to sportswear and fashion clothing. From the intersection with Jl Padma,

go north on Jl Legian to Seminyak for the most interesting clothing shops.

IO & CO (Map p272; ☎ 754093; Jl Legian 361) Gauzy, silky and fashionable women's wear in a sleek multilevel air-con shop. This Bali label also sells housewares in vibrant patterns.

Joger (Map p270; Jl Raya Tuban; ☎ 11am-6pm) Look for the mobs of Indonesian tourists in front of this huge T-shirt shop east of Tuban. The sign out front says 'Pabrik kata-kata', which means 'factory of words'. The T-shirts are nationally iconic and bear sayings in Bahasa Indonesia that are wry, funny or simply arch.

DEPARTMENT STORES & MALLS

Carrefour (Map p270; ☎ 847 7222; Jl Sunset; ☎ 9am-10pm) This vast outlet of the French discount chain combines lots of small shops (books, computers, bikinis etc) with one huge hypermarket. It's the place to stock up on staples and there's a large ready-to-eat section and a food court as well. The downside, however, is inescapable: it's a mall.

Discovery Shopping Mall (Map p270; ☎ 755522; www.discoverysoppingmall.com; Jl Kartika Plaza; ☎ 9am-9pm) Maybe if they hadn't gone and ruined the shoreline... Anyway, this huge, hulking and popular enclosed Tuban mall is built on the water and is filled with stores of every kind, including the large Centro (☎ 769629) and trendy Sogo (☎ 769555) department stores.

Matahari (Map p272; ☎ 757588; Kuta Sq; ☎ 9.30am-10pm) This store has the basics – fairly staid clothing, a floor full of souvenirs, jewellery and a supermarket. You can find most things here, including some decent-quality luggage should you need extra bags to haul your wretched excess home.

Getting There & Away

BEMO

Dark-blue public bemo (minibuses) regularly travel between Kuta and the Tegal terminal in Denpasar – the fare should be 8000Rp. The route goes from a **bemo stop** onto Jl Raya Kuta near Jl Pantai Kuta, looping past the beach and then on Jl Melasti and back past Bemo Corner (Map p272) for the trip back to Denpasar.

BUS

Public Bus

For public buses to anywhere in Bali, you'll have to go to the appropriate terminal in Denpasar first; see above.

Tourist Shuttle Bus

Perama (Map p272; ☎ 751551; www.peramatour.com; Jl Legian 39; ☎ 7am-10pm) is the main shuttle-bus operation in town, and will sometimes pick you up from your hotel for free (confirm this with them when making arrangements). Perama usually has at least one bus a day to all of its destinations.

Destination	Fare	Duration
Candidasa	60,000Rp	3½hr
Lovina	125,000Rp	4½hr
Padangbai	60,000Rp	3hr
Sanur	25,000Rp	30min
Ubud	50,000Rp	1½hr

Getting Around

See p267 for details on getting around. Besides the frequent taxis, you can rent a scooter – often with a surfboard rack – or a bike. Just ask at 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 may be immediately north of Kuta and Legian, but in many respects it feels like it's almost on another island. It's flash, brash, phoney and filled with bony models and expats.

It's also home to dozens of restaurants and clubs – when a hot new place opens, it's usually in Seminyak. Along Jl Raya Seminyak and Jl Laksmana, and the odd side street, there are a wealth of creative shops and galleries, and world-class hotels line the beach. And what a beach it is, as deep and sandy as Kuta's but less crowded.

Orientation

The southern border of Seminyak runs north of Jl Double Six (Jl Arjuna). Jl Raya Seminyak is the continuation of Jl Legian from Kuta and is lined with shops. Jl Abimanyu runs to the beach and passes many bars and restaurants.

Jl Laksmana also heads west towards the beach. From here, things get real tricky as the road wanders north through a part of Seminyak that some people call Petitenget, that's properly called Jl Pantai Kaya Aya, but is also known by its old name: Jl Oberoi. See the boxed text on p282, for more information on the confusing street names in the region.

Information

Most hotels have broadband connections for guests, and many cafes offer free wi-fi for patrons as noted in the listings. ATMs can be found along all the main roads.

For medical services, see the Kuta & Legian section (p271).

Periplus Bookshop Seminyak Sq (☎ 736851; Jl Laksmana) Bali Deli (☎ 734578; Jl Kunti) The island-wide chain of lavishly-fitted bookshops has enough design books to have you fitting out even your garage in Bali Style; also stocks best sellers, magazines and newspapers.

Taiga Pharmacy (☎ 732621; Jl Raya Seminyak 19; ☎ 24hr) Across from Bintang Supermarket, it has a full range of prescription medications.

Sights

North of the string of hotels on Jl Pantai 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 beaches in Seminyak tend to be less crowded than further south in Kuta. This also means that it's less patrolled and the water conditions are less monitored. The odds of encountering dangerous rip tides and other hazards are ever-present, especially as you head north.

SPAS

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

Jari Menari (☎ 736740; Jl Raya Seminyak 47; ☎ 10am-9pm) has won international acclaim. Its name means 'dancing fingers' and your body will be one happy dance floor. The all-male staff use massage techniques that emphasise rhythm. Fees start at 250,000Rp for 75 minutes.

The name says it all at **Chill** (☎ 734701; Jl Kunti; ☎ 10am-10pm). This Zen place embraces reflexology, with treatments starting at 80,000Rp.

Sleeping

Seminyak has a good range of places to stay, from world-class resorts like the Oberoi to more humble hotels hidden away on backstreets. This is also the start of villa-land, which runs north from here through the vanishing rice fields. For details on booking a private villa, see p819. The 2009 opening of

INFORMATION	EATING 🍴	ENTERTAINMENT 🎮
Periplus..... 1 D3	Bali Deli..... 15 D3	Hu'u..... 33 A2
Periplus Bookshop..... 2 B2	Bintang Supermarket..... 16 D4	Ku De Ta..... 34 B3
Taiga Pharmacy..... 3 D4	Blossom..... 17 B2	Q-Bar..... 35 C3
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	Café Moka..... 18 D3	
Chill..... 4 D3	Corner Store..... 19 C2	SHOPPING 🛍️
Jari Menari..... 5 C2	Fruit Market..... 20 C1	Ashitaba..... (see 38)
Pura Petitenget..... 6 A2	Grocer & Grind..... 21 B2	Bananas Batik..... 36 C3
	Ibu Mangku..... 22 B2	Biasa..... 37 D4
	Jef Burgers..... 23 C3	Blue Glue..... 38 D3
SLEEPING 🛏️	Living Room..... 24 A2	Divine Diva..... 39 C2
Green Room..... 7 C4	Sarong..... 25 B1	ET Club..... 40 D4
Mutiara Bali..... 8 B2	Sate Bali..... 26 A2	Lily Jean..... 41 C2
Ned's Hide-Away..... 9 C3	Ultimo..... 27 B2	Luna Collection..... 42 C3
Oberoi..... 10 B3	Waroeng Bonita..... 28 B1	Morena..... 43 C2
Raja Gardens..... 11 C4	Warung Ibu Made..... 29 C2	Sabbatha..... 44 C3
Samaya..... 12 A2	Warung Italia..... 30 D3	Uma and Leopold..... 45 D3
Sarinande Beach Inn..... 13 B3	Warung Sulawesi..... 31 B1	
Villa Kresna..... 14 B3	Zula Vegetarian Paradise..... 32 C3	

An excellent-value place. The 24 rooms are in two-storey blocks around a small pool; the decor is older but everything is well maintained. Amenities include fridges, satellite TV and a cafe. The beach is three minutes away by foot.

ourpick Villa Kresna (☎ 730317; www.villa-kresna.com; Jl Sarinande 19; r US\$40-85, villas US\$150-220; 🍴 🛏️ 📺 📶) The beach is only 50m from this cute, idiosyncratic property tucked away on a small *gang*. The 10 art-filled units are mostly suites, which have a nice flow-through design with both public and private patios. A small, sinuous pool wanders through the property.

Mutiara Bali (☎ 708888; www.mutiaraibali.com; Jl Karang Mas Sejahtera 88; r US\$60-90, villas from US\$250; 🍴 🛏️ 📺 📶) Although hidden on a small road behind Jl Laksmana, the Mutiara is close to everything: fine dining – two minutes; the beach – five minutes, etc. There are 29 good-sized and nicely furnished rooms in two-storey blocks around a frangipani-draped pool area. Seventeen large private villas occupy one half of the compound.

TOP END

Samaya (☎ 731149; www.thesamayabali.com; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; villas from US\$300; 🍴 🛏️ 📺 📶) The beachfront Samaya is one of the best choices if you want to step from your room to the sand. The 24 villas in the beachside compound are attractive, roomy and have small pools. Another compound across the road trades location for even larger units. Food, from breakfast onwards, is creative and superb.

Oberoi (☎ 730361; www.oberoihotels.com; Jl Laksmana; r from US\$220, villas from US\$500; 🍴 🛏️ 📺 📶) One of the world's top hotels, the beauti-

fully understated Oberoi has been a refined Balinese-style beachside retreat since 1971. All accommodation has private verandahs and as you move up through the food chain, additional features include private villas, ocean views and private, walled pools. From the cafe overlooking the almost-private sweep of beach, to the numerous luxuries, this is a place to spoil yourself.

Eating

Jl Laksmana is the focus of Seminyak eating but there are interesting choices virtually everywhere. Note that where indicated, some restaurants morph into clubs as the night wears on. Conversely, some of the places listed under Entertainment (p283) also do decent food.

JL ABIMANYU

Jef Burgers (☎ 081 7473 4311; Jl Dhyana Pura 24; dishes from 13,000Rp; 🕒 24hr) Munchies central: Jef cooks up burgers around the clock (customised if you like), from a small grill on front.

Zula Vegetarian Paradise (☎ 732723; Jl Dhyana Pura 5; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; 🕒 8am-4am) It's all vegetarian at this newly enlarged cafe, where you can get tofu cheese, a tofu spring roll and tofu cheesecake. Or go wild with a brown-rice surprise.

JALAN RAYA SEMINYAK

Warung Ibu Made (Jl Raya Seminyak; meals 10,000Rp; 🕒 7am-7pm) The woks roar almost dawn to dusk amid the constant hubbub on this busy corner of Jl Raya Seminyak. It's one of a few simple stalls. The meals from this warung couldn't be fresher and put to shame some of the Western fakery just down the road.

PICK A NAME, ANY NAME

Some streets in Kuta, Legian and Seminyak have more than one name. Many streets are unofficially named after a well-known temple and/or business place, or according to the direction they head. In recent years there has been an attempt to impose official – and usually more Balinese – names on the streets. But the old, unofficial names are still common.

Old (unofficial)

New (official)

Jl Dhyana Pura/Jl Gado Gado	Jl Abimanyu
Jl Double Six	Jl Arjuna
Jl Kartika Plaza	Jl Dewi Sartika
Jl Oberoi	Jl Laksmana
Jl Padma	Jl Yudistra
Jl Pantai Kuta	Jl Pantai Banjar Pande Mas
Jl Pura Bagus Taruna/Rum Jungle Rd	Jl Werkudara
Jl Raya Seminyak	Northern stretch: Jl Raya Basangkasa
Jl Satria	Jl Kediri
Jl Segara	Jl Jenggala
Poppies Gang II	Jl Batu Bolong

Café Moka (☎ 731424; Jl Raya Seminyak; meals 18,000-40,000Rp; ☺) Enjoy French-style baked goods at this popular bakery and café. Many escape the heat and linger here for hours. The bulletin board spills over with notices.

Warung Italia (☎ 737437; Jl Kunti 2; meals from 20,000Rp; ☺ 8am-7pm) The climax in any classic warung happens at lunch, when happy diners walk down the displays and have their plates filled with a wide selection of treats. No matter what they choose, the price is the same (and it's low). Here, warung-style meets Italian as diners select from a range of pastas, salads and more.

JL KAYU JATI & JL LAKSMANA

Saddled by some with the unimaginative name 'Eat Street', this restaurant row has scores of choices. Stroll the strip and see what sparks a craving. Prices are uniformly popular.

Ibu Mangku (☎ 780 1824; Jl Kayu Jati; meals 15,000Rp) Look for the cabs in front of this bamboo place that serves superb minced-chicken sate redolent with lemongrass and other spices.

Grocer & Grind (☎ 081 735 4104; Jl Kayu Jati 3X; mains 20,000-60,000Rp; ☺) Keep your vistas limited and you might think you're at just another sleek Sydney café, but look around and you're unmistakably in Bali, albeit one of the trendiest bits. Classic sandwiches, salads and big breakfasts issue forth from the open kitchen. Eat in the open-air or choose air-con tables in the deli area.

Corner Store (☎ 730276; Jl Laksmana 10A; dishes 30,000-60,000Rp; ☺ 7am-5pm) Seminyak's fashionistas gather here most mornings (aka

Tuck Shop to the expats) to dish the gossip and breakfast on upscale, healthy fare like organic muesli. Tell everyone you're a 'cushion designer' and look bored under the beautiful frangipani tree.

Ultimo (☎ 738720; Jl Laksmana 104; mains 30,000-100,000Rp) *Uno*: find a table overlooking the street action or out the back in one of the gardens. *Due*: choose from the surprisingly authentic Italian menu. *Tre*: marvel at the efficient service from the army of servers. *Quattro*: smile at the reasonable bill.

our pick Sate Bali (☎ 736734; Jl Oberoi 22; mains from 40,000Rp; ☺ 11am-10pm) Some very fine traditional Balinese dishes are served at this small café run by chef Nyoman Sudiya. The multi-course *rijsttafel* (200,000Rp) is a symphony of tastes including the addictive *babi kecap* (pork in a soy sauce) and *tum bebek* (minced duck in banana leaf).

NORTHERN SEMINYAK

Some of Bali's most interesting restaurants are found amid the curving roads and villas here.

Warung Sulawesi (Jl Petitenget; meal 15,000Rp; ☺ 11am-4pm) Set back from the road in a family compound, enjoy fabulously fresh Balinese and Indonesian food served in classic warung style (you choose white or yellow rice, then pick from a captivating array of dishes). The long beans, yum!

Wareng Bonita (☎ 731918; www.bonitabali.com; Jl Petitenget 2000x; dishes 30,000-70,000Rp) Balinese dishes such as *ikan rica-rica* (fresh fish stir-fried in a spicy green chilli sauce) and the

classic, spicy beef rendang are the specialties here. Nab a table under the trees, unless it's Baliwood night when the staff are dragged into performing with drag queens in an unmissable and flamboyant spectacle.

Sarong (☎ 737809; www.sarongbali.com; Jl Pettitenget 19X; mains US\$5-10; ☎ noon-10pm) The food is almost as magical as the setting at this top-end, high-concept restaurant. Largely open to the evening breezes, the dining room has plush furniture and gleaming place settings that twinkle in the candlelight. Opt for tables out back where you can let the stars do the twinkling. The food spans the globe – small plates are popular for an evening spent enjoying the commodious bar.

Living Room (☎ 735735; www.livingroombali.com; Jl Pettitenget; mains 80,000-100,000Rp; ☎ noon-late) At night, hundreds of candles twinkle on and about the scores of outdoor tables at this fusion of Balinese thatching with colonial posh. The fusion menu combines French classics with Asian flair – think Saigon before things went pear-shaped. The famous soundtrack? Fusion of course (house, jazz and trance).

Blossom (☎ 735552; www.balisesentosa.com; Sentosa Private Villas & Spa, Jl Pura Telaga Waja; meals from US\$30) Arguably Bali's finest restaurant, Blossom is certainly one of the most captivating. Occupying much of the ground level of the ultraluxurious Sentosa Villas, the restaurant has widely spaced tables in an elegant open-air space overlooking smoothly flowing water features. The menu changes often but is always global in outlook and creative in execution.

SELF-CATERING

Bali Deli (☎ 738686; Jl Kunti 117X; ☎ ☎) The lavish deli counter at this upscale market is loaded with imported cheese, meats and baked goods. This is the place to start a special meal. The breezy cafe also has a good, fresh menu.

Bintang Supermarket (☎ 730552; Jl Raya Seminyak 17) Always busy, this large supermarket is the stock-up favourite among expats.

Entertainment

Like your vision at 2am, the division between restaurant, bar and club blurs in Seminyak. For instance, Living Room (above) and Sarong (above) have large and inviting bars that fill with people who never take a crack at a menu. Meanwhile, Ku De Ta (right) and

Hu'u (below) serve good food to the partying masses. Although Seminyak lacks any real hardcore clubs where you can greet the dawn (or vice versa), stalwarts head south to Kuta in the wee hours.

JL ABIMANYU

Numerous bars line Jl Abimanyu (aka Jl Dhyana Pura), although noise-sensitive locals complain if things get too raucous.

Q-Bar (☎ 762361; Jl Abimanyu; ☎ 8pm-3am) This bright and always-popular bar caters to gay clubbers. The music of choice is house. There are good views of the action – inside and out – from the upper floor.

JL LAKSMANA

Hu'u (☎ 736443; www.huubali.com; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; ☎ 4pm-late) There's a menu someplace, but really, this spot is all about air-kissing, seeing and making the scene, an enchanting outdoor garden and pavilion. Action peaks around midnight before the club exodus begins.

Ku De Ta (☎ 736969; www.kudeta.net; Jl Laksmana; ☎ 7am-1am) Hardly an article gets written about Bali that doesn't mention this beachside lounge, heaving with Bali's beautiful and their attendant scenesters. Perfect your 'bored' look over drinks, although the gorgeous sunsets shine through many a sneer.

Shopping

Seminyak shops could occupy days of your trip. Designer boutiques (Bali has a thriving fashion industry), funky stores, slick galleries, wholesale emporiums and family-run workshops are just some of the choices.

The action picks up in the south from Kuta and Legian (p278) and heads north along Jl Legian and Jl Raya Seminyak. The retail strip branches off into the prime real estate of Jl Laksmana while continuing north on Jl Raya Kerobokan.

Ashitaba (☎ 737054; Jl Raya Seminyak 6) Tenganan, the Aga village of East Bali (p334), produces the intricate and beautiful rattan items sold here. Containers, bowls, purses and more (from US\$5) display the very fine weaving.

Bananas Batik (☎ 730938; www.bananasbatik.com; Jl Raya Seminyak) Flouncy clothes for women that you don't have to travel to the source for – the exquisite duds are made near Candidasa.

Biasa (☎ 730308; www.biasabali.com; Jl Raya Seminyak 36) This is Bali-based designer Susanna Perini's

premier store. Her line of tropical wear for men and women combines cottons, silks and embroidery.

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

Divine Diva (☎ 731903; Jl Oberoi 1A) Bali-made breezy styles for fuller female figures. A friend calls it: 'the essence of agelessness'.

ET Club (☎ 730902; Jl Raya Seminyak 14A) Out-of-this-world prices on designer knock-offs and bohemian bags, belts, shoes and clothes.

Lily Jean (☎ 734864; Jl Oberoi 102X) Saucy knickers underpin sexy women's clothing that both dares and flirts; most are Bali-made.

Luna Collection (☎ 081 139 8909; Jl Raya Seminyak) Handmade sterling silver jewellery in a range of designs. The local craftsmen are quite creative and the mother-of-pearl works are museum quality.

Morena (☎ 745 3531; Jl Oberoi 69) Puerto Rican-born Wilma sells her line of sexy, flouncy, comfy and colourful women's clothes here.

Sabbatha (☎ 731756; Jl Raya Seminyak 97) Megabbling! The glitter, glam and gold here are almost blinding and that's just what customers want. On one of the nicest stretches of shops.

Uma and Leopold (☎ 733670; www.umaandleopold.com; Jl Kunti 8x) Luxe clothes and little frilly things to put on before slipping off...

Getting There & Around

Most transport information is the same as for Kuta (p278). Metered taxis are easily hailed. A taxi to the heart of Kuta will be about 15,000Rp. You can beat the traffic, save the ozone and have a good stroll by walking south down the beach. Legian is about 15 minutes away.

NORTH OF SEMINYAK

☎ 0361

Growth is marching north and west along the coast, much of it anchored by the endless swath of beach. Kerobokan is morphing into Seminyak; cloistered villas here lure the well-heeled who whisk past – in air-con comfort – stooped rice farmers.

Small roads lead off the main clogged artery that runs to Pura Tanah Lot. Use these to reach beaches at Berewa, Canggu and Echo Beach (Batu Mejan). These are uncrowded and wild, with pounding surf, perilous swimming and sweeping views to the south.

Getting to most of the places below is only convenient with your own transport or by

taxi. Think 25,000Rp or more from Kuta, 15,000Rp from Seminyak.

Kerobokan

The next area north of Seminyak is seamlessly blending with the south.

Situated at the corner of Jl Raya Kerobokan and Jl Gunung Tangkuban Perahu, there's a scrumptious little **fruit market** (Map p280) where you can do your lab work in Bali fruits and veg 101.

Warung Gossip (Map p270; ☎ 081 7970 3209; Jl Pengubengan Kauh; meals from 20,000Rp; ☎ noon-4pm) is always popular thanks to its Westernised versions of Balinese warung staples.

Berewa

The greyish beach, secluded among rice fields and villas, is about 2km up the sand from Seminyak and about 10km by roundabout lanes. There are a couple of surfer cafes by the pounding surf. The grey, volcanic sand here slopes steeply into the foaming waters.

One person described **Desa Seni** (Map p270; ☎ 844 6392; www.desaseni.com; Jl Kayu Putih 13; r US\$150-300; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) as like a 'hippie Four Seasons', and that's not far off. Classic wooden homes have been brought to the site from across Indonesia and turned into luxurious quarters. Guests enjoy a menu of organic and healthy cuisine while pondering which yoga class, spa session or cultural event to sign up for.

Canggu

A popular surf spot, Canggu draws a lot of locals and expat residents at weekends. Access to the paved parking area costs 2000Rp and there are cafes and warung for those who work up an appetite in the water or watching others in the water.

To get to Canggu, go west at Kerobokan or south at Kayutulang. Taxis from Kuta will cost 40,000Rp or more.

Echo Beach

Just 500m northwest of Canggu Beach is Echo Beach, or Batu Mejan. It has reached critical mass in popularity and has become its own scene. Shops are moving in and the burgeoning number of cafes includes **Mandira Cafe** (Map p270; Jl Pura Batu Mejan; dishes 8000-15,000Rp), which has a timeless menu of jaffles, banana pancakes, club sandwiches and smoothies.

Slicker yet, the **Beach House** (Map p270; ☎ 738471; Jl Pura Batu Mejan; dishes 30,000-80,000Rp; ☎ ☎) faces the

waves and draws stylish loungers. It has a variety of couches and picnic tables where you can enjoy the menu of breakfasts, salads, grilled fare and more.

SANUR

☎ 0361

Sanur is a genteel alternative to Kuta. The white-sand beach is sheltered by a reef. The resulting low-key surf contributes to Sanur's nickname '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 Mershon 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 appalling 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 hotels, oodles of tourist shops, restaurants and cafes.

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.

Information

There are numerous ATMs and banks along Jl Danau Tamblingan. Most hotels have some form of internet access as do many cafes and bars.

Guardian Pharmacy (☎ 284343; Jl Danau Tamblingan 134) The chain pharmacy has a doctor on call.

Periplus (☎ 282790; Hardy's Supermarket, Jl Danau Tamblingan 136) Good selection of glossy books, best-sellers and periodicals.

Police station (☎ 288597; Jl Ngurah Rai)

Sights

Sanur's **beachfront walk** was the first in Bali and from day one has been delighting locals and visitors alike. Over 4km long, it follows the sand south as it curves to the west. Lots of cafes with tables in the sand will give you plenty of reason to pause. Offshore you'll see gnarled

fishermen in woven bamboo hats standing in the shallows rod-fishing for a living.

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 just 15. They lived in this compound, which houses the museum, when Sanur was still a quiet fishing village. The main house must have been delightful – a peaceful and elegant home filled with art and antiques right by the tranquil beach. After the artist's death, Ni Polok lived in the house until she died in 1985.

Despite security (some Le Mayeur paintings have sold for US\$150,000) and conservation problems, almost 90 Le Mayeur paintings are displayed inside the **museum** (☎ 286201; adult/child 2000/1000Rp; ☎ 7.30am–3.30pm) in a naturalistic Balinese interior of woven fibres. Some of Le Mayeur's early works are Impressionist paintings from his travels in Africa, India, the Mediterranean and the South Pacific. The works from the 1950s are in much better condition, displaying the vibrant colours that later became popular with young Balinese artists. Look for the haunting black-and-white photos of Ni Polok.

STONE PILLAR

The pillar, down a narrow lane across from a Circle K and to the left as you face Pura Belangjeng, is Bali's oldest dated artefact and has ancient inscriptions recounting military victories of more than a thousand 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. Among several good options, **Crystal Divers** (☎ 286737; www.crystal-divers.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 168; intro dives from US\$25) is a slick diving operation and has its own hotel, the Crystal Santai Hotel.

SPAS

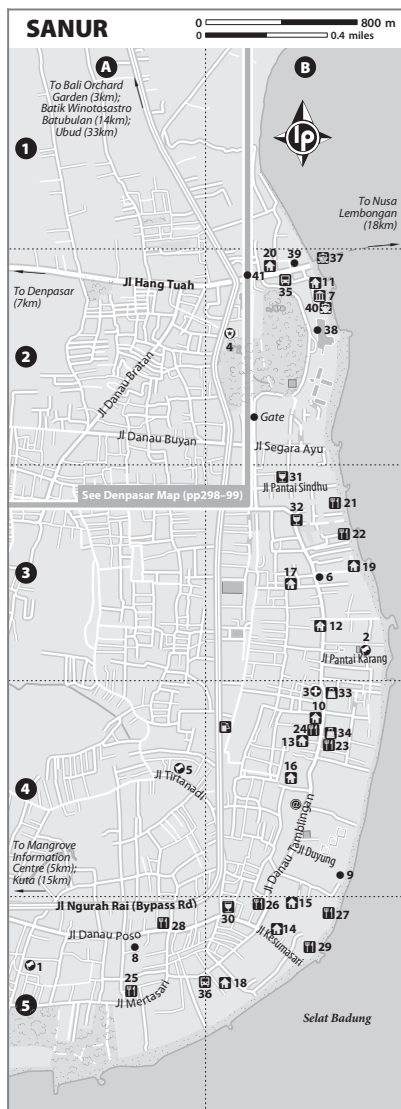
Most of the large beachside hotels have spas. **Jamu Traditional Spa** (☎ 286595; www.jamutraditionalspa.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 41; massage from US\$45) has a

beautifully carved teak-and-stone entry that sets the mood.

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; www.suryadive.com; Jl Duyung 10),

which is the largest. You can go parasailing (US\$20 per go), snorkelling by boat (US\$30, two hours), windsurfing (US\$30, one hour), or enjoy a two-tank dive at the nearby reef (US\$50).



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Sleeping

Usually the best places to stay are right on the beach; however, beware of properties that have been coasting for decades. Modest budgets will find comfort on the nonbeach side of Jl Danau Tamblingan.

BUDGET

Keke Homestay (☎ 287282; Jl Danau Tamblingan 96; r 60,000-135,000Rp; 🏠) Set 150m down a *gang* from the noisy road, Keke welcomes backpackers into its genial family. The seven quiet, clean rooms vary from fan-only to air-con cool.

Watering Hole I (☎ 288289; www.wateringhole.sanurbali.com; Jl Hang Tuah 37; r 60,000-150,000Rp; 🏠 📺) In the northern part of Sanur, the Hole is a busy, friendly place close to the Nusa Lembangan boats. It has 20 pleasant, clean rooms; the cheapest have fans and cold water.

Jati Homestay (☎ 281730; www.hoteljatiandhome.stay.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 168; r 200,000Rp; 🏠) Jati means 'genuine' and you will feel right at home at this attractive inn. The 15 bungalow-style rooms are situated in pretty grounds; some of the units have small kitchens.

Hotel Bali Rita (☎ 282630; balirita@hotmail.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 174; r 250,000Rp; 🏠) Lovely Rita is tailor-made for those who want a traditional-style bungalow room in a nice garden. The 12 rooms here are large, with big fridges and tubs in open-air bathrooms. The beach is 10 minutes east.

MIDRANGE

Flashbacks (☎ 281682; www.flashbacks-chb.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 106; s/d 145,000/165,000Rp, bungalows 335,000/360,000Rp; 🏠 📺) This welcoming place has nine rooms that vary greatly in size. The better ones are bungalows or suites while more modest rooms share bathrooms and have cold water. The lovely design takes a lot of cues from traditional Balinese style. Porch Café (p288) is out the front.

Hotel Segara Agung (☎ 288446; www.segaraagung.com; Jl Duyung 43; r US\$25-50; 🏠 📺 📺) Down a quiet, sandy lane lined with villas, the hotel is only a three-minute walk from the beach. The 16 rooms are clean though spartan; the cheapest are fan and cold-water-only.

Hotel Palm Garden (Taman Palem; ☎ 287041; www.palmgarden-bali.com; Jl Kesumasari 3; r from 275,000Rp; 🏠 📺) Everything is low-key here, from the 17 large rooms (with satellite TVs and fridges) to the relaxed service and pretty

GETTING HIGH OVER SANUR

Travelling South Bali you can't help but notice scores of kites overhead much of the year. These creations are often huge (10m or more in length, with tails stretching another 100m) and fly at altitudes that worry pilots. Many have noisemakers that make eerie humming and buzzing noises. Like much in Bali there are spiritual roots: the kites are meant to figuratively whisper into the ears of the gods suggestions that abundant harvests might be nice. But for many Balinese, kite flying is simply a really fun hobby.

