

1 With staff trained and certified by the Australian Lifesavers Association, surf schools, both public and private, abound.

2 The relatively new sport of surfing has not only brought prosperity to the island, but a dramatic spike in health and fitness as well.

# Bali

Words by Matt George



Over 300 weekly flights to Bali

Surfers are more like treasure hunters, really. But their treasure is not buried, nor mined from the ground. Their treasure is found on the face of our restless seas.

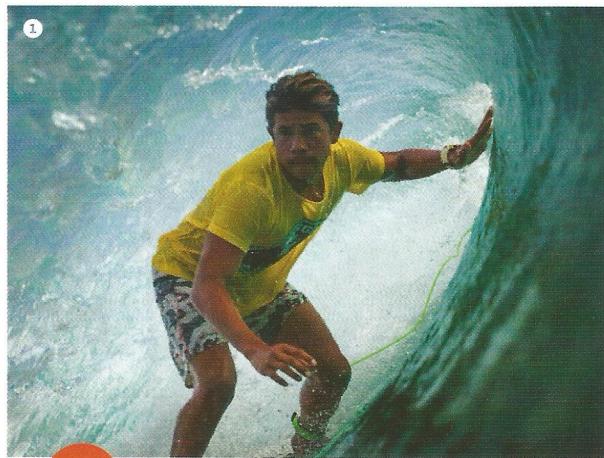
It is found in the waves that crash ceaselessly upon the shores, not only shaping the continents, but the very men and women who seek out the unique thrills that only surfing can provide. And nowhere is this thrill more of a siren's call than on the enchanting island of Bali, home to some of the greatest surfing waves in the world.

"This is Bali," wrote journalist Laurie McGuinness during Bali's surf discovery era of the late 1970s, "Island of the Gods, land of harmony. Travel no further, you surfers, in search of your treasure...it is literally beneath your feet."

He was speaking mainly of the famed **Bukit Peninsula** of South Bali. A tremendous wave field that boasts a number of world-class surfing sites with romantic names such as **Uluwatu**, **Padang Padang**, **Impossibles** and **Dreamland**. Fittingly exotic names for the absolute precision waves that reel down her majestic limestone cliffs and over her kaleidoscope reefs through the crystal-clear waters of a paradise found. The most famous wave being Uluwatu, whose reef faces the fury of the Indian Ocean under the shadow of perhaps the most picturesque Hindu temple in the world: Uluwatu temple, the temple of the last stone, one of the great directional temples that bind the mystical fabric of the Balinese Hindu beliefs.

Here the great waves break in metronomic rhythm, with the high-season trade winds chasing them down the line as fast as the myriad global surfers who gather here to face her challenge. Great plumes of whitewater are torn from the tops of these giants as surfers, hailing from every corner of the globe, manoeuvre their way around

1 Balinese pro  
Tommy Sobry, one of  
the growing talent pool  
of local surfers.



#### Travel Tips - Bali: Beyond the Surf

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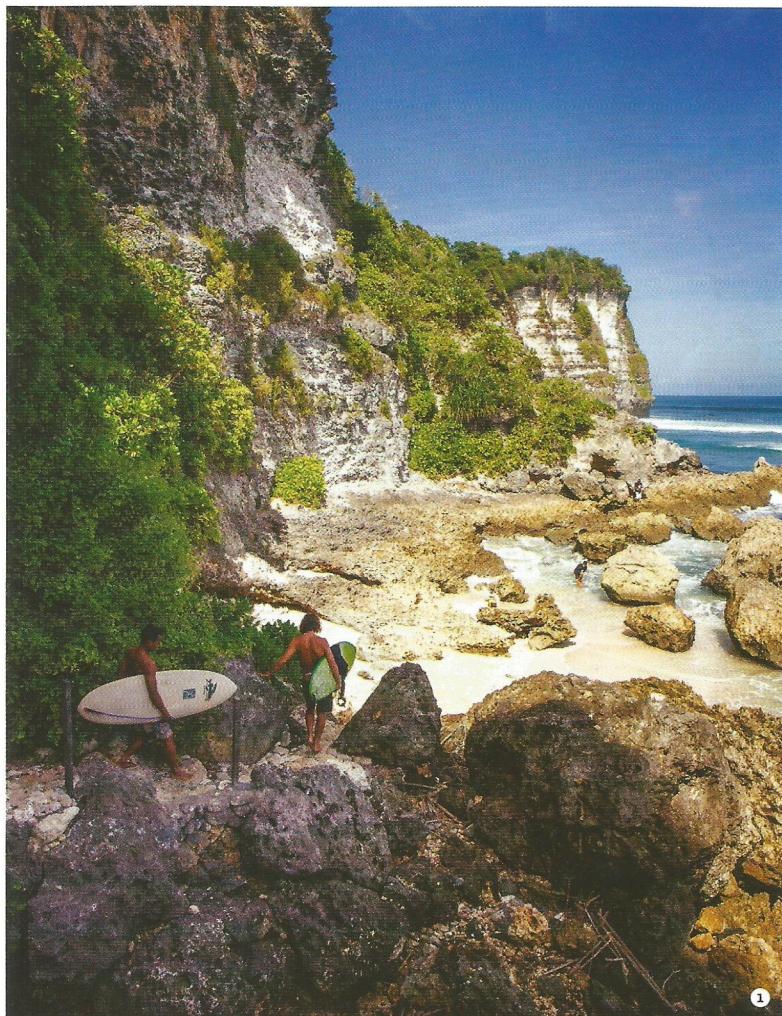
Uluwatu’s powerful waves like matadors avoiding the horns of great bulls. Surely one of the surfing world’s great spectacles.

