

North Bali



In many respects, North Bali seems so far away from the rest of the island. And in a literal sense it is. To get here from the south you either take one of many routes up and over the mountains or traverse the thinly populated coasts in the west and the east.

In North Bali's case, getting there can be half the fun. The various routes over and through the volcanoes and lakes are lush, amazing and surprising. The coastal routes take you through tiny villages unchanged for decades, and give you access to numerous under-appreciated cultural and religious sites.

And, as fun as it is to get to North Bali, it's also plenty fun once you're there. Lovina is a beach town that defines relaxed. Uncrowded and definitely unhurried, it has a huge range of mellow places to stay right near its reef-protected simple beach. Toss in dining that's both good and fun and you've got a fine escape from the mania of the south.

The north's charms extend beyond Lovina. The region, known as Buleleng, has a deep history that is a vital part of Bali as a whole. It was the centre of Dutch influence until WWII and for generations of early visitors, the port of Singaraja was their first glimpse of the island. Today, Bali's second city is still a local cultural haven.

In the northwest, Pemuteran is both a dive mecca and a leader in ecologically sound development – just one more reason to explore the 'far' coast of Bali.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Diving and snorkelling at **Pemuteran** (p269)
- Chilling at **Lovina** (p262), the north's alternative to Kuta
- Heading for the breathtaking hills on the road from **Seririt** (p268)
- Bobbing in the spring-fed pools at **Yeh Sanih** (p257)
- Experiencing Buleleng's rich culture at the museums of **Singaraja** (p257)



YEH SANIH

☎ 0362

On the road to the beach towns of East Bali, about 15km east of Singaraja, Yeh Sanih (also called Air Sanih) is a hassle-free seaside spot with a few guesthouses on the beachfront. It's named for its fresh-water springs, **Air Sanih** (adult/child 2000/1000Rp; ☎ 8am-6pm), which are channelled into large swimming pools before flowing into the sea. The pools are particularly picturesque at sunset, when throngs of locals bathe under blooming frangipani trees – most of the time they're alive with frolicking kids.

Pura Ponjok Batu has a commanding location between the sea and the road, some 7km east of Yeh Sanih. It has some very fine limestone carvings in the central temple area. Legend has it that it was built to provide some balance for Bali, what with all the temples in the south.

Between the springs and the temple, the road is often close to the sea. It's probably Bali's best stretch of coast driving, with water crashing onto the breakwater that's built all along here, and great views out to sea.

Completely out of character for the area is **Art Zoo** (☎ 8am-6pm), 5.7km east of Yeh Sanih on the Singaraja road. The American artist Symon (who also has a gallery in Ubud, see p179) has a gallery bursting with vibrant, exotic and often homoerotic paintings and sculpture. You can chat up his models and even the man himself if he's in residence.

Sleeping & Eating

If you're doing the North Bali to East Bali shuffle along the coast road, you may wish to break your journey around here rather than push too far in either direction.

Pondok Wisata Cleopatra (☎ 0812 362 2232; r 50,000Rp) This new budget place has nine nice, cold-water rooms with showers and tubs – go ahead and stick your toe in. The big, flowery grounds are about 1.5km west of the springs.

Pondok Sembiran (☎ 24437; r 200,000-350,000Rp; ♿) There are two facilities here, one with a pool 20m from the beach and one right on the beach. The 10 pleasant bungalows are large, good for families and have kitchens and hot water. The hotel is off the main road in Alasari, 1km east of the temple and 8.3km east of Yeh Sanih. It's popular with the Dutch, so be sure to get your Ver's and Van's right.

Cilik's Beach Garden (☎ 26561; www.ciliksbachgarden.com; s/d €40/60, villas €75-110; ♿) Coming here is like visiting your rich friends, albeit ones with good

taste. These villas, 3km east of Yeh Sanih, are large and have vast private gardens. Other accommodation is in stylish *lumbung* (rice barns with round roofs) set in a delightful garden facing the ocean. Meals (dishes from 20,000Rp to 40,000Rp) are served in a pavilion.

Puri Rena (☎ 26581; dishes 10,000-20,000Rp) Across from Air Sanih and up a flight of stairs, Puri Rena has a well-priced menu of local standards aimed at parents needing sustenance while the kids make like Flipper. Good views.

Puri Bagus Ponjok Batu (☎ 21430; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) This lovely spot 6.8km east of Yeh Sanih is next to Pura Ponjok Batu and overlooks the water. It serves good grilled seafood in covered pavilions. Call to confirm hours before making a special trip.

Getting There & Away

Yeh Sanih is on the main road along the north coast. Frequent bemo (small minibuses) and buses from Singaraja stop outside the springs (7000Rp).

If you are driving the coast road to Amed and beyond, be sure to fill up at the petrol station 9km east of Yeh Sanih as there isn't another until almost Amlapura.

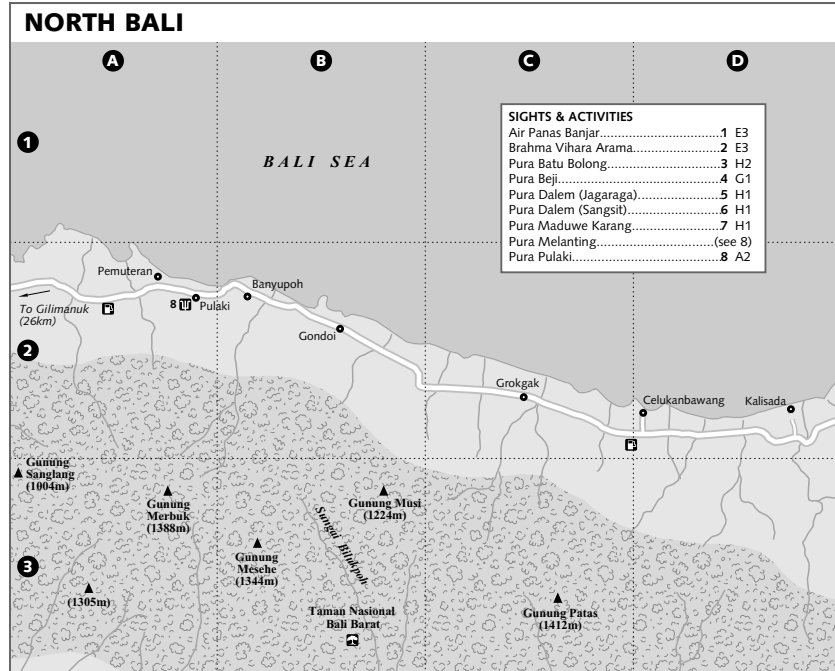
SINGARAJA

☎ 0362

With a population of more than 100,000 people, Singaraja (which means 'Lion King' – evidently Disney has yet to threaten to sue for trademark infringement) is Bali's second-largest city. With its tree-lined streets, Dutch colonial buildings and charmingly moribund waterfront area north of Jl Erlangga, it's worth wandering around for a few hours. Most people, however, prefer to stay in nearby Lovina.

