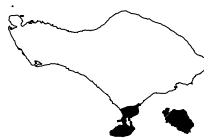


South Bali



Much of South Bali was once home to little more than a few sand-pounding fishermen. But oh how times change! Once making merry on the sand became popular, it guaranteed that South Bali would be the focus for visitors to the island.

Kuta, Legian and Seminyak are the tourist hub. But from there spokes of interest radiate throughout this dry region, surrounded by blue ocean and most of Bali's best surf breaks.

The Dutch made Denpasar an administrative centre, and today it is the centre for Bali's commercial life and much of its population. It can both appeal and repel with its frenetic pace. That's not the case just east in Sanur, a pleasant enclave of mellow beach resorts and many foreign residents.

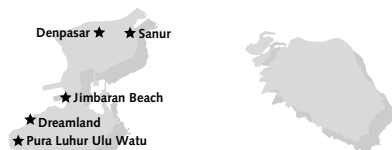
Dangling below Ngurah Rai airport, the gently domed Bukit Peninsula combines wild beaches and surf breaks near the culturally vital Ulu Watu temple with the more genteel climes of Jimbaran. The latter is home to discreet luxury resorts and beachside seafood joints for the masses.

On the east side, Nusa Dua is a gated enclave of huge resort hotels. To the north, Tanjung Benoa has more local flavour and is popular for the watersports possible just offshore.

Further offshore, and easily seen from anywhere facing east, the islands of Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Penida lure fun-seekers and the adventurous. Diving is world-class around the islands. Surfers and those looking for a mellow vibe flock to Lembongan, while Penida is for those who want to discover life that's been unchanged for decades.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Relishing freshly grilled seafood and the sunsets from **Jimbaran Beach** (opposite)
- Watching a full moon rise over Nusa Penida from **Sanur** (p139)
- Discovering the Bukit Peninsula's hidden beaches such as **Dreamland** (p131)
- Tossing a banana to a monkey at **Pura Luhur Ulu Watu** (p132)
- Absorbing Balinese culture at Denpasar's **Museum Negeri Propinsi Bali** (p168)



HISTORY

Following the bloody defeat of the three princes of the kingdom of Badung in 1906, the Dutch administration was relatively benign, and southern Bali was little affected until a fateful day in 1936 when Californians Bob and Louise Koke opened their idea of a little tropical resort on then deserted Kuta Beach.

Mass tourism took off – or landed – in 1969 when Ngurah Rai international airport opened. The first planned tourist resort was conceived in the early 1970s, by 'experts' working for the UN and the World Bank. As luxury hotels were built at Nusa Dua, unplanned development raced ahead from Kuta to Legian. People made the most of their opportunities, and small-scale, low-budget businesses were set up with limited local resources.

At first tourism development was confined only to designated areas such as Kuta, Sanur and Nusa Dua, but the boom of the 1990s saw it spreading north and south of Kuta, extending beyond Jimbaran Bay, and north of Nusa Dua to Tanjung Benoa. All the while, real estate speculators grabbed prime coastal spots around the Bukit Peninsula and north along the beach from Seminyak.

The annual cycle of more visitors bringing more money was disrupted after the millennium by the seemingly never-ending series of terrorist attacks, natural disasters elsewhere in Indonesia, various economic crises and other unsettling events that persuaded many visitors to stay home.

Pain was felt throughout tourist-dependent South Bali; slowly but surely though, visitors returned, development continued on parts of the Bukit Peninsula and Nusa Lembongan and somehow the traffic – which never got better – got worse.

BUKIT PENINSULA

☎ 0361

Hot and arid, the southern peninsula is known as Bukit (*bukit* means 'hill' in Indonesian), but was known to the Dutch as Taffelhoeck (Table Point). Once a reserve for royal hunting parties – and a place of banishment for undesirables – the Bukit Peninsula was sparsely inhabited. Its only significant site was Pura Luhur Ulu Watu, the culturally significant 'sea temple' at the southwestern tip of the peninsula.

Today the peninsula is a busy part of Bali where the hubbub begins immediately south of the airport. Quiet Jimbaran has a picture-perfect beach and bay, while surfers revel at places such as Dreamland and Ulu Watu. The south coast is barren and dramatic. But in the east, Nusa Dua soldiers on, a vast gated resort with calm seas and scores of resorts and thousands of hotel rooms. Bukit has a multitude of personalities you'll want to get to know.

JIMBARAN

Just south of Kuta and the airport, Teluk Jimbaran (Jimbaran Bay) is a superb crescent of white sand and blue sea, fronted by a long string of seafood *warung* (food stalls), and ending at the southern end in a bushy headland, home to the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay. It's mostly a somnolent kind of place except in the evenings as the sun goes down, when the tourists arrive and enjoy the spectacle while feasting on freshly caught grilled fish at any number of simple beachside joints. Once it's dark, you can see twinkling lights far out to sea: fishing boats bringing aboard the next night's meals.

Facilities are limited. Jl Raya Ulu Watu has some small markets and Jl Ulu Watu II has ATMs and mini-markets. For most things head to Kuta or Nusa Dua. Expect to pay 1000Rp for vehicles to the beach.

Sights & Activities

The temple **Pura Ulun Siwi** (Map p130) dates from the 18th century. In the mornings, the streets are the scene of the **morning market**, which sells some amazingly huge cabbages.

The **Ganeesha Gallery** (Map p130) at the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay (see p129) has exhibitions by international artists and is worth a visit – walk south along the beach.

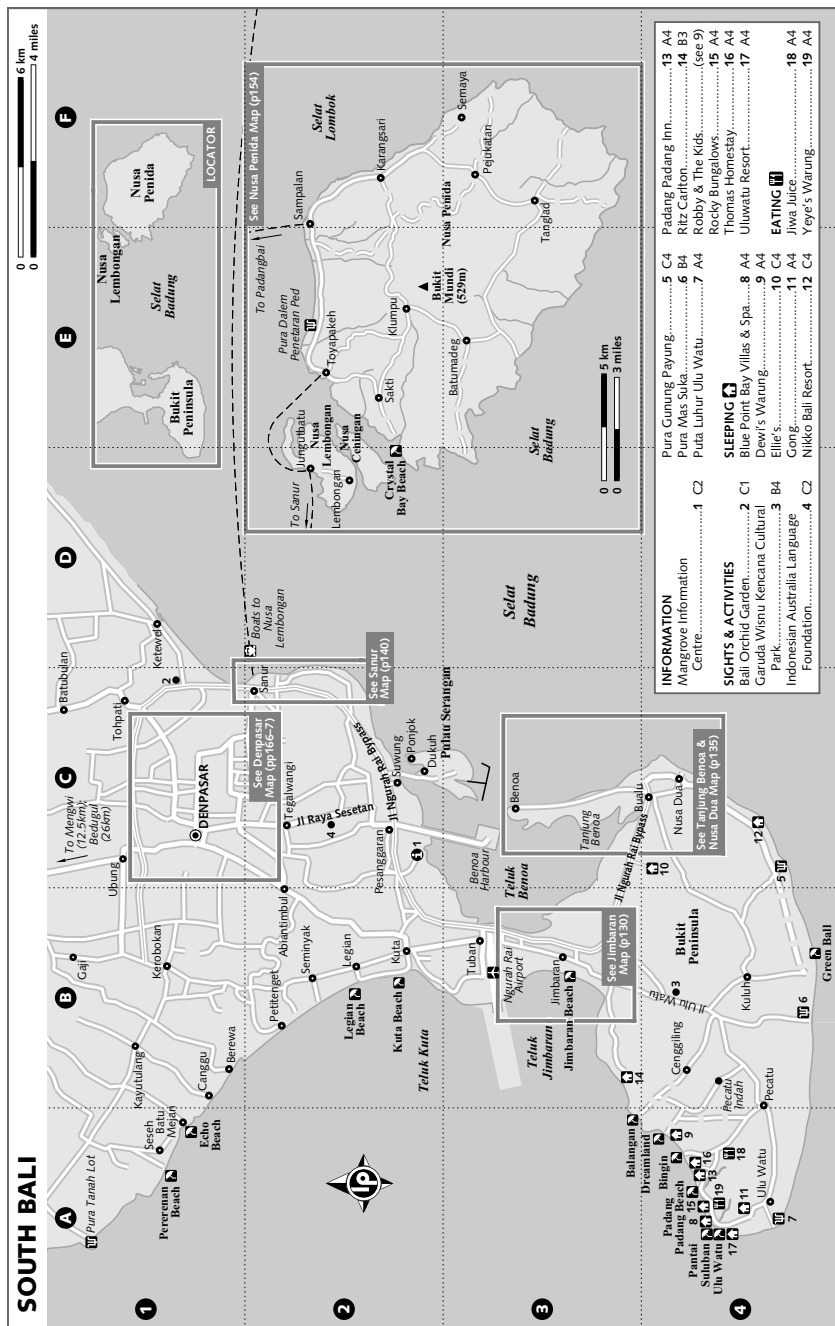
One of the best in Bali, the smelly, lively and frenetic **fish market** (Map p130) is well worth an early morning exploration. And out on the water, Jimbaran is a good place to access the surf breaks off the airport. See p82 for details.

Sleeping

The Jimbaran area is home to some of South Bali's most luxurious resorts, as well as more modest accommodation.

BUDGET

Villa Batu (Map p130; ☎ 703186; Jl Pantai Jimbaran; r 120,000-480,000Rp; 📶 🚽) This rambling place



has smallish rooms with open-air cold-water bathrooms. Some have air-con, others share a modest pool. There's a modest café in front.

Jimbaran Ocean Cottages (Map p130; ☎ 702253; info@kirakira-stay.com; Jl Pantai Jimbaran 3; r 150,000Rp, with air-con 200,000-250,000Rp; 🏠) Things are pretty tight here but you cannot beat the location across from the beach. All 15 rooms have hot water and there is a nice café on the 2nd floor with good views.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Puri Bambu (Map p130; ☎ 701377; www.puri-bambu.com; r US\$40-70; 🏠 📺 📶) A mere 200m from the beach, it's an attractive, low-key and good-value option. It has 48 standard rooms in three-storey blocks around a pool.

Udayana Eco Lodge (Map p130; ☎ 747 4204; www.ecolodgesindonesia.com; s/d 550,000/600,000Rp; 🏠 📺) Inland near Udayana University, this lodge has grand views over South Bali from its perch on a knoll in 70 hectares of bushland. The 15 rooms are comfortable and there is an inviting common area with a fine library. You can join in the fun of Sunday cricket matches.

TOP END

At this price level, scout around for deals during slack periods.

Puri Kosala (Map p130; ☎ 701673; www.purikosala.com; Jl Yoga Perkanti 2; villas US\$135-180; 🏠 📺 📶) With only six comfortable cottages, this secluded resort makes for a good getaway. It's close to the beach and has a large pool and interesting gardens.

Pansea Puri Bali (Map p130; ☎ 701605; www.pansea.com; Jl Yoga Perkanti; cottages US\$150-250; 🏠 📺 📶) Set in nice grounds complete with a figure-eight pool that looks onto open ocean, the 41 cottages have private gardens, deeply shaded patios and stylish room design. Huge-screen TVs should lure couch potatoes.

Hotel Intercontinental Bali (Map p130; ☎ 701888; www.bali.intercontinental.com; Jl Ulu Watu; r from US\$155; 🏠 📺 📶 📺) With 425 rooms, the Intercontinental is really a megalopolis, but it's a beautiful behemoth, decorated with Balinese arts and handicrafts. The plethora of pools feed each other and meander through the grounds. There is a good kids' club and the crescent of beach is fine.

Ritz Carlton (Map p128; ☎ 702222; www.ritzcarlton.com; r US\$200-400, villas US\$300-750; 🏠 📺 📶 📺) The luxury here is hidden in vast private grounds and a compound overlooking the

sea located three kilometres southwest of Jimbaran. Rooms are spacious and set in large blocks. With 290 rooms and 48 villas, this is the place for people who want a grand and lavish resort setting. The Ritz jealously guards its own gorgeous beach.

Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay (Map p130; ☎ 701010; www.fourseasons.com; villas with/without ocean frontage US\$695/585; 🏠 📺 📶 📺) The 147 villas are designed in a traditional Balinese manner complete with a carved entranceway, which opens onto an open-air dining pavilion overlooking a water-sucking plunge pool. The spa is guests-only, which keeps the riff-raff out – maybe they can keep eating cake. The Ganeesha Gallery with its regular exhibitions of fine Balinese art draws many visitors.

Eating

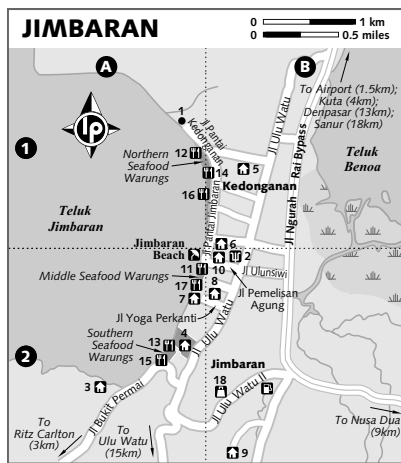
The warung are the destination of tourists across the south. Jimbaran's three groups of **seafood warung** do fresh barbecued seafood every evening (and noon at many). The open-sided affairs are right by the beach and perfect for enjoying sea breezes and sunsets. Tables and chairs are set up on the sand – almost to the water's edge.

The usual deal is to select your seafood fresh from iced displays or tanks and pay according to weight. Expect to pay around 35,000Rp per 100g for live lobster, 15,000Rp to 20,000Rp for prawns, and 7500Rp for fish, squid and clams. Prices are open to negotiation and the accuracy of the scales is a joke among locals.

At the best places the fish is soaked in a garlic and lime marinade, then doused with chilli and oil while grilling over coconut husks. At night you can't see the thick clouds of smoke from the coals. But you can hear the roaring bands, who perform tunes from the 'I've got to be me' playlist. Many people actually join in.

The longest row of restaurants is at the **northern seafood warung**, south of the fish market. This is the area where you will be taken by a taxi if you don't specify otherwise. Most of these places are restaurant-like with tables inside and out on the immaculate raked sand. Call for free transport to/from much of the south. Recommendations include:

Pudak Cafe (Map p130; ☎ 0813-3855 3800; Jl Pantai Kedonganan) Many fish displays.
Sharky's (Map p130; Jl Pantai Kedonganan) Takes credit cards.



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Fish Market.....	1	A1
Ganeesha Gallery.....	(see 3)	
Pura Ulun Siwi.....	2	B2

SLEEPING

Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay.....	3	A2
Hotel Intercontinental Bali.....	4	A2
Hotel Puri Bambu.....	5	B1
Jimbaran Ocean Cottages.....	6	B1
Pansea Puri Bali.....	7	A2
Puri Kosala.....	8	B2
Udayana Eco Lodge.....	9	B2
Villa Batu.....	10	B2

EATING

Cafe Nyoman.....	11	A2
Pudak Cafe.....	12	A1
Roma.....	13	A2
Sharky's.....	14	B1
Teba Cafe.....	15	A2
Uluwatu Cafe.....	16	A1
Warung Bamboo.....	17	A2

SHOPPING

Jenggala Keramik Bali.....	18	B2
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Uluwatu Café (Map p130; Jl Pantai Kedonganan) Comfy rattan furniture.

The **middle seafood warung** are in a compact group just south of Jl Pantai Jimbaran and Jl Pemelisan Agung. These seafood warung are the simplest affairs, with old-fashioned thatched roofs and wide-open sides. The beach is a little more natural, with the fishing boats resting up on the sand. Don't plan on getting any public transport out here though. Recommendations for warung along this part of the beach include the following:

Cafe Nyoman (Map p130; ☎ 703170; Jl Pantai Jimbaran)
Warung Bamboo (Map p130; ☎ 702188; off Jl Pantai Jimbaran)

The **southern seafood warung** are just north of the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay. In many ways the warung are like the three bears: this group is not as formal as the northern group, not as rickety as the middle group – they are just right. There's a parking area off Jl Bukit Permai and the places are right in a row. The beach here is well-groomed with nice trees. Call for transport. Recommendations:
Roma (Map p130; ☎ 702387; off Jl Bukit Permai) Redolent with garlic.
Teba Cafe (Map p130; ☎ 0817-346 068; off Jl Bukit Permai) Lots of special platters.

The luxury hotels have nice cafés and restaurants right on the beach and can be a fine place to visit for brunch or lunch with a view.

Shopping

Jenggala Keramik Bali (Map p130; ☎ 703310; Jl Ulu Watu 11; ☎ 9am-6pm) A modern warehouse with air-con showcases beautiful ceramic homewares. There's a viewing area where you can watch production, and a café. Ceramic courses are available for adults and children (US\$10/50 for one/six sessions). The outlet store for Jenggala is Gudang Keramik in Sanur (p146).

Getting There & Away

Public bemo from Tegal terminal in Denpasar go via Kuta to Jimbaran (10,000Rp), and continue to Nusa Dua. They don't run after about 4pm, but plenty of taxis wait around the beachfront warung in the evening to take replete diners back to Kuta (about 30,000Rp) or wherever. If you're dining at the seafood warung, call to try to arrange free transport.

CENTRAL BUKIT

Jl Ulu Watu goes south of Jimbaran, climbing 200m up the peninsula's namesake hill, affording views over southern Bali.

For years the only tourist facilities on the west coast of the Bukit were a few warung at the surf breaks, but in the late 1990s speculation ran rampant. Most of it came to little beyond a few scars on the land, with one notable exception.

Garuda Wisnu Kencana Cultural Park (GWK; Map p128; ☎ 703603; admission 15,000Rp, parking 5000Rp; ☎ 8am-6pm) is the yet to be completed huge cultural park that is meant to be home to a

A GIANT SPONGE

Begun in the boom-boom 1990s and stalled by the economic crisis later in the decade, Pecatu Indah is a 400-hectare resort complex rising between central Bukit Peninsula and the coast. The land is arid but that hasn't stopped the developers from planning a huge hotel, condos, houses and, worst of all, an 18-hole golf course. Follow the grand boulevards and you can see that the course doesn't benefit from any water-conserving measures such as shade. You do see a lot of water trucks driving around.

