

Best beds: Bali

No point going all the way to Indonesia's paradise isle and staying somewhere average. Here

are our favourite hotels — for every pocket. By **Lee Cobaj**

	The shiny new one Alila Seminyak
PRICE	Garden suites start at £198, room only, but don't have views. Splash out an extra £30 for an eyeeful of the Indian Ocean (00 62 361 302 1888, alilahotels.com).
LOCATION	Along the beach in Petitenget, a fashionable enclave full of indie boutiques, organic cafes and great restaurants , on the quieter eastern end of Seminyak beach.
THE VIBE	It's all about lounging here — on a sunken sofa at the hip beach bar, alongside one of the five infinity pools, or on the silvery sand. Decisions, decisions...
ROOMS	Spacious, coffee-coloured rooms come with sleek teak furniture, balconies, interactive (easy-to-use) TVs , and big bathrooms behind sliding screen doors.
FOOD & DRINK	The restaurant spills out onto a wooden deck so close to the ocean, you might get your feet wet while you tuck into spicy Indonesian salad and just-hooked seafood .
BEST THING	It's family-friendly — yet fashionable
WORST THING	The noise from the Potato Head beach club next door , lasting until 2am.
TRAVEL TIP	Don't bother bringing toiletries. Alila's signature organic amenities , including ginger face masks and aloe aftersun, are gorgeous .

	The do-gooding one Bambu Indah
PRICE	The single-person Kuda House costs from £77, B&B; two-person homes from £100 . The Willy Wonka-esque, four-storey Pagoda House costs £280 (00 62 361 974357, bambuindah.com).
LOCATION	Perched scenically on a sleepy rice-paddy-covered hillside , overlooking the Ayung River, around 15 minutes' drive from the centre of Ubud.
THE VIBE	An eco-cool village of striking bamboo architecture and antique Javanese cottages , wrapped in the roots of 200-year-old banyan trees.
ROOMS	Reflecting constructions found all over Indonesia, each house is different — one built over a tinkling shrimp pond, another on stilts, with hand-crafted furniture, aboriginal art and colourful rugs throughout.
FOOD & DRINK	Splendid Balinese fare with tons of exciting vegetarian options.
BEST THING	Doing laps in the <i>kolam</i> , a gorgeous natural swimming pool filtered by lava stones and algae , overlooking the valley.
WORST THING	Being entirely surrounded by nature is surprisingly noisy — frog's choirs, shrieking cicadas, 2am wake-up calls from roosters ... Pack earplugs if you value your sleep.
TRAVEL TIP	The hotel offers two free shuttles a day to the centre of Ubud (10am and 5.30pm). Missed them? Download the free Grab taxi app to halve the normal £5 one-way fare.

	The jet-set one Bulgari Resort Bali
PRICE	Top, top end. Lowest-category (but still vast) Ocean View Villas start at £860, B&B (00 62 361 847 1000, bulgarihotels.com).
LOCATION	Clinging to the cliffs 150m above the crashing Indian Ocean in the surfy, but serene, south of the island.
THE VIBE	Flamboyant gardens, meandering paths, volcanic stone walls — very <i>dolce vita</i> . The temple-like lobby squaring off against the blue-on-blue horizon will make you gasp .
ROOMS	A smoulderingly beautiful blend of plush outdoor living spaces, rich Indonesian textiles and sultry black bathrooms . Blink and your butler will arrive.
FOOD & DRINK	Pizza primavera and lobster-tail satay under curtains of bougainvillea by the pool , or romantic candlelit dining at Il Ristorante.
BEST THING	The hotel has its own Amalfi Coast-style funicular, which glides up and down the cliffside between the hotel and a glorious stretch of golden beach.
WORST THING	The thieving local monkeys — they'll plunder anything you leave lying around in your outdoor living room.
TRAVEL TIP	The landscaping is quite steep in places so those who don't want a hike should ask for a villa close to the restaurant, bar and pool .