Singaraja was the centre of Dutch power in Bali and remained the administrative centre for the Lesser Sunda Islands (Bali through to Timor) until 1953. It is one of the few places in Bali where there are visible traces of the Dutch period, as well as Chinese and Muslim influences. Today Singaraja is a major educational and cultural centre, and its two university campuses provide the city with a substantial, and sometimes vocal, student population.

The 'suburb' of Beratan, to the south of Singaraja, is the silverwork centre of northern Bali. You'll find a few traditional pieces, such as *cucuk* (gold headpieces) on display, but it mostly has uninspiring tourist jewellery. A few workshops in and around Singaraja



produce hand-woven sarongs – especially *songket* (cloth woven with silver or gold threads).

Orientation

The main commercial areas are in the north-eastern part of town, south of the old harbour. Most hotels, restaurants and bus company offices are found along Jl Jen Achmed Yani. The traffic does a few complicated one-way loops around town, but it's easy enough to get around on foot or by bemo.

Information

EMERGENCY

Police station (☎ 41510; Jl Pramuka)

INTERNET ACCESS & TELEPHONE

There are several wartel (public telephone offices) along the main streets and there is **Internet access** (per min 400Rp) at the rear of the post office.

MEDICAL SERVICES

RSUP Hospital (☎ 22046; Jl Ngurah Rai; ☏ 24hr) Singaraja's hospital is the largest in northern Bali.

MONEY

There are numerous banks that will change money and have ATMs.

Bank BCA (Jl Jen Achmed Yani)

Bank Danamon (Jl Jen Achmed Yani)

POST OFFICE

Post office (Jl Imam Bonjol)

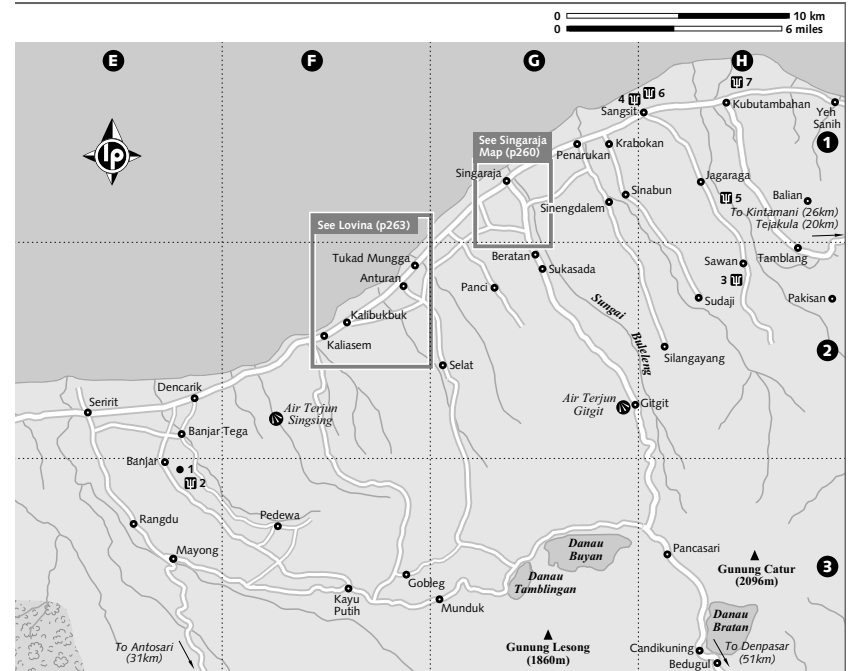
TOURIST INFORMATION

Diparda (☎ 25141; crn Jl Veteran & Jl Gajah Mada; ☏ 7.30am-3.30pm Mon-Fri) The regional tourist office loves visitors and has some pamphlets. Ask about dance and other cultural events.

Sights & Activities

OLD HARBOUR & WATERFRONT

The conspicuous **Yudha Mandala Tama monument** commemorates a freedom fighter killed by gunfire from a Dutch warship early in the struggle for independence. Close by, there's the colourful Chinese temple, **Ling Gwan Kiong**. There are a few old canals here as well and you can still get a little feel of the old colonial port. Walk up Jl Imam Bonjol and you'll see the art deco lines of late-colonial Dutch buildings.



GEDONG KIRTYA LIBRARY & MUSEUM BULELENG

This small historical **library** (☎ 22645; admission 5000Rp; ☏ 8am-4pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri) was established in 1928 by Dutch colonialists and named after the Sanskrit word 'to try'. It has a collection of *lontar* (dried palm leaves) books (see p234), as well as some even older written works, in the form of inscribed copper plates called *prasasti*. Dutch publications, dating back to 1901, may interest students of the colonial period.

The nearby **museum** (donation 5000Rp; ☏ 9am-3.30pm) recalls the life of the last Radja (rajah; prince) of Buleleng, Pandji Tisna, who is credited with developing Lovina's tourism. Among the items here is the Royal (brand) typewriter he used during his career as a travel writer (obviously, the rajah was a smart, if poorly remunerated guy) before his death in 1978. It also traces the history of the region back to when there was no history.

PURA JAGAT NATHA

Singaraja's main temple, the largest in northern Bali, is not usually open to foreigners. You

can appreciate its size and admire the carved stone decorations from the outside.

Festivals & Events

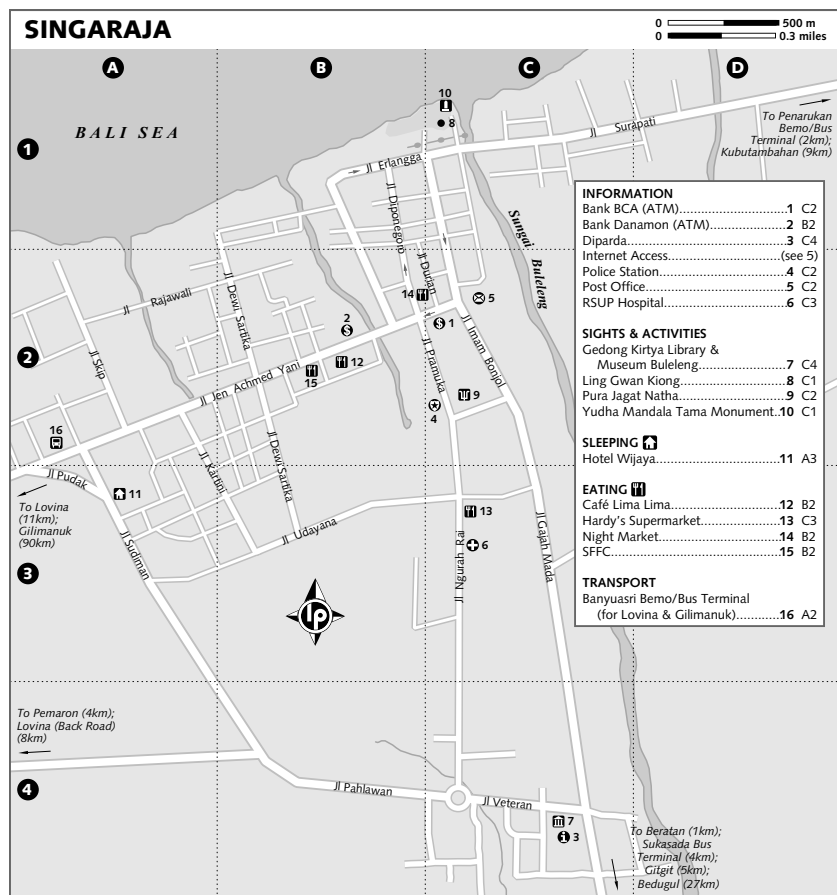
Every May or June, Singaraja is host to the **Bali Art Festival of Buleleng**. Over one week dancers and musicians from some of the region's most renowned village troupes, such as those of Jagaraga, perform. In August, the **North Bali Festival** thrills locals with events such as the tongue-twisting 'Miss & Master Beauty & Brains Contest'. Consult with the Diparda tourist office (opposite) for details on both.

