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Getting around
Lovina

Unpretentious, and somewhat sedate, Lovina is Bali’s main northern beach resort. Far removed, both geographically and in essence from its southern counterparts, here the slow-moving days can merge into slower weeks. The laidback pace may be ideal for some, but there’s still plenty to explore around the region to keep more active souls occupied.

Lovina livens up a little during the months of July and August when it’s popular with European tourists and used as a base for exploring all points to Pemuteran in the west and Amed in the east.

A sweep of narrow blacksand beaches stretch for about 10 kilometres hugging the north coast of Bali between the busy city of Singaraja and the smaller town of Seririt. The string of seaside villages along this strip are collectively known as Lovina, a name coined in the 1950s by the late Raja of Buleleng who actively promoted tourist development of the area. Lovina is said to be a contraction of “love Indonesia”. The village of Kalibukuk is the main hub and is the unofficial centre of Lovina.

Kalibukbuk is by far the most popular destination and enjoys a diverse range of eating options, shops and facilities. Outside of Kalibukbuk, things simplify considerably and you will more than likely need to commute into town to access ATMs and search for a bigger variety of restaurants. Kaliasam and Banyualit, to the immediate west and east of Kalibukbuk, are both easy walking distance, but further afield you may require transport.
The iconic landmark of Lovina is the rather kitsch smiling crowned **dolphin statue** in the heart of Kalibukbuk, a tribute to the most famous attraction here: the dolphins.

We do not advise heading out on a boat for dolphin watching though. Imagine a few dolphins swimming around with hundreds of boats chasing after them and you won’t be far off the mark. Over the years commercial competition has lead to a huge escalation in the number of boats getting closer and closer to the marine mammals. Don’t believe it when you are told the dolphins are not disturbed as they come back every day -- there are many reasons they return including it being a good feeding ground or a protected mating area. The trips do provide a good side income for many local fishermen and give them an incentive to preserve dolphins when they are caught in their nets. It could be a wonderful experience seeing dolphins in their wild habitat, but until it is more regulated here, sadly this is not the case. If you do decide to participate, ask your boatman to stop and not chase the dolphins — the more tourists who show respect for the sea life, the more the local boatmen may take this into consideration.

On the subject of dolphins, when choosing somewhere to stay in Lovina **avoid Melka Excelsior Hotel**, who have captive dolphins in their small swimming pools. Captivity in small pools is seriously detrimental to the health of dolphins. According to local animal welfare groups, a loophole in the law allows this under the guise that the dolphins have been rescued.
Dolphins aside, there’s plenty to keep you entertained if lazing about reading or sipping a quiet Bintang contemplating the stunning sunsets are not enough. Of course there are the **beaches around Lovina**, and though you should prepare to be underwhelmed, there are nevertheless some pretty spots. **Lotus Sherab Yoga** offers yoga classes at an open beachfront location; call first to confirm class times. There are spas aplenty and a few offer after-sun treatments if you’ve had too much beach time. Beach side of the main road, Lovina is flat and perfect for riding a bicycle to explore side streets and villages. **Bikes are available to hire** at a couple of spots along Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk for 30,000 rupiah per day. Snorkelling and diving trips to **Menjangan Island, Tulamben** and **Amed** can be arranged if you are not staying closer to these destinations. At the eastern end of Kalibukbuk, about a kilometre from the dolphin statue, **North Bali Adventures Ocean Park** is a giant inflatable fun park in the middle of the sea — think giant jumping castles moored above the reef. It looks like fun, but kind of dangerous (our friend’s kid dislocated their shoulder). It's open daily 08:00-16:00.

Away from the beach, the other attractions in the region are easily visited by public transport, chartered car or motorbike. **Banjar hot springs**, built in a temple-like environment, and peaceful **Brahmavihara Arama** Buddhist monastery are both only about a 20-minute drive from central Lovina; combine a visit with a dip in **Sing Sing Waterfall** for a pleasant half-day trip. Further afield, **Sekumpul Waterfall** is one of the most spectacular in Bali, but takes a bit of a climb to get there. **Git Git Waterfall**, though not as magnificent, is more popular and easier to access. Although closer to Tulamben, Les Waterfall is also within easy reach. Add all or either waterfall to a day trip around Singaraja, approximately 10 kilometres east of Lovina. This is the second biggest town in Bali and the former capital of the island. Singaraja was the entry point for generations of foreign explorers visiting this alluring island and has some interesting colonial architecture and temples to see. **Yeh Sanih**, a cold-water natural spring-fed pool, is in the far northeast and is popular with locals.
It's worth making the effort to see Sekumpul Waterfalls.