Each July, hundreds of Balinese and international teams descend upon Sanur for the **Bali Kite Festival**. They compete for an array of honours in such categories as original design and flight endurance.

grounds. It's one minute to the beach; there is a nice medium-sized pool with a small waterfall.

Diwangkara Beach Hotel (☎ 288577; www.holidayvillahotelbali.com; Jl Hang Tuah 54; r US\$65, villas US\$90-180; 🏠 📺 📺 📺) Facing the beach near the end of Jl Hang Tuah, this 38-unit hotel has traditional Balinese architecture and richly decorated rooms. Pool villas have their own plunge pool right off a wooden terrace.

TOP END

Puri Santrian (☎ 288009; www.santrian.com; Jl Mertasari; r from US\$110, bungalows from US\$150; 🏠 📺 📺) Lush gardens, three large pools with fountains, a tennis court and beach frontage, as well as 184 comfortable, well-equipped rooms make this a popular choice. Many rooms are in older-style bungalows, others in two- and three-storey blocks.

our pick Tandjung Sari (☎ 288441; www.tandjung.sari.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 29; bungalows US\$170-270; 🏠 📺 📺 📺) The mature trees along the shaded driveway set the gracious tone at this Sanur veteran, which was one of the first Balinese boutique hotels. The 26 traditional-style bungalows are superbly decorated with crafts and antiques.

Eating

Dine on the beach in a traditional open-air pavilion or in a genial bar – the choice is yours in Sanur. Although there are plenty of uninspired

choices on Jl Danau Tamblingan, there are also some gems. Many of the places listed under Entertainment (right) also do food.

For groceries and personal items, there's a large **Hardy's Supermarket** (☎ 285806; Jl Danau Tamblingan 136). On Sundays, there's an **organic market** (Jl Danau Tamblingan; ☎ 10am-2pm) in the Gudang Keramik car park.

BEACH

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

Stiff Chili (☎ 288371; Jl Kesumasari; mains 20,000-60,000Rp) Besides the evocative name, this beachside cafe has fine views. Pizza and pasta head the surprisingly ambitious menu.

Bonsai Cafe (☎ 282908; Jl Danau Tamblingan 27; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp) Order from a long list of beach-cafe standards while chilling in comfy and shady wicker chairs. Then wander inland for a surprise: hundreds of the cafe's namesake plants growing small in a rather sensational formal garden.

Beach Café (☎ 282875; Beachfront Walk; mains 25,000-50,000Rp; ☎) Brings a bit of Med style to the Sanur beach cliché of palm fronds and plastic chairs. Zone out on wicker sofas or hang on a low cushion on the sand. Enjoy salads and seafood.

Sanur Bay (☎ 288153; Jl Duyung; 25,000-50,000Rp) You can hear the surf and see the moonlight reflecting on the water at this classic beachside seafood grill, set on the sand amid fishing boats.

JL DANAU TAMBLINGAN

Porch Café (☎ 281682; Jl Danau Tamblingan; mains from 20,000Rp) Fronting Flashbacks, a charmer of a small hotel, this newish cafe is housed in a traditional wooden building replete with the namesake porch. The menu is a tasty mix of comfort food like burgers and freshly baked goods.

Café Batu Jimbar (☎ 287374; Jl Danau Tamblingan 152; dishes 30,000-60,000Rp) This popular top-end cafe has a large wooden patio out the front and an airy dining room. It serves the best banana smoothie in Bali.

Massimo (☎ 288942; Jl Danau Tamblingan 206; dishes 30,000-125,000Rp) The interior at this authentic Italian restaurant is like an open-air Milanese cafe while the outside is a Balinese garden. The lengthy menu includes wood-fired pizzas.

SOUTH SANUR

Sari Bundo (☎ 281389; Jl Danau Poso; dishes 5,000-10,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) This spotless and simple Padang-style joint serves the best curry chicken in Sanur.

Denata Minang (Jl Danau Poso; meals 10,000Rp) One of the better Padang-style warung, it's located just west of Café Billiard. Like its brethren, it has fab *ayam* (chicken) in myriad spicy forms – only better.

Mama Putu's (☎ 270572; Jl Mertasari; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp) A long-running seafood cafe where the menu changes depending on what's fresh (actually the menu stays the same but what's available changes...). Ask for extra garlic and don't miss – of all things – the sides of coleslaw.

Entertainment

Many of Sanur's drinking establishments cater to retired expats and are, thankfully for them, air-conditioned. This is not a place where things go late. Note that many places to eat are good for drinks and vice versa.

Café Billiard (☎ 281215; Jl Danau Poso; ☎ noon-1am) It's expat heaven! Play billiards and toss down cheap draughts of Heineken until your pension cheque is gone! It's a merry place where you lose your hat on the way home and wake up wishing to be asleep.

Kalimantan (☎ 289291; Jl Pantai Sindhu 11) AKA Borneo Bob's, this veteran boozier is one of many casual joints on this street. Enjoy cheap drinks under the palms or squint at live American football on the satellite TV. You can have a bite to eat too (dishes 15,000Rp to 55,000Rp).

Street Cafe (☎ 289259; Jl Danau Tamblingan 21; ☎) A street bar that verges on stylish, with a modern, airy vibe and a choice of loungers, stools or tables. Instead of sports on TV, groove to the live piano music here most nights.

Shopping

Sanur is no Seminyak in the shopping department, although a few designers from there are opening branches here. You can kill an afternoon browsing the length of Jl Danau Tamblingan.

Body Talk (☎ 270046; Jl Danau Tamblingan 156) Ultracomfortable women's wear in cotton and other relaxing fibres. Everything stretches right with you. The custom tailoring has fans not just in Bali but among expats across the archipelago.

Gudang Keramik (☎ 289363; Jl Danau Tamblingan) The outlet store for famed Jenggala Keramik Bali in Jimbaran has amazing prices on the firm's gorgeous tableware and decorator items.

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 – although drivers will first try to hail you.

Green bemo go along Jl Hang Tuah to the Kereneg terminal in Denpasar (7000Rp).

BOAT

Public boats and the Perama boat (p304) to Nusa Lembongan leave from the beach at the end of Jl Hang Tuah. The fast boat, **Scout** (☎ 285522; Jl Hang Tuah), has an office in Sanur; boats depart from a nearby portion of beach. See p304 for details on the trips. None of these services uses a dock – be prepared to wade to the boat.

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

The **Perama office** (☎ 285592; Jl Hang Tuah 39; ☎ 7am–10pm) is at Warung Pojok at the northern end of town. It runs shuttles to the following destinations, most only once daily.

Destination	Fare	Duration
Candidasa	60,000Rp	2¾hr
Kuta	25,000Rp	15min
Lovina	125,000Rp	4hr
Padangbai	60,000Rp	2½hr
Ubud	40,000Rp	1hr

Getting Around

Bemo go up and down Jl Danau Tamblingan and Jl Danau Poso for 4000Rp. 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 Bena (Benoa Bay), the wide but shallow body east of the airport runway. Bena Harbour (Map p270) 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. It's referred to as Bena Port or Bena Harbour to distinguish it from Bena village, on the south side of the bay.

Benoa Harbour is the port for tourist day-trip boats to Nusa Lembongan and for Pelni ships to other parts of Indonesia; however, its shallow depth prevents cruise ships from calling.

Public bemo (7000Rp) leave from Sanglah terminal in Denpasar. A taxi from Kuta or Sanur should cost around 35,000Rp one way, plus the toll.

BUKIT PENINSULA

☎ 0361

Hot and arid, the southern peninsula is known as Bukit (*bukit* means 'hill' in Bahasa Indonesia). It's the centre of much tourism in Bali, from booming Jimbaran to cloistered Nusa Dua. The rugged west coast running down to the important temple of Ulu Watu fronts some of the best surfing in the world. Little coves anchor an increasing number of hotels at places such as Balangan and Bingin.

Jimbaran

Just south of Kuta and the airport, Teluk Jimbaran (Jimbaran Bay) is an ever-more-popular and alluring 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 Jimbaran Bay.

The temple **Pura Ulu Siwi** (Map p270) dates from the 18th century. Across the road, the **produce market** (Map p270; Jl Ulu Watu; ☎ 5am–2pm) is small but has one of Bali's best selections of fruit and veg. Another highlight is the smelly, lively and frenetic open-air **fish market** (Map p270). Boats land with their haul and the deal-making, selling and transporting is manic.

SLEEPING

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

Hotel Puri Bambu (Map p270; ☎ 701377; www.puri-bambu.com; r US\$35–90; ♿ ♿ ♿) A mere 200m from the beach, the flash-free Puri Bambu is an older but well-run and good-value option. The 48 standard rooms (some with tubs) are in three-storey blocks around a large pool.

Puri Kosala (Map p270; ☎ 701673; www.purikosala.com; Jl Yoga Perkanti 2; villas US\$90–200; ♿ ♿ ♿) This secluded property makes for a good getaway. The six cottages have elaborate traditional Balinese details and simple bathrooms with

tubs. Although it's close to the beach and has a large pool and manicured gardens, it does not have a top-end level of service, so make sure you get a deal.

Jimbaran Puri Bali (Map p270; ☎ 701605; www.jimbaranpuribali.com; Jl Yoga Perkanti; cottages US\$150-400; 🍷 🍷 🍷) This beachside resort is set in nice grounds complete with a mazelike pool that looks onto open ocean. The 41 cottages have private gardens, large terraces and stylish room design with sunken tubs.

EATING

Jimbaran's seafood warung are the destination of tourists across the south. The open-sided affairs are right on the beach and perfect for enjoying sea breezes and sunsets.

The usual deal is to select your seafood fresh from iced displays or tanks, and to pay according to weight. Expect to pay around 40,000Rp per 100g for live lobster, 15,000Rp to 25,000Rp for prawns, and 9000Rp for fish, squid and clams. Prices are open to negotiation and the accuracy of the scales is a joke among locals. Agree to a price before ordering. Some places simplify things with fixed menu prices.

The best kitchens marinate the fish in garlic and lime, then douse it with chilli and oil while grilling over coconut husks.

The longest row of warung is at the **northern seafood warung** (Map p270), south of the fish market. This is the area you will be taken to by a taxi if you don't specify otherwise.

The **middle seafood warung** (Map p270) are in a compact group just south of Jl Pantai Jimbaran and Jl Pemelisan Agung. These seafood warung are the simplest affairs, with old-fashioned thatched roofs and wide-open sides.

The **southern seafood warung** (Map p270) are just north of the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay. There's a parking area off Jl Bukit Permai and the places are right in a row. The beach here is well groomed with nice trees. Call for transport.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Public bemo from Tegal terminal in Denpasar go via Kuta to Jimbaran (12,000Rp), 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 diners home (about 35,000Rp to Kuta). Some of the seafood warung provide free transport if you call first.

Balangan Beach

First of a string of small beaches backed by cliffs that run along the west coast of the Bukit Peninsula south to Ulu Watu, Balangan Beach is a real find. A long and low area at the base of the cliffs is covered with palm trees and is fronted by a ribbon of near-white sand. At the north end there is a small temple, **Pura Dalem Balangan** (Map p292); at the south end, a few surfer shacks cluster, renting out loungers and serving drinks.

Back on the bluff above the water are what are likely to be the first of many places to stay; both have cafes. The beach is a brief walk away.

Balangan Sea View Bungalows (Map p292; ☎ 780 0499; robbyandrosita@hotmail.com; r from 250,000Rp; 🍷) is a cluster of six thatched bungalows and five rooms surrounding a small pool in an attractive compound.

At **Flower Bud Bungalows** (Map p292; ☎ 857 2062; www.flowerbudbalangan.com; r 250,000-450,000Rp), the raised thatched bungalows are well spaced around simple gardens. There's a certain Crusoe-esque motif, and fans and sprightly pillows are among the 'luxuries'. It is directly across from Balangan Sea View Bungalows.

Balangan Beach is 6km off the main Ulu Watu road via Cenggiling. Look for a sign at a crossroads on the main Ulu Watu road that reads 'Balangan'. Follow more signs; the road is often tortuous.

Taxis from the Kuta area cost at least 40,000Rp per hour for the round trip and waiting time.

Pecatu Indah

This 400-hectare **resort complex** (Map p292; www.balipecatu.com) rises between central Bukit Peninsula and the coast. The land is arid but that hasn't stopped the developers from building a huge hotel, condos, houses and, worst of all, a water-sucking 18-hole golf course. The once popular and mellow beach known as Dreamland has been all but erased by a hulking development.

Bingin

A fast-evolving scene, Bingin comprises several funky places to stay scattered across cliffs and one strip of white sand down below. A 1km dirt road turns off the paved road (look for the thicket of accommodation signs), which in turn branches off the main Ulu Watu road at the small village of Pecatu.

An elderly resident collects 3000Rp at a T-junction, which is near parking for the trail down to the **beach**. The surf here is often savage but the sands are calm and the roaring breakers mesmerising. The scenery here is simply superb, with virescent cliffs dropping down to a row of houses and the foaming edge of the azure sea.

SLEEPING

Several places to stay enjoy the views while more modest places are set back. All have at least simple cafes, although for nightlife – like the rest of this coast – you'll be heading north to Kuta

Bingin Garden (Map p292; ☎ 081 6472 2002; tommybarrell76@yahoo.com; r from 150,000Rp) Four basic and new bungalows are set around tidy grounds back from the cliffs and 300m north of the toll gate. Each unit sleeps two and has cold water and a fan.

Mu (Map p292; ☎ 847 0976; www.mu-bali.com; r €55-185; ♿ ♿ ♿ ♿) Turn left after the toll gate for the most stylish option in Bingin. Seven very individual bungalows with round, pointed thatched roofs are scattered about a compound dominated by a cliffside infinity pool. All have open-air living spaces; some have air-con bedrooms and hot tubs with a view.

Impossibles Beach

Another of the isolated white-sand beaches and legendary surf spots that dot the coast, look for signs for Impossibles on the Ulu Watu road and then follow a 1km dirt track. In the right conditions, surfers enjoy long left-hand tubes.

Padang Padang Beach

Small in size but not in perfection, this little cove is near the main Ulu Watu road where a stream flows into the sea. Parking is easy and it is a short walk. Experienced surfers into tubes flock here.

Thomas Homestay (Map p292; ☎ 081 23775 6030; r 100,000Rp) has stunning views up and down this spectacular coast. The seven simple rooms lie at the end of a very rough 400m track off the main road. You can easily walk down to the beach along a path through the palms.

Ulu Watu & Around

Ulu Watu has become the generic name for the southwestern tip of the Bukit Peninsula. It includes the much-revered temple and

the fabled surf breaks at Padang Padang, Suluban and Ulu Watu. Surfers are most common in these parts, although a spate of villa-building is changing that. (In fact, authorities are waging war against new construction within about 2km of the temple.)

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Pura Luhur Ulu Watu (Map p292; admission incl sarong & sash rental 3000Rp, parking 1000Rp; ☎ 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. The views far out to sea are mesmerizing.

An enchanting **Kecak dance** (tickets 40,000Rp; ☎ 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.

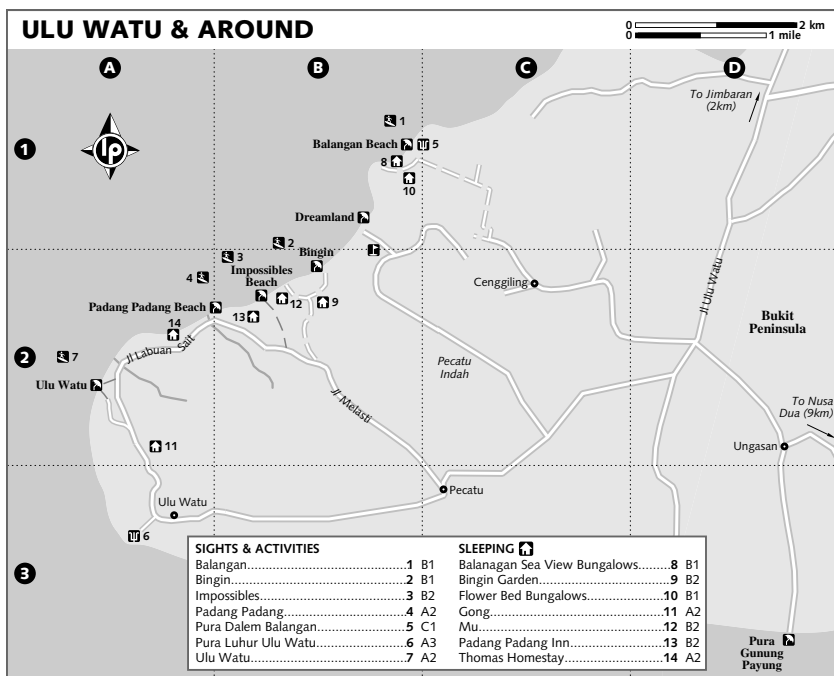
Ulu Watu, or Ulu's, is a legendary surf spot – the stuff of dreams and nightmares. There are seven different breaks here, all reached through a cave where you go in the water (below). It's about 1km south of the fabled breaks at Padang Padang.

SLEEPING

If you're not picky you can count on being able to find accommodation of some sort near the surf break of your choice. Expect to pay

BEATING ULU WATU

Observe where other surfers paddle out and follow them. If you are in doubt, ask someone. It is better having some knowledge than none at all. When the swell is bigger you will be swept to your right from the cave. Don't panic, it is an easy matter to paddle around the white water from down along the cliff. Coming back in you have to aim for the cave. When the swell is bigger, come from the southern side of the cave as the current runs to the north. If you miss the cave, paddle out again and repeat the procedure.



at least 80,000Rp for a room with cold water, a fan and a shared bathroom. Many surfers choose to stay in Kuta and make the commute of less than an hour.

Padang Padang Inn (Map p292; ☎ 081 2391 3617; Jl Melasti 432; r from 80,000Rp) A better-than-average budget place, Padang Padang has 24 tidy rooms with private cold-water-only bathrooms and a little cafe. It can arrange all manner of surfing services like lessons, trips etc.

Gong (Map p292; ☎ 769976; thegongacc@yahoo.com; Jl Pantai Suluban; r from US\$12) Few stay away long from the Gong. Eight tidy rooms with good ventilation and hot water face a small compound and have distant ocean views. There's also a cafe.

Getting There & Away

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

Drivers' note: coming from the east to Pantai Suluban you will first encounter a gated parking area (5000Rp), which is about a 400m walk from the water. Continuing over a bridge, there is an older parking area (3000Rp) that is a hilly 200m from the water. Watch out for 'gate-keepers' looking for bonuses.

Public bemo to Ulu Watu are infrequent and stop running by midafternoon. Some from Kuta serve Jimbaran and Ulu Watu – it's best to catch one west of Tuban (on Jl Raya Kuta, outside the Supernova shopping centre) or in Jimbaran (on Jl Ulu Watu).

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. Here you will find 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.

BALI'S SOUTHERNMOST BEACH

At the crossroads on the Ulu Watu road, where the road to Balangan leads east, the road running west connects to Nusa Dua (opposite) and passes by a few isolated beaches on the way. One of the best is at **Pura Gunung Payung** (Map p292), a seaside temple about 3km south of the village of Ungasan. New concrete steps lead down the 400m cliff to a sweet swath of sand on the pounding ocean. Bring a picnic and a good book.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The **Pasifika Museum** (☎ 774559; Bali Collection, Block P, Nusa Dua; admission 50,000Rp; ⏰ 10am-6pm) has Asian and Balinese art by Arie Smit, Adrien Jean Le Mayeur and Theo Meier among others.

One of the nicest features of Nusa Dua is the 5km-long **beach promenade** that stretches the length of the resort and continues north along much of the beach in Tanjung Bena. The walk is paved for most of its length.

The reef-protected beach at Nusa Dua is shallow at low tide, and the wave action is pretty limp. Worth a day trip from anywhere in South Bali, however, **Geger Beach** has a few mellow cafes and umbrella and lounge rentals. Expats in the know come here on weekends; on weekdays it's very quiet. It's reached by a small road outside of the Nusa Dua gates and south of the St Regis Bali Resort.

SLEEPING

The Nusa Dua hotels are similar in several ways: they are all big (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. Some of these huge places are a bit long in the tooth, but if you're looking for an anonymous top-end resort experience, the following will do.

Westin Resort (☎ 771906; www.westin.com/bali; r from US\$250; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) Attached to a large convention centre, the Westin has an air-conditioned lobby (a rarity) and vast public spaces. Guests in the 355 rooms enjoy the best pools in Nusa. There are waterfalls and more in this aquatic playground. The Kids Club has extensive activities and facilities. The landmark 2007 meetings on climate change were held here.

St Regis Bali Resort (☎ 847 8111; www.starwoodhotels.com; ste from US\$500; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) The newest Nusa Dua resort leaves most of the others in the sand. Every conceivable luxury from the electronics to the furnishings to the marble is provided. Pools abound and units are huge. Golf course and the beach adjoin.

EATING

Restaurants can be found by the dozen in the huge resorts. Prices are high even by top-end Bali standards. For people not staying at the hotels, the best reason to venture in is if you want a bounteous Sunday brunch at one of the international chains.

Warung Dobiell (Jl Srikandi; meals from 15,000Rp; ⏰ 8am-3pm) It's all about pork at this beloved open-front warung. Pork sate, pork soup, and green beans with shredded pork are among the favourites. The sautéed jackfruit will make you a convert; the green sambal is redolent with spices. Seating is on stools at long tables.

Nusa Dua Beach Grill (☎ 743 4779; Jl Pura Geger; mains 30,000-60,000Rp) A hidden gem, this warm-hued cafe is just south of Geger Beach on foot, but a circuitous 1.5km by car. The drink menu is long, the seafood fresh and the atmosphere redolent with ascriptions.

SHOPPING

Bali Collection (☎ 771662) This shopping centre has had numerous name changes. The latest incarnation is mostly empty; a few souls try to make merry on their Bali holiday at the deserted Starbucks.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

The fixed taxi fare from the airport is 85,000Rp; a metered taxi *to* the airport will be less. Taxis to/from Seminyak average 70,000Rp.

Getting Around

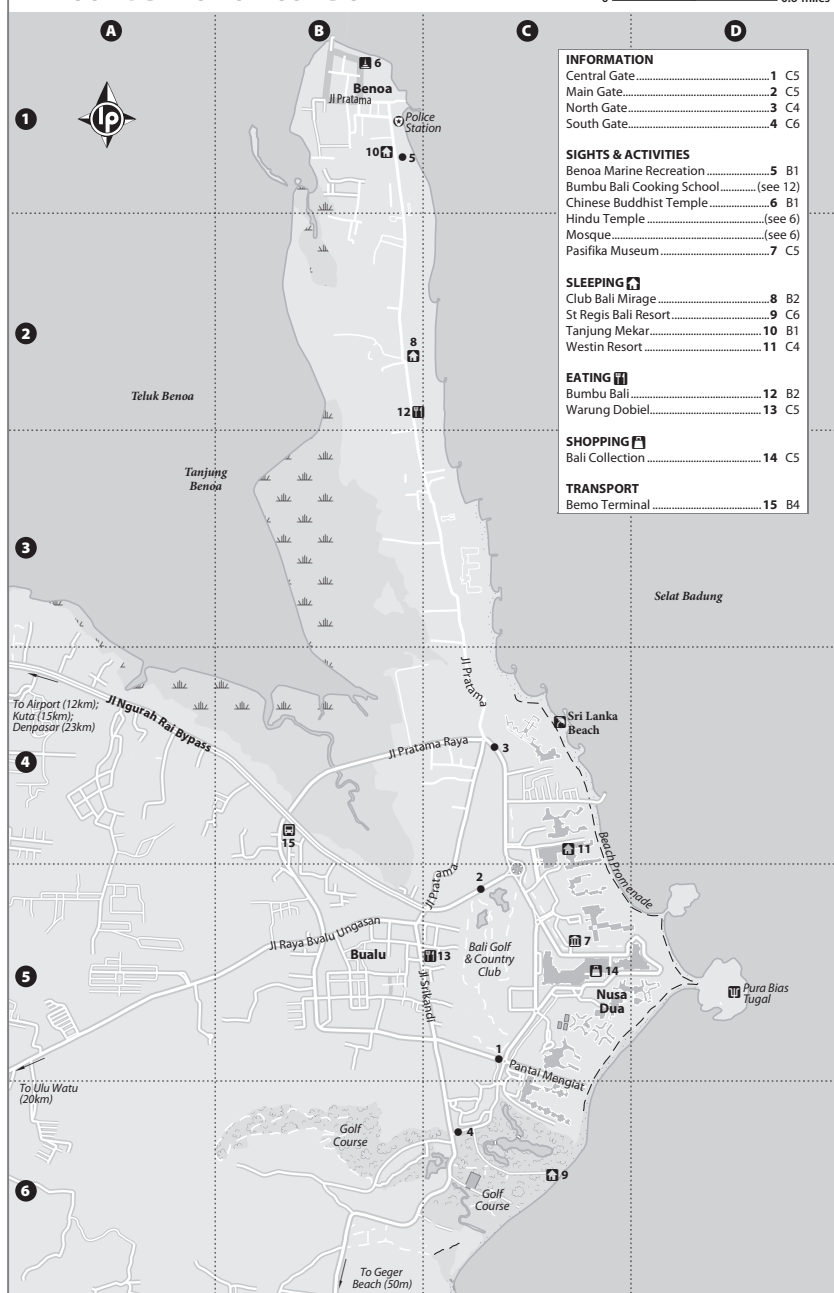
Find out what shuttle-bus services your hotel provides before you start hailing taxis. A free **shuttle bus** (☎ 771662; ⏰ 9am-10pm) connects all Nusa Dua and Tanjung Bena resort hotels with the Bali Collection shopping centre about every hour. Better: use the delightful beach promenade.

Tanjung Bena

The peninsula of Tanjung Bena extends about 4km north from Nusa Dua to the fishing village of Bena. It is not a gated community

TANJUNG BENOA & NUSA DUA

0 ————— 1 km
0 ————— 0.6 miles



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.

Modest 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.

SIGHTS

Benoa is one of Bali's multid 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, windsurfing, 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 **Benoa Marine Recreation** (BMR; ☎ 771757; www.bmrbali.com; Jl Pratama 99).

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\$30), or glass-bottomed boat trips (60-minute tour US\$25).

COURSES

Bumbu Bali Cooking School (Map p294; ☎ 774502; www.balifoods.com; Jl Pratama; classes US\$75; ☎ 6am-3pm Mon, Wed & Fri) Long-time resident and cookbook author Heinz von Holzen runs a renowned cooking school. The day starts with a visit to the markets of Jimbaran.

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.

Tanjung Mekar (☎ 081 2363 1374; Jl Pratama; r 120,000-150,000Rp; 📶) Set in a little garden back

from the street, this small family-run guest-house has four simple, pleasant rooms, some with air-con.

Club Bali Mirage (☎ 772147; www.clubbalimirage.com; Jl Pratama 72; r from US\$70; 📶 📺) This compact, J-shaped resort has a good-sized free-form swimming pool. Palms shade the grounds and the beach is right out the front. Rooms feature bold colours, the better to jolt you out of your jet lag – or hangover. All 98 rooms have balconies or terraces. All-inclusive rates are available.

EATING

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

Bumbu Bali (☎ 774502; www.balifoods.com; Jl Pratama; dishes 45,000-90,000Rp; ☎ noon-9pm) 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 (210,000Rp). There is a nearby lodge as well.

Von Holzen also runs a renowned **cooking school** (classes US\$75; ☎ 6am-3pm Mon, Wed & Fri). The day starts with a visit to the markets of Jimbaran (p289).

GETTING THERE & AROUND

Taxis from the airport cost 100,000Rp. Take a bemo to Bualu, then take one of the infrequent green bemo that shuttle up and down Jl Pratama (3000Rp) – after about 3pm bemo become really scarce on both routes. A metered taxi will be much easier and quicker. Or stroll the beach promenade.

DENPASAR

☎ 0361 / pop 600,000

Sprawling, hectic and ever-growing, Bali's capital has been the focus of a lot of the island's growth and wealth over the last five decades. It can seem a daunting and chaotic place but spend a little time on its tree-lined streets in the relatively affluent government and business district of Renon and you'll discover a more genteel side.

Denpasar might not be a tropical paradise, but it's as much a part of 'the real Bali' as the rice paddies and cliff-top temples. This is the

hub of the island for locals and here you will find their shopping malls and parks. Most visitors stay in the tourist towns of the south and visit Denpasar as a day trip. Others may pass through while changing bemo or catching a bus to Java.

ORIENTATION

The main road, Jl Gunung Agung, starts at the western side of town. It changes first to Jl Gajah Mada, then Jl Surapati and finally Jl Hayam Wuruk. This name changing is common in Denpasar, and can be confusing.

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 tracts of landscaped space. You'll find the government offices here, many of which are impressive structures displaying an ersatz 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.

Rumah Sakit Umum Propinsi Sanglah (Sanglah Hospital; ☎ 227911; Sanglah; ☹ 24hr) The city's general hospital has English-speaking staff and an ER. It's the best hospital on the island.

SIGHTS

Museum Negeri Propinsi Bali

This **museum** (☎ 222680; adult/child 2000/1000Rp; ☹ 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* (witch), 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 rajas held audiences. The **southern pavilion** (Gedung Buleleng) has a varied collection of textiles, including *endek* (Balinese traditional sarong), 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 stately 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.