Sleeping & Eating

There are slim accommodation pickings in Singaraja, and there's no real reason to stay here as it's just a short drive from Lovina.

Hotel Wijaya (☎ 21915; fax 25817; Jl Sudirman 74; r 60,000-120,000Rp; ☏) This is the most comfortable place in town; economy fan rooms have an outside bathroom. It also has a restaurant. The bus terminal is a three-minute walk away.

Café Lima Lima (☎ 21769; Jl Jen Achmed Yani; dishes 4000-10,000Rp) This is a cheap place with fresh food and simple open-air tables.



INFORMATION	
Bank BCA (ATM).....	1 C2
Bank Danamon (ATM).....	2 B2
Diparda.....	3 C4
Internet Access.....	(see 5)
Police Station.....	4 C2
Post Office.....	5 C2
RSUP Hospital.....	6 C3

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	
Gedong Kirya Library & Museum Buleleng.....	7 C4
Ling Gwan Kiong.....	8 C1
Pura Jagat Natha.....	9 C2
Yudha Mandala Tama Monument.....	10 C1

SLEEPING	
Hotel Wijaya.....	11 A3

EATING	
Café Lima Lima.....	12 B2
Hardy's Supermarket.....	13 C3
Night Market.....	14 B2
SFFC.....	15 B2

TRANSPORT	
Banyuasri Bemo/Bus Terminal (for Lovina & Gilimanuk).....	16 A2

SFFC (☎ 24474; Jl Jen Achmed Yani 57; dishes 4000-10,000Rp) Fortunately the food is a lot better than the name – although it is descriptive – it means ‘Special Fish & Fried Chicken’. And that’s just what’s served in this cheery place.

For supplies and sundries, head to **Hardy's Supermarket** (Jl Pramuka; ☎ 6am-10pm). In the evening, there are food stalls in the night market on Jl Durian.

Getting There & Away

BEMO & BUS

Singaraja is the main transport hub for the northern coast, with three bemo/bus terminals. From the Sukasada terminal, 3km south of town, minibuses go to Denpasar (Ubung terminal, 28,000Rp) via Bedugul/Pancasari

(13,000Rp) about every 30 minutes from 6am to 4pm.

The Banyuasri terminal, on the western side of town, has buses heading to Gilimanuk (15,000Rp, two hours) and Java, and plenty of blue bemo to Denpasar (6000Rp).

The Penarukan terminal, 2km east of town, has bemo to Yeh Sanih (7000Rp) and Amlapura (15,000Rp, three hours) via the coastal road; and also minibuses to Denpasar (Batur-bulan terminal, 25,000Rp) via Kintamani.

To Java

From Singaraja, several companies have overnight services to Surabaya (110,000Rp, 13 hours), which include the short ferry trip across the Bali Strait. Other buses go as far

as Yogyakarta (170,000Rp, 16 hours) and Jakarta (250,000Rp, 24 hours), usually travelling overnight – book at Banyuasri terminal a day before.

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

All of the Perama shuttle buses going to Lovina (p267) from South Bali via Bedugul can drop you off in Singaraja.

Getting Around

Plenty of bemo link the three main bemo/bus terminals, and zip along all main roads in between. The bemo are all well signed and colour-coded and cost about 4000Rp for a ride anywhere around town. The green Banyuasri-Sukasada bemo goes along Jl Gajah Mada to the tourist office; this bemo, and the brown one between Penarukan and Banyuasri terminals, also goes along Jl Jen Achmed Yani.

AROUND SINGARAJA

The interesting sites around Singaraja include some of Bali's most important temples. See p43 for background information.

Sangsit

A few kilometres northeast of Singaraja, you can see an excellent example of the colourful architectural style of North Bali. Sangsit's **Pura Beji** is a *subak* (village association for rice-growers) temple, dedicated to the goddess Dewi Sri, who looks after irrigated rice fields. The sculptured panels along the front wall set the tone with their cartoonlike demons and amazing *naga* (mythical snakelike creatures). The inside also has a variety of sculptures covering every available space. It's about 500m off the main road towards the coast.

The **Pura Dalem** shows scenes of punishment in the afterlife, and other humorous, sometimes erotic, pictures. You'll find it in the rice fields, about 500m northeast of Pura Beji.

Buses and bemo going east from Singaraja's Penarukan terminal will stop at Sangsit.

Jagaraga

It was the capture of the local rajah's stronghold at Jagaraga that marked the arrival of Dutch power in Bali in 1849. The village, a few kilometres south of the main road, also has a **Pura Dalem**. The small, interesting temple has delightful sculptured panels along its front wall, inside and out. On the outer wall, look for a vintage car driving sedately past,

a steamer at sea and even an aerial dogfight between early aircraft. Jagaraga is also famous for its Legong troupe, said to be the best in North Bali, but performances are irregular.

Bemo from the Penarukan terminal in Singaraja stop at Jagaraga on the way to Sawan.

Sawan

Several kilometres inland from Jagaraga, Sawan is a centre for the manufacture of gamelan gongs and instruments. You can see them being cast and the intricately carved gamelan frames being made. **Pura Batu Bolong** (Temple of the Hollow Stone) and its baths are also worth a look. Around Sawan there are cold water springs that are believed to cure all sorts of illnesses.

Regular bemo to Sawan leave from Penarukan terminal in Singaraja.

Kubutambahan

About a kilometre east of the turn-off to Kintamani is **Pura Maduwe Karang** (Temple of the Land Owner). Like Pura Beji at Sangsit, this temple of dark stone is dedicated to agricultural spirits, but this one looks after nonirrigated land.

This is one of the most delightful temples in North Bali and is particularly noted for its sculptured panels, including the famous bicycle stone-carved relief that depicts a gentleman riding a bicycle with flowers for wheels. It's on the base of the main plinth in the inner enclosure. The cyclist may be WOJ Nieuwenkamp, a Dutch artist who, in 1904, brought probably the first bicycle to Bali.

The temple is easy to find in the village. Kubutambahan is on the road between Singaraja and Amlapura, and there are regular bemo and buses.

Gitgit

About 11km south of Singaraja, the well-signposted path goes 800m west from the main road to the touristy waterfall, **Air Terjun Gitgit** (adult/child 4000/2000Rp). The path is lined with souvenir stalls and guides to nowhere. The 40m waterfalls pound away and you'll feel cool just looking at them.

