



West Bali

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Why Go?

Even as development from south Bali creeps ever further west (via hot spots like Canggu), 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. Some of Bali's most sacred sites are here, from the ever-thronged Pura Tanah Lot to the lily-pad-dappled beauty of 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.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bali Silent Retreat (p265)
- ➔ Sushi Surf (p267)
- ➔ Warung Ment Tempeh (p270)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Bali Silent Retreat (p265)
- ➔ Alila Villas Soori (p265)
- ➔ Gajah Mina (p266)
- ➔ Taman Wana Villas & Spa (p269)
- ➔ Puri Dajuma Cottages (p268)

When to Go

➔ The best time to visit west Bali is during the dry season from April to September, 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.

➔ Along the coast, the west has yet to develop a peak season – although surfing is best in months without an 'r'. Yet even in busy months you'll still find the waves less crowded than you will further south.

West Bali Highlights

1 Balian Beach (p266)

Revering in the cool beach vibes and pounding surf visuals in a place where surfer hang-outs and stylish digs rub shoulders.

Pantai Medewi (p267)

Nailing the long left break at this low-key haven.

3 Pura Taman Ayun (p263)

Finding your own tranquil

corner at one of Bali's most evocative temples.

4 Pura Tanah Lot (p263)

Enjoying the morning spirituality of this tourist-filled

temple before it gives way to the chaos of the afternoon.

5 Pura Rambu Siwi (p269)

Feeling the serenity at this historic and important seaside temple.

6 Cemagi (p263)

Substituting the seaside temple of Pura Gede Luhur Batu Ngau for the Tanah Lot crowds.