And from the numerous cliffside hotels and restaurants, any visitor that cares to can drink it all in as easily as an evening sundowner. But the Bukit Peninsula is not the only game in town; closer to the international airport of Ngurah Rai, the bustle of the beachside mini-city of Kuta offers softer, gentler beach breaks over a soft-sand bottom for those of less experience or perhaps the fainter of heart. And the fireworks do not stop there. Even during the rainy season, from November to February, when the wild trade winds slow and change to the opposite direction, the east side of the island comes alive under cloudy skies with the challenging barrier reef waves of Nusa Dua, Sanur, Keramas and beyond. For surfers around the globe, modern Bali is the place that surfing built: an exotic paradise smelling of vibrant frangipani, clove and coconuts, the soundings of ancient Hindu rites emanating from her temples, and of course, her great waves, like unburied treasure, calling all who wish to share in her watery riches.

Due to its location on the face of the earth, Bali is perfectly situated to field the most consistent surfing conditions in the world. But even paradise can have her surfing downtime, and, as rare as they are, it by no means signals the end of all the thrills. The newest thrill in town is the new wake-surfing park carved out of the mangroves near Benoa Harbour, where a drag line provides all the challenge and speed you need to learn or improve your skills at this pastime. Scenic, usually becalmed Jimbaran Bay is famous for its stand-up paddling (SUP) activities, where one can view Bali from offshore, surrounded by the rainbow-coloured boats of the squid-fishing fleet. And at night you can enjoy the freshest seaside seafood here. If shopping for surf gear is in the stars, Kuta boasts more surf shops per capita than anywhere else on earth, and usually at half the price. Even with no footpaths in Bali, skateboards sell at an almost impossible rate. And for the hardcore surf/skaters there are a number of skate parks, the most popular being the indoor Donkey Skatepark on Jl. Sunset and the smooth contours of the Globe bowl in Jimbaran.



Karena faktor lokasi, Bali menjadi tempat berselancar dengan kondisi ombak terkonsisten di dunia. Walaupun sangat jarang, ada kalanya surga ini tertutup untuk berselancar, namun bukan berarti kesenangan juga berakhir. Wisata air terbaru di Bali adalah taman berselancar dengan hutan bakau di sekitarnya dan tak jauh dari Pelabuhan Benoa, yang menawarkan tantangan dan kecepatan yang Anda butuhkan untuk belajar atau meningkatkan kemahiran Anda. Teluk Jimbaran yang memiliki keindahan alam dan tenang, terkenal akan aktivitas Stand Up Paddling-nya, tempat Anda dapat menikmati keindahan Bali dari pantai, lengkap dengan perahu nelayan yang berwarna-warni. Di malam hari, Anda dapat menikmati hidangan laut segar. Jika ingin membeli peralatan selancar, Kuta memiliki jumlah toko selancar dengan pemasukan per kapita terbesar di dunia. Walaupun Bali tidak memiliki trotoar, banyak papan luncur (skateboard) yang dijual dengan harga miring. Terdapat sejumlah taman untuk bermain papan luncur seperti Donkey Indoor Skate Park di Jalan Sunset dan Globe Bowl berkotur mulus di Jimbaran.



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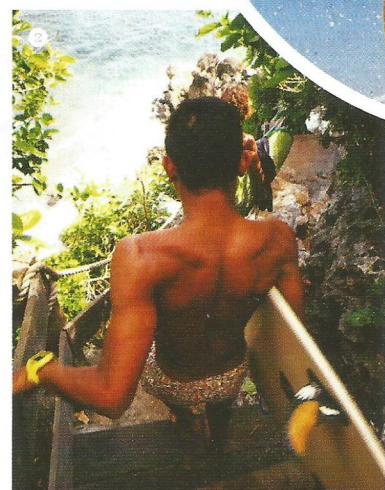
1 Sebenarnya, peselancar lebih mirip seperti seorang pemburu harta. Tapi harta yang mereka buru tidak terkubur, atau ditambang dari perut bumi.

