



South Bali & the Islands

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bumbu Bali (p120)
- ➔ Depot Cak Asmo (p132)
- ➔ Men Gabrug (p132)
- ➔ Deck Cafe & Bar (p140)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Temple Lodge (p110)
- ➔ Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay (p105)
- ➔ Sofitel Bali Nusa Dua Beach Resort (p116)
- ➔ Rock'n Reef (p111)
- ➔ Alila Villas Uluwatu (p114)
- ➔ Tandjung Sari (p123)

Why Go?

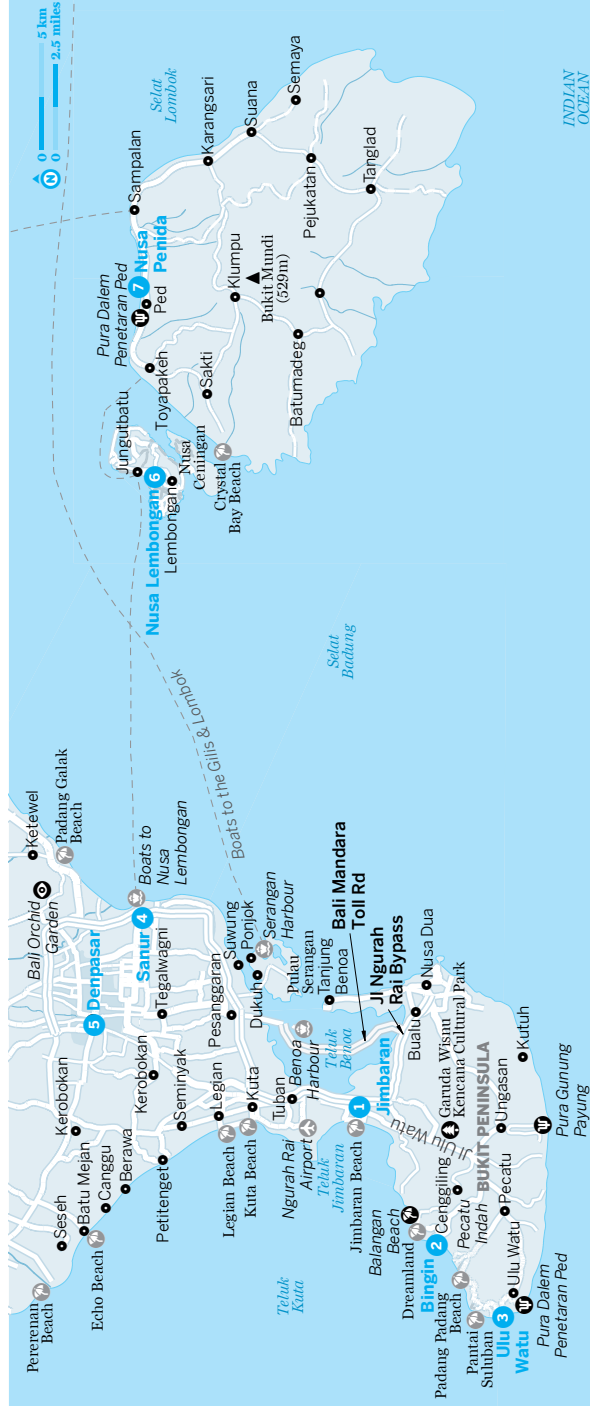
You won't have seen Bali if you haven't fully explored south Bali. The island's capital, Denpasar, sprawls in all directions from the centre with traditional markets, busy malls, great eating and lashings of Balinese history and culture, even as it threatens to absorb Seminyak, Kuta and Sanur.

The Bukit Peninsula (the southern part of south Bali) has multiple personalities. In the east, Tanjung Benoa is a beach-fronted playground of package resorts while Nusa Dua attempts to bring order out of chaos with an insulated pasture of five-star hotels. The south coast sees posh cliff-side resorts, but the west side is where the real action is. Small coves and beaches dotted with edgy guesthouses and luxe eco-resorts enjoy a cool vibe and fab surfing.

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.

When to Go

- ➔ The best time to visit south Bali is outside high season, which is July, August and the weeks around Christmas and New Year's Day. 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 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.
- ➔ To surf at the breaks in Nusa Lembongan, aim for October to March.



South Bali & the Islands Highlights

- 1 Jimbaran** (p104) Picking a lobster for the grill at one of the many beachfront seafood joints.
- 2 Bingin** (p109) Finding a perfectly retro-chic place to stay the night in the back lanes.
- 3 Ulu Watu** (p113) Surfing Bali's ultimate breaks and an internationally revered swell magnet.
- 4 Sanur** (p120) Watching as a full moon climbs over Nusa Penida.
- 5 Denpasar** (p128) Savouring the best US\$2 meal you've ever had.
- 6 Nusa Lembongan** (p136) Escaping one island (Bali) for a more peaceful smaller one, with an ideal mix of fun and frolic.
- 7 Diving Nusa Penida** (p143) Swimming with manta rays and other large fish in the challenging waters off this mysterious island.