

25 ways to explore **Singapore** after dark  
Rock the singing beaches of **Haikou**

Takeoff more with **Jetstar** 

**where**  
**next?**

May-June 2024

Boutique malls are where it's at

**JAKARTA, KL, SINGAPORE AND MANILA**

# BALI

**PHNOM PENH**

Chefs champion local cuisine

**BANGKOK**

Spend a day in low-key Ari

Eat, play, repeat on Indonesia's most famous island

**OKINAWA, PENANG, BALI AND MORE** Tips for a fun family holiday





**SEE  
YOU  
IN...**

# BALI

Fantastic dining, luxurious wellness treatments, gorgeous nature and a beautiful culture. From its temples to street-side sculptures and Unesco-honoured traditions, there are endless reasons to love the Island of the Gods

**WORDS JULIANNE GRECO**





Seminyak

## AROUND EIGHT TIMES

the size of Singapore and equivalent in land space to Okinawa in Japan, there is a lot more ground to cover in Bali than most first-time visitors realise.

To give you an idea of the distance between two of the furthest points, it takes around four hours to drive from the island's southernmost tip along the Bukit Peninsula to West Bali National Park.

Home to four million residents, Bali is spread across eight different regencies. **Badung** in the south is where the airport is located. It is also where most tourists flock to as it encompasses the resort town of Nusa Dua; the cliff-side beaches of Uluwatu; the seafood hub Jimbaran Bay; the famous surf destination Kuta Beach; luxury hotspot Seminyak; hipster haven Canggu; and even stretching to the iconic Tanah Lot temple which borders the **Tabanan** regency.

On the east coast is family-friendly Sanur in the regency of



Uluwatu

**Denpasar**, the teeming capital. Then there's **Gianyar**, running from Ubud to quiet east coast beaches. **Jembrana** is the westernmost point of Bali just a 30-minute boat ride from East Java. In the north, we have **Buleleng**, home to hidden waterfalls and dolphins, and **Karangasem**, famous for Mt. Agung in the northeast. Slightly off the beaten path is **Bangli**, the site of Lake Batur. And just off the southwest coast in **Klungkung** are three idyllic islands: Nusa Lembongan, Ceningan and Penida.

Bali is boundless and always offers something new to see and do.

## How to...



### ...get there

Jetstar Asia flies between Singapore and Bali (Denpasar) 16x weekly.



### ...dress smart

Exercise respect for local traditions and culture. Save the bikini for the beach and wear a shirt, bottoms and helmet when riding a scooter – road rash is gnarly. When visiting temples, it doesn't hurt to have your shoulders covered and clothing that hits below the knee.



### ...take a selfie

Be mindful of sacred sites and religious artefacts when taking selfies, especially if you're not covered up. When in doubt, ask a local. It should also go without saying, don't pose for photos in precarious positions on clifftops.



### ...get around

Many travellers in Bali end up renting their own scooter so they can easily go around the island. While it's not required to supply a licence at most motorbike rental shops in Bali, it is strongly advised that you travel with an international driving licence in compliance with Indonesian law and obtain insurance that covers motorbike-related accidents.