Bajra Sandhi Monument

Otherwise known as the Monument to the Struggle of the People of Bali, this huge **monument** (☎ 264517; Jl Raya Puputan; admission 2000Rp; ☹ 9am-5.30pm) is as big as its name and dominates what's already a big park in Renon. Inside this vaguely Borobodur-like structure are lurid dioramas tracing Bali's history.

Taman Wedhi Budaya

This **arts centre** (☎ 222776; admission free; ☹ 8am-3pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri-Sun) is a sprawling complex in the eastern part of Denpasar. From mid-June to mid-July the normally sleepy centre comes alive for the Bali Arts Festival (see below), with dances, music and craft displays from all over Bali.

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. Tickets are usually available right before performances and schedules are widely available.

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 stations or have some other business here. Otherwise the myriad choices in Sanur and Seminyak are close by.

Hotel Niki Rusdi (☎ 416397; Jl Pidada XIV; r 60,000-200,000Rp; 🏠) Located right behind the Ubung bus terminal, the 26 rooms here are a good choice if you have an early or late bus. Rooms are clean, the cheapest fan-only. There are other options nearby if this hotel is full.

Nakula Familiar Inn (☎ 226446; nakula_familiar_inn@yahoo.com; Jl Nakula 4; r 70,000-120,000Rp; 🏠) The eight rooms at this sprightly family-run place are clean (cold-water-only showers, some with air-con) and have small balconies. The traffic noise isn't too bad and there is a nice little courtyard in the middle.

EATING

Denpasar has the island's best range of Indonesian and Balinese food. Savvy locals and expats each have their own favourite warung and restaurants.

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

Warung Beras Bali (☎ 247443; Jl Sahedawa 26; mains 7000-15,000Rp) Organic rice underpins organic vegetables and various Chinese dishes at this appropriately green-hued open-front cafe.

Renon

The slightly gentrified air here is redolent with the smells of good food.

Ganjur (☎ 230015; Jl Cok Agung Tresna; dishes 8000-30,000Rp; 🏠) Big, airy and cool, this shiny upmarket restaurant has Balinese seafood in an array of preparations (crispy, grilled, steamed or wrapped in a banana leaf). It's

hugely popular with families and groups of government workers.

Ayam Goreng Kalasan (☎ 081 2380 9934; Jl Cok Agung Trisna 6; mains from 10,000Rp) The name here says it all. Fried Chicken (Ayam Goreng) named for a Javanese temple (Kalasan) in a region renowned for its fiery, crispy chicken. The version here falls off the bone on the way to the table; the meat is redolent with lemongrass from a long marinade prior to the plunge into boiling oil.

our pick Cak Asm (☎ 798 9388; Jl Tukad Gangga; mains 10,000-30,000Rp) No, the name isn't the sound you make after eating here. If that were the case, this simple cafe would be named 'yum'. Order the *cumi cumi* (calamari) with *telor asin* sauce (a heavenly mixture of eggs and garlic). The resulting buttery, crispy goodness may be the best dish you have in Bali. And it's under US\$1.

SHOPPING

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

A must-see destination: shoppers browse and bargain at the **Pasar Badung** morning to night. It's a retail adventure and you'll find produce and food from all over the island as well as easy-to-assemble temple offerings that are popular with working women.

Across the river, the renovated **Pasar Kumbasari** has handicrafts, a plethora of vibrant fabrics, and costumes decorated with gold. **Kampung Arab** has jewellery and precious-metal stores. North on Jl Veteran, **Pasar Burung** is a bird market with hundreds of caged birds and small animals, such as guinea pigs, rabbits and monkeys, for sale. There are also gaudy birdcages.

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 p266 for details of air transport.

Bemo

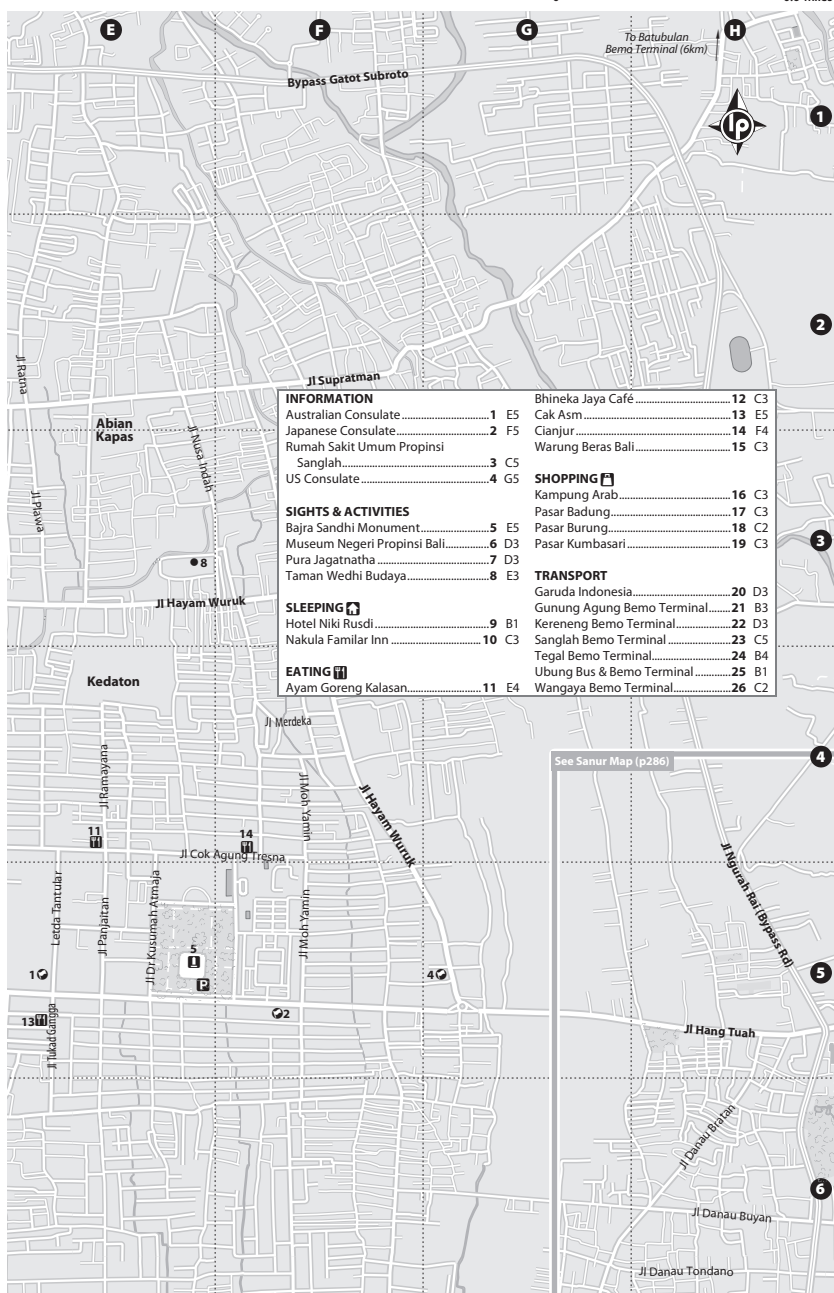
The city has several bemo terminals – if you're travelling independently around Bali you'll often have to go via Denpasar, and transfer from one terminal to another. Each terminal has regular bemo connections to the other terminals in Denpasar for 7000Rp. Note that as personal transport has flourished, Bali's bemo network has suffered.

DENPASAR

BALI



0 0.8 km
0 0.6 miles

**INFORMATION**

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Japanese Consulate.....	2	F5
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SHOPPING

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Tegal Bemo Terminal.....	24	B4
Ubung Bus & Bemo Terminal.....	25	B1
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See Sanur Map (p286)

UBUNG

Well north of the town, on the road to Gilimanuk, Ubung is the terminal for northern and western Bali and most long-distance bus services. In the complex, there is a **tourist office** (☎ 427172) that provides help with fares and schedules. Arriving here by taxi guarantees a reception by baggage and ticket touts.

Destination	Fare
Gilimanuk (for the ferry to Java)	25,000Rp
Kediri (for Tanah Lot)	7000Rp
Mengwi	7000Rp
Munduk	22,000Rp
Negara	20,000Rp
Pancasari (for Danau Bratan)	18,000Rp
Singaraja (via Pupuan or Bedugul)	30,000Rp
Tabanan	7000Rp

BATUBULAN

Located an inconvenient 6km northeast of Denpasar on a road to Ubud, this terminal is for destinations in eastern and central Bali.

Destination	Fare
Amlapura	20,000Rp
Bangli	12,000Rp
Gianyar	10,000Rp
Kintamani (via Tampaksiring)	18,000Rp
Padangbai (for the Lombok ferry)	18,000Rp
Sanur	6000Rp
Semarapura	18,000Rp
Singaraja (via Kintamani)	30,000Rp
Singaraja (via Semarapura & Amlapura)	30,000Rp
Ubud	8000Rp

TEGAL

On the western side of town on Jl Iman Bonjol, Tegal is the terminal for Kuta and the Bukit Peninsula.

Destination	Fare
Airport	10,000Rp
Jimbaran	12,000Rp
Kuta	8000Rp
Legian	8000Rp
Nusa Dua	12,000Rp
Ulu Watu	15,000Rp

GUNUNG AGUNG

This terminal, at the northwestern corner of town (look for orange bemo), is on Jl Gunung Agung, and has bemo to Kerobokan and Canggu (7000Rp).

KERENENG

East of the town centre, Kereneng has bemo to Sanur (7000Rp).

SANGLAH

On Jl Diponegoro, near the general hospital in the south of the city, Sanglah has bemo to Suwung and Bena Harbour (7000Rp).

WANGAYA

Near the centre of town, this small terminal is the departure point for bemo services to northern Denpasar and the outlying Ubung bus terminal (6000Rp).

Bus

The usual route to Java is a bus (get one with air-con) 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 (210,000Rp, 16 hours) and Jakarta (305,000Rp, 24 hours), usually travelling overnight.

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

GETTING AROUND**Bemo**

Bemo take various circuitous routes from and between Denpasar's many bus/bemo terminals. They line up for various destinations at each terminal, or you can try and 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 in colour) 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.

NUSA LEMBONGAN & ISLANDS

Look towards the open ocean southeast of Bali and the hazy bulk of Nusa Penida dominates the view. But for many visitors the real focus is Nusa Lembongan, which lurks in the shadow of its vastly larger neighbour. Here there's great surfing, quiet white beaches and the kind

of funky vibe travellers cherish. It's a popular destination and justly so – it's an easy way to escape the hubbub of South Bali.

Nusa Penida is seldom visited, which means that its dramatic vistas and unchanged village life are yours to explore. Tiny Nusa Ceningan huddles between the larger islands. It is an interesting quick jaunt from Lembongan.

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.

NUSA LEMBONGAN

☎ 0366

It's the Bali many imagine but never find: simple rooms on the beach, cheap beers with incredible sunsets, days spent surfing and diving, and nights spent riffling through a favourite book or hanging with new friends.

Nusa Lembongan grows in popularity each year, but even as rooms for travellers proliferate, it remains a very mellow place. The 7000 hard-working locals welcome the extra money brought by visitors and time is marked by the crow of a rooster and the fall of a coconut.

Orientation

Most surfers, divers and budget travellers stay at Jungutbatu Beach in the island's northwest, while more upmarket accommodation is farther south towards 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. Leaving Jungutbatu, when heading towards Lembongan village, you climb up a steep knoll that offers a wonderful view back over the beach.

Information

It's vital that you bring sufficient cash for your stay, as there's no ATM. **Bank BPD** (☎ 8am–3pm Mon–Thu, 8am–1pm Fri) can exchange travellers cheques and cash but the rates are bad.

If the name **Money Changer** (☎ 8am–9pm) provokes images of the usurious being chased from the temple, you'd be right. Cash advances here on credit cards incur an 8% service charge.

Pondok Baruna (☎ 081 2390 0686) has public internet terminals. Wi-fi is being installed at many places.

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.

DREAM BEACH

Down a little track, on the south side of the island, this 150m crescent of white sand has pounding surf and a warung for sunset beers.

Activities

Most places will rent bicycles for 30,000Rp per day, surfboards for 50,000Rp, 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

World Diving (☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com), based at Pondok Baruna (p303) on Jungutbatu Beach, is well regarded. It offers a complete range of courses, including five-day PADI open-water courses for US\$375, and dive trips from US\$27 to US\$40 per dive to sites around all three islands. See the boxed text, p303 for details on the area's dive sites.

Sleeping & Eating

With exceptions, rooms and amenities become increasingly posh as you head south and west along the water to Mushroom Bay. Almost every property has a cafe serving – unless noted – basic Indonesian and Western dishes for under 25,000Rp.

JUNGUTBATU

Lodgings in Jungutbatu are mostly basic. However as a group they are undergoing the typical 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.

Puri Nusa Bungalows (☎ 24482; r 70,000-200,000Rp; 🏠) The 17 rooms here are clean and comfortable (some with hot water and air-con); the two rooms upstairs in front have excellent views and there's a good cafe. There are nice loungers under trees.

Pondok Baruna (☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com; r 75,000-100,000Rp; 🏠 🏠) Associated with World Diving, this simple place has eight rooms with terraces facing the ocean. The restaurant serves excellent meals. Staff, led by the manager Putu, are charmers.

Two Thousand Cafe (☎ 081 2381 2775; r 100,000-300,000Rp; 🏠) Eight rooms in two-storey blocks offer decent comfort; some have hot water and air-con. There's a fun cafe-bar right on the sand.

Nusa Indah Bungalows (☎ 081 139 8553; purnamaindah@hotmail.com; r with fan/air-con 150,000/250,000Rp;

🏠) A friendly place with a popular cafe. It has five classic thatched cottages on a sizeable beachfront and five rooms out the back in a two-storey block.

HILLSIDE

The steep hillside just south of Jungutbatu offers great views and an ever-increasing number of more luxurious rooms.

Ware-Ware (☎ 081 2397 0572; r 200,000-400,000Rp; 🏠 🏠) The units at this hillside place are a mix of traditional square and groovy circular numbers with thatched roofs. The 10 rooms (some fan-only) are large and have rattan couches and big bathrooms. The cafe scores with a spectacular, breezy cliffside location. Dishes (20,000Rp to 50,000Rp) include fresh seafood.

Playgrounds (☎ 24524; www.playgroundslombokan.com; r 450,000-600,000Rp; 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠) On the hillside, Playgrounds' rooms have good views, satellite TV and fridges. The cheaper rooms are fan-cooled but do have better views from their long porch.

Batu Karang (☎ 24880; www.batukaranglombokan.com; r from US\$150; 🏠 🏠 🏠) A precursor to Lembongan's future, this upscale resort has a large infinity pool perched on a terraced hillside with 23 luxury units. Some have multiple rooms, plunge pools and sweeping views. All have open bathrooms and wooden terraces.

PANTAI SELEGIMPAK

Leaving Jungutbatu, the island gets less tamed as you go west. With backpacks, you may

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 still mostly 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. Upswells 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.

want to avail yourself of the boat-greeting luggage carriers for the walk here along the hillside trail. It's a 15-minute up-and-down scenic walk from the boat-landing area.

Tamarind Beach (☎ 081 2398 4234; www.balitamairind.com; r 150,000-250,000Rp) Trance music plays in the simple common area at this wild tropical setting right on the beach. The six rooms are simple, with cold-water tubs for getting clean and cooling off. Ring ahead for a pickup by outrigger from the boat-landing area on Jungutbatu Beach.

Morin Lembongan (☎ 081 2385 8396; wayman40@hotmail.com; r US\$30-45; 📶) More lushly planted than many of the hillside places, Morin has four woody rooms with views over the water from their verandahs. It's cold-water and fan-only; be sure to bargain.

MUSHROOM BAY

It's your own treasure island. This shallow bay has a nice beach and plenty of overhanging trees. It offers the nicest lodging on Lembongan. Get here from Jungutbatu by road (10,000Rp) or boat (25,000Rp).

Mushroom Beach Bungalows (☎ 24515; www.mushroom-lembongan.com; r US\$45-80; 📶 📶) Perched on a tiny knoll at the east end of Mushroom Bay, this family-run place has 11 rooms, some fan-only. There are good-sized bathtubs and a popular cliffside cafe for viewing sunsets.

Nusa Lembongan Resort (☎ 725864; www.nusa-lembongan.com; villas from US\$185; 📶 📶) Twelve well-appointed and stylish villas overlooking the picture-perfect bay are the draw here. Flowering shrubs and trees highlight the lavish gardens. The resort has a creative terrace restaurant (meals US\$10 to US\$25) with views over the bay.

Getting There & Away

Getting to or from Nusa Lembongan offers numerous choices. In descending order of speed are the fast boats like Scoot, the Perama boat and the public boats. Boats anchor offshore, so be prepared to get your feet wet. And travel light – wheeled bags are comically inappropriate in the water and on the beach and dirt tracks. Porters will shoulder your steamer trunk for 10,000Rp.

SANUR

Public boats to Nusa Lembongan leave from the northern end of Sanur beach at 7.45am (45,000Rp, 1¼ to two hours). This is the

boat used for supplies, so you may have to share space with a melon. A faster public boat (150,000Rp, one hour) makes the run in under an hour: 3pm from Lembongan, 4pm from Sanur.

The Perama tourist boat leaves Sanur at 10.15am (100,000Rp, 1¼ hours). The Lembongan office is near the Mandara Beach Bungalows.

The speed champ is **Scoot** (☎ 0361-780 2255; one way/return US\$18/30), a fast service (30 to 40 minutes) that flies over and through the waves. There are at least two returns daily; check schedules when you book.

For details on the Sanur end of the services, see p289.

BENOA HARBOUR

The day-tripping cruise boats to Nusa Lembongan from Benoa Harbour (p302) will usually take passengers only for about US\$30 round-trip. Call to confirm. Alternatively, if you go on the full day trip and then decide you want to stay, you can return on a boat another day.

Getting Around

The island is fairly small and you can easily walk most places. There are no cars. One-way rides on motorbikes or trucks cost 5000Rp.

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.

This is one of the places you can visit with JED, the Village Ecotourism Network (see boxed text, p330).

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.

Nusa Penida was once used as a place of banishment for criminals and other undesirables from the kingdom of Klungkung, and still has a somewhat sinister reputation. It's also thought to be home to demons.

Services are limited to small shops in the main towns. Bring cash and anything else you'll need.

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.

Made's Homestay (☎ 0828 368 6709; r 100,000Rp) has four small, clean rooms in a pleasant garden. Breakfast is included. A small side road between the market and the harbour leads here.

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 (5000Rp).

Offshore, the big grey thing that looks like a tuna-processing plant is the **Quicksilver pontoon** (☎ 0361-7425161; www.quicksilver-bali.com). Day trips (adult/child US\$85/42.50) from Benoa Harbour include a buffet lunch, snorkelling, banana-boat rides and an excursion ashore to an extremely unattractive 'tourist village' of souvenir sellers.

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 motor-cycle. 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 Karangasari, steps go

up on the right side of the road to the narrow entrance of **Goa Karangasari** 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 and 1.5km track leads to a spectacular **waterfall** (*air terjun*) that crashes onto a small beach. Get a guide (20,000Rp) in Tanglad.

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 Penataran 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 sprawling and you will see many people making offerings for safe sea voyages from Nusa Penida. From there, the road follows the lush coast back to Sampalan.

Getting There & Away

The strait between Nusa Penida and southern Bali is deep and subject to heavy swells – if there is a strong tide, boats often have to wait. Boats to and from Kusamba are not recommended.

PADANGBAI

On the beach just east of the car park in Padangbai, you'll find the twin-engine fibre-glass boats that run across the strait to Buyuk, 1km west of Sampalan on Nusa Penida (30,000Rp, 45 minutes, four daily). The boats run between 7am and noon. A large and new car ferry has been built for the route but its operation is spotty, owing to insufficient government funding.

NUSA LEMBONGAN

Boats runs between Toyapakeh and Jungutbatu (30,000Rp, one hour) between 5.30am and 6am. Enjoy the mangrove views on the way. Otherwise, charter a boat for 250,000Rp.

Getting Around

To see the island you should charter your own bemo or private vehicle with driver for about 60,000Rp to 100,000Rp.

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.

Ubud is home to good restaurants, cafes and streets of shops, many selling goods from the region's artisans. There's somewhere to stay for every budget, and no matter what the price you can enjoy lodgings that reflect the local Zeitgeist: artful, creative and serene.

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 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 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.

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 (Wos River). West of Campuan, the pretty village of Penestanan is famous for its painters and bead-work. East and south of Ubud proper, the 'villages' of Peliatan, Nyuhkuning and Pengosekan are known variously for painting, woodcarving and traditional dance. The area north of Ubud is less densely settled, with picturesque pad-dies interspersed with small villages, many of which specialise in a local craft.

INFORMATION

Along the main roads, you'll find most services you need.

Bookshops

Ubud is the best place in Bali for book shopping. Shops typically carry newspapers such as the *International Herald Tribune*.

Cinta Bookshop (Map p310; ☎ 973295; Jl Dewi Sita) Nice assortment of used novels and vintage books about Bali.

Ganesha Bookshop (Map pp308-9; ☎ 970320; www.ganeshabooksbali.com; Jl Raya Ubud) Bali's best bookshop has an amazing amount of stock jammed into a small space. Excellent selection of titles on Indonesian studies, travel, art, music and fiction (including used titles). Good recommendations and mail-order service.

Neka Art Museum (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975074; www.museumneka.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; ☎ 9am-5pm) Good range of art books.

Periplus Monkey Forest Rd (Map p310; ☎ 975178); Jl Raya Campuan (Map pp308-9; ☎ 976149; Bintang Centre) The branch on Monkey Forest Rd is typically glossy; the Campuan branch is a large store with a small cafe.

Emergency

Police station (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975316; Jl Raya Andong; ☎ 24hr) Located east, at Andong.

Internet Access

The following two neighbouring places are a cut above average with fast broadband connections and large screens. Many of Ubud's cafes offer wi-fi as noted in the listings.

@Highway (Map pp308-9; ☎ 972107; Jl Raya Ubud; per min 500Rp; ☎ 24hr; 📶) Full-service and very fast.

Libraries

Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre (Map p310; ☎ 976194; Monkey Forest Rd; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) On the far side of the football field, this relaxed place has a children's book section. Charges membership fees for library use. Small cafe and a pleasant reading area. See p313 for information on cultural courses.

Medical Services

See p271 for additional medical resources for travellers.

Mua Pharmacy (Map p310; ☎ 974674; Monkey Forest Rd; ☎ 8am-9pm)

Ubud Clinic (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974911; www.ubudclinic.com; Jl Raya Campuan 36; ☎ 24hr) Best medical centre in Ubud. Charges start at 200,000Rp for a clinical consultation.

Money

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

Post

Main post office (Map pp308-9; Jl Jembawan; ☎ 8am-5pm) Has a sort-it-yourself poste restante system – address poste restante mail to Kantor Pos, Ubud 80571, Bali, Indonesia.

Tourist Information

Ubud Tourist Information (Yaysan Bina Wisata; Map p310; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; ☎ 8am-8pm) The one really useful tourist office in Bali. It has a good range of information and a noticeboard 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 p310; 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.

Just north, **Pura Marajan Agung** (Map p310; 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 p310; 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 p310; 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.

Art Museums

MUSEUM PURI LUKISAN

This **Palace of Fine Arts** (Map p310; ☎ 975136; www.mpl-ubud.com; off Jl Raya Ubud; admission 20,000Rp; ☎ 9am-5pm) 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 pp308-9; ☎ 975074; www.museumneka.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; adult/child 40,000Rp/free; ☎ 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.

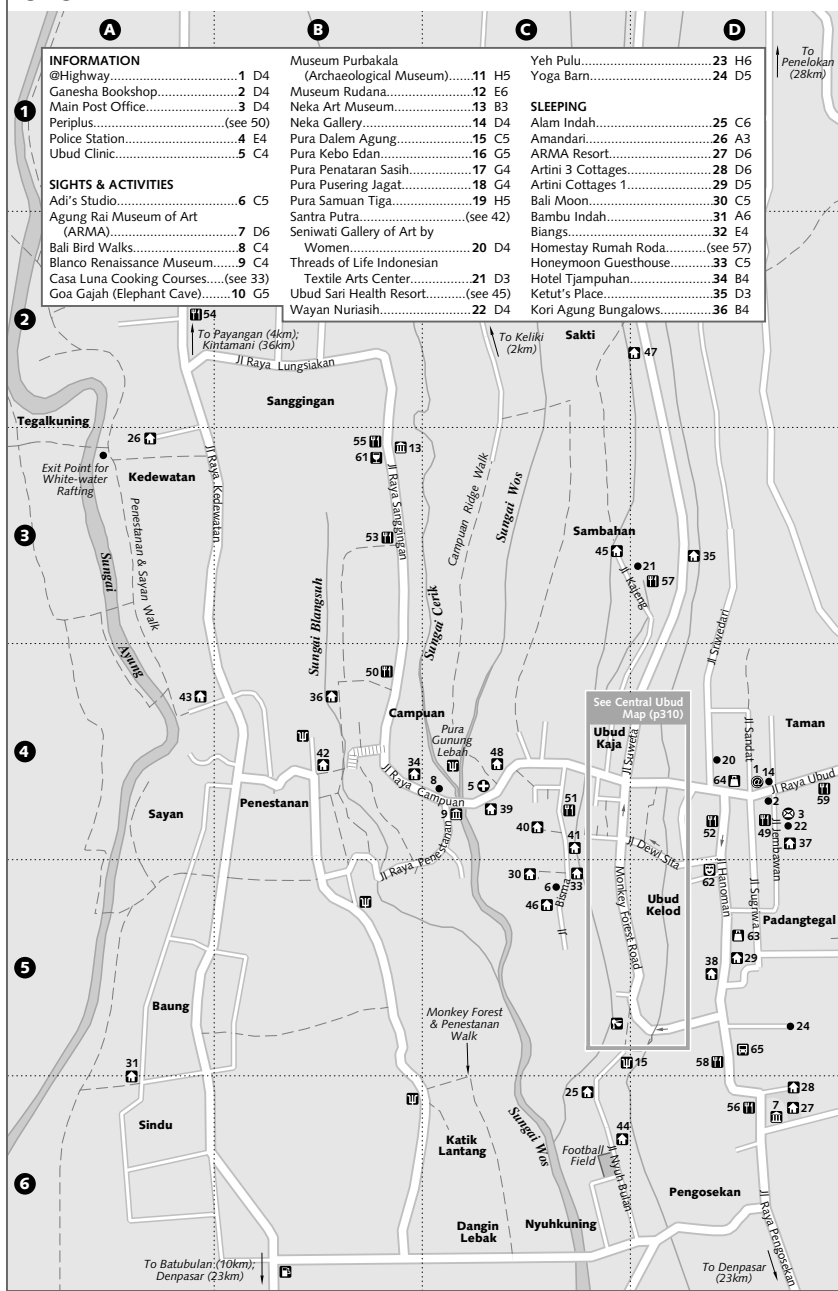
The **Balinese Painting Hall** provides an overview of local painting, showing influences from classic *wayang kulit* puppetry through to abstract expressionism. The **Arie Smit Pavilion** features Smit's works and examples of the 'Young Artist' school, which he inspired. The **Lempad Pavilion** houses 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

UBUD AREA

INFORMATION					
@Highway	1 D4	Museum Purbakala (Archaeological Museum)	11 H5	Yeh Pulu	23 H6
Ganesha Bookshop	2 D4	Museum Rudana	12 E6	Yoga Barn	24 D5
Main Post Office	3 D4	Neka Art Museum	13 B3	SLEEPING	
Peripus (see 50)		Neka Gallery	14 D4	Alam Indah	25 C6
Police Station	4 E4	Pura Dalem Agung	15 C5	Amandari	26 A3
Ubud Clinic	5 C4	Pura Kebo Edan	16 G5	ARMA Resort	27 D6
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		Pura Penataran Sasih	17 G4	Artini 3 Cottages	28 D6
Adi's Studio	6 C5	Pura Pusering Jagat	18 G4	Artini Cottages 1	29 D5
Agung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA)	7 D6	Pura Samuan Tiga	19 H5	Bali Moon	30 C5
Bali Bird Walks	8 C4	Santra Putra	(see 42)	Bambu Indah	31 A6
Blanco Renaissance Museum	9 C4	Seniwati Gallery of Art by Women	20 D4	Biangs	32 E4
Casa Luna Cooking Courses (see 33)		Threads of Life Indonesian		Homestay Rumah Roda (see 57)	
Goa Gajah (Elephant Cave)	10 G5	Textile Arts Center	21 D3	Honeymoon Guesthouse	33 C5
		Ubud Sari Health Resort (see 45)		Hotel Tjampuhan	34 B4
		Wayan Nuriasih	22 D4	Ketut's Place	35 D3
				Kori Agung Bungalows	36 B4

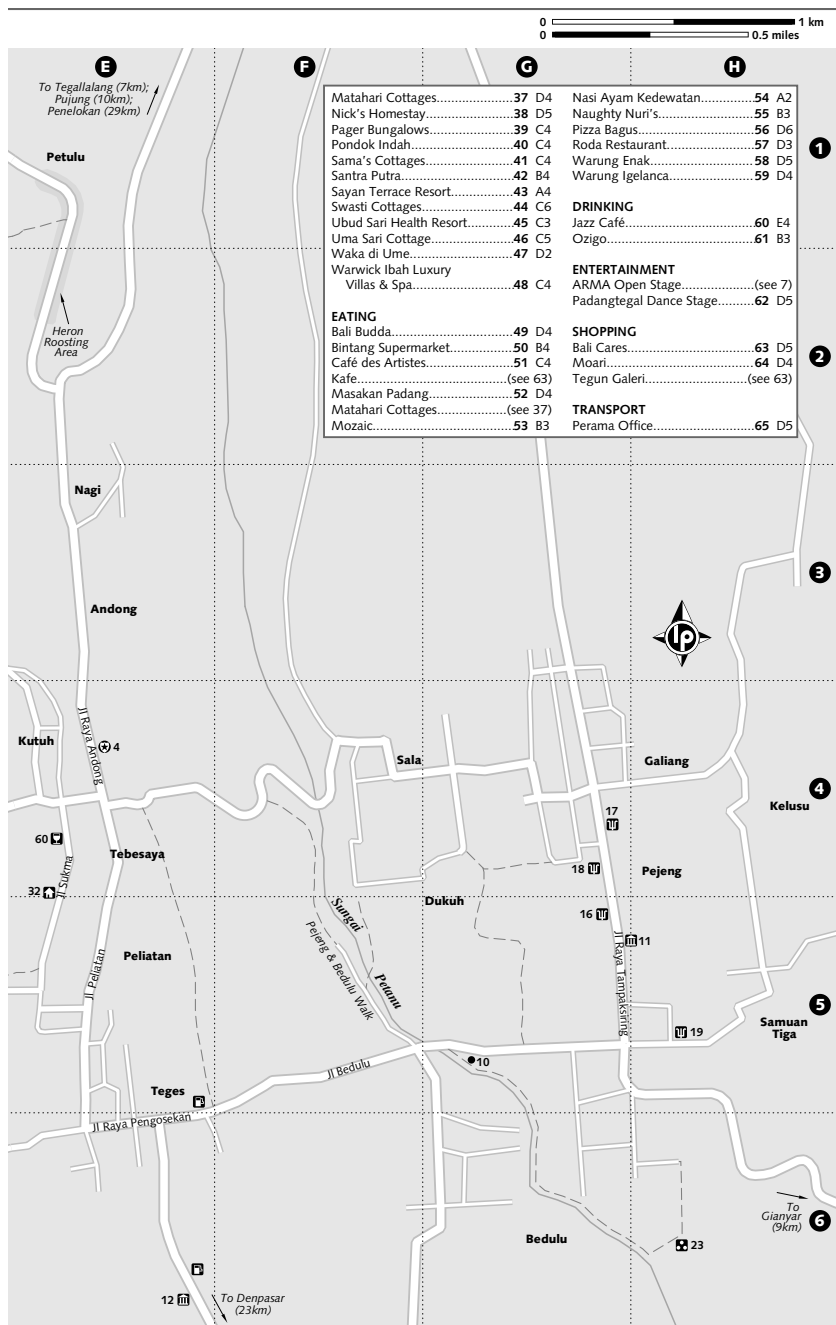
BALI



To Batubulan (10km); Denpasar (23km)

To Denpasar (23km)

To Penelokan (28km)



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.