Meanwhile, with greens almost overlooking Dreamland, the future of the many vendors and families working there is in doubt. There is talk that the entire beach area might be seized for something upscale – something that uses a lot of water no doubt.

66m-high statue of Garuda. This Brobdinagian dream is supposed to be erected on top of a shopping and gallery complex, for a total height of 146m. Touted as the biggest and highest statue in the world, it is to be surrounded by performance spaces, art galleries, a food court and an adventure playground.

Well that's the plan. So far the only completed part of a statue is the large bronze head. The buildings that do exist are mostly empty. At least the parking lot has good views over South Bali. Despite annual pronouncements of imminent resumption of construction, you're more likely to see a guard chipping golf balls or a cow chewing a cud than a huge erection of a sacred statue.

As it stands – or doesn't – the deserted site is not worth going out of your way for except for the views.

Sleeping

With great views north across much of southern Bali, **Ellie's** (Map p128; ☎ 770517; www.ellies-Bali.com; Jl Tanan Lawangan, Mumbul; r US\$25-45; ☎ ☎) is one of the Bukit's best deals. The best rooms at this family-run place have sweeping views and shady balconies. There's a nice pool, a café, library, DVD player and more. The access road is off Jl Ngurah Rai in the village of Mumbul three kilometres west of Nusa Dua.

DREAMLAND

Once a remote surf break, **Dreamland**, as it's commonly known, is now a trendy scene. Reached by passing through the vast development of Pecatu Indah (above), this perfect cove of a beach is surrounded by cliffs. On most days, those in the know line the sands watching surfers and taking comfort at the growing number of simple bamboo-topped warung. It's all a little wild: planning is non-existent as is

pavement (after the grand boulevard ends) and it's not uncommon to see a cow wandering past lithe Versace-clad beauties.

Another noted surf break, **Balangan**, is north of Dreamland. Follow the paved road around and look for the path. For details about surfing at these two, see p79. Both are treacherous for swimming.

Dewi's Warung (Map p128; ☎ 081 5555 1722; r 150,000-250,000Rp) is right on the beach. The seven simple rooms have fans and stunning views. Nearby, **Robby & The Kids** (Map p128; ☎ 081-2367 9212; robbyandrosita@hotmail.com; r 50,000Rp) has four very basic rooms and tables on the sand. No extra credit for guessing who owns the place.

Dreamland (Lemongkak to the locals) is four kilometres off the Ulu Watu road. Pass through the grand gates of Pecatu Indah and follow the grand boulevard – and golf course – until the road ends. There you pay an entrance fee of 5000Rp to drive another few hundred metres and park on the deeply rutted terrain. The best route is to go as far to the right as possible as this puts you close to the beach and saves a long walk down the cliff.

Taxis from the Kuta area cost from 30,000Rp to 40,000Rp per hour for the round trip and waiting time.

ULU WATU & AROUND

The important temple, **Pura Luhur Ulu Watu** (Map p128), adds a cultural dimension to the west coast of the Bukit Peninsula, which among surfers is one of the world's most fabled spots.

The surf breaks here are always popular and the area boasts numerous small inns and warung that sell and rent surfboards, and provide food, drink, ding repairs or a massage – whatever you need most. **Pantai Suluban** is the only good place to swim in the area. From

its bluff, you get a good view of all the area surf breaks.

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

Sights & Activities

SURFING

A paved road goes northwest from Pecatu village (turn right at the small temple), passing a rugged small side road branching off to **Bingin**, a popular beach with savage surf and a renowned left break. **Impossibles** is nearby, **Padang Padang** is about one kilometre on and there is parking just north of a bridge.

Ulu Watu (Ulu's) is a legendary surf spot – the stuff of dreams and nightmares. It's about one kilometre south of Padang Padang and its legend is matched closely by nearby **Pantai Suluban**. Since the early 1970s these breaks have drawn surfers from around the world. The left breaks seem to go on forever.

See p79 for more on surfing in this area.

PURA LUHUR ULU WATU

This **temple** (Map p128; admission 3000Rp, incl sarong & sash rental; parking 1000Rp; ☎ 8am-7pm) is one of several important temples to the spirits of the sea along the south coast of Bali. In the 11th century, the Javanese priest Empu Katuran first established a temple here. The temple was added to by Nirartha, another Javanese priest who is known for the seafront temples at Tanah Lot (see p272), Rambut Siwi (see p278) and Pura Sakenan (see p147). Nirartha retreated to Ulu Watu for his final days when he attained *moksa* (freedom from earthly desires).

The temple is perched precipitously on the southwestern tip of the peninsula, atop sheer cliffs that drop straight into the pounding surf. You enter through an unusual arched gateway flanked by statues of Ganesha. Inside the walls of coral bricks are covered with intricate carvings of Bali's mythological menagerie. Only Hindu worshippers can enter the small inner temple.

The real attraction is the location – for a good angle, especially at sunset, walk around the cliff top to the left (south) of the temple.

Watch out for monkeys, which – when not reproducing – like to snatch sunglasses, handbags, hats and anything else within reach.

An enchanting **Kecak dance** is held in the temple grounds at sunset; tickets cost 35,000Rp. Although the performance obviously caters for tourists, the gorgeous setting makes it one of the more delightful on the island.

Sleeping

There's a whole string of cheap and very basic surfing dives on the main road from Pecatu. If you're not picky you can count on being able to find accommodation of some sort near the surf break of your choice. Expect to pay about 50,000Rp for a room with cold water, a fan and a shared bathroom. Many surfers choose to stay in Kuta and make the commute of less than an hour.

Thomas Homestay (Map p128; ☎ 0813-3813 0583; r 60,000-70,000Rp) A bare-bones four-room place on cliffs overlooking a lonely beach of people fishing and seaweed growers. The cold-water bathrooms are shared. Look for the crushed coral road just west of the Padang Padang surf break.

Padang Padang Inn (Map p128; ☎ 0812 391 3617; Jl Melasti 432; r 70,000Rp) A better than average budget place, this place has 24 clean rooms with private cold-water bathrooms and a nice little café.

Gong (Map p128; ☎ 081-5578 4754; thegongacc@yahoo.com; Jl Pantai Suluban; r 175,000Rp) You can't go wrong at the Gong. Eight tidy rooms with good ventilation and hot water face a small compound and have distant ocean views. There's also a café and surf shop.

Rocky Bungalows (Map p128; ☎ 0817 346 209; off Jl Ulu Watu; r 250,000-450,000Rp; ☎ ☎) There's nothing ostentatious about this low-key place just west of the Padang Padang surf break. It has 10 rooms with views out to sea from the balconies and pool and is a three-minute walk to the water.

Uluwatu Resort (Map p128; ☎ 7420610; www.uluwatuaresort.com; Jl Pantai Suluban; villas US\$70-100; ☎ ☎ ☎) On the cliff top across the river from Pantai Suluban, this stylish place has the kind of ocean views you go on holiday for. It's laid-back and a good place to soak up the sea.

Blue Point Bay Villas & Spa (Map p128; ☎ 7441077; www.bluepointbayvillas.com; Jl Labuansait; villas from US\$230; ☎ ☎) A 31-unit resort with attitude – and altitude – above the Pantai Suluban break, it

DETOUR: THE SOUTH COAST

The south coast of the Bukit Peninsula has high wind-blown cliffs and big swells. Development choked off after the 1990s and, as you gaze out to the whitecaps of the Indian Ocean, you know you're at the edge of things.

Lots of little tracks lead to the cliffs from the southern roads linking Nusa Dua with Pecatu via Kuluh. Try exploring some. From the west, look for a steep track down to the beach and the **Green Ball** surf break about 4km from the little village of Ulu Watu. Other roads lead down to the coast to small beaches and sea temples such as **Pura Gunung Payung** (Map p128), which is near the invasive Nikko Bali Resort, a Soeharto-era leftover. Diminutive **Pura Mas Suka** (Map p128) is reached by a twisting narrow road through a barren, red-rock landscape, but the views are divine. See p79 for details of the area's surf breaks.

has a lovely pool where you can float while the sun goes down. Service and the restaurant are both high calibre.

Eating

Most of the hotels and inns have restaurants and any beach where there's surfers will have a few warung selling necessities like beer. There are cafés on the road looping around from Pecatu, with several nice ones near Pura Luhur Ulu Watu.

Jiwa Juice (Map p128; ☎ 7424196; Jl Melasti; sandwiches 15,000-20,000Rp; ☎ ☎) Jiwa means 'soul', and the juices and fresh, light food here are good for the same. This popular stop has internet access.

Yeye's Warung (Map p128; Jl Labuan Sait; dishes 18,000-25,000Rp) A gathering point away from the cliffs, there's an easy-going ambience, cheapish beers and tasty Western, Indonesian and vegetarian food. Many gather for the pizza.

Getting There & Away

The best way to see the west coast is with your own vehicle or by chartering a taxi. Note that the cops often set up traps near Pecatu Indah for motorcycle-riding Westerners. While you pay a fine for a 'loose' chin strap, helmet-less locals wiz by laughing.

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

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

NUSA DUA

Nusa Dua translates literally as 'Two Islands' – although they are actually small raised headlands, each with a little temple. But Nusa Dua is much better known as Bali's gated compound of resort hotels. It's a vast and manicured place where you leave the rest of the island as you pass the guard. Gone are the street vendors, hustle, bustle and engaging chaos of the rest of the island. Here you even talk more quietly.

Built in the 1970s, Nusa Dua was designed to compete with international beach resorts the world over. The goal was to attract free-spending holiday-makers while keeping them isolated from the rest of the island. Balinese 'culture' in the form of attenuated dances and other performances was literally trucked in for the masses nightly.

With thousands of hotel rooms Nusa Dua took on a definite life when it was full. But these days occupancy is down, with many people who want an anonymous beach holiday going elsewhere. The Bali Collection, a shopping centre that is continually rebuilt in an effort to give it a spark, is more desolate walled camp than festive retail centre.

Still, the hotel grounds are as well groomed as the staff and there is a huge range of services at these places. Just outside the gates, the village of Bualu is a real Balinese town. It has shops with decent prices and tourist restaurants that would not be out of place in Kuta.

Orientation & Information

Nusa Dua is very spread out. You enter the enclave through one of the big guarded gateways, and inside there are expansive lawns, manicured gardens and sweeping driveways leading to the lobbies of large resort hotels. It can be surprisingly confusing to walk anywhere as streets curve this way and that.

In the middle of the resort, the **Bali Collection** (Map p135; ☎ 771662) shopping centre has some chain stores and an ATM. For most supplies, try the **Tragia Shopping Centre** (see p136). A **post office** (Map p135; Jl Ngurah Rai) is nearby.

All of the hotels have doctors on call.

Activities

BEACH PROMENADE

One of the nicest features of Nusa Dua is the five-kilometre-long beach promenade that stretches the length of the resort and continues north along much of the beach in Tanjung Benoa. Not only is it a good stroll at any time but it also makes it easy to sample the pleasures of the other beachside resorts. The walk is paved for most of its length.

SURFING & BEACHES

The reef-protected beach at Nusa Dua is shallow at low tide, and the wave action is pretty limp. The surf breaks at Nusa Dua are way out on reefs to the north and south of the two 'islands'. They work best with a big swell during the wet season. **Sri Lanka** is a right-hander in front of Club Med. The so-called **Nusa Dua** breaks are peaks, reached by boat from the beach south of the Hilton – go past the golf course and turn left on a dirt road. Nonsurfers from all over southern Bali also flock to this pretty beach, which now has a dozen warung.

The beach between the two peaks behind the Galleria Nusa Dua is also nice and has a large shady and paved parking area that makes it a good stop for day-trippers, especially families, who will enjoy the calm atmosphere.

GOLF

Designed by well-known architects Nelson & Wright, the **Bali Golf & Country Club** (Map p135; ☎ 771791; green fees US\$150) is an 18-hole course with all the amenities one would expect from a course at a major resort. Lots of condos are going up along the fairways.

SPAS

All the resort hotels have pricey spas that provide a broad range of therapies, treatments and just plain, simple relaxation. The most lauded of the spas are at the Amanusa, Westin and Grand Hyatt in Nusa Dua (see right) and at the Conrad in Tanjung Benoa (see p138). All are open to non-guests, which means you could just go on a tour!

Sleeping

The Nusa Dua hotels are similar in several ways: they are all big (although some are just plain huge) and they have long beachfronts. Each has several restaurants and bars, as well as various pools and other resort amenities. But what's most important is in the detail as that's where the real differences lie. Some hotels, such as the Westin and Grand Hyatt, have invested heavily in property, adding loads of amenities (such as the elaborate pools and day camps for kids) demanded by travellers today. Other hotels seem little changed from when they were built during the heyday of the Soeharto era in the 1970s.

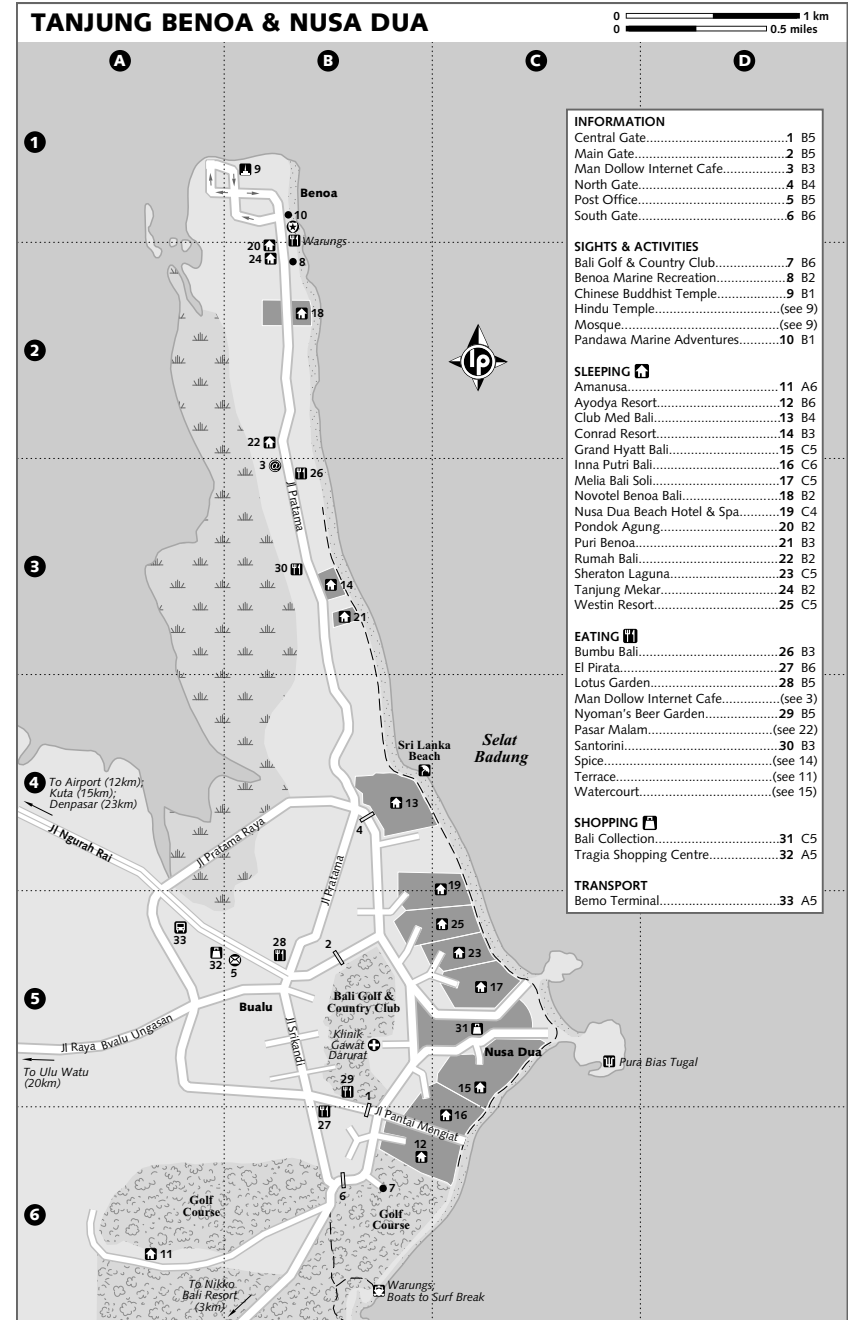
While some will revel in the resort experience here – scores of restaurants and bars, lots of activities and numerous over-priced shops (all of which can be paid for with the flick of a pen) – others won't make it past the gates.

If you're considering a stay at Nusa Dua, prowl the internet looking for deals. During slack periods, you can get excellent deals that bring nightly rates down towards US\$100. The international chains all have wi-fi and broadband in the rooms.

Grand Hyatt Bali (Map p135; ☎ 771234; www.bali.grand.hyatt.com; r from US\$200; ☒ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) Sort of a little city, the Hyatt has directional signs – which have up to 21 arrows – scattered across the grounds. Like any city, some neighbourhoods are better than others. Some in the West Village (there are four; the East and South Villages are best located) face the taxi parking lot. The river-like pool (one of six) is huge and has a fun slide. The children's club will keep the little joys busy for days. All 648 rooms were recently refurbished.

Westin Resort (Map p135; ☎ 771906; www.westin.com/bali; r from US\$200; ☒ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) Attached to a large convention centre, the Westin has an air-conditioned lobby (one of only three in Bali) and vast public spaces. Guests in the 355 rooms enjoy the best pools in Nusa. There are waterfalls and more in this aquatic playground. The Kids Club has extensive activities and facilities.

