

— BUKIT PENINSULA, BALI

The *Ultimate* Guide to Uluwatu

The beaches, the surf, the food and the sunsets, written by the team that lives and builds here. Where to go, when to go, and which ones are worth the drive.

13

BEACHES
COVERED

30+

PLACES TO EAT
AND DRINK

7

NIGHTS OF
WHAT'S ON

15

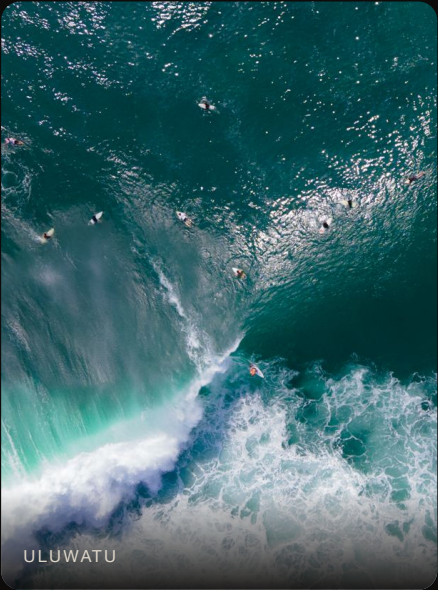
VILLAS & HOTELS
WE RUN HERE

— START HERE

What's *Inside*

Uluwatu is not one place, it is a dozen small ones strung along a cliff. This guide tells you which is which, and saves you the two weeks it normally takes to work it out.

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01 • THE PLACE

Why *Uluwatu*

On the southwestern tip of Bali, the Bukit peninsula is a limestone plateau that drops straight into the Indian Ocean. Cliffs instead of beach roads, surf breaks instead of jet-ski rows, and a coast that still empties out at nine in the evening.

THE COAST ITSELF

Cliffs, white sand and water that actually is turquoise. Thirteen beaches within a twenty-minute ride, most of them reached down a set of steps rather than a car park.

WORLD-CLASS SURF

Uluwatu, Padang Padang, Bingin and Balangan sit within a few kilometres of each other. Beginner-friendly at Baby Padang, unforgiving at Padang Padang on a big day.

A SCENE, NOT A RESORT STRIP

Specialty coffee, natural wine, Japanese-Peruvian, Spanish tapas, cliff-edge spas, CrossFit boxes and four panoramic padel courts. Most of it built in the last five years.

IT STILL SWITCHES OFF

Ten minutes inland from any beach club you are in villages, temples and rice. That contrast is the reason people who come for a week end up staying a season.



ULUWATU CLIFFS



NYANG-NYANG BEACH

GETTING AROUND

There is no useful public transport. Rent a scooter if you ride, or use Grab and Gojek, which work everywhere on the Bukit. Distances look tiny on the map and take longer than you think: **Bingin to Melasti is 25 minutes**, not five.

02 • THE BEACHES

Where to *Surf*

Every break on the Bukit is a reef break, and every one has a tide it works on. Pick by your level first and by the tide second.



Baby Padang Padang

BEGINNER

- Small, forgiving, right beside the main break
- Where everyone starts



Balangan

INTERMEDIATE

- Long left, best at mid tide
- Quieter than Uluwatu, easy parking



Dreamland

INTERMEDIATE

- Beach-break feel, sandy bottom
- Good when the reefs are too shallow



Bingin, high tide

INTERMEDIATE

- Softer and rounder with water over the reef
- The friendly window



Bingin, low tide

ADVANCED

- Short, hollow and very shallow
- Beautiful and unkind



Padang Padang

ADVANCED

- The barrel everyone photographs
- Crowded and competitive when it is on



Suluban / Uluwatu

ADVANCED

- The main event, entry through the cave
- Watch the tide on the way out



Green Bowl & Nyang-Nyang

ADVANCED

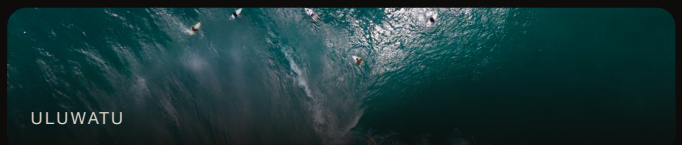
- Remote, long walk down, almost nobody out
- Go with someone who knows it

THE MISTAKE VISITORS MAKE

Paddling out at Uluwatu or Padang Padang on day one because they are the famous names. Both are shallow reef with a strong local crowd. **Start at Baby Padang or Balangan** and work up.



