

Kuta, Legian & Seminyak



Few people can visit Bali and not spend time in Kuta, the original Balinese beach resort that defined the very idea of a beach holiday. Legian was a natural outgrowth to the north. Further north, however, Seminyak has become the centre for an altogether more stylish scene.

What links them all is a beautiful beach with pounding surf. Surfers, sun-seekers, strollers, loungers and more come here to play, party and relax in some combination depending on their moods. The entire region is devoted to catering to whims. Hotels, restaurants, bars, cafés, shops and a myriad more diversions by the thousand line the narrow and busy streets.

But within this vast area of development (many would say over-development), there are a multitude of neighbourhood personalities. Kuta is the original cheap and cheery party zone. The streets heave with traffic by day and crowds of boozing fun-seekers by night. Scores of cheap places offer deals that are amazingly cheap. Yes, a surfer can live here for US\$10 a day.

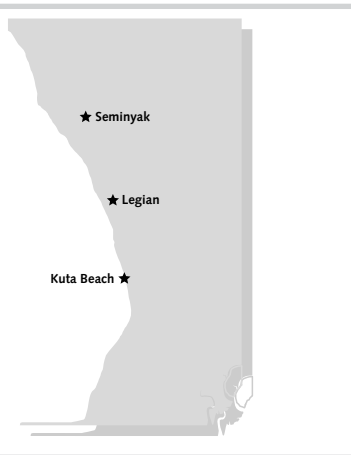
Legian is further north and is where Kuta surfers go when they get married and have a steady job. The hotels are more commodious; many right on the beach. Commerce is aimed at a slower-moving, more affluent crowd. Tuban, between Kuta and the airport, is similar.

Seminyak is for the hedonist, the poser, the conspicuous consumer and the image conscious. It has top-end resorts, designer shops and a thriving nightlife.

North of here development tapers off, but villas and shops aimed at Westerners do dot the imperilled rice fields. Along the beach, the surf is wilder and the scene more remote.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunbathing and partying at **Kuta Beach** (opposite)
- Hitting the latest bars, restaurants and clubs of **Seminyak** (p121)
- Shopping yourself silly north to **Seminyak** (p123)
- Brunching on the beachside terrace of a café in **Legian** (p111)
- Exploring the wild and secluded beaches like **Echo Beach** (p125) north of Seminyak



KUTA & LEGIAN

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Mention Kuta and people often first think of Kuta. Hot, loud, frenetic and crowded are some of the adjectives you can use to describe the place. And just north in Legian, it's almost the same, only a little less so. South of Kuta, Tuban heaves with a huge mall but elsewhere is more subdued.

But if images of tourism gone mad are what you picture with Kuta and Legian, then you also need to understand that their amazing strength – and it is singular – is the beach. The stretch of Kuta Beach, which for most people also includes Legian Beach, is one fine crescent of surf and sand. And everything here derives from it. You can cut loose in hedonistic surf bars, eat at cheap and tasty restaurants aimed at the masses, stay in back-alley losmen (small, often family-run hotels) that are a steal at under US\$10 a night, chill out at one of the many surfside hotels, shop for beachwear and much, much more.

Kuta and Legian may not be pretty but they're not dull. And amidst the rampant commercialism, you'll see the odd offering, a gentle smile and even the echo of a gamelan. And as frantic as the trio of neighbourhoods seems, a detour down a small *gang* (alley) can quickly transport you to a quiet and unhurried area.

HISTORY

Mads Lange, a Danish copra trader and 19th-century adventurer, set up a successful trading enterprise near modern-day Kuta in 1839. He mediated profitably between local rajahs and the Dutch, who were encroaching from the north. His business soured in the 1850s, and he died suddenly, just as he was about to return to Denmark. It's thought that his death may have been the result of poisoning by potential competitors. His **tomb** (Map p103; Jl Tuan Langa) is on his homesite just west of the night market.

Much to the annoyance of the Dutch Resident, Bob and Louise Koke's Kuta Beach Hotel thrived in the 1930s. The guests, mostly from Europe and the US, were housed in thatched bungalows built in an idealised Balinese style (the Resident called them 'filthy native huts'). After WWII, both Westerners and Balinese built their own hotels along

the beach, although most visitors were still wealthy travellers who arrived from abroad on ocean liners.

Kuta really began to change in the late 1960s, when it became a stop on the hippy trail between Australia and Europe. At first, most visitors stayed in Denpasar and made day trips to Kuta. But as more accommodation opened, by the early 1970s Kuta had relaxed losmen in pretty gardens, friendly places to eat and a delightfully laid-back atmosphere. Surfers also arrived, enjoying the waves at Kuta and using it as a base to explore the rest of Bali's coastline. Enterprising Indonesians seized the opportunity to profit from the tourist trade, often in partnership with foreigners seeking a pretext to stay longer.

Legian, the village to the north, sprang up as an alternative to Kuta in the mid-1970s. At first, it was a totally separate development, but these days you can't tell where one ends and the other begins.

With an economy completely dependent on mass tourism, especially from Australia, the downturn in tourism after the 2002 and 2005 bombings has been felt here more than any other part of Bali.

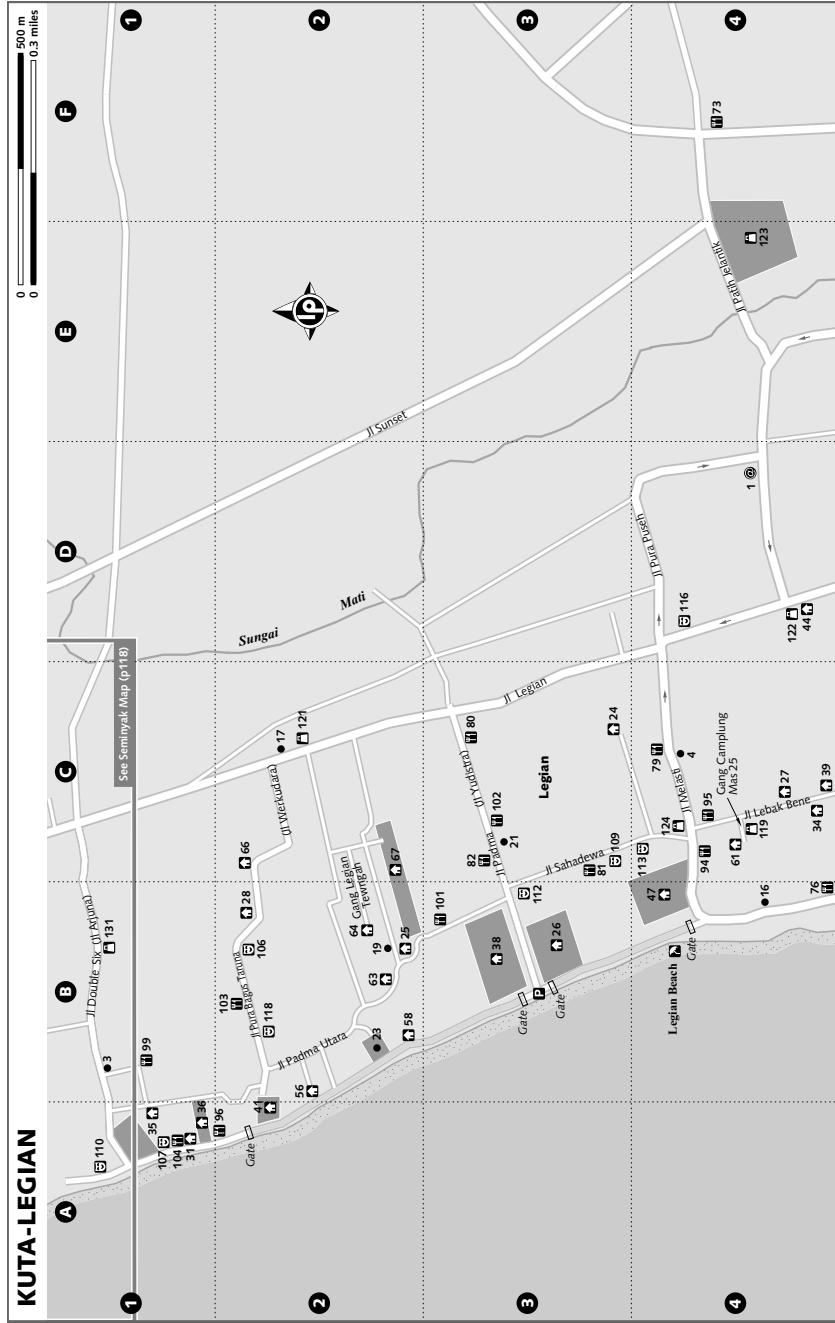
ORIENTATION

The Kuta region is a disorienting place. It's flat, with few landmarks or signs, and streets and alleys that are crooked and often walled on one or both sides so it feels like a maze. Traffic is terrible and walking is often the quickest way to get around, although scooters speeding down narrow *gang* can cause peril.

Busy Jl Legian runs roughly parallel to the beach from Kuta north into Seminyak. At the southern end is Bemo Corner, a small roundabout at the junction with Jl Pantai Kuta (Kuta Beach Rd). This one-way street runs west from Bemo Corner and then north along the beach to Jl Melasti. Together, these are the main roads, although traffic and numerous one-way traffic restrictions will still have you tearing at your hair.

Between Jl Legian and the beach is a tangle of narrow streets, tracks and alleys, with a hodgepodge of tiny hotels, souvenir stalls, *warung* (food stalls), building construction sites and even a few coconut palms.

Most of the bigger shops, restaurants and low-rent nightspots are along Jl Legian and the main streets that head towards the beach. There are also tons of travel agents, souvenir



KUTA-LEGIAN



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shops, banks, moneychangers, motorcycle and car-rental outlets, postal agencies, *wartel* (public telephone office) and internet cafés – all the holiday-maker needs are here.

North of Jl Melasti, Kuta merges into Legian, which has almost as many tourist businesses and only slightly less traffic. North of Jl Double Six/Arjuna, Legian becomes Seminyak (see p116), with its cool nightspots and great shopping. Somewhere south along Jl Kartika

Plaza, Kuta merges with Tuban, which has several beach resorts, a huge mall and a fair amount of low-key life.

See 'Pick a Name, Any Name' (p116) for information on street names in the region.

Maps

Besides the maps in this book, simple Kuta-area maps can be found in any of the scores of free tourist publications.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

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

Kerta Bookshop (Map pp96-7; ☎ 758047; Jl Pantai Kuta 6B) A book exchange with a better than average selection of books. Many break the Sheldon-Brown-Steele pot-boiler mould.

Periplus Bookshop Discovery Shopping Mall (Map p103; ☎ 769757; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban); Bali Galleria shopping centre (Map p100; ☎ 752670; Ngurah Rai By Pass) Has the largest selection of new books in Bali.

Emergency

Police station (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751598; Jl Raya Kuta; ☎ 24hr) Next to the Badung Tourist Office.

Tourist police post (Map pp96-7; ☎ 7845988; Jl Pantai Kuta; ☎ 24hr) This is a branch of the main police station in Denpasar. Right across from the beach, the officers – who have a gig that is sort of like a Balinese Baywatch – are friendly.

Internet Access

There are scores of places to connect to the internet in Kuta, Legian and Tuban. Most have pokey connections and charge about 200Rp to 300Rp a minute. The following two places have fast broadband connections and offer numerous services, including wi-fi, CD burning, digital camera downloads and more. Connection rates average 500Rp per minute.

Bali@Cyber Café (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761326; 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.

Internet Outpost (Map pp96-7; ☎ 763392; Poppies Gang II; ☎ 8am-2am) Has desks, couches and cold drinks.

Laundry

Most hotels, even top-end ones, have a laundry service for a comparatively low price. Back-street laundries are only marginally cheaper – about 1500Rp for jeans, 1000Rp for a shirt or shorts, 500Rp for underwear – and you have less recourse if something goes awry.

Medical Services

See p364 for international medical clinics serving all of Bali.

Guardian Melasti (Map pp96-7; ☎ 765217; Jl Melasti; ☎ 8am-10pm) Modern chain pharmacy with prescription drugs.

Klmia Farma (Map p103; ☎ 757196; Jl Dewi Sartika 64; ☎ 24hr) Pharmacy popular with locals for cheap prices.

Legian Medical Clinic (Map pp96-7; ☎ 758503; Jl Benesar; ☎ on call 24hr) Has an ambulance and dental service. It's 300,000Rp for a consultation with an English-speaking Balinese doctor, or 700,000Rp for an emergency visit to your hotel room. It has a well-stocked pharmacy attached to the clinic.

Money

There are several banks along Jl Legian, at Kuta Sq and Jl Pantai Kuta. In addition, ATMs abound 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've received, they may be adeptly short-changing their customers.

Exchange counters run by international banks are a new phenomenon and should offer reliable service.

Bank Commonwealth Tuban (Map p103; ☎ 750049; Jl Dewi Sartika 8X; ☎ 11am-7pm); Legian (Map pp96-7; ☎ 758070; Jl Legian)

Post

Postal agencies that can send but not receive mail are common.