About 2km further up the hill, there's a multiterred **waterfall** (donation 5000Rp) about 600m off the western side of the main road. The path crosses a narrow bridge and follows the river up past several small sets of waterfalls, through verdant jungle.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Regular bemo and minibuses between Denpasar (Ubung terminal) and Singaraja (Sukasada terminal) stop at Gitgit. Gitgit is also a major stop on organised tours of central and North Bali.

LOVINA

☎ 0362

Relaxed is how people most often describe Lovina and they are correct. This low-key, low-rise beach resort has a mellow vibe that many travellers enjoy after the frenetic go-go of South Bali. The waves are calm, the people are calm, the bars are calm, it's all, well, very calm.

This is where you catch up on your journal, finish a book or make new friends at a laid-back beachside café. If you're feeling more active you can start with a wander on the delightful beach walk. There's also some good diving in the area, and if you really want to get you motor revving – literally – there's early morning dolphin watching.

While not arid, Lovina is also not a tropical jungle. It's sunny and there are palm trees about. It is definitely spread out though – don't plan on walking from one end to the other.

Lovina is a convenient base for trips around the north coast or the central mountains. The beaches are made up of washed-out grey and black volcanic sand, and they are mostly clean near the hotel areas but not spectacular. Reefs protect the shore, calming the waves and keeping that water clear.

A highlight every afternoon at fishing villages like Anturan, is watching *prahu* (traditional outrigger canoes) being prepared for the night's fishing; as sunset reddens the sky, the lights of the fishing boats appear as bright dots across the horizon.

Orientation

The Lovina tourist area stretches over 8km, and consists of a string of coastal villages – Kaliase, Kalibukbuk, Anturan, Tukad Mungga – collectively known as Lovina. The main focus is Kalibukbuk, 10.5km west of Singaraja and often thought of as the heart of Lovina. The main street is also the main east–west road. It goes by various names, including Jl Raya Lovina and Jl Raya Kaliase. Traffic in the daytime can be loud and constant.

For trips to Singaraja, the back road is a bucolic alternative.

Information

If you are planning a reading holiday in Lovina, come prepared. Other than some used book stalls, there's no good source for books or newspapers (if only the urchins selling over-priced papers in the south came here, they'd clean up).

EMERGENCY

Police station (Jl Raya Lovina) Near the tourist office.

INTERNET ACCESS

Spice Cyber (☎ 41305; Jl Bina Ria; per min 300Rp; ☎ 8am–midnight; 📶) The best place for internet access, and it's reasonably fast.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Apotek Rahayu (☎ 41314; Jl Raya Lovina; ☎ 24hr) Pharmacy with a doctor on call.

MONEY

There are moneychangers around Lovina, especially in Kalibukbuk. There is a Bank BCA ATM at the corner of Jl Bina Ria and Jl Raya Lovina.

POST

The main post office is 1km west of central Kalibukbuk.

Sights & Activities

BEACHES

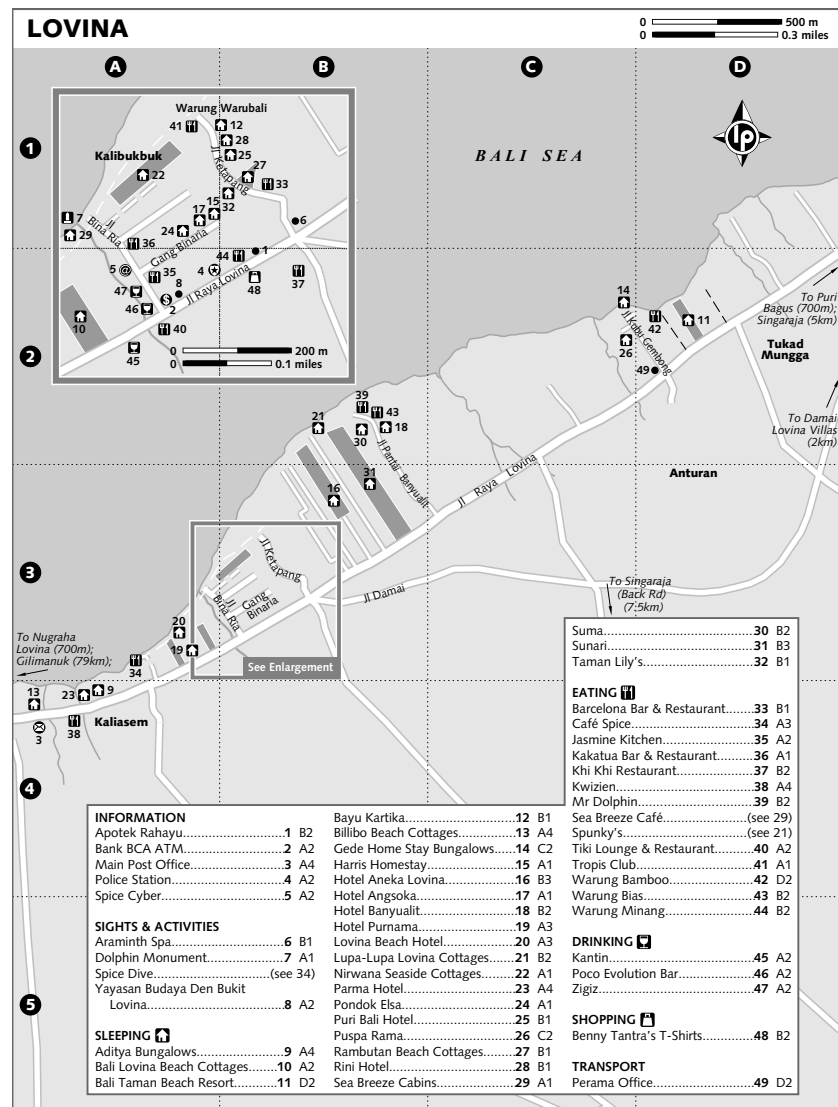
A paved beach path runs along the sand in Kalibukbuk. It greatly eases a beach stroll – even if it is popular with scooters. Enjoy the postcard view to the east of the mountainous North Bali coast.

Otherwise, the best beach areas include the main beach east of the **Dolphin Monument** as well as the curving stretch a bit west. The cluster of cheap hotels in Anturan also enjoy fun in the sand.

DOLPHIN WATCHING

Sunrise boat trips to see dolphins are Lovina's much-hyped tourist attraction – so much so that a large concrete-crowned monument has been erected in honour of the over-touted cetaceans. Some days, no dolphins are sighted, but most of the time at least a few surface.

Expect constant hassle from your hotel and touts selling dolphin trips – and if you want to go, it's best to buy a ticket the day before. The price is fixed at 40,000Rp per person by the boat owners' cartel. Trips start at a non-



holiday-like 6am and last about two hours. Note that the ocean can get pretty crowded with loud, roaring power boats.