BINGIN BEACH



ULUWATU

03 • THE BEACHES

Best for *Sunset*

The whole west coast faces the sunset, so the question is not the view. It is how many people you want standing next to you while you watch it.



Bingin

BOHEMIAN • CROWDED

- Sunset over tide pools and reef
- Cliffside cafés, warungs on the sand
- Steep steps down and back up



Dreamland

WIDE AND EASY • CROWDED

- Long sandy stretch, turquoise water
- Families, swimmers and beginners
- Busy with tour groups at golden hour



Nyang-Nyang

EMPTY • NOT CROWDED

- Long, quiet beach, cliffside viewpoints
- No phone signal at all
- Hard to reach: go by bike, leave before dark



Suluban / Uluwatu

THE FAMOUS ONE • CROWDED

- Epic sunsets from the clifftop bars
- Overlooks a world-class surf break
- Arrive before five for a seat



Balangan

LOCAL • NOT CROWDED

- Panoramic viewpoint on the cliff
- Wide sandy beach, excellent for photos
- Surfer warungs with a proper local feel

TIMING

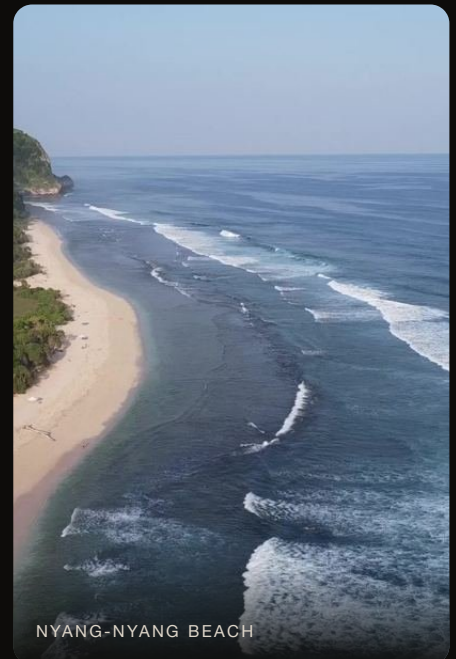
Sunset on the Bukit is between **18:10 and 18:40** most of the year. Give yourself an hour before that if you want a seat facing the water.



ULUWATU



BALANGAN BEACH



NYANG-NYANG BEACH

04 • THE BEACHES

Best for *Swimming*

Most of the Bukit is reef, which is wonderful to look at and less wonderful to swim over. These are the ones with water you can actually get into.



Melasti

THE LAGOON • NOT CROWDED

- Calm, lagoon-style water, perfect for floating
- White sand and a very wide beachfront
- Facilities, cafés and easy road access



Pandawa

WIDE AND EASY • NOT CROWDED

- Crystal-clear water and a big sandy stretch
- Road access right down to the sand
- Good for families and sunbathing



Padang Padang

THE SMALL COVE • CROWDED

- Calm at mid to high tide, great for a swim
- Surrounded by cliffs, and by monkeys
- Entrance through a gap in the rock



Thomas

THE QUIET ONE • NOT CROWDED

- Peaceful and genuinely underrated
- Soft sand, calm water depending on the tide
- Rarely more than a handful of people



Green Bowl

300 STEPS • NOT CROWDED

- Secluded beach at the bottom of a staircase
- Limestone caves at the far end
- Check the tide before you go down

TIDES DECIDE EVERYTHING HERE

The same beach is a swimming pool at high tide and a reef shelf at low tide. Check the tide before you drive anywhere, not after.



MELASTI BEACH



UNGASAN • ULUWATU

05 • SUNSET SPOTS

Beach Clubs & *Sundowners*

Four places, four completely different evenings. Pick by the crowd you want, not by the view: at six o'clock they all have the same one.



Single Fin

FLIP-FLOPS • SURF BAR

- Front-row seats over the Uluwatu break
- Casual food, cocktails, live DJs on Sundays
- The Sunday session is an institution



Savaya

DRESS CODE • DAY CLUB

- Clifftop club with international DJs
- Infinity pool, bottle service, high-end crowd
- Book ahead, and dress the part



Mana Uluwatu

ROOFTOP • JUNGLE-SURFER

- Rooftop dining with a relaxed surf-house feel
- Fusion menu, cocktails, live music nights
- The least try-hard of the four



Panorama Point

QUIET • 180° VIEW

- Sunset over jungle and ocean, uninterrupted
- Good food, natural wine, proper cocktails
- Laid-back but elegant. The local favourite

TIMING

Sunset on the Bukit is between **18:10 and 18:40** most of the year. Arrive an hour before if you want a seat facing the water, at any of the four. Savaya and Single Fin charge a minimum spend at weekends; the other two do not.