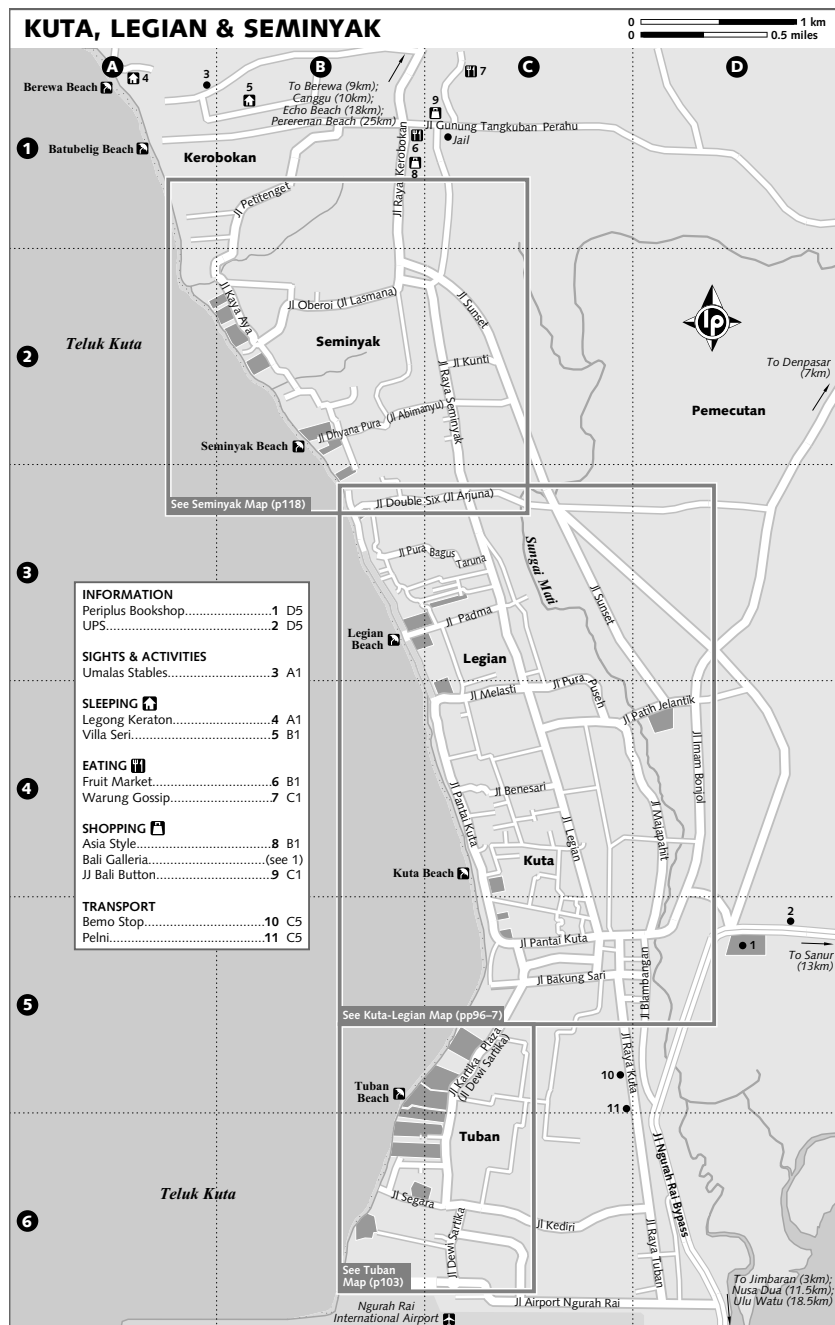
There are several cargo agencies in the Kuta area. If you've bought bulky items, the store will usually have arrangements with shippers to handle things for you. Or, for fast service, you can use one of the expensive international companies.

Main post office (Map pp96-7; Jl Selamet; ☎ 7am-2pm Mon-Thu, 7-11am Fri, 7am-1pm Sat) Is on a small road east of Jl Raya Kuta. It's small and efficient and has an easy, sort-it-yourself poste restante service. This post office is well practised in shipping large packages.

Postal agency (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761592; Kuta Sq; ☎ 10am-9pm) On the ground floor of the Matahari department store, they will mail packages.

Telephone

Wartel are concentrated in the main tourist areas, particularly along Jl Legian and along the main *gang* between Jl Legian and the beach. Hours are generally from 7am to 9pm, but some are open later. In most places, you can make international calls and send faxes (shop



around for international calls, as prices do vary), and arrange collect calls for a small fee.

Tourist Information

Other places that advertise themselves as 'tourist information centres' are usually commercial travel agents, and some can be helpful, especially for booking tours, activities and transport.

Tourist Information Centre (Map pp96-7; ☎ 766180; Jl Raya Kuta; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri)

Handles Kuta and the rest of Bali. Help is limited, however. It's best to have specific questions.

Hanafi (Map pp96-7; ☎ 756454; www.hanafi.net; Jl Pantai Kuta 1E) This gay-friendly tour operator and guide operates from a small veterinary clinic he shares with his sister. He's a valuable source of information on the gay scene, can also organise tours and has a small café here.

Travel Agencies

Many travel agents will arrange transport or car and motorcycle rental. They also sell tickets for tourist shuttle buses, Balinese dance performances, adventure activities and a variety of tours. Most will also change money and many can also book airline tickets.

Cevin Tour & Travel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 7437343; Jl Double Six 23) A reputable agent, popular with expats.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Although the streets and *gang* are usually quite safe, beware of a dubious gang linking Poppies Gang I with Jl Pantai Kuta. Scooter-borne prostitutes (who may hassle single men late at night) consummate their business here. The continuing economic downturn has brought many illicit activities out into the open. Walking along you may hear: 'massage' followed by 'young girl' and the ubiquitous 'transport' followed by 'blow'.

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. 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. Red flags with a skull and cross-bones signal no swimming allowed.

Theft

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

Water Pollution

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

SIGHTS

The real sight here is of course the **beach**. After that, it's a lot of streets, alleys and hub-bub – which can have their own fascination for wanderers, browsers and gawkers. You can find the odd non-touristy site like an old **Chinese Temple** (Map pp96-7; Jl Blambangan).

Reflecting the international character of the 2002 bombings (see p102), people from many nationalities pay their respects at the **memorial** (Map pp96-7). Listing the names of the 202 known victims, including 88 Australians and 35 Indonesians, it has an emotional effect on many who view it. Flower arrangements continue to arrive daily. Across the street, a vacant lot is all that is left of the Sari Club. Plans to turn it into a memorial park (www.balipeacepark.com) have so far proved difficult.

ACTIVITIES

From Kuta, you can easily go surfing, sailing, diving, fishing or rafting anywhere in the southern part of Bali, and be back for the start of happy hour at sunset.

Many of your activities in Kuta will centre around 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. You'll see everyone from bronzed international youth strutting their stuff, to local families trying to figure out how to get wet *and* preserve their modesty. When the tide is out the beach seems to stretch forever and you may be tempted to walk for kilometres

THE BALI BOMBINGS

On Saturday, 12 October, 2002 two bombs exploded on Kuta's bustling Jl Legian. The first blew out the front of Paddy's Bar. A few seconds later, a far more powerful bomb obliterated the Sari Club. The blast and fireballs that followed destroyed or damaged neighbouring clubs, pubs, shops and houses.

Close to midnight on the busiest night of the week, the area was packed. More than 300 people from at least 23 countries were injured. The number dead, including those unaccounted for, reached over 200, although the exact number will probably never be known. Many injured Balinese made their way back to their villages, where, for lack of decent medical treatment, they died.

Indonesian authorities eventually laid the blame for the blasts on Jemaah Islamiyah, an Islamic terrorist group. Dozens were arrested and many were sentenced to jail, including three who received the death penalty. But most received relatively light terms, including Abu Bakar Bashir, a radical cleric who many thought was behind the explosions. He was convicted of conspiracy and sentenced to 30 months, a term that enraged many, especially in Bali and Australia.

Although it took three years, Bali had largely bounced back in terms of tourism by 1 October 2005. On this busy Saturday, three suicide bombers blew themselves up: one in a restaurant on Kuta Sq and two more at beachfront seafood cafés in Jimbaran. It was again the work of Jemaah Islamiyah, and although documents found later stated that the attacks were targeted at tourists, 15 of the 20 who died were Balinese and Javanese employees of the places bombed (the others were tourists: four Australians and one Japanese).

Those who suffered the most were those whose livelihoods depended on tourism. The local economy plunged as visitor numbers fell by half and stayed low for months afterwards. However, whereas the Balinese collectively went into a sort of shock after the first bombing ('How could somebody do this to our island?'), after the second the reaction was much more angry. Said one long-time local observer: 'They're pissed.'

north or south. Sunsets are a time of gathering for just about everyone in south Bali. When conditions are right you can enjoy a fuchsia-coloured show that photos just can't capture properly.

Surfing

The beach break called Halfway Kuta, offshore near the Hotel Istana Rama, is the best place to learn to surf. More challenging breaks can be found on the shifting sandbars off Legian, around the end of Jl Padma; and at Kuta Reef, 1km out to sea off Tuban Beach (see p78 for details on these surf breaks). Several shops on Jl Legian sell big-brand surf gear and surfboards. Smaller shops 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. Some can also arrange transport to nearby surfing spots. Used boards in good shape average US\$200.

Quicksilver Boardriding School (Map pp96-7;

☎ 751214; qbs@quicksilver.co.id; Jl Double Six; half-day lesson US\$40)

Redz (Map pp96-7; ☎ 763980; redzsurf@iol.it; Jl Benesari) They have a large selection of boards and gear.

Tubes Surf Bar & Restaurant (Map pp96-7; Poppies Gang II; ☎ 10-2am) The surfers' hang-out, it shows surfing videos and publishes a widely circulated tide chart. Also keep an eye out for free surfing magazines such as *Magic Wave*.

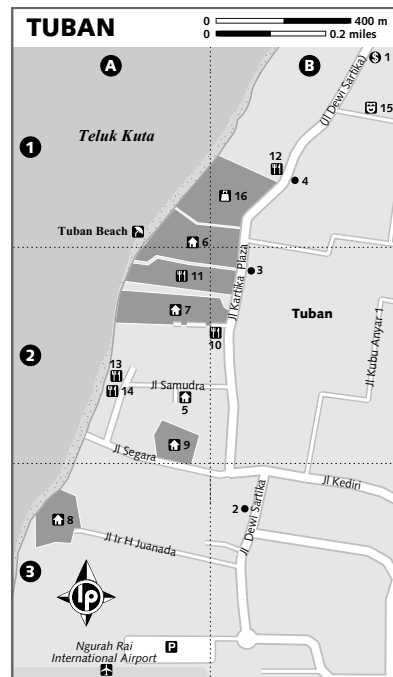
School of Surf (Map pp96-7; ☎ 750123; www.schoolofsurf.com; Jl Padma 51; classes from US\$39) This surf school is associated with the Da Nui surf shop in Legian.

Waterbom Park

This popular theme park (Map p103; ☎ 755676; www.waterbom.com; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; adult/child/family US\$18.50/9.50/50; ☎ 9am-6pm), south of Kuta, is set on 3.5 hectares of landscaped tropical parks and has assorted water slides, swimming pools, play areas, a supervised park for children under five years old, and a 'lazy river' ride. Other indulgences include the 'Pleasure Pool', a food court and bar, and a Mandara Spa (opposite). There are lifeguards and it's well supervised.

Swimming Pools

Most hotels will allow nonguests to use their pool for a fee. The most impressive is the Hard Rock Hotel's **aquatic playground** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761869; Jl Pantai Kuta; adult/child/family 100,000/



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50,000/250,000Rp; ☎ 8am-9pm). The vast, sinuous pool features two water slides and a sandy beach island. There are lifeguards, and if you need a snog, you can rent private cabanas for 100,000Rp.

Massages, Spas & Salons

The sybaritic pleasures of a massage or an interlude at a spa are an important part of many people's visit and choices are aplenty (see p84 for details). Scores of women offer massages on the beach. A reasonable price is about 20,000Rp for a half-hour massage and 40,000Rp for one hour, but you might have to bargain hard to get near this price if things are busy. Professional massages in your room or in a small massage establishment cost a negotiable 65,000Rp per hour. Most spas also offer facials, waxing and numerous indulgent services.

In the typically calm setting at **Jamu Spa** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752520; www.jamutraditionalspa.com; Alam Kul Kul, Jl Pantai Kuta; traditional massage US\$40; ☎ 9am-9pm) you can enjoy indoor massage rooms that open onto a pretty garden courtyard. If you've ever wanted to be part of a smoothie, here's your chance – treatments involve tropical

nuts, coconuts, papayas and more, often in fragrant baths.

There are many **Mandara Spas** (www.mandaraspas.com) in top-end hotels, including the Hotel Padma Bali **spa** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752111; Jl Padma 1; massages from US\$30; ☎ 10am-8pm). This divine spa is decorated with water features and impressive stone sculptural reliefs. Waterbom Park (opposite) also has a Mandara Spa where parents can find their own aquatic joy.

As stylish as its host hotel, **Spa** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751946; Bali Niksoma Beach Resort, Jl Padma Utara; traditional massage 270,000Rp; ☎ 9am-9pm) offers private suites where you can indulge, from a pampering Bali coffee scrub to Shiatsu.

The delightfully relaxed spa at **Putri Bali** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755987; Wisata Beach Inn, Jl Padma Utara; massage from 50,000Rp; ☎ 10am-9pm) offers a cream bath that has sent many spa-o-phile's heart a-twitter with delight. Located just off the main street, this lovely spa has very competitive prices.

Run by stylish hipsters, **Kudo's** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 756030; Jl Legian 456; ☎ 10am-8pm) is a high-concept salon that is *the* place to go for a cut and blow-dry. It's popular with brides before their Bali ceremony.

A WALK ON THE BEACH

That fabulous stretch of sand that starts in Kuta and runs north right past Seminyak can be the focus for a great day of exploring. Start where Jl Pantai Kuta meets the shore and head north. As your mood demands, frolic in and out of the surf while taking breaks on the sand.