## How Flora Christin Butar Butar spends her Sundays

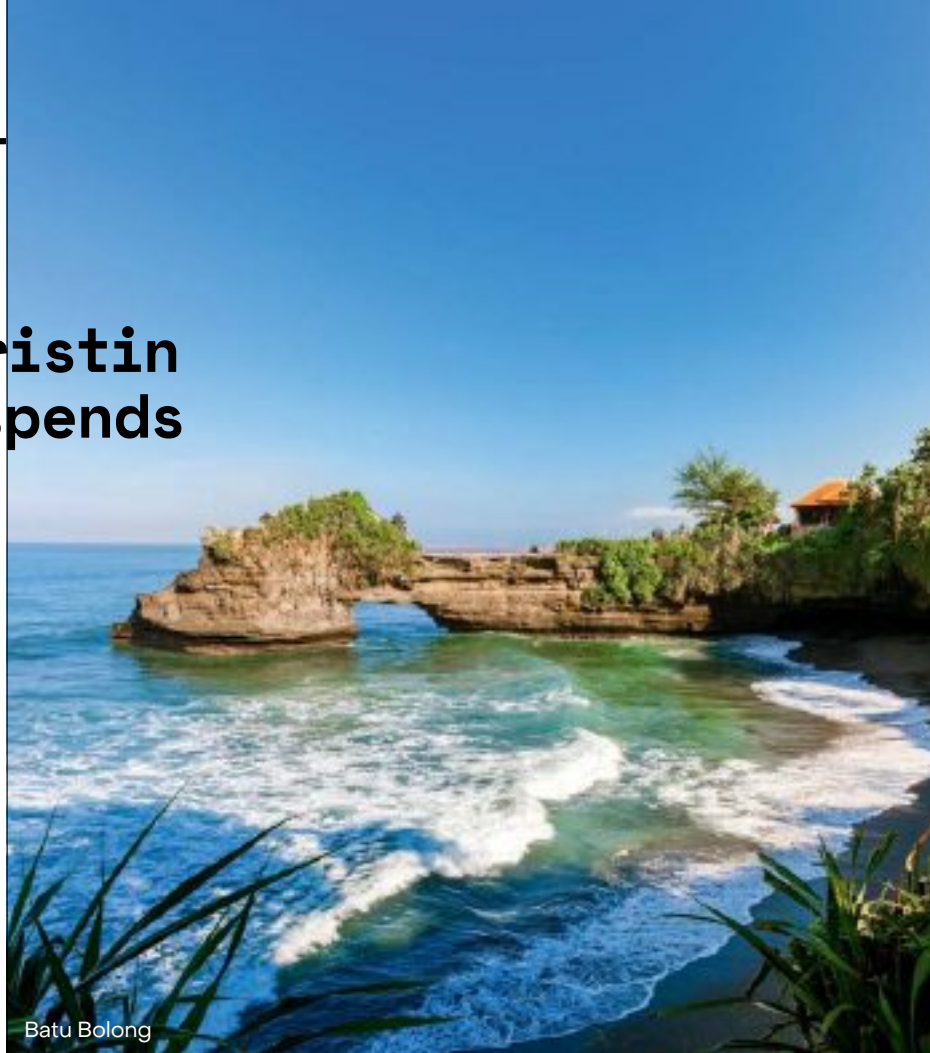
Indonesia's first female competitive longboarder and pro surfer hangs out in Canggu



I wake up at 5AM and dive into my morning rituals: meditation, journaling and stretching, followed by a coffee run to **Crate Café** at 6AM. The best part of living in Bali is watching the sunrise, with rice fields and mountains in the background and while the birds are chirping.

Then I head to the gym at **Power and Revive** or surf my favourite break at **Batu Bolong** with friends.

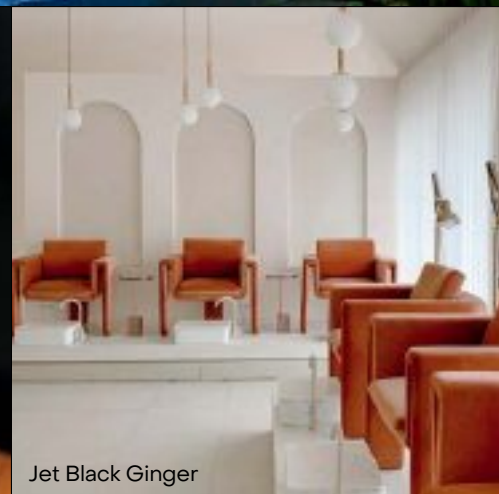
Next, I break my fast with amazing food from **Canteen** or **Ruko Café**. This is followed by a sauna and ice bath at the



Batu Bolong



Mason



Jet Black Ginger



Skool Kitchen

gym. On a special Sunday, I would treat myself to a hair spa at **Jet Black Ginger**. Finally, I'd end my day with a glass of wine and delicious food, either at **Skool Kitchen** or **Mason**.



## AVERAGE COSTS



**Cinema (VIP Hall)**  
100,000 IDR (SGD 8.50)



**Wine (grocery)**  
300,000 IDR (SGD 25.50)



**Big Mac meal**  
70,000 IDR (SGD 6)



**Beer (restaurant)**  
50,000 IDR (SGD 4.25)

Expect to pay more in nicer restaurants.