There's great debate about what all this means to the dolphins. Do they like being chased by boats? If not, why do they keep coming back? Maybe it's the fish, of which there are plenty off Lovina. For a dolphin,

maybe the buzzing boats are on par with someone yakking on a cell phone at dinner. Or maybe not.

DIVING

Scuba diving on the local reef is better at lower depths and night diving is particularly recommended. Many people stay here to dive

Pulau Menjangan (p282), a two- to three-hour drive west.

For a two-dive trip, including transport and all equipment, expect to pay about US\$35 for a Lovina reef or night dive; and around US\$50 to Amed, Tulamben or Pulau Menjangan.

Spice Dive (☎ 41509; www.balispicedive.com) has the best reputation locally. It runs four-dive PADI open-water certificate courses for about US\$250. It is based at the pleasant Café Spice (p267), at the end of the beach path.

SNORKELLING

Generally, the water is clear and some parts of the reef are quite good for snorkelling, though the coral has been damaged by 'bleaching' and, in places, by dynamite fishing. The best place is to the west, a few-hundred metres offshore from Billibo Beach Cottages. A boat trip will cost about 40,000Rp per person for two people for two hours, including equipment. Snorkelling gear costs about 20,000Rp per day.

MASSAGE & SPAS

Araminth Spa (☎ 0812 384 4655; Jl Ketapang; massage from 80,000Rp; ☎ 10am-7pm) offers Balinese, Ayurveda, and foot massage in a simple but cute setting.

Sleeping

Hotels are spread out along Jl Raya Lovina, and on the side roads going off to the beach. There are decent places to stay in every price range and while Bali visitor numbers remain down, bargains are commonplace and many midrange places are rather cheap.

Anturan is largely a backpackers' beach with a mellow charm. There are some nice places grouped from Anturan to Kalibukbuk – which is jammed with all manner of accommodation and services. West of Kalibukbuk the hotel density again diminishes right along with the beach.

BUDGET

Anturan

A few tiny side tracks and one proper sealed road, Jl Kubu Gembong, lead to this lively little fishing village, busy with swimming locals and moored fishing boats. It's a real travellers' hang-out. It's a long way from Lovina's evening delights though – expect to pay around 20,000Rp for transport back to Anturan from Kalibukbuk after 6pm when the bemo stop operating.

Gede Home Stay Bungalows (☎ 41526; Jl Kubu Gembong; r 50,000-120,000Rp; ☎) The friendly staff at this eight-room place are especially winsome. Cheap rooms have cold water while better ones have hot water and air-con.

Puspa Rama (☎ 42070; Jl Kubu Gembong; s/d incl breakfast 60,000/70,000Rp) This is one of several cheap places on this street. The six rooms have hot water and are set in lush grounds.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Jl Pantai Banyualit has many hotels, although the beachfront area is not very inspiring.

Suma (☎ 41566; Jl Pantai Banyualit; r US\$10-35; ☎) In a mannered stone building, Suma has views of the sea from its upstairs rooms. The pool is large and naturalistic; there's also a pleasant café.

Kalibukbuk

A little over 10km from Singaraja, the 'centre' of Lovina is the village of Kalibukbuk. Jl Ketapang is marginally quieter and more pleasant than Jl Bina Ria. There are small *gangs* (footpaths) lined with cheap places to stay off both.

Harris Homestay (☎ 41152; Gang Binaria; s/d incl breakfast 40,000-50,000Rp) This cosy little place is part of a family compound. The cold-water rooms have nice porches.

Hotel Angsoka (☎ 41841; www.angsoka.com; Gang Binaria; r 40,000-200,000Rp; ☎) There's a large range of rooms here, from cold-water basic to large with air-con and hot water. All enjoy a good-sized pool, café and quiet gardens.

Pondok Elsa (☎ 41186; Gang Binaria; r 50,000-120,000Rp; ☎) This two-storey heavily ornate building has seven clean, pleasant rooms; three with air-con and hot water.

Taman Lily's (☎ 41307; gervanleenen@hotmail.com; Jl Ketapang; r from 75,000Rp) This has a friendly atmosphere and six good-value bungalow-style rooms on a grassy, walled compound.

Puri Bali Hotel (☎ 41485; www.puribalilovina.com; Jl Ketapang; r 80,000-180,000Rp; ☎) The pool area is very attractive, with mature, lush plantings. The better rooms, with hot water and air-con, are simple but comfortable.

Rini Hotel (☎/fax 41386; rinihotel@telkom.net; Jl Ketapang; r 80,000-300,000Rp; ☎) This tidy 30-room place has a large saltwater pool. Cheaper rooms are basic but the more expensive ones are huge, with air-con and hot water. A new grand entrance welcomes the many loyal customers.

West of Kalibukbuk

Parma Hotel (☎ 41555; Jl Raya Lovina; r 30,000-50,000Rp) Maintenance here is as relaxed as the staff but the six bungalow-style rooms are clean and reasonably well protected from traffic noise. Rooms that face the sandy beachfront are great value.

Hotel Purnama (☎ 41043; Jl Raya Lovina; s/d 40,000/50,000Rp) One of the best deals on this stretch has seven clean rooms with cold water. The beach is a two-minute walk away.

Lovina Beach Hotel (☎ 41005; www.lovinabeachhotel.com; Jl Raya Lovina; r 75,000-250,000Rp, bungalows 250,000Rp; ☎) Clean rooms in heavily detailed Balinese bungalows are set in pleasant grounds on the beach. Better ones come with hot water; private bungalows have air-con and views.

Billibo Beach Cottages (☎ 41355; Jl Raya Lovina; r 125,000-200,000Rp; ☎) Located near one of the best spots for snorkelling, the cottages here are clean and comfortable with hot water and good access to the beach.

MIDRANGE

Anturan

Bali Taman Beach Resort (☎ 41126; www.indo.com/hotels/bali_taman; Jl Raya Lovina; r US\$35-85; ☎) Facing the busy road, but extending down to the beach, the Bali Taman has 30 rooms that vary greatly. The best ones are bungalows with ocean views and satellite TV. The pool faces the ocean and is surrounded by leafy gardens. There's also a small spa.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

This quiet area has several midrange choices on little parallel lanes running to the beach.

Lupa-Lupa Lovina Cottages (☎ 41698; Jl Pantai; r US\$15-30) The name of the lane here is Beach Rd and that says it. There are two rooms in a two-storey bungalow and another large unit on its own. The water is just a few metres from your door. There's a quiet café nearby.

Hotel Banyualit (☎ 41789; www.banyualit.com; Jl Pantai Banyualit; r 150,000-450,000Rp; ☎) Back from the beach, the Banyualit has a lush garden of snaking vines, flowers, statues and a large pool. The 22 rooms offer great choice and better ones come with satellite TV and other amenities. There are also a couple of fan-only economy rooms.

Hotel Aneka Lovina (☎ 41121; www.anekahotels.com; Jl Raya Lovina; s/d US\$45/50, villa US\$60/70; ☎) On a long, narrow site extending all the way to the beach, the Aneka is an enjoyable place.

The 24 rooms and 35 bungalow-style villas have minibars and modern bathrooms. The grounds are spacious and units are well separated. The large pool area has good views.