As you pass Jl Melasti, the beach road is gated, making it a wide, quiet and pedestrian-friendly promenade. At various points, you'll find shady spots where you can relax and just soak up the sound of the waves while watching people stroll past. Time yourself so that by about noon you'll be at the patch of beach on the north edge of Legian where Jl Double Six meets the sand. Here you'll find a strip of outdoor cafés that are shady and enjoy ocean views. After lunch you can join locals and visitors in games like volleyball that give this popular beach relentless energy.

Continue north along the sand and ponder your massage options. Choose from one of the ladies on the beach or something more elaborate at one of the spas in the beachside hotels. With the afternoon starting to wind down, take a break on a rental lounge on the sand and enjoy a beverage from a vendor. Finally, as the sun sinks into the ocean in the west, finish up at Ku De Ta (p121), the popular beachside club that's a scene as well as a café.

Eventually, stop and have dinner at one of the many great places in Seminyak and then grab a cab home and collapse into bed.

Bungy Jumping

AJ Hackett Bungy (Map pp96-7; ☎ 731144; Jl Arjuna; US\$59; ☎ noon-8pm daily, 2-4am Fri & Sat), beside the beach at the Double Six Club (p113) in Legian, has a great view of the coast (it means you can't see the hideous tower you're standing on – or bouncing from).

Activities for Children

Except for the traffic, the Kuta region 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 and the better ones offer kids' programmes.

Amazone (Map p103; Discovery Shopping Centre, Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; ☎ 10am-10pm) has hundreds of screeching arcade games on the top floor of the mall.

Just south of the very kid-friendly Waterbom Park (p102) is **Le Speed Karts** (Map p103; ☎ 757850; Jl Kartika Plaza, Tuban; five-min ride 60,000Rp; ☎ 10am-10pm) where you can zip around a tiny track.

TOURS

A vast range of tours all around Bali, from half-day to three-day tours, can be booked through travel agents or hotels in Kuta. These tours are a quick and easy way to see a few sights if your time is limited and you don't want to rent or charter a vehicle. See p328 for more information on the type of tours available.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The first **Kuta Karnival** (www.kutakarnival.com) was held in 2003 as way of celebrating life after the tragedy of 2002. It's become an annual event held in late September or early October, albeit with fits and starts. Events include parades, arts competitions, cultural shows, beach sports tournaments, kite-flying contests and more.

There are also surfing contests throughout the year.

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 are generally along the smaller lanes in between. Tuban and Legian have mostly midrange and top-end hotels – the best places to find budget accommodation are Kuta and southern Legian.

With hotel names, be sceptical about words such as 'beach', 'sea view', 'cottage' and 'bungalows'. Places with 'beach' in their name may not be anywhere near the beach and a featureless, three-storey hotel block may rejoice in the name 'cottages'. Note that hotels on Jl Pantai Kuta are separated from the beach by a busy main road south of Jl Melasti. North of Jl Melasti, though, the beach road is protected by gates that exclude almost all vehicle traffic. Hotels here have what is in effect a quiet, paved beachfront promenade.

Any place that is west of Jl Legian won't be more than a 10-minute walk to the beach.

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 even among the cheapies, although the cheapest are fan- and cold-water-only.

KUTA

Many of the cheap places are along the tiny alleys and lanes between Jl Legian and the beach in central Kuta. This is a good place to base yourself: it's quiet, but only a short walk from the beach, shops and nightlife. A few places on the eastern side of Jl Legian are close to the bars and restaurants, but can be noisy and a fair hike from the beach. 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 pp96-7; ☎ 750054; off Poppies Lane I; s/d 30,000/50,000Rp) The budget winner in Kuta. Vampires (and partying surfers) will appreciate the dark, cold-water rooms at this attractive little place that features a tiny grotto-like garden.

Komala Indah I (Map pp96-7; ☎ 753185; Jl Benesari; r40,000-150,000Rp; ☎ ☎) The rooms here are set around a pleasant garden. The cheapest of the 33 rooms have squat toilets, fans and twin beds only. Part of the Komala empire, there are adjoining ding repair and laundry places.

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Dodging cars, motorcycles, touts, dogs and dodgy sidewalks can make walking through Kuta and Legian seem like anything but a vacation. It's intense and it can be stressful. You may soon be longing for uncrowded places where you hear little more the rustling of palm fronds and the call of a bird.

Think you need to book a trip out of town? Well, think again. You can escape to the country without leaving Kuta and Legian. All those teeming streets surround huge swaths of land and once you poke through the wall of commerce, you can be transported back to a Kuta and Legian of 30 years ago. The secret is to get off the streets and onto the *gang*. In Kuta this is hard as even these can be crowded, but take any alley or lane heading east of Jl Legian and you'll be in the quieter neighbourhood where the locals live.

Better still is Legian. Take any of the narrow *gang* into the area bounded by Jl Legian, Jl Padma, Jl Padma Utara and Jl Pura Bagus Taruna. Soon you'll be on narrow paths that go past local houses and the occasional simple *warung* (food stall) or shop. Wander at random and enjoy the silence accented by, yes, the sound of palm fronds and birds.

Rita's House (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751760; s/d 50,000/60,000Rp) Since 1971 this cheap, clean, cramped, cheerful 23-room losmen just north of Poppies Gang I has been renting rooms to weary surfers. The showers in the two-storey block are cold and the air is fan-driven.

Lili Garden Cottages (Map pp96-7; ☎ 750557; dursa@dps.centrin.net.id; s/d 50,000/75,000Rp) There are 25 rooms (some with hot water) in substantial brick bungalows hidden away by dense foliage. Guests can share cooking facilities and there is a tiny café.

Mekar Jaya (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754487; off Poppies Lane II; r60,000-70,000Rp) Twenty-five rooms in bungalows face huge, open and grassy grounds in the midst of Kuta. Tournament Frisbee players (or croquet buffs) will be thrilled. Rooms are simple with cold water.

Berlian Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751501; off Poppies Gang I; s/d 60,000/80,000Rp, with hot water 90,000/120,000Rp) A stylish cut above other budget places, the 24 rooms in two-storey buildings here are quiet and have *ikat* (cloth with a pattern produced by dyeing the individual threads before weaving) bedspreads and an unusual open-air bathroom design.

Kedin's II (Map pp96-7; ☎ 763554; Gang Sorga; s/d 70,000/90,000Rp; ☎) One of the best budget choices, the 16 cold-water rooms here have hints of style and are set in some fine gardens that feature a good-sized pool.

Bendesa (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751358; off Poppies Gang II; r90,000-250,000Rp; ☎ ☎) The 47 clean, simple rooms are quiet as the Bendesa is fairly isolated. There's an attractive new sinuous pool. The cheapest rooms – all clean – have cold water and fan.

Mimpi Bungalows (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751848; kumimp@yahoo.com.sg; off Gang Sorga; r 80,000R-150,000Rp; ☎ ☎) The cheapest of the 10 bungalow-style rooms here are the best value. The private gardens boast orchids and shade, and the pool is good-sized.

Lima Satu Cottages (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754944; Gang Bedugul; s/d 120,000/170,000Rp; ☎ ☎) On a *gang* of cheapies off Poppies Gang I, the 11 rooms here are in a three-storey block and are quite comfortable.

Masa Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 758507; www.masainn.com; Poppies Gang I; s/d 115,000/135,000Rp, with air-con 150,000/180,000Rp; ☎ ☎) A friendly and central place, Masa Inn offers decent value. All rooms have hot water and the large pool is a popular hang-out.

Sari Jaya (Map pp96-7; ☎ 756909; off Gang Sorga; r with fan US\$18, with air-con US\$24; ☎ ☎) A good-sized pool occupies the middle ground between two-storey blocks with 25 comfortable rooms. It's another of many good Gang Sorga choices.

Hotel Lusa (Map pp96-7; ☎ 753714; www.hotellusa.net; Jl Benesari; r US\$11-37; ☎ ☎) Older rooms here lack the flash of the rooms in a modern three-storey block but they are the better value. All guests of the 57 rooms can enjoy the pool, café and leafy grounds.

LEGIAN

The streets are wider and the pace is less frenetic than just south in Kuta. Budget places tend to be larger as well. Plunge into the interior for some quiet gems.

Sri Beach Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755897; Gang Legian Tewngah; r 50,000Rp) Follow a series of paths into the heart of old Legian. When you hear the cock crowing, you're close to this old family-run place with eight simple, clean rooms. At night palms rustle overhead.

Senen Beach Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755470; Gang Camplung Mas 25; s/d 50,000/60,000Rp) In a little *gang* near Jl Melasti, this low-key place is run by friendly young guys. Rooms have outdoor bathrooms and are set around a small garden. It's an atmospheric, quiet place to stay, with a small café.

Ady's Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 753445; off Jl Sahadewa; r 60,000-80,000Rp) Another hidden Legian find, there are eight simple bungalow-style units in a family compound down a long *gang*. Friendly dogs wander the expansive grounds.

Blue Ocean (Map pp96-7; ☎ 730289; r 120,000-130,000Rp, with air-con 150,000Rp; ☎ ☎) Almost on the

beach, the Blue Ocean is a clean and basic place with hot water and pleasant outdoor bathrooms. Many of the 24 rooms have kitchens and there's their action nearby day and night.

Su's Cottages II (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752127; fax 750372; Jl Pura Bagus Taruna; r incl breakfast 150,000Rp-200,000Rp; ☎ ☎) These 22 clean, bright rooms feature rattan beds. The two-storey blocks open onto an azure pool.

Sinar Indah (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755905; Jl Padma Utara; r 150,000-200,000Rp; ☎ ☎) This standard, fairly basic losmen is handy at only five minutes to the beach. It offers 18 plain, clean rooms with hot water.

Hotel Puri Tanah Lot (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752281; tana.lot@indo.net.id; Jl Lebak Bene; r with fan US\$12-14, poolside with balcony & air-con US\$18-20; ☎ ☎) The 57 rooms are scattered about three- and four-storey blocks; all with satellite TV. It's very good value and the spacious garden is a bonus.

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 latter for hapless groups.

TUBAN

There's midrange accommodation away from the surf and in the back streets east of Jl Kartika Plaza, but the places are out of the way and not very convenient for the beach or the nightlife areas.

Bakung's Beach Cottages (Map p103; ☎ 753941; www.bakungsbach.com; Jl Samudra; r US\$30-50; ☎ ☎) This older, modest resort-style hotel has 107 clean and comfortable rooms with air-con and satellite TV. The two-storey blocks are set around a big pool.

Rama Beach Resort (Map p103; ☎ 751557; www.ramabeachhotel.com; Jl Jeggala; s/d US\$60/70, bungalows US\$80; ☎ ☎) The beach in the name here is a three-minute walk away. This older 63-room resort has been tarted up with assorted fountain features, although some lucky guests may save their gushing for the bungalows with private pools.

KUTA

Most of these places are handy to the beach.

Suji Bungalow (Map pp96-7; ☎ 765804; www.sujibglw.com; off Poppies Gang I; r US\$20-50; ☎ ☎) This cheery place has a choice of 47 bungalows

and rooms set in a spacious, quiet garden around a pool. It's not flash but it's better than many similarly priced options. There's a shady poolside café.

Sari Yasa Samudra Bungalows (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751562; fax 752948; Jl Pantai Kuta; s/d US\$20/23, with air-con US\$35/40; ☎ ☎) An excellent location directly opposite the beach makes this 50-room place fine value. It has pleasant bungalows set in richly planted gardens with a large pool.

Kuta Puri Bungalows (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751903; www.kutapuri.com; Poppies Gang I; r US\$25-35, with air-con & hot water US\$35-50; ☎ ☎) The 47 bungalow-style rooms here are well maintained and are nestled in verdant, tropical grounds. The pool has a shallow kids' area.

Un's Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 757409; www.unshotel.com; Jl Benesari; s/d US\$28/30, with air-con US\$34/50; ☎ ☎) 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 have solar hot water, antiques and open-air bathrooms.

Simpang Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761306; www.indo.com/hotels/simpanginn; Jl Legian 133; s US\$25-48, d US\$30-65; ☎ ☎) Perfectly clean and functional, the three-storey blocks here are set around a pool. If you want to be close to the Kuta clubs it's a good choice.

Hotel Bounty (Map pp96-7; ☎ 753030; www.bountyhotel.com; Poppies Gang II; r US\$35-50; ☎ ☎) Two pools in leafy grounds are the draw here – one is quiet and low-key, the other is party central. The 166 rooms are comfortable and spread over several two-storey blocks.

Kuta Seaview Cottages (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751961; www.kutaseaviewhotel.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r US\$60-85; ☎ ☎) The 27 stylishly decorated cottages and 45 large rooms come complete with fresh flowers on the beds and a lovely garden setting. Right across the street from the beach, the pool area has surf views.

Poppies Cottages (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751059; www.poppiesbali.com; Poppies Gang I; r US\$60-85; ☎ ☎) This Kuta institution has a lush, green garden setting for its 20 thatch-roofed cottages with outdoor sunken baths. 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.

Hotel Kumala (Map pp96-7; ☎ 732186; Jl Pura Bagus Taruna; r US\$15-30; ☎ ☎) An amazing value, convenient to both Legian and Seminyak, the Kumala has large older-style rooms with teak furniture, modern bathrooms, and two pools in a garden filled with bamboo stands, frangipani and bougainvillea. Some cabbies call it the 'Kumala Grand'.

Hotel Sayang Maha Mertha (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751249; www.sayanghotel.com; off Jl Lebak Bene; r US\$8-45; ☎ ☎) The 56 rooms here range from basic with cold water to quite comfortable with a range of amenities like satellite TV. It has a bar, billiards and a medium-sized pool, and is popular with surfers.