Lovina offers a good range of hotels and guesthouses and prices tend to be a little cheaper than in the south. For a beachside location, very few hotels have beach frontage, however most are walking distance from the shore or if you head for the hills, viewing distance. Previously more of a backpacker destination, much of the accommodation was built in the booming 1970s and 1980s, and hasn't aged well. However things are changing — renovations have smartened up a few places, and there are some new options too.

In the evenings, a group of popular food carts gather around the dolphin statue, and a string of beachfront warungs and restaurants offer food with the views. Often better fare can be had a bit back from the beach. Fresh seafood is the star, but a lot of what's on offer in Lovina is of the pasta-pizza-noodle-rice variety -- as with much of the accommodation, it's stuck back in the '80s. But again, this is changing slowly and the variety of international restaurants is growing.

Most shopping in Lovina involves bargaining with beach hawkers — wooden dolphin anyone? A beachside art market sells tourist tat and a couple of boutique-style shops line Jalan Binaria. Several convenience stores are located along Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, some sell sunblock and several stock wine and spirits. A dedicated wine shop Alcovina is on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Kaliasam near Spice Beach Club. Lovina local market has a good selection of fresh fruit. For a more extensive range of goods, Singaraja is the location of both Carrefour and Hardy’s supermarkets.
Orientation
A cluster of **ATMs** can be found on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt in the main centre of Kalibukbuk. The chain minimarkets Indomaret and Alfamart have ATMs inside, and another group of ATMs is further west near Krisna Wisata Kuluner.

Free WiFi is available in hotels, guesthouses and most bars and restaurants.

The **post office** is on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt at Kaliasam, and police station on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt near Aneka Hotel.

A local English-speaking doctor with a pharmacy next door is on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Kalibukbuk near the corner of Jalan Mawar. The closest **hospitals** are in Singaraja:

**RSUD Singaraja**: 30 Jalan Ngurah Rai, Singaraja; T: (0362) 22046

**RSU Kertha**: Usada 5 Jalan Cendrawasih, Singaraja; T: (0362) 26277

Perama tourist shuttle services Lovina, and local bemos ply the main road between Singaraja and Seririt. Ojeks wait at the corner of Jalan Biaria to offer their services. Hotels can arrange cars and drivers. Singaraja serves as the transport hub of the north and has three bus terminals which cover different parts of the island. See our [travel section](https://www.travelfish.org) for details.
About this guide

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All Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Mapbox.

Good travels,

Sam and Stuart
The above map is intended to give you the general lay of the land. Many individual listings in this guide each have their own map showing you where they are. [Open this map in Apple or Google maps](https://www.travelfish.org/).
Accommodation

Kalibukbuk

Kalibukbuk is the epicentre of the action in Lovina. Backpacker-style digs and sprawling older midrange resorts predominate, but in the mix there's something for all.

Lovina Beach Houses

Teak beachfront houses
Jalan Kartika, Kalibukbuk
T: (0821) 4732 3655
lovinabeachhouses@hotmail.com
1,000,000 to 2,500,000 Rp (Toprange )
Check online rates: [ Agoda ]

For a mid- to top-range chunk of change you could stay in a cookie-cutter resort or at Lovina Beach Houses, a selection of two- and three-bedroom traditional teak houses with private swimming pools, some with direct beach access.

For a one-bedroom, they simply close other rooms and offer the whole house at a heavily discounted rate. Located in a small fishing village at the eastern end of Kalibukbuk and crafted from recycled hardwood, two double-storey houses sit beachfront and the others, a two-bedroom joglo and more private three-bedroom houses behind. Of the beachfront houses, only one positions the small swimming pool at front facing the beach, the other offers more privacy at the back of the house. Unfortunately, the beach itself isn’t as clean as it could be.

Layouts vary, but open-style living areas and kitchen are downstairs, with sleeping areas mostly above. Bedrooms provide both air-con and ceiling fans. Furnished with antique wooden furniture including four-poster beds with quality linens and rich traditional textiles, it’s comfortable and relaxing island living. Outdoor-style bathrooms constructed of natural stone are clean and delightfully airy. As this is open-style village living, be prepared for bugs and occasional visits from local wildlife, morning roosters and inquisitive locals peering over the fence. Take time for a chat, one of the joys of staying in a village-like atmosphere is meeting the locals — but if this doesn’t appeal, perhaps choose a more insular resort. Free WiFi is fast and a ‘prepare-it-yourself’ breakfast is included or if you prefer, staff can cook meals at your request.

We love the relaxing feel of Lovina Beach Houses — a great choice for families with older kids or a romantic escape. For a less expensive traditional open-style living, try Rumah Kita.

Room rates
House: US$800 - One-bedroom. Two-bedroom beachfront: 1,500,000; two-bedroom joglo: 1,300,000;
three-bedroom house: 1,800,000.