Sheraton Laguna (Map p135; ☎ 771327; www.starwood.com/bali; r from US\$240; ☒ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) The lobby sets the tone for this 270-room resort: understated with a few royal touches accenting the comfortable rattan furniture. The swimming pools (called 'swimmable lagoons') are vast with sandy beaches, landscaped islands and cascading waterfalls. Room renovations have added slick details such as plasma TVs.



Amanusa (Map p135; ☎ 772333; www.amanresorts.com; villas from US\$650; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) Overlooking the golf course and beyond across the Badung Strait, the Amanusa is one of Bali's best hotels. The elegant, understated architecture, rich decorations, superb service and brilliant views are the province of just 35 individual villas. Guests enjoy a private beach club.

The other major Nusa Dua resorts are as follows:

Inna Putri Bali (Map p135; ☎ 771020; www.putribali.com; r from US\$120; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) This 384-room resort lacks the spark of other places. It's popular with value-conscious tour groups.

Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa (Map p135; ☎ 771210; www.nusaduahotel.com; r from US\$150; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) The design of many of the 381 plush rooms has a curious preponderance of walls where there could be windows.

Ayodya Resort (Map p135; ☎ 771102; www.balihilton.com; r from US\$160; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) An enormous place with 537 rooms (although it actually feels bigger) in six-storey blocks, the Ayodya dropped the Hilton name in 2006. Lagoons covering the grounds are all for show – for swimming use the okay pool.

Nikko Bali Resort (Map p128; ☎ 773377; www.nikko-bali.com; r from US\$150; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) About 3km south of the enclave, the 16-storey, 390-room Nikko is dramatically built down the side of an otherwise unspoiled cliff facing the sea.

Melia Bali Soli (Map p135; ☎ 771510; www.meliabali.com; r from US\$170; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) The resort has 489 contemporary rooms with a 'Bali Style' look. The large, naturalistic pool is good and there is shade by the beach.

Club Med Bali (Map p135; ☎ 771521; www.clubmed.com; 1-week all-inclusive from US\$1000; ☒ ☑ ☐ ☎) A walled enclave within the Nusa Dua walled enclave, the Club Med has oodles of activities to keep guests entertained and mere mortals out.

Eating

Restaurants in the hotels are in abundance and many are quite good, although the prices are high even by top-end Bali standards. For people not staying at the hotels, the best reason to venture in is if you want a bounteous Sunday brunch at one of the international chains.

South of the enclave, the various warung at the surfers' beach serve some very good and typically fresh local standards.

Along Jl Pantai Mengiat, just outside the central gate, South Gate, there are a string of open-air eateries offering an unpretentious alternative to Nusa Dua dining. None will win any culinary awards but they are relaxed alternatives and, if you pause long enough in

front of any, the staff will offer you escalating inducements to step inside. Most will provide transport.

Nyoman's Beer Garden (Map p135; ☎ 775746; Jl Pantai Mengiat; dishes 25,000-50,000Rp) Some tables are in and some are out at this lively place with a big U-shaped bar. The handy menu has pictures of the myriad of menu choices from pizza mafioso to schnitzel to beef rendang.

El Pirata (Map p135; ☎ 776644; Jl Pantai Mengiat; dishes 25,000-60,000Rp) The place to get a pirate's favourite vegetable: caRRRRrots. The wide-ranging menu at this simple joint means you can even get mARRRRmalade with your toast.

Lotus Garden (Map p135; ☎ 773378; Jl Ngurah Rai; dishes 25,000-70,000Rp) One of the higher quality options, this Lotus Garden branch serves pizza, seafood and nicely presented Indonesian dishes.

Watercourt (Map p135; ☎ 771234; Grand Hyatt Bali; dishes 80,000-200,000Rp; ☎ dinner) Surrounded by ponds with lily pads, it is a romantic vision at night with its hundreds of tea light candles and twinkling lights. The Balinese food is exquisite.

Terrace (Map p135; ☎ 772333; Amanusa; dishes 80,000-200,000Rp; ☎ lunch & dinner) You'll be torn at this restaurant between looking at the sweeping view or the excellent Thai cuisine.

Entertainment

Most of the hotels offer Kecak and Legong dances one or more nights. Hotel lounges also often have live music, from crooners crooning ballads to mellow rock bands.

Shopping

Just outside the resort, Bualu village has some reasonably priced tourist shops.

Bali Collection (Map p135; ☎ 771662) This shopping centre has had numerous name changes. The latest incarnation is mostly empty except for the dozens of assistants in the small Sogo Department Store. Although its problems can be traced to the rigorous security and closed nature of Nusa Dua, the isolation from Balinese life means that it hasn't enjoyed the boom in local shoppers experienced by other island malls.

Tragia Shopping Centre (Map p135; ☎ 772170; Jl Ngurah Rai) Has a variety store with an entire floor devoted to souvenirs, several fast-food outlets and ATMs. A sign in the main store has the following unintentionally ominous message: 'After checking out from your hotel

come spend your last hours with your friends at Tragia.'

Getting There & Away

The fixed taxi fare from the airport is 85,000Rp; a metered taxi to the airport will be much cheaper. Public bemo travel between Denpasar's Tegal terminal and the terminal at Bualu (10,000Rp). From Bualu, it's at least a kilometre to the hotels – not that anyone we know paying US\$200 per night has ever taken a bemo to Nusa Dua. Bemo run less frequently from Denpasar's Batubulan terminal (10,000Rp).

Getting Around

Find out what shuttle bus services your hotel provides before you start calling taxis. A free shuttle bus (☎ 771662; ☎ 9am-10pm) connects all Nusa Dua and Tanjung Benoa resort hotels with the Bali Collection shopping centre about every hour.

TANJUNG BENOA

The peninsula of Tanjung Benoa extends about 4km north from Nusa Dua to Benoa village. It's flat and lined with resort hotels, most of midrange calibre. The downturn in Bali visitors has hit this area hard, with many places now closed. However, it does have one restaurant that makes the trip worthwhile.

Like beaches at Sanur and Nusa Dua, those here are protected from waves by an offshore reef. However, that has allowed a local beach activities industry to flourish in the placid waters. Overall Tanjung Benoa is a fairly sedate place, especially at night.

Orientation & Information

Restaurants and hotels are really strung out along Jl Pratama, which runs the length of the peninsula. It may be one of the most perilous streets in South Bali for a stroll. From the Nusa Dua north gate north to the Conrad Hotel, there are no sidewalks and in many places nowhere to walk but on the narrow road, which also has blind curves. Fortunately, the delightful beach promenade is a lovely alternative.

The police station is easy to find and hotels have doctors on call. There's middling internet access at **Man Dollow Internet Cafe** (Map p135; ☎ 748 3887; Jl Pratama). Other services can be found south in the Nusa Dua area.

Sights

Benoa is one of Bali's multi-denominational corners, with an interesting **Chinese Buddhist temple** (Map p135), a **mosque** (Map p135) and a **Hindu temple** (Map p135) within 100m. It's an interesting little fishing town that makes for a good stroll. On the dark side, however, it is also the centre of Bali's illegal trade in turtles (p70).

Activities

Quite a few water-sports centres along Jl Pratama offer daytime diving, cruises, windsurfing and water-skiing. Check equipment and credentials before you sign up. Most have a thatched-roof bar and restaurant attached to their premises. Each morning convoys of buses arrive from all over South Bali bringing day-trippers to enjoy the calm waters and various activities. By 10am parasailers float over the water like a flock of egrets looking for a place to land.

Among the established water sports operators are **Pandawa Marine Adventures** (Map p135; ☎ 778585; Jl Pratama) and **Benoa Marine Recreation** (BMR; Map p135; ☎ 771757; Jl Pratama). As if by magic, all operators have similar prices.

Water sports include the following: **Banana-boat rides** (per 15min US\$25) Wild rides for two as you try to maintain your grasp of the inflatable fruit over the waves.

Diving With the operators mentioned, diving costs US\$80/100 for one or two dives around Tanjung Benoa, including equipment rental; US\$120 for two dives in Tulamben; and about US\$380 for a three-day Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) open-water course. A minimum of two people is required for most dive trips and courses.

Glass-bottomed boat trips (90-min tour with snack US\$35) The non-wet way to see the denizens of the shallow.

Jet-skiing (per 15min US\$25) Big with people who like to go fast and belch smoke.

Parasailing (per round US\$25) Popular; you float above the water while towed by a speedboat.

Snorkelling (per hr per person US\$25) These trips include equipment and a boat ride to a reef (minimum two people).

Sleeping

The Conrad Resort is the notable high-end and high-profile hotel amid what are mostly midrange places aimed at groups. Unfortunately several of the places that were full of character have closed.

BUDGET

A few places close to Benoa village offer no-frills accommodation across the road from the beach.

Pondok Agung (Map p135; ☎ 771143; roland@eksadata.com; Jl Pratama; r 100,000-250,000Rp; 🍽️) The 11 cheery rooms in a large house-like building are good value. Higher priced rooms come with air-con and TV.

Tanjung Mekar (Map p135; ☎ 081-2363 1374; Jl Pratama; r from 90,000Rp) Set in a little garden, this small guesthouse has four simple, pleasant rooms.

MIDRANGE

Rumah Bali (Map p135; ☎ 771256; www.balifoods.com; Jl Pratama; r US\$60-100; 🍽️ 🍷) Rumah Bali is a luxurious interpretation of a Balinese village by Heinz von Holzen of Bumbu Bali fame (right). Guests have large family rooms or individual villas (some with three bedrooms) with their own plunge pools. There's a 'village centre' with a delectable warung (Pasar Malam, see right). Besides a large communal pool, there's also a tennis court. The beach is a short walk away.

Novotel Benoa Bali (Map p135; ☎ 772239; www.novotelbali.com; Jl Pratama; r from US\$70; 🍽️ 🍷) The Novotel straddles both sides of the busy road, so you know which side to get a room (hint: think sand). The 175 rooms and facilities are tasteful with whimsical touches like a huge pineapple sculpture. The beach here beats the pool.

Puri Benoa (Map p135; ☎ 771634; www.puribenoa.com; Jl Pratama; r from US\$75; 🍽️ 🍷) It feels a bit like a boutique hotel on the beach, with only 18 bungalow-style rooms. Some of the décor of Puri Benoa has a dated feel, but the outdoor bathrooms in the rooms are airy delights. More money gets you a villa on the beach.

TOP END

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

Conrad Resort (Map p135; ☎ 778788; www.conradhotels.com; Jl Pratama; r from US\$150; 🍽️ 🍷 🍹) Tanjung Benoa's best hotel is from the luxury branch of the Hilton chain. It combines Bali modern styling with a refreshing, casual style. The 314 rooms are large and thoughtfully designed. Some units have patios with steps right down into the lake-sized pool, easing

the morning dip. Bungalows have their own private lagoon and there is a large kids' club.

Eating & Drinking

Each hotel has several restaurants. There are also several tourist restaurants in or near Tanjung Benoa. On the border with Nusa Dua, some warung cater to hotel guests and offer good value for money, while several busy local warung are clustered around the police station in Benoa.

Man Dollow Internet Cafe (Map p135; ☎ 748 3887; Jl Pratama; meals 10,000-20,000Rp; 📺) There's mid-dling internet access here and simple dishes served under a thatched roof.

Santorini (Map p135; ☎ 777942; Jl Pratama; meals 30,000-60,000Rp) A vision of white, this taverna brings the Greek Islands to the island of Bali. One of the more fun places on this street, the food is authentic – the wine too (not that that is a plus...).

Pasar Malam (Map p135; ☎ 771256; Jl Pratama; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp) Inside Rumah Bali (left), this warung fulfils the role of the village market eatery. There are local coffees, and exhibits and dishes celebrate the many forms of Balinese rice. The food is of the same high standard as that at Bumbu Bali.

Bumbu Bali (Map p135; ☎ 774502; Jl Pratama; dishes 45,000-70,000Rp; 🍽️ noon-9pm) One of the finest restaurants on the island, Bumbu Bali serves the best Balinese food you'll have during your visit. Long-time resident and cookbook author Heinz von Holzen, his wife Puji and an enthusiastic staff serve exquisitely flavoured dishes beautifully. Many diners opt for one of several set menus (185,000Rp). The rijstaffel shows the range of cooking in the kitchen from satays served on their own little coconut husk grill to the tender *be celeng base manis* (pork in sweet soy sauce) to the amazingly tasty and different *jaja batun bedil* (sticky dumpling rice in palm sugar) with a dozen more courses in between.

The frenetic von Holzen can be seen everywhere during opening hours, one minute adjusting the artful presentation of a dish, the next checking the seasoning of another and stopping for a moment to help with a backlog of dishes. The staff takes these cues and is both skilled and engaging. The tables are set under the stars and in small pavilions. The sound of frogs can be heard from the fish ponds. There's complimentary transport in the area. It's wise to book.

Von Holzen also runs a cooking school on many days. It starts with a 6am visit to Jimbaran's fish and village markets to buy goods and finishes with lunch (US\$75). And the empire extends to Rumah Bali (opposite) and Pasar Malam (opposite).

Spice (Map p135; ☎ 778788; Conrad Resort, Jl Pratama; dishes 80,000-200,000Rp; 🍽️ dinner) Has a grand setting atop the hotel with tables inside and out. Nusa Lembangan twinkles in the distance. Service is excellent; the wine list voluminous.

Getting There & Around

Taxis from the airport cost 100,000Rp. Take a bemo to Bualu (see p137), then take one of the infrequent green bemo that shuttle up and down Jl Pratama (3000Rp) – after about 3pm bemo become really scarce on both routes. A metered taxi will be much easier and quicker. Or walk the beach promenade.

SANUR**☎ 0361**

Sanur is often saddled with the moniker 'Snore' and while it's true that the relaxed pace locally can take some people a while to appreciate, it's also true that this has long been the locale for people who prefer things simple and unhurried.

It's a very relaxed alternative to Kuta, with a fraction of the hassles – and some would say a fraction of the fun. But that really depends on who you are. True, if you want a foam party in Sanur you'll need a bar of soap and bathtub. But if you'd rather not be hectoring by cries of 'transport?', get stuck in hot, sweaty traffic or just plain tire of lanes teaming with chaos, then Sanur is perfect.

In keeping with the local demeanour, the white-sand beach is sheltered by a reef and the surf is sedate, making it popular with some parents. At low tide the beach is wide, but the water is shallow and you have to pick your way out over rocks and coral through knee-deep water. At high tide the swimming is fine, but the beach is narrow and almost nonexistent in places.

A walk on the delightful beachside walkway (try that in Kuta) reveals views of Nusa Penida and East Bali and brings you past numerous cafés. Offshore you'll see gnarled fishermen in woven bamboo hats standing in the shallows rod-fishing for a living and, at the northern

end of the beach, elderly men convivially gather at sunrise and beyond for *meditasi* – swimming and baking in the black volcanic sand found only at that end of the beach.

HISTORY

Inscriptions on a stone pillar found near modern Sanur tell of King Sri Kesari Varma, who came to Bali to teach Buddhism in AD 913.

Sanur was one of the places favoured by Westerners during their pre-war discovery of Bali. Artists Miguel Covarrubias, Adrien Jean Le Mayeur and Walter Spies, anthropologist Jane Belo and choreographer Katharine Mershon all spent time here. The first simple tourist bungalows appeared in Sanur in the 1940s and 1950s, and more artists, including Australian Donald Friend and Scotsman Ian Fairweather, made their homes in Sanur. This early popularity made Sanur a likely locale for Bali's first big tourist hotel, the Soekarno-era Inna Grand Bali Beach Hotel.

Over this period, Sanur was ruled by insightful priests and scholars, who recognised both the opportunities and the threats presented by the expanding tourism. Properly horrified at the high-rise Bali Beach Hotel, they imposed the famous rule that no building could be higher than a coconut palm. They also established village cooperatives that owned land and ran tourist businesses, ensuring that a good share of the economic benefits remained in the community.

The priestly influence remains strong, and Sanur is one of the few communities still ruled by members of the Brahmana caste. It is known as a home of sorcerers and healers, and a centre for both black and white magic. The black-and-white chequered cloth known as *kain poleng* – which symbolises the balance of good and evil – is emblematic of Sanur.

ORIENTATION

Sanur stretches for about 5km along an east-facing coastline, with the lush and green landscaped grounds of resorts fronting right onto the sandy beach. The monstrous Grand Bali Beach Hotel, located at the northern end of the strip, fronts the best stretch of beach. West of the beachfront hotels is the noisy main drag, Jl Danau Tamblingan, with hotel entrances, oodles of tourist shops, restaurants and cafés.

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

INFORMATION

Bookshops

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

Hardy's Supermarket (Map p140; ☎ 285806; Jl Danau Tamblingan 136; ☒ 8am-10pm) Sells newspapers and magazines.

Emergency

Police station (Map p140; ☎ 288597; Bypass Rd)

Internet Access

Cybergate (Map p140; ☎ 287274; Jl Danau Tamblingan; per hr 15,000Rp; ☒ 8am-10pm) Broadband; burns CDs.

Star Café Bali (Map p140; ☎ 7439766; Jl Danau Tamblingan 91; per min 5000Rp) Has fast internet access.

Zoo Restaurant & Bar (Map p140; ☎ 288807; Jl Danau Tamblingan 82) Also has fast internet access.

Medical Services

Guardian Pharmacy (Map p140; ☎ 284343; Jl Danau Tamblingan 134) The chain pharmacy also has a doctor on call.