Kalibukbuk

Nirwana Seaside Cottages (☎ 41288; www.nirwana.seaside.com; bungalows 100,000-125,000Rp, deluxe r 210,000-300,000Rp; ☎) On large and lovely beachfront grounds, the 58-unit Nirwana sprawls over a large site. The bungalows are a bit funky and have hot water. Those with beach views are a great deal. A newer wing has hotel-style air-con rooms with satellite TV.

Bayu Kartika (☎ 41219; www.bayukartikaresort.com; Jl Ketapang; r 100,000-300,000Rp; ☎) There is a range of 27 light and airy rooms here. The best ones have air-con and ocean or pool views. The sprawling grounds feature a small creek.

Sea Breeze Cabins (☎ 41138; r US\$15, bungalows US\$35-40; ☎) An excellent choice in the heart of Kalibukbuk, off Jl Bina Ria, the Sea Breeze has three appealing bungalows right on the beach, some with sensational views from their verandas. The two rooms have cold water.

Bali Lovina Beach Cottages (☎ 41285; www.balilovinahotel.com; Jl Raya Lovina; r US\$25-35; ☎) The 26 rooms here are in mixed two-storey and bungalow-style units. As always, the best ones face the beach. The pool has an iconic dolphin fountain and parts are shaded by large trees.

Rambutan Beach Cottages (☎ 41388; www.rambutan.org; Jl Ketapang; r 300,000-500,000Rp; ☎) The hotel, on a large area of land, features two swimming pools and charming gardens. The 33 rooms and villas are tasteful with lashings of Balinese style. There are a few cold-water economy rooms for 100,000Rp. Diversions include a playground for kids and darts for adults.

West of Kalibukbuk

Aditya Bungalows (☎ 41059; www.adityalovina.com; r 300,000-600,000Rp; ☎) There are 65 rooms at this big place on a sandy beach. The best ones have views of the ocean and all have a good range of amenities and attractive bathrooms. The large pool vies with the ocean for your affections.

Nugraha Lovina (☎ 41601; Jl Raya Lovina; r 450,000-500,000Rp; ☎) This modern oceanfront hotel features lashings of Balinese detailing inside and out. The rooms have showers and either patios or balconies facing the ocean. It's a pleasant location at the west edge of the Lovina strip.

TOP END

Singaraja to Anturan

Puri Bagus (☎ 21430; www.lovina.puri Bagus.net; villa US\$95-155; 🍽️ 🍷) Well off the main road, Puri Bagus has 40 private villas set on immaculate grounds along a stone beach. The stylish units have large bathrooms with outdoor showers and nice verandas for enjoying the tropical views and thatched roofs. The pool is large and free-form and the hotel is surrounded by rice paddies.

Anturan to Kalibukbuk

Sunari (☎ 41775; www.sunari.com; r US\$85-130, villas US\$240-360; 🍽️ 🍷) Off Jl Raya Lovina, the imposing entrance to this place leads to a large beachfront resort with redecorated rooms and good services. Various villas come with private plunge pools, whirlpools and ocean views. Grounds are verdant with banana trees and a profusion of posies.

South of Lovina

Damai Lovina Villas (☎ 41008; www.damai.com; villa from US\$150; 🍽️ 🍷) There are views across Lovina at this boutique hotel renowned for its organic cuisine. It has eight luxury bungalows furnished with beautiful fabrics and antiques. The pool seemingly spills onto a landscape of peanut fields, rice paddies and coconut palms. The restaurant, on a raised pavilion fringed by cerise bougainvillea, focuses on fusion cuisine. Call for transport, or at the main junction in Kalibukbuk, go south on Jl Damai and follow the road for about 3km.

Eating & Drinking

Just about every hotel has a café or restaurant. Close to the centre of Lovina you can find several places that go beyond the usual travellers' establishment. Most places are good for just a drink and some have sunset happy hours.

ANTURAN

Warung Bamboo (dishes 7000-30,000Rp) A small, open-fronted place, Bamboo fronts a lively section of beach; watch fishers prepping boats, travellers making out (or planning to...) etc. One of several here, it serves classic fare and cheap beer. To find it, walk east along the beach from the end of Jl Kubu Gembong.

ANTURAN TO KALIBUKBUK

Mr Dolphin (☎ 0813-3848 7612; Jl Banyualit; dishes 5000-10,000Rp) Right on the beach, the fresh juices are good at this place, which, not surprisingly

given the name, is a hang-out for dolphin tour skippers.

Warung Bias (☎ 411692; Jl Pantai Banyualit; dishes 10,000-40,000Rp; 🍽️ 4.30-9pm) Worth a trip, Bias serves homemade baked goods, as well as Indian curries, European dishes like wiener schnitzel, pastas and pizzas. It's in a simple open-air setting surrounded by a carp pond.

Spunky's (☎ 41134; Jl Pantai; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp; 🍽️ 11am-4pm) A real comer in the lunch department, Spunky's serves Indo classics right on the beach. Take a dip, take a drink.

KALIBUKBUK

This is ground zero for nightlife. There's a good range of restaurants, beachside cafés, bars where you can get a burger and maybe hear music or fun places that defy description.

Warung Minang (☎ 0812 393 0792; Jl Raya Lovina; dishes 6000-8000Rp) This stylish Pedang-style café is a find. Choose from lots of fresh dishes on display and savour the local art on the walls.

Kantin (☎ 0812 460 7791; Jl Raya Lovina; dishes 6000-12,000Rp; 🍽️ 11am-2am) Funky open-air place where you can watch traffic by day and groove to acoustic guitar by night. There's a long drinks list, fresh juices and coffee and a few local snacks.

Kakatua Bar & Restaurant (☎ 41344; Jl Bina Ria; dishes 7000-35,000Rp) A squawking sulphur-crested cockatoo at the front of the restaurant beckons you in (or tells you to get lost; who speaks cockatoo after all?). The menu merges Mexican, Thai, Indian and Balinese (and let's not forget pizza) – all of which is decent.

Khi Khi Restaurant (☎ 41548; dishes 8000-100,000Rp) Well off Jl Raya Lovina, this barn of a place is filled with fishy aromas. It specialises in Chinese food and grilled seafood, including lobster. It's always popular.

Zigiz (Jl Bina Ria; snacks from 10,000Rp; 🍽️ 6pm-1am) This small place has walls covered in artwork and live music some nights.

Tiki Lounge & Restaurant (☎ 41191; Jl Raya Lovina; dishes 10,000-20,000Rp) The name lets you know this place takes its tropical motif seriously, right down to the bamboo detailing everywhere. The long Indonesian menu has pictures to help you choose, or you may just drop by for a beer.

Barcelona Bar & Restaurant (☎ 41894; Jl Ketapang; dishes 10,000-35,000Rp) This restaurant has a shady garden area out the back. The well-prepared food includes *sate pelecng* (fish satay with Balinese spices) and *pepesan babi guling* (suckling pig slices wrapped in banana leaf).