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**Rumah Kita**

Charming wooden houses  
Jalan Rambutan, Kalibukbuk  
T: (0819) 1560 8229  
rumahkitabali@yahoo.com

400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)

Comfortable, well-appointed Balinese-style wooden houses of varying sizes pepper a lush tropical garden at Rumah Kita. Ideal for a longer stay, the houses provide a fully equipped kitchen and wonderful open living spaces.

Rumah Kita means “our house” in Indonesian, and you’ll feel right at home in this charming small hotel. Each house is different, but the general layout has the bedrooms upstairs and everything else below. Wood, bamboo and natural materials with tiled lower floors provide rustic charm. It's bestowed with all you would expect in a house, like comfortable day beds, dining table and chairs and a library full of books in several languages. Light filters through the jungle-like foliage surrounding the open living area — it’s secluded and very private, but it is open and it’s the tropics so expect critters. The upstairs airy, fan-cooled bedrooms offer comfortable mosquito-netted beds with ikat covers and open onto a small furnished balcony overlooking the garden. A very steep stairway leads directly to the bathroom below, which also can be accessed directly from the living area. Simple and spacious open-style bathrooms are a little stained, but clean. Showers are hot, and an abundance of shelving provides storage.

The houses were mostly built in the early 1990s (with a later exception in early 2000s), but are all well maintained. They can sleep two to four, so are great for families, although possibly hazardous for younger kids. Hidden at the back of the hotel (we almost missed it), a medium sized swimming pool with a corner kids' section is shaded by trees. A couple of sun loungers are provided for the lazy and a badminton court for more energetic guests.
Breakfast and WiFi are included. The family who run the place are very friendly and speak excellent English.

**Room rates**
*Standard - Double: 400,000 rupiah - Small house. Medium: 600,000. Large: 800,000.*

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**HARRIS HOMESTAY**

*Bright, friendly and cheap*

**Gang Binaria, Kalibukbuk**

*T: (0362) 41152*

Under 150,000 Rp (Backpacker)

If the basics are all you need, spartan yet spotless Harris Homestay should be your first port of call. This neat and friendly homestay faces a pretty flower-filled garden, hidden down a quiet lane a little back from Lovina Beach.

Simple, good sized light-filled and airy rooms offer solid wooden beds with foam or lumpy kapok mattresses (much more comfortable than they sound) and mosquito nets. You’ll need to bring a sleep sheet, as only a bottom sheet is supplied. Otherwise it’s furnished with an assortment of small tables or benches with seating and a bedside table, sans reading lamp. Whitewashed walls and pale tiled floors keep the rooms cool with the help of a ceiling fan and windows (with security bars) for a bit of breeze. The super clean ensuite was the clincher for us — it shines. The shower is cold-water only, but the sun heats up the pipes to make it bearable.

A wide shady veranda furnished with tables and chairs is the place to log into the free WiFi (better signal closer to the house), enjoy your simple include breakfast, or chat to fellow travellers or the friendly German host. Harris Homestay’s peaceful homely feel and excellent central location offers great value and gives it the edge on other nearby cheapies. Bookings recommended. If a swimming pool or hot-water shower is a priority, Hotel Elsa 2 along the lane offers both.
**Room rates**
*Sgl fan private b'room: 100,000 rupiah - Up to 130,000 rupiah.*
*Dbf fan private b'room: 15,000 rupiah (low season) 150,000 rupiah (high season)*

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**Hotel Rattan Resto**

*Get shell shocked*

*Jalan Seririt-Singaraja, Kalbukbuk*
*T: (0362) 42 288*
*rattanresto@gmail.com*
*http://www.rattanresto-lovina.com/index.php*

150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)
Check online rates: [Booking](http://www.rattanresto-lovina.com/index.php)

We can safely guarantee that you probably won’t find another hotel quite like Hotel Rattan Resto anywhere else in the world. It’s the quirkiest hotel we’ve ever encountered. Not to everyone’s taste, the novelty value alone makes this bizarre shell-encrusted wonderland worth a stay.

Located on the main road in Lovina, we almost walked past Hotel Rattan Resto, as it looks more like a closed dark restaurant — the “Rattan Resto” part of the name. In the courtyard beyond, a surreal fantasy awaits. A passion for decorating with shells here goes beyond a simple conch or two in the bathroom — everything including the toilet, shower, floor, walls and ceiling is covered. Not only shells, but webs of gnarled tree roots, branches and leaves, stuffed birds and trinkets add to the mesmerising mix.
Surrounding a small swimming pool, also adorned with shells, the themed rooms offer a variety of combinations, with double-storey family rooms available too. The kids will love it. Rattan Resto have some ‘normal rooms’, like you can find anywhere — go for the shells. However you may only last one night — if you’re looking for comfort, we’d recommend anywhere else as the bed is made of loose shells. Yes, we mean the “mattress”. Shells. Shells covered in a sheet. We’ve slept on a water bed before (remember the 70s?), but have to admit we didn’t test this bed for comfort. If you really can’t face a shell bed, a couple of the theme rooms offer proper mattresses.