Bali Village Bagak Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 753893; info@baliyillagehotel.com; Jl Werkudara; r 200,000-250,000Rp; ☎ ☎) The only thing shoddy about this well-run place is the brochure, which notes that it is 'clowned' by graceful green waving palm trees. Actually the trees aren't funny at all. But you'll laugh at the good deal when you get into one of the 27 rooms. The best have good cross-breezes. Cheap long-term rates.

Three Brothers Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751566; www.threebrothersbungalows.com; off Jl Padma Utara; r US\$20-35, with air-con US\$30-32; ☎ ☎) Twisting banyan trees shade scores of brick bungalows holding 90 rooms in the Brothers' sprawling and garden-like grounds. The fan rooms are the best option, but all rooms are spacious, some have lovely outdoor bathrooms, and most have solar hot water.

Bali Matahari Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 763707; www.balimatahari.com; Jl Lebak Bene; r from US\$25-35; ☎ ☎) Just off Jl Melasti, the Matahari has 38 smallish rooms in a two-storey block. The contemporary architecture manages to make the tight space seem larger than it is (it does mean the pool is *close* to your door).

Vilarisi Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 768010; www.vilarisi.com; Jl Lebak Bene 15x; r US\$25-40; ☎ ☎) A five-storey hotel in the heart of Legian, the 34 rooms here are comfortable and feature shady balconies with good views from the upper floors and rooftop lounge. Outdoor tables at the café overlook the busy *gang* below.

Hotel Camplung Mas (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751461; www.camplungmashotel.com; Jl Lebak Bene; r US\$26-40; ☎ ☎) Balinese stone architecture highlights the 69 bungalows set in walled compounds – if privacy is what you are after, this hotel is a good option. Even so, the rooms aren't overly exciting and you might just hit the beach five minutes away.

Hotel Kumala Pantai (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755500; www.kumalapantai.com; Jl Werkudara; r US\$30-50; 🏠 📶 🚿) One of the great deals in Legian. The 88 rooms are large with marble bathrooms that have separate shower and tub. The three-storey blocks are set in nicely landscaped grounds across from the beach. The breakfast buffet is bountiful.

Puri Tantra Beach Bungalows (Map pp96-7; ☎ 753195; puritantra@telkom.net; Jl Padma Utara 50X; s/d US\$35/40) These six charming, traditional, fan-only cottages are a step back in time and make for a mellow retreat. All have outdoor bathrooms and are right on the beach, which is reached through a vivid red door.

Sari Beach Inn (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751635; sbi@indo.net.id; off Jl Padma Utara; r US\$35-75; 🏠 📶 🚿) Follow your ears down a long *gang* to the roar of the surf at this great-value beachside hotel. The 21 rooms have patios and the best have big soaking tubs. The cute grounds boast many little statues and water features.

All Seasons Resort (Map pp96-7; ☎ 767688; www.accorhotels.com/asia; Jl Padma Utara; r US\$40-80; 🏠 📶 🚿) This Bali branch of the stylish, yet cheap, chain has 113 compact but well-appointed rooms set around a pool and waterfall. All rooms have balconies and wi-fi access. Service is as bright as the décor.

Top End

A beachfront room is the goal of many. Note that those in Tuban and north in Seminyak (p118) are usually right on the beach – although Seminyak's beach is far superior. Beachfront hotels in Kuta 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.

TUBAN

It's quieter here than Kuta but the action is a short walk north along the beach, which can get mighty small at high tide.

Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel (Map p103; ☎ 751067; www.discoverykartikaplaza.com; Jl Kartika Plaza; r US\$90-200; 🏠 📶 🚿) The 312 spacious rooms at this large resort front expansive gardens and a gigantic swimming pool. For a real splurge, rent one of the private villas on the beach (units 2 to 7 are best). The Discovery Mall next door may be a plus or a minus, depending on your whim.

Hotel Santika Beach (Map p103; ☎ 751267; http://santika.net; Jl Kartika Plaza; r US\$90-250; 🏠 📶 🚿) A cute

frangipani-lined entrance leads into these verdant grounds. Bungalows are secluded and have private gardens, and the 170 rooms have private balconies. The design is restrained compared to some of the big group-tour behemoths nearby.

Patra Bali Resort & Villas (Map p103; ☎ 751161; www.patra-jasa.com; Jl Ir H Juanada; r from US\$90, villas from US\$450; 🏠 📶 🚿) Just beyond the south end of Tuban Beach, the Patra Bali has 228 rooms with colour and flair. The grounds and pools are immaculate, the rooms well equipped and the location quiet. Some villas feature private pools.

Sandi Phala (Map p103; ☎ 753 780; www.the-san-diphala.com; Jl Segara; ste from US\$150; 🏠 📶 🚿) Butlers buttle around the clock at this boutique hotel on a quiet bit of Tuban Beach. The 11 suites are done up in stark, dark shades that contrast with the windows overlooking the gardens. There's broadband internet in the rooms and artistic touches abound. The excellent Ma Joly restaurant (opposite) adjoins.

KUTA

Alam Kul Kul (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752520; www.alamresorts.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r/villa US\$75/250; 🏠 📶 🚿) The Alam is an older hotel that has had a thoughtful redesign blending old and new design cues. It offers boutique charm amidst majestic, gnarled banyan trees. The 80 rooms and villas are nicely appointed. The Jamu Spa is on site (p103).

Mercurie Kuta (Map pp96-7; ☎ 767411; www.accorhotels-asia.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r US\$90-180; 🏠 📶 🚿) Across from the beach, the Mercurie is a contemporary five-storey hotel with 129 rooms done up in Cubist style and featuring a lofty rooftop pool. The rooms facing the beach have some of Kuta's best views and feature balconies.

HardRock Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761869; www.hardrockhotels.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r from US\$120; 🏠 📶 🚿) Nothing is understated about the swank 400 themed rooms, which all feel like a retail opportunity, what with the logo *everywhere*. The pool is ostentatious as well (which is a good thing; see p102). Staff are sharp and service is good – especially in the Megastore.

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.

Legian Beach Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751711; www.legianbeachbali.com; Jl Melasti; r from US\$100, bungalows from US\$150; 🏠 📶 🚿) Thatched bungalows are set among lovely gardens of tall coconut palms. The 206 rooms are comfortable, with extras like DVD players – you can see if that bootleg movie you paid a buck for actually works. The scenic pool area has fountains and a great view of the ocean from the swim-up bar.

Bali Niksoma Beach Resort (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751946; www.baliniksoma.com; Jl Padma Utara; r US\$75-150, villa from US\$400; 🏠 📶 🚿) The mannered and minimalist style here comes right out of the pages of a design magazine. There are two multi-level pools, one of which seems to disappear into the ocean and horizon. The 58 rooms are exquisite and the villas sublime. There is a noteworthy spa (p103).

Jayakarta Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751433; www.jayakarta-hotelsresorts.com; Jl Pura Bagus Taruna; r US\$110-200; 🏠 📶 🚿) The Jayakarta fronts a long and shady stretch of beach. The palm-shaded grounds, 277 large rooms, several pools and various restaurants make it a favourite with mums, dads and kids. The beach is just out the back door.

Bali Mandira Hotel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751381; www.bali-mandira.com; Jl Pantai Kuta; r US\$120, cottage from US\$150; 🏠 📶 🚿) Gardens filled with bird of paradise flowers set the tone at the Bali Mandira. Cottages have modern interiors, and the bathrooms are partly open-air. A dramatic pool at the peak of a stone ziggurat housing a spa offers uninterrupted ocean views.

Hotel Padma Bali (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752111; www.hotel-padma.com; Jl Padma; r US\$130-200; 🏠 📶 🚿) Guests are protected from the wilds of Legian at this sprawling resort hotel. Grassy berms shelter the pool and offer lovely beach views for loungers. Many of the 405 artfully decorated rooms have DVD players, so you can stay in. It has a branch of the well-regarded Mandara Spa (p103).

EATING

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

If you're looking for the laid-back scene of a classic travellers café, wander the *gang* and

look for the crowds. Often what's busy one night will be quiet the next. For quick snacks and other victuals Circle K convenience stores are everywhere and open 24 hours. Many have cheap, good delis.

Tuban

The beachfront hotels all have restaurants. In most cases the best feature for non-guests is the beachside cafés, good for a tropical snack or a sunset drink.

The **Discovery Shopping Mall** (Map p103; Jl Kartika Plaza; 🏠 above) is home to many places to eat. On the top floor there is a **food court** (meals 5000-10,000Rp) with scores of vendors selling cheap, fresh Asian food. You can eat outside on a balcony overlooking Kuta Beach. Near the entrance, **Bread Talk** (snacks 3000-7000Rp) is a wildly popular bakery where you grab tongs and choose your own goodies. There are also several trendy coffee places (and we're not talking about the international chain joint on level 1 that rhymes with 'pucks').

C-Line Restaurant (Map p103; ☎ 751285; Jl Kartika Plaza 33; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp) Local art lines the walls and bougainvillea shades the tables. Breakfasts, pasta, Indo standards, seafood and more are on the menu. The fruit juices are tops.

Kafe Batan Waru (Map p103; ☎ 766303; Jl Kartika Plaza; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp) The Tuban branch of one of Ubud's best cafés (p195) is a welcome addition to the local scene. It's a slickified version of a warung, albeit with excellent and creative Asian and local fare. There's good coffee, baked goods and newspapers on offer.

Pantai Restaurant (Map p103; ☎ 753196; Jl Segara; dishes 25,000-55,000Rp) Let your toes feel the sand at the beachside tables in this simple Jimbaran-style seafood restaurant. It's a little ramshackle, but the food's good.

Atmosphere Café (Map p103; ☎ 769501; Discovery Shopping Mall, Jl Kartika Plaza; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp; ☎ 11am-1am; 🏠) This posh, stylish café overlooks the surf. There's a large, umbrella-shaded patio and sleek lounge inside.

Golden Lotus (Map p103; ☎ 752403; Jl Kartika Plaza; dishes 40,000-100,000Rp; 🏠) This ever-popular Chinese restaurant is the best thing about the otherwise humdrum Bali Dynasty Hotel. The dining room and menu are posh Hong Kong.

Ma Joly (Map p103; ☎ 753708; Jl Segara; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp) A smart, open-air restaurant right on a private bit of beach, Ma Joly has a

French-accented menu and a good wine list. It adjoins the equally attractive Sandi Phala boutique hotel (p108).

Kuta ON THE BEACH

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

Circle K (Map pp96-7; Jl Pantai Kuta; sandwiches 15,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) This southern outlet of the cheerful chain has a deli counter where you can get freshly made salads and sandwiches. Picnic at one of the tables or skip across to the beach. There's another welcome location on a dreary stretch further north.

La Cabana (Map pp96-7; ☎ 766156; Jl Benesari at Jl Pantai Kuta; dishes 15,000-25,000Rp) A nice Kuta classic on an otherwise barren strip. Would you like a burger, pizza or maybe a rice dish? Sunsets here go well with beer.

CENTRAL KUTA

Kuta night market (Map pp96-7; Jl Blambangan; dishes 5000-10,000Rp; ☎ 6pm-midnight) This market bustles with locals and tourist workers chowing down on hot-off-the-wok treats, grilled goods and other fresh foods.

Bamboo Corner (Map pp96-7; Poppies Gang I; dishes 6000-9000Rp) This surfer classic has vegetarian plus local dishes. It's very popular and the fast turn-over keeps things ultra fresh. The atmosphere can be best described as veteran.

Ming Kitchen (Map pp96-7; ☎ 765766; Poppies Gang II; dishes 12,000-25,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) Simple stir-fries are served here with a bit of style.

Alleycats Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 0813-38497592; off Poppies Gang I; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) Two British expats serve up a range of evocative caff standards: beans with breakfast, butter on your sandwich at lunch.

Made's Warung (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752597; Jl Pantai Kuta; dishes 15,000-90,000Rp) Made's was the original tourist warung in Kuta. Time has only improved the offerings: a menu of Indonesian classics prepared and served with more attitude and authority than the usual warung.

TJ's (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751093; Poppies Gang I; dishes 25,000-60,000Rp) In the tradition of nearby Poppies and Un's, walls here open onto a lovely garden. Water courses through the dining room where Tex-Mex chow has been served up for years. The fun just keeps going.

Un's Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752607; south of Poppies Gang I; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp) At night, little

tea lights enliven the attractive, walled gardens here and make for a atmospheric setting. Look for fusion offerings with an international bent. The hotel (p107) is good value.

Poppies Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751059; Poppies Gang II; dishes 30,000-90,000Rp) Poppies was one of the first restaurants in Kuta (Poppies Gang I is named after it), and is popular for its lush garden setting. There are little pebbles underfoot and it feels slightly mysterious in a romantic way. The delicious food is upscale western and Balinese. Poppies Cottages (p107) is one of Kuta's best.

ALONG JL LEGIAN

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

Aroma's Café (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751003; Jl Legian; dishes 20,000-45,000Rp) A gentle garden setting circled by water fountains makes a fine place to face the start of the day over fine fresh juices, breakfasts and coffee. A long vegetarian menu is served throughout the day (the sandwiches are excellent), although the somnolent service could use a dash of protein.

Kopi Pot (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752614; Jl Legian; dishes 22,000-50,000Rp) Shaded by trees, Kopi Pot is an old tourist favourite popular for its coffees, milk shakes and myriad of desserts. The menu is typically varied. The multi-level, open-air dining area sits back from stinky Jl Legian.

Kunti Japanese (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761454; Jl Legian 14; dishes 25,000-30,000Rp) You know it's fresh because Kunti doesn't smell like fish. Poke into one of the tight tables for good sushi.

