



West Bali

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Best Beaches

- Balian Beach (p250)
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Best Places to Stay

- Bali Silent Retreat (p250)
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Why Go?

Even as development from south Bali, via hotspots like Canggu, creeps ever further west, Bali's true west, which is off the busy main road from Tabanan to Gilimanuk, remains mostly little-visited. It's easy to find serenity amid its wild beaches, jungle and rice fields.

On the coast, surfers hit the breaks at Balian and Medewi beaches. Some of Bali's most sacred sites are here, from the ever-thronged Pura Tanah Lot to the Pura Taman Ayun and on to the wonderful isolation of Pura Rambut Siwi.

The tidy town of Tabanan is at the hub of Bali's Unesco-listed *subak*, the system of irrigation that ensures everybody gets a fair share of the water. On narrow back roads you can cruise beside rushing streams with bamboo arching overhead and fruit piling up below.

When to Go

→ **Apr–Sep** The best time to visit west Bali is during the dry season, although recent weather patterns have made the dry season wetter and the wet season drier. Hiking and trekking in Taman Nasional Bali Barat is much easier when it isn't muddy, and the waters of Pulau Menjangan are at their world-class best for diving on clear days.

→ **May–Aug** Along the coast, the west has yet to develop a peak season – although surfing is best in months without an 'r'.



West Bali Highlights

- 1 Revisiting the cool beach vibe of **Balian Beach** (p250), where surfer hangouts and stylish digs rub shoulders.
- 2 Nailing the long left break at the low-key surfer haven **Pantai Medewi** (p251).
- 3 Finding your own corner of serenity at **Pura Taman Ayun** (p248).

- 4 Enjoying the morning spirituality of **Pura Tanah Lot** (p248) before it gives way to the chaos of the afternoon.
- 5 Feeling the spiritual serenity of the important

- 6 Witnessing the mud and fury of a bull race near **Negara** (p253).
- 7 Discovering your own back-road paradise of low-hanging fruit, arching bamboo and rushing water such as you'll find near **Kerambitan** (p249).

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JAVA