ULUWATU



ULUWATU CLIFFS

06 • MORNINGS

Breakfast & *Coffee*

The Bukit takes breakfast seriously. Most open at seven, fill up by nine, and half the room is working from a laptop.



Suka Espresso

AUSSIE-STYLE

- Avocado toast, eggs benedict, smoothie bowls
- Consistent, and always buzzing



Alchemy

PLANT-BASED

- Fully vegan, raw and cooked
- The one for a reset morning



Ulu Artisan

BAKERY & CAFÉ

- Standout brunch dishes and pastries
- Cosy, stylish, great coffee



The Loft

BRIGHT & MODERN

- Smoothie bowls, shakshuka, pancakes, vegan
- Good for brunch or for a laptop



Ours Uluwatu

MEDITERRANEAN

- Eggs, granola, sourdough toast
- Beautiful room, quiet in the morning



BGS Uluwatu

SURFER ENERGY

- Small café, killer coffee and smoothies
- In and out



Son of a Baker

SOURDOUGH

- Top-notch bread and pastries
- Cosy design, a local favourite



Drifter Café

SURF SHOP

- Vegan-friendly, creative dishes
- Artsy and community-driven



Bukit Café

SURF-SHOP VIBE

- Breakfast wraps, smoothie bowls, toasties
- Relaxed and creative

07 • DINNER

Food & *Dining*

Ten places worth getting on a scooter for. Book the first four at weekends, they fill up.



Mana

FUSION, ELEVATED

- Jungle and ocean views
- Sunset dinners and live music



Kala

INDO-MEDITERRANEAN

- Tropical-chic room, plated beautifully
- Craft cocktails, curated music



Il Salotto

ITALIAN FINE DINING

- Truffle pasta, burrata pizza, wine list
- Later on it turns into the techno room



Ulu Fish Market

JAPANESE-PERUVIAN

- Fresh local seafood, sushi and sashimi
- Seafood pasta and truffle specials



La Barraca

SPANISH-LATIN

- Tapas, grilled meats, ceviche
- Live music and salsa nights



Rolling Fork

RUSTIC ITALIAN

- Homemade pasta, wood-fired pizza
- Salsa night on Tuesdays



La Terraza

MEDITERRANEAN

- Spanish touch, strong wine list
- Family-friendly and welcoming



Mason

MODERN MEDITERRANEAN

- House charcuterie, wood-fired meats
- Sleek interiors, good for a group



El Merkat

HEALTHY & VIBRANT

- Ideal for vegetarians and vegans
- Often live music, family-friendly



The Cashew Tree

WHOLEFOOD

- A Bingin institution, concert nights
- The crowd is half the reason to go

Also worth a stop: Mush Burgers for smash burgers, and the warungs along the sand at Bingin and Balangan for a plate of nasi goreng after a surf.



BALI



BALI

08 • AFTER DARK

Night by *Night*

Uluwatu does not really have clubs, it has a rota. The same handful of places take turns, and each night belongs to someone.

TUESDAY

Salsa at Rolling Fork • **Reggaeton** at Club Corazón • **Techno** at Il Salotto

WEDNESDAY

Surf vibe at White Monkey, then **Il Salotto** or **Hatch**

THURSDAY

Concert at The Cashew Tree or **Hatch** • **Il Salotto** or **Club Corazón**

FRIDAY

Sunset at Mana, then **reggaeton** at Lolas, then **Lolitas** • or **techno** at Il Salotto or Tabu

SATURDAY

Savaya, the big one • **Sunset** at La Terraza and Mu • **Techno** at Il Salotto

SUNDAY

Sunset at Surya Café, then **Single Fin**, then **reggaeton** at Uluwatu Market • or the **Savaya** day-club plan

THE REGULARS

The Bench • Il Salotto • High Tide • Ulu Cliff House • Mana • Tiny Social Club • Club Corazón • Lolas. Between them they cover almost every night of the week.

WORTH KNOWING

Nothing starts early. Dinner at eight, the room fills after eleven. And the roads on the Bukit are dark and narrow: **if you are drinking, take a Grab.**



ULUWATU



ULUWATU

09 • BODY AND MIND

Fitness & *Wellness*

One of the reasons people stay longer than they planned. You can train, stretch, sweat and recover within ten minutes of almost any villa on the Bukit.