ESC (Map pp96-7; ☎ 756362; Jl Legian 61; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp; ☎ 24hr; ☎ ☎) This high-concept place may be a bit much, both in style (motto: 'Urban Food Station') and price, but it does serve good fresh salads, sandwiches and baked goods in air-con comfort. There's also pricey internet access and wi-fi.

Nero Bar & Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 750756; Jl Legian; meals 20,000-80,000Rp; ☎ 10am-midnight) Nero has a slick, high-design interior and the international menu has a Mediterranean and seafood bent. It's all a bit chic with lots of dark colours and rattan.

Ketupat (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754209; Jl Legian; dishes 28,000-120,000Rp) Hidden behind the antique-filled Jonathan Gallery, Ketupat is a calm, serene oasis. The dining pavilions overlook an azure pool. Dishes originate from across Indonesia, including Javanese curries, such as *nasi*

hijau harum (fried rice with greens, shrimps and herbs). An elaborate *nasi campur* is only 60,000Rp.

Mama's (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761151; Jl Legian; dishes 30,000-110,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) This German classic serves up schnitzel and other meaty dishes around the clock. The beer comes by the litre and the open-air bar is a merry place for enjoying satellite sports.

ON & NEAR POPPIES GANG II

Warung Indonesia (Map pp96-7; dishes 5000-16,000Rp) This is one of several similar, totally unpretentious cheapies on this lane serving up typical travellers fare. It has a genial mix of surfers and locals who enjoy the barbecued chicken.

Bali Corner (Map pp96-7; dishes 8000-20,000Rp) At the crossroads of a myriad of little lanes, this is one of the cheap travellers eateries with a classic menu. It serves up the usual range of Indonesian, Western and Chinese foods, and of course, the perennial crowd pleaser: pizza.

Balcony (Map pp96-7; ☎ 757409; Jl Benesari 16; dishes 20,000-80,000Rp) The Balcony has a breezy tropical design and sits above the hubbub below. It's a good place to celebrate a good day spent riding the waves; you can wash down grilled steaks and seafood with the various fruity drinks.

Kori Restaurant & Bar (Map pp96-7; ☎ 758605; Poppies Gang II; meals 15,000-90,000Rp) Kori's tables weave through a gorgeous assemblage of gardens and ponds. It has a good selection of pasta, upscale Indonesian, burgers and more. Good for a secluded rendezvous over a non-cliché tropical drink in the flower-bedecked nooks out back. Some nights there's live jazz and blues.

EAST OF KUTA

Bali Bakery (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755149; Jl Imam Bonjol; meals 20,000-60,000Rp; ☎ ☎) A classic Western bakery, there are fresh baguettes and much more daily. The chocolates are terrific. It also has a large and popular café with a good menu of salads, sandwiches and steaks. There's wi-fi and lots of international newspapers.

Swiss Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761511; Istana Kuta Galeria, Jl Patih Jelantik; meals 30,000-80,000Rp) Relocated from Legian to this echoey mall, the Bali Swiss consul, Jon Zürcher, plays his violin many nights and hosts Balinese dancers on Thursday nights. This is the place for *raclette* and fondue.

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 ho-hum mix with the superb, so take your time choosing.

Warung Yogya (Map pp96-7; ☎ 750835; Jl Padma Utara; dishes 10,000-15,000Rp) A real find in the heart of Legian, this barebones warung is spotless and serves up hearty portions of local food for prices that would almost tempt a local. The gado-gado comes with a huge bowl of peanut sauce.

Warung Asia (Map pp96-7; ☎ 742 0202; off Jl Double Six & Jl Pura Bagus Taruna; dishes 10,000-20,000Rp) Look down a couple of little *gang* for this gem of a spot. Traditional Thai dishes are served in a richly detailed open-air café. There's an authentic Italian espresso machine and lots of newspapers.

Wayan & Friends (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761024; Jl Padma; dishes 9000-40,000Rp) Don't want to burden Wayan and his pals by having them concoct a sandwich just for you? You can customise your own from the many choices. Wash it down with healthy fruit and vegetable juices. There's a kids' menu.

Restaurant Puri Bali Indah (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751644; Jl Melasti; dishes 12,000-60,000Rp) Listen to the woks roar in the open kitchen at this good Chinese choice. The menu is almost as long as the Great Wall, featuring dozens of seafood choices.

Joni Bar Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751182; Jl Padma; dishes 17,000-46,000Rp) Take the plunge into the party atmosphere around the large swimming pool here and polish up your strokes. The Tex-Mex meals, live music and evening happy hour (6pm to 9pm) are popular.

Gosha Bar & Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 759880; Jl Melasti; dishes 20,000-85,000Rp) The scent of barbecued shrimp wafts through the airy bamboo interior here, where the focus is on charcoal-grilled seafood. Take a table on the tiled patio.

Indo-National (Map pp96-7; ☎ 759883; Jl Padma 17; dishes 20,000-90,000Rp) There's a big new location for Kerry and Milton Turner's always popular restaurant. Fortunately, the excellent fresh food and décor can still put you on cloud 9 (and out back there are some shady and romantic tables). People feel like regulars from

the time they hit the genial bar. Order the heaping grilled seafood platter and Bali's best garlic bread – the prawn toast is tops.

Sana Restaurant (Map pp96-7; ☎ 767312; Jl Melasti; dishes 25,000-80,000Rp) Give the kid a hot dog at this bustling corner spot, which amends its long menu with a children's page. There's creative Indonesian and many grilled items served on the large patio or in the breezy room upstairs.

Yut'z (Map pp96-7; ☎ 765047; Jl Pura Bagus Taruna 52; dishes 30,000-90,000Rp) An upscale European restaurant, Yut'z overlooks the street and a small garden. The menu boasts many steaks, prices are good and there are daily specials. If you're a German breakfast fanatic, you can get your *Fruhstuck* fix here.

Papa's Café (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755055; Alam Kul Kul, Jl Pantai Kuta; dishes 30,000-100,000Rp) Enjoy ocean views at this breezy Italian café in the Alam Kul Kul hotel. The menu ranges from simple sandwiches to elaborate seafood dishes. There are more options like this place at neighbouring hotels.

DOUBLE SIX BEACH

These places are right on the beach, which is widely popular with locals and visitors alike.

Zanzibar (Map pp96-7; ☎ 733529; Jl Double Six; dishes 20,000-45,000Rp) Sunset is prime time, but during the day you can enjoy the shade of the large trees overhead. Popular day and night, dishes are tasty variations on Bali menu classics like the *nasi* family and the burger bunch.

Seaside (Map pp96-7; ☎ 737140; Jl Double Six; dishes 25,000-70,000Rp) The curving sweep of seating at this sleek place provides beach views for one and all. The menu mixes faux Mexican with authentic fusion. The burgers and sandwiches are good. Just try to pass without plopping down on a bench for at least one drink.

ENTERTAINMENT

Around 6pm, sunset on the beach is the big attraction, perhaps while enjoying a drink at a café with a sea view. After a good dinner, many visitors are happy enough with another drink (or two) and a stroll in the cooler evening air. But a lot of people are on holiday and here to party, and in Kuta and Legian that means lots of drinking, dancing and late nights. The more sophisticated nightspots are mainly in Seminyak (p121), where the ambience is decidedly hipper, and where many clubs don't get going until after 11pm.

Watching DVD movies at a bar with a crowd is a Kuta tradition and you'll find scores of places in and around Poppies Gang II. Look for signs during the day or follow your ears at night. Expect anything with lots of guns and guys.

Bars & Clubs

Most bars are free to enter, and often have special drink promotions and 'happy hours' between about 5pm and 8pm. A cover charge is a rarity. Ambience ranges from the low-down vibe of the surfer dives to the high-concept nightclubs with their long drink menus and hordes of prowling servers.

At many of the more raucous clubs you'll see plenty of young women (usually from the north or a neighbouring island) looking to make a 'friend' – usually a Western guy who's a multiple of their age.

The swank clubs of Seminyak are most popular with gays and lesbians, but in general you can find a mixed crowd pretty much anywhere in Kuta and Legian.

TUBAN

Deelay Cafe (Map p103; ☎ 758880; 2nd fl, Kuta Centre, off Jl Kartika Plaza 8x; ☎ 2-7am) In the post-midnight hours, this place rocks in the post-apocalyptic Kuta Centre, the run-down shell of a tourist mall. House DJs play tribal underground, progressive trance and more.

KUTA

Apache Reggae Bar (Map pp96-7; ☎ 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. A more sedate café is out front.

Bounty (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752529; Jl Legian; ☎ 10pm-6am) Set on a faux sailing boat amidst a mini-mall of food and drink, the Bounty is a vast open-air disco that humps, thumps and pumps all night. Climb the blue-lit staircase and get down on the poop deck to hip-hop, techno, house and anything else the DJs come up with. Frequent foam parties.

Dilenile (Map pp96-7; ☎ 0812 396 0982; off Jl Legian; dishes 7000-15,000Rp; ☎ 4-11pm) Run by an architect and antique collector, this little chill-out place down a *gang* has a French accent and lots of room for lounging. The tiny gleaming

kitchen turns out some spectacular *mie goreng* (rice-flour noodles fried with vegetables, often meat and sauces).

Fuel (Map pp96-7; ☎ 765777; Jl Legian 62; ☎ 11am-5am) This high-concept café has a stark red and black design and popular features such as 'sexy dancers'. There are lots of shot specials and the motto is 'eat, drink, groove'.

Hard Rock Café (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755661; Jl Pantai Kuta; burgers 60,000Rp; ☎ 11-2am) A merchandising outlet disguised as a nightclub, the sprawling Hard Rock fronts the beach and is a magnet for local and Javanese yuppies. Slick bands play classic rock covers.

Oscar's Pub (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755674; Jl Benesari; ☎ noon-midnight) A low-key pub with good drinks, snacks and a couple of tables outside.

Paddy's (Map pp96-7; Jl Legian 66; ☎ 4pm-4am) Reborn near Bounty after 2002, Paddy's is walled in front, but that doesn't mean that the pulse-pounding rock inside doesn't spill out onto the street. Lots of partiers drawn by the cheap beer specials.

Peanuts (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754226; cnr Jl Legian & Jl Melasti; ☎ 11pm-late) Testosterone-fuelled Peanuts attracts gigolos of all persuasions and their suitors. *Arak* and 'Jungle Juice' feature big time at this place, while the hawkish facade of the Screaming Eagle Bar could bring a snuffle to any marine.

Tubes Surf Bar & Restaurant (Map pp96-7; Poppies Gang II; ☎ 10-1am) A cavernous place that's deserted during the day, but attracts an enthusiastic crowd in the evening. The music is commercial and a long way from the bad cover bands found elsewhere. Kiosks open in the evening with info on surf lessons and trips. Beer specials pour forth.

LEGIAN

Most of Legian's bars are smaller and appeal to a more relaxed crowd of visitors than those in Kuta. The very notable exception is the area at the end of Jl Double Six.

Capt Cook (Map pp96-7; ☎ 761122; Jl Werkudara; ☎ 3-11pm; ☎) You may not discover Hawaii at this corner place but you can explore the pool table or settle back for a lengthy voyage at the bar.

Dolphin (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755376; Jl Sahadewa; ☎ 3-11pm) A popular spot in the heart of Legian, the Dolphin draws crowds nightly bands playing everything from pop to country.

Hulu Café (Map pp96-7; ☎ 081-7470 8730; Jl Sahadewa; ☎ 4pm-1am) Everyone is singing 'Dancing

Queen' at this small cabaret. Ten drag queens stage two shows nightly to orgasmic applause.

Legend (Map pp96-7; ☎ 755376; Jl Sahadewa; ☎ 3-11pm) A popular open-air spot, the Legend draws nightly crowds for 'Elvis Parsley' and live music shows, playing everything from pop to country.

Ye Olde Foo-kin Pub (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751802; Jl Werkudara 525; ☎ 3-11pm; ☎) It's always nice to see a pub with a historical context. Burgers and more are served in a cool, woodsy bar that's probably more fun than the ones the Aussie patrons enjoy at home.

Jl Double Six

The eponymous club is the big destination here. There's usually another raucous post-midnight club running just next door (although the name changes by the season).

De Ja Vu (Map pp96-7; ☎ 732777; Jl Double Six; ☎ 5pm-4am; ☎) DJs are on duty from opening every night at this high-concept, glass-fronted club with beachfront tables outside.

Double Six Club (Map pp96-7; ☎ 0812 462 7733; Jl Double Six; ☎ 11pm-6am) This renowned club got an upscale makeover to better compete with the clubs on Jl Dhyana Pura. The swimming pool is still there and so is the bungy jump (save the crowd and *don't* have that extra drink before leaping into the void; see p104). Top international DJs play a mix of dance tunes in a sleek open-air pavilion right out of *Wallpaper** magazine.

Balinese Dance & Music

The Ubud area (p197) is really the place to go for authentic dance, and you'll see offers in many hotels from tour operators. But note that you won't get back to Kuta until after 10pm with most of these.

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 is lined with wholesale fabric, clothing and craft stores, giving it a bazaar feel. Continue into Seminyak (see p123) for absolutely fabulous shopping. Many better places purr with air-con.

In Tuban, the Discovery Shopping Mall is a huge hit, but nearby, Kuta Sq is not a fun date as the condo tout count is high and it's just not very appealing.

There are still scads of simple stalls (especially along the Poppies) where T-shirts, souvenirs and beachwear are the main lines, and where the price depends on your bargaining ability (p342). Many of these stalls are crowded together in art markets like the one near Kuta Sq (Map pp96-7) or the one on Jl Melasti (Map pp96-7). Here the 'art' refers to the creative application of Bintang logos to cotton.

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.