Rooms are dark and feel a little gloomy, and could really benefit from some decent lighting, however the cave-like ambience may be lost and could possibly reveal all sorts of critters hiding in the crevices. Some rooms are more bamboo/jungle themed, but still heavy on the shells. Ensuite hot-water bathrooms are, of course shell covered, the floor offering a shell foot massage as you plod around barefoot.

Breakfast is included and can be served in the attached rattan-themed restaurant. WiFi is available so you can Instagram immediately; believe us, you’ll want to share this eccentric curiosity. Staff are friendly and accommodating and were quite happy for us to come back a second time for more photos (we couldn’t stop at one look). Walk in prices were very negotiable, so try your luck.

Hotel Rattan Resto has to be seen to be believed. It will make for some hilarious holiday
stories; there’s nowhere else like it. And if you’re looking for a gothic fantasy film location, we’ve got just the place.

Quite somebody’s little fantasy world.

Rattan Resto is located on the main Seririt-Singaraja road, just east of Alfamart. Look for the map of Bali made from shells. If weird themed rooms are your thing, Hotel Bottelmaina also offers a couple of odd offerings, but not quite to the scale of this place.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 350,000 rupiah (low season) 650,000 rupiah (high season)*

[Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.](#)

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**Ju’blu Hotel**

*Minimalist and boutique*

*Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk*

*T: (0362) 339 1529*

400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)

Check online rates: [Agoda](#) [Booking](#)
Smart, simple, modern and exceptionally clean, Ju’blu Hotel is one of Lovina’s newer offerings, having opened in July 2015. The boutique hotel is tucked away on a quiet lane close to the beach and has just four rooms, two up, two down, in a large block edging a spacious manicured lawn with frangipani trees, all overlooking a fabulous pool area.

Generously sized, minimalist air-con rooms are decorated in a pale stone palette with whitewashed wooden furniture. It's almost too minimalist — one room we saw had no bedside tables or lamps, although it did have a small desk. Glass-fronted, they let in plenty of air and natural light and open to furnished balconies and verandas. Amenities too are minimal — a small flat screen TV with DVD player is it. There's no tea-making paraphernalia or a minibar, which we would expect at this pricepoint.

Ensuite hot-water bathrooms are spotless — the downstairs rooms are open-style with pebbles and plants, while upstairs more standard enclosed rooms with glass screened showers. Round double washbasins sit atop wide benches and towels are fluffy and white.

The pale stone theme continues to the pool surrounds, and contrasts with the inviting large rectangular turquoise swimming pool. A forest of banana and palm trees edge the fence line, keeping it private and providing shade. As appealing as it is, only four umbrella-shaded sun lounges are provided — one per room, so you’ll have to race the other guests.

An open pavilion serves as a small restaurant where the included breakfast is served. We love the serene, almost pure, ambience of Ju’blu Hotel, but feel it’s a little overpriced. However it would be a good choice if you’re after a peaceful retreat in the midrange bracket. Although central, Ju’blu Hotel is hard to find — look for the small sign near JB Warung on Jalan Mawar. For a more traditional Balinese-style peaceful retreat, Rumah Kita is nearby.

**Room rates**

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**Pondok Wisata Villa Jaya**

*Smart and clean plus a great pool*

Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk (actually Jalan Palem, off Mawar)

T: (0362) 343 5644

info@villajaya.com

http://www.villajaya.com/

150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)

Check online rates: [Booking](http://www.villajaya.com/)

A sparkling clean inviting pool and simple neat-as-a-pin rooms make Pondok Wisata Villa Jaya worth seeking out.

Rooms overlook the pool in a double-storey brick block, not really a ‘villa’ as such. A choice of fan-cooled or air-con rooms provide matching dark wooden furniture and the beds sport snazzy blue sheets that almost match the crystal-blue pool, brightened with runners and cushions. A bit of thought has gone into the furnishings — bedside tables, reading lamps, hanging space and a small table and chairs deck the simple but well maintained rooms. All that’s missing is a minibar, however icy cold beer is available from the kitchen. Ensuite hot-water bathrooms provide a separate shower cubicle with shower curtain rather than the all-wet usual Balinese-style bathroom, and the washbasin has plenty of space and flat surfaces. Everything is clean and bright without the icky feeling of some similarly priced offerings.

