



North Bali

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Damai (p252)
- ➔ Jasmine Kitchen (p251)
- ➔ Buda Bakery (p252)
- ➔ Global Village Kafe (p251)
- ➔ My Greek Taverna (p252)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Matahari Beach Resort (p256)
- ➔ Damai (p251)
- ➔ Taman Selini Beach Bungalows (p256)
- ➔ Puri Ganesha Villas (p256)
- ➔ Taman Sari Bali Resort (p256)

Why Go?

The land on the other side, that's north Bali. Although one-sixth of the island's population lives here, this vast region is overlooked by many visitors who stay trapped in the south Bali–Ubud axis.

The big draw here is the incredible diving and snorkelling at nearby Pulau Menjangan. Arcing around a nearby bay, booming Pemuteran may be Bali's best beach escape. To the east is Lovina, a sleepy beach strip with cheap hotels and even cheaper sunset beer specials. All along the north coast are interesting little boutique hotels, while inland you'll find quiet treks to waterfalls.

Getting to north Bali for once lives up to the cliché: it's half the fun. Routes follow the thinly populated coastlines east and west, or you can go up and over the mountains by any number of routes, marvelling at crater lakes and maybe stopping for a misty trek on the way.

When to Go

- ➔ Most of north Bali doesn't have a high season in terms of visitors.
- ➔ The exceptions are Pemuteran, which is busy July, August and around Christmas and New Year; as are the diving and snorkelling sites around Menjangan, which can get overcrowded with schools of swimming visitors.
- ➔ Weather-wise north Bali is drier than the south. Days of perpetual sun are the norm year-round (most visitors get accommodation with air-con). The only real variation is when you venture back into the hills; mornings can be cool.

North Bali Highlights

1 Pulau Menjanan
(p257) Plunging into the temple on the namesake island.

2 Pemuteran (p254)
Exploring underwater marvels while staying at this idyllic beach town.

3 Lovina (p247) Losing track of time, but not of your budget, at this laid-back, beachside town.

4 Air Terjun Singing (p253)

north Bali, especially to this plunging waterfall.

5 Singaraja (p245)
Savouring Buleleng's rich culture at the museums of this historic royal city.

6 Bali Barat National Park (p259) Discovering, by foot or boat, Bali's national park, where there is wildlife-spotting amid mangroves, savannah and lush hillsides.