Money

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

Post

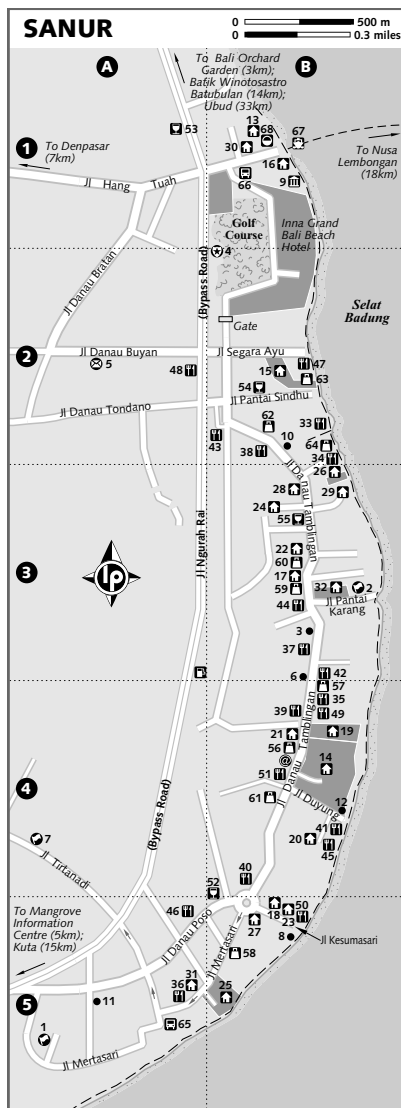
There are convenient postal agencies on Jl Danau Tamblingan.

Post office (Map p140; ☎ 754012; Jl Danau Buyan; ☒ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat) Located west of Jl Ngurah Rai.

SIGHTS

Museum Le Mayeur

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



Almost 90 Le Mayeur paintings are displayed inside the **museum** (Map p140; ☎ 286201; adult/child 2000/1000Rp; ☒ 7.30am-3.30pm Mon-Thu, 7.30am-1pm Fri) in a naturalistic Balinese interior of woven fibres. A useful guidebook in English is available. Some of Le Mayer's early works are interesting, Impressionist-style paintings from his travels in Africa, India, Italy, France

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and the South Pacific. Paintings from his early period in Bali are romantic depictions of daily life and beautiful Balinese women – often Ni Polok. The works from the 1950s are in much better condition and show less signs of wear and tear, with the vibrant colours that later became popular with young Balinese artists. There are beautiful black-and-white photos of Ni Polok.

Bali Orchid Garden

Given Bali's warm weather and rich volcanic soil, no-one should be surprised that orchids thrive in abundance here. At this **garden** (Map p128; ☎ 466010; Jl Bypass Tohpati; admission 50,000Rp; ☒ 8am-6pm) you can see thousands of orchids in a variety of settings. Fans of the beautiful plant will love everything, others will enjoy the back areas, which have a wild tropical feel. The gift shop sells orchid plants as well as books about the gorgeous flowers. It's 3km north of Sanur along Jl Ngurah Rai just past the major intersection with the coast road, Jl Bypass Tohpati.

Stone Pillar

The pillar (Map p140), behind Pura Belang-jong, is Bali's oldest dated artefact and has ancient inscriptions recounting military vic-

tories of more than 1000 years ago. These inscriptions are in Sanskrit and are evidence of Hindu influence 300 years before the arrival of the Majapahit court.

ACTIVITIES

Surfing

Sanur's fickle breaks (tide conditions often don't produce waves) are offshore along the reef. The best area is called **Sanur Reef**, a right break in front of the Inna Grand Bali Beach Hotel. Another good spot is known as the **Hyatt Reef**, in front of, you guessed it, the Bali Hyatt. However, this break is easily blown out, so only try this one on calm days. See p79 for details on these surf breaks.

Diving

The diving near Sanur is not great, but the reef has a good variety of fish and offers quite good snorkelling. Sanur is the best departure point for dive trips to Nusa Lembongan. A recommended local operator is **Global Aquatic Diving Center** (Map p140; ☎ 282434; www.globalaquatic.com; Jl Kesumasari No 9; local half-day trip €60), which is located right on the beach. Besides trips out to the Sanur Reef, which is known for its lion fish, Global can arrange trips throughout Bali.

Water Sports

Various water sports are offered at kiosks along the beach: close to Museum Le Mayeur; near Sanur Beach Market; and at **Surya Water Sports** (Map p140; ☎ 287956; Jl Duyung). Prices at all three places are similar, and are based on a minimum of two people. You can go parasailing (US\$20 per go), jet-skiing (US\$25, 15 minutes), water-skiing (US\$25, 15 minutes), snorkelling by boat (US\$30, two hours), windsurfing (US\$30, one hour), or be towed with a pal on an inflatable banana (US\$15, 15 minutes).

Spas

Natural Spa (Map p140; ☎ 283677; Jl Danau Tamblingan 23; 2hr massage 450,000Rp; ☎ 9am-11pm) is a huge operation, which offers various massages, reflexology and body treatments, including an after-sun treatment.

Most of the large beachside hotels also have spas.

SLEEPING

Usually the best places to stay are right on the beach; however, that isn't always the case here. A few of the properties have been coasting for decades. But in general you shouldn't have a problem finding a place you'll enjoy. Modest budgets will find fiscal succour on the nonbeach side of Jl Danau Tambligan, although overall Sanur is a top-end town.

In case you find yourself at the mercy of a travel agent, don't let them book you into either the Inna Grand Bali Beach Hotel or the Inna Sindhu Beach. Both are well past their prime.

Budget

Watering Hole I (Map p140; ☎ 288289; wateringhole_sanurbali@yahoo.com; Jl Hang Tuah 37; r 60,000-100,000Rp; ☎) In the northern part of Sanur, the Hole is a busy, friendly place close to the Nusa Lembongan boats. There are 25 pleasant, clean rooms with the cheapest having fan cooling and cold water.

Watering Hole II (Map p140; ☎ 270545; wateringhole_sanurbali@yahoo.com; Jl Mertasari; r 80,000-125,000Rp; ☎) The southern branch of the Hole group has 14 rooms and a pool with a little waterfall. All rooms have hot water; the cheaper ones have fans.

Yulia 2 Homestay (Map p140; ☎ 287495; kf_billy@indo.net.id; Jl Danau Tamblingan; s/d 80,000/90,000Rp) Yulia 2 has seven clean, pleasant rooms in a somewhat cramped compound. All have hot water and fans, and there's a fun little café.

SANUR'S ENVIRONMENTAL HUB

PPLH Bali (Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup; Map p140; ☎ 281684; www.pplhbalior.id; Jl Danau Tamblingan 168) organises a broad range of environmental and educational programmes. Located in the Hotel Santai (see left), the PPLH has a large library and resource centre. Volunteers and employees are understandably passionate about Bali, its land, the sea and the environmental challenges faced across the island.

Just dropping by to peruse some of the wealth of information on issues such as fair trade or have a chat is an illuminating break. Donations and possibly volunteer services are welcome. With the hotel, the adjacent Café Tali Jiwa helps fund the centre.

Keke Homestay (Map p140; ☎ 287282; Jl Danau Tamblingan 96; s/d 60,000/75,000Rp, with air-con 100,000/150,000Rp; ☎) Set back a little from the noisy main road, Keke welcomes travellers and has seven quiet, clean rooms. All have cold water and fans.

Ananda Beach Hotel (Map p140; ☎ 288327; Jl Hang Tuah 143; s/d US\$12/15; ☎) Right on the beach, the Ananda has slightly dark rooms that are jumble of antiques and furniture that's simply old. Deluxe room no 7 has a nice balcony with sea views.

Hotel Santai (Map p140; ☎ 287314; santai@indosat.net.id; Jl Danau Tamblingan 148; s/d 130,000/150,000Rp; ☎) The Santai has 17 clean rooms facing a large pool (nonguests can take the plunge for 5000Rp). It's home to PPLH Bali, see above.

Jati Homestay (Map p140; ☎ 281730; www.balivision.com/hotels/jatihomestay; Jl Danau Tamblingan; r 150,000-200,000Rp) Situated in pretty grounds, the delightful Jati has 15 pleasant and clean bungalows, with small but well-organised kitchen facilities and hot water.

Kesumasari (Map p140; ☎ 287824; Jl Kesumasari 6; r 150,000-200,000Rp; ☎) The only thing between you and the beach is a small shrine. Beyond the comfy lounging porches, the polychromatic carved Balinese doors don't prepare you for the riot of colour inside. No two linens match.

Midrange

Flashbacks (Map p140; ☎ 281682; www.flashbacks-chb.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 106; r 110,000-340,000Rp; ☎) This welcoming place has nine rooms that

vary greatly. The nicer ones are bungalows while more modest ones share kitchens and have cold water. The design takes a lot of cues from traditional Balinese style; the bathrooms are works of stone. There is also a new café.

Hotel Palm Gardens (Taman Palm; Map p140; ☎ 287041; www.palmgarden-bali.com; Jl Kesumasari 3; r from 275,000Rp; ☎) Everything is peaceful here, from the 17 large and comfy rooms to the relaxed service and pretty grounds. It's close to the beach and there is a nice medium-sized pool with a small waterfall.

Hotel Segara Agung (Map p140; ☎ 288446; www.segaraagung.com; Jl Duyung 43; r US\$20-35, f US\$50; ☎) Down a quiet, unpaved residential street, the hotel is only a two-minute walk to the beach. The 16 rooms are clean and pleasant, staff are friendly and there's a big swimming pool.

Stana Puri Gopa Hotel (Map p140; ☎ 289948; www.purigopabali.com; Jl Kesumasari 4; r US\$30-45; ☎) This 24-room hotel has traditional Balinese

architecture, large bathrooms, and a small pool. It's a short walk to the beach, which you can see from some rooms.

Diwangkara Beach Hotel (Map p140; ☎ 288577; dhwbbali@indosat.net.id; Jl Hang Tuah 54; r from US\$40; ☎) Facing the beach near the end of Jl Hang Tuah, this 38-room hotel is a tad old-fashioned (especially the pool), but the smaller bungalows are right by the beach.

Tamu Kami Hotel (Map p140; ☎ 282510; www.tamu.kami.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 64X; r US\$35-70; ☎) There are 20 large, modern rooms and bungalows, finished with Indonesian touches, overlooking a swimming pool. It is also home to Alise's Restaurant, p145.

Respati Bali (Map p140; ☎ 288427; brespati@indo.net.id; Jl Danau Tamblingan 33; r US\$40-60; ☎) Despite its narrow site, the Respati's 32 contemporary bungalow-style rooms don't feel cramped. The beach frontage is a plus and the pool is decent-sized.

A CLASSIC BALINESE DANCER

Besides its cultural importance, Balinese dance just may be a fountain of youth as well. Ask Nyoman Supadmi when she started teaching the art and she says '1970'. A little quick mental calculation confirms that she looks at most half her age.

Lithe and lively, Nyoman has taught thousands of women the precise moves and elaborate choreography demanded by classic Balinese dances such as Legong. And the key word is classic as she has become a major force against the dilution of the island's great dances by what she dismisses as 'modernity'.

And just what is this aberration that brings such a frown to her otherwise serene face. Well, she demonstrates. 'The basic moves of classic dance require enormous discipline,' she says as she slips into the rigid pose with splayed arms and wide eyes that is immediately recognisable to anyone who has seen a performance.

Continuing, she says, 'Modern is like this,' and slumps into a slouch that would do any slacker proud. Still, she understands the allure of the modern. 'It's much easier to learn and people have so many distractions that they can't find the time to learn the old ways.'

'My teachers emphasised the basics,' says Nyoman – whose dancer mother provided her with a private tutor. 'Your hand went here and your bottom here,' a statement backed up by a seemingly simple shift of position in her chair that leaves no doubt of her meaning.

'Today people just approximate the position.'

In order to preserve classic Balinese dance, Nyoman promotes dance courses in the schools for students from age five. She keeps an eye out for promising pupils, who can then be guided for the years needed to master the art. A niece is one of these stars and is now much in demand for temple ceremonies and other occasions where sponsors demand the best.

'But the best is expensive,' she admits. There are the fees for large gamelan orchestras, the dances, actors, transport, food and 'just getting people to commit the time needed to be the best.'

Besides local women, Nyoman also teaches visitors, although the coursework is not for those looking for a quick lesson: learning the basics of one dance requires at least 36 two-hour lessons spread over three months – and that doesn't include the extensive homework. Still, at US\$10 a lesson, it's a remarkable deal for those with the time to invest. Not only do you learn one of the world's great art forms but one look at Nyoman will confirm other benefits as well.

Nyoman Supadmi offers dance lessons through the Tandjung Sari (see p144).

Hotel Paneeda View (Map p140; ☎ 288425; www.paneedaview.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 89; r from US\$55; 🍷 🍷) Right on the beach, this hotel has three small pools and 55 rooms. Much attention to detail is devoted to the attractively redecorated rooms; each has a patio.

Desa Segara (Map p140; ☎ 288407; www.segara-village.com; s/d from US\$65/75, bungalows US\$130; 🍷 🍷) Two pools and beach access ensure fun at the Desa Segara. The 144 rooms are a bit faded but come in a variety of flavours, from blocks to bungalows. At the café, Le Pirate, you can debate the eternal question: why did the pirate eat? (Answer: he didn't want to starRRRRve.)

Top End

Bali Hyatt (Map p140; ☎ 281234; www.bali.resort.hyatt.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan; r US\$120-400; 🍷 🍷 🍷) The Made Wijaya-designed gardens are an attraction themselves at this 390-room beachfront resort. Hibiscus, wild ginger, lotus and more than 600 species of plants and animals can be found here. Rooms are comfortable and the resort is regularly updated. Regency Club rooms come with free drinks and food in a lovely pavilion. The two pools are vast, and one has a waterfall-shrouded cave perfect for romantic encounters.

Puri Santrian (Map p140; ☎ 288009; www.santrian.com; Jl Mertasari; r US\$120-350; 🍷 🍷) Lush gardens, three large pools, a tennis court and beach frontage, as well as 184 comfortable, well-equipped rooms make this a good choice. Many rooms are in older-style bungalows, others in two- and three-storey blocks.

Tanjung Sari (Map p140; ☎ 288441; www.tandjungsari.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 29; bungalows US\$150-265; 🍷 🍷) The mature trees along the shaded driveway set the gracious tone at this Sanur veteran, which was one of the first Balinese boutique hotels. Like a good tree, it has flourished since its start in 1967 and continues to be lauded by people across the island for its artful design inside and out. The 26 gorgeous traditional-style bungalows are superbly decorated with crafts and antiques. Four-poster beds repose under traditional thatched roofs that soar to a peak, and fabrics reflect the pattern in the stone floors. At night, lights in the trees above the pool are magical. The gracious staff are a delight. You can take superb classes here in Balinese dance (see p143).

Pavilions Bali (Map p140; ☎ 288381; www.pavilions.com; Jl Danau Tamblingan 76; villas from US\$150;

🍷 🍷) Down a shady walk under a beautiful canopy of bamboo, you'll find this compound of villas where lovely little touches abound, such as tiny glittering tea light candles floating in the pool at night. The units are large with comfortable furnishings like nice wicker loungers.

EATING

There's great eating in Sanur at every budget level and at some places you can dine on the sand. Many of the drinking places listed are also great for a casual meal. And always check with higher-end places to see if they'll provide transport.

For groceries and personal items, there's a large **Hardy's Supermarket** (Map p140; ☎ 285806; Jl Danau Tamblingan 136), which has all manner of local and imported food items and periodicals. Nearby is Café Batu Jimbar's gourmet market (opposite).

On Sundays, there's an amazing **organic market** (Map p140; Jl Danau Tamblingan; ☎ 10am-2pm) in Gudang Keramik parking lot.

The **Pasar Sindhu night market** (Map p140; off Jl Danau Tamblingan; ☎ 6am-midnight) sells fresh vegetables, dried fish, pungent spices and various household goods.

Jl Ngurah Rai

West of the main Sanur strip, the fast-moving Jl Ngurah Rai Bypass is mostly home to fast-food chains.

Splash Bakery (Map p140; ☎ 288186; Jl Ngurah Rai; snacks from 4000Rp; ☎ 8am-8pm) Makes a good selection of bread, cakes, pastries and meat pies. It has a small eat-in area.

Northern Sanur

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

Watering Hole (Agung & Sue) Restaurant (Map p140; ☎ 288289; Jl Hang Tuah; dishes 10,000-40,000Rp) Popular for tourist classics (pizza, Chinese, burgers...) that are served at decent prices. This is a good travellers' hang-out at this end of town.

Beach

The beach path offers restaurants, warung and bars where you can catch a meal, a drink or a sea breeze. There are several places near the end of each road that lead to the beach. Many places have sunset drinks specials (though the beach faces east, so you'll need to enjoy the reflected glow off Nuda Penida).

Stiff Chili (Map p140; Jl Kesumasari; dishes 8000-20,000Rp) Besides the evocative name, this beach-side hut with great views features good sandwiches, pizza and gelato.

New Banjar Club (Map p140; ☎ 287359; near Jl Duyung; dishes 20,000-40,000Rp) A nice beachfront restaurant, look for a typical menu of pizza, seafood and Indo classics.

Sanur Bay (Map p140; ☎ 288153; Jl Duyung; 25,000-40,000Rp) Tables right on the sand let you hear the surf and see the moonlight reflecting on the water at this classic beachside seafood grill.

Benzo's Restaurant (Map p140; Shindu Beach Market 42; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp) Looks over the water and has a long seafood menu. Try the chilli crab.

Spirit Café (Map p140; ☎ 7464407; Paradise Plaza; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp) This vaguely new-agey place is set back from the beach in a little retail courtyard. Smoothies, teas and veggie sandwiches highlight the small but creative menu.

Bonsai Cafe (Map p140; ☎ 282908; Jl Danau Tamblingan 27; dishes 20,000-60,000Rp) Although the menu is all beachside standards, the real reason to seek this place out is that back off the beach is proof that the name is not notional: here are hundreds of bonsai trees in myriad sizes – all small. You can get here from street and beach.

Jl Danau Tamblingan

Café Tali Jiwa (Map p140; ☎ 287314; Jl Danau Tamblingan 148; dishes 10,000-32,000Rp) Adjoining the Hotel Santai, this wholesome place has an appetising choice of dishes, from fruit smoothies to veggie burgers. Many of the ingredients are organic. Expect fair-trade coffee – this is the home of PPLH Bali (see p142).