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 pp308-9; ☎ 976659; www.armamuseum.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; admission 25,000Rp; 🕒 9am-6pm) is the only place in Bali to see works by the influential German artist Walter Spies. It also has works by 19th-century Javanese artist Raden Saleh. It exhibits classical Kamasan paintings, Batuan-style work from the 1930s and 1940s, and works by Lempad, Affandi, Sadali, Hofker, Bonnet and Le Mayeur. The collection is well labelled in English. Look for the enigmatic *Portrait of a Javanese Nobleman and his Wife* by Raden Saleh.

It's interesting to visit ARMA when local children practise **Balinese dancing** (🕒 3-5pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-noon Sun) and during **gamelan practice** (hours vary). See p320 for details on regular Legong and Kecak dance performances. See p313 for details on the numerous cultural courses offered here.

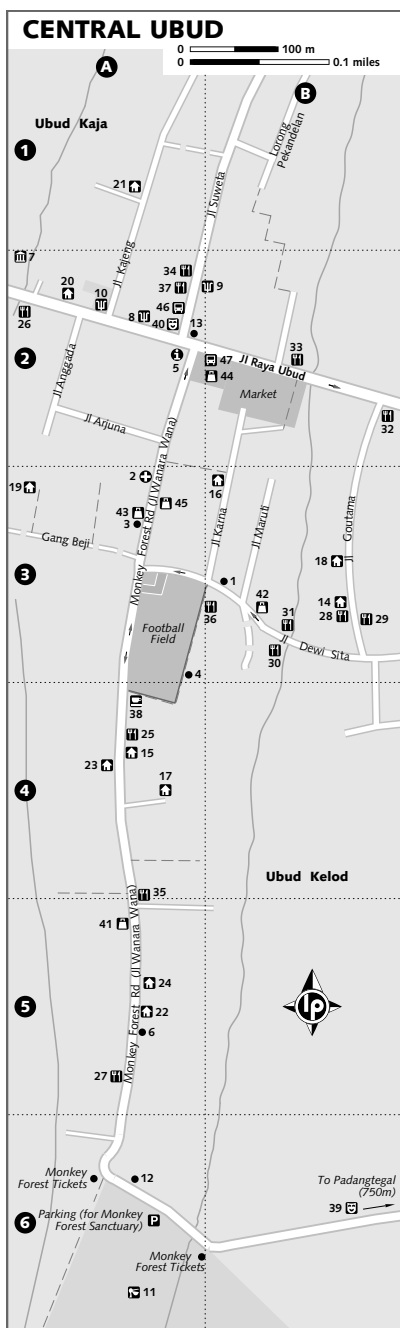
You can enter the museum grounds from the southern end of Jl Raya Pengosekan (there's parking near Kafe ARMA) or around the corner on Jl Pengosekan at the Kafe ARMA.

MUSEUM RUDANA

This large, imposing **museum** (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975779; admission 20,000Rp; 🕒 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

The picture of Antonio Blanco mugging with Michael Jackson says it all. His namesake **Blanco Renaissance Museum** (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975502; Jl Raya Campuan; admission 50,000Rp; 🕒 9am-5pm) captures the artist's theatrical spirit. Blanco came to Bali from Spain via the Philippines. He specialised in erotic art, illustrated poetry and playing the role of an eccentric artist à la Dali.



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Nyoman Warsa..... (see 39)		Warsa's Garden Bungalows..... 24 A5		Ubud Wantilan..... 40 A2	
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Pura Desa Ubud..... 8 A2		Bumbu Bali..... 25 A4		Ashitaba..... 41 A5	
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Ubud Palace..... 13 A2		Kafe Batan Waru..... 31 B3		Bemo Stop..... 46 A2	
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He died in Bali in 1999, and his flamboyant home is now this museum.

Galleries

Ubud is dotted with galleries – every street and lane seems to have a place exhibiting art-work for sale. They vary enormously in the choice and quality of items on display.

NEKA GALLERY

Operated by Suteja Neka, the **Neka Gallery** (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975034; Jl Raya Ubud; ☹ 9am-5pm) is a separate entity from the Neka Art Museum. It has an extensive selection from all the schools of Balinese art, as well as works by European residents such as the renowned Arie Smit.

SENIWATI GALLERY OF ART BY WOMEN

This **gallery** (Map pp308-9; ☹ 975485; www.seniwati.gallery.com; Jl Sriwedari 2B; ☹ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun) exhibits works by more than 70 Balinese, Indonesian and resident foreign women artists. The information on many of the artists makes for fascinating reading.

ADI'S STUDIO

'Look at this!' cry the signs around town plugging this interesting **gallery** (Map pp308-9; ☎ 977104; Jl Bisma 102; ☹ 10am-5pm), and you should. Many of the better local artists display their works here, including Wayan Pasti, whose carvings give new meaning to 'pork'. It hosts occasional special events like live music.

KETUT RUDI GALLERY

These sprawling **galleries** (☎ 974122; Pengosekan) showcase the works of more than 50 Ubud artists with techniques as varied as primitive and new realism. The gallery's namesake is on display as well; he favours an entertaining style that's best described as 'comical realism'.

Artists' Homes

The home of Walter Spies is now part of **Hotel Tjampuhan** (p317). Dutch-born artist Han Snel lived in Ubud from the 1950s until his death in 1999, and his family runs **Siti Bungalows** on Jl Kajeng, 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 Resort** (p317).

Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary

This cool and dense swath of jungle, officially called **Mandala Wisata Wanara Wana** (Map p310; ☎ 971304; www.monkeyforestubud.com; Monkey Forest Rd; adult/child 15,000/7500Rp; ☹ 8am-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.

The interesting **Pura Dalem Agung** (Temple of the Dead) is in the forest and has a real

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 (Map pp308–9) features a good range of rice paddies and rural Ubud scenery.

Take your time strolling through the **Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary** (p311). 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 8.5km walk (Map pp308–9) 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 Warwick Ibah Luxury Villas. 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 (Map pp308–9), where you will jaunt 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 Resort (p317). 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 Sungai 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.

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: the main one 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. Across from the main entrance, the forest's **office** (Map p310) accepts donations for a scheme to offset the carbon you created getting to Bali. Get a tree planted for 150,000Rp.

ACTIVITIES

Massage, Spas & Salons

Ubud brims with salons and spas where you can pamper yourself. In fact, visiting a spa is at the top of many a visitor's itinerary. Most higher-end hotels have (often lavish) spas. Peruse the range of holistic services on offer on the bulletin board outside Bali Buddha (p319) and you'll decide that simple yoga is for pikers.

Eve Spa (Map p310; ☎ 747 0910; Monkey Forest Rd; 1hr massage 75,000Rp; ☎ 9am–9pm) will cleanse you of toxins from eating an apple or other dubious

substances. The menu is straightforward and affordable, and you can go on something of a spa orgy: an all-day festival of treatments is 325,000Rp.

Ubud Sari Health Resort (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974393; Jl Kajeng; 1hr massage US\$30; 🕒 8am-8pm) is a spa and hotel in one. It is a serious place with extensive treatments bearing names such as 'total tissue cleansing' (treatments use organic and other natural materials). Besides a long list of one-day spa and salon services, there are packages that include stays at the hotel (see p316).

Wayan Nuriasih (Map pp308-9; ☎ 742 6189; bali.healer@hotmail.com; Jl Jembawan 5; 🕒 9am-5pm), one of the stars of *Eat, Pray, Love* (p264), can work wonders with medicinal plants – many are for sale out front – as well as massage and other treatments. The 'vitamin lunch' is the antidote for a Bintang dinner.

Yoga Barn (Map pp308-9; ☎ 070992; www.balispirit.com; off Jl Pengosekan; classes from 90,000Rp; 🕒 7am-8pm) sits in its own lotus position amid trees back near a river valley. The name exactly describes what you'll find – although this barn never needs shovelling. A huge range of classes in yoga and life-affirming offshoots are held through the week.

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\$50 to US\$90, 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.

Augung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA; Map pp308-9; ☎ 976659; www.armamuseum.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; classes US\$25-50; 🕒 9am-6pm) A cultural powerhouse offering classes in painting, woodcarving and batik. Other courses include Balinese history, Hinduism and architecture.

Casa Luna Cooking Courses (Map pp308-9; ☎ 973283; www.casalunabali.com; HoneyMoon Guesthouse, Jl Bisma) Janet de Neefe and her team run regular cooking courses at HoneyMoon Guesthouse. Half-day courses (250,000Rp) cover

ingredients, cooking techniques and the cultural background of the Balinese kitchen. Sunday tours cover sea-salt and palm-sugar production (300,000Rp).

Kite Workshop (☎ 081 3387 64495) Kites are a colourful part of Balinese culture. Programs are flexible and geared to families; classes are held in a village near Ubud and include materials and packing for getting the creations home.

Nirvana Batik Course (Map p310; ☎ 975415; www.nirvanaku.com; Nirvana Pension & Gallery, Jl Goutama 10; 🕒 classes 10am-3pm Mon-Sat) Nyoman Suradnya teaches highly regarded batik courses. Classes cost US\$40 to US\$150 depending on duration (one to five days).

Nyoman Warsa (Map p310; ☎ 974807; Pondok Bamboo Music Shop, Monkey Forest Rd) Offers courses in basic Balinese instruments. Simple mastery can take six months or more. Those with less time can try a flute lesson (per hour 50,000Rp).

Pondok Pecak Library & Learning Centre (Map p310; ☎ 976194; Monkey Forest Rd, on the far side of the football field; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) Painting and mask-carving classes. Sessions cost from 75,000Rp for one hour. Good resource centre for other courses offered locally.

Santra Putra (Map pp308-9; ☎ 977810; Penestan; classes per hr 100,000Rp) Intensive painting and drawing classes are run by abstract artist I Wayan Karja, whose studio is on site. Accommodation is also available; see p315.

Threads of Life Indonesian Textile Arts Center (Map pp308-9; ☎ 972187; www.threadsolife.com; Jl Kajeng 24) Textile-appreciation courses in the gallery and educational studio last from one day to eight days. Some classes involve extensive travel around Bali and should be considered graduate level.

TOURS

Day tours around Ubud are popular, especially ones that involve activities or themed programs.

Bali Bird Walks (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975009; www.balibirdwalk.com; Jl Raya Campuan; walks US\$33; 🕒 Tue & Fri-Sun 9am-12.30pm) For the keen birdwatcher, this tour started by Victor Mason is still going strong. A gentle morning's walk (from the former Beggar's Bush Bar) will give you the opportunity to see maybe 30 of the 100 or so local species.

Banyan Tree Cycling (☎ 805 1620, 081 3387 98516; www.banyantree.wikispaces.com; tours from 360,000Rp) Has day-long tours of remote villages in the hills above Ubud. It's locally owned, and the tours emphasise interaction with villagers.

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

Ubud Tourist Information (Yaysan Bina Wisata; Map p310; ☎ 973285; Jl Raya Ubud; tours 125,000-200,000Rp; ☎ 8am-8pm) Runs interesting and affordable half- and full-day trips to a huge range of places, including Ulu Watu, Mengwi, Alas Kedaton and Tanah Lot, or Goa Gajah, Pejeng, Gunung Kawi and Kintamani.

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 readers from around the world in a celebration of writing – especially writing that 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 streetlights and it can be very difficult to find your way after dark. If walking, you will definitely want a torch (flashlight).

Budget

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

CENTRAL UBUD

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

Monkey Forest Rd

Frog Pond Inn (Map p310; Monkey Forest Rd; r 80,000-120,000Rp) It's quiet, ultrabasic, friendly and

has eight rooms with open-air bathrooms and cold water. Enjoy the breakfast that has charmed generations of backpackers across Asia: banana pancakes.

Mandia Bungalows (Map p310; ☎ 970965; Monkey Forest Rd; r 100,000-130,000Rp) It's heliconia heaven in the lush gardens. The four bungalow-style rooms are shaded by coconut palms and cooled by ceiling fans. Porches have comfy loungers.

Warsa's Garden Bungalows (Map p310; ☎ 971548; Monkey Forest Rd; r 150,000-200,000Rp; ♿ ♿) A good-sized pool with fountains enlivens this comfy but simple place that's located in the heart of Monkey Forest action. The 10 rooms are reached through a traditional family-compound entrance. Some have tubs; some are fan-only.

East of Monkey Forest Rd

Small streets east of Monkey Forest Rd, including Jl Karna and Jl Maruti, have numerous, family-style homestays, which are secluded but close to the market and Jl Raya Ubud.

Gandra House (Map p310; ☎ 976529; Jl Karna; r from 100,000Rp) Modern bathrooms and spacious gardens are the highlights of this cold-water-only 10-room homestay. It's one of several family-run places on this street, so compare.

Jl Goutama

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

Agung Cottages (Map p310; ☎ 975414; Jl Goutama; r 150,000-250,000Rp, villas 300,000Rp; ♿ ♿) Follow a short path to reach this slightly rural-feeling family compound. The six huge, spotless rooms (some fan-only) are set in gardens tended by a lovely family. It's well off the already quiet road.

Nirvana Pension & Gallery (Map p310; ☎ 975415; www.nirvanaku.com; Jl Goutama 10; s/d 200,000/250,000Rp) There are *alang alang* (woven thatch) roofs, a plethora of paintings, ornate doorways and six rooms with modern bathrooms in a secluded locale next to large family temple. Batik courses are also held here (p313).

North of Jl Raya Ubud

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

Shanti Home Stay (Map p310; ☎ 975421; Jl Kajeng 5; r 60,000-120,000Rp) This is a classic Ubud homestay: you join four generations of the family – plus numerous cute pooches – in a compound with six rooms in bungalow-style units. Rooms are clean and some have hot water. The porches are spacious.

NORTH OF THE CENTRE

Things get quiet as you head up the gentle slope from Jl Raya Ubud; note that some places are a kilometre or more to the north.

Homestay Rumah Roda (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975487; rumahroda@indo.net.id; Jl Kajeng 24; r 70,000-90,000Rp) Next door to the Threads of Life gallery on peaceful Jl Kajeng, Rumah Roda is a typically mellow homestay. The inn is dedicated to sound ecological principles and you can refill your water bottles here.

EAST OF THE CENTRE

You can get to the heart of Ubud in less than 15 minutes by foot from this low-key part of town.

Jl Hanoman

East of central Ubud, but still conveniently located, this area has several budget lodgings along Jl Hanoman.

Artini Cottages 1 (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975348; www.artiniccottage.com; Jl Hanoman; bungalows 150,000Rp) The Artini family runs a small empire of good-value guesthouses on Jl Hanoman. This, the original, is in an ornate family compound with many flowers. The three bungalows have hot water and large bathtubs.

Nick's Homestay (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975526; www.nickshotels-ubud.com; Jl Hanoman 57; US\$15) Nick has a minor empire of three Ubud budget hotels. This, his simplest, is the best. Beds in the six bungalow-style rooms are made from bamboo logs. Watch family life from the copious porches.

Tebesaya

A little further east, this quiet village comprises little more than its main street, Jl Sukma, which runs between two streams.

Biangs (Map pp308-9; ☎ 976520; Jl Sukma 28; r 50,000-100,000Rp) In a little garden, Biangs – meaning ‘mama’ – has six well-maintained rooms, all with hot water. The best rooms have views of a small valley. Should you need a Japanese novel, the book exchange is loaded.

WEST OF THE CENTRE

Jl Bisma

Paved with cement blocks inscribed by residents and donors, Jl Bisma runs into a plateau of rice fields.

Pondok Indah (Map pp308-9; ☎ 966323; off Jl Bisma; s/d 150,000/200,000Rp) Follow the swift-flowing waterways for 150m along a path hopping with frogs to this peaceful place where the top-floor terraces look over the fields. All five rooms have hot water.

Bali Moon (Map pp308-9; ☎ 978293; off Jl Bisma; r from 170,000Rp) Watch the moon rise over Gunung Batukau from this simple inn set with a few others down narrow paths between the rice fields. The four rooms are simple but have ambitions of style with open-air bathrooms with tubs. One 2nd floor room is the view-lovers' choice.

Campuan & Penestanan

West of Ubud, but still within walking distance, simple rooms and bungalows in the rice fields are pitched at those seeking low-priced, longer-term lodgings. Most will offer discounted monthly rates (US\$200 is average), and some larger bungalows are quite economical if you can share with a group of people.

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

Santra Putra (Map pp308-9; ☎ 977810; karjabali@yahoo.com; off Jl Raya Campuan; 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 p313.

Kori Agung Bungalows (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975166; off Jl Raya Campuan; r from 150,000Rp) On the terrace with other basic inns above Campuan. Rooms are basic but the location is ideal for those looking for leafy views and solitude. The only noise at night is water coursing through the rice fields.

Midrange

CENTRAL UBUD

Jl Raya Ubud

Don't settle for a room with road noise along Ubud's main drag.

Puri Saraswati Bungalows (Map p310; ☎ 975164; www.purisaraswati.com; Jl Raya Ubud; r US\$60-90; 🚗 🚲)

Very central and pleasant with lovely gardens that open onto the Ubud Water Palace. The 18 rooms are well back from Jl Raya Ubud, so it's quiet. Some rooms are fan-only; interiors are simply furnished but have richly carved details.

Monkey Forest Rd

Ubud Inn (Map p310; ☎ 975071; www.ubudinn.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$25-80; 🏠 📶) Lush loses its meaning in Ubud, but this place takes it to a new level. The 30 rooms span several budgets: basic are fan-only; the rest are large, nicely furnished and have fridges. The L-shaped pool has a children's area.

ourpick Oka Wati Hotel (Map p310; ☎ 973386; www.okawatihotel.com; off Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$30-60; 🏠 📶) Oka Wati (the owner) is a lovely lady who grew up near the Ubud Palace. The 19 rooms have large verandahs where the delightful staff will deliver your choice of breakfast. The decor features vintage details like four-poster beds; some rooms view a small rice field.

NORTH OF THE CENTRE

Ketut's Place (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975304; www.ketutsplace.com; Jl Suweta 40; r US\$21-46; 🏠 📶) The nine rooms here range from basic with fans to deluxe versions with air-con and bathtub. All have artful accents and enjoy a dramatic pool shimmering down the hillside and river-valley views. On some nights, an impressive Balinese feast is served by Ketut, a local luminary.

Ubud Sari Health Resort (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974393; www.ubudsari.com; Jl Kajeng; r US\$35-60; 🏠 📶) Like your colon after a week of treatments here, this 10-room health resort has been spiffed up. See p312 for details on the spa. The plants in the gardens are labelled for their medicinal qualities and the café serves organic, vegetarian fare. Guests can use the health facilities, including the sauna and whirlpool.

EAST OF THE CENTRE

Matahari Cottages (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975459; www.matahariubud.com; Jl Jembawan; r US\$35-60; 🏠 📶) This delightful place has six flamboyant, themed rooms, including the 'Batavia Princess' and the 'Indian Pasha'. The library is a vision out of a 1920s fantasy. It also boasts a self-proclaimed 'jungle Jacuzzi' and a multicourse breakfast and high tea elaborately served on silver (free for guests). And in a nod to the modern day, the hotel fully recycles.

SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

Artini 3 Cottages (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974147; www.artiniubudhotel.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; r US\$35-45; 🏠 📶) The top choice of the Artini empire, the 16 rooms here are in attractive stone buildings arrayed around a spectacular pool area down by a stream. Get a room facing east for the best views through the palms. Room decor is comfortable but standard.

Swasti Cottages (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974079; www.baliswasti.com; Jl Nyuh Bulan; standard fan/air-con r 350,000/450,000Rp, Gladak 550,000Rp; 🏠 📶 🚿) This popular French-run, 6-room property is a great hideaway. Guests come to stay in a sprawling garden setting, with a dedicated yoga/tai chi pavilion, a pool, and three classes of simple yet stylish rooms. Meals are accented by home-grown produce.

Alam Indah (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974629; www.alamindahbali.com; Jl Nyuh Bulan; r US\$50-95; 🏠 📶) Just south of the Monkey Forest in Nyuhkuning, this isolated and spacious resort has 10 rooms that are beautifully finished in natural materials to traditional designs. The Wos Valley views are entrancing, especially from the multilevel pool area. The walk in at night follows a driveway lined with tea candles.

WEST OF THE CENTRE

Jl Bisma

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

Uma Sari Cottage (Map pp308-9; ☎ 981538; www.umasari.com; Jl Bisma; r \$30-40; 🏠 📶 🚿) While ducks patrol the rice in the surrounding fields looking for bugs, you can waggle your tail in the jade-green pool. Most of the eight large rooms are fan-only; go for the upper floor, as the verandahs have the best views of the ducks in action. All have tubs.

Sama's Cottages (Map pp308-9; ☎ 973481; wayan_sarjana@yahoo.com; Jl Bisma; s/d US\$33/39; 🏠) This lovely little hideaway is terraced down a hill. The bungalow-like rooms have lashings of Balinese style layered on absolute simplicity. The oval pool feels like a jungle oasis. Ask for low-season discounts.

Honeymoon Guesthouse (Map pp308-9; ☎ 973282; www.casalunabali.com; Jl Bisma; r 350,000-600,000Rp; 🏠 📶 🚿) The 19 rooms here have terraces and tubs; some have air-con. There's a play area for kids. Avoid the dark rooms; some rooms have air-con and those near reception have wi-fi. See p313 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.

Pager Bungalows (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975433; Jl Raya Campuan; r 150,000-300,000Rp, villas 500,000Rp) Run by painter Nyoman Pagueh and his family, this cute homestay hugs a verdant hillside location that feels like you're lost in the bottom of the spinach bowl on a salad bar. Two large bungalows face the compound; five more rooms are comfortable and have views.

Hotel Tjampuhan (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975368; www.pitamaharesorts-bali.com; Jl Raya Campuan; r US\$65-120; 🍷 🍷) This venerable place overlooks the confluence of Sungai Wos and Campuan. The influential German artist Walter Spies lived here in the 1930s. Bungalow-style units spill down the hill and enjoy mesmerising valley views.

Sayan & Ayung Valley

Sayan Terrace Resort (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974384; www.sayanterraceresort.com; Jl Raya Sayan; r US\$80-160; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) Gaze into the Sayan Valley from this venerable hotel and you'll understand why this was the site of Colin McPhee's namesake in *A House in Bali*; see p311 for details. Here the 11 rooms are simply decorated but are large and have *that* view.

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 p310; ☎ 975571; www.theubudvillage.com; Monkey Forest Rd; r US\$70-160; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Mainstream comfort is the order of the day at this centrally located 28-room hotel. Rooms have elegant traditional Balinese decor with plenty of teak and ikat, and the pool area is large. The owners have a luxe villa resort with the same name in Pengosekan.

NORTH OF THE CENTRE

Waka di Ume (Map pp308-9; ☎ 973178; www.wakadiumeubud.com; Jl Suweta; r US\$150, villas from US\$300; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) Located a gentle 1.5km uphill from the centre, this elegant compound enjoys

engrossing virescent views across rice fields. New and old styles mix in the large units; go for a villa with a view. Service is superb yet relaxed. Listening to gamelan practice echoing across the fields at night is quite magical.

SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

ARMA Resort (Map pp308-9; ☎ 976659; www.armaresort.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; r US\$80-180, villas from US\$375; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Get full Balinese cultural immersion at the hotel enclave of the ARMA compound (see p310 for details about the excellent museum and p313 for details on the range of courses offered). The expansive property has a large library and elegant gardens. Villas come with private pools.

WEST OF THE CENTRE

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

Campuan

Warwick Ibah Luxury Villas & Spa (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974466; www.warwickibah.com; off Jl Raya Campuan; ste US\$200-530; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) Overlooking the rushing waters of the Wos Valley, the Ibah offers refined luxury in 15 spacious, stylish individual suites and villas, which combine ancient and modern details. The swimming pool is set into the hillside amid gardens and lavish stone carvings.

Sayan & Ayung Valley

Two kilometres west of Ubud, the fast-flowing Sungai Ayung has carved out a deep valley, its sides sculpted into terraced paddy fields or draped in thick rainforest. Overlooking this verdant valley are some of Bali's best hotels.

Bambu Indah (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975124; www.bambuindah.com; Baung; house US\$200-500; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Famed expat entrepreneur John Hardy sold his namesake jewellery company in 2007 and became a hotelier. On a ridge near Sayan and his beloved Sungai Ayung, he's assembled a compound of four 100-year-old royal Javanese houses. Several outbuildings create a timeless village with underpinnings of luxury. The entire compound is run to a very 'green' standard.

Amandari (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975333; www.amanresorts.com; Kedewatan; ste from US\$700; 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷) In Kedewatan village, the storied Amandari does everything with charm and grace – sort of like a classical Balinese dancer. Superb views over the jungle and down to the river –

the 30m green-tiled swimming pool seems to drop right over the edge – are just some of the inducements.

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.

A good **organic farmers market** is held each week, at Pizza Bagus (opposite) every Saturday from 8am to 1pm. **Bintang Supermarket** (Map pp308-9; Bintang Centre, Jl Raya Campuan) is well located and has a large range of food and other essentials.

Central Ubud

JL RAYA UBUD

There are busy and tasty choices on Ubud's main street.

Nomad (Map p310; ☎ 977169; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 15,000-60,000Rp) Offers a daily barbecue, often with a gamelan player providing the soundtrack. Balinese food is served in tapas-sized portions. Assume the position – lotus that is – at low Japanese-style tables.

Casa Luna (Map p310; ☎ 977409; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 15,000-60,000Rp) Renaissance woman Janet de Neefe of cooking school (p313) and writers festival (p314) fame runs this ever-popular Indonesian-focused restaurant, which has recently been entirely rebuilt and looks better than ever.

Rendezvousdoux (Map p310; ☎ 747 0163; Jl Raya Ubud 14; dishes 20,000-35,000Rp; 🍷) How to define it? A fusion of French-accented forms: cafe, library and bookshop, Rendezvousdoux is the most creative spot on the street. Bonuses include global music (at times live) and historic films about Ubud on loop.

MONKEY FOREST RD

Bumbu Bali (Map p310; ☎ 976698; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 15,000-50,000Rp) A good place for Balinese food in the heart of Ubud. The menu features dishes such as *lawar* (green bean salad), *ayam pelalah* (spicy shredded chicken salad) and *sambal goreng udang* (prawns in a tangy coconut-milk sauce).

our pick **Three Monkeys** (Map p310; ☎ 974830; Monkey Forest Rd; mains 20,000-50,000Rp) Mellow music and artworks set a cultured mood. The tables overlooking the rice field out the back make it magic. By day there are sandwiches, salads

and gelato. At night there's a fusion menu of Asian classics, including addictive Vietnamese summer prawn rolls.