### Eat, play, repeat

A must-stop for anyone travelling to Bali is **Desa Potato Head** on Petitenget Beach in Seminyak, which started as a beach club in 2010 and has since expanded to include a 226-room guest hotel with an array of restaurants and bars to keep you busy for a weekend.

📍 [potatoheadbali](#)

## WELLNESS WONDERS

Elevate your idea of self care with these treatments



### SOUND HEALING

*Pyramids of Chi*

Shut out the noise and surrender to the art of ancient sound healing at Ubud's most wondrous wellness centre, built to scale with the Great Pyramid of Giza. 📍 [pyramidsofchi](#)



### SENSORY DEPRIVATION

*Terapung Float Club*

This holistic treatment sends you into a state of calm and weightlessness, offering relief for stress, chronic pain and insomnia.

📍 [terapungfloat](#)



### CRYOTHERAPY

*The Istana*

Cool down at the island's only whole-body cryotherapy chamber to get a boost of collagen production, blood circulation and mental clarity. It is also a great jet lag cure. 📍 [the\\_istana](#)

## Decadent dinners

Eating out runs cheap in Bali, but here is where to book a table when you are craving something extra special



Kubu at Mandapa



## WHERE TO SURF



### Uluwatu

With its iconic cliffside setting and consistent reef breaks, Uluwatu is a mecca for experienced surfers seeking challenging waves amidst breathtaking scenery and vibrant local culture.





Santorini



Cuca

**Kubu at Mandapa, Ubud**

Perched above the majestic Ayung River, try the 10-course degustation menu (IDR 1,200,000++) at this award-winning gem of the Ritz-Carlton Reserve. Expect a dining experience that's truly elevated.

© [kubuatmandapa](#)

**Merah Putih, Seminyak**

Explore the flavours of the Indonesian archipelago with the tasting menu from Balinese Executive Chef Wiwik at Merah Putih, an island institution. IDR 690,000++ gets you six plates of refined takes on classic dishes and playful experimentations.

© [merahputihbali](#)

**Cuca, Jimbaran**

Hand the reins over to Michelin-trained chef Kevin Cherkas (El Bulli, Arzak, La Broche) for an inventive tasting meal (IDR 780,000++) designed for sharing. Comfort food meets fine dining here in the form of

Merah Putih



beautifully plated tapas, desserts and homemade digestives.

© [cucabali](#)

**Sa'mesa, Canggu**

An experiential dinner inspired by "La Nonna Carmela" an Italian grandmother who cooks a massive meal for everyone. Find yourself seated at a long communal table at Sa'Mesa for about 18 courses of Italian culinary indulgence with generous pours of house limoncello for IDR 590,000++.

© [samesa.bali](#)

**Santorini, Kuta**

Tucked away on Kuta's Little Poppies Lane, a hole-in-the-wall corner of Greece with on-theme decor: bright white walls and pops of blue. Come hungry on a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday to feast on an eight-hour slow-cooked New Zealand lamb special (IDR 179,000++), graze on a mezze platter or try other Mediterranean mainstays like the prawn spaghetti.

© [santorinigreekrestaurantbali](#)

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (SURFING)



**Padang Padang**

Nestled among picturesque limestone cliffs, Padang Padang offers world-class left-hand barrels and clear blue waters, attracting surfers to its pristine shores for unforgettable sessions.



**Canggu**

A laid-back surf haven, Canggu provides a diverse range of breaks suitable for all skill levels, coupled with a buzzing beach-town atmosphere and plenty of post-surf hangouts to enjoy.

## Where to stay



Immerse yourself in the lush greenery of **AnandaDara Ubud Resort & Spa**, located in Tegalalang Village, the site of Bali's Unesco World Heritage honoured rice terraces. Take your pick of a range of stays to meet your budget, from deluxe rooms to suites, up to two-bedroom rooftop villas stylised with traditional Balinese elements and made comfortable with modern amenities. [@anandadaraubud](#)

High above the sea on the southern Bukit Peninsula, **The Ungasan Clifftop Resort** offers luxury villas and one-bedroom suites with jaw-dropping views of the Indian Ocean. Refresh at a private pool and gardens shared with just four other suites. Book three bedrooms or more and the entire villa grounds become your exclusive retreat. Enjoy private butlers, infinity pools and proximity to the famed Sundays Beach Club.

