



Kuta & Seminyak

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Why Go?

Complaining about crowds in Seminyak, an expat said to his friend: 'Maybe it's time to go'. The sceptical friend queried: 'Where would you go?' After a moment the expat shrugged his shoulders and said: 'Nowhere'.

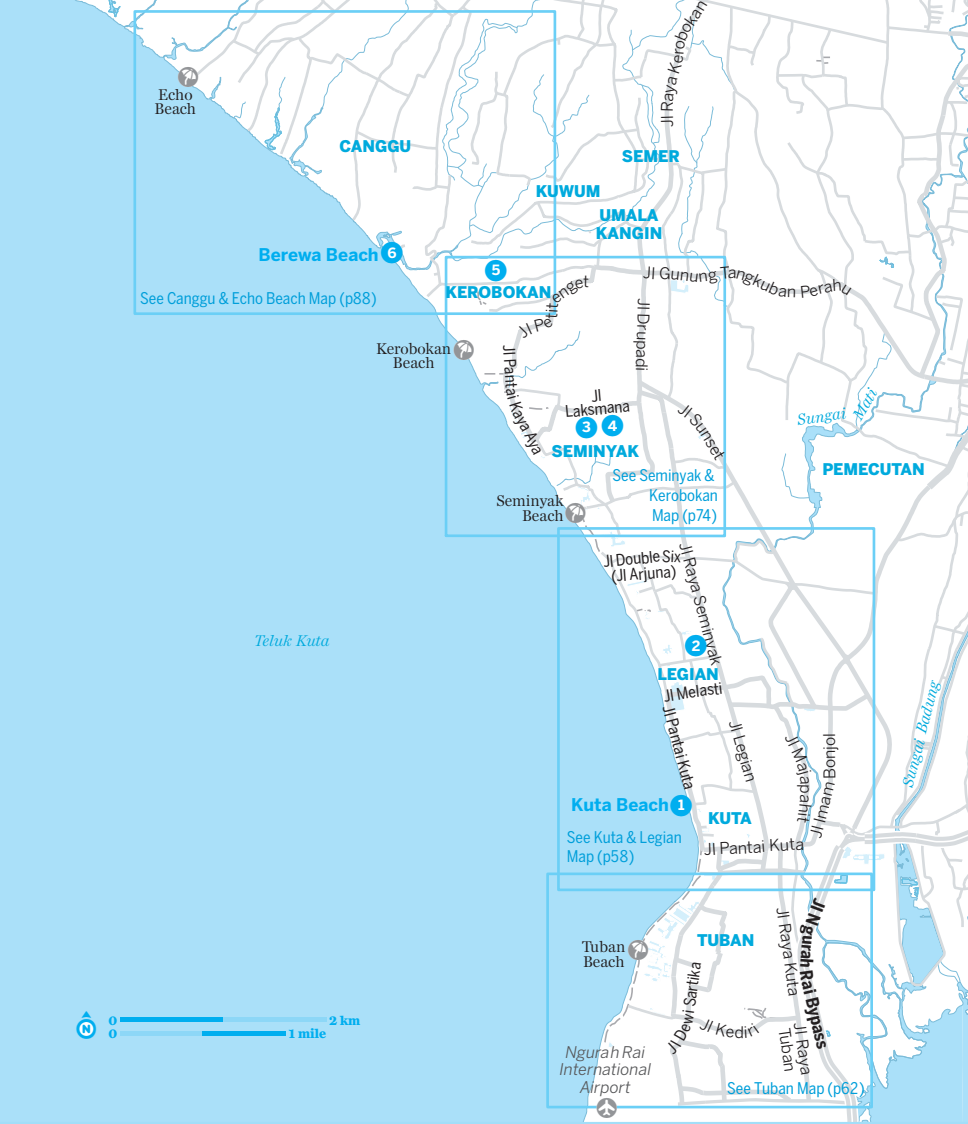
Crowded and frenetic, the swath of south Bali hugging the amazing wide ribbon of beach that begins in Kuta is the place most travellers begin and end their visit to the island. Not a bad choice.

In Seminyak and Kerobokan there is a bounty of restaurants, cafes, designer boutiques, spas and the like that rivals anywhere in the world, while Kuta and Legian are still the choice for rollicking surfer get-downs and carefree family holidays.

Renowned shopping, all-night clubs, fabulous dining, cheap beer, sunsets that dazzle and relentless hustle and bustle are all part of the experience. But just when you wonder what any of this has to do with Bali – the island supposedly all about spirituality and serenity – a religious procession appears and shuts everything down. And then you know the answer.

When to Go

Bali's ever-increasing popularity means that the best time to visit Kuta, Seminyak and their neighbours is outside of the high season, which is July, August and the weeks around Christmas and New Year. Holidays elsewhere mean that visitor numbers spike and it can require actual effort to organise tables in the best restaurants, navigate trendy shops and get a room with a view. Many prefer April to June and September when the weather is driest and slightly cooler, and the crowds manageable.



Kuta & Seminyak Highlights

- 1 Losing your day on **Kuta Beach** (p56)
- 2 Losing your night in **Legian** (p69)
- 3 Losing your resolve shopping in **Seminyak** (p81)
- 4 Losing your tension at a spa in **Seminyak** (p75)
- 5 Losing your waistline at a fabulous restaurant in **Kerobokan** (p85)
- 6 Losing the crowds at **Berewa Beach** (p88), north of Seminyak
- 7 Losing your inhibitions wandering down the first *gang* (alley) you see and discovering a rice field, a little cafe, a new friend.