Coffee & Silver (Map p310; ☎ 975354; Monkey Forest Rd; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp; ☎ 10am-midnight; ☎) Tapas and more substantial items make up the menu at this comfortable cafe with seating inside and out. Vintage photos of Ubud line the walls. Many linger over the good coffee and other drinks for hours.

EAST OF MONKEY FOREST RD

Juice Ja Café (Map p310; ☎ 971056; Jl Dewi Sita; snacks from 15,000Rp; ☎) Glass of spirulina? Dash of wheatgrass with your papaya juice? Organic fruits and vegetables go into the food at this funky bakery-cafe. Little brochures explain the provenance of items like the organic cashew nuts.

Tutmak Café (Map p310; ☎ 975754; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp; ☎) The breezy multilevel location here, facing both Jl Dewi Sita and the football field, is a popular place for a refreshing drink or a meal. Local comers on the make huddle around their laptops plotting their next move.

Kafe Batan Waru (Map p310; ☎ 977528; Jl Dewi Sita; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp) This ever-popular cafe has an expanded outdoor terrace. It serves consistently excellent Indonesian food, which is presented with a dash of colour and flair. The *mie goreng* noodles are made fresh daily – a noteworthy detail given the number of places that substitute pot noodles. Western dishes include sandwiches and salads.

JL GOUTAMA

Choose from several simple and funky eateries on this nearly traffic-free lane.

Dewa Warung (Map p310; Jl Goutama; dishes 5000-20,000Rp) When it rains, the tin roof sounds like a tap-dance convention and the bare light bulbs sway in the breeze. A little garden surrounds tables a few steps above the road where diners tuck into plates of sizzling fresh Indo fare.

Devilicious (Map p310; ☎ 745972; Jl Goutama; mains from 20,000Rp) Jl Goutama is a delightful street for a stroll and this cafe is one of the reasons why. Just wandering the narrow lane is like stepping back 30 years in Ubud, and creative little places like this place seem to appear like mushrooms after the rain. Look for theme nights like Cajun Fridays and Italian Tuesdays.

NORTH OF JL RAYA UBUD

Warung Ibu Oka (Map p310; Jl Suweta; dishes 15,000-20,000Rp; ☎ 11am-3pm) Join the lunchtime lines opposite Ubud Palace waiting for one thing: the eponymous Balinese-style roast suckling pig. Locals and expats in the know travel far for meat they say is the most tender and tasty on the island. Order a *special* to get the best cut.

Terazo (Map p310; ☎ 978941; Jl Suweta; dishes 30,000-80,000Rp) A popular restaurant serving creative Balinese fusion cuisine. The wine list is decent and features French, Italian and Australian choices. The spare interior is accented by evocative vintage travel posters and furnished with plush cane chairs. The beautiful framed tonic-ad reproduction tells you what you need to know about the bar.

North of the Centre

Roda Restaurant (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975487; Jl Kajeng 24; dishes 7000-18,000Rp) Above *Threads of Life* (p313), *Roda* (which also rents rooms; p315), serves astonishingly cheap Balinese dishes with a wonderful overlay of local culture. The extended *Roda* family lives here and prepares dishes from recipes which have been handed down for generations.

East of the Centre

Warung Igelanca (Map pp308-9; ☎ 974153; Jl Raya Ubud; dishes 8000-15,000Rp) Little bigger than a macaroni, this streetside diner is a temple for noodle lovers. Get 'em in dishes that range from Jakarta chicken noodle soup to North Sumatra fried rice noodles.

Bali Buddha (Map pp308-9; ☎ 976324; Jl Jembawan 1; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp) A local institution, *Bali Buddha* has a veggie café with a long list of healthy foods upstairs and a health-food store and bakery downstairs (the blueberry muffins, 6000Rp, are mighty fine). Raw foodists, vegans and just those in search of tasty food and drink will find much to like here. The bulletin board out the front is a community resource.

JL HANOMAN

Masakan Padang (Map pp308-9; Jl Hanoman; dishes 6000-15,000Rp; ☎ noon-1am) The bright-orange exterior at this Padang-style eatery – where you choose from the plates on display – hints at the fresh and spicy food within.

Kafe (Map pp308-9; ☎ 970992; www.balispirit.com; Jl Hanoman 44; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; ☎) Part of *Bali*

Spirit, a host group for several NGOs, *Kafe* has an organic menu great for veggie grazing or just having a coffee, juice or house-made natural soda.

South of Ubud

Many highly regarded restaurants are found along the curves of Jl Raya Pengosekan. It's always worth seeing what's new.

Pizza Bagus (Map pp308-9; ☎ 978520; www.pizza.bagus.com; Jl Raya Pengosekan; dishes 18,000-40,000Rp; ☎ ☎) *Ubud's* best pizza bakes up with a crispy thin crust here. Besides the long list of pizza options, there's pasta and sandwiches – all mostly organic. Tables are in and out, there's a pizza area and delivery.

West of Ubud

The restaurants and cafes west of the centre are dotted among rice fields, lanes and roads.

JL BISMA

Café des Artistes (Map pp308-9; ☎ 972706; Jl Bisma 9X; dishes 22,000-90,000Rp; ☎ 10am-midnight) In a quiet perch up off Jl Raya Ubud, the popular *Café des Artistes* serves elaborate Belgian-accented food, superb steaks and daily specials. Local art is on display and the bar is refreshingly cultured. Enjoy the enveloping wicker seating inside or in front in a small garden. Book.

SANGGINGAN

our pick Nasi Ayam Kedewatan (Map pp308-9; ☎ 742 7168; Jl Raya Kedewatan; mains under 10,000Rp; ☎ 9am-6pm) Few locals making the trek up the hill pass this open-air place without stopping. The star is *sate lilit* (minced chicken sate), which here reaches heights that belie the common name. Chicken is minced, combined with an array of spices including lemongrass, then moulded onto bamboo skewers and grilled.

Naughty Nuri's (Map pp308-9; ☎ 977547; Jl Raya Sanggingan; dishes 15,000-60,000Rp) This legendary expat hang-out packs punters in for grilled steaks, tender ribs and burgers. Thursday-night grilled-tuna specials are wildly popular and something of a scene. This is a raw-boned joint where the stiff martinis make up for occasional lapses in the kitchen (which is mostly a barbecue out the front).

Mozaic (Map pp308-9; ☎ 975768; www.mozaic-bali.com; Jl Raya Sanggingan; meals 150,000-300,000Rp; ☎ 6-10pm Tue-Sun) Chef Chris Salans oversees this

much-lauded top-end restaurant. Fine French fusion cuisine is featured on a constantly changing seasonal menu. Dine in an elegant garden or ornate pavilion. Most people leave the driving to Salans and order a tasting menu (500,000Rp with wine pairings).

DRINKING

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

Jazz Café (Map pp308-9; ☎ 976594; www.jazzcafe.bali.com; Jl Sukma 2; ☎ 5pm-midnight) Always popular, Jazz Café has a relaxed vibe in a garden of coconut palms and ferns. It offers good Asian fusion food (mains 35,000Rp to 60,000Rp) and live jazz in various forms, blues and more, Tuesday to Saturday from 7.30pm. The cocktail list is long. It provides transport around Ubud.

Lebong Café (Map p310; ☎ 971342; Monkey Forest Rd) Get up, stand up, stand up for your...reggae. Ubud's nightly sidewalk roll-up stays in abeyance here at least until midnight. It has live reggae and rock most nights.

Ozigo (Map pp308-9; ☎ 081 2367 9736; Jl Raya Sanggingan; ☎ 9pm-2am) Ubud's late-night action – such as it is – is right here at this small and friendly club up by Naughty Nuri's. DJs are in residence nightly with edgy mixes plus lots of dance competitions and prizes. Call for pick-up – as it were.

ENTERTAINMENT

Few travel experiences can be more magical than experiencing a Balinese dance performance, especially in Ubud. Cultural entertainment keeps people returning and sets Bali apart from other tropical destinations.

Dance

In a week in Ubud, you can see Kecak, Legong and Barong dances, *wayang kulit* puppets, gamelan orchestras and more. For details on these classic Balinese arts, see p261.

Venues will usually host a variety of performances by various troupes through the week and aren't tied to a particular group. They include:

ARMA Open Stage (Map pp308-9; ☎ 976659; Jl Raya Pengosekan) See also p310; has among the best dance troupes.

Padangtegal Dance Stage (Map pp308-9; Jl Hanoman) Simple, open venue.

Pura Taman Saraswati (Water Palace; Map p310; Jl Raya Ubud) A beautiful location; see p307.

Ubud Palace (Map p310; Jl Raya Ubud) Near-nightly performances in a royal setting; see p307.

Ubud Wantilan (Map p310; Jl Raya Ubud) Unadorned meeting *bale* (pavilion) across from Ubud Palace.

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

Ubud Tourist Information (p307) has performance information and sells tickets (usually 80,000Rp). For performances outside Ubud, transport is often included in the price. Tickets are also sold at many hotels, at the venues and by street vendors who hang around outside Ubud Palace – all charge the same price.

Shadow Puppets

You can also find shadow-puppet shows. Musician **Nyoman Warsa** (Map p310; ☎ 974807; Pondok Bamboo Music Shop, Monkey Forest Rd) orchestrates highly recommended puppet shows (50,000Rp) on certain evenings.

SHOPPING

The ephemerically named **Pasar Seni** (Art Market; Map p310) is a touristy two-storey place that sells a wide range of clothing, sarongs, footwear and souvenirs of highly variable quality at negotiable prices. Decent items *may* include leather goods, batiks, baskets, textiles such as bedspreads, and silverware.

Much more interesting is Ubud's bountiful **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.

You can spend days in and around Ubud shopping. Jl Raya Ubud, Monkey Forest Rd, Jl Hanoman and Jl Dewi Sita should be your starting points. Surrounding villages are also hotbeds for arts and crafts – as you'll have noticed on your drive to Ubud.

Ashitaba (Map p310; ☎ 464922; Monkey Forest Rd) Tenganan, the Aga village of East Bali (p334), produces the intricate and beautiful rattan items sold here (and in Seminyak, p283). Containers, bowls, purses and more (from US\$5) display the fine and intricate weaving.

Bali Cares (Map pp308-9; ☎ 981504; www.idepfoundation.org; Jl Hanoman 44) This inspired shop sells

DANCE TROUPES: GOOD & BAD

All dance groups on Ubud's stages are not created equal. You've got true artists with international reputations and then you've got some that really shouldn't quit their day jobs. If you're a Balinese dance novice, you shouldn't worry too much about this, just pick a venue and go.

But after a few performances, you'll start to appreciate the differences in talent, and that's part of the enjoyment. Clue: if the costumes are dirty, the orchestra seems particularly uninterested and you find yourself watching a dancer and saying 'I could do that', then the group is B-level.

Most troupes you'll see in Ubud, however, are very good. Here's a few to watch for:

- Cak Rina – Often performs the Kecak at ARMA (p310).
- Gunung Sari – Legong dance.
- Sadha Budaya – Legong dance.
- Sekaa Gong Wanita Mekar Sari – An all-woman Legong troupe from Peliatan.
- Semara Madya – Kecak dance.
- Tirta Sari – Legong dance.

goods to benefit several local charities. Items range from woodcarvings made from sustainable woods to paintings, handicrafts and other items produced by local people.

Kou (Map p310; ☎ 971905; Jl Dewi Sita) Luxurious handmade organic soaps made locally. Put one in your undies drawer and smell fine for weeks.

Macan Tidur (Map p310; ☎ 977121; Monkey Forest Rd) Amid a string of trashy places, this elegant store stands out like Audrey Hepburn amid the Spice Girls. Silks, art, antiques and more are beautifully displayed.

Moari (Map pp308-9; ☎ 977367; Jl Raya Ubud) New and restored Balinese musical instruments are sold here.

Tegun Galeri (Map pp308-9; ☎ 973361; Jl Hanoman 44) Everything the souvenir stores are not; beautiful handmade items from around the island. Next to Bali Cares.

Zarong (Map p310; ☎ 977601; Monkey Forest Rd) An offbeat, hippie-chic fashion store that brings a patchouli of elegance. There are lots of cool cottons here that will be at home in any Balinese situation.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Bemo

Ubud is on two bemo routes. Orange bemo travel from Gianyar to Ubud (8000Rp) and larger brown bemo from Batubulan terminal in Denpasar to Ubud (8000Rp), and then head to Kintamani via Payangan. Ubud doesn't have a bemo terminal; bemo stops (Map p310) are in front of the market in the centre of town.

Tourist Shuttle Bus

Perama (Map pp308-9; ☎ 973316; Jl Hanoman; ☎ 9am-9pm) is the major tourist-shuttle operator, but its terminal is inconveniently located in Padangtegal; to get to your final destination in Ubud will cost another 10,000Rp.

Destination	Fare	Duration
Candidasa	50,000Rp	1¼hr
Kuta	50,000Rp	1¼hr
Lovina	125,000Rp	3hr
Padangbai	50,000Rp	1¼hr
Sanur	40,000Rp	1hr

GETTING AROUND

To/From the Airport

Official taxis from the airport to Ubud cost 200,000Rp or more. 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. Local rides should cost 5000Rp.

Bicycle

Shops renting bikes have their cycles on display along the main roads; your accommodation can always arrange bike hire.

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. Some of them predate the Majapahit era and raise as yet unanswered questions about Bali's history. Others are more recent, and in other instances, newer structures have been built on and around the ancient remains. They're interesting to history and archaeology buffs, but not that spectacular to look at – with the exception of Bali's own bit of Angkor at Gunung Kawi. Perhaps the best approach is to plan a whole day walking or cycling around the area, stopping at the places that interest you, but not treating any one as a destination in itself.

The area is thick with excursion possibilities. Besides the Elephant Cave, there's the Crazy Buffalo Temple. Heading north you find Bali's most important ancient site at Tampaksiring and a nearly forgotten shrine nearby, Pura Mengening, that rewards the adventurous.

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 Semarapura (Klungkung).

Sights

GOA GAJAH

About 1km east of Teges is **Goa Gajah** (Elephant Cave; Map pp308-9; adult/child 6000/3000Rp, parking 2000Rp; ☎ 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 Ganesh. 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.

Try to get here before 10am, when the big tourist buses begin lumbering in like, well, modern elephants.

YEH PULU

A man having his hand munched by a boar is one of the scenes on the 25m-long **carved cliff face** (Map pp308-9; adult/child 6000/3000Rp) known as Yeh Pulu, believed to be a hermitage from the late 14th century. Apart from the figure of Ganesha, the elephant-headed son of Shiva, most of the scenes deal with everyday life, although the position and movement of the figures suggests that it could be read from left to right as a story. One theory is that they are events from the life of Krishna, the Hindu god.

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

PURA SAMUAN TIGA

The majestic **Pura Samuan Tiga** (Temple of the Meeting of the Three; Map pp308-9) 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. 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 pp308-9; ☎ 942354; Jl Raya Tampaksiring; admission by donation;

☞ 8am–3pm Mon–Thu, 8am–12.30pm Fri) has a reasonable collection of artefacts from all over Bali, and most displays are in English. The exhibits in several small buildings include some of Bali's first pottery from near Gilimanuk, and sarcophagi dating from as early as 300 BC – some originating from Bangli are carved in the shape of a turtle, which has important cosmic associations in Balinese mythology. The museum is about 500m north of the Bedulu junction.

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.

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 pp308–9; ☞ 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 pp308–9) 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 pp308–9; 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 village about 18km northeast of Ubud with a large and important temple and the most impressive ancient site in Bali, Gunung Kawi. It sits in the Pakerisan Valley, and the entire area has been nominated for Unesco recognition.

Sights

GUNUNG KAWI

On the northern outskirts of town, a sign points east off the main road to Gunung Kawi and its **ancient monuments** (adult/child 6000/3000Rp, parking 2000Rp; ☞ 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 river valley, is one of Bali's oldest and largest ancient monuments.

Gunung Kawi consists of 10 rock-cut *candi* (shrines) – memorials cut out of the rock face in imitation of actual statues. They stand in awe-inspiring 8m-high sheltered niches cut into the sheer cliff face. A solitary *candi* stands about a kilometre further down the valley to the south; this is reached by a trek through the rice paddies on the western side of the rushing river. Be prepared for long climbs up and down.

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, by this theory, to Anak Wungsu's chief concubines. Another theory is that the whole complex is dedicated to Anak Wungsu, his wives, concubines and, in the case of the remote 10th *candi*, to a royal minister.

TIRTA EMPUL

A well-signposted fork in the road north of Tampaksiring leads to the popular holy springs at **Tirta Empul** (adult/child 6000/3000Rp, parking 2000Rp; ☞ 8am–6pm), discovered in AD 962 and believed to have magical powers. The springs bubble up into a large, crystal-clear

pool within the temple and gush out through waterspouts into a bathing pool – they're the main source of Sungai Pakerisan, the river that rushes by Gunung Kawi only 1km or so away. Next to the springs, **Pura Tirta Empul** is one of Bali's most important temples.

Come in the early morning or late afternoon to avoid the tourist buses. You can also use the clean, segregated and free public baths here.

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

Abused and abandoned logging elephants from Sumatra have been given refuge in Bali at the **Elephant Safari Park** (☎ 721480; www.baliadventuretours.com; adult/child US\$16/8; ☹ 8am–5pm). Located in the cool, wet highlands of **Taro** (14km north of Ubud), the park is home to almost 30 elephants. Besides a full complement of exhibits about elephants, most people will probably want to *ride* an elephant (adult/child including admission US\$53/36). The park has received praise for its conservation efforts; however, be careful you don't end up at one of the rogue parks, designed to divert the unwary to unsanctioned displays of elephants.

SOUTH OF UBUD

The road between South Bali and Ubud is lined with places making and selling handicrafts. Many visitors shop along the route as they head to Ubud, sometimes by the busload, but much of the craftwork is actually done in small workshops and family compounds on quiet back roads.

For serious shopping and real flexibility in exploring these villages, it's worth renting or chartering your own transport, so you can explore the back roads and carry your purchases without any hassles. Note that your driver may receive a commission from any place you spend your money – this can add 20% to 30% or more to the cost of purchases. Also, a

driver may try to steer you to workshops or artisans that he favours, rather than those of most interest to you.

The following places are presented in the order you'll encounter them on the way to Ubud from the south.

Batubulan

Stonemasonry 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.

The temples around Batubulan are, naturally, noted for their fine stonework. Just 200m to the east of the busy main road, **Pura Puseh Batubulan** is worth a visit for its moat filled with lotus flowers. Statues draw on ancient Hindu and Buddhist iconography and Balinese mythology; however, they are not old – many are copied from books on archaeology.

Batubulan is the major bemo terminal for eastern and central Bali – see p297 for details.

Bali Bird Park & Rimba Reptil Park

Just north of Tegaltamu, the **bird park** (☎ 299352; www.bali-bird-park.com; adult/child US\$14/7; ☹ 9am–5.30pm) boasts more than a thousand birds from over 250 different species, including rare *cedrawasih* (birds of paradise) from Irian Jaya and the all-but-vanished Bali starlings. Many are housed in special walk-through aviaries.

Next door, **Rimba Reptil Park** (☎ 299344; adult/child US\$10/5; ☹ 9am–5pm) has about 20 species of creatures from Indonesia and Africa, as well as turtles, crocodiles, a python and a solitary Komodo dragon.

Both places are popular with kids. You can buy a combination ticket to both parks (adult/child US\$20/10). Allow at least two hours for the bird park alone.

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.

Singapadu

The centre of Singapadu is dominated by a huge **banyan tree**. The surrounding village has a traditional appearance, with walled family compounds and shady trees. You can visit

the **Nyoman Suaka Home** (requested donation 10,000Rp; ☎ 9am-5pm), which is 50m off the main road, just south of the big tree. Pass through the old carved entrance to the walled family compound and you'll discover a classic Balinese home.

Sukawati

Sukawati is a centre for the manufacture of wind chimes, temple umbrellas and masks. 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.

Batuan

Batuan is a noted **painting centre** with scores of art galleries. Just west of the centre, the twin temples of **Pura Puseh** and **Pura Dasar** (admission to both 10,000Rp) are accessible studies in classic Balinese temple architecture. The carvings are elaborate and visitors are given the use of vermilion sarongs, which look good in photos.

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. Historically, carving was limited to temple decorations, dance masks and musical instruments, but in the 1930s carvers began to depict people and animals in a naturalistic way. Today it's hard to resist the oodles of winsome creatures produced here.

EAST BALI

The eastern side 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.

The coast is dotted with beaches, many rough, rugged and untrammelled. Add in some ancient cultural sites and the popular areas of Sideman, Candidasa and Amed and you have an area that will lure you from the South Bali-Ubud juggernaut.

COAST ROAD TO KUSAMBA

☎ 0361

Bali's coast road running from just north of Sanur east to a junction past Kusamba has been a hit since it opened in 2006.

The shoreline the new road follows is striking, with black-sand beaches and pounding waves. The entire coast has great religious significance and there are many temples. At the many small coastal-village beaches, cremation formalities reach their conclusion when the ashes are consigned to the sea. See the boxed text, p327 for details on sandy delights.

Kids love **Bali Safari & Marine Park** (☎ 950000; Prof Dr Ida Bagus Mantra Bypass; admission from US\$25; ☎ 9am-5pm) and their parents are happy they love *someplace*. This big-ticket animal theme park is filled with critters whose species never set foot in Bali until their cage door opened. Displays are large and naturalistic. A huge menu of extra-cost options includes camel and elephant rides. The park is north of Lehib Beach.

GIANYAR

☎ 0361

Gianyar is the capital of Gianyar district (which includes Ubud). It has some small **textile factories** on the west side of town, including **Tenun Ikat Setia Cili** (☎ 943409; Jl Astina Utara; ☎ 9am-5pm), 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.

Many people come to Gianyar to eat. *Babi guling* (spit-roast pig stuffed with chilli, turmeric, garlic and ginger) is a delicious local speciality. The descriptively named **Gianyar Babi Guling** (Jl Jata; meals 5000-8000Rp; ☎ 7am-4pm) is favoured by locals among many competitors. It's in a tiny side street at the west end of the centre behind the bemo parking area.

Nearby are numerous stands selling fresh food, including delectable *piseng goreng* (fried banana). Also worth sampling for *babi guling* and other local treats are the food stalls in the

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.

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.

Getting There & Away

Bangli is located on the main road between Denpasar's Batubulan terminal (12,000Rp) and Gunung Batur, via Penelokan.

SEMARAPURA (KLUNGKUNG)

☎ 0366

Semarapura 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 Semarapura; the latter appears on most signs and maps. There are ATMs in the centre and a large market with warung.

Sights

SEMARA PURA COMPLEX

When the Dewa Agung dynasty moved here in 1710, a new palace, the **Semara Pura** (adult/child 12,000/6000Rp, parking 1000Rp; ☎ 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,

COAST ROAD BEACHES

The coast road from Sanur heads east past long stretches of shore that until recently were reached only by long and narrow lanes from roads well inland. Development has yet to catch on here – excepting villas – so take advantage of the easy access to enjoy the beaches and the many important temples near the sand.

Don't expect white sand or even tan sand – the grains here are volcanic shades of grey. Swimming in the often pounding surf is dangerous. You'll need your own transport to reach these beaches. Except where noted, services are few, so bring your own drinking water and towels.

From west to east, recommended beaches include the following:

- **Saba Beach** has a small temple, covered shelters, a shady parking area and a short, junglelike drive from the coast road; it's about 12km east of Sanur.
- **Pura Masceti Beach**, 15km east of Sanur, has a few drink vendors. **Pura Masceti** is one of Bali's nine directional temples. It is right on the beach and is both architecturally significant and enlivened with gaudy statuary.
- **Lebih** has sand composed of mica that sparkles with a billion points of light. There are a couple of cafes. The large Sungai Pakerisan, which starts near Tampaksiring, reaches the sea near here. The impressive **Pura Segara** looks across the strait to Nusa Penida.
- **Pura Klotek Beach** has very fine black sand. The quiet at **Pura Batu Klotek** belies its great significance. Sacred statues are brought here from Pura Besakih (p329) for ritual cleansing.

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 display about the 1908 *puputan*, along with some interesting old photos.

Getting There & Away

The best way to visit Semarapura is with your own transport and as part of a circle taking in other sites up the mountains and along the coast.

Bemo from Denpasar (Batubulan terminal) pass through Semarapura (18,000Rp) on the way to points further east. They can be hailed from near the Puputan Monument.

Bemo heading north to Besakih (10,000Rp) leave from the centre of Semarapura, a block northeast of Kertha Gosa. Most of the other bemo leave from the inconvenient Terminal Kelod, about 2km south of the city centre.

AROUND SEMARAPURA

Dedicated to classical and contemporary Balinese painting, the **Gunarsa Museum** (☎ 22256; www.gunarsa.com; adult/child 25,000Rp/free; 📅 9am-5pm Mon-Sat) was established by Nyoman Gunarsa, one of the most respected and successful modern artists in Indonesia. A vast three-storey building exhibits an impressive variety of well-displayed older pieces, including stone carvings and woodcarvings, architectural antiques, masks, ceramics and textiles.

Many of the classical paintings are on bark paper and are some of the oldest surviving examples. Check out the many old puppets, still seemingly animated even in retirement.

The museum is about 4km west from Semarapura, near a bend on the Gianyar road – look for the dummy policemen at the base of a large statue nearby.

SIDEMEN ROAD

☎ 0366

Winding through one of Bali's most beautiful river valleys, the Sidemen Rd offers marvellous paddy-field scenery, a delightful rural character and extraordinary views of Gunung Agung (when the clouds permit) to the north and sweeping vistas down to the coast in the south. It's getting more popular every year as a verdant escape, where a walk in any direction is a communion with nature.

Sidemen has a spectacular location and is a centre for culture and arts, particularly *endek* (ikat) cloth and *songket*, which are 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.

Sleeping & Eating

Views throughout the area are sweeping, from terraced green hills to Gunung Agung. Most inns have restaurants; it can get cool and misty at night.

Near the centre of Sidemen, a small road heads west for 500m to a fork and a signpost with the names of several places to stay.

Uma Agung (☎ 41672; Jl Tebola; r 250,000-350,000Rp) Enjoying the same impossibly green views as its neighbours, this six-room inn is a tidy and well-run affair. A good cafe sits amongst the flower-filled gardens. Deluxe rooms have open-air bathrooms and green-stone tubs for soaking away the healthy glow from your walks.

Pondok Wisata Lihat Sawah (☎ 24183; www.lihat.sawah.com; r 250,000-450,000Rp) Take the right fork in the road to this ever-expanding place with lavish gardens. All 11 rooms have views of the valley and mountain (the best have hot water and tubs, nice after an early-morning hike). The surrounding rice fields course with water. The cafe shares the views and has a Thai and Indo menu (dishes 12,500Rp to 30,000Rp).

Tanto Villa (☎ 081 2395 0271; r US\$25-45) Views of the Luwah Valley are the appeal at this modern house, which has four large and comfortable rooms with hot water. Two upstairs rooms have the best views of the surrounding chilli, bean and peanut fields.

Nirarta (Centre for Living Awareness; ☎ 24122; www.awareness-bali.com; Br Tabola; r US\$25-60) Guests here

partake in serious programs for personal and spiritual development, including meditation intensives and yoga. The 11 comfortable rooms are split among several bungalows, some right on the babbling river.

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 10,000/7000Rp, 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* (great gateway) 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 transport, which allows you to explore the many gorgeous drives in the area.

You can visit by bemo from Semarapura (10,000Rp), 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.

AN UNHOLY EXPERIENCE

Besakih's hassles and irritations go back years and mean that many visitors now skip this important sight. What follows are some of the ploys you should be aware of before contemplating 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 unsanctioned chance to get into a forbidden temple can face demands of 50,000Rp or more.

VISITING BALI'S VILLAGES

The nonprofit group **JED** (Village Ecotourism Network; ☎ 0361-735320; www.jed.or.id) organises highly regarded tours of small villages, including coffee-growing Pelaga in the mountains, fruit-growing Sibetan (p329) in the east, seaweed farms on Nusa Ceningan (p304) and ancient Tenganan (p334). You can make arrangements to stay with a family in the villages.

Starting in the west, Rendang is an attractive town that is easily reached either by bemo from Semarapura or via a particularly pretty minor road from Bangli. Siutated 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 eight clean and comfortable rooms; the inn has views of rice fields and stone carvers. You can arrange rice-field walks here or climbs up Gunung Agung (below).

Further on is **Duda**, where the scenic Sidemen Rd (p328) 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. This is one of the villages you can visit with JED, the Village Ecotourism Network (see boxed text, above).

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 silversmiths 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 of the south and east, but you won't be able to see central Bali. A similar route goes from Pura Sambu.

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 for when there will be some moonlight. Take a strong torch (flashlight), extra batteries, plenty of water (2L per person), snack food, waterproof clothing and a warm jumper (sweater). The descent is especially hard on your feet, so you'll appreciate strong shoes or boots and manicured 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), although July to September are the most reliable months. At other times, the paths can be slippery and dangerous and the views are clouded over (especially true in January and February). Climbing Gunung Agung is not permitted 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 transport.