The Istana

CLIFFTOP WELLNESS CENTRE

- Ice baths, infrared sauna, yoga, meditation
- Breathwork and sound healing
- The sunset view is part of the treatment



Spa Alila

CLIFF-EDGE SPA

- Private spa villas and an ocean cabana
- Holistic treatments, local ingredients



Spring Spa

INDOOR-OUTDOOR

- Luxury facials, massages, body treatments
- Premium products, elegant and reliable



The Space

BOUTIQUE YOGA

- Vinyasa, yin and aerial, daily
- Cacao ceremonies and women's circles



Uluwatu Collective

GYM

- Strength, HIIT and mobility
- Personal training, good equipment



Bambu

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

- CrossFit-style group classes
- A real community, short or long term



Bali Training Center

MUAY THAI & STRENGTH

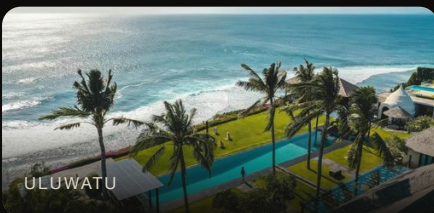
- Open-air setup, expert coaches
- Muay Thai, strength and fitness classes



Island Padel

FOUR PANORAMIC COURTS

- Between Bingin and Padang Padang
- Classes, tournaments and social nights
- Café, lockers and a pro shop on site



ULUWATU



BALI



ULUWATU

10 • BEYOND THE BEACH

Things to *Do*

For the days the swell is flat, or the ones where you have had enough sand.



Surf

ON THE WATER

- World-famous breaks, page 04
- Sunsets from cliffside warungs after



Cliff jumping

ON THE WATER

- Tegal Wangi and its hidden sea caves
- Best at low tide



Sunset boat & jet ski

ON THE WATER

- Private charter along the coastline
- Party boats and jet ski rentals



Snorkelling

DAY TRIP

- Blue Lagoon near Padangbai
- Clear water, day tours with transfers



ATV adventures

ON LAND

- Cliffs, jungle trails and remote beaches
- The off-the-beaten-path version



Uluwatu Temple

CULTURE

- Sea temple on the cliff edge
- The Kecak fire dance at sunset



GWK Cultural Park

CULTURE

- The Garuda Wisnu Kencana statue
- Balinese arts and performances



Paragliding

ON LAND

- Launch from the cliffs above Nyang-Nyang
- Weather permitting



Attend a ceremony

CULTURE

- Local temple ceremonies, open to visitors
- Dress respectfully and follow the lead



Balinese cooking class

CULTURE

- Learn to cook the real dishes
- A proper half day, not a photo op

THE TEMPLE, DONE PROPERLY

Go for the **Kecak dance at sunset**, not at midday. Buy the ticket on arrival, cover your knees, and hold on to your sunglasses: the monkeys at Uluwatu Temple are professionals.



ULUWATU



BALI



BALI

11 • WHERE TO STAY

The villas *we run*

We build and operate these ourselves, all across the beaches in this guide. Superhost 4.93★, our own team on the ground, and the best rate is always the direct one.



Masuka Loft Hotel
MELASTI • ULUWATU



Jepun Sari Hotel
BINGIN • ULUWATU



Elmon Ricefield Hotel
TUMBAK BAYUH • CANGGU



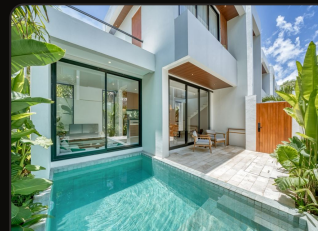
Ribamar Villas
BINGIN • ULUWATU



Arrecife Villas
MELASTI • ULUWATU



Moraira Villas
BINGIN • ULUWATU



Malvarrosa Villas
BINGIN • ULUWATU



Kembali Villas
BALANGAN • ULUWATU



Kembali Villas
NYANG-NYANG • ULUWATU



Santanyi Villas
BALANGAN • ULUWATU



Santanyi Ungasan Villas
UNGASAN • ULUWATU



SDB Villas
MELASTI • ULUWATU



Villa Nova
BINGIN • ULUWATU



Bingin Hills Villas
BINGIN • ULUWATU



Villa Salamanca
TUMBAK BAYUH • CANGGU

4.93★

SUPERHOST
ACROSS EVERY
LISTING

All of them are on Airbnb and Booking.com, and all of them can be booked direct at agmakinagroup.com/stays. Booking direct is the best rate, always.



— COME AND SEE IT

Stay on the coast this guide is *about*.

Fifteen villas and boutique hotels across Bingin, Balangan, Melasti, Ungasan and Nyang-Nyang, built and run by us. Book direct and you get the best rate and a team on the island.

Book direct at agmakinagroup.com/stays →

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