



South Bali & the Islands

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Why Go?

You won't have seen Bali if you haven't fully explored south Bali. The island's capital, Denpasar, sprawls in all directions from the centre and is a vibrant place, offering traditional markets, glitzy malls, great eating and plenty of Balinese history and culture, even as it threatens to absorb the tourist hubs of Seminyak, Kuta and Sanur.

The Bukit Peninsula (the southern part of south Bali) has multiple personalities. In the east, Tanjung Benoa is a beach-fronted playground of modest resorts while Nusa Dua attempts to bring order out of chaos with an insulated pasture of five-star hotels. The west side, however, is where the real action is. Small coves and beaches are dotted with edgy little guesthouses and luxe eco-resorts. There's a cool, carefree vibe, derived from the fab surfing around Ulu Watu.

To the east, Nusa Penida dominates the horizon, but in its lee you'll find Nusa Lembongan, the ultimate island escape from the island of Bali.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bumbu Bali (p109)
- ➔ Char Ming (p115)
- ➔ Warung Satria (p122)
- ➔ Café Teduh (p122)
- ➔ Minami (p114)

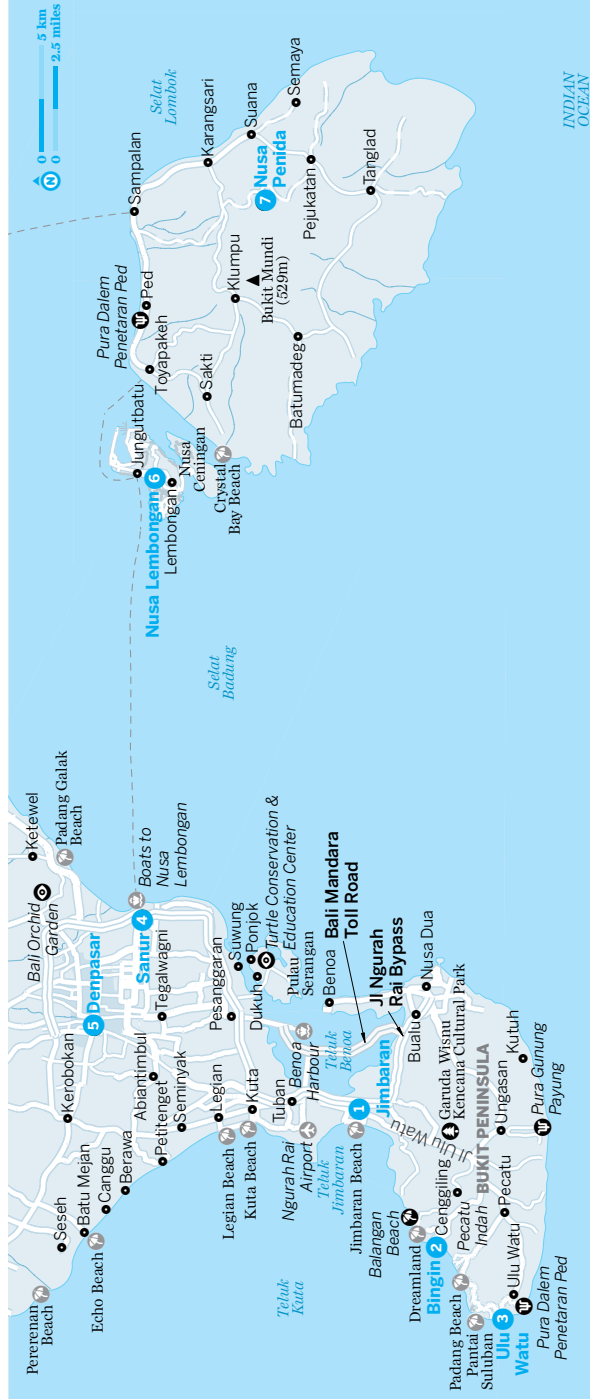
Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Indiana Kenanga (p130)
- ➔ Temple Lodge (p101)
- ➔ Alila Villas Uluwatu (p104)
- ➔ Belmond Jimbaran Puri (p97)
- ➔ Tandjung Sari (p113)

When to Go

➔ The best time to visit south Bali is outside the high season, which is July, August and the weeks around Christmas and New Year's Day. During the high season, visitor numbers spike and rooms from Bingin to Tanjung Benoa and Sanur to Nusa Lembongan may be filled. Many prefer April to June and September when the crowds are manageable.

➔ Surfing is best at the world-class breaks along the west coast of the Bukit Peninsula from February to November, with May to August being especially good.



South Bali & the Islands Highlights

- 1 Picking a lobster for the grill at one of the many beachfront seafood joints in **Jimbaran** (p97).
- 2 Finding the perfectly retro-chic place to sleep in the back lanes of **Bingin** (p100).
- 3 Surfing **Ulu Watu** (p103), Bali's ultimate swell magnet.

- 4 Watching from **Sanur** (p110) as a full moon climbs over Nusa Penida, casting a mysterious glow over land and sea.

- 5 Savouring the best US\$2 meal you've ever had, in **Denpasar** (p121).
- 6 Escaping one island (Bali) for a more peaceful, smaller one: **Nusa Lembongan** (p126).

- 7 Diving **Nusa Penida** (p133), where you can swim with manta rays and other large fish.