Most of the places to stay in the region, including those at Selat (left), along the

Sidemen Rd (p328) and Tirta Gangga (p338), will recommend guides for Gunung Agung climbs. Expect to pay a negotiable 350,000Rp to 800,000Rp for one or two people for your climb.

Recommended guides:

Gung Bawa Trekking (☎ 081 2387 8168; www.gb-trekking.blogspot.com) Experienced and reliable.

Ketut Uriada (☎ 081 2364 6426; Muncan) This knowledgeable guide can arrange transport for an extra fee (look for his small sign on the road east of the village).

Wayan Tegteg (☎ 081 3385 25677; Selat) Wins reader plaudits.

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 Selat or Sidemen 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 six hours total for this trek. If you don't have a car waiting for you, walk down to Sebudi, from where there are bemo down to Selat.

FROM PURA BESAKIH

This climb is much tougher than the southern approach 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 six hours for the descent. The starting point is Pura Pengubengan, northeast

of the main temple complex, but it's easy to get lost on the lower trails, so attempting this without a guide would be folly.

KUSAMBA TO PADANGBAI

A small road at the east end of the new coast road from Sanur goes south to **Kusamba**, a fishing and salt-making village, where you'll see lines of colourful fishing *perahu* (boats) 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. The thatched roofs of salt-making huts can be seen along the beach.

Pura Goa Lawah

Three kilometres east of Kusamba on the coast road is **Pura Goa Lawah** (Bat Cave Temple; adult/child 6000/3000Rp, car park 2000Rp; ☎ 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.

PADANGBAI

☎ 0363

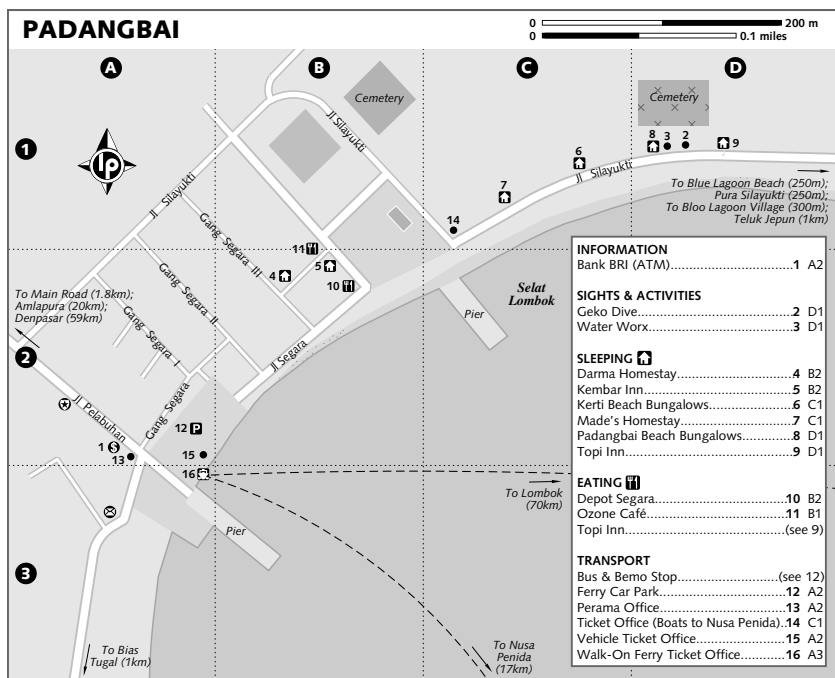
There's a real backpacker vibe about this funky little beach town that is also the port for the main public ferry connecting Bali with Lombok.

Padangbai is on the upswing. It sits on a small bay and has a nice little curve of beach. It has a whole compact seaside travellers scene with cheap places to stay and some funky and fun cafes. The pace is slow, but should ambition strike there's good snorkelling and diving plus some easy walks and a couple of great beaches.

Information

Bank BRI (Jl Pelabuhan) exchanges money and has an international ATM.

You can find slow internet access (per minute 300Rp) at numerous places, including Kerti Bungalows and Made's Homestay (see p333).



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, among the growing throng:

Geko Dive (☎ 41516; www.gekodive.com; Jl Silyukti) Has a nice cafe across from the beach.

Water Worx (☎ 41220; www.waterworx.bali.com; Jl Silyukti) Another good dive operator; has a diving pool.

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 30,000Rp per day.

Local *jukung* (boats) offer snorkelling trips (bring your own snorkelling gear) around Padangbai (50,000Rp per person per

hour) and as far away as Nusa Lembongan (350,000Rp) for two passengers.

Sleeping

Accommodation in Padangbai – like the town itself – is pretty laid-back. Prices are fairly cheap and it's pleasant enough here that there's no need to hurry through to or from Lombok if you want to hang out on the beach and in cafes 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.

Darma Homestay (☎ 41394; Gang Segara III; r 60,000-150,000Rp; 🍴) A classic Balinese family homestay. The more expensive of the 12 rooms have hot showers and air-con; go for the private room on the top floor.

Kembar Inn (☎ 41364; kembarinn@hotmail.com; r 100,000-250,000Rp; 🍴) There are six rooms at this inn linked by a steep and narrow staircase. The best awaits at the top and has a private terrace with views.

JALAN SILAYUKTI

On this little strip at the east end of the village, places are close together and right across from the sand.

Made's Homestay (☎ 41441; Jl Silayukti; s/d 50,000/60,000Rp; 🍴) Four basic, clean and simple rooms and internet access are the draws here.

Topi Inn (☎ 41424; www.topiinn.com; Jl Silayukti; r 50,000-60,000Rp; 🍴) Sitting at the end of the strip in a serene location, Topi has five pleasant rooms, some of which share bathrooms. The enthusiastic owners offer courses in topics as diverse as cooking and gamelan, among other diversions. The cafe is excellent.

Kerti Beach Bungalows (☎ 41391; Jl Silayukti; r 70,000-250,000Rp; 🍴) Go for the 19 rooms in pretty bungalows built in a long narrow strip rather than the rice barns. As you move up the rate ladder here, you gain hot water and air-con.

Padangbai Beach Bungalows (☎ 41417; Jl Silayukti; r 100,000-400,000Rp; 🍴) The bungalows are attractive, with open-air bathrooms, and set in a classic Balinese garden setting that now boasts a large pool across from the beach. The top rooms have air-con.

BLUE LAGOON BEACH

Our pick **Bloo Lagoon Village** (☎ 41211; www.bloo.lagoon.com; r US\$75-200; 🍴 🍷 🍷) Perched above Blue Lagoon Beach, up hill from town, the 23 cottages and villas here are all designed in traditional thatched style and the compound is dedicated to sustainable practices. Units come with one, two or three bedrooms and are well thought out and stylish.

Eating & Drinking

Beach fare and backpackers' staples are on offer in Padangbai – lots of fresh seafood, Indonesian classics, pizza and, yes, banana pancakes. You can easily laze away a few hours soaking up the scene at the places along Jl Segara and Jl Silayukti, which have harbour views during the day and cool breezes in the evening.

Depot Segara (☎ 41443; Jl Segara; dishes 10,000-30,000Rp) Fresh seafood such as barracuda, marlin and snapper are prepared in a variety of ways at this popular cafe. Enjoy harbour views from the slightly elevated terrace.

Ozone Café (☎ 41501; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) This popular travellers' gathering spot has more character than every other place in East Bali combined. Slogans cover the walls; there is pizza and live music, sometimes by patrons.

Topi Inn (☎ 41424; Jl Silayukti; mains 18,000-40,000Rp) Juices, shakes and good coffees served up throughout the day. Breakfasts are big, and whatever is landed by the fishing boats outside the front door during the day is grilled by night.

Getting There & Away

BEMO

Padangbai is 2km south of the main Semarang–Amlapura Rd. Bemo leave from the car park in front of the port; orange bemo go east through Candidasa to Amlapura (8000Rp); blue or white bemo go to Semarang (8000Rp).

BOAT

Lombok

Public ferries travel nonstop between Padangbai and Lembar on Lombok. There are also fast boats for travellers to the Gili Islands and Lombok. For details on these services, see p481.

Nusa Penida

For details on the fibreglass boats and car ferry that make the run to Nusa Penida, see p305.

BUS

To connect with Denpasar, catch a bemo out to the main road and hail a bus to the Batubulan terminal (18,000Rp).

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

Perama (☎ 41419; Café Dona, Jl Pelabuhan; 🕒 7am-8pm) has a stop here for its services around the east coast.

Destination	Fare	Duration
Candidasa	25,000Rp	30min
Kuta	60,000Rp	3hr
Lovina	150,000Rp	5hr
Sanur	60,000Rp	2½hr
Ubud	50,000Rp	1¼hr

PADANGBAI TO CANDIDASA

It's worth prowling some of the beachside lanes off the main road for little places to stay. It's 11km along the main road from the Padangbai turn-off to the resort town of Candidasa, and there are bemo or buses every few minutes. Between the two towns is an attractive stretch of coast, which has some tourist development, and a large oil-storage depot in Teluk Amuk.

Mendira

Coming from the west, there are hotels and losmen (basic accommodation) well off the main road at Mendira, before you reach Candidasa. Although the beach has all but vanished and unsightly sea walls have been constructed, this area is a good choice for a quiet getaway if you have your own transport. Think views, breezes and a good book.

SLEEPING & EATING

All of the following are on small tracks between the main road and the water; none are far from Candidasa.

The first two places listed here are reached via narrow roads from a single turn-off the main road, 1km west of Candidasa. Look for a large sign listing places to stay.

Amarta Beach Inn Bungalows (☎ 41230; r100,000-150,000Rp) In a panoramic seaside setting, the 10 units here are right on the water and are great value. The more expensive ones have hot water and interesting open-air bathrooms. At low tide there is a tiny beach; at other times you can sit and enjoy the views out to Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Penida.

Anom Beach Inn (☎ 419024; www.anom-beach.com; r US\$22-55; 🏠 🚿 🚿) This older resort from a simpler time has 24 rooms in a variety of configurations. The cheapest are fan-only – not a problem given the constant offshore breezes. The best are bungalow-style with air-con and fridges.

The following is a short walk from Candidasa.

Lotus Bungalows (☎ 41104; www.lotusbungalows.com; half-board US\$75-110; 🏠 🚿 🚿) Managed by earnest Europeans, the 20 rooms here (some with air-con) are in well-spaced bungalow-style units. Some are right on the ocean. The decor is bright and airy, and there is a large and inviting pool area. Half-board is the only option for guests here.

TENGANAN

Tenganan is occupied by the Bali Aga people, descendants of the original Balinese people 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, *lontar* (traditional books written on dried palm leaves) 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 (5000Rp donation), you'll likely be greeted by a guide who will take you on a tour – and generally lead you back to his family compound to look at textiles and *lontar* strips. Unlike Besakih, however, there's no pressure to buy anything, although a tip for your guide will be appreciated (20,000Rp).

This is one of the villages you can visit with JED, the Village Ecotourism Network (see boxed text, p330).

Getting There & Away

Tenganan is 3.2km up a side road just west of Candidasa. At the turn-off where bemo stop, motorcycle riders offer *ojek* (motorcycle that carries pillion passengers) rides to the village for about 6000Rp. A nice option is to take an *ojek* up to Tenganan, and enjoy a shady downhill walk back to the main road, which has a Bali rarity: wide footpaths.

CANDIDASA

☎ 0363

Candidasa is slouching into idle age, no longer the tourism darling it once was. 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.

However the relaxed ambience and sweeping views from the seaside hotels do appeal to a more mature crowd of visitors. Candidasa is a good base from which to explore the interior of East Bali and the east coast's famous diving and snorkelling sites.

Information

Mr Grumpy's (Jl Raya Candidasa) belies its name with friendly service and internet access. The police station is at the west end of town; the post office the east. **Candi Bookstore** (☎ 41272; Jl Raya Candidasa 45) is a secondhand bookshop run by a cute family. The closest ATMs are in Padangbai and Amlapura.

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; dives US\$40-105), which dives the local area plus the rest of the island. A four-day PADI open-water course is US\$400. Snorkelling trips are US\$30.

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 should cost about 100,000Rp for up to three people).

Sleeping

Candidasa's main drag is well supplied with seaside accommodation. The small roads branching off Forest Rd east of the lagoon lead to several places hidden among the banana trees and palms. It's quiet and you can hear chickens. You might also consider staying west of town; many places are close.

BUDGET

Seaside Cottages (☎ 41629; www.balibeachfront-cottages.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; cottages 40,000-250,000Rp; ☎ ☎)

The 15 rooms here are scattered in cottages and span the gamut from cold-water basic to restful units with air-con and tropical bathrooms. The seafront has loungers right along the breakwater. The Temple Café is a mellow place.

Puri Oka Cottages (☎ 41092; puri_oka@hotmail.com; Jl Pantai Indah; r 125,000-500,000Rp; ☎ ☎) Hidden by a banana grove east of town. The cheapest of the 19 rooms here are fan-cooled and small, while the better ones have water views and extras like DVD players. The beachside pool is small and is next to a new cafe; at low tide there's a small beach out front.

Sekar Orchid Beach Bungalows (☎ 41086; www.sekar-orchid.com; Jl Pantai Indah 26; bungalows 200,000-300,000Rp) The grounds here live up to the name with orchids and bromeliads growing in profusion. There's a small beach and the six large rooms (with hot water and fans) are good value with nice views from the 2nd floor. The site feels isolated but is only a short walk from the centre.

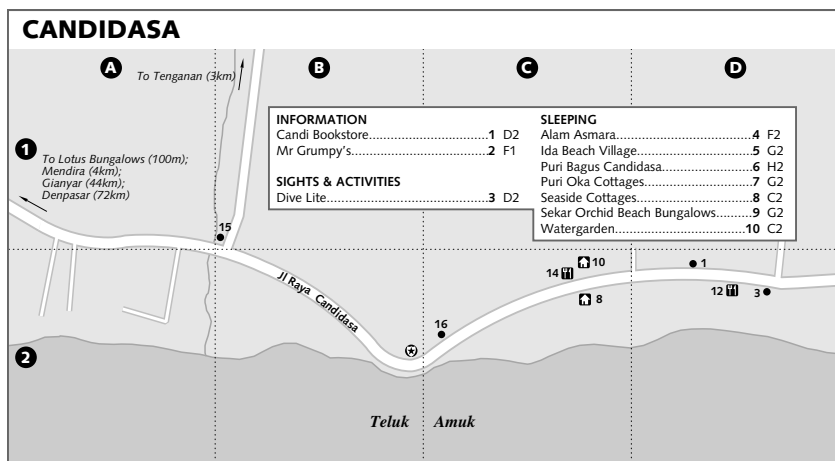
MIDRANGE

Ida Beach Village (☎ 41118; Jl Pantai Indah; r US\$35-60; ☎ ☎) The 17 units range from Balinese rice-barn-style bungalows with private gardens to more modest cottages (some with tubs). The seaside swimming pool is a good reason to stay here. The quiet location is a good combination of isolation and proximity to town.

Alam Asmara (☎ 41929; www.alamasamara.com; r US\$55-95; ☎ ☎) Walk on paths lined with little waterways at this private compound. The pool is on the ocean; the 12 rooms have a traditional yet stylish design with lots of room and details such as stone tubs and satellite TV. Ask about diving packages.

Puri Bagus Candidasa (☎ 41131; www.bagus-discovery.com; Jl Pantai Indah; r US\$65-150; ☎ ☎) At the eastern end of the shore near an outcropping of outriggers and a 10-minute walk from town, this mainstream resort is hidden away in the palm trees. The large pool and restaurant have good sea views; the beach is illusory. The 46 rooms have open-air bathrooms; look for deals.

Watergarden (☎ 41540; www.watergardenhotel.com; Jl Raya Candidasa; r from US\$100; ☎ ☎ ☎) The Watergarden lives up to its name with a swimming pool and fish-filled ponds that wind around the buildings. The gardens are lush and worth exploring. Each of the 14 rooms has a verandah projecting over the lily ponds, which are fresher than the somewhat dated interiors. The cafe is tops (p336).



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 15,000-30,000Rp) A bar that also serves Western and Indonesian meals, this has live music many nights each week. It's a well-mannered place; as wild as things get in Candidasa.

Temple Café (☎ 41629; Seaside Cottages, Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) Global citizens can get a taste of home at this cafe attached to the Seaside Cottages. It has a few menu items from the owner's native Oz, such as Vegemite. The popular bar has a long drink list.

Legong (☎ 41052; Jl Raya Candidasa; mains 15,000-55,000Rp) This is the kind of family-run joint that you fall for thanks to homey touches such as vaguely incomprehensible banners that read: 'Don't leave before you come'.

Watergarden Café (☎ 41540; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 15,000-60,000Rp) Overlooking a carp pond, this stylish cafe maintains a peaceful atmosphere amid the zooming trucks thanks to an artfully placed wall. The food is a fusion of French and Asian touches.

Vincent's (☎ 41368; Jl Raya Candidasa; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp) Candi's best is a deep and open place with several distinct rooms and a lovely rear garden with rattan lounge furniture. The bar is an oasis of jazz. The menu combines excellent Balinese, fresh seafood and European dishes.

Getting There & Away

Candidasa is on the main road between Amlapura and South Bali, but there's no terminal, so hail bemo (buses probably won't stop). You'll need to change in either Padangbai or Semarapura.

You can charter a ride to Amed in the far east for about 120,000Rp, and Kuta and the airport for 250,000Rp. Ask at your accommodation about vehicle and bicycle rental.

Perama (☎ 41114; Jl Raya Candidasa; ☎ 7am-7pm) is at the western end of the strip.

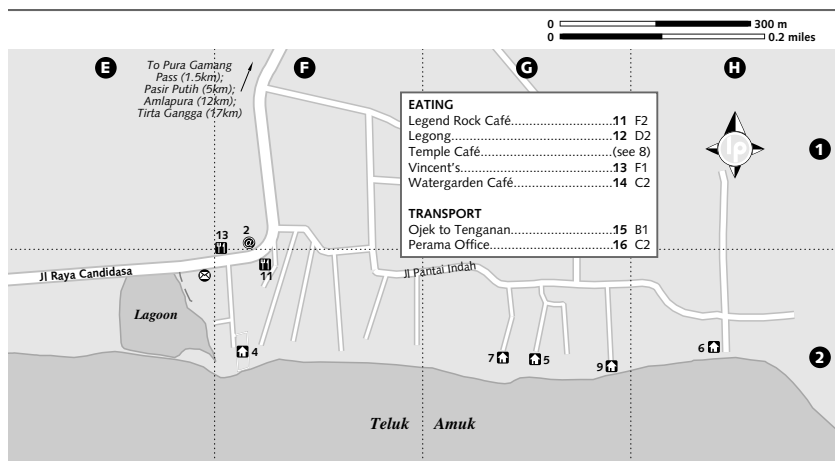
Destination	Fare	Duration
Kuta	60,000Rp	3½hr
Lovina	150,000Rp	5¼hr
Padangbai	25,000Rp	30min
Sanur	60,000Rp	2¾hr
Ubud	50,000Rp	1¾hr

CANDIDASA TO AMLAPURA

No longer anyone's secret, **Pasir Putih** is an idyllic white-sand beach whose name indeed means 'white sand'.

A row of thatched beach **warung** and **cafes** have appeared. You can get *nasi goreng* or grilled fish for little money. Bintang is of course on ice and loungers await bikini-clad bottoms. The beach itself is truly lovely: a long crescent of white sand backed by coconut trees. At one end cliffs provide shade. The surf is often mellow; bring snorkelling gear to explore the waters.

Look for crude signs along the coast road with either 'Virgin Beach Club', 'Jl Pasir Putih' or 'White Beach' near the village of Perasi. Turn off the main road (about 5km east of



Candidasa) and follow a pretty paved track for about 1.5km to a temple where locals will collect a fee (5000Rp). You can park here and walk the gentle hill down or drive a further 600m directly to the beach on a perilous road that barely qualifies as such.

AMLAPURA

☎ 0363

Amlapura is the capital of Karangasem district, and the main town and transport junction in eastern Bali. The smallest of Bali's district capitals, it's a multicultural place with Chinese shophouses, several mosques and confusing one-way streets (which are the tidiest in Bali). It's worth a stop to see the royal palaces but a lack of options means you'll want to spend the night elsewhere, such as Tirta Gangga.

Information

The **tourist office** (☎ 21196; www.karangasemtourism.com; Jl Diponegoro; ☎ 7am-3pm Mon-Thu, 7am-noon Fri) offers the booklet *Agung Info*, which is filled with useful detail. Also check the website.

Bank BRI (Jl Gajah Mada) will change money. It has an international ATM as does **Hardy's Supermarket** (☎ 22363; Jl Diponegoro). The latter has good warung. There is a **pharmacy** (Apotik; Jl Ngruh Rai 47) and a small hospital across the street.

Sights

Amlapura's three palaces, on Jl Teuk Umar, are stolid reminders of Karangasem's period as a kingdom at its most important when sup-

ported by Dutch colonial power in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Outside the **Puri Agung Karangasem** (Jl Teuku Umar; admission 10,000Rp; ☎ 8am-5pm), 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; donation requested; ☎ 8am-6pm) is still used by the royal family and is surrounded by long walls. The palace grounds feature many brick buildings dating from the Dutch colonial period. Look for stone carvings and woodcarvings from the 19th century. The Rangki, the main palace building, has been returned to its glory and is surrounded by fish ponds. Catch the stern portrait of the late king AA Gede Putu.

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; roughly three hours) via Candidasa, Padangbai and Gianyar. Plenty of buses also go around the north coast to Singaraja (about 16,000Rp) via Tirta Gangga, Amed and Tulamben.

TIRTA GANGGA

☎ 0363

Tirta Gangga (Water of the Ganges) is the site of a holy temple, some great water features and some of the best views of rice fields and the sea beyond in East Bali. High on a ridge, it is a relaxing place to stop for an hour or a longer period, which will allow for some treks in the surrounding terraced countryside, which ripples with coursing water.

Sights

Amlapura's water-loving raja, the last king of Karangasem, built the palace of his dreams at **Taman Tirta Gangga** (adult/child 5000/3000Rp, parking 2000Rp; ☎ 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 rajars. '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 in the surrounding hills is recommended. The rice terraces around Tirta Gangga are some of the most beautiful in Bali. Back roads and walking paths take you to many picturesque traditional villages. Or you can ascend the side of Gunung Agung. Guides are a good idea. Ask at any of the accommodation we've listed, especially **Homestay Rijasa** where the owner I Ketut Sarjana is an experienced guide. Another local guide who comes with good marks is **Komang Gede Utama** (☎ 081 3387 70893).

Among the possible treks is a six-hour loop to Tenganan village, plus shorter ones across the local hills, which include visits to remote temples and all the stunning vistas you can handle. Rates average about 50,000Rp per hour for one or two people.

Sleeping & Eating

Most places to stay have cafes with mains under 20,000Rp and there's another cluster by the sedate shops near the entrance. A small valley of rice terraces runs up the hill behind the parking area. It is a majestic vision of emerald steps receding into the distance.

With the exception of Tirta Ayu Hotel and Tirta Gangga Villas, most of the places to stay

are cold-water-only and basic. Hot water is not a universal option.

Dhangin Taman (Friendly Hotel; ☎ 22059; r 50,000-100,000Rp) Adjacent to the water palace, this characterful place features elaborate tiled artworks in a garden. It has a range of 14 cold-water rooms – the cheapest ones facing the rice paddies are the best – and a simple cafe with tables overlooking the palace.

Homestay Rijasa (☎ 21873; r 80,000-150,000Rp) With elaborately planted grounds, this well-run place is a recommended choice opposite the water-palace entrance. Better rooms have hot water, good for the large soaking tubs. The owner is an experienced trekking guide.

Good Karma (☎ 22445; r 100,000-120,000Rp) A classic homestay, Good Karma has four very clean and simple bungalows and a good vibe derived from the surrounding pastoral rice field. The good cafe is close to the parking lot.

Puri Sawah Bungalows (☎ 21847; r 150,000-200,000Rp) Just up the road from the palace, Puri Sawah has four comfortable and spacious rooms and family bungalows that sleep six (with hot water). Besides Indo classics, the restaurant has some interesting sandwiches like 'avocado delight'.

Tirta Ayu Hotel (☎ 22503; www.hotelirtagangga.com; villas US\$50-100; 🍷) Right in the palace compound, this has four pleasant villas that are clean and have basic, modern decor in the limited palette of creams and coffees that's ubiquitous right now. Flop about like a fish in the hotel's private pool or use the vast palace facilities. The restaurant is a tad upscale (mains from 50,000Rp) and serves creative takes on local classics.

Tirta Gangga Villas (☎ 21383; www.tirtagangga-villas.com; villas US\$120-400; 🍷) Built on the same terrace as the Tirta Ayu Hotel, the villas are parts of the old royal palace. Thoroughly updated – they have that classic Bali style motif – the villas look out over the water palace from large shady porches. Private cooks are available and you can arrange to rent the entire complex and preside over your own court.

Genta Bali (☎ 22436; dishes 10,000-20,000Rp) Across the road from the parking area, you can find a fine yoghurt drink here, as well as pasta and Indonesian food. It has an impressive list of puddings, including ones with banana, jackfruit and taro. Try out the black-rice wine.

Getting There & Away

Bemos and minibuses making the east-coast 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 5000Rp.

AMED & THE FAR EAST COAST

☎ 0363

Stretching from Amed to Bali's far eastern tip, this once-remote stretch of semi-arid coast draws visitors to a succession of small, scalloped, black-sand beaches, a relaxed atmosphere and excellent diving and snorkelling.

The coast here is often called simply 'Amed' but this is a misnomer, as the coast is a series of seaside *dusun* (small villages) that start with the actual Amed in the north and then run southeast to Aas. If you're looking to get away from crowds, this is the place to come and try some yoga. Everything is spread out, so you never feel like you're in the middle of anything much except maybe one of the small fishing villages.

Traditionally this area has been quite poor, with thin soils, low rainfall and very limited infrastructure. Villages rely on fishing, and colourful *jukung* (traditional boats) line up on every available piece of beach. Inland, the steep hillsides are generally too dry for rice – corn, peanuts and vegetables are the main crops.

Orientation & Information

As noted, this entire 10km stretch of coast is often called 'Amed' by both tourists and marketing-minded locals. Jemeluk has cafes and a few shops; Lipah has warung, shops and a few services. Both have places with dial-up internet access. The closest ATM is in Amlapura.

Besides the main road via Tirta Gangga, you can also approach the Amed area from the south via a scenic curving and narrow road from Ujung.

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 30,000Rp per day.

Scuba diving is good and the *Liberty* wreck at Tulamben (p341) is only a 20-minute drive away. There are two good operators with similar prices (eg local dives from about US\$50, open-water dive course about US\$350):

Eco-dive (☎ 23482; www.ecodivebali.com; Jemeluk)

Full-service shop with simple accommodation for clients. Has led the way on environmental issues.

Euro Dive (☎ 23469; www.eurodivebali.com; Lipah)

Has a new facility and offers packages with hotels.

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

The entire area is very spread out, so take this into consideration when choosing accommodation. You will also need to choose between staying in the little beachside villages or on the sunny and dry headlands connecting the inlets. The former puts you right on the sand and offers a small amount of community life while the latter gives you broad, sweeping vistas and isolation.

Accommodation can be found in every price category; almost every place has a restaurant or cafe. Places with noteworthy dining are indicated in the listings.

EAST OF AMED VILLAGE

Hotel Uyah Amed (☎ 23462; hotelyuah@naturebali.com; r €27-40; ☺ ☎) This cute place features four-poster beds set in stylish, conical interiors bathed in light. From all eight rooms (two with air-con) you can see the saltworks on the beach. The hotel makes the most of this by offering fascinating and free salt-making demonstrations

JEMELUK

Sama Sama Bungalows (☎ 081 3373 82945; r 70,000-150,000Rp) There are two simple cold-water rooms in bungalows here (and a good seafood cafe) across from the beach. The family that runs things is often busy making kits.

Galang Kangin Bungalows (☎ 23480; bali_amed_gk@yahoo.co.jp; r 100,000Rp-300,000Rp; 🏠) Set on the hill side of the road amid a nice garden, the four rooms here mix and match fans, cold water, hot water and air-con. The beach is situated right over the foot path, as is the cafe.

Aiona Garden of Health (☎ 081 3381 61730; www.aionabali.com; bungalows €18-30) This eccentric place has enough signs outside that it qualifies as a genuine roadside attraction. The simple bungalows are shaded by mango trees and the natural food served seems to have fallen right out of the trees. Stays are a two-night minimum and you can partake of organic potions and lotions, classes in yoga, meditation, tarot reading etc.

BUNUTAN

These places are on a sun-drenched, arid stretch of highland.

Wawa-Wewe II (☎ 23521; wawawewevillas@yahoo.com; r 200,000-250,000Rp; 🏠 🏠) From the headlands, this nice and peaceful place has 10 bungalow-style rooms on lush grounds that shamble down to the water's edge. The natural-stone infinity pool is shaped like a Buddha and is near the water, as are two rooms with ocean views.

Waeni's Sunset View Bungalows (☎ 23515; made.sani@hotmail.com; r 250,000-350,000Rp; 🏠) Waeni's is a hillside place with unusual rustic stone cottages that have gorgeous views of the mountains behind and the bay below. The eight rooms have a flash of creative style plus hot water. The cafe is a good place for a sunset drink.