Randy's Café Bar & Restaurant (Map p140; ☎ 288962; Jl Danau Tamblingan 17; dishes 12,000-35,000Rp) Randy's hypes its Canadian theme, although the 'Canadian' items on the menu, such as chilli con carne over mashed potatoes, will dishearten Cannuck gourmets. There's good people-watching over breakfast at this corner spot.

Star Café Bali (Map p140; ☎ 7439766; Jl Danau Tamblingan 91; dishes 20,000-40,000Rp; 🍷) English breakfasts and an array of teas give way to creative Indonesian and Western standards. The wicker chairs are good for lounging. There's internet access in an air-con room.

Zoo Restaurant & Bar (Map p140; ☎ 288807; Jl Danau Tamblingan 82; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp) A cool and stylish café with fast internet access (400Rp per min) and comfy places to people-watch out front.

Retro Café & Gallery (Map p140; ☎ 282472; Jl Danau Tamblingan 126; dishes 25,000-50,000Rp) All the classics are on the menu and there's a relaxed back section here, well away from the traffic noise, with walls filled with paintings.

Lumut (Map p140; ☎ 270009; Jl Danau Tamblingan; dishes 15,000-80,000Rp; ☎ 10am-10pm) This gracious 2nd-floor café is set back from the road. The emphasis is on fresh seafood (lots of lobster) and dishes from around Indonesia. It's also good for a coffee or juice during the day.

Café Batu Jimbar (Map p140; ☎ 287374; Jl Danau Tamblingan 152; dishes 30,000-60,000Rp) Beloved locally for its fine food, this gem of a café has a large wooden patio in front of an airy dining room. The baked goods on display are beyond enticing. Besides the best banana smoothie on Bali, the menu has Indonesian classics as well as smattering of other items. Next door it has a gourmet grocery.

Alise's Restaurant (Map p140; ☎ 282510; Tamu Kami Hotel, Jl Danau Tamblingan 64X; dishes 20,000-70,000Rp; ☎ 7.30-10pm) Character-filled Alise's has a romantic, lantern-lit outdoor dining area by the pool and serves a melange of international food. Unintentionally camp local musicians perform classic ballads to do-eyed diners.

Palay Restaurant (Map p140; ☎ 288335; Jl Danau Tamblingan 81; dishes 20,000-80,000Rp; ☎ noon-10pm) Like an upscale surfers joint, look for fine versions of pasta, burgers, pizza and local faves here. It's all served under a soaring thatched roof.

Telaga Naga (Map p140; ☎ 281234; Jl Danau Tamblingan 180; dishes 30,000-100,000Rp; ☎ 5pm-10pm) Torches light the pathway to this jewel-like restaurant where bright red lanterns glow over the tables. Offerings on the Chinese Szechwan menu are complex, such as *abalone masak jamur hitan* (abalone with black mushrooms). You may need to book.

Lotus Pond Restaurant (Map p140; ☎ 289398; Jl Danau Tamblingan 30; dishes 35,000-105,000Rp) The Sanur branch of the Lotus empire is in a high-thatched building surrounded by lotus ponds (of course). The menu features pasta, wood-fired oven pizza, seafood and Indonesian dishes. At night it glows and there are cultural displays.

Massimo (Map p140; ☎ 288942; Jl Danau Tamblingan 206; dishes 30,000-125,000Rp) The interior here is like an open-air Milan café, the outside is like a Balinese garden – a perfect combo. The menu boasts highly authentic pasta, pizza and more.

South Sanur

Sari Bundo (Map p140; ☎ 281389; Jl Danau Poso; dishes 5,000-10,000Rp; ☎ 24hr) This spotless padang-style joint is one of many down here. Choose from arrays of fresh and very spicy food. The curry chicken is the best in Sanur.

Cat & Fiddle (Map p140; ☎ 282218; Jl Cemara 36; dishes 25,000-50,000Rp) Look for Brit standards like fish and chips on the menu at this open-air place that's not surprisingly popular with expats. Traditional breakfasts in the morning balance live music many nights.

DRINKING

Many of Sanur's drinking establishments cater to retired expats and are, thankfully for them, air-conditioned. This is not a town where things go late. Also note that many of the eating places we've listed are good just for a drink.

Café Billiard (Map p140; ☎ 281215; Jl Danau Poso; ☎ noon-1am) This new place draws a well-lubricated expat crowd who dominate the billiards tables and toss down cheap drafts of Heineken. It's the sort of merry place where you lose your hat on the way home and wake up wishing to be asleep.

Circle K (Map p140; ☎ 24hr) Don't laugh. The reliable chain of convenience stores has an outlet right here on the beach where you can get a 7000Rp Bintang inside and sit at the provided tables outside. And there's no shortage of salty snacks for purchase.

Jazz Bar & Grille (Map p140; ☎ 285892; Kompleks Sanur 15, Jl Ngurah Rai; dishes 30,000-80,000Rp; ☎ 10am-2am; 🍷) There's live jazz and/or pop most nights. The international menu features Mexican and Mediterranean dishes.

Kalimantan (Map p140; ☎ 289291; Jl Pantai Sindhur 11; dishes 15,000-55,000Rp) Also known as Borneo Bob's, this veteran boozier is one of many joints on this street popular with expats. It's a relaxed place with a palm-tree shaded expanse and offers cheap drinks. For food, enjoy Mexican and Indonesian classics and steaks.

Lazer Sport Bar (Map p140; ☎ 288807; Jl Danau Tamblingan 82; ☎ noon-midnight) Adjoining the Zoo Restaurant & Bar (p145), there are tables under two big trees and live rock many nights (sweaty stuff on TV too).

SHOPPING Arts & Crafts

Sanur is in easy reach of much of the good arts and crafts shopping around Ubud. Locally, there are several painting studios/shops,

with a wide selection of paintings on offer, on the main street and around Jl Pantai Sindhur. Batik cloth is also easy to find. Sanur has a plenty of tailors on the main strip if you want something special made up.

Nogo (Map p140; ☎ 288765; Jl Danau Tamblingan 100) Look for the wooden loom out front of this classy store, which bills itself as the 'Bali Ikat Centre'. The goods are gorgeous and easy to savour in the air-con comfort.

Rare Angon (Map p140; ☎ 288962; Jl Danau Tamblingan 17) A gallery with works from over a dozen local artists. Many are often working right in the shop.

Clothing & Housewares

Ardana (Map p140; ☎ 282360; Jl Danau Tamblingan) Beautiful custom-made wicker furniture fills a shady pavilion open to the road. Obviously you'll want to try the merchandise out for an extended period. If only they served gin and tonics...

Gudang Keramik (Map p140; ☎ 289363; Jl Danau Tamblingan) The outlet store for Jenggala Keramik Bali in Jimbaran (see p130) has a amazing prices on the firm's gorgeous tableware and decorator items. What's called 'seconds' here would be firsts everywhere else.

Mama + Leon (Map p140; ☎ 288044; Jl Danau Tamblingan 99A) An upmarket women's fashion shop specialising in cool, classic cuts and colours, much of it made in Bali.

Putih Pino (Map p140; ☎ 287889; Jl Danau Tamblingan) For homewares try Putih Pino – it sells a range of natural textiles and knick-knacks in an exquisite setting.

Souvenirs

For souvenirs, try the numerous shops on the main street, or one of the various 'art markets'. **Sanur Beach Market** (Map p140; off Jl Segara Ayu) has a wide selection. **Pasar Sindhur Art Market** (Map p140; off Jl Danau Tamblingan), the maze-like **Shindur Beach Market** (Map p140; south of Jl Pantai Sindhur) and **Jaya Kesuma Art Market** (Map p140; Jl Mertasani) have numerous stalls selling T-shirts, sarongs, woodcarvings and other dubious items.

Hardy's (p140) has a range of goods on its second floor at very good prices.

GETTING THERE & AWAY Bemo

The public bemo stops are at the southern end of Sanur on Jl Mertasari, and just outside the main entrance to the Inna Grand Bali Beach

Hotel on Jl Hang Tuah. You can hail a bemo anywhere along Jl Danau Tamblingan and Jl Danau Poso.

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

Boat

Public boats to Nusa Lembongan as well as the Perama boat and the fast Scoot boat leave from the northern end of Sanur beach. See p152 for details.

Tourist Shuttle Bus

The **Perama office** (Map p140; ☎ 285592, Jl Hang Tuah 39; ☎ 7am-10pm) is at Warung Pojok at the northern end of town. It runs shuttles to the following destinations, most only once daily.

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

GETTING AROUND

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

SOUTH OF SANUR

PULAU SERANGAN

Only about 250m offshore, south of Sanur, Pulau Serangan (Turtle Island) is connected to the mainland by a causeway and bridge. This link, and a large area of landfill on the eastern and southern sides of the island, were part of a massive, abortive development project associated with Soeharto's infamous son Tommy. The earthworks obliterated the island's sandy beaches and other features. The island was named for the turtles that used to lay eggs here, but no beach means no turtles.

The island has two villages, Ponjok and Dukuh, and an important temple, **Pura Sakenan**, just east of the causeway. Architecturally, the temple is insignificant, but it's one of the holiest in Bali, and major festivals attract

huge crowds of devotees, especially during the Kuningan festival.

The only other reason to come here is for the irregular **surf break** at the southern end of the landfill area, where a row of warung has appeared to provide food, drinks and souvenirs (see p79 for details on surfing). The wide road to the island branches off Jl Ngurah Rai just east of the Benoa Harbour turn-off – a booth at the end of the causeway collects a 1000Rp fee.

MANGROVE INFORMATION CENTRE

West of Sanur are vast mangroves that stretch almost to Kuta. Learn about this vital yet abused resource at the **Mangrove Information Centre** (Map p128; ☎ 726969; admission free; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Thu, 8am-2pm Fri), a joint Indonesian-Japanese project. The centre studies ways to preserve the health of mangroves, which are vital to filtering much of the island's ever-growing run-off.

Although you get a sense of the money behind the project, it already feels a bit sleepy. Some of the exhibits are in little better shape than the mangroves. Still there's a range of interesting activities you can sign on for here. A 1.5km boardwalk to the beach is sign-posted with information. You can also engage a guide and rent a four-person canoe (40,000Rp per hour) or go on a boat ride (four people for 100,000Rp per hour) through the mangroves.

Look for the centre's signs 5km west of Sanur. It's 1.5km south of Jl Ngurah Rai Bypass.

BENOA HARBOUR

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

Benoa Harbour is the port for tourist day-trip boats to Nusa Lembongan and for Pelni ships to other parts of Indonesia.

Visitors must pay a toll to go on the causeway (1000Rp per vehicle). Public bemo (5000Rp) leave from Sanglah terminal in Denpasar. A taxi from Kuta or Sanur should cost around 25,000Rp one way, plus the toll.

For more information on cruises to Nusa Lembongan from Benoa Harbour see p150.

NUSA LEMBONGAN & ISLANDS

One of three islands just off the southern coast of East Bali, Nusa Lembongan is overshadowed by its much larger sibling Nusa Penida, but it is foremost in terms of traveller popularity thanks to its enjoyable beach scene and great diving, and because it's the destination of choice for aquatic sports day trips.

Glimpsed from across south and east Bali, the islands beckon many a traveller – as well they should. Lembongan is the main destination and, even though other parts of Bali are begging for visitors, an increasing crowd just keeps making the voyage. Certainly they are well rewarded. Lembongan has a mellow travellers vibe and great surfing and diving and is made for casual exploration.

Nusa Penida, the giant of the trio, is seldom visited and that's a shame. It's got dramatic vistas right the way around, a wild and unpopulated interior and delightful residents who are very interested that you've decided to drop by. It's the closest place to Bali where you can fall right off the beaten path and be glad you did.

Tiny Nusa Ceningan is very sparsely populated and makes a good little jaunt from Lembongan.

The islands have been a poor region for many years. Thin soils and a lack of fresh water do not permit the cultivation of rice, but other crops such as maize, cassava and beans are staples grown here. The main cash crop, however, is seaweed (see Seaweed Sundae p150).

NUSA LEMBONGAN

☎ 0366

Lembongan is a wonderful place. Low-budget bungalows are ideal for extended stays by the seaside, while more upmarket hotels offer comfort and quiet. It's free of cars, motorcycle noise and hassles. It has a local population of about 7000 people, mostly living in two small villages, Jungutbatu and Lembongan.

For a short visit, take a convenient cruise boat, stopping to snorkel or bask on a beach, or do a more specialised diving or surf trip.

Orientation

Most surfers, divers and budget travellers stay at Jungutbatu beach in the island's northwest, while more upmarket accom-

modation is further south towards Mushroom Bay, where many of the day-trip cruise boats stop.

About 4km southwest along the sealed road from Jungutbatu is Lembongan village, the island's other town. Leaving Jungutbatu you climb up a steep knoll that offers a wonderful view back over the beach. You can go right around the island, following the rough track that eventually comes back to Jungutbatu, but the roads are challenging for cyclists and walkers.

There's no jetty at Jungutbatu – the boats usually beach in the shallows by the village. The Perama boat stops outside Mandara Beach Bungalows, while the public shuttle boat and Scoot boat stops further south. This part of the beach is the only bit that's truly dirty.

Information

It's vital that you bring sufficient cash for your stay as there's no ATM. **Bank BPD** (☎ 8am–3pm Mon–Thu, 8am–1pm Fri) can exchange travellers cheques and cash but rates are bad and hours short. **Mainski Inn** (☎ 24481r from 70,000Rp; 📠) can process Visa and Mastercard cash advances. Sometimes there's a line.

Mainski Inn also has a **wartel** (public telephone office; per min 1000Rp) and it offers fast broadband and wi-fi, as does Pondok Baruna.

Small markets can be found on the main street with the bank, but unless you're on a diet of bottled water and Ritz crackers, selection is small.

Offerings of thanks are still being given for 24-hour electricity, which was introduced in 2005.

The medical clinic in the village is well versed in minor surfing injuries and ear ailments.

Boats from Bali are met by men offering to carry your luggage or lead you to a hotel. If your hotel is far you may wish to carefully negotiate for their luggage services. But there's no need for the latter.

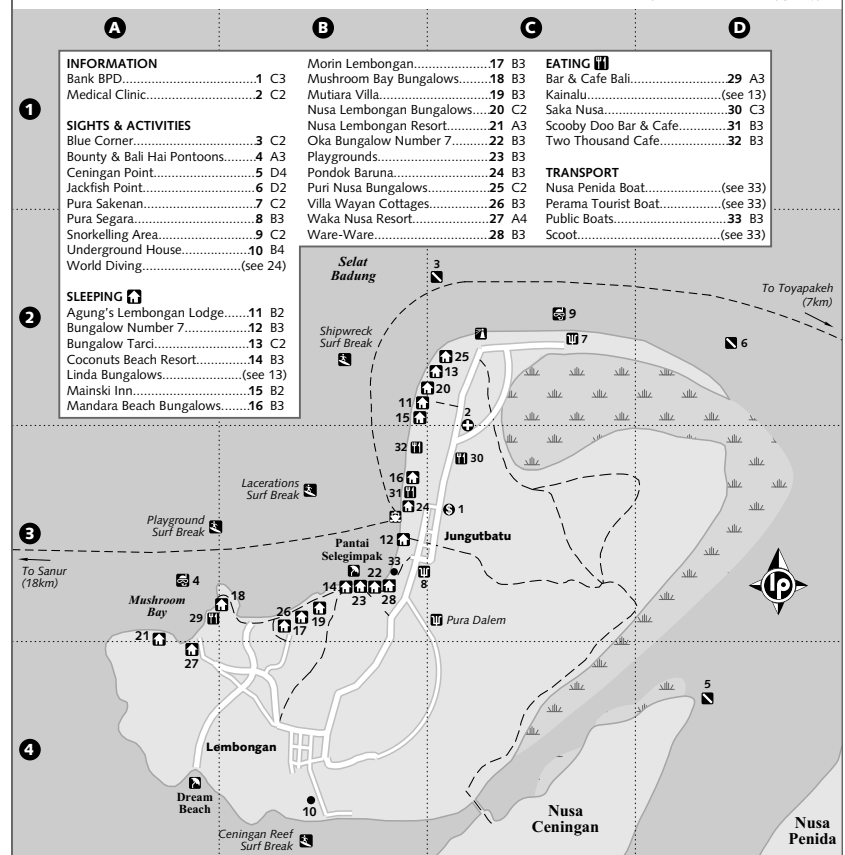
Sights

JUNGUTBATU

The beach here, a mostly lovely arc of white sand with clear blue water, has superb views across to Gunung Agung on Bali. The village itself is pleasant, with quiet lanes, no cars and lots of seaweed production. **Pura Segara** and its enormous banyan tree are the site of frequent ceremonies.

NUSA LEMBONGAN

0 1 km
0 0.5 miles



At the north end of town is a somewhat rickety metal **lighthouse**. Follow the path around east to **Pura Sakenan**.

MUSHROOM BAY

This gorgeous little bay, unofficially named for the mushroom corals offshore, has a perfect crescent of white-sand beach. During the day, the tranquillity may be disturbed by banana-boat rides or parasailing. In the morning and the evening, it's always a delightful place to spend some time.

The most pleasant way to get here from Jungutbatu is to walk along the trail that starts from the southern end of the main beach and follows the coastline for a kilometre or so, past a couple of smaller beaches (see 'Traversing

Lembongan' p151). Alternatively, get a boat from Jungutbatu.

DREAM BEACH

Down a little track, on the south side of the island, this 150m crescent of white sand has pounding surf and a cute little café.

LEMBONGAN

The other main town on the island looks across the seaweed farm-filled channel to Nusa Ceningan. It's a beautiful scene of clear water and green hills. You may get some hype for the **underground house**. Ignore it; it's a diversion for day-trippers and amounts to little more than a couple of holes in the ground.