Apolina Gallery (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751334; Jl Lebak Bene; ☎ 10am-6pm) This offbeat place in Legian is run by half a dozen local artists. The paintings of artist Wahyoe Wijaya are on display, as well as all manner of items good, bad and profane.

Arin 93 Gallery (Map pp96-7; ☎ 776 5087; Jl Singasari) Heru Purnomo is a prolific painter of works, from the abstract to representational. Here you can see him work and take classes.

Ras Masta (Map pp96-7; ☎ 081-338686; Jl Pantai Kuta 8) Want to beat your bongo? This cool little shop sells custom-made drums and a plethora of other instruments.

Beachwear & Surf Shops

A huge range of surf shops sell big-name surf gear – including Mambo, RipCurl 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.

RipCurl (Map pp96-7; ☎ 765035; Kuta Sq) If everything in your luggage is looking a little tired and you want to make a bit of a splash, you can't go wrong in this big store with a huge range of beach clothes, water wear and surfboards.

Surfer Girl (Map pp96-7; ☎ 752693; Jl Legian 138) The winsome logo says it all about this vast store for girls of all ages. Clothes, undies, gear, bikinis, you name it.

Clothing

The local fashion industry has diversified from beach gear to sportswear to fashion clothing. From the intersection with Jl Padma, go north on Jl Legian to Seminyak for the most interesting women's (and men's) clothing shops.

Milo's (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754081; Kuta Sq Block E) Milo is a legendary local designer who arrived from Italy three decades ago and made his fortune designing and producing fine silk batik clothes. If cost is an issue, you might have to settle for just a scarf (2,000,000Rp). There's a small branch at Made's Warung II in Seminyak (p123).

Uluwatu (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751933; Jl Legian) The largest of numerous locations across southern Bali, this elegant shop showcases the collections of lace-accented linen and cotton clothing. The styles are simple and few tables wouldn't stand out with a set of Uluwatu table linens. The items are made in villages around Tabanan in West Bali.

IO & CO (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754093; Jl Legian 361) Gauzy, silky and fashionable women's wear in a sleek multi-level air-con shop. This Bali label also sells wholesale.

Spank! (Map pp96-7; ☎ 767 461; Jl Pantai Kuta) For thickos who don't get it, the monkey with a tanned arse logo says it all about this irreverent clothing shop. Fun and sassy clothes. There are some other interesting boutiques nearby.

Department Stores & Malls

Discovery Shopping Mall (Map p103; ☎ 755522; www.discoveryshoppingmall.com; Jl Kartika Plaza; ☎ 9am-9pm) Your eyes follow the beautiful sweep of sand south along the Kuta shore until you see...this! Huge and hulking, this enormous, enclosed Tuban mall is built on the water and is filled with stores of every kind, including a large Centro (☎ 769629) department store. It's proven a huge hit with locals and visitors alike who can look past the obvious aesthetic woes.

Matahari (Map pp96-7; ☎ 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 loot home.

Bali Galleria (Map p100; ☎ 758875; Jl Ngurah Rai) A large open-air Western-style mall that is busy with locals and tourists alike. There are

numerous large stores and plenty of well-known shops (Body Shop, Marks & Spencer etc). The duty-free emporium is big with the bus-tour set.

Istana Kuta Galleria (Map pp96-7; Jl Patih Jelantik) An enormous open-air mall that aspires to be something out of West Hollywood. For now it's a bit of dud but there are some interesting places amidst the empty storefronts. There is a hardware store in the rear if your needs run towards plungers or duct tape.

Fabric

Stroll Jl Double Six in Legian for a festival of open-air wholesalers selling fabrics, clothes and housewares. **Bouchra** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 733594; Jl Double Six 10) sells fabric with Gaugin-esque designs that's hand-painted in Denpasar. **Shafira** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 733593; Jl Double Six 9) has embroidered and sequin-covered fabrics good for cushions. **Sriwijaya** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 733581; Jl Double Six 35) makes batik and other fabrics to order in a myriad of colours.

Furniture

On Jl Patih Jelantik, between Jl Legian and Jl Pura Puseh there are scores of furniture shops manufacturing everything from instant 'antiques' to wooden Indians. However, a few make and sell teak outdoor furniture of very high quality at very low prices. A luxurious deck chair goes for about 200,000Rp to 250,000Rp. Most of the stores work with freight agencies and you can get eight of these chairs sent to Australia for about US\$150.

Housewares

Djeremi (Map pp96-7; ☎ 744 6547; Jl Legian) Top-quality placemats, cushions, mosquito nets and more are stocked floor-to-ceiling. The workshop is nearby and you can get custom work.

Jonathan Gallery (Map pp96-7; ☎ 754209; Jl Legian 109) A horde of traditional art and antiques are beautifully displayed in this shop.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Bemo

Dark blue public *bemo* (small pick-up truck) regularly travel between Kuta and the Tegal terminal in Denpasar – the fare should be 8000Rp. The route goes from a stop onto Jl Raya Kuta near Jl Pantai Kuta, looping past the beach and then on Jl Melasti and back past Bemo Corner (Map pp96-7) for the trip back to Denpasar.

Bus

PUBLIC BUS

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

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

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

Perama (Map pp96-7; ☎ 751551; www.peramatur.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. In busy seasons, there will be three or more popular spots like Ubud.

Destination

Fare

Candidasa	40,000Rp
Lovina	70,000Rp
Padangbai	40,000Rp
Sanur	15,000Rp
Ubud	30,000Rp

GETTING AROUND

The hardest part about getting around the Kuta area is the traffic. It can be awful in the afternoon and evening, and anytime the vital streets like Jl Legian are closed for religious processions or for what seems to be constant construction.

See p353 for more details on getting around. Besides the frequent taxis, you can rent a scooter, often with a surfboard rack, or a bike – just ask where you are staying. One of the nicest ways to get around the Kuta and Legian area is by foot along the beach.

To/From the Airport

An official taxi from the airport costs 30,000Rp to Tuban, 45,000Rp to Kuta and 50,000Rp to Legian. To the airport, get a metered taxi for less than half.

Charter Transport

It's easy to find a vehicle to charter – just walk down a street and you will be assailed with offers of 'transport'. And, just in case you don't understand, the driver will effusively gesticulate the motions of driving a car.

A full-day, eight-hour charter should run between 300,000Rp and 400,000Rp, but more if it's non-stop driving over a long distance. You can estimate a price for shorter trips on a proportional basis, but you'll have to bargain. The 'first price' for transport can be truly outrageous.

Taxi

Plenty of taxis work the Kuta area. Most use their meters regularly and are relatively cheap. Taxis are indispensable for getting around town at night, and they can also be hired for longer trips anywhere in southern Bali, and even as far as Ubud. As always, the blue taxis of **Bali Taxi** (☎ 701111) are far and away the best bet.

SEMINYAK

Seminyak may be next 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. It is the centre of life for hordes of the island's expats, many of whom own boutiques or design clothes, surf, or seem to do nothing at all.

It's also a very exciting place to be. It's home to dozens of restaurants and clubs. And it seems that when a hot new place opens, it's in Seminyak. Along Jl Legian and its successor in the north, Jl Raya Seminyak, and the odd side street, are a wealth of creative shops and galleries. World-class hotels line the beach. And what a beach it is, as deep and sandy as Kuta's but less crowded.

There's a lot of good and bad about Seminyak that seems to be taken from the pages of a glossy magazine, but there's also surprises. Not every beachfront hotel is world-class or charges world-class prices. All those restaur-

rants and clubs combine to give the greatest choice of style and budget on Bali. And sure there are exclusive boutiques, but there are also workshops where everything is wholesale. And just when you've tired of trying to cross the street in front of zooming expats in SUVs, a religious procession comes through and shuts everything down.

In the end there's no way to characterise Seminyak. It has everything to offer and you'll only miss out if you don't give it a whirl.

ORIENTATION

The southern border of Seminyak runs north of Jl Double Six. Jl Raya Seminyak is the continuation of Jl Legian from Kuta and is lined with interesting shops and other businesses. Jl Dhyana Pura is lined with bars and restaurants and accesses many hotels. It is sometimes one-way.

Jl Oberoi heads west to the resort of the same name. From here things get real tricky as the road wanders north through a part of Seminyak that some people call Petitenget, is properly called Jl Pantai Kaya Aya, but is also known as both Jl Oberoi and Jl Laksmana! Either way, the road commonly called Jl Oberoi is home to a profusion of excellent restaurants, upscale boutiques and more. Meanwhile as Jl Seminyak continues north it changes to Jl Raya Kerobokan and is lined with many craft and furniture showrooms and workshops.

See 'Pick a Name, Any Name' (opposite) for more information on the confusing street names in the region.

INFORMATION

Seminyak shares many services with Kuta and Legian.

Bookshops

The Bali Deli (p118) and Bintang Supermarket (p121) have large book and periodicals sections.

Periplus (☎ 734843; Made's Warung II, Jl Raya Seminyak) Has the usual good selection of art books and periodicals.

Internet Access

Most of the top-end hotels have broadband connections for guests. A growing number of cafés and bars offer free wi-fi for patrons as noted in the listings.

Island Internet (Jl Raya Seminyak; per 30min 4500Rp; ☎ 8.30am-10pm) Located above a small market just north of Bintang Supermarket. Full-service shop with wi-fi.

Medical Services

Taiga Pharmacy (☎ 732621; Jl Raya Seminyak 19; ☎ 24hr) Has a full range of prescription medications.

Money

ATMs can be found along all the main roads.

Post

Postal agency (☎ 761592; Bintang Supermarket, Jl Raya Seminyak 17)

SIGHTS

North of the string of hotels on Jl Pantai Kaya Aya, **Pura Petitenget** is an important temple and the 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. The temple honours the visit of a 16th-century priest.

ACTIVITIES

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

Spas

Spa (☎ 730622; Legian, Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; ☎ 10am-9pm) in the Legian is suitably lavish and clients can avail themselves of various private spa suites set among gardens.

At **Jari Menari** (☎ 736740; Jl Raya Seminyak 47; ☎ 10am-9pm), true to its name, which means 'dancing fingers', your body will be one happy dance floor. The all-male staff use massage techniques that emphasise rhythm. Fees start at 180,000Rp for 75 minutes.

Live the 1970s movie *Shampoo* at **Body Works** (☎ 733317; Jl Kayu Jati 2; ☎ 10am-9pm) where gossiping, beautifully coiffed hairdressers mingle with a gorgeous crowd. Massage starts at 139,000Rp.

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

Spa Bonita (☎ 731918; Jl Petitenget 2000x; ☎ 9am-9pm), part of the delightful Waroeng Bonita (p121), has a range of services in a simply elegant setting. Massages start at 85,000Rp for one hour.

PICK A NAME, ANY NAME

A small lane or alley is known as a *gang*, and most of them in Bali lack signs or even names. Some are referred to by the name of a connecting street, eg Jl Padma Utara is the *gang* going north of Jl Padma. Many are too small for cars, although this doesn't seem to stop some drivers from giving it a good go.

Meanwhile, 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 – the only place you're likely to encounter the new names is on some new, small street signs, and in some tourist brochures.

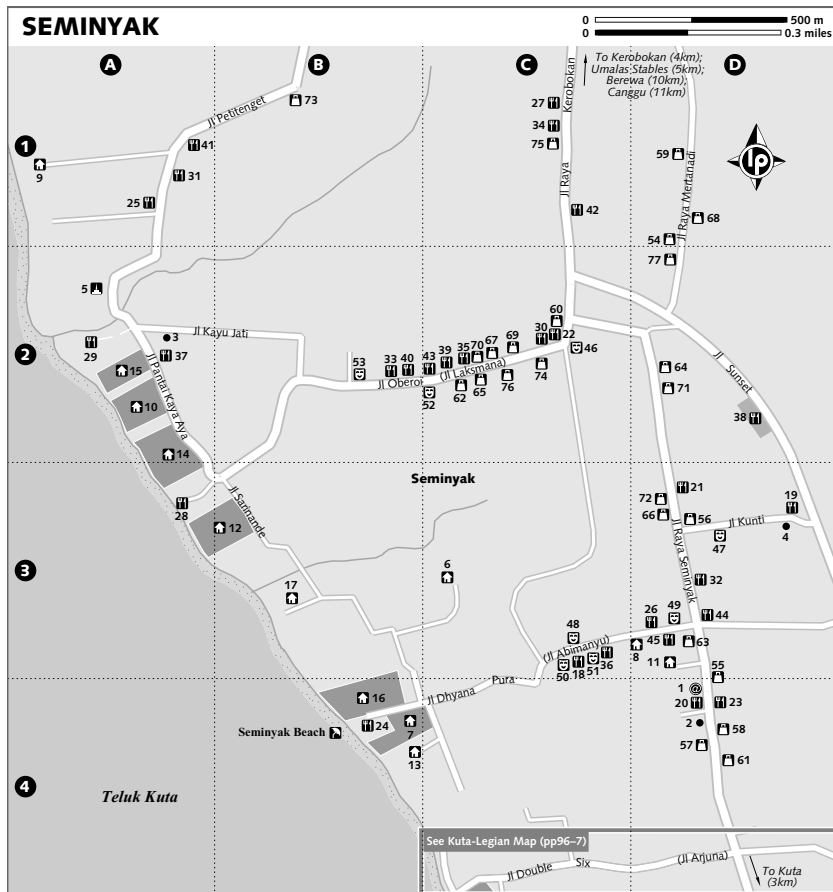
In this guide, all names are shown on the maps, but in the text, the street name that the business uses is the one given. For reference, here are the old (unofficial) and new (official) names, from north to south.