Balconies and verandas invite relaxation with large cushioned lounge chairs and a table for the books and cocktails. Simple breakfast and free WiFi are part of the deal. A couple of palms and a bit of foliage offer shade over the pool which has a small kids pool too, and sun loungers are shaded by umbrellas. The quiet location has no through traffic but is only five minutes' walk to shops and restaurants. The path is well lit at night, so feels safe. If all you want to do is hang out by the pool, the small attached restaurant can fix up a simple meal. Pondok Wisata Villa Jaya is an all-round pleasant place to stay, and an excellent value flashpacker option. We like the upstairs rooms, as the balconies seemed more private with a bonus view beyond.

Look for the sign along Jalan Mawar at the turnoff to Jalan Palem, and keep walking, and then a bit more. It’s only about 250 metres, but on a hot day, that pool is a welcome sight.

**Room rates**

*Dbt fan private b’room: 250,000 rupiah (low season) 300,000 rupiah (high season)*

*Dbt air-con private b’room: 350,000 rupiah (low season) 400,000 rupiah (high season)*
Rambutan Cottages

Well maintained, sprawling grounds
Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk
T: (0362) 41388 F: (0362) 41621
info@rambutan.org
http://www.rambutan.org

400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange )
Check online rates: [ Agoda ] [ Booking ]

Sprawling, older (read slightly dated) local-style hotels seem to be a bit of a thing in Lovina. Rambutan Cottages, although fitting into this category, is well maintained and the best pick of the bunch.

The extensive grounds with two swimming pools, pretty gardens with ponds and a spa are among the draws. An assortment of rooms are on offer, from basic fan-cooled to multi-roomed villas, and even a new wooden “hobbit house”, oddly plonked in the middle of the garden. The quieter back section of the hotel with double storey air-con deluxe rooms and villas offer better value. We like the traditional Balinese stone carved features of the rooms, and their generous size.

Rooms are tiled and painted in a pale neutral, with the exception of the wooden house. Furnishings are Balinese themed too — mostly dark wood or rattan, some looking a little dated, others more classic. Local touches vary from room to room, and include wooden carvings and batik patchwork quilts. We liked the rattan furniture in the villas, embellished with smart kain poleng black and white checked cushions. Beds are comfortable, but a few had sheets that were looking a tad grey. All but the standard rooms provide TV and minibars, and some are equipped with kitchens. Bathrooms across each pricepoint provide hot water, and offer a variety of stonework features and all we viewed were clean. All rooms offer a furnished outdoor living space from a balcony to a wide terrace.

Rambutan Cottages is popular with families as besides the pools, there’s plenty of space for
kids to run around. Breakfast and WiFi are included. The beach, restaurants and shops are minutes away. Friendly staff mentioned rates are negotiable, so all up, for a comfortable midrange deal Rambutan Cottages is a solid choice.

**Room rates**
- **Standard - Double:** 375,000 rupiah
- **Superior - Double:** 600,000 rupiah
- **Deluxe Double:** 800,000 rupiah
- **House:** 1,100,000 rupiah

**Hotel Elsa II**

*Balinese style with a pool*

**Gang Binaria, Kalibukbuk**

**T:** (0362) 41448

150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)

Gorgeous colourful, traditionally carved wooden doors with stone features plus a small swimming pool and friendly cheeky staff — you know you’re in Bali at Hotel Elsa 2.

The central yet quiet location down a small lane is a five-minute walk to the beach. The small hotel comprises two rows of single and double-storey brick bungalows facing each other and offers fan-cooled or air-con rooms. Upstairs rooms catch the breeze, and a few enjoy a bit of a view. Basic tiled rooms are a bit of a disappointment after the grandiose doors, and sport nothing but a comfy spring bed, some with mosquito nets. Wall lamps and switches are within easy reach for reading in bed. Rooms are a little tired and worn, but clean enough. Simple roomy ensuite bathrooms provide hot showers and several come with a bathtub. Patterned tiles hide any grime.

Verandas and balconies are decked out with a couple of chairs and some have tables to rest the Bintang. At the front of the hotel, the tiny kidney-shaped swimming pool seems to be a newer, but welcome add on, a bonus for this price. It’s clean and inviting, but offers little shade. A handful of loungers will keep sun worshippers happy. Staff can be a little pushy.
trying to sell tours, and we’d recommend shopping around before committing. A simple breakfast and free WiFi are included. For a cheaper, more basic option sans pool, Harris Homestay next door is excellent value.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 175,000 rupiah*

*Superior - Double: 200,000 rupiah*

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**PONDOK WISATA SARI HOUSE**

*Charming host with a view*

**Jalan Damai, 28 Gang Graha Lovina, Kalibukbuk**

*T: (0877) 6258 8191*

*pjegdom@hotmail.com*

150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)

Staff are really very, very friendly and we get the impression you’ll be well looked after staying at Sari House. Not near the beach, but tucked away in the suburbs on the lower hills of Lovina, Sari House is a quiet older-style small hotel, with some rooms having good views of the surrounding hillside.

