

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 eye-ful 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
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).
Perched scenically on a sleepy rice-paddy-covered hillside , overlooking the Ayung River, around 15 minutes' drive from the centre of Ubud.
 An eco-cool village of striking bamboo architecture and antique Javanese cottages , wrapped in the roots of 200-year-old banyan trees.
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.
Splendid Balinese fare with tons of exciting vegetarian options.
Doing laps in the <i>kolam</i> , a gorgeous natural swimming pool filtered by lava stones and algae , overlooking the valley.
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.
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
Top, top end. Lowest-category (but still vast) Ocean View Villas start at £860, B&B (00 62 361 847 1000, bulgarihotels.com).
Clinging to the cliffs 150m above the crashing Indian Ocean in the surfy, but serene, south of the island.
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 .
A smoulderingly beautiful blend of plush outdoor living spaces, rich Indonesian textiles and sultry black bathrooms . Blink and your butler will arrive.
Pizza primavera and lobster-tail satay under curtains of bougainvillea by the pool , or romantic candlelit dining at Il Ristorante.
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.
The thieving local monkeys — they'll plunder anything you leave lying around in your outdoor living room.
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
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).
 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.
Stylish and serene
Chequerboard floors, vaulted ceilings and bleached woods, with large voile-draped four-poster beds and indoor/outdoor bathrooms stocked with delicious COMO Shambhala smellies.
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).
The spa rocks. Try a traditional Balinese rub down and ask for Puri, a senior therapist and Jedi Master of massage .
Lounger space by the pool is at a premium, so you'll need to be up with the larks to bag a bed .
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
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).
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.
Very simple, very <i>om</i> : breezy yoga pavilions, thatched cottages, eco-friendly saltwater swimming pools — all dotted around coconut groves and gardens.
Bright, with terracotta floors and open-air bathrooms, naturally cooled by mountain and ocean breezes.
Homemade yogurt and piles of tropical fruit for breakfast . Lunch and dinner are meat-free buffets.
The feel-good factor is priceless. Almost entirely non-profit, Gaia-Oasis funnels money into the local community , supporting orphans, scholarships and environmental causes.
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.
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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