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY MAP: ROBERT LITTLEFORD

	The cool one COMO Uma Ubud
PRICE	From £258, B&B, for a top-floor Ubud Room. If you're splashing out on a villa, book one of the Uma Pool Villas , from £389, which have rice-paddy views (00 62 361 972 448, comohotels.com).
LOCATION	On the edge of town, a half-hour cycle on one of Uma's free-to-use bikes (or a swift £2.50 cab ride) from Ubud's temple-strewn streets.
THE VIBE	Stylish and serene
ROOMS	Chequerboard floors, vaulted ceilings and bleached woods, with large voile-draped four-poster beds and indoor/outdoor bathrooms stocked with delicious COMO Shambhala smellies.
FOOD & DRINK	Cucina serves one of the best Sunday brunches on the island (£47). It's a four-hour-long feast of Italian small plates — creamy burrata, grilled snapper — and free-flowing wine (alcohol £47 extra).
BEST THING	The spa rocks. Try a traditional Balinese rub down and ask for Puri, a senior therapist and Jedi Master of massage .
WORST THING	Lounger space by the pool is at a premium, so you'll need to be up with the larks to bag a bed .
TRAVEL TIP	Just across the road is Naughty Nuri's (00 62 361 977 547), a tin-shack restaurant famous for its sticky-sweet barbecue pork ribs (£5), mentioned in the novel <i>Eat, Pray, Love</i> .

	The remote one Gaia-Oasis
PRICE	Two-person bungalows at the Abasan Mountain Retreat go from £48, or on the beach from £60, room only. Full-board costs an additional £18 per day (00 62 362 343 6304 or 6305, gaia-oasis.com).
LOCATION	In the far north of Bali. The hotel is split into two resorts, one on Pantai beach and the other hidden in the misty Abasan Mountains . Try to share your time between the two.
THE VIBE	Very simple, very <i>om</i> : breezy yoga pavilions, thatched cottages, eco-friendly saltwater swimming pools — all dotted around coconut groves and gardens.
ROOMS	Bright, with terracotta floors and open-air bathrooms, naturally cooled by mountain and ocean breezes.
FOOD & DRINK	Homemade yogurt and piles of tropical fruit for breakfast . Lunch and dinner are meat-free buffets.
BEST THING	The feel-good factor is priceless. Almost entirely non-profit, Gaia-Oasis funnels money into the local community , supporting orphans, scholarships and environmental causes.
WORST THING	Getting there is a pain — it's four hours from the airport, or two hours from Ubud over nauseatingly twisty mountain roads . Pack ginger sweets.
TRAVEL TIP	If you bump into the hotel ghost , a policeman guarding the Pantai beach grounds, tell him, <i>'Terima kasih'</i> — 'Thank you for looking after me.' This is a thing in Bali.

Or try...

£46 Frii Bali Echo Beach It's in central Canggu, Bali's hippest new 'hood. Party in a ground-floor room, which opens straight onto the pool. Doubles from £46, B&B (00 62 361 846 9178, friihotels.com).	£375 Mandapa Ritz-Carlton Reserve Because: This new resort has its own rice paddy, as well as swish, art-filled rooms and a sublime riverside spa. Doubles from £375, room only (00 62 361 479 2777, ritzcarlton.com).
£171 Fairmont Sanur Beach Bali Because: It's a classy crowd-pleaser with sleek rooms, plus grown-up and kid-friendly facilities, and it's steps from the azure waters of Sanur beach. Doubles from £171, B&B (00 62 361 301 1888, fairmont.com).	£678 Amankila Because: This high-end, east-coast retreat has huge private villas, white-gloved service and yacht trips around the Lombok Strait. Doubles from £678, B&B (00 62 363 41333, aman.com).

Get me there

The fastest route to Bali is with **Singapore Airlines** (singaporeair.com) from Heathrow, via Singapore; from £570 return. **Audley Travel** (01993 838450, audleytravel.com) has a week at the Fairmont Sanur from £1,450pp, B&B, with flights. See also **travelfish.org**.

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