LIPAH

This village is just large enough for you to go wandering.

Le Jardin (☎ 081 3532 15753; limamarie@yahoo.fr; r €12-25; 🏠) Four rooms (some fan-only) are housed in shady thatched bungalows at this French-accented B&B. Open baths have garden decor and you can avail yourself of yoga, meditation etc. The beach on the cove is just steps away.

Bayu Cottages (☎ 23495; www.bayucottages.com; r €25-50; 🏠 🏠) Bayu has six large, comfortable rooms with balconies overlooking the coast from the hillside above the road. There is a small swimming pool and many amenities including open-air marble bathrooms and satellite TV.

SELANG

Blue Moon Villas (☎ 081 7473 8100; www.bluemoonvilla.com; r from US\$55, villas US\$120-185; 🏠 🏠) 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 cafe takes usual fare and gives it a dash of panache.

AAS

The butt end of the Amed coast is sparsely developed.

our pick Meditasi (fax 22166; r 200,000-250,000Rp) There's nothing like chilled-out Aas for a respite from the pressures of life. Meditation and yoga help you relax, and the four rooms are close to good swimming and snorkelling. Open-air baths allow you to count the colours of the bougainvillea and frangipani that grow in profusion.

Eating & Drinking

As already noted, most places to stay have cafes. Ones that are worth seeking out are listed here.

Café Garam (☎ 23462; Hotel Uyah Amed, east of Amed; dishes 14,000-40,000Rp) There's a relaxed feel here with pool tables and Balinese food plus the lyrical and haunting melodies of live Genjek music at 8pm on Wednesday and Saturday.

Sails (☎ 22006; Lehan; mains 30,000-60,000Rp) A high-concept restaurant with high standards for food, Sails is one big terrace with 180-degree views from its cliffside perch. Settle back in the chic blonde furniture and enjoy fusion hits like lamb medallions, spare ribs and grilled fillets of fresh fish with Balinese accents.

Wawa-Wewe I (☎ 23506; Lipah) Spend the evening here and you won't know your wawas from your wewes. This is the coast's most raucous bar – which by local standards means that sometimes it gets sorta loud. A vast CD collection is augmented by local bands on many nights. You can also eat here (mains from 15,000Rp).

Getting There & Around

Most people drive here via the main highway from Amlapura to Culik. Public-transport options are limited. Minibuses and bemo from Singaraja and Amlapura pass through Culik, the turn-off for Amed. Infrequent public

bemo go from Culik to Amed (3.5km), and some continue to Seraya until 1pm. A public bemo should cost around 8000Rp from Culik to Lipah.

You can also charter transport from Culik for a negotiable 45,000Rp (by *ojek* is less than half). 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 (see p336); the cost is 125,000Rp each for a minimum of two people. This is similar to the cost of hiring a car and driver.

Many hotels rent bicycles for about 35,000Rp per day.

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 sunk over 60 years ago. The WWII wreck of the US cargo ship *Liberty* is among the best and most popular dive sites in Bali and this has given rise to an entire town based on scuba diving. Other great dive sites are nearby and even snorkelers can easily swim out and enjoy the wreck and the coral.

But if you don't plan to explore the briny waves, don't expect to hang out on the beach either. The shore is made up of rather beautiful, large washed stones, the kind that cost a fortune at a DIY store.

Tulamben is a quiet place, and is essentially built around the wreck – the hotels, all with cafes and many with dive shops, are spread along a 3km stretch either side of the main road.

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; 2000Rp). 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.

Most hotels have their own diving centre, and some will give a discount on accommodation if you dive with their centre. If you are an inexperienced diver, see p819 for tips on choosing a dive operation.

Among the many dive operators, **Tauch Terminal** (☎ 774504, 22911; www.tauch-terminal.com) is one of the longest-established operators in Bali. A four-day PADI open-water certificate course costs about €350. Expect to pay about €30/50 for one/two dives at Tulamben, and a little more for a night dive or dives around Amed.

Snorkelling gear is rented everywhere for 30,000Rp.

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 cafe.

Ocean Sun (☎ 22912; www.ocean-sun.com; r 60,000-70,000Rp) The budget choice of Tulamben, Ocean Sun has four bungalow-style rooms in a small garden on the hill side of the road. Units are clean and basic.

Puri Madha Bungalows (☎ 22921; r 70,000-300,000Rp; 🏠) Refurbished bungalow-style units are directly opposite the wreck on shore. Of the 12 rooms, the best have air-con and hot water. The spacious grounds feel like a public park.

Tulamben Wreck Divers Resort (☎ 23400; www.tulambenwreckdivers.com; r 200,000-400,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📺) There are seven rooms at this comfy two-storey complex on the hill side of the road. At the top end of the rate card, rooms have DVD players, air-con and fridges. All have hot water.

Tauch Terminal Resort (☎ 774504, 22911; www.tauch-terminal.com; r US\$50-100; 🏠 📺 📺) Down a side road at the shore, this sprawling hotel has 27 rooms in several categories. Many of the rooms are newly rebuilt and all are comfortable in a modern, motel-style way. Expect all amenities like satellite TV and fridges.

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 8000Rp to either town.

Perama offers charter tourist-bus services from Candidasa; the cost is 125,000Rp each for a minimum of two people. This is similar to the cost of hiring a car and driver.

If you are driving to Lovina for the night, be sure to leave by about 3pm, so you will still have a little light when you get there. There's a petrol station just south of town.

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**, said to be one of Bali's highest waterfalls. Look for a large sign located 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 to hire 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.

A remote retreat, **Alam Anda** (☎ 0361-750444; www.alamanda.de; r €40-160; ♿ ♻️) is striking thanks to the efforts of the German architect-owner. The 30 units come in various sizes, from losmen rooms to cottages with views. All are well equipped and have artful thatch and bamboo motifs. A reef just offshore keeps the dive shop busy. The resort is near Sambirenteng.

WEST BALI

Some of Bali's most sacred sites are in the west, from the ever-thronged Pura Tanah Lot to the Unesco-nominated Pura Taman Ayun. In between you can cruise along beside coursing streams on rural roads with bamboo arching overhead and fruit piling up below.

But the real star of the underachieving west is Taman Nasional Bali Barat (West Bali National Park), the only protected place of its kind on the island. Few who dive or snorkel the rich and pristine waters around Pulau Menjangan forget the experience. Others go for the challenge and trek through the savannah flats, mangroves and hillside jungles. Amid it all you'll find isolated resorts and hideaway inns in places like Balian Beach or Mengwi.

TANAH LOT

☎ 0361

One of the most popular day trips from South Bali, **Pura Tanah Lot** (adult/child 10,000/5000Rp, car park 5000Rp) is the most visited and photographed temple in Bali. It's an obligatory stop, especially at sunset, and it is very commercialised. It has all the authenticity of a stage set – even the tower of rock that the temple sits upon is an artful reconstruction (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 (p291), 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.

Getting There & Away

Coming from South Bali with your own transport, take the coastal road west from

Kerobokan, north of Seminyak, and follow the signs or the traffic. From other parts of Bali, turn off the Denpasar–Gilimanuk Rd near Kediri and follow the signs. During the pre- and post-sunset rush, traffic is awful.

By bemo, go from Denpasar's Ubung terminal to Tanah Lot (7000Rp) via Kediri, noting that bemo stop running by nightfall.

PURA TAMAN AYUN

The huge state temple of **Pura Taman Ayun** (adult/child 5000/2500Rp; ☎ 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 then extensively renovated in 1937. It's a lovely place to wander around and its size means you can get away from speed-obsessed group-tour mobs ('Back on the bus!'). In the first courtyard you'll find a large, open, grassy expanse and in the inner courtyard there is a multitude of *meru* (multiroofed shrines).

Owing to its heritage, the temple has been nominated for Unesco recognition.

Getting There & Away

Any bemo running between Denpasar (Ubung terminal) and Bedugul or Singaraja 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 tourist tours.

MARGA

Northwest of the village, **Margarana memorial** (admission 5000Rp; ☎ 9am–5pm) 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.

Even with your own transport it's easy to get lost finding Marga and the memorial, so, as always, ask directions. You can easily combine this with a tour of the amazing Jatiluwih rice terraces (p355).

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*.

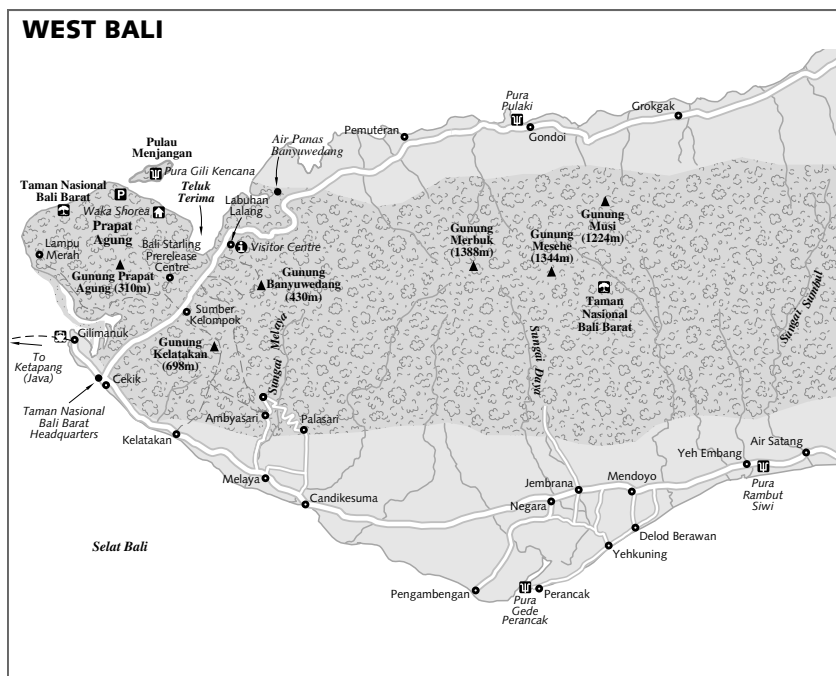
Playing a critical role in rural Balinese life, the *subak* is a village association that deals with water, water rights and irrigation (some of Bali's finest rice fields are in the surrounding region). The **Mandala Mathika Subak** (☎ 810315; Jl Raya Kediri; admission 5000Rp; ☎ 7am–4.30pm) is quite a large complex devoted to Tabanan's *subak* organisations. Within this is the **Subak Museum** with displays about the irrigation and cultivation of rice and the intricate social systems that govern it. The staff here are very sweet and will show you around; the exhibits themselves could use a little love.

All bemo and buses between Denpasar (Ubung terminal) and Gilimanuk stop at the terminal at the western end of Tabanan (7000Rp). The bemo terminal in the town centre only has transport to nearby villages.

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**. Here you can stay at **Bali Wisata Bungalows** (☎ 0361-7443561; www.baliwisatabungalows.com; Yeh Gangga; bungalows 200,000–400,000Rp; ☎), which has excellent views in a superb setting on 15km of rock and black-sand beach. The cheapest of the 12 rooms have cold water; the best have dramatic oceanfront vistas. It's family-run, and there's nothing fancy here.



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 Tektakan, 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.

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 canopied the road for a full-on tropical experience. Here you will see some of the finest rice terraces in Bali.

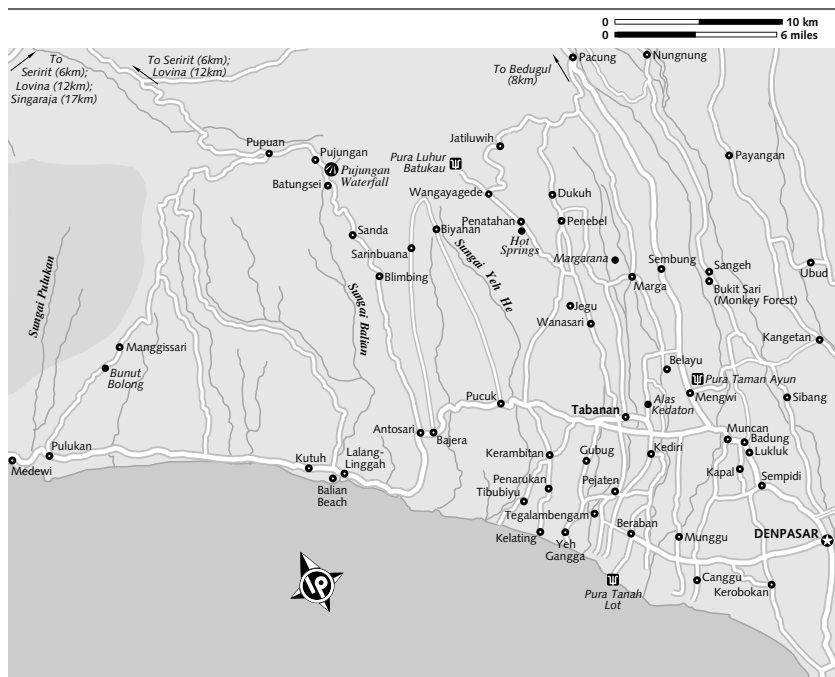
About 9km north of Tabanan the road reaches a fork. The left road goes to Pura Luhur Batukau via the hot springs at **Penatahan**. A few kilometres north of the hot springs, take a right turn at **Wangayagede** village and follow the road as it winds and soars through some beautiful countryside. At **Jatiluwh** (p355) you will be rewarded with vistas that exhaust your ability to describe green.

BALIAN BEACH & LALANG-LINGGAH

☎ 0361

Located some 10km west of the junction with the road to the north at Antosari (p354) is Lalang-Lingga. Here a road (toll 2000Rp) leads 800m to the surf breaks near the mouth of Sungai Balian and the ever-more-popular scene at Balian Beach.

A rolling area of dunes and knolls overlooks the pounding surf here, which predictably is popular with surfers. A sort of critical mass of villas and beach accommodation has appeared here, and you can wander about between a few cafes and join other travellers for a beer and sunset.



Sleeping & Eating

All of the places listed below are close together. The way things are going, there will be more choices by the time you arrive.

Made's Homestay (☎ 081 2396 3335; r 100,000Rp)

Three basic bungalow-style units back from the beach are surrounded by banana trees. The rooms are basic, clean, large enough to hold numerous surfboards and have cold-water showers.

Balian Segara Homestay (☎ 081 9164 56147; r 150,000-200,000Rp) Right down by the grey-sand beach, the three simple, clean cottages are set in a row, although views are a little obscured by dunes. The top unit has hot water. Try to overlook the marketing materials, which show the perils of Photoshop: huge waves break right over the homestay.

Gajah Mina (☎ 081 2381 1630; www.gajahminaresort.com; bungalows US\$85-145; ♿) Designed by the French architect-owner, this eight-unit boutique hotel is close to the ocean. The private, walled bungalows march out to a dramatic outcrop of stone surrounded by surf. The grounds are vast and there are little trails for wandering and pavilions for relaxing. The

restaurant overlooks its own little bowl of rice terraces.

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

You'll find accommodation along the main lane to the surf break and down other lanes

about 2km east. For a casual meal, some of the finest fare is freshly stir-fried and served up at a cart right by the beach/rocks.

Mai Malu Restaurant & Guesthouse (☎ 43897; s/d 70,000/90,000Rp) Near the highway on the Medewi side road, Mai Malu is a popular (and almost the only) hang-out, serving crowd-pleasing pizzas, burgers and Indonesian meals in its modern, breezy upstairs eating area. Eight cold-water rooms have the basics plus fans.

Homestay CSB (☎ 081 3386 67288; Pulukan; r 70,000-150,000Rp; ♿) Some 2km east of the Medewi surf break at Pulukan, look for signs along the main road. Venture 300m down a track and you'll find a great family with the beginnings of an empire. The best of the 10 simply furnished rooms have air-con, hot water and balconies with views that put anything in South Bali to shame.

Medewi Beach Cottages (☎ 40029; r US\$45-75; ♿ ♿) A large pool anchors 27 modern, comfortable rooms (with satellite TV) scattered about nice gardens right down by the surf break. The one off-note: security measures obstruct what should be a good view. Across the lane there's a lively two-storey building ostensibly called 'the party wing' with seven second-rate cold-water rooms (US\$10) aimed at surfers.

NEGARA

☎ 0365

Set amid the broad and fertile flatlands between the mountains and ocean, Negara is a prosperous little town, and a useful pit stop. Although it's a district capital, there's not much to see. Services include a **clinic** (Jl Arjuna). Several banks on the main commercial road (south of the Tabanan-Gilimanuk road), Jl Ngurah Rai, change money and have international ATMs.

Eating

Numerous choices for meals line Jl Ngurah Rai. There are assorted warung in the market area at the traffic circle with Jl Pahlawan.

Warung Lesehan (Jl Ngurah Rai; mains from 4000Rp) A simple open-air place across from Hardy's has excellent fried fish and chicken redolent with local spices.

Hardy's Supermarket (☎ 40709; Jl Ngurah Rai; ♿) Hardy's has a popular albeit cacophonous indoor food court serving fresh, cheap chow. Dishes are generally under 4000Rp. This large supermarket has the best selection of goods in western Bali.

Getting There & Away

Most bemo and minibuses from Denpasar (Ubung terminal) to Gilimanuk drop you in Negara (20,000Rp).

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 Rd at Mendoyo and go south to the coast, which has a black-sand beach and irregular surf. 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 stretch of road or beach pulling tiny chariots.

Perancak is the site of Nirartha's arrival in Bali in 1546, commemorated by a limestone 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 there.

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. Performances 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.

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; ♿) 8am-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.

From fan-cooled singles to air-con suites you have your choice of basic accommodation at the 21-room **Hotel Lestari** (☎ 61504; r 65,000-325,000Rp; 🍽️), which feels strangely suburban. It has a cafe.

Getting There & Away

Frequent buses hurtle along the main road between Gilimanuk's huge bus depot and Denpasar's Ubung terminal (25,000Rp, two to three hours), or along the north-coast road to Singaraja (22,000Rp).

If you have wheels, watch out for the numerous police checkpoints around the terminal where commas are counted and the number of dots on it's checked on vehicle documents. Freelance 'fines' are common.

FERRY

To get to and from Ketapang on Java (30 minutes; p608), car ferries (adult/child 6000/4500Rp, car and driver 95,000Rp, motorbike 31,000Rp) run around the clock.

TAMAN NASIONAL BALI BARAT

☎ 0365

Call it nature's symphony. Most visitors to Bali's only national park, Taman Nasional Bali Barat (West Bali National Park), are struck by the mellifluous sounds from myriad birds. It's a place where you can hike through forests, enjoy the island's best diving at Pulau Menjangan and explore coastal mangroves.

The park covers 19,000 hectares of the western tip of Bali. An additional 55,000 hectares is protected in the national park extension, as well as almost 7000 hectares of coral reef and coastal waters. Together this represents a significant commitment to conservation on an island as densely populated as Bali, although the many firewood vendors lining the road are indicative of the challenges facing preservationists.

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. The **Labuhan Lalang visitors centre** (🕒 7.30am-5pm) is in a hut located on the northern coast, where boats leave for Pulau Menjangan (p348).

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 (20,000Rp).

Sights & Activities

By land, by boat or by water, the park awaits exploration. 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.

DIVING PULAU MENJANGAN

Bali's best-known dive area, Pulau Menjangan has a dozen superb dive sites. The diving is excellent – iconic tropical fish, soft corals, great visibility (usually), caves and a spectacular drop-off. One of the few complaints we've ever heard came from a reader who said that while snorkelling she kept getting water in her mouth because she was 'smiling so much'.

Of the dozen or so named sites here, most are close to shore and suitable for snorkellers or diving novices. Some decent snorkelling spots are not far from the jetty – ask the boatman where to go. Venture a bit out, however, and the depths turn inky black as the shallows drop off in dramatic cliffs, a magnet for experienced divers looking for wall dives. The Anker Wreck, a mysterious sunken ship, challenges even experts.

This uninhabited island boasts what is thought to be Bali's oldest temple, **Pura Gili Kencana**, dating from the 14th century. You can walk around the island in about an hour and most people who take to the waters here take a break on the unblemished beaches.

The closest and most convenient dive operators are found at Pemuteran (p363). Snorkellers can arrange for a boat (400,000Rp, four-hour trip) from the tiny dock at Labuhan Lalang (p348) just across the turquoise water from Menjangan. Warung here rent snorkelling gear (50,000Rp for four hours).

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 five people) for about 250,000Rp per boat per hour, including guide and entrance fees. You can arrange this at either of the park offices. This is the ideal way to see bird life, including kingfishers, Javanese herons and plenty of others.

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 offices in Cekik or Labuhan Lalang.

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 250,000Rp for one or two hours, 350,000Rp for three or four hours, and 600,000Rp for five to seven hours; 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.

Sleeping

Park visitors will want to spend the night as close to the park as possible in order to get an early start. Gilimanuk (p346) is closest and has basic choices. Much nicer are the resorts in Labuhan Lalang (right). The best all-round choice is in Pemuteran (p363), 12km further east.

There is free and rough camping at the park headquarters in Cekik. A gratuity to the staff is greatly appreciated; you'll need your own gear.

Getting There & Away

The national park is too far for a comfortable day trip from Ubud or South Bali, though many dive operators do it. Better to stay at one of the places suggested under Sleeping (above).

If you don't have transport, any Gilimanuk-bound bus or bemo from North or West Bali can drop you at park headquarters at Cekik (those from North Bali can also drop you at Labuhan Lalang).

LABUHAN LALANG

To catch a boat to Pulau Menjangan (p347), head to the jetty at this small harbour in the national park. There's also a small park **visitors centre** (☎ 7.30am-5pm) in a hut on the northern coast, and there are warung and a pleasant beach 200m to the east. The resorts and dive shops of Pemuteran (p363) are 11km northeast.

Waka Shorea (☎ 0362-94666; www.wakaexperience.com; r US\$165, villas US\$230; ♿ ♿) is located in splendid isolation inside the park, a 10-minute boat ride from the hotel's reception area 100m east of Labuhan Lalang. The 16 naturalistic units are hidden in the forest, with decks above the trees and a dreamy pool.

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.

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, especially the mysterious temple, Pura Luhur Batukau and nearby Unesco-nominated ancient rice terraces in and around Jatiluwih plus the stupendous hiking around the old colonial village of Munduk.

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.

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 carpark 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 hassle-free alternatives to Batur such as the outer rim of the crater, or to other mountains such as Gunung Agung (p330).

HPPGB

The HPPGB (Mt Batur Tour Guides Association; ☎ 52362; ☎ 3am-noon) has a monopoly on guided climbs up Gunung Batur. The HPPGB requires that all trekking agencies that operate on the mountain hire at least one of its guides for trips up the mountain. In addition, the cartel has developed a reputation for intimidation in requiring climbers to use its guides and during negotiations for its services.

Reported tactics have ranged from dire warnings given to people who inquired at its offices to physical threats against people attempting to climb without a guide. There have also been reports of guides stationing themselves outside hotels to intercept climbers.

Pinning these guys down on rates can be like trying to keep pace with the pea in a shell game, but expect to pay the following:

Trek	Duration	Cost
Batur Sunrise	4-8am	300,000-400,000Rp
Gunung Batur	4-10am	300,000-400,000Rp

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 northeast, 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 villages of Batur and Kintamani now virtually run together. Kintamani is famed for its large and colourful **market**, which is held every three days. The town is like a string bean: long, with pods of development. Activity starts early and by 11am the town is all packed up. If you don't want to go on a

trek, the sunrise view from the road here is pretty good.

Hotel Miranda (☎ 52022; Jl Raya Kintamani, Kintamani; s/d 40,000/70,000Rp) is the only accommodation here. The six rooms are clean and very basic with squat toilets. It has good food and a welcome open fire at night. The informative owner, Made Senter, is an excellent trekking guide.

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** 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. **C.Bali** (☎ 081 3532 00251; www.c-bali.com; Hotel Segara, Kedisan) is a ground-breaking tour company (operated by an Australian-Dutch couple) that offers bike tours around the craters and canoe tours on the lake. Prices start at US\$40 and include pick-up across South Bali.

Hotel Segara (☎ 51136; hotelsegara@plasa.com; Kedisan; r 80,000-200,000Rp;) has bungalows set around a courtyard. The cheapest rooms have cold water; the best have hot water and bathtubs – perfect for soaking away the hypothermia.

TOYA BUNGKAH

The main tourist centre is Toya Bungkah, which is scruffy but has a cute charm and a serene lakeside setting.

Beside the lake, **Toya Devasya** (☎ 51204; adult/child US\$10/5; ☎ 8am-8pm) is built around a hot spring. The huge hot pool is 38°C while the comparatively brisk lake-fed pool is 20°C.

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.

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.

Under the Volcano III (☎ 081 3386 0081; r 70,000Rp)

With a lovely, quiet lakeside location opposite vegetable plots, this inn has eight clean and pretty rooms; go for Room 1 right on the water. There are two other nearby inns in the Volcano empire, all run by the same lovely family.

Lakeside Cottages & Restaurant (☎ 51249; www.lakesidebali.com; r US\$10-35; ☎) The lakeside pool at this option, at the end of the lane on the water's edge, makes it a top pick. Of the 11 rooms, the best have hot water and satellite TV. The restaurant serves home-style Japanese dishes.

Volcano Breeze (☎ 51824; dishes 15,000-25,000Rp) This sociable travellers cafe with local art on the walls serves fresh lake fish in many forms.

Getting There & Around

From Batubulan terminal in Denpasar, bemos make regular trips to Kintamani (18,000Rp). You can also get a bus on the busy Denpasar (Batabulan)–Singaraja route, which makes stops in both Penelokan and Kintamani (about 18,000Rp). Alternatively, you can just hire a car or use a driver. From South Bali you can expect to pay at least 450,000Rp.

Orange bemo regularly shuttle back and forth around the crater rim, between Penelokan and Kintamani (8000Rp for tourists). Public bemo from Penelokan down to the lakeside villages go mostly in the morning (tourist price is about 6000Rp to Toya Bungkah). Later in the day, you may have to charter transport (40,000Rp or more).

DANAU BRATAN

☎ 0368

Approaching from the south, you gradually leave the rice terraces behind and ascend into the cool, often misty mountain country around Danau Bratan. 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. Candikuning is the main village in the area, and has an important and picturesque temple. Marvellous Munduk anchors a region with fine trekking to waterfalls and cloud-cloaked forests.

The choice of accommodation near the lake is limited as much of the area is geared towards domestic, not foreign, tourists. Many new inns aimed at international visitors are opening around Munduk.

Wherever you go, you are likely to see the tasty local strawberries on offer. Note that it is often misty and can get chilly up here.

Candikuning

Dotting the western side of the lake, Candikuning is a haven for plant lovers. Its **market** (parking 1000Rp) is touristy but among the eager vendors of tat, you'll find locals shopping for fruit, veg, herbs, spices and potted plants. You'll find good cafes hidden in the corners. Privately run toilets in the southwest corner (5000Rp) are the cleanest for miles.

SIGHTS

The **Bali Botanical Gardens** (Kebun Raya Eka Karya Bali; ☎ 21273; admission walking/driving 7000/12,000Rp, car parking 6000Rp; ☎ 7am-6pm) is a showplace. Established in 1959 as a branch of the national botanical gardens at Bogor, near Jakarta, it covers more than 154 hectares on the lower slopes of Gunung Pohen. The garden boasts an extensive collection of trees and flowers. The gorgeous orchid area is often locked to foil flower filchers; ask that it be unlocked.

Within the park, you can cavort like a bird or a squirrel at the **Bali Treetop Adventure Park** (www.balitreetop.com; adult/child US\$20/13). Winches, ropes, nets and more let you explore the forest well above the ground.

Coming northwest from Bedugul, at a junction conspicuously marked with a large, phallic corn-cob sculpture, a small side road goes 600m west to the garden. It gets crowded on Sundays with local families.

The very important Hindu-Buddhist **Pura Ulun Danu Bratan** (adult/child 10,000/5000Rp, 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. Pilgrimages and ceremonies are held here to ensure that there is a supply of water for farmers all over Bali.

The tableau includes classical Hindu thatch-roofed *meru* reflected in the water and silhouetted against the often-cloudy mountain backdrop – a true Bali photo-cliché.

ACTIVITIES

At the temple gardens, you can hire a four-passenger speedboat with a driver (150,000Rp per 30 minutes), a five-person rowboat with rower (100,000Rp per 30 minutes), or a two-person pedal boat (35,000Rp per 30 minutes).

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.

Pondok Wisata Dahlia Indah (☎ 21233; r 80,000-125,000Rp) In the village along a lane near the road to the botanical gardens, this is a decent budget option with 17 comfortable, clean rooms with hot-water showers set in a garden of mountain flowers.

Enjung Beji Resort (☎ 21490; cottages 250,000-500,000Rp) Just north of the temple and overlooking Danau Bratan is this peaceful, pleasant option. The 23 cottages are modern and clean. The nicest have outdoor showers and sunken baths.

EATING

From simple market snacks to meals featuring the region's fresh strawberries, you'll have much to choose from. At the entrance to Pura Ulun Danu Bratan are several Padang warung, and there's a cafe with a view on the grounds.

Roti Bedugul (☎ 21838; snacks 5000Rp; ☎ 8am-6pm) Just north of the market, this tiny bakery produces fine versions of its namesake as well as croissants and other treats all day.

Strawberry Stop (☎ 21060; dishes 7000-20,000Rp; ☎ 8am-7pm) Here, north of the temple, locally grown strawberries star in milkshakes, juices,

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 5000Rp, parking 2000Rp) 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 carpark, then over the saddle to Danau Tamblingan and on to Asan Munduk. It combines forest and lake views.