SEAWEED SUNDÆ

The next time you enjoy some creamy ice cream, you might thank the seaweed growers of Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Penida. Carrageenan is an emulsifying agent that is used to thicken ice cream as well as cheese and many other products. It is also used as a fat substitute in 'diet' foods (just look for it on the endless ingredients label). In nature it turns seawater into a gel that gives seaweed its structure.

On Lembongan 85% of the population work at farming seaweed for carrageenan (as opposed to 5% in tourism) and it is the major industry. Although returns are OK, the work is very intensive and time-consuming. Women are the main labourers.

As you walk around the villages you'll see – and smell – vast areas used for drying the seaweed. Looking down into the water, you'll see the patchwork of cultivated seaweed plots. Small pieces of a marine algae (*Eucheuma*) are attached to strings that are stretched between bamboo poles – these underwater fences can be seen off many of the beaches, and especially in the shallows between Lembongan and Ceningan and at low tide. Growth is so fast that new shoots can be harvested every 45 days. This region is especially good for production as the waters are shallow and rich in nutrients. The dried red and green seaweed is exported around the world for final processing.

Activities

Most places rent gear for a passel of activities. Surfboards go for 50,000Rp per day.

SURFING

Surfing here is best in the dry season (April to September), when the winds come from the southeast. It's definitely not for beginners, and can be dangerous even for experts. There are three main breaks on the reef, all aptly named. From north to south are **Shipwreck**, **Lacerations** and **Playground**. Depending on where you are staying, you can paddle directly out to whichever of the three is closest; for others it's better to hire a boat. Prices are negotiable – from about 10,000Rp for a one-way trip. You tell the owner when to return. A fourth break – **Racecourses** – sometimes emerges south of Shipwreck.

The surf can be crowded here even when the island isn't – charter boats from Bali sometimes bring groups of surfers for day trips from the mainland, or as part of a longer surfing trip between Bali and Sumbawa. For day trips to Nusa Lembongan boats can be chartered from Sanur Beach for a minimum of 600,000Rp.

For more on surfing here, see p79.

DIVING

The excellent **World Diving** (☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com), based at Pondok Baruna on Jungutbatu Beach, is highly regarded. It offers a complete range of courses, including five-day PADI open-water courses for US\$345, and dive trips for US\$27 to US\$35 per dive to sites

around all three islands. There are a few other dive operators based at Jungutbatu that operate from various hotels. See Diving the Islands, p155 for details on the area's dive sites.

SNORKELLING

There's good snorkelling just off the Bali Hai and Bounty pontoons off Jungutbatu Beach, as well as in areas off the north coast of the island. You can charter a boat from 150,000Rp per hour, depending on demand, distance and the number of passengers; for more information ask at your hotel. Snorkelling gear can be rented for 20,000Rp to 30,000Rp per day. World Diving allows snorkellers to join dive trips and charges 75,000Rp for a four-hour trip.

There's good drift snorkelling along the mangrove-filled channel west of Ceningan Point between Lembongan and Ceningan.

CRUISES

A number of cruise boats offer day trips to Nusa Lembongan from Benoa Harbour in South Bali. Trips include hotel transfer from South Bali, basic water sports, snorkelling, banana-boat rides, island tours and a buffet lunch. Note that with hotel transfers, the following day trips can make for a very long day.

Bali Hai (☎ 0361-720331; www.balihaiacruises.com; reef cruises adult/child US\$85/42.50, catamaran cruises adult/child US\$85/57) This also has an unsightly offshore pontoon for snorkelling and water play.

Bounty Cruises (☎ 0361-726666; www.balibountycruises.com; cruises adult/child US\$85/42.50) This group

has an offshore pontoon only slightly less ugly than Bali Hai and offers similar cruises.

Island Explorer Cruises (☎ 0361-728088; www.bali-activities.com; per adult/child US\$55/27.50) This has three ways to get to Lembongan, which all get you back to Bali around 5pm: relaxing and slow-sailing yacht, party boat and fast, stomach-churning boat. These trips include use of the outfit's Coconuts Beach Resort pool.

Sleeping

JUNGUTBATU

Most places to stay in Jungutbatu are basic and many of the following places have beachfront restaurants serving typical travellers' fare. The strip of beachfront joints is going through the classic Bali development cycle: each year more rooms are added and old ones are spruced up. Unless noted otherwise, amenities are limited to cold water and fans.

More upmarket establishments are spreading like weeds across the hillside to the south.

Budget

Agung's Lembongan Lodge (☎ 24483; r 50,000-150,000Rp) The simple rooms are mostly in colourful bungalows. The restaurant has hanging bird cages, ocean views, a pool table and a much nicer atmosphere than many others.

Nusa Lembongan Bungalows (☎ 24484; nusa.lembongan@hotmail.com; bungalows 60,000-150,000Rp) Of the five nice units here, the front one is a duplex with great views from the 2nd-floor patio.

Linda Bungalows (☎ 24495; r 70,000-90,000Rp) Of the 12 very clean cold-water rooms in this two-level place with bright blue roof, one offers an ocean view. Everything is well run, although the concrete mushrooms out front are a bit odd.

TRAVERSING LEMBONGAN

You can walk around the entire island in a day. It's a fascinating journey with good views all around. Or you can just cover the major sites in a few hours. To do this follow the hillside trail from **Jungutbatu** past the Mutiara Villa and on to **Pantai Selegimpak**. Here it becomes a little tricky to reach **Mushroom Bay**, but with a little Tarzan spirit, you can stay with the faint trail and be rewarded by refreshments.

From Mushroom Bay, head over to dreamy **Dream Beach**. You can easily do this on foot or hail a passing vehicle: 5000Rp will get you there.

Next go to **Lembongan** village. From here it is a gentle uphill walk along the sealed road to the killer hill that leads *down* to Jungutbatu. Note: you want to do this walk counter-clockwise to avoid having to climb this hill.

To explore the rest of the island, stick to the trails that follow the coast. Note that motorbikes won't be able to navigate most trails; you're better off walking.

Pondok Baruna (☎ 0812 3900 686; www.world-diving.com; r 75,000-100,000Rp, dishes 10,000-18,000Rp; ☎) As associated with World Diving, this is one of the best places to stay. Staff, led by the manager Putu, are friendly, the seven rooms are pleasant and porches face the ocean. The restaurant serves excellent meals.

Bungalow Number 7 (☎ 24497; r 70,000-100,000Rp) This good, clean and friendly place has 14 rooms, with three on the beach with great views. The grounds are attractive and it is a little apart from the rest of the strip. It has a beachfront restaurant serving simple but good dishes (costing 7000Rp to 20,000Rp).

Bungalow Tarci (☎ 24494; r from 100,000Rp) The front units upstairs at this two-level place have excellent views of the water. It's got a popular bar.

Mandara Beach Bungalows (☎ 24470; www.mandara-lembongan.com; r 100,000-160,000Rp, with air-con 250,000Rp; ☎) Eight large bungalow-style rooms are set around a popular café. There's a nascent garden away from the water.

Puri Nusa Bungalows (☎ 24482; r 70,000-200,000Rp) The 17 rooms here are clean and comfortable, the two upstairs have excellent views and there's a good café (dishes 7000Rp to 25,000Rp).

Ware-Ware (☎ 0812 397 0572; r 120,000-200,000Rp;) The nine units at this hillside place are a mix of traditional square and groovy circular numbers with thatched roofs. Rooms are large with rattan couches and big bathrooms. The café has spectacular, breezy views and dishes cost between 20,000Rp and 50,000Rp.

Oka Bungalow Number 7 (☎ 24497; r from 250,000Rp; ☎) This good, clean and friendly place has three rooms, each with a good veranda and views down to the water. Units are spacious.

Midrange

Playgrounds (☎ 24524; www.playgroundslombok.com; r 400,000-500,000Rp; 🍷 🍷) On the hillside, Playgrounds' six rooms have good views, satellite TV and fridges. The cheaper rooms don't have air-con but do have better views from their long porch. There's also an adjoining private house for 700,000Rp a night.

Coconuts Beach Resort (☎ 0361-728088; www.bali-activities.com; d US\$70, with air-con US\$90; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Coconuts has unusual, spacious, circular bungalows staggered up the hillside overlooking a lovely pool and the sea. It's part of Island Explorer Cruises (see p151) so look for package deals.

PANTAI SELEGIMPAK

Reaching these places is a bit more of a challenge along the hillside trail. Without backpacks, you may want to avail yourself of the boat-greeting luggage carriers. It's a 15-minute up-and-down walk from Jungutbatu.

Villa Wayan Cottages (☎ 0361-745 2527, 0811-386540; www.lembonganislands.com; r US\$20-35) Villa Wayan Cottages has six varied and unusually decorated rooms; some are suitable for families or groups. Trees give the grounds nice shade and there's a good café. Ask about boat transfer from Sanur.

Mutiara Villa (☎ 0361-745 3857; www.mutiara-villa.com; r US\$50-60; 🍷 🍷) There are four units at this hillside place, two with views. The medium-sized pool disappears over the horizon and there's a telescope in the common area. Rooms have a stark, stylish design.

Morin Lembongan (☎ 081-2385 8396; wayman40@hotmail.com; US\$25-30) More lushly planted than many of the hillside places, Morin has six comfy rooms with views over the water from their verandas. It's fan-only; be sure to bargain.

MUSHROOM BAY

A nice collection of more upscale places surround this pretty bay. You can get here by vehicle from Jungutbatu for 9000Rp.

Mushroom Bay Bungalows (☎ 24515; www.mushroom-lembongan.com; r US\$25-50; dishes 10,000-20,000Rp; 🍷) Perched on a tiny knoll at the east end of Mushroom Bay, this family-run place has 11 rooms, one with air-con. There are good-sized bathtubs and a popular café for viewing sunsets.

Waka Nusa Resort (☎ 0361-723629; www.wakaexperience.com; bungalows from US\$100; 🍷 🍷) This pretty little place has 10 thatch-roofed bungalows set

in sandy grounds. The beachside restaurant and bar is delightfully located under coconut palms. Transfers from Bali are aboard a sailing boat.

Nusa Lembongan Resort (☎ 0361-725864; www.nusa-lembongan.com; villas from US\$175; 🍷 🍷) Twelve secluded and stylish villas overlooking a gorgeous sweep of ocean are the draw here. The pool and grounds are lovely. The resort has a creative restaurant (meals US\$10 to US\$25) with patio views over the bay.

Eating & Drinking

JUNGUTBATU

The usual menu of Indonesian and Western dishes is omnipresent here. The restaurants at Oka Bungalow Number 7, Pondok Baruna, Puri Nusa Bungalows and Ware-Ware are especially good. The bar at Bungalow Tarcis is usually hopping (unless the surf has been great, in which case everyone is snoozing).

Scooby Doo Bar & Cafe (dishes 7500-15,000Rp) Although probably not licensed to use the name of the popular pooch, Scooby's serves up a long list of snacks and drinks right on the sand to a big crowd every night. There are sofas for lounging.

Two Thousand Cafe (☎ 0812 394 1273; dishes 15,000-30,000Rp) This pleasant café-bar is right on the sand and is a good sunset spot.

Kainalu (dishes 12,000-30,000Rp) Spread over two levels right on the sand, it has a pool table, serves up surfer classics and has chairs for sunbathing.

Saka Nusa (dishes 10,000-20,000Rp; ☎ 6-10pm) Take a break from the beach at this warung set back among the palm and fruit trees.

MUSHROOM BAY

Bar & Cafe Bali (☎ 24536; dishes 20,000-50,000Rp) Right in the centre of the beach, enjoy pizza, pasta, seafood and the Indo-usuals with your feet in the sand. The bar is lively and you can arrange from transport from Jungutbatu.

Getting There & Away

Getting to or from Nusa Lembongan offers numerous choices. In descending order of speed are the Scoot boat, the Perama boat and the public boats. Getting between the boats and shore and getting around once on land is not especially easy, so this is the time to travel very light.

SANUR & SOUTH BALI

Public boats to Nusa Lembongan leave from the northern end of Sanur beach at 7.45am

(35,000Rp, 1½ to two hours). This is the boat used by locals and you may have to share space with a live chicken.

The **Perama tourist boat** (which is more reliable) leaves at 10.30am (70,000Rp, 1½ hours). The ride is often rough and you're likely to get wet. The Lembongan office is in the Mandara Beach Bungalows.

New to the scene is **Scoot**, a super-fast boat that makes the journey (US\$25) in about 40 minutes. While four huge outboards roar at the back, passengers cling to their wicker seats as the boat flies over waves before crashing into troughs. It's really an adventure in itself. The boat goes twice daily, and bookings are a must.

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

BENOA HARBOUR

The day-tripping cruise boats to Nusa Lembongan from Benoa Harbour (see p150) will usually take people for passage only for about US\$20 to US\$30 round-trip. Call to confirm. Alternatively if you go on the full day trip and then decide you want to stay, you can return on a boat another day.

NUSA PENIDA

Boats take locals between Jungutbatu and Toyapakeh (one hour) between 5.30am and 6am for 10,000Rp. Otherwise, charter a boat for 150,000Rp one way.

Getting Around

The island is fairly small and you can easily walk around it in a few hours; however, the roads across the middle of the island are quite steep. Bicycles (30,000Rp per day) and motorbikes (25,000Rp per hour) are widely available for rent.

NUSA PENIDA

☎ 0366

Largely overlooked by tourists, Nusa Penida is awaiting discovery. It's an untrammelled place that answers the question: what would Bali be like if tourists never came? There's not a lot of formal activities or sights; rather you go to Nusa Penida to explore and relax, to adapt to the slow rhythm of life here and learn to enjoy subtle pleasures such as the changing colour

PENIDA'S DEMON

Nusa Penida is the legendary home of Jero Gede Macaling, the demon who inspired the Barong Landung dance. Many Balinese believe the island is a place of enchantment and *angker* (evil power) – paradoxically, this is an attraction. Although few foreigners visit, thousands of Balinese come every year for religious observances aimed at placating the evil spirits.

The island has a number of interesting temples dedicated to Jero Gede Macaling, including Pura Dalem Penetaran Ped, near Toyapakeh. It houses a shrine, which is a source of power for practitioners of black magic, and a place of pilgrimage for those seeking protection from sickness and evil.

of the clouds and the sea. Life is simple; you'll still see topless older women carrying huge loads on their heads.

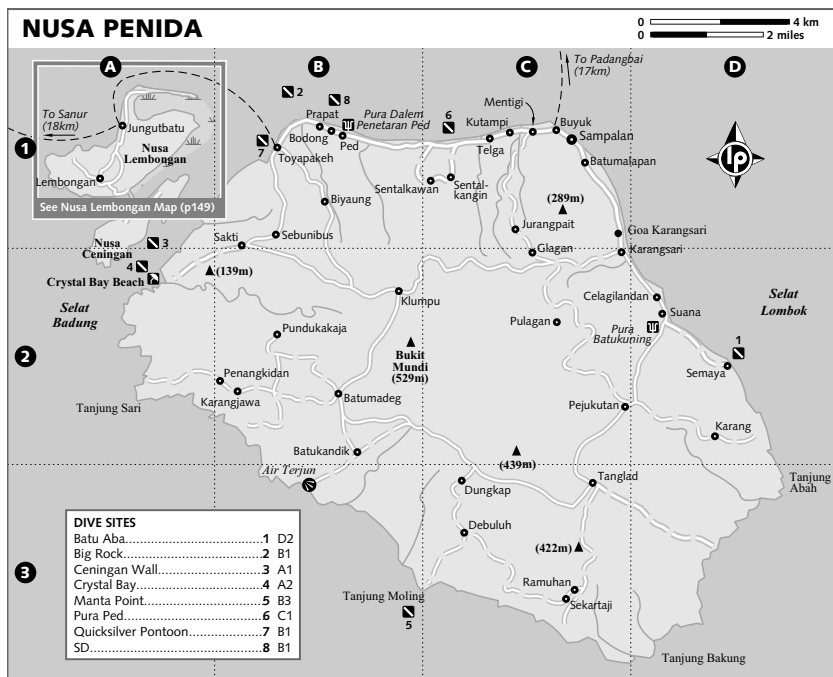
The island is a limestone plateau with white-sand beaches on its north coast, and views over the water to the volcanoes on Bali. The beaches are not great for swimming as most of the shallows are filled with bamboo frames used for seaweed farming. The south coast has 300m-high limestone cliffs dropping straight down to the sea and a row of offshore islets – it's rugged and spectacular scenery. The interior is hilly, with sparse-looking crops and old-fashioned villages. Rainfall is low and parts are arid.

The population of around 50,000 is predominantly Hindu, although there are some Muslims in Toyapakeh. The culture is distinct from that of Bali: the language is an old form of Balinese no longer heard on the mainland, and there is also local dance, architecture and craft, including a unique type of red ikat weaving (cloth in which the pattern is produced by dyeing individual threads before weaving). Nusa Penida was once used as a place of banishment for criminals and other undesirables from the kingdom of Klungkung, and still has a somewhat sinister reputation.

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

Activities

Nusa Penida has amazing **diving**; see 'Diving the Islands' p155. There's a dive shop in Toyapakeh; see p154. Alternatively, make



arrangements through **World Diving** (☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com) on Nusa Lembongan. If you plan to go **snorkelling**, bring your own gear or rent it from **MM Diving** (☎ 081-3370 77590, 081-3370 22676; www.mmdiving.cz) in Toyapakeh.

Between Toyapakeh and Sampalan there is excellent **cycling** on the beautiful, flat coast road. The hitch is you need to bring a *good* bike with you to Penida. If you really want to explore, bring a mountain bike and camping equipment from the mainland (but remember, Nusa Penida is hilly). Alternatively, plan to do some serious **hiking**, but come well prepared.

Sampalan

Sampalan, the main town on Penida, is quiet and pleasant, with a market, schools and shops strung out along the curving coast road. The **market area**, where the bemo congregate, is in the middle of town. It's a good place to absorb village life.

SLEEPING & EATING

Not many people stay here, although there's plenty of rooms, so you can just show up.

