



East Bali

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

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Why Go?

Wandering the roads of east Bali is one of the island's great pleasures. Rice terraces spill down hillsides under swaying palms, wild volcanic beaches are washed by pounding surf and age-old villages soldier on with barely a trace of modernity. Watching over this region is Gunung Agung, the 3142m volcano known as the 'navel of the world' and 'Mother Mountain', which has a perfect conical shape.

You can find Bali's past amid evocative ruins in the former royal city of Semarapura. Follow the rivers coursing down the slopes on the Sideman road to find vistas and valleys where you can try to invent new words for 'green'. Down at the coast is groovy Padangbai and relaxed Candidasa.

Resorts and hidden beaches dot the seashore and cluster on the Amed coast. Just north of there, Tulamben is all about external exploration: the entire town is geared for diving.

When to Go

- ➔ The best time to visit east Bali is during the dry season – April to September – although recent weather patterns have made the dry season wetter and the wet season drier. Hiking in the lush hills from Gunung Agung over to Tirta Gangga is much easier when it isn't muddy.
- ➔ Along the coast there's little reason to pick one month over another; it's usually just tropical.
- ➔ Top-end resorts may book up in peak season (July, August and Christmas), but it's never jammed like south Bali.
- ➔ To surf the breaks off the beaches northeast of Sanur, aim for October to March.

East Bali Highlights

1 Kertha Gosa

(p200) Sensing Bali's violent past and proud traditions of sacrifice at Semarapura's historical site.

2 Sideman (p202)

Trekking this picture-perfect valley.

3 Padangbai

(p207) Chilling with new friends at the mellow cafes and laid-back beaches of this port town.

4 Amed Coast

(p220) Finding your perfect lotus position at an inn perched along the little villages of this beautiful coast.

5 Tulamben (p224)

Diving into the blue waters to explore the famous shipwreck right off the beach.

6 Pura Lempuyang

(p219) Counting the shades of green on one of the longest and best uphill treks of your life.

7 Pantai Klotek

(p196) Marvelling at the combination of the sacred and the sublime amidst lots of black sand.