Danau Tamblingan (adult/child 6000/3000Rp, parking 2000Rp) also has parking 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, a convenient option is to walk this path in one direction and be met at the other end. There are usually a couple of guides hanging around the car park (you don't need them for the lake path) who will gladly take you up and around **Gunung Lesong** (per 6hr 350,000Rp).

SLEEPING & EATING

Pondok Kesuma Wisata (☎ 081 7472 8826; r 200,000Rp) This nice guesthouse features clean rooms with hot water and a pleasant cafe (dishes 8000Rp to 20,000Rp) and is just up from the Danau Tamblingan parking lot.

Munduk & Around

☎ 0362

The simple village of Munduk is one of Bali's most appealing mountain retreats. It has a cool misty ambience set among lush hill-sides covered with jungle, rice, fruit trees and pretty much anything else that grows on the island. Waterfalls tumble off precipices by the dozen. There are hikes and treks galore. Many people come here to trek for a day and stay a week.

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.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Heading to Munduk 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. Turning right (east) at the top will take you on a scenic descent to Singaraja. Taking a sharp left turn (west), you follow a ridge-top road to Munduk with Danau Buyan on one side and views far down to the sea on the other. Consider a stop at **Ngiring Ngewedang** (☎ 0828 365 146; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; ☎ 10am-5pm), a coffeehouse 5km east of Munduk that grows its own coffee on the surrounding slopes.

About 2km east of Munduk look for signs indicating parking for a 15m **waterfall** near the road. This is the most accessible of many in the immediate area.

SCENIC ROUTES BETWEEN THE COASTS

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 Antosari, and meet at Pupuan. At Mayong, you can turn east to Munduk or continue down to Seririt, west of Lovina on the north coast.

The Pulukan-Pupuan road climbs steeply up from the coast providing fine views back down to West Bali and the sea. The route also runs through spice-growing country – you'll see (and smell) spices laid out on mats by the road to dry. After about 10km and just before Manggissari, the narrow and winding road actually runs right through **Bunut Bolong** – an enormous tree that forms a complete tunnel. Further on, the road spirals down to Pupuan through some of Bali's most beautiful rice terraces.

The road from Antosari 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.

Almost everything in the Munduk area is at an elevation of at least 1000m. Numerous trails are suitable for **treks** of two hours or much longer to coffee plantations, rice paddies, waterfalls, villages, or around both Danau Tamblingan and Danau Buyan. You will be able to arrange a guide through your lodgings.

SLEEPING & EATING

Like mushrooms after the rain (they grow up here), accommodation is proliferating around Munduk. Enjoy simple old Dutch houses in the village or more naturalistic places in the countryside. Most have cafes, usually serving good local fare. There's a couple of cute warung along the road down to Seririt and North Bali.

Guru Ratna (☎ 92182; r 100,000-200,000Rp) The cheapest place in the village, this has five comfortable cold-water rooms in a colonial Dutch house. The best rooms have some style and nice porches. Ponder the distant ocean from the cafe.

Meme Surung & Mekel Ragi (☎ 92811; r US\$20-24) These atmospheric old Dutch houses adjoin each other in the village and have two rooms. There are seven more rooms – all with hot showers – next door to the pair. Meme Surung has views.

Puri Alam Bali (☎ 081 2465 9815; www.purialambali.com; r 200,000-250,000Rp) Perched on a precipice at the east end of the village, Puri Alam Bali's eight rooms (all hot-water) have better views the higher you go. The rooftop cafe surveys the local scene from on high. Think of the long concrete stairs down from the road as trekking practice.

Lumbung Bali Cottages (☎ 92818; www.lumbung-bali.com; r US\$45-125) About 800m east of Munduk, this country inn has nine traditional cottages overlooking the lush local terrain. The open-air bathrooms (with tubs) are as refreshing as the porches are relaxing. A short trail leads to a small waterfall.

ourpick Puri Lumbung Cottages (☎ 92810; www.purilumbung.com; cottage US\$68-160; ☎ ☎) Founded by Nyoman Bagiarta to develop sustainable tourism, this lovely hotel has 14 bright two-storey cottages set among rice fields. Enjoy intoxicating views down to the coast from the upstairs balconies. Dozens of trekking options and courses, including dance and cooking, are offered. The hotel's restaurant, Warung Kopi Bali, is excellent. The hotel is on the right-hand side of the road, 700m before Munduk from Bedugul.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Bemos leave Ubung terminal in Denpasar for Munduk frequently (22,000Rp). Morning bemo from Candikuning also stop in Munduk (13,000Rp). 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 (where you can head south to West Bali). The road then goes down to the sea at Seririt in North Bali.

GUNUNG BATUKAU AREA

Often overlooked (probably a good thing given what the vendor hordes have done to Gunung Agung), Gunung Batukau is Bali's second-highest mountain (2276m), the third of Bali's three major mountains and the holy peak of the island's western end. Enjoy a magical visit to one of the island's holiest and most underrated temples, Pura Luhur Batukau, or just revel in the ancient rice-terrace greenery around Jatiluwih.

Orientation

There are two main approaches to the Gunung Batukau area. The easiest is to go via Tabanan (see p343) and take the Pura Luhur Batukau road north 9km to a fork in the road. Take the one on the left (towards the temple) and go a further 5km to a junction near a school in Wangayagede village. Here you can continue straight to the temple or turn right (east) for the rice fields of Jatiluwih.

Pura Luhur Batukau

On the slopes of Gunung Batukau, **Pura Luhur Batukau** (donation 10,000Rp) 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.

The main pagoda-like structures have little doors shielding small ceremonial items. This is certainly the most spiritual major temple you can easily visit in Bali. There's a general lack of tourists 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.

Jatiluwih Rice Fields

At **Jatiluwih**, which means 'Truly Marvellous', you will be rewarded with vistas of centuries-old rice terraces that exhaust your ability to describe green. The locals will also be rewarded

with your 'green', as there's a road toll for visitors (per person 10,000Rp, plus 5000Rp per car).

The terraces have been nominated for Unesco status. You'll understand why just viewing the panorama from the narrow, twisting 18km road, but get out for a **rice-field walk**. Follow the water as it runs through channels and bamboo pipes from one plot to the next.

Along the drive you'll pass a couple of warung with simple food served at tables overlooking the terraces.

Getting There & Away

The only realistic way to explore the Gunung Batukau area is with your own transport.

NORTH BALI

Although one-sixth of the island's population lives in North Bali, the vast region, centred on Singaraja and the Buleleng regency, is overlooked by many visitors who stay trapped in the South Bali-Ubud axis. And that's ironic

because the north was once the gateway to Bali, with Dutch steamers bringing the island's first visitors to the port in Singaraja.

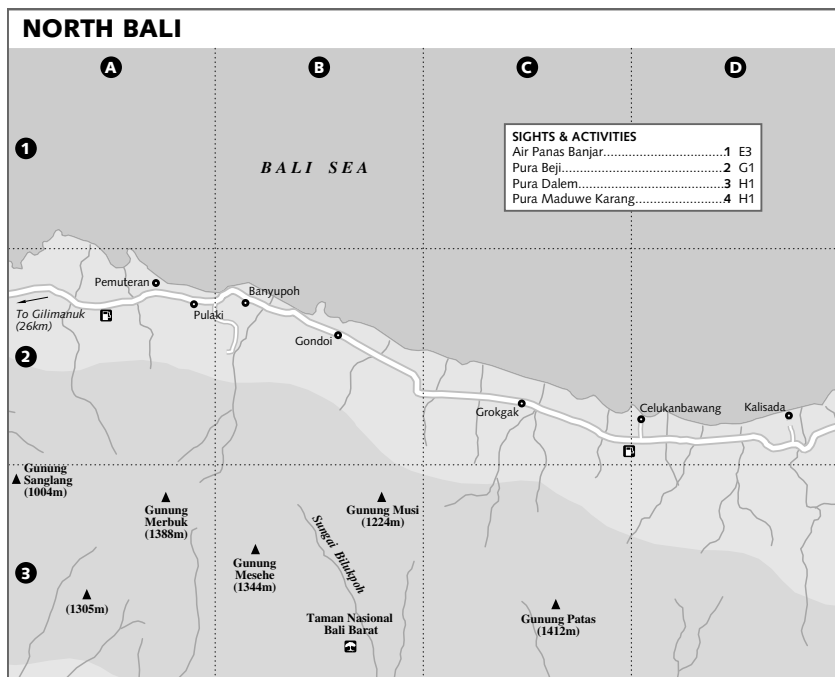
Today, tourism in the north is focused on Lovina, the mellow beach town with cheap hotels and even cheaper sunset beer specials. To the west, Pemuteran charms all who discover the crescent of appealing resorts around a cute little bay. Diving is big here and all along the north coast.

Getting to North Bali for once lives up to the cliché: it's half the fun. Routes follow the thinly populated coastlines east and west, or, you can go up and over the central mountains by any number of routes, marvelling at crater lakes and maybe stopping for a misty trek on the way.

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 3000/1000Rp; ☎ 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 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** (☎ 8am-6pm), 5.7km east of Yeh Sanih on the Singaraja road. The irrepressible American artist Symon owns this gallery and studio. It bursts with his own creativity that's at times vibrant, exotic and erotic.

Sleeping & Eating

our pick **Cilik's Beach Garden** (☎ 26561; www.cilikbeachgarden.com; s/d €40/60, villas €60-160; 📺) These custom-built villas, 3km east of Yeh Sanih, are large and have extensive private gardens. Other accommodation is in stylish *lumbung* (rice barns with round roofs) set in a delightful garden facing the ocean. There's a real emphasis on local culture; the owners have even more remote villas further south on the coast.

Getting There & Away

Yeh Sanih is on the main road along the north coast. Frequent bemo (small minibuses) and buses from Singaraja stop outside the springs (8000Rp).

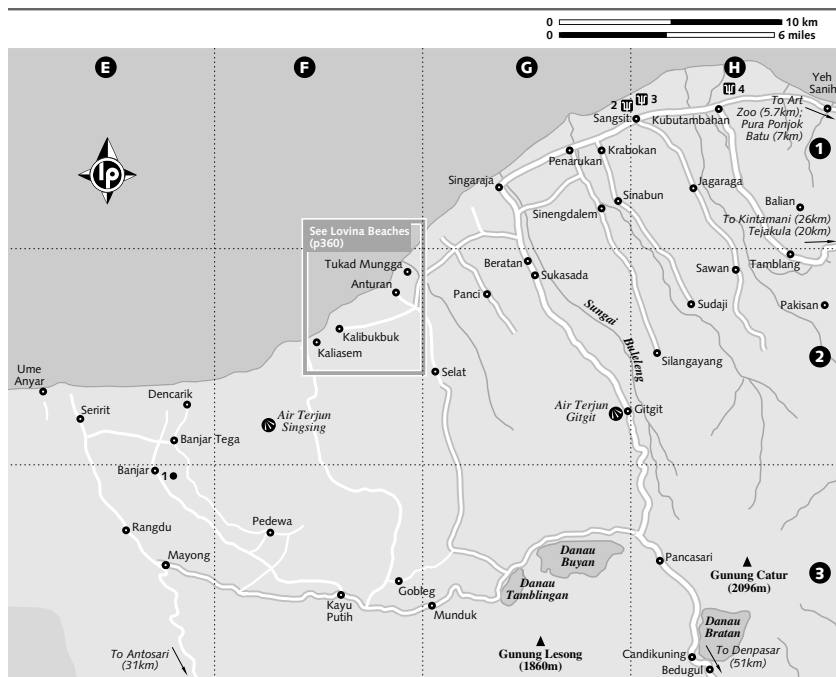
If heading to Amed or Tulamben, make certain you're on your way south from here by 4pm in order to arrive while there's still some light.

SINGARAJA

☎ 0362

With a population of more than 100,000 people, Singaraja (which means 'Lion King' and somehow hasn't caused Disney to demand licensing fees) is Bali's second-largest city. With its tree-lined streets, surviving Dutch colonial buildings and charmingly moribund waterfront area north of Jl Erlangga, it's worth exploring for a few hours. Most people stay in nearby Lovina, however.

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. Today, Singaraja is a major educational and cultural centre.



Information

There are numerous banks and ATMs. Facilities include the following:

Diparda (☎ 25141; cnr Jl Veteran & Jl Gajah Mada; ☎ 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; ☎ 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 10,000Rp; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri) was established in 1928 by Dutch colonialists and named after the Sanskrit word 'to try'. It has a collection of *lontar* books as well as some even older written works.

The nearby **Museum Buleleng** (admission 10,000Rp; ☎ 9am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) recalls the life of the last local prince, who is credited with developing Lovina's tourism. It also traces the history of the region back to when there was no history.

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 perform.

Eating

There are slim accommodation pickings in Singaraja, and there's no real reason to stay here as it's just a short drive from Lovina. For supplies and sundries, head to **Hardy's Supermarket** (Jl Pramuka; ☎ 6am-10pm).

Warung Kota (☎ 700 9737; Jl Ngurah Rai 22; meals 5000-15,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) The kool kats hang-out, this cafe is popular with students from the university. Grab a table amidst the bamboo decor and make some friends. There's live music some nights, movies others.

Getting There & Away

BEMO & BUS

Singaraja is the main transport hub for the northern coast, with three bemo/bus

terminals. From the **Sukasada terminal**, 3km south of town, minibuses go to Denpasar (Ubung terminal, 30,000Rp) via Bedugul/Pancasari (15,000Rp) sporadically through the day.

The **Banyuasri terminal**, on the western side of town, has buses heading to Gilimanuk (22,000Rp, two hours) and Java, and plenty of blue bemo to Lovina (7000Rp).

The **Penarukan terminal**, 2km east of town, has bemo to Yeh Sanih (8000Rp) and Amlapura (18,000Rp, three hours) via the coastal road; and also minibuses to Denpasar (Batubulan terminal, 30,000Rp, three hours) via Kintamani.

To Java

From Singaraja, several companies have overnight services to Surabaya (150,000Rp, 13 hours), which include the ferry trip across the Bali Strait. Other buses go as far as Yogyakarta (210,000Rp, 16 hours) and Jakarta (300,000Rp, 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.

The **Pura Dalem** shows scenes of punishment in the afterlife, and other humorous, sometimes erotic, pictures. You'll find it in the rice fields, about 500m northeast of Pura Beji.

Buses and bemo going east from Singaraja's Penarukan terminal will stop at Sangsit.

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

Situated about 11km south of Singaraja are the pretty – and pretty touristy – waterfalls of **Air Terjun Gitgit** (adult/child 6000/3000Rp) 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 Multitier Waterfall** (donation 5000Rp) situated about 2km further up the hill from the main falls and about 600m off the main road.

Buses and minibuses travel between the main Sukasada terminal in Singaraja and Denpasar (Ubung terminal), via Bedugul, and stop at Gitgit.

LOVINA

☎ 0362

Relaxed is how people most often describe Lovina and they are correct. This low-key, low-rise beach resort is the polar opposite of Kuta. Days are slow and so are the nights.

Almost merging into Singaraja to the west, the town is really a string of coastal villages – Pemaron, Tukad Mungga, Anturan, Kalibukbuk, Kaliaseh 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're planning a reading holiday in Lovina, come prepared. Other than some used-book stalls, there's no good source for new books or newspapers. The **main post office** is 1km west of central Kalibukbuk.

There is a **Bank BCA ATM** at the corner of Jl Bina Ria and Jl Raya Lovina, plus many more in Singaraja.

For internet access:

Bits and Bytes (☎ 081 755 2511; Jl Raya Lovina; per hr 25,000Rp; ☎ 8am–8pm) Fast connections plus wi-fi and laptop connections.

Spice Cyber (☎ 41305; Jl Bina Ria; per min 300Rp; ☎ 8am–midnight; 📶) Wi-fi and printing.

Sights & Activities

BEACHES

A sweet paved beach path runs along the sand in Kalibukbuk and extends in a circuitous path along the seashore. Enjoy the postcard view to the east of the mountainous North Bali coast.

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 are well-placed for fun on the sand.

DOLPHIN WATCHING

Sunrise boat trips to see dolphins are Lovina's much-hyped tourist attraction. 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. The price is fixed at 50,000Rp per person by the boat-owners' cartel. Trips start at a nonholiday-like 6am and last about two hours. Note that the ocean can get pretty crowded with loud, roaring powerboats 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 popular. Many people stay here and dive Pulau Menjangan (p347), a two-hour drive west.

For a two-dive trip, including transport and all equipment, expect to pay about US\$40 for a Lovina reef or night dive; and around US\$60 to Tulamben or Pulau Menjangan.

Spice Dive (☎ 41509; www.balispicedive.com) offers PADI open-water certificate courses for about US\$350. It's based at the west 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

beachside nine-room homestay. Cheap rooms have cold water while better ones have hot water and air-con.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Jl Pantai Banyualit has many hotels, although the beachfront area is not very inspiring.

Suma (☎ 41566; www.sumahotel.com; Jl Pantai Banyualit; r 150,000-400,000Rp; 🍷 🍷 🍷) In a mannered stone building, Suma has views of the sea from its upstairs rooms; the best have air-con and hot water. The pool is large and naturalistic; there's also a pleasant cafe. A much-renovated temple is nearby.

Kalibukbuk

The 'centre' of Lovina is the village of Kalibukbuk. Jl Ketapang is marginally quieter and more pleasant than Jl Bina Ria. There are small *gong* off both.

Padang Lovina (☎ 41302; Gang Binaria; r 80,000-250,000Rp; 🍷) Down a narrow lane in the very heart of Kalibukbuk. There's no pretension at all around the 12 comfortable bungalow-style rooms set around spacious grounds teeming with flowers. The best rooms have air-con and tubs.

Rini Hotel (☎ 41386; rinihotel@telkom.net; Jl Ketapang; r 120,000-250,000Rp; 🍷 🍷) This tidy 30-room place has a large saltwater pool. Cheaper rooms have fans and cold water but the more expensive ones are huge, with air-con and hot water. In fact, should you come across a keg, you could have a party.

Puri Bali Hotel (☎ 41485; www.puribalilovina.com; Jl Ketapang; r 130,000-250,000Rp; 🍷 🍷) The pool area is set deep in a lush garden – you may hang out here all day. The better of the 30 rooms, with hot water and air-con, are simple but comfortable. The cheapest, with fans and cold water, are simply simple.

Sea Breeze Cabins (☎ 41138; r US\$20, bungalows US\$30-40; 🍷 🍷) One of the best choices in the heart of Kalibukbuk and right off Jl Bina Ria, the Sea Breeze has three appealing bungalows right on the pool and beach, some with sensational views from their verandahs. The two economy rooms have fans and hot water.

West of Kalibukbuk

Hotel Purnama (☎ 41043; Jl Raya Lovina; s/d 40,000/50,000Rp) One of the best deals on this stretch, Purnama has seven clean cold-water rooms. The beach is a two-minute walk away.

However, the name is a misnomer: this is a family compound, and a friendly one at that.

MIDRANGE

Anturan

Bali Taman Beach Resort (☎ 41126; www.balitamanlovina.com; Jl Raya Lovina; r US\$40-75; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Facing the busy road, but extending down to the beach, the Bali Taman has 30 rooms that vary widely – although all have pretty simple interiors. The best ones are bungalows with ocean views. The large pool faces the ocean and is surrounded by leafy gardens.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Hotel Banyualit (☎ 41789; www.banyualit.com; Jl Pantai Banyualit; r 250,000-700,000Rp; 🍷 🍷) About 100m back from the beach, the Banyualit has a lush garden, statues and a large pool. The 22 rooms (all with air-con) offer great choice; best are the villas with whirlpools, fridges and large, shady patios. There's also a small spa.

Kalibukbuk

Rambutan Hotel (☎ 41388; www.rambutan.org; Jl Ketapang; r US\$12-65, villas from US\$110; 🍷 🍷) The hotel, on one hectare of lush gardens, features two pools, a playground and games for all ages. The 31 rooms and villas are tasteful with lashings of Balinese style. The very cheapest have fans and cold water.

Bali Lovina Beach Cottages (☎ 41285; www.balilovinahotel.com; Jl Raya Lovina; r US\$40-60; 🍷 🍷) The 30 rooms here are in mixed two-storey and bungalow-style units. Several surround the large pool (complete with dolphin statue) or face the beach. Room styles are basic but clean.

West of Kalibukbuk

Aditya Bungalows (☎ 41059; www.adityalovina.com; Jl Raya Lovina; r 300,000-600,000Rp; 🍷 🍷) There are 64 rooms at this big place on a sandy beach. The best ones have views of the ocean and all have a good range of amenities and attractive bathrooms. Swim in the large pool or in the ocean? Sit on your patio while you're deciding.

Eating

Just about every hotel has a cafe or restaurant. Close to the centre of Lovina you can find several places that go beyond the usual travellers' fare. Beachside places are good just for drinks if you're planning to do some hopping.

A small **night market** (Jl Raya Lovina; ☎ 5-11pm) is a good choice for fresh and cheap local food.

ANTURAN

Warung Rasta (mains 15,000-30,000Rp) Right on a strip of beach lined with fishing boats. The menu not surprisingly leans towards simply grilled fresh seafood; given the name, the endless loop of music shouldn't surprise either. It's run by dudes who have clearly realised that lounging around here all day beats fishing.

ANTURAN TO KALIBUKBUK

Mr Dolphin (☎ 081 3384 87612; Jl Pantai Banyualit; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp) Right on the beach, this cheery hang-out for dolphin-tour skippers serves a killer grilled seafood platter. There's live acoustic music most nights.

KALIBUKBUK

Khi Khi Restaurant (☎ 41548; dishes 8000-100,000Rp) Well off Jl Raya Lovina and behind the night market, this barn of a place specialises in Chinese food and grilled seafood, including lobster. It's always popular in a rub-elbows-with-your-neighbour kind of way.

Akar (☎ 081 7972 4717; Jl Bina Ria; snacks from 18,000Rp) The many shades of green at this cute-as-a-baby-frog cafe aren't just for show. They reflect the earth-friendly ethics of the owners. Refill your water containers here and then enjoy organic smoothies and other refreshing treats. A tiny back porch overlooks the river.

Sea Breeze Café (☎ 41138; dishes 12,000-45,000Rp) Right by the beach off Jl Bina Ria, this cafe has a range of Indonesian and Western dishes and excellent breakfasts. It's a good spot for sunset drinks and ocean views.

Tropis Club (☎ 42090; Jl Ketepang; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) The long menu at this beachside place includes wood-fired pizza. Choose a table under the soaring roof or out along the beach walkway. Sunset specials include cheap Bintang.

Pappagallo (☎ 41163; Jl Bina Ria; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) This big, ambitious open-air restaurant brings some much-needed energy to the snoozy Kalibukbuk scene. There's all the beach standards plus good pizzas from a wood-burning oven. Opt for the wicker chairs on the breezy second level.

Jasmine Kitchen (☎ 41565; Gang Binaria; dishes 15,000-35,000Rp) As good as ever, the Thai fare at this elegant two-level restaurant is excellent.

The menu is long and authentic and the staff gracious. While soft jazz plays (and trays of peppers dry near the entrance), try the home-made ice cream for dessert.

Drinking & Entertainment

Lovina's modest social scene centres on Kalibukbuk.

Kantin 21 (☎ 081 2460 7791; Jl Raya Lovina; ☎ 11am-1am) Funky open-air place where you can watch traffic by day and groove to acoustic guitar or garage-band rock by night. There's a long drinks list, fresh juices and a few local snacks.

Poco Evolution Bar (☎ 41535; Jl Bina Ria; dishes 12,000-25,000Rp; ☎ 11am-1am) Movies are shown at various times, and cover bands perform at this popular bar-cafe. Classic travellers' fare is served at tables open to street life in front and the river in back.

Volcano Club (Jl Raya Lovina; ☎ 9pm-late Wed-Sat) There's nothing fancy about this big tropical disco in Anturan, where local and visiting partiers mix it up to local DJs until all hours.

Getting There & Away

BUS & BEMO

To reach Lovina from South Bali by public transport, you'll need to change in Singaraja. Regular blue bemo go from Singaraja's Banyuasri terminal to Kalibukbuk (about 7000Rp) – you can flag them down anywhere on the main road.

If you're 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) on Jl Raya Lovina in Anturan. Passengers are then ferried to other points on the Lovina strip (10,000Rp).

Destination	Fare	Duration
Candidasa	150,000Rp	5½hr
Kuta	125,000Rp	4hr
Padangbai	150,000Rp	4¾hr
Sanur	125,000Rp	3¾hr
Ubud	125,000Rp	2¾hr

Getting Around

The Lovina strip is *very* spread out, but you can easily travel back and forth on bemo (3000Rp). Bikes are easily rented around town for about 30,000Rp per day.

WEST OF LOVINA

The main road west of Lovina passes temples, farms and towns while it follows the thinly developed coast. You'll notice a lot of vineyards, where the grapes work overtime producing the sugar that's used in Bali's very sweet local vintages.

Air Terjun Singasing

About 5km west of Lovina, a sign points to **Air Terjun Singasing** (Daybreak Waterfall). About 1km from the main road, there is a warung on the left and a car park on the right. Walk past the warung and along the path for about 200m to the lower falls. The waterfall is not huge, but the pool underneath is ideal for swimming. The water isn't crystal clear, but it's cooler than the sea and very refreshing.

The area is thick with tropical forest and makes a nice day trip from Lovina. The falls are more spectacular in the wet season (October to March), and may be just a trickle at other times.

Air Panas Banjar

☎ 0362

These **hot springs** (adult/child 6000/3000Rp, parking 2000Rp; ☎ 8am-6pm) are beautifully landscaped 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, 38°C water pours from 3m-high spouts to give you a pummelling massage.

From the bemo stop on the main road to the hot springs you can take an *ojek*; going back is a 2.4km downhill stroll.

PEMUTERAN

☎ 0362

This oasis in the far northwest corner of Bali has a number of artful resorts set on a little bay that's alive with local life such as kids playing soccer until dark.

This is the place to come for a real beach getaway. Most people dive or snorkel the underwater wonders at nearby Menjangan (p347) while here.

Pemuteran is home to the nonprofit Reef Seen Turtle Project, run by the Australian-owned **Reef Seen Aquatics** (☎ 93001; www.reefseen.com). Turtle eggs and small turtles purchased

from locals are looked after here until they're ready for ocean release. More than 7000 turtles have been released since 1994 and for a small fee, you can release one yourself. It's just off the main road east of Pondok Sari.

Reef Seen also offers diving, boat cruises and horse riding. A PADI introductory dive costs US\$60 and dives at Pemuteran/Pulau Menjangan are US\$60/70 for two dives. Sunset and sunrise cruises and glass-bottomed boat trips (per person 200,000Rp) are offered. Horse-riding treks pass through the local villages and beaches (from 300,000Rp for two hours).

Easy Divers (☎ 94736; www.easy-divers.eu) comes well recommended and the founder, Dusan Repic, has befriended many a diver new to Bali. Prices are similar to Reef Seen. It is on the main road near the Taman Sari and Pondok Sari hotels.

Pemuteran's hotels all have their own dive operations.

Sleeping & Eating

Pemuteran has many mellow midrange and top-end choices, all located on the bay, which has nice sand and is good for swimming. There are small warung along the main drag, otherwise all the hotels have good, mostly modestly priced, restaurants.

Some of the hotels are accessed directly off the main road, others are off of a small road that follows the west side of the bay.

Jubawa Home Stay (☎ 94745; r 180,000-270,000Rp; ☎) Not far from the Matahari on the south (hill) side of the road, this clean hotel is a good budget choice. The best of the 12 rooms have hot water and air-con. The cafe serves Balinese and Thai food and there is a popular bar.

Reef Seen (☎ 93001; www.reefseen.com; r 450,000Rp; ☎) Five solid Balinese-style brick bungalows have air-con and open-air bathrooms with showers. This is a well-regarded dive centre (left).

Pondok Sari (☎ 92337; www.pondoksari.com; r US\$50-160; ☎) There are 30 rooms here set in densely planted gardens that assure privacy. The pool is down by the beach; the cafe has sweet water views through the trees. Traditional Balinese details abound; the bathrooms are open-air and are a calling card for the stone-carvers. Deluxe units have elaborate stone tubs among other details. The resort is just off the main road.

Taman Sari Bali Cottage (☎ 93264; www.balitanaman.sari.com; bungalows US\$50-200; 🍴 🛏 🚿) Thirty-one rooms are set in gorgeous bungalows (some quite grand) that feature intricate carvings and traditional artwork inside and out. The open-air bathrooms inspire extended ablutions. Most rooms are under US\$100 – those over are quite grand. It's located on a long stretch of quiet beach on the bay. It's part of a reef restoration project.

Taman Selini Beach Bungalows (☎ 94746; www.tamanselini.com; r US\$90-200; 🍴 🛏) The 11 bungalows recall an older, refined Bali, from the quaint thatched roofs down to the antique

carved doors and detailed stonework. Rooms, which open onto a small garden area, have four-poster beds and large outdoor bathrooms. The outdoor day-beds can be addictive. It's immediately east of Pondok Sari, on the beach and right off the main road.

Getting There & Away

Pemuteran is served by any of the buses and bemo on the Gilimanuk–Lovina run. Labuhan Lalang (p348) and Taman Nasional Bali Barat are 12km west. It's a three- to four-hour drive from South Bali, either over the hills or around the west coast.