Poco Evolution Bar (☎ 41535; Jl Bina Ria; dishes 12,000-25,000Rp; 🍽️ 11am-1am) At various times movies are shown and cover bands perform at this popular bar-café. Classic travellers' fare is served.

Sea Breeze Café (☎ 41138; dishes 12,000-45,000Rp) Right by the beach off Jl Bina Ria and blessed with sweeping views, this café has a range of Indonesian and Western dishes and good breakfasts. It's a good spot for sunset drinks.

Tropis Club (☎ 42090; Jl Ketapang; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) The long menu at this beachside place includes wood-fired pizza which may not transport you to Italy, but may get you as far as Oman. It's an attractive place with a soaring roof and good sunset views.

Jasmine Kitchen (☎ 41565; Gang Binaria; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) Enjoy excellent Thai fare in this elegant two-level restaurant. The menu is long and authentic and the help gracious. While soft jazz plays, try the homemade ice cream for dessert.

WEST OF KALIBUKBUK

Café Spice (☎ 41509; dishes 24,000-45,000Rp) Part of Spice Dive, this delightful beachside place is right at the western end of the beach path. The walls are covered in artwork and the menu is interesting and good. Besides the dive vibe you can sometimes hear the squeals of local kids learning English at the shop's free school upstairs.

Kwizien (☎ 42031; Jl Raya Lovina; dishes 24,000-75,000Rp; 🍽️ 11am-midnight) The big news in Lovina dining is this excellent place run by the folks behind the much-lauded Café des Artistes in Ubud (p196). The location back from the road has a relaxed elegance, which sets the mood for a perusal of the long wine list (bottles from 120,000Rp). Grilled seafood tops the menu highlighted by creative Indonesian fare. The tuna is a treat.

SOUTH OF LOVINA

Damai Lovina Villas (☎ 41008; www.damai.com; lunch US\$4-10, 5-course dinner US\$40) Enjoy the renowned restaurant at this boutique hotel (opposite).

Entertainment

Some of the joints on Jl Bina Raya have live music.

Yayasan Budaya Den Bukit Lovina (Lovina Culture Foundation; ☎ 41293; Jl Raya Lovina) Organises Kecak dances on Tuesday nights from good local

troupes as well as Legong and bull races (see p278) other days.

Shopping

Shops on the main streets of Kalibukbuk sell a range of souvenirs, sundries and groceries.

Benny Tantra's T-Shirts (Jl Raya Lovina) For something different, check out the amusing range of T-shirts and postcards, portraying to an uncanny degree the life of a tourist in Lovina.

Getting There & Away
BUS & BEMO

To reach Lovina from South Bali by public transport, you'll need to change in Singaraja (see p257). Regular blue bemo go from Singaraja's Banyuasri terminal to Kalibukbuk (about 6000Rp) – you can flag them down anywhere on the main road.

If you are coming by long-distance bus from the west you can ask to be dropped off anywhere along the main road.

TOURIST SHUTTLE BUS

Perama buses stop at its office, in front of **Hotel Perama** (☎ 41161) on Jl Raya Lovina in Anturan. Passengers are then ferried to other points on the Lovina strip (5000Rp).

Destination	Fare
Candidasa	100,000Rp
Kuta	70,000Rp
Padangbai	100,000Rp
Sanur	70,000Rp
Ubud	30,000Rp

Getting Around

The Lovina strip is very spread out, but you can easily travel back and forth on bemo (2000Rp). Bikes are easily rented around town for about 30,000Rp per day.

WEST OF LOVINA

The main road west of Lovina passes many interesting attractions and follows the mostly undeveloped coast, where a few resorts and diving centres take advantage of the secluded beaches and coral reefs. The road continues to the Taman Nasional Bali Barat (p280) and the port of Gilimanuk (p283).

Air Terjun Singing

About 5km west of Kalibukbuk, a sign points to **Air Terjun Singing** (Daybreak Waterfall).

About 1km from the main road, there is a warung (food stall) on the left and a car park on the right. Walk past the warung and along the path for about 200m to the lower falls. The waterfall is not huge, but the pool underneath is ideal for swimming. The water isn't crystal clear, but it's cooler than the sea and very refreshing.

Clamber further up the hill to another waterfall, **Singsing Dua**, which is slightly bigger and has a mud bath which is supposedly good for the skin (maybe if you're a worm?). This one also cascades into a deep swimming pool.

The area is thick with tropical forest and makes a nice day trip from Lovina. The falls are more spectacular in the wet season, and may be just a trickle in the dry season.

Brahma Vihara Arama

Bali's single Buddhist monastery, only vaguely Buddhist in appearance, with colourful decorations, a bright orange roof and statues of Buddha, has very Balinese decorative carvings and door guardians. It is quite a handsome structure in a commanding location, with views that reach down into the valley and across the rice fields to the sea. You should wear long pants or a sarong (which can be hired for a small donation; see the boxed text, p42). The monastery does not advertise any regular courses or programmes, but visitors are more than welcome to meditate in special rooms.

The temple is 3.3km off the main road – take the obvious turn-off in Denarik. If you don't have your own transport, arrange it with an *ojek* (motorcycle) driver at the turn-off (10,000Rp). The road continues past the monastery, winding further up into the hills to Pedewa, a Bali Aga village.

Air Panas Banjar

☎ 0362

Not far from Brahma Vihara Arama, these **hot springs** (adult/child 4100/2000Rp, parking 1000Rp; ☎ 8am–6pm) percolate amid lush tropical plants. You can relax here for a few hours and have lunch at the restaurant, or even stay the night.

Eight fierce-faced carved stone *naga* pour water from a natural hot spring into the first bath, which then overflows (via the mouths of five more *naga*), into a second, larger pool. In a third pool, water pours from 3m-high spouts to give you a pummelling massage. The water is slightly sulphurous and pleas-

antly hot, so you might enjoy it more in the morning or the evening than in the heat of the Balinese day. You must wear a swimsuit and you shouldn't use soap in the pools, but you can do so under an adjacent outdoor shower.

In a verdant setting on a hillside very close to the baths, the rooms at **Pondok Wisata Grya Sari** (☎ 92903; fax 92966; r 90,000–150,000Rp, ste 200,000Rp) are clean and have outdoor bathrooms. Treks into the surrounding densely grown countryside can be organised from here.

Overlooking the baths, **Restoran Komala Tirta** (dishes 8000–16,000Rp) has the usual Indonesian menu and an unpretentious mood.

It's only about 3km from the monastery to the hot springs if you take the short cut – go down to Banjar Tega, turn left in the centre of the village and follow the small road west, then south to Banjar village. From there it's a short distance uphill before you see the 'Air Panas 1km' sign on the left (on the corner by the police station). From the bemo stop on the main road to the hot springs you can take an *ojek*; going back is a 2.4km downhill stroll.

Seririt

This town is a junction for roads that run south over the mountains to Munduk and the central mountains (p252) or to Papuan and West Bali (see the boxed text, p277). These are very scenic drives.

The road continuing west along the coast towards Gilimanuk is in good shape. In Seririt, there's a Bank BCA ATM at the Lovina end of town. There are many warung in the market area, just north of the bemo stop and you can find petrol stations on the main road. Temple offering stalls here are bold visions of orange flowers.