Harta mereka terhampar di lautan, dalam deburan ombak yang pecah di bibir pantai tanpa henti, yang tidak hanya memahat benua, namun juga setiap orang yang mendambakan sensasi unik dari berselancar. Dan tidak ada pulau lain yang menawarkan sensasi lebih seru dari Bali, tempat ombak-ombak selancar terbesar di dunia.

“Inilah Bali,” tulis jurnalis Laurie McGuinness di era penemuan selancar Bali di akhir 70-an, “Pulau Dewata, tanah yang damai. Anda para peselancar tidak perlu jauh-jauh mencari... harta karun itu sungguh berada di bawah kaki Anda.”

Yang dimaksud adalah Bukit Peninsula yang terkenal di Bali Selatan. Medan ombak dahsyat yang terdiri dari beberapa tempat selancar kelas dunia dengan nama-nama romantis seperti **Uluwatu**, **Padang Padang**, **Impossible**, dan **Dreamland**. Nama-nama yang eksotis ini sesuai dengan karakter ombak yang bergulung menampar tebing kapur megah, di atas terumbu karang penuh warna dan air sejernih kristal. Ombak yang terkenal adalah Uluwatu.

1 2 3 *Mega Semahdi, a Balinese ‘Mangku’ or priest, and Tim Russo, expat impresario, enjoy the dream waves of the Bukit Peninsula and the indelible memories that go with them.*



3

Bebatan karangnya menghadap ke Samudra Hindia yang dahsyat, di bawah bayangan salah satu pura Hindu terindah di dunia: Pura Uluwatu, di atas anjungan tebing karang; satu dari sejumlah pura yang menghadap ke laut.

Di sini, ombak terpecah dalam ritme metronomik, dikejar oleh angin pasat secepat para peselancar dari seluruh dunia berkumpul di sini untuk menerima tantangan sang ombak. Buih-buih ombak raksasa terpecah saat peselancar mencoba menaklukkan ombak-ombak Uluwatu yang sangat besar layaknya matador mengendalikan dan menghindar dari tanduk banteng. Tidak salah lagi, aksi tersebut merupakan salah satu pemandangan yang cukup menakjubkan dalam dunia selancar.

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Dan jika mau, pengunjung bisa melihat kehebatan para selancar itu dari sejumlah hotel dan restoran yang berada di atas tebing. Namun, Bukit Peninsula bukanlah satu-satunya tempat terbaik di Bali. Lebih dekat dari Bandar Udara Internasional Ngurah Rai, kota kecil pinggir Pantai Kuta ramai menawarkan sensasi pantai yang lebih tenang dan aman dengan dasar pasir lembut untuk mereka yang kurang berpengalaman atau mungkin kurang berani. Dan, bukan hanya itu, bahkan saat musim hujan pun, dari November hingga Februari, ketika angin pasat liar mereda dan berganti arah, sisi timur pulau ini tampak hidup dengan mendung langitnya dan ombaknya yang menantang di Nusa Dua, Sanur, Keramas dan seterusnya. Bagi para peselancar, Bali diciptakan untuk mereka; tanah surgawi beraroma kemboja, cengklik, dan kelapa, alunan puja umat Hindu yang sayup terdengar dari pura serta tentunya ombak besar bagaikan harta karun yang memanggil mereka yang ingin merasakan kekayaan lautnya.

**①** One of the many charming beachside 'warungs' that still reflect the days of early surf discovery.

**②** With precision surf breaking over a rainbow reef, Bingin Beach resembles a water park made just for surfers.



## 5 Senses - Sight MT BATUR



**E** No surfer's pilgrimage would be complete without climbing 1,717m Mt Batur. A comfortable two-hour climb to the summit affords one of the most spectacular views in Indonesia, overlooking Lake Batur, the freshwater source that finds its way to the sea to help form Bali's famed surfing reefs. At the summit of this very special place, a small offering in thanks is always appropriate. With adventures like these, even beyond the surf, Bali is a surfer's dream come true.

**①** Ziarah peselancar belum lengkap tanpa mendaki Gunung Batur setinggi 1.717 m. Pendakian ringan selama dua jam akan terbayarkan dengan indahnya pemandangan menakjubkan di puncaknya. Dari sini, tampak Danau Batur, mata air tawar yang bermuara ke laut, membantu terbentuknya surfing reefs Bali yang tenar. Jangan lupa berikan persembahan kecil di puncak gunung sebagai tanda terima kasih. Dengan petualangan seperti ini, bahkan tanpa ombak, Bali tetaplah surga para peselancar.