A large double-storey brick building houses four rooms, two up two down, and a separate self-contained “villa” with an attached kitchen all overlook a small swimming pool and attractive paved garden. We feel the villa is overpriced, and would go for the upstairs rooms for the views. Tiled rooms are not stylish or trendy, but are clean and have a mishmash homey feel. Wooden beds with comfy mattresses sport patchwork or batik quilts, and local artwork brightens the rooms and adds a bit of (ill-matched) colour. Rooms are equipped with both air-con and ceiling fans, and only the villa has a fridge. Functional hot-water ensuite bathrooms are a riot of patterned tiles, yet are clean. The villa supplies a tub, others just a wet-style shower.

We’d be spending our time on the furnished balconies to catch a bit of breeze or admire the view. The small blue slightly old-fashioned looking swimming pool doesn’t provide a lot of
shade, but a small covered pondok and a couple of sun lounges offer relaxation possibilities. WiFi and breakfast are included, and your charming host Tantri can cook other meals on request. An excellent bakery is just down the street too. Sari House is a good kilometre from the main shops and restaurants at Lovina, which may be inconvenient if you don’t have your own transport.

**Room rates**
*Standard - Double: 300,000 rupiah*
*House: 400,000 rupiah*

![Map of Sari House](image)

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**Suriana Ketut Homestay**

*Friendly simple homestay*

*jalan Sawah, Kalibukbuk*

*T: (0813) 3731 2596*

Under 150,000 Rp (Backpacker )

If you'd like to experience village living in simple digs and some genuine local hospitality, Suriana Ketut Homestay offers three basic air-con brick cottages in this family compound in a quiet back lane for an excellent deal.

Two smaller cottages, and one larger with living room furnished with a couple of chairs, all provide a simple kitchen with a fridge and gas cooker. Tiled rooms are light, bright and clean, but spartan with just a bed, but it's solid wood with a comfortable spring mattress — you’ll need a sleep sheet as only bottom sheet is available. There are no decorative touches and the rooms lack any feeling of homeliness, but are perfectly functional for a short stay. Walls are a little scuffed and could do with a lick of paint, but at these prices, we’re not complaining. Bathrooms are worn and stained, but clean. The larger cottage has a tub and hot water, the smaller two both have showers but only one has hot water (although Ketut is planning an upgrade on the other).

Each cottage is fronted with a small furnished terrace overlooking the dirt compound filled with shady coconut trees (and chooks and dogs). Free WiFi is available and breakfast is
included. The family is very friendly and helpful and Ketut can arrange private transport around Bali. Suriana Ketut Homestay didn’t have any signage when we visited, so is not obvious to find. Follow the signs to Sawah Lovina Bungalows, and Suriana Ketut Homestay is 150 metres along Jalan Sawah from Jalan Mawar.

**Room rates**

- Standard - Double: 150,000 rupiah
- Superior - Double: 200,000 rupiah

East Lovina

East of Central Lovina, running up to Singaraja, the fishing villages of Banyualit, Anturan Tukadmungga and Pemaron are less crowded and more relaxed. A decent selection of good value hotels and restaurants exist here. The further east of Kalibukbuk you go, the more spread out the options; you may need your own transport.

**Kubu Beach**

*Excellent value beachfront*

*Jalan Seririt-Singaraja, Tukadmungga*

*T: (0819) 3643 6529*

kububeachlovina@gmail.com

[http://www.kububeachlovina.com](http://www.kububeachlovina.com)

150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)

Check online rates: [Agoda](http://www.agoda.com) [Booking](http://www.booking.com)

If you don’t mind being a little away from the action, for the best flashpacker value in all of Lovina head straight to Kubu Beach -- in fact, it’s a better deal than some midrange joints. Built in December 2014, it was in immaculate condition when we visited in mid-2016. Twelve rooms sit stacked in a double-storey longhouse block with rice fields on either side absolute beachfront at Kubu Beach, about halfway between Kalibukbuk and Singaraja.

A terrific swimming pool and open-air restaurant front the hotel seaside. Furnished in a smart contemporary style with whitewashed wooden furniture, the spacious modern rooms have gleaming white floor tiles and fresh white walls. Comfortable beds with spring mattress, quality linen and stylish contrasting runners are flanked by practical bedside tables. A built-in desk houses a minibar, flatscreen TV, and electric jug. Reading lamps, switches and plugs are
all where you need them.

There's free WiFi, but it was mentioned it's better in the common areas than the rooms. Pale stone-clad bathrooms afford glass-screened hot-water rain showers and a round washbasin, with a small space for toiletries. Large windows on the ground floor and windows and glass doors on the upper level let in plenty of natural light. Heavy curtains block the morning sun for late sleepers.