For meals you'll need to try one of the small warung in town – no more than 10 minutes by foot from any of the inns.

Made's Homestay (☎ 0852-3764 3649; r 70,000-80,000Rp) A friendly place with four small, clean rooms and a pleasant garden. Breakfast is included. A small side road between the market and the harbour leads here.

Bungalow Pemda (☎ 0813-3852 9435, 23580; r 25,000-120,000Rp) Opposite the police station, 200 metres east of the market, is this government rest-house. There are 14 very basic rooms here; the best have toilets and no mosquito nets but great sea views.

Nusa Garden Bungalows (☎ 0813-3855 7595; r 60,000-70,000Rp) Crushed coral pathways running between animal statuary link the 10 rooms here. Rates include a small breakfast. Turn on Jl Nusa Indah just east of the centre.

Toyapakeh

If you come by boat from Lembongan, you'll probably be dropped at the beach at Toyapakeh, a pretty town with lots of shady trees. The beach has clean white sand, clear blue water, a neat line of boats, and Gunung Agung as a

DIVING THE ISLANDS

There are great diving possibilities around the islands, from shallow and sheltered reefs, mainly on the northern side of Lembongan and Penida, to very demanding drift dives in the channel between Penida and the other two islands. Vigilant locals have protected their waters from dynamite bombing by renegade fishing boats, so the reefs are mostly still intact. And a side benefit of seaweed farming is that locals no longer rely so much on fishing.

The best local dive operation, based at Nusa Lembongan, is **World Diving** (Map p149; ☎ 081 2390 0686; www.world-diving.com), which runs trips to 20 different dive sites. There is also now a dive shop on Penida; see p153.

If you arrange a dive trip from Candidasa or South Bali, stick with the most reputable operators, as conditions here can be tricky and local knowledge is essential. A particular attraction is the large marine animals, including turtles, sharks and manta rays. The large (3m fin to fin) and unusual *mola mola* (sunfish) is sometimes seen around the islands between mid-July and October, while manta rays are often seen south of Nusa Penida.

The best dive sites include **Blue Corner** (Map p149) and **Jackfish Point** (Map p149) off Nusa Lembongan and **Ceningan Point** (Map p149) at the tip of that island. The channel between Ceningan and Penida is renowned for drift diving but it is essential that you have a good operator who can judge fast-changing currents and other conditions. Upwells can bring cold water from the open ocean to sites such as **Ceningan Wall** (Map p154). This is one of the world's deepest natural channels and attracts all manner and sizes of fish.

Sites close to Nusa Penida include **Big Rock**, **Crystal Bay**, **SD**, **Pura Ped** and **Manta Point** (Map p154). Of these, Crystal Bay, SD and Pura Ped are suitable for novice divers and are good for snorkelling. For more on diving on Bali, see p74.

backdrop. Step up from the beach and you're at the road where bemo can take you to Ped or Sampalan (4000Rp).

Offshore, the big grey thing that looks like a tuna-processing plant is the **Quicksilver pontoon** (☎ 0361-7425161; www.quicksilver-bali.com). Day-trips (adult/child US\$40/20) from Benoa Harbour include a buffet lunch, snorkelling, banana board rides and an excursion ashore to an extremely unattractive 'tourist village' of limpid souvenir sellers and slightly roasted trees.

The one place to stay in town is also a good choice to stay. **MM Diving Resort & Mutiara Bungalows** (☎ 081-3370 77590, 081-3370 22676; www.mmdiving.cz; r 90,000-150,000Rp; 🏠) has eight good rooms back off the beach and behind the Quicksilver 'village'. The bungalow-style rooms are comfortable and some have air-con. There's a good café and a common area with a library.

Run by enthusiastic Czechs, the dive operation specialises in Nusa Penida. Two-dive trips are US\$40 to US\$50. You can rent snorkelling equipment for US\$4 a day.

Around the Island

A trip around the island, following the north and east coasts, and crossing the hilly interior, can be completed in half a day by motorcycle.

You could spend much longer, lingering at the temples and the small villages, and walking to less accessible areas, but there's no accommodation outside the two main towns. The following description goes clockwise from Sampalan.

The coastal road from Sampalan curves and dips past bays with rows of fishing boats and offshore seaweed gardens. After about 6km, just before the village of Karangsari, steps go up on the right side of the road to the narrow entrance of **Goa Karangsari** caves. There are usually people who can provide a lantern and guide you through the cave for a small negotiable fee of around 20,000Rp each. The limestone cave is over 15m tall in some sections. It extends more than 200m through the hill and emerges on the other side to overlook a verdant valley.

Continue south past a naval station and several charming **temples** to Suana. Here the main road swings inland and climbs up into the hills, while a very rough side track goes southeast, past more interesting temples to **Semaya**, a fishing village with a sheltered beach and one of Bali's best dive sites offshore, **Batu Aba**.

About 9km southwest of Suana, **Tanglad** is a very old-fashioned village and a centre for traditional weaving. Rough roads south and east lead to isolated parts of the coast.

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

You've already gotten away from most of it by coming to Nusa Penida, but you can go further still. South of Toyapakeh, a 10km road through the village of Sakti leads to gorgeous and almost untouched **Crystal Bay Beach**, which fronts the popular dive spot. The sand here is the whitest around Bali and you'll likely have it to yourself. Should you somehow have the gear, this would be a fine place to camp.

A scenic ridge-top road goes northwest from Tegal. At Batukandik, a rough road leads to a spectacular **air terjun** (waterfall). There's a temple here and it's a short walk from the road.

Limestone cliffs drop hundreds of feet into the sea, surrounded by crashing surf. At their base, underground streams discharge fresh water into the sea – a pipeline was made to bring the water up to the top. You can follow the pipeline down the cliff face on an alarmingly exposed metal stairway. From it, you can see the remains of the rickety old wooden scaffolding women used to clamber down, returning with large pots of water on their heads.

Back on the main road, continue to Batumadeg, past **Bukit Mundi** (the highest point on the island at 529m; on a clear day you can see Lombok), through Klumpu to Sakti, which has traditional stone buildings. Return to the north coast at Toyapakeh, about one hour after Bukit Mundi.

The important temple of **Pura Dalem Penataran Ped** is near the beach at Ped, a few kilometres east of Toyapakeh. It houses a shrine for the demon Jero Gede Macaling (see Penida's Demon, p153). The temple structure is sprawling and you will see many people making offerings for safe sea voyages from Nusa Penida; you may wish to join them.

Across from the temple, the spotless and simple **Depot Anda** (meals 3000-10,000Rp; ☎ 6am-9pm) is the eating choice on the island with tasty local standards.

The road between Sampalan and Toyapakeh follows the craggy and lush coast.

Getting There & Away

The strait between Nusa Penida and southern Bali is very deep and subject to heavy swells – if there is a strong tide, boats often have to wait. You may also have to wait a while for the

public boat to fill up with passengers. Boats to and from Kusamba are not recommended.

PADANGBAI

On the beach just east of the car park in Padangbai, you'll find the twin-engine fibreglass boats that run across the strait to Buyuk, 1km west of Sampalan on Nusa Penida (25,000Rp, 45 minutes, four daily). The boats run between 7am and noon. Boats back to Padangbai cost 18,000Rp.

NUSA LEMBONGAN

Boats take locals between Toyapakeh and Jungutbatu (one hour) between 5.30am and 6am for 10,000Rp. Enjoy the mangrove views on the way. Otherwise, charter a boat for 150,000Rp one way.

Getting Around

Bemo regularly travel along the sealed road between Toyapakeh and Sampalan, and sometimes on to Suana and up to Klumpu, but beyond these areas the roads are rough and transport is limited. You should be able to charter your own bemo or private vehicle with driver for about 10,000Rp per hour.

You may also be able to negotiate an *ojek* (motorcycle with passengers) for about 30,000Rp per hour.

NUSA CENINGAN

There is a narrow suspension bridge crossing the lagoon between Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan, which makes it quite easy to explore the network of tracks on foot or by bicycle. The lagoon is filled with frames for seaweed farming and there's also a fishing village and several small agricultural plots. Although the island is quite hilly, if you're up for it, you'll get glimpses of great scenery as you wander or cycle around the rough tracks.

To really savour Nusa Ceningan, take a tour of the island with **JED** (Village Ecotourism Network; ☎ 0361-735320; www.jed.or.id), the cultural organisation that gives people an in-depth look at village and cultural life. For US\$60 to US\$120 (depending on number of people), you spend the night in a village, eat local meals, get a fascinating tour and receive transport from Bali.

There's also a **surf break** at Ceningan reef, but it's very exposed and only surfable when it's too small for the other breaks.

(Continued on page 165)

(Continued from page 156)

DENPASAR

Sprawling, hectic and ever-growing, Bali's capital has been the focus of a lot of the island's growth and wealth over the last five decades. There are still tree-lined streets and some pleasant gardens, but the traffic, noise and pollution challenge the casual visitor.

Denpasar might not be a tropical paradise, but it's as much a part of 'the real Bali' as the rice paddies and cliff-top temples. This is the hub of the island for locals and here you will find the shopping malls, restaurants and parks enjoyed by the people who actually live on Bali. Unless you're content to skip over the surface of the island, you'll want to sample Denpasar's markets, its one excellent museum and its purely modern Balinese vibe. Most visitors stay in the tourist towns of the south and visit Denpasar as a day trip. Others may pass through while changing bemo or catching a bus to Java.

HISTORY

Denpasar, which means 'next to the market', was an important trading centre and the seat of local rajahs (lord or prince) before the colonial period. The Dutch gained control of northern Bali in the mid-19th century, but their takeover of the south didn't start until 1906. After the three Balinese princes destroyed their own palaces in Denpasar and made a suicidal last stand – a ritual *puputan* – the Dutch made Denpasar an important colonial centre. And as Bali's tourism industry expanded in the 1930s, most visitors stayed at one or two government hotels in the city of Denpasar.

The northern town of Singaraja remained the Dutch administrative capital, but a new airport was built in the south. This made Denpasar a strategic asset in WWII, and when the Japanese invaded, they used it as a springboard to attack Java. After the war the Dutch moved their headquarters to Denpasar, and in 1958, some years after Indonesian independence, the city became the official capital of the province of Bali. Denpasar is a self-governing municipality that includes Sanur and Benoa Harbour.

Many of Denpasar's residents descended from immigrant groups such as Bugis mercenaries and Chinese, Arab and Indian traders. Recent immigrants, including civil servants, artisans, business people and labourers,

have come from Java and all over Indonesia, attracted by opportunities in schools, factories and businesses in the growing Balinese capital. Much of the business infrastructure that supports Balinese tourism is based here.

Although non-Balinese tend to live in detached houses or small apartments, Balinese communities still maintain their traditions and family compounds, even as their villages are engulfed by growth. In fact, Denpasar's southern reaches have collided with northern expansion from Kerobokan.

ORIENTATION

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

In contrast to the rest of Denpasar, the Renon area, southeast of the town centre, is laid out on a grand scale, with wide streets, large car parks and huge landscaped blocks of land. You'll find the government offices here, many of which are impressive structures, built with huge budgets in modern Balinese style.

INFORMATION Emergency

Police Office (Map pp166-7; ☎ 424346; Jl Pattimura)

The place for any general problems.

Tourist Police (Map pp166-7; ☎ 224111)

Medical Services

Rumah Sakit Umum Propinsi Sanglah (RSUP

Sanglah; Map pp166-7; ☎ 227911; Sanglah; ☎ 24hr)

The city's general hospital has English-speaking staff and a casualty room. It's the best hospital on the island.

Money

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

Post

Main post office (Map pp166-7; ☎ 223565; Jl

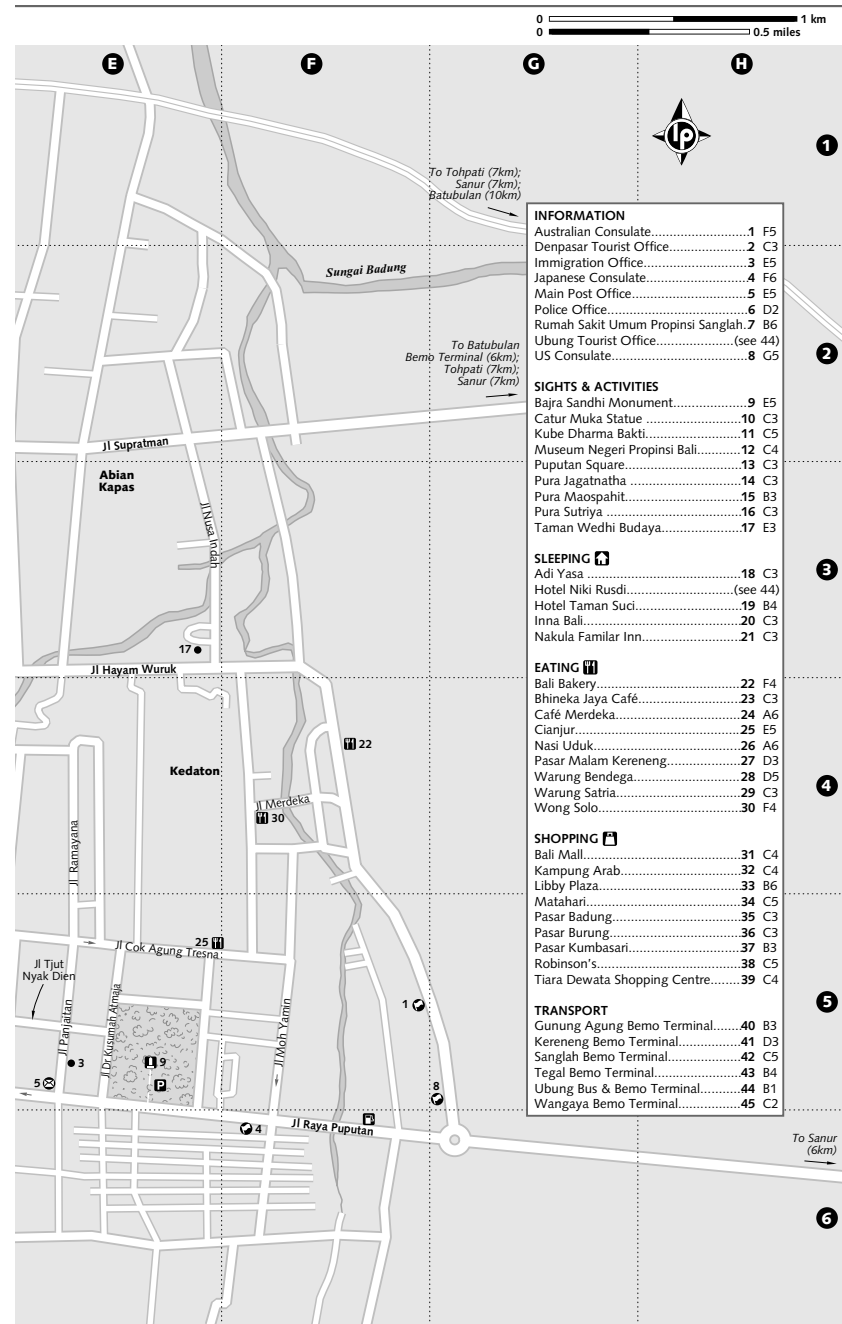
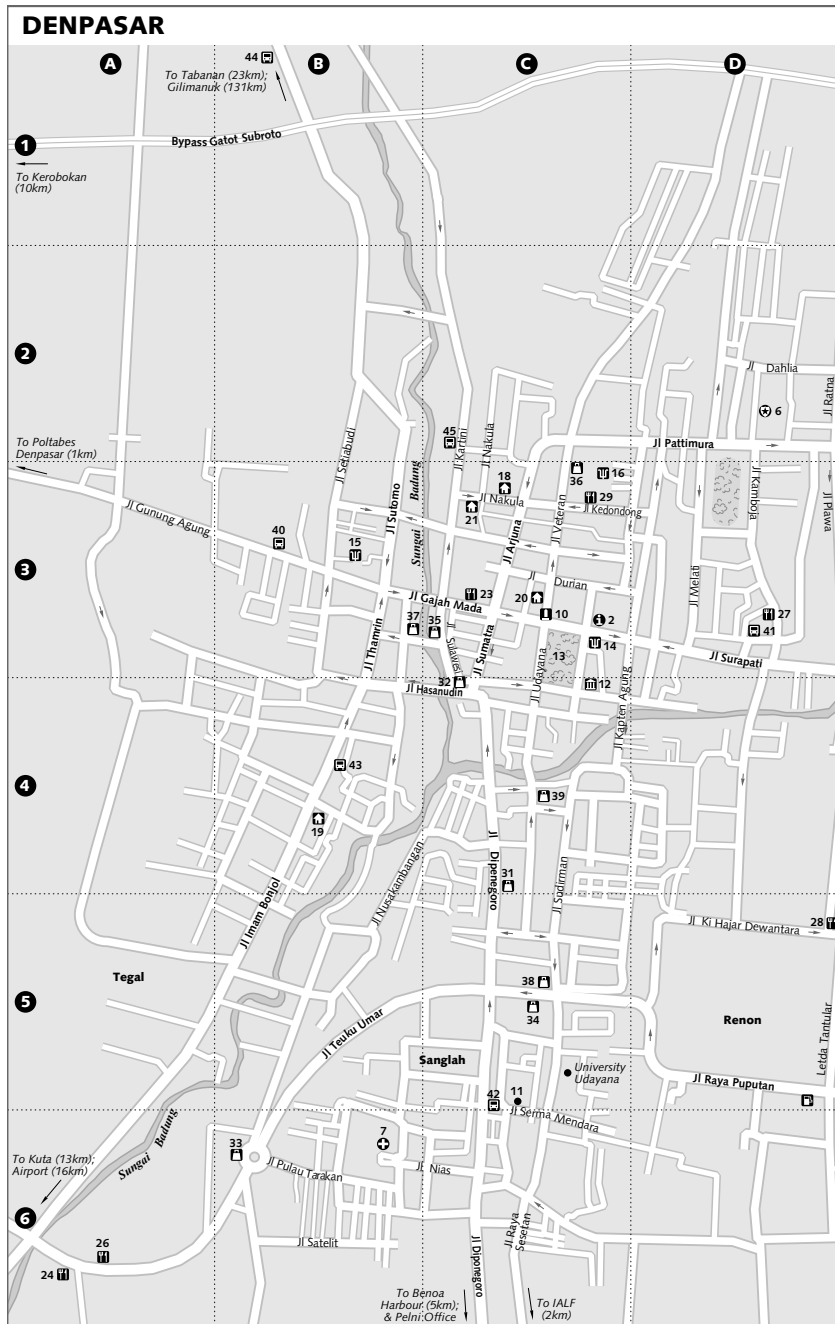
Panjaitan; ☎ 8am-8pm) Has poste restante service, but is inconveniently located in Renon.

