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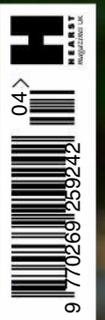
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ELLE STYLE AWARDS**





FOR BEACH HOPPING

The busy resort of Seminyak is the first stop for most (it's a 25-minute drive from the airport), but head an extra 15km north up the coast to Canggu for a cooler, less-developed spot, where surfers go for the waves and foodies for the cafes. It's also further away from party-central Kuta (south of Seminyak) – avoid, unless you want a killer hangover.

From Canggu, head 22km south to sunset hotspot Jimbaran to feast on barbecued fresh lobster, before driving 11km to Balangan for surf lessons and £15-a-night beach huts. Then it's 5km to Bingin, ideal for lazy days with a good book, and 6.3km to Uluwatu, with its golden sand and 11th-century, monkey-inhabited temple.

Puri Beji B&B, Canggu Traditionalism-meets-Scandi-cool in this homely hotel. You won't want to leave. puribeji.com, doubles from £85, **B&B**

Finns Beach Club, Canggu For beautiful pool views overlooking the beach, poolside DJs and an impressive cocktail list, Finns Beach Club bar is the place. finnsbeachclub.com

Kembang Kuning Bungalows, Bingin Two words: infinity pool. It teeters on the edge of a cliff with blissful ocean views. binginbungalows.com, doubles from £48

Motel Mexicola, Seminyak Sharing plates, killer cocktails and, after 10pm, shots of tequila and dancing on the tables. Not to be missed. motelmexicolabali.com

FOR FINDING YOURSELF

High up in the Central Highlands is the spiritual town of Ubud, inspiration behind the novel *Eat Pray Love*. This is the place for vegan cafes, yoga sessions, artsy workshops and cookery classes among the rice paddies.

Clear Cafe A veggie restaurant that goes way beyond a caramelised onion tart. Think vegan 'mylk shakes' with cashew milk and homemade coconut ice cream. clearcafebali.com

Green Kitchen and Organic Farm Start the morning at the local market to stock up on spices, walk through the rice fields up to an organic garden to pick your own basil and bananas, and then learn how to make traditional dishes with local guides. From around £23 per person. greenkitchenbali.com



FOR REAL ADVENTURE

Factor in the three Gili Islands or live to regret it. A two-hour ferry ride from the port at Padangbai on Bali's east coast, the boats stop at each island: Gili Air (the most traditional and closest to Lombok), and Gili Meno (the romantic 'couples' island). But it's the third you'll want to head for: Gili Trawangan (or Gili T), the largest, with the most hotels, restaurants and nightlife.

Stay on the south-east side of Gili T if you want to be in the buzz but far enough away for a good night's sleep. Or hire a bike (around £2 an hour) and cycle 3.5km to the western side of the island to chill out; don't miss watching the sunset at the beachside restaurant Casa Vintage (all hammocks and white-washed wood) with a fresh fruit mojito in hand.

Martas Hotel Here, you'll find individual bungalows thoughtfully decked out in traditional Balinese style. Simple, clean, with generous breakfasts, friendly staff and a great location. Ask for a room overlooking the pool. martasgili.com, double bungalows from £50, **B&B**

Le Pirate Hotel On the quieter, western side of the island. These little blue and white straw-roofed bungalows, with a pool overlooking the beach, are Instagram gold. lepirate.com, doubles from £90, **B&B**

Gili Boys Bar 'We don't have wifi. Talk to each other. Pretend it's 1995,' say the owners. Overlooking the beach, with beds on stilts, the Gili Boys serves just coconuts, beer and water – and that's all you will need.

Casa Vintage Bar In a word: paradise. Netted hammocks, huge sharing mezzes, ocean views and fresh fruit cocktails.

GETTING THERE Return flights from London Heathrow to Bali via Doha with British Airways and oneworld partner Qatar Airways cost from around £855. Book through ba.com.

BEST TIME TO GO April to June; however, September is off-peak and less humid. >



'I'M HAVING A "PINCH ME" MOMENT. ISLAND LIFE TENDS TO HAVE THAT EFFECT'



Top: Le Pirate Hotel Beach Club in Gili Trawangan. Above centre: Movies on the sand. Above: Bugu beach



Top: A bedroom inside the Puri Beji B&B, and, below, its main communal area. Above: Gili Boys Bar