Celukanbawang

Celukanbawang is the main cargo port for North Bali, and has a large wharf. Bugis schooners – the magnificent sailing ships that take their name from the seafaring Bugis people of Sulawesi – can sometimes be seen anchoring here.

Pulaki

Pulaki is famous for its many grape vines and for **Pura Pulaki**, a coastal temple that was completely rebuilt in the early 1980s, and is home to a large troop of monkeys.

A few hundred metres east of the temple, a well-signposted 3km paved road leads to **Pura Melanting**. This temple has a dramatic setting in the foothills, and is gloriously devoid of tourists and hawkers. It is dedicated to good fortune in business. A donation is expected as entry to the complex, although you're not permitted in the main worship area. Look for the dragon statue with the lotus blossom on its back near the entrance.

PEMUTERAN

☎ 0362

This resort enclave on the far northwest corner of Bali is something of an oasis among little else. The once impoverished villagers have realized that healthy reefs and sea life draw visitors, so they've found relative prosperity as good stewards to the local environment.

This is the place to come for a real beach getaway. Most people do some diving or snorkelling while here.

Sights & Activities

The extensive coral reefs are about 3km offshore. Coral that's closer in is being restored as part of a unique project (see the boxed text, below). Diving and snorkelling on the local reefs is universally popular. Many people also

do one or the other at the fabled dive sites at Pulau Menjangan to the west (p282).

Pemuteran is home to the Reef Seen Turtle Project, run by the Australian-owned **Reef Seen Aquatics** (☎ 93001; www.reefseen.com). Turtle eggs and small turtles purchased from locals are looked after here until they're ready for ocean release. More than 6000 turtles have been released since 1994. You can visit the small hatchery and see Boomer, the turtle who wouldn't leave, and make a donation to sponsor and release a tiny turtle. It's just off the main road east of Pondok Sari.

Reef Seen also offers diving, boat cruises and horse riding. A PADI introductory dive costs US\$60 and dives at Pemuteran/Pulau Menjangan are US\$60/70 for two dives. Sunset and sunrise cruises and glass-bottomed boat trips (per person 160,000Rp) are offered. Horse-riding treks pass through the local villages and beaches (290,000Rp for two hours). Simple accommodation is available (p270).

Easy Divers (☎ 94736; www.easy-divers.eu) comes well recommended and offers a worthwhile five-day PADI open-water course for US\$350. Dive trips to Tulamben and Menjangan cost US\$65.

Pemuteran's hotels all have their own dive operations.

WANT A NEW REEF? CHARGE IT!

Pemuteran is set among a fairly arid part of Bali where people have always had a hard-scrabble existence. In the early 1990s, tourism development began to take advantage of the excellent diving in the area.

Locals who'd previously been scrambling to grow or catch something to eat began getting language and other training to welcome people to what would become a slightly upscale collection of resorts.

But there was one big problem: the reefs that were meant to bring people in had their clocks fast running out. Dynamite and cyanide fishing was rampant but after a few fits and starts, the community managed to control this. Then came the late 1990s and the El Niño warming of the water, which bleached and damaged large parts of the reef.

A group of local hotel and dive-shop owners and community leaders hit upon a novel solution: charge a new reef! Not with plastic, of course, but with electricity. The idea had already been floated by scientists internationally, but Pemuteran was the first place to implement it on a wide – and hugely successful – scale.

Using local materials, the community built dozens of large metal cages which were placed out among the threatened reef. Then they were literally hooked to very low-wattage generators on land (you can see the cables running ashore near the Taman Sari Bali Cottages). What had been a theory proved a reality. The low current stimulated limestone formation on the cages which in turn quickly grew new coral. All told, Pemuteran's small bay is getting new coral at five to six times the rate it would take to grow naturally.

The results are win-win all around. Locals and visitors are happy and so are the reefs.

For much more on Pemuteran's reef project follow the links at www.balitamansari.com.

Sleeping & Eating

Pemuteran is an unpretentious and relaxed place to stay with many midrange and top-end choices. There are several small warung along the main drag, otherwise all the hotels have good, mostly modestly-priced, restaurants.

Many of the hotels are located on a small bay with a semicircle of beach that's good for swimming.

Jubawa Home Stay (☎ 94745; r 150,000-200,000Rp; 🏠 📍) Not far from the Matahari on the south side of the road, this cheery place is a good budget choice. The best rooms have hot water and air-con and guests have free internet access. The café serves Balinese and Thai food and there is a long list of cocktails. It's on the mountain side of the road.

Reef Seen (☎ 93001; www.reefseen.com; r 200,000-275,000Rp; 🏠) Five new, solid Balinese-style brick bungalows join two older ones. All have open-air bathrooms, one has air-con. This is a well-regarded dive centre (see p269) and it's located on the small bay.

Taman Sari Bali Cottages (☎ 288096; www.balitamansari.com; bungalows US\$35-150; 🏠 📍 🚿) Thirty-one rooms are set in gorgeous bungalows (some quite grand) which feature intricate carvings and other traditional artwork. The open-air bathrooms are delightful places for that wake-up shower. It's located on a long stretch of quiet beach on the small bay. It's also part of the reef restoration project (see the boxed text, p269).

Pondok Sari (☎ 92337; www.pondoksari.com; r US\$38-45; 🏠) There are pleasant bungalows here, on the small bay, with traditional rooms and lovely flower-filled open-air bathrooms. The restaurant features Western and Indo classics.

Taman Selini Beach Bungalows (☎ 94746; www.tamanselini.com; r US\$55-85; 🏠 📍) The 11 bungalows here have quaint thatched roofs that lure you in from the road. Rooms, which open onto a small garden area, have four-poster beds and big outdoor bathrooms. The restaurant, Caffe Selini, is a picturesque, relaxed spot featuring Indonesian and Mediterranean cuisine. It's on the small bay.

Matahari Beach Resort & Spa (☎ 92312; www.matahari-beach-resort.com; r US\$150-400; 🏠 📍 🚿) One of Bali's best hotels, the Matahari is an elegant place in an isolated location on the eastern outskirts of Pemuteran. Beautiful and traditionally furnished bungalows take their design cues from Balinese family compounds and are set in attractive gardens. The large pool overlooks a black-sand beach. Perhaps the best part of the resort however is the spa, which is like a grand water palace and is open to nonguests.

Menjangan Resort (☎ 94700; www.menjangan.net; Monsoon Forest Resort r US\$150-350, Cliff Villas US\$400-950; 🏠 📍) There are two separate properties here: the Monsoon Forest Resort and Cliff Villas. The former is set in slightly dry forest and features rustic buildings around a pool. The latter has posh stylish rooms perched right above an ocean cove. Service at both places is quite good. Activities include a full range of water sports as well as horse riding. The resort is right at the west end of North Bali.

Getting There & Away

Pemuteran is served by any of the buses and bemo on the Gilimanuk-Lovina run. Labuhan Lalang (p283) and Taman Nasional Bali Barat are 12km west.