Tourist Information

Denpasar tourist office (Map pp166-7; ☎ 234569; Jl

Surapati 7; ☎ 7.30am-3.30pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri)

Deals with tourism in the Denpasar municipality (including



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SOUTH BALI

SOUTH BALI

Sanur), but also has some information about the rest of Bali. It's not worth a special trip, but does offer the useful *Calendar of Events* booklet.

Ubung Tourist office (Map pp166-7; ☎ 8am-2pm Mon-Thu, 8am-noon Fri) This helpful office is located at the Ubung Bus and Bemo Terminal and offers transport advice.

SIGHTS

Museum Negeri Propinsi Bali

This **museum** (Map pp166-7; ☎ 222680; adult/child 2000/1000Rp; ☎ 8am-12.30pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sun) was originally established in 1910 by a Dutch resident who was concerned by the export of culturally significant artefacts from the island. Destroyed in a 1917 earthquake, it was rebuilt in the 1920s, but used mainly for storage until 1932. At that time, German artist Walter Spies and some Dutch officials revived the idea of collecting and preserving Balinese antiquities and cultural objects, and creating an ethnographic museum. Today the museum is well organised and most displays are labelled in English. You can climb one of the towers inside the grounds for a better view of the whole complex.

The museum comprises several buildings and pavilions, including examples of the architecture of both the *puri* (palace) and *pura* (temple), with features such as a *candi bentar* (split gateway) and a *kulkul* (warning drum) tower. The main building, to the back as you enter, has a collection of prehistoric pieces downstairs, including stone sarcophagi, and stone and bronze implements. Upstairs are examples of traditional artefacts, including items still in everyday use. Look for the fine wood-and-cane carrying cases for transporting fighting cocks, and tiny carrying cases for fighting crickets.

The **northern pavilion**, in the style of a Tabanan palace, houses dance costumes and masks, including a sinister Rangda (widow-witch), a healthy-looking Barong (mythical lion-dog creature) and a towering Barong Landung (tall Barong) figure. See the Glossary (p380) for more about these mythical figures.

The **central pavilion**, with its spacious veranda, is like the palace pavilions of the Karangasem kingdom (based in Amlapura), where rajahs held audiences. The exhibits are related to Balinese religion, and include ceremonial objects, calendars and priests' clothing.

The **southern pavilion** (Gedung Buleleng) has a varied collection of textiles, including *endek* (a Balinese method of weaving with pre-dyed threads), double ikat, *songket* (silver- and gold-threaded cloth, hand-woven using

a floating weft technique) and *prada* (the application of gold leaf or gold or silver thread in traditional Balinese clothes).

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

Pura Jagatnatha

Next to the museum, the **state temple** (Map pp166-7) is dedicated to the supreme god, Sanghyang Widi. Built in 1953, part of its significance is its statement of monotheism. Although Balinese recognise many gods, the belief in one supreme god (who can have many manifestations) brings Balinese Hinduism into conformity with the first principle of Pancasila – the 'Belief in One God'.

The *padmasana* (shrine) is made of white coral, and consists of an empty throne (symbolic of heaven) on top of the cosmic turtle and two *naga* (mythological serpents), which symbolise the foundation of the world. The walls are decorated with carvings of scenes from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*.

Pura Jagatnatha is more frequently used than any other Balinese temple – local people come every afternoon to pray and make offerings – so it can often be closed to the public. Two major festivals are held here every month, during the full moon and new moon, and feature *wayang kulit* (shadow puppet plays). Ask at the Denpasar Tourist Office for exact details, or refer to its *Calendar of Events* booklet.

Bajra Sandhi Monument

Otherwise known as the Monument to the Struggle of the People of Bali, this huge **monument** (Map pp166-7; ☎ 264517; Jl Raya Puputan; admission 2000Rp; ☎ 9am-4.30pm) is as big as its name and dominates what's already a big park in Renon. Inside this vaguely Borobodur-like structure are dioramas tracing Bali's history. Taking the name as a cue, you won't be surprised that they have a certain jingoistic soap-opera quality. But they're a fun diversion. Note that in the portrayal of the 1906 battle with the Dutch, the King of Badung is literally a sitting target.

Taman Wedhi Budaya

This **arts centre** (Map pp166-7; ☎ 222776; admission free; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri-Sun) is a sprawling complex in the eastern part of Denpasar. Established in 1973 as an academy and show-place for Balinese culture, its lavish architecture houses an art gallery with an interesting collection, but few performances.

From mid-June to mid-July, the centre hosts the Bali Arts Festival (see p170), with dances, music and craft displays from all over Bali. You may need to book tickets at the centre for more popular events.

WALKING TOUR

This walk includes most of the attractions in the middle of town and a few vestiges of when Denpasar – and Bali – was a much slower place. Allow extra time for visiting the museum or shopping.

Start the walk at **Museum Negeri Propinsi Bali (1; p168)**. Opposite is **Puputan Sq (2)**, a park that commemorates the heroic but suicidal stand of the rajahs of Badung against the invading Dutch in 1906. A monument depicts a Balinese family in heroic pose, brandishing the weapons that were so ineffective against the Dutch guns. The woman also has jewels in her left hand, as the women of the Badung court reputedly flung their jewellery at the Dutch soldiers to taunt them. The park is popular with locals at lunch time and with families near sunset.

Back on the corner of Jl Surapati and Jl Veteran is the towering **Catur Muka statue (3)**, which represents Batara Guru, Lord of the

Four Directions. The four-faced, eight-armed figure keeps a close eye (or is it eight eyes?) on the traffic swirling around him. Head 100m north on Jl Veteran to the **Inna Bali (4; Jl Veteran 3; p170)**. It dates from 1927 and was once the main tourist hotel on the island. It makes a nostalgic place for a refreshment.

Return to the Catur Muka statue and head west on Jl Gajah Mada (named after the 14th-century Majapahit prime minister). Go past banks, shops and a café towards the bridge over the grubby Sungai Badung (Badung River). Just before the bridge, on the left, is the renovated **Pasar Badung (5; p171)**, the main produce market. This is one of the better places to see the fertile fruit of Bali. On the left, just after the bridge, **Pasar Kumbasari (6; p171)** is a handicraft and textiles market.

At the next main intersection, detour north up Jl Sutomo, and turn left along a small *gang* (lane) leading to the **Pura Maospahit (7) temple**. Established in the 14th century, at the time the Majapahit arrived from Java, the temple was damaged in a 1917 earthquake and has been heavily restored since. The oldest structures are at the back of the temple, but the most interesting features are the large statues of Garuda and the giant Batara Bayu.

Turn back, and continue south along Jl Thamrin, to the junction of Jl Hasanudin. On this corner is the **Puri Pemecutan (8)**, a palace destroyed during the 1906 invasion. It's now long since been rebuilt and you can look inside the compound but don't expect anything palatial.

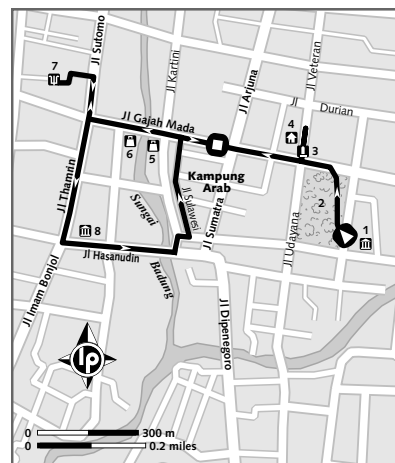
Go east on Jl Hasanudin, then north onto Jl Sulawesi, and you'll be in the area of the gold shops, known as Kampung Arab for the many people there of Middle Eastern or Indian descent. Continue north past Pasar Badung market to return to Jl Gajah Mada.

ACTIVITIES

Many Balinese wouldn't think of having a massage from anyone but a blind person. Government-sponsored schools offer lengthy courses to certify blind people in reflexology, shiatsu massage, anatomy and much more. Usually graduates work together in group locations such as **Kube Dharma Bakti (☎ 749 9440; Jl Serma Mendara 3; massage per hr 30,000Rp; ☎ 9am-9pm)**. In this airy building redolent with liniments, you can choose from a range of therapies and contribute to a very good cause at the same time.

WALK FACTS

Start	Denpasar Tourist Office
Finish	Tiara Dewata Shopping Centre
Distance	2km
Duration	2-3hr



COURSES

The best place for courses in Bahasa Indonesia is the **Indonesia Australia Language Foundation** (IALF; Map p128; ☎ 225243; www.ialf.edu; Jl Raya Sesetan 190), which has a language lab, library, and well-run four-week 40-hour course (two hours per day Monday to Friday, costing 1,250,000Rp). Courses are available in six levels, from beginner to advanced.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The annual **Bali Arts Festival** (www.baliartsfestival.com), based at the Taman Wedhi Budaya arts centre (p168) in Denpasar, lasts for about a month starting in mid-June. It's a great time to visit Bali, and the festival is an easy way to see a wide variety of traditional dance, music and crafts from the island. The productions of the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* ballets are grand, and the opening ceremony and parade in Denpasar are particularly colourful.

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

SLEEPING

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

Budget

Adi Yasa (Map pp166-7; ☎ 222679; Jl Nakula 23B; s/d 40,000/60,000Rp) Budget travellers have crashed here since the 1970s. It's centrally located and friendly; the nine rooms are very basic.

Nakula Familiar Inn (Map pp166-7; ☎ 226446; Jl Nakula 4; s/d 50,000/80,000Rp) Across the road and 100m west from the Adi Yasa, the eight rooms here are decent (cold-water showers only) and clean, and all have a small balcony area. The traffic noise isn't too bad and there is a nice little enclave in the middle. Tegal-Kereneng bemo go along Jl Nakula.

Hotel Niki Rusdi (Map pp166-7; ☎ 416397; Jl Pidada XIV; r 80,000-200,000Rp; ☎) This simple place is located right behind the Ubung Bus Terminal and is a good choice if you have an early or late bus. Rooms are very clean. There are other options nearby if this one is full.

Midrange

Most midrange places cater to Indonesian business travellers. There are no hotels in the top-end category.

Hotel Taman Suci (Map pp166-7; ☎ 484445; www.tamansuci.com; Jl Imam Bonjol 45; r from 225,000-275,000Rp; ☎) A good choice for business travellers, this modern, multifloor 45-room hotel insulates you from the hubbub outside from the minute you enter its air-con lobby.

Inna Bali (Map pp166-7; ☎ 225681; www.innabali.com; Jl Veteran 3; s from 375,000-415,000Rp; ☎) A government-owned hotel, the Inna Bali has simple gardens and retains a certain nostalgic charm from its early days as a Dutch outpost built in 1927. Room interiors are standard, but many make up for this with deeply shaded verandas. The hotel is a good base for the *Ngrupuk* parades that take place the day before Nyepi (see the boxed text, p338), as they pass right by the front of the hotel.

EATING

You can eat very well in Denpasar. Most places cater to locals and Indonesian visitors, so they offer tasty authentic food at good prices. At the **Pasar Malam Kereneng** (Kereneng Night Market; Map pp166-7) dozens of vendors dish up food till dawn. A number of places along Jl Teuku Umar and in Renon cater to more affluent locals while all the shopping malls have food-court options.

Café Merdeka (Map pp166-7; ☎ 244784; Jl Teuku Umar 240; baked goods from 500Rp) Delightful Balinese bakery with a wide range of sweet and savoury baked goods you choose yourself and can take away or enjoy at the outside tables.

Warung Satria (Map pp166-7; Jl Kedondong; dishes 4000-10,000Rp) A long-running warung on a quiet street; try the wonderful seafood satay served with a shallot sambal. Otherwise, choose from the immaculate displays of what's fresh.

Nasi Uduk (Map pp166-7; Jl Teuku Umar; 5000-12,000Rp) Open to the street, this spotless little stall has a few chairs and serves up treats such as *nasi uduk* (sweetly scented coconut rice with fresh peanut sauce) and *lalapan* (a simple salad of fresh lemon basil leaves).

Bhineka Jaya Café (Map pp166-7; ☎ 224016; Jl Gajah Mada 80; coffee 3000Rp; ☎ 9am-4pm) Home to Bali's Coffee Co, this storefront sells locally grown beans and makes a mean espresso, which you can enjoy at the two tiny tables while watching the bustle of Denpasar's old main drag.

Bali Bakery (Map pp166-7; ☎ 243147; Jl Hayam Wuruk; dishes 5000-30,000Rp; ☎) Small branch of the Kuta favourite. Great baked goods and small café. Free wi-fi.

Wong Solo (Map pp166-7; ☎ 231191; Jl Merdeka 18; 8000-20,000Rp) Part of small local chain; chicken in myriad forms is the specialty here. Sit at an open-air table and have it spicy and grilled or try the *ikan lele* (grilled catfish).

Warung Bendega (Map pp166-7; ☎ 225112; Jl Cok Agung Tresna 37A; dishes 7000-25,000Rp) Walled off from street noise, this lovely and stylish open-air oasis hums to the rhythm of Balinese pop music at dinner. Creatively spiced seafood is the specialty.

Gianjur (Map pp166-7; ☎ 230015; Jl Cok Agung Tresna; dishes 8000-25,000Rp; ☎) Big, airy and cool, this upmarket place has Balinese seafood in an array of preparations (crispy, grilled, steamed or wrapped in a banana leaf). Hugely popular with families and groups of bureaucrats.

SHOPPING

Local goods can be found in the markets and at the large shopping malls south of the centre, which are all the rage locally.

Markets

The **Pasar Badung** (Map pp166-7) is busy in the morning and evening, and is a great place to browse and bargain. You'll find produce and food from all over the island as well as easy-to-assemble temple offerings that are popular with working women. Deals include a half-kilo of saffron for 250,000Rp. Ignore guides who may offer their services.

Across the river, **Pasar Kumbasari** (Map pp166-7) has handicrafts, a plethora of vibrant fabrics and costumes decorated with gold. It's a modern, multi-level building of shops and stalls and you should just plunge at random into the canyons of colour.

Kampung Arab (Map pp166-7) has jewellery and precious metal stores. North on Jl Veteran, **Pasar Burung** (Map pp166-7) is a bird market with hundreds of caged birds and small animals, such as guinea pigs, rabbits and monkeys, for sale. There are also gaudy and colourful birdcages. You wonder how many endangered species are traded behind the scenes.

An impromptu dog market also operates directly opposite the bird market. While you're here, have a look at the elaborate **Pura Sutriya** (Map pp166-7), just east of the market.

Shopping Malls

Western-style shopping malls are very fashionable and jammed on Sundays with locals shopping and teens flirting. The brand-name goods are genuine.

Most malls have a food court with stalls serving fresh Asian fare, as well as fast-food joints (which have pleased more than one homesick holidaying tourist tot). Some have video arcades for kids and all offer plenty of parking.

Bali Mall (Map pp166-7; Jl Diponegoro) Has the top-end Ramayana Department Store and an A&W restaurant.

Libby Plaza (Map pp166-7; Jl Teuku Umar) Has a huge Hero Supermarket.

Matahari (Map pp166-7; Jl Teuku Umar) Main branch of the department store, with numerous other stores and a Swenson's Ice Cream café.

Robinson's (Map pp166-7; Jl Teuku Umar or Jl Sudirman) Arch-competitor of Matahari has large selection of midrange and top-end goods.

Tiara Dewata Shopping Centre (Map pp166-7; Jl Udayan) Low-rise place with a good food court and a Dunkin' Donuts.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Denpasar is the hub of road transport on Bali – you'll find buses and minibuses bound for all corners of the island.

Air

Sometimes called 'Denpasar' in airline schedules, Bali's Ngurah Rai international airport is south of Kuta. See p350 for details.

Bemo

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

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

UBUNG

Well north of the town, on the road to Gili-manuk, Ubung is the terminal for northern and western Bali and most long-distance bus service. In the complex, there is a helpful **tourist office** (see p165) to provide help with fares and schedules. Arriving here by taxi guarantees a reception by baggage and ticket touts.

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

BATUBULAN

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

Destination	Fare
Amlapura	20,000Rp
Bangli	10,000Rp
Gianyar	8000Rp
Kintamani (via Tampaksiring)	15,000Rp
Nusa Dua (via Sanur)	6000Rp
Padangbai (for the Lombok ferry)	15,000Rp
Sanur	6000Rp
Semarangapura	15,000Rp
Singaraja (via Kintamani)	25,000Rp
Singaraja (via Semarapura & Amlapura)	25,000Rp
Ubud	6000Rp

TEGAL

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

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

GUNUNG AGUNG

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

KERENENG

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

SANGLAH

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

Bus

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

Book directly at offices in the Ubung terminal, 3km north of the city centre. To Surabaya or even Jakarta, you may get on a bus within an hour of arriving at Ubung, but at busy times you should buy your ticket at least one day ahead.

There are no tourist shuttle buses to/from Denpasar.

GETTING AROUND**Bemo**

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

Taxi

If you're looking for a taxi, you're in luck – you'll find them prowling the streets of Denpasar looking for fares. As always, the blue cabs of **Bali Taxi** (☎ 701111) are the most reliable choice.

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