Old/unofficial

Jl Oberoi
Jl Raya Seminyak
Jl Dhyana Pura/Jl Gado Gado
Jl Double Six
Jl Pura Bagus Taruna/Rum Jungle Rd
Jl Padma
Poppies Gang II
Jl Pantai Kuta
Jl Kartika Plaza
Jl Segara
Jl Satria

New/official

Jl Laksmana
Northern stretch: Jl Raya Basangkasa
Jl Abimanyu
Jl Arjuna
Jl Werkudara
Jl Yudistra
Jl Batu Bolong
Jl Pantai Banjar Pande Mas
Jl Dewi Sartika
Jl Jenggala
Jl Kediri



Cooking School

Sate Bali (☎ 736734; Jl Oberoi 22; course 325,000Rp) runs an excellent Balinese cooking course taught by noted chef Nyoman Sudiyasa. Students learn to prepare Balinese spices and *sambals*, which are then used to flavour duck, fish and pork. Not up to school? The restaurant is superb (p121).

SLEEPING

Seminyak isn't just about top-end hotels. There's a good bunch of cheaper places at the south and they're close to or even on the beach. If you're looking for the best places to stay in Bali, though, you will find several here, including the Legian and the Oberoi, both of which regularly feature on lists of the best

hotels in the world. Seminyak is also home to villas available for holiday rental (p328).

Budget

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

Galaxy Hotel (☎ 730328; galaxy_bali@yahoo.com; Jl Abimanyu 9A; r from 150,000Rp; 🏠 🚶 🚲) Right in the heart of the Dhyana Pura action, the Galaxy has 16 plain rooms, a busy bar and a brochure that is a balm for those tired of bikini-clad clichés. Weekly rates are really cheap.

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Living Room.....	31 A1
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Midrange

Raja Gardens (☎ 730494; jdw@eksadata.com; Jl Abimanyu; r 200,000-300,000Rp; 🏠 🚶 🚲) Look for spacious, lush grounds in this quiet hide-away near the beach. The seven rooms are spotless and have touches of tropical style in their older and decidedly not trendy appointments. But the soft green pastels and open-air bathrooms, filled with plants, definitely have a tropical feel. The staff are unobtrusive but warm and experienced – they've seen it all before. It's a minute from the beach.

Bali Agung Village (☎ 730367; www.bali-agung.com; off Jl Abimanyu; r US\$40-80; 🏠 🚶 🚲) Off a hidden back street of Seminyak, this attractive place has 41 rooms in bungalow-style units. The grounds are lush and there's a profusion of Balinese design touches. Look for the statue of a giraffe as you navigate in along the alleys.

Dhyana Pura Beach Resort (☎ 730442; www.dhyana-pura-beach-resort.com; off Jl Abimanyu; r US\$45-75; 🏠 🚶 🚲) A beach resort right out of the 1960s with an older clientele to match, this sprawling 120-room property has become a little shaggy around the edges but it's clean and the veteran staff welcoming. It's right on the beach.

Villa Kresna (☎ 730317; www.villa-kresna.com; Jl Sarinande 19; r US\$40-85; 🏠 🚶 🚲) The beach is only 50m

from this cute little 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.

Resor Seminyak (☎ 730814; www.resorseminyak.com; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; r from US\$70; 🏠 🚶 🚲) The grounds are spacious at this 60-room resort, which is good value at the low end of its prices. There are two pools and the poolside bar is lively. It fronts an attractive bit of beach.

Top End

Sofitel Seminyak Bali (☎ 730730; www.theroyal-seminyak.com; Jl Dhyana Pura; r from US\$120, villas from US\$500; 🏠 🚶 🚲) This hotel's beachside location is ideal and you can walk to the clubs and restaurants on Jl Dhyana Pura. The rooms are done in a smart contemporary style. What really sets the property apart are the private walled units, which feel like an old Balinese village.

Oberoi (☎ 730361; www.oberoihotels.com; Jl Oberoi; r from US\$200, villas from US\$400; 🏠 🚶 🚲) One of the world's top hotels, the beautifully understated Oberoi has been a refined beachside retreat since 1971. All accommodation has private lanais and as you move up through the food chain, additional features include private

villas, ocean views and private, walled pools. From the café overlooking the almost private sweep of beach to the numerous luxuries, this is a place to spoil yourself.

Legian (☎ 730622; www.ghmhotels.com; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; ste from US\$300, villa from US\$600; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) The Legian is flashier than its main competitor, the Oberoi. All 67 rooms claim to be suites, even if some are just large rooms (called 'studios'). On a little bluff, the views are panoramic and of the many personal services offered you can enjoy gourmet dining at a table set up by the surf. The design mixes traditional materials with contemporary flair.

Samaya (☎ 731149; www.thesamayabali.com; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; r from US\$300; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) There are 24 villas at this understated beachside luxury resort. Traditional grass roofs cover large, airy units with the now common stark and sombre colours contrasting with a light palette. All have private pools, from plunge to full-on depending on rate.

EATING

Seminyak is so spread out that you won't be walking among the many dining choices; rather you'll be choosing a neighbourhood first. Note that where indicated, some restaurants morph into clubs as the night wears on. Conversely, some of the places listed under Bars & Clubs also do decent food. Think of it as fusion fun.

Jl Dhyana Pura

Jef Burgers (☎ 081-7473 4311; Jl Dhyana Pura 24; dishes from 13,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) Like a downscale lunch counter, Jef's cooks up highly customisable burgers around the clock.

Zula Vegetarian Paradise (☎ 732723; Jl Dhyana Pura 5; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; ☎ 8-4am) It's all vegetarian at this cute little place where you can get tofu cheese, a tofu spring roll, tofu cheesecake, not to mention a tofu-chickpea burger.

Santa Fe Bar & Grill (☎ 731147; Jl Dhyana Pura 11A; dishes 15,000-45,000Rp; ☎ 7-4am) Popular pizza and Southwest food draws people here at all hours, especially late when there's live music (mostly rock). Shots are popular.

Antique (☎ 739840; Jl Dhyana Pura; dishes 20,000-80,000Rp) Fresh food from around the archipelago features at this attractive restaurant. There's a good terrace shaded by a tree and decorative ironwork inspired by flowering vines. The Gold Black Rush is a surprising chocolate cake.

Gado Gado (☎ 736966; Jl Dhyana Pura; mains 70,000-150,000Rp) The location right on the beach is the primary draw here. To the sounds of surf, enjoy the good service and an interesting menu of Asian and Mediterranean fusion dishes. Brunch is popular.

Jl Raya Seminyak

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

Warung Ocha's (☎ 736222; cnr Jl Raya Seminyak & Jl Dhyana Pura; dishes from 15,000Rp) Overlooking the busy intersection, this simple place serves spruced-up versions of traditional dishes (point and select from the display) at little tables with great views of the Seminyak scene.

Madé's Warung II (☎ 732130; Jl Raya Seminyak; dishes 18,000-90,000Rp) This northern branch of the Kuta stand-by is set in a sheltered courtyard area. Well-prepared Indonesian food has always been the speciality here and there's a myriad of little touches that make it special. Shops line the periphery.

Jl Oberoi

Saddled by some with the unimaginative name 'Eat St', this restaurant row has scores of choices. Many use the newer name Jl Laksmana or Jl Pantai Kaya Aya further north.

Warung Murah (Jl Oberoi; dishes 5000-15,000Rp) Amidst the Jl Oberoi glitz, this simple, local place displays bowls and platters of fresh food at excellent prices. Enjoy a fried banana on the folding chairs out front.

Lazumba (☎ 731899; Jl Oberoi; dishes 15,000-40,000Rp; ☎) This simple open-air café has superb Italian coffee, wi-fi and cool jazz wafting from the speakers.

Corner Store (☎ 732076; Jl Laksmana 10A; dishes 30,000-60,000Rp; ☎ 7am-5pm) Seminyak's fashionistas gather here most mornings (aka Tuck Shop) to dish the gossip and breakfast from dishes of upscale, healthy fare like organic muesli.

Mykonos (☎ 733253; Jl Oberoi 52; dishes 15,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 5pm-midnight) The island food of Greece comes to the island of Bali at this always busy vision in white. All the classics are here, from meze like tatziki to various grilled souvlakis. Cheap wine fuels the fun.

Tuesday Night Pizza Club (☎ 730614; Jl Oberoi; pizza 25,000-130,000Rp; ☎ 6pm-midnight) Pizzas come in five sizes at this brightly lit joint and have a range of goofy names like Hawaii Five-O (ham and pineapple) and Blue Velvet (a tasty combo of blue cheese and crispy bacon). There's fast and efficient delivery.

Rumours (☎ 738720; Jl Oberoi 100; mains 20,000-60,000Rp; ☎ 6pm-midnight) This arch-rival of Trattoria is always packed thanks to good food at great prices. Such a concept! Terrace tables are always in demand. Steaks and pasta dominate the long menu.

Trattoria (☎ 737082; Jl Oberoi; mains 35,000-90,000Rp; ☎ 6pm-midnight) Enjoy authentic Italian cuisine at tables inside or out. The menu changes often but always features fresh pasta, grilled meats and seafood. Service is good and this place is justifiably popular.

La Lucciola (☎ 730838; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; dishes 80,000-140,000Rp) A sleek beachside restaurant with good views from the 2nd-floor tables across a lovely lawn and sand to the surf. The bar is big with sunset watchers. The menu is a creative fusion of international fare.

Sate Bali (☎ 736734; Jl Oberoi 22; meals 195,000Rp; ☎ 11am-10pm) Some very fine traditional Balinese meals are served at this small but artful café run by chef Nyoman Sudiya. Prepare for an array of dozens of small plates of exquisite food. Service is sublime.

Ku De Ta (☎ 736969; Jl Oberoi; dishes 140,000-220,000Rp; ☎ 7am-1pm) Ku De Ta heaves with Bali's beautiful. Kids play in the stylish pool and enjoy free balloons while adults perfect their 'bored' look over drinks. Everyone ponders the gorgeous sunsets over the beach. The menu is a creative fusion mix; security is fairly tight.

Northern Seminyak

Seminyak Night Market (Jl Sunset; dishes from 2000Rp; ☎ 6pm-midnight) Enjoy delicious *bakso* (meat balls) and *soto ayam* (chicken soup) from scores of vendors. Few travellers make it to the market's new location along Jl Sunset.

Padang Jaya (☎ 486432; Jl Raya Kerobokan; dishes from 5000Rp) Join everyone else's driver at this classic Rumah Makan place where the food is fresh and displayed for your choosing pleasure.

Warung Batavia (☎ 731641; Jl Raya Kerobokan; dishes 6000-15,000Rp) This slightly upscale roadside place has a big choice of excellent, authentic Indonesian dishes. New creations stream forth from the kitchen.

Waroeng Bonita (☎ 731918; Jl Petitenget 2000x; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp) Balinese dishes such as *ikan rica-rica* (fresh fish in a spicy green chilli sauce) are the specialties at this cute little place with tables under the trees.

Hu'u (☎ 736443; Jl Pantai Kaya Aya; mains 50,000-100,000Rp; ☎ 11-2am) Like many of the fine open-air dining spots nearby, oodles of little tea lights provide a romantic glow at night. There's steak, seafood and a good selection of vegetarian dishes.

Living Room (☎ 735735; Jl Petitenget; mains 80,000-100,000Rp; ☎ noon-midnight) At night hundreds of candles twinkle on and about the scores of outdoor tables at this open-to-the-stars restaurant (which has become more elegant after a cross-street move). The menu is Asian with good Thai, Vietnamese and Balinese dishes.

Kafe Warisan (☎ 731175; www.kafewarisan.com; Jl Raya Kerobokan; set dinner menu US\$25-40; ☎ noon-10pm) Chef Nicolas Tourneville gives fine French cooking a Mediterranean flair at one of Bali's finest restaurants. The tranquil setting looks out over rice paddies and the changing menu reflects what's in season locally – considering the quality, meals are fine value.

Self-Catering

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

Bintang Supermarket (☎ 730552; Jl Raya Seminyak 17; ☎) Always busy, this large store has a supermarket with good prices and sells all manner of other goods. There's wi-fi at the café in front.

ENTERTAINMENT Bars & Clubs

Jl Dhyana Pura boasts a line-up of trendy clubs that seem to change as often as, well, trends. Most cater to a mixed gay and straight crowd and a few favour the former. Note that where indicated, some of the places do good food in the evening, while some of the places listed under Eating also do music.

JL DHYANA PURA

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

Bush Telegraph Pub (☎ 732963; Jl Dhyana Pura 10XX; dishes 24,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 11-2am) The focus at this cavernous place is on sports TV. The only

action you're likely to find is the latest from the world Formula One. You also can tuck into Australian pub fare.

Joulla's (☎ 732971; Jl Dhyana Pura 6XX; ☎ 10am-11pm) This relaxed open-air café-bar has a German accent and free wi-fi. Surf the web with a *weissbier* at the tables on the small terrace.

Kwin (☎ 762374; Jl Dhyana Pura 9; ☎ 8pm-3am) With a more mixed crowd than Q-Bar, the upper level is a good place to cool off and engage in running commentary on the clubbers passing by below.

Q-Bar (☎ 762361; Jl Dhyana Pura; ☎ 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 PADMA

Bottle Shop (☎ 733963; Jl Kunti 6A; ☎ 11am-midnight; ☑) 'Shut up and drink' is the slogan at this simple place that opens up to the street. There's a small menu and free wi-fi. Settle in, have a cheap cold one and ponder your next move.

JL OBEROI

Hu'u (p121) and some of the other stylish open-air places north of Jl Oberoi along Jl Petitengget morph into clubs late in the evening.

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

SO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN BALI?