Rooms open onto furnished balconies and verandas, and top floor rooms add an additional balcony at the back for more extensive rice field and coastal views, and allowing a refreshing cross breeze. The top floor rooms are really worth paying the extra 50,000 rupiah for, for as the owner mentioned to us — you get four views for the price of one — garden, rice fields, the sea and the mountains, and those views are indeed rather lovely, particularly at sunset. A manicured lawn with a yet-to-be-established garden edges the path to the restaurant, pool and beach.

The open-air restaurant is styled in the same contemporary manner as the rooms and dishes up Indonesian and Western favourites. The included breakfast is served here, and as they quote in their marketing, “One should not attend even the end of the world without a good breakfast”, so one hopes it’s substantial.

We love the pool — a large azure D-shaped infinity pool with an adjacent round kids pool,
both looking out to sea. Sun lounges and colourful bean bags are positioned for prime sun-worshipping. Currently there’s little shade, but once the trees grow that should change. A grassy area in front of the pool gives kids a place to run wild. Unfortunately the beach isn’t much to speak of, but that’s pretty much the rule for nearly all north coast beaches, however it’s cleaner and less populated than in central Lovina.

The owner and staff are very friendly and speak excellent English. They can help arrange transport, motorbike rentals and tours. Kubu Beach is an excellent deal, but if you prefer to be closer to central Lovina, Pondok Wisata Villa Jaya is a good option or if you don’t mind a bit more of a spend, minimal Ju’blu Hotel has a similar style.

**Room rates**
*Standard - Double: 350,000 rupiah - Ground floor. Upper: 400,000 rupiah.*

**Puri Bagus Lovina**
*Tranquil resort with great grounds*

**Jalan Seririt-Singaraja, Desa Pemaron**
*T: (0362) 21430 F: (0362) 22627*
*info@lovina.puribagus.com*
*http://www.puribaguslovina.com*

1,000,000 to 2,500,000 Rp (Toprange )

Check online rates: [Agoda ] [Booking ]

A quiet calm descends when you enter the spacious and peaceful grounds of Puri Bagus Lovina, one of Lovina’s oldest and best maintained four-star hotels. It boasts beach frontage with wide manicured lawns, mature fragrant trees, and flowering orchids, along with water features, stone carvings and traditionally styled thatch-roofed bungalows.

The voluminous high-ceilinged rooms may be a little dated in style, but they still manage to ooze simple classic comfort and provide all the amenities you would expect at this pricepoint. Bathrooms offer a choice of two showers — indoor or when the weather’s warm, a delightful outdoor version. Wide and
shady terraces are designed to maximise to sea views, even in the back bungalows, just the thing for sipping a G&T and watching the yellow ball in the sky descend over the Bali Sea. A large, deep, organically shaped infinity pool graces the seafront, with enough sun lounges and shady pavilions not to have to be the first one up to put the towels out.

The open-air restaurant edging the pool gets a good wrap too (although we didn’t try the food), offering international and Indonesian cuisine, with produce from their own organic garden. A buffet breakfast is included in the rate. Open-air spa pavilions offer pampering and daily yoga is available for an additional cost and they often run yoga retreats. Staff are charming and helpful. This may all sound delightful, and indeed it is lovely and you won’t want to leave, and that is the problem with the location — it’s rather far from anything — closer to Singaraja than Lovina. Puri Bagus can arrange transport, but it seems more catered for guests that prefer to stay within the hotel grounds or book organised tours. However if a self-contained resort appeals, Puri Bagus Lovina has tranquility nailed.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: US$145 (low season) US$160 (high season)*
*Deluxe - Double: US$185 (low season) US$210 (high season)*

[Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.](#)

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Renovated in early 2015, Hotel Melamun offers a row of duplex style cottages facing the restaurant, pool and a tempting chocolate spa.

The tastefully modern, air-con rooms are spacious, spotless and serene and much more appealing than they appear from outside. Although fairly simply styled, the rooms feel luxurious with quality furnishings and finishes, large comfy beds and a muted colour scheme. Glass doors open to the furnished veranda cooled with an outdoor ceiling fan. Sheer curtains offer privacy, and heavy drapes block the light. Squeaky clean ensuite bathrooms continue the luxe feel with a deep bathtub, and separate rain shower.

The smallish turquoise pool is not quiet long enough for a decent lap, but perfectly adequate for soak or a splash. Umbrella shaded sun lounges accompany the traditional Balinese guardian sculptures.

