

Bali Surf Spot

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During the dry season, May to October, the western side of the peninsula creates some of the world's best waves. Starting at the southern end is Uluwatu, a peeling lefthander which can hold a heavy swell. Ulu's, as it is affectionately known, has a number of sections: Temples, The Peak, Race Track and Outside Corner. The next wave north, Padang-Padang, is one of the best and heaviest lefthanders in the world and needs a solid swell to start working. Padang is for experienced surfers only!

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Just across the channel from Padang is a series of long winding lefthanders appropriately called Impossibles, the next break is Bingin, another lefthander, which provides some of the most intense small wave tubes you may ever experience - watch out for the end section as it gets very shallow. Next is a rare wave on this side if the Bukit, Dreamland, a right and left peak. Around the corner from Dreamland is Balangan a fun lefthander, which used to peel along a beautiful lagoon in a beautiful tropical setting - sadly the area is no longer as beautiful as it is now a large hotel development.

The southern shore of the Bukit has two waves. Nyang-Nyang, a bowly right-hander and Green Ball a longer right are both located at the bottom of large cliffs and require a lot of effort to be reached.

During the wet season, November to April, the eastern coast of the Bukit turns it on with some outstanding (right-handers). Nusa Dua is a big wave break known to hold well over 5 meter waves: There are three main sections: Top, Middle and End all producing long bowling rights. North of Nusa Dua is Sri Lanka, a bowly right, which breaks into a deep water channel. Across the Benoa Boat Harbor is the resort area of Sanur, this area has four main reef breaks.

Hyatt Reef, Tandjung Rights, Tandjung Lefts and Sanur Reef. Of these four waves the best and most popular is Sanur Reef, a world class right-hander.

Back on the west side of the island, around the Airport and Kuta areas are a series of reef and beach breaks. Waves break off either side of the airport runway: Airport Rights break on the southern side into Jimbaran Bay, Airport Lefts breaks on the Kuta side. Both are excellent waves and worth a surf. North of the runway is Kuta Reef a long lefthander and the first reef surfed in Bali.

The Kuta Beach Breaks tend to have their own character and can get very good; the best spots are Halfway, Padma and Double Six. This is the area of beach and surf where tourists, inexperienced with surfing and the ocean, have their first contact with the surf. Be warned, as this area can be dangerous when the swells get big.

Swim between the red and yellow flags and follow the instructions from the lifeguards. Experienced surfers should also exercise care and show respect to the local Balinese surfers.

Good surf is not restricted to the Bukit and Kuta areas. Following the coastline around the west and eastern sides of the island can be worthwhile, there are still secret spots to be found.

Along the west coast check out Canggu, about half an hour's drive north of Kuta, a good right and left rock reef setup. Further north, Balian River Mouth is a fun left and right break and Medewi, a long winding left-hand point wave.

Access to all the breaks via car is easy, even Uluwatu now has it's own car park right above the break. When surfing the Nusa Dua and Kuta Reef areas, you can still hire one of the local boats to take you out to the reef and return you at an appointed time.