Numbers are fuzzy, but it's estimated that some 7000 people from other countries live more or less full-time on Bali. They come for the same reasons as many visitors (sun, surf, sex) or for more tangible reasons (culture, love, job) or just because it's really cheap ('A gardener, maid and driver for US\$200 a month? Where's my ticket!?!').

You see them all over the south and Ubud and even scattered about the east, the north and the west; deeply tanned expats going – or not going – about their business every day. There's simply no way to generalise what they do, although the image of the Westerner idling away afternoons with US\$1 Bintangs is common.

'You work!?!' That's the number 1 reaction Nicoline Dolman gets when she meets people and tells them she not only lives on Bali but also works there (as marketing manager for the Sofitel Seminyak Bali resort). 'People think I must be lounging by the pool all the time,' says Dolman, who came to Bali on a tourism internship, fell in love with the place and never left.

'I get paid in local wages, so you bet I work.'

Life in Bali has allowed her to grow in ways she wouldn't have at home. 'I've had to learn patience and I've come to prefer the Asian sense of respect for one another.'

Ashley Bickerton, the renowned American artist, has discovered rare qualities in Bali. 'There are places on this planet that have kinetic electricity and there are those that don't. Bali has it in spades. Like the great oceanic washes of opposing currents and upwellings that create nutrient-rich banks, Bali is ablaze with conflicting currents; edge is everywhere.'

And despite vowing that Bali wouldn't affect his work, Bickerton found that impossible.

'When I moved here from New York, I was adamant about not becoming one of those wispy fantasists that insist on portraying conventional island charm in dollops of pastel kitsch.

'Well, fast-forward 14 years and despite the protestations, I find the palette has dramatically shifted from primary colours and silvers to muted greeny, brownly greys. It can only be the influence of the Batuan School. I never planned it!'

However, if Bali has shaped Bickerton and Dolman in ways they wouldn't have guessed, other expats want to shape Bali in more predictable ways.

'The rampant greed and short-sightedness running amok in Bali today threatens to strangle the very things that drew people here in the first place,' says Bickerton, while Dolman says she gets tired of idlers with attitudes out of tune with the local vibe. 'You meet someone and they say with a smirk, "I'm a fashion designer, you?"'

Still, neither would leave their life on Bali. 'Every time a long-term expat starts grumbling about moving on, they are invariably stumped by the same question, "Where?"' says Bickerton, or as Dolman says, 'Other qualities aside, you've got a glass of beer, you're in the sun by that pool, why leave?'

Street Life (☎ 0183-3820 9567; Jl Oberoi 61; ☎ noon-midnight) A fun, lively open-air bar popular with expats on a budget.

Zappaz (☎ 7425534; Jl Oberoi; ☎ 11am-midnight) Brit Norman Findlay tickles the ivories nightly at this popular piano bar. The most enjoyable part of this performance is his enthusiastic patter with the crowd.

SHOPPING

Seminyak shops could occupy days of your holiday. Designer boutiques (Bali has a thriving little 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 (p113) and heads north along Jl Legian and Jl Raya Seminyak (there's no exact demarcation between the two and some people call parts of the latter Jl Raya Basangkasa – yikes!). The retail strip branches off onto Jl Oberoi (lots of designer places) while continuing north on Jl Raya Kerobokan into Kerobokan itself (p125).

Jl Mertanadi is a quiet street of family-run places selling and making mostly housewares.

If you need help navigating this retail paradise, check out the Retail Therapy column in the *Bali Advertiser* (www.baliadvertiser.biz). It's written by the singularly named Marilyn (retailtherapym@yahoo.com.au) who brings a veteran retailer's keen eye to the local scene. For advanced studies, she's available for consultations.

Accessories

Rama (☎ 730115; Jl Raya Basangkasa 88) Amidst scores of so-so bead stores, this is one of the best. Antique and modern beads in a plethora of colours and styles.

Beachwear

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

Clothing

Biasa (☎ 730308; www.biasabali.com; Jl Raya Seminyak 36) This is Bali-based designer Susanna Perini's premier store. Her line of tropical ware for men and women combines cottons, silks and embroidery. Ex-husband Paul Ropp has a small shop across the street.

Body & Soul (☎ 733564; Jl Raya Seminyak) The flagship store in Bali for the Australian chain of

beachy and cottony clothes. Many of the items here are Bali-made. Across the street, an outlet store (☎ 733011; Jl Raya Seminyak 16C) has hot deals on cool clothes.

Divine Diva (☎ 731903; Jl Oberoi 1A) It's like a Dove soap commercial for real women in this shop, filled with Bali-made breezy styles for larger figures.

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

Joe Joe (☎ 732678; Jl Raya Seminyak 43) Bling bling! Sequin-encrusted bags and purses glitter in the lights here. Styles range from vintage to far-out.

Lily Jean (☎ 734864; Jl Oberoi 102X) Saucy knickers underpin flouncy, sexy and gauzy women's ware; most is Bali-made.

Morena (☎ 745 3531; Jl Oberoi 69) Puerto Rican-born Wilma sells her line of sexy, floaty and colourful women's clothes here. Go ahead, prance on the beach.

Paul Ropp (☎ 734208; www.paulropp.com; Jl Oberoi) Elegant main store for one of Bali's premier high-end fashion designers. Most goods are made just a few kilometres away. And what goods they are – rich silks and cottons, vivid to the point of gaudy, with hints of the tie-dyed 60s.

Sunbek (☎ 732715; Jl Raya Seminyak 6) Rather than the usual tourist junk, this shop sells exquisite ikat clothes, bags and housewares.

Tunas Maju Abadi (☎ 730010; Jl Oberoi 117) A small workshop that makes custom leather and suede clothes. Make a splash with your own Nemo-brand custom-made wetsuit (a shorty goes for US\$95).

Galleries

Biasa Art Space (☎ 744 2902; Jl Raya Seminyak 34) This stunning gallery is owned by Biasa designer Susanna Perini. Changing exhibits highlight bold works.

Kemarin Hari Ini (☎ 735262; Jl Raya Basangkasa) Glass objects created with laminated Japanese paper sparkle in the light at this airy gallery. It also has the bold acrylic works of painter Ngruh Atmaja.

Poon Studio (☎ 0817352754; Jl Oberoi 21) Above-average local talent display their works here. Think edgy and tangy.

Richard Meyer Culture (☎ 744 5179; Jl Petitengget 200X) This gallery sells works – mostly photos – by renowned contemporary Bali artists. Its openings are always events and it's been

lauded for its conservation and historical collection.

Rio Helmi (☎ 735688; www.riohelmi.com; Jl Raya Basangkasa 88) This small gallery of the noted Ubud-based photographer shows his work and that of many others.

Housewares

Alcazar (☎ 0818-0553 1857; Jl Mertanadi) Whimsical painted furniture and carved wooden figures with elongated forms that look like Gumby on a bad day. Many items come from carving villages near Ubud.

Ashitaba (☎ 737054; Jl Raya Seminyak 6) Tenganan, the Aga village of East Bali (p225), produces the intricate and beautiful rattan items sold here. Containers, bowls, purses and more (from US\$5).

Disini (☎ 746 4260; Jl Mertanadi 67A) Higher end interior items like modern-style ikat and cool statuary fill this attractive shop. Almost everything is made in Bali and profits are ploughed back into the villages.

G&V Amazing Crafts (☎ 743 3853; Jl Oberoi 99x) Antique Balinese décor and contemporary bits are combined in this large shop. Look for gems like an old Dutch basinet.

Nöblis (☎ 0815-5800 2815; Jl Mertanadi 54) Feel like royalty here with everything from knock-offs of items from the various French Louis's, to regal bits of décor from around the globe.

Rama Shinta Ki Jay (☎ 081-2360 6979; Jl Raya Seminyak 70) Dedicated to all things incense, this shop is an orgasm for your nose. Sniff out the sandalwood section.

St Isador (☎ 738836; Jl Oberoi 44) The workshops upstairs spew forth lovely bed linens, cushions and other items made from fabrics imported from across Asia. A beautiful scene.

Ticket to the Moon (☎ 735131; Jl Raya Kerobokan 14) Is it furniture if it fits in your backpack? Very cool hammocks (160,000Rp) are the thing here, with a range of models, including one for babies.

You Like Lamp (☎ 733755; Jl Mertanadi 32) Why yes, we do. All manner of endearing little paper lamps – many good for tea lights – are sold here cheap by the bagful. Don't see what you want? The staff working away on the floor will rustle it up immediately.

Jewellery

Luna Collection (☎ 0811-398909; Jl Raya Seminyak) Handmade sterling silver jewellery in a range of designs. The local craftsmen are quite creative and just browsing is a treat.

Toko Morocco (☎ 733238; Jl Oberoi 1B) How about a US\$25 Buddha head, perfect for a pendant? This shop bulges with trinkets, beads, silver and other cheap and cheerful jewellery.

GETTING THERE & AROUND

Most transport information is the same as for Kuta (p115). Metered taxis are easily hailed. A trip from the airport in an official airport taxi costs 60,000Rp, to the airport less than half that. A taxi to the heart of Kuta will be about 12,000Rp. You can beat the traffic and have a good stroll by walking the beach south. Legian is about 20 minutes away.

NORTH OF SEMINYAK

☎ 0361

Growth is marching north and west along the coast, much of it anchored by the continuing beaches. Kerobokan is rivalling Seminyak for the affections of local expats. Villas and large shops dot the imperilled rice fields. Traffic can be an evil spirit: like elsewhere, road-building is a decade or two behind settlement.

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

Getting to most of the places listed is really only convenient with your own transport or by taxi. Think 20,000Rp or more from Kuta.

KEROBOKAN

Lots of interesting little places can be found here, a trend sure to continue. To get here from Kuta and points south, follow Jl Legian north, through its Jl Raya Seminyak phase until it becomes Jl Raya Kerobokan just north of Seminyak. One notable landmark is the **jail**, home to Schapelle Corby and other prisoners.

Activities

Umalas Stables (Map p100; ☎ 731402; www.balionhorse.com; Jl Lestari 9X), 5km north of Seminyak, has a stable of 30 horses and ponies, and offers one-hour rice field tours for US\$30, and two-/three-hour beach rides for US\$50/70. Lessons in beginner to advanced equestrian events such as dressage and showjumping can also be arranged.

Sleeping

For a romantic getaway, **Villa Seri** (Map p100; ☎ 730262; www.villaseri.com; Br Umalas Kauh; r from US\$65, villas from US\$135; ☎ ☎) is a great little hideaway. A recent revamp has only improved a lovely property. Rooms are more refined, with stylish stone bathrooms, kitchens in the villas and more. The beach is a 10-minute walk.

Eating

About 1km north of the jail, off Jl Raya Kerobokan, **Warung Gossip** (Map p100; ☎ 0817 970 3209; Jl Pengubangan Kauh; meals 15,000-20,000Rp; ☎ noon-4pm) is always popular thanks to its top-notch versions of Balinese warung staples. Get a plate, tell the staff what you'd like and soon you'll be enjoying a fine lunch at one of the shady tables. There's also a café area for more formal dining.

At the corner of Jl Raya Kerobokan and Jl Gunung Tangkuban Perahu there's a scrumptious little **fruit market** (Map p100).

Shopping

Buy 'em by the kilo at **JJ Bali Button** (Map p100; ☎ 730001; Jl Gunung Tangkuban Perahu). Zillions of beads and buttons made from shells, plastic, metal and more are displayed in what first looks like a candy store. Elaborately carved wooden buttons are 700Rp.

Typical of some of the posher emporiums here, **Asia Style** (Map p100; ☎ 734599; Jl Raya Kerobokan 3) has Chinese antiques collected in Bali, vintage travel posters, crepe-silk sarongs (250,000Rp) and a whole lot more.

BEREWA

The greyish beach, secluded among stunning paddy fields, is 6km along the beach from Kuta (by car it's closer to 15km). The turn-off is along the road heading west from Kerobokan. There are some decent cafés and warung in the village, 200m from the beach.

Legong Keraton (Map p100; ☎ 730280; www.legongkeratonhotel.com; Berewa Beach; r US\$55-85; ☎ ☎) A very attractive 40-room hotel right on the beach, this place is very well run and makes a good get-away. The grounds are shaded by palms and the pool borders the beach. The best rooms are in bungalow units facing the surf.

CANGGU

A popular surf spot, Canggu draws a lot of locals at weekends. On the way you'll spot quite a few satellite dishes poking above the rice paddies denoting the locations of expat villas. Every road going towards the ocean ends at a beach where there's usually a warung or two. For details on surfing here, see p78.

Right at Canggu Beach, **Hotel Tugu Bali** (☎ 731701; www.tuguhotels.com; Jl Pantai Batu Bolong, Desa Canggu; r US\$200-500; ☎ ☎ ☎) is an exquisite hotel surrounded by rice fields and beach. It blurs the boundaries between a museum and gallery, especially the Walter Spies and Le Mayeur Pavilions, where memorabilia from the artists' lives decorates the rooms. The stunning collection of antiques and artwork begins in the lobby and extends throughout the hotel. There's a spa and numerous customised dining options. The artful rooms have wi-fi.

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

ECHO BEACH

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

PERERENAN BEACH

Yet to be found by the right developer, this is the beach if you want your sand wind-swept and your waves unriden. It's southeast of Pura Tanah Lot; you get here from the south via Seseh.

Once you've found it, why leave? The friendly guys at **Pondok Wisata Nyoman** (☎ 081-2390 6900; Jl Raya Pantai Pererenan; r 100,000Rp) have four simple rooms (although the bathrooms are a tad arty) just behind the beach. There's a tiny café nearby and that's it.

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