[@theungasan](#)



Enjoy the convenience of staying in Canggu without feeling like you're in the chaos of it all at **Ecozy Dijiwa Canggu** on Jalan Canggu Padang Linjong. The palm-lined oasis in Bali's hippest hood is just a five-minute scooter ride from Echo Beach. Kick back by the resort's main pool, or relax in a deluxe room with the option to get your own private garden or pool. [@ecozydijiwa canggu](#)



In Ubud, satisfy your sweet tooth at **Room4Dessert** by New York pastry chef Will Goldfarb (seen on Netflix's *Chef's Table*). A feast of desserts is sandwiched between multiple courses of savoury snacks and petit fours in a special degustation menu.







Eoozy Dijiwa Canggu



The Ungasan Clifftop Resort

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (SCULPTURES)

## BALINESE ROADSIDE SCULPTURES

Weaving art and culture into the landscape, Balinese sculptures are scattered across the island depicting characters and scenes from Hindu epics. **Titi Banda** in East Denpasar shows the kidnapping of Sita from the Ramayana, **Satria Gatotkaca** near the airport in Tuban shows the mighty knight Panca Pandawa, and **Dewa Ruci** at the underpass linking the Ngurah Rai Bypass and Sunset Road portrays Pandawa warrior, Bima. These three landmarks are by sculptor I Wayan Winten, but you can spot countless others throughout the island from other artists.



Satria Gatotkaca



Dewa Ruci



Herbivore



## PLANT-BASED PARADISE

Locavore, Bali's most famous experimental dining spot by chefs Eelke Plasmeijer and Ray Adriansyah, just got a vegan transformation.

**Herbivore by Locavore** in the heart of Ubud takes the same forward-thinking approach to locally sourced, seasonal and mind-blowing original masterpieces but now keeps it strictly "all flora, no fauna".

© [restaurantherbivore](#)

Over in Canggu on Jalan Tanah Berak, **iam Vegan Babe** serves up a bounty of plant-based takes on Western favourites in a breezy, aesthetic café space. Though open all day, their breakfast and baked goodies steal the show. Kick your morning off with their loaded French toast on freshly made brioche, a cinnamon roll thickly smeared with vegan cream cheese or a heaping superfood smoothie.

© [iamveganbabe](#)

**Kasto Italian Restaurant** proves Italian cuisine and vegan food aren't mutually exclusive. Sink your teeth into a stacked menu full of hearty Italian favourites, from calzone to pasta to panini and more.

© [kastobali](#)



iam Vegan Babe



Kasto





IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (BALINESE DANCE, TIRTA GANGGA, KARANGASEM, TUKAD CEPUNG WATERFALL, KELINGKING BEACH)

## Enchanting Balinese dance

For a captivating cultural experience, catch a live Balinese dance performance

Traditional dance is a cherished gem among the Balinese, with religious and cultural significance deeply embedded into the practice. Dramatic stories from ancient Hindu narratives involve plotlines like the battling of evil spirits and rescuing maidens.

Bali has hundreds of different dances that you can't find elsewhere, with nine attaining Unesco

World Cultural Heritage status in 2015, recognising their unique essence and historical significance.

Among the Unesco-honoured dances are the sacred **Rejang**, **Sanghyang Dedari** and **Baris Upacara**; the semi-sacred **Topeng Sidakarya**, **Gambuh** and **Wayang Wong**; and the lively entertainment dances **Legong Kraton**, **Joged Bumbung** and **Barong Ket Kuntisraya**.

Performed while accompanied by *gamelan* (a traditional instrumental ensemble) and adorned in vibrant traditional attire, Balinese dancers masterfully convey nature-inspired stories with intricate movements and dynamic expressions.

Beyond technical prowess, the charisma, humility and spiritual energy of the dancers is what pulls you into the performance.



Barong Ket Kuntisraya

## For the 'gram

Level up your social feed with these beautiful Bali backdrops



**Tirta Gangga, Karangasem**



**Tukad Cepung Waterfall, Bangli**



**Kelingking Beach, Nusa Penida**