We didn’t try the chocolate spa, but it looked very professional, with an assortment of treatments, a little pricier than a beach massage, but still reasonable. The on-site restaurant offers an array of chocolate-based desserts as well as other selections. Staff told us that a chocolate welcome drink is offered to guests too (notice a theme here?). Limited a la carte breakfast selections are included in the rate as is free WiFi. Staff are friendly and very keen to please. Hotel Melamun is a 300-metre walk to the beach along a street lined with local restaurants. If you’re after a small quiet place, Hotel Melamun is an appealing midrange offer with an aura of quality and professionalism (and chocolate).

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 500,000 rupiah (low season) 650,000 rupiah (high season)*

*Family room: 750,000 rupiah (low season) 800,000 rupiah (high season)*

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**JANUR GUESTHOUSE**

Comfortable and clean
Jalan Laviana, Banyualit
T: (0852) 3728 2288
150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)
Janur Guesthouse really doesn’t look much from the road, but hidden behind an unpretentious streetfront restaurant, sits a sweet and friendly family-run guesthouse with a small swimming pool.

Two small fan-cooled rooms and two slightly larger air-con rooms overlook the deep blue pool and tiny courtyard garden. The neat simple rooms are spick-and-span — everything is orderly, comfortable and well cared for. Simply furnished with a mix of modern and antique wooden furniture, the tiled rooms are bright, clean and welcoming with comfortable beds and white spotless linens. They could however, do with some bedside lamps. Local paintings pretty up the neutral palette. Scrubbed till they’re fresh and bright, ensuite bathrooms with hot-water showers and a tiny washbasin don’t offer any flat surfaces or hooks, but a bamboo ladder serves as a towel rack. Shady verandas are furnished with a couple of wooden chairs and once you’re done logging into the free WiFi, from here you could almost step into the inviting pool.

Janur Guesthouse occupies an excellent location — far enough away from the hustle and bustle to be quiet yet close enough for a night out, and if you’re lazy, you don’t have to venture far — their restaurant can whip up a tasty meal. We loved the fresh and friendly feeling at Janur Guesthouse, perfect for a little time out. Recommended.

**Room rates**
- Standard - Double: 250,000 rupiah - Fan-cooled.
- Superior - Double: 400,000 rupiah - Air-con.

**Odika Lovina**
*Intimate courtyard pool*
Jalan Cendrawasih, Gang Merak, Banyualit
T: (0819) 3667 6540
info@lovinahouse-villas.com
http://www.lovinahouse-villas.com
400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)
Tucked away in the ‘burbs in what looks like a housing estate, Odika Lovina offers four excellent value smart modern rooms surrounding a great courtyard swimming pool.

A small group of two-bedroom family villas across the road are part of the same business, and guests staying here have access to the pool. The tiled bright white interiors are spotless, and funky design touches and accessories move the rooms up a notch from bland but clean to somewhere we’d be happy to hang out in.

Beds are comfortable with quality linens and amenities in the air-con rooms include a flatscreen TV with DVD player, free WiFi, tea-making facilities, a safe, a desk and hanging space, but no minibar. Ensuite bathrooms are also smart and sparkling. A tiny furnished terrace is shared with the neighbouring room, divided by a screen. The small swimming pool takes almost the entire outdoor space, and you’d want to be careful you don’t fall in on the way to your room — not really suitable for young kids.

We like the intimate atmosphere of the set up, but you will definitely get to know other guests — a perfect place for a group of friends. The family villas have similar interior styling, and include a living room and full kitchen, but lack the openness of an outdoor space, and seem a little claustrophobic. Unless you particularly want a kitchen and a private space, we’d book a couple of the guesthouse rooms instead. Breakfast is included in the rate.

The friendly family who run the place live nearby and can offer local info or pick up a takeaway if you’re too lazy to walk to the restaurants. Odika Lovina is in a quiet location about 500 metres from the main road and another two kilometres to central Lovina. Not many locals know of its existence, so it’s a bit hard to find: turn off the main road into Jalan Cendrawasih, just east and opposite the turnoff to Melamun Hotel, Jalan Merak is to the left.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 400,000 rupiah*

*Family room: 800,000 rupiah*
Hidden behind their beachfront restaurant, Starlight offers a row of neat cottages running along a fruit-tree filled narrow block. Built in 2011, the bright clean tiled interiors showed no wear when we visited in June 2016.

Rooms are airy with modern-styled, golden-coloured wood furnishings including comfortable mosquito-netted beds, and warm cream walls, which add to the sunny ambience. Amenities include both fan and air-con, a tiny flatscreen TV, safe, a fridge, tea-making facilities, hairdryer, ample hanging space and free WiFi. Spotless and good sized bathrooms have rain showers and sufficient space for your toiletries. Outside, you can admire the pretty garden from the furnished terrace, or venture to the small blue cigar-shaped swimming pool at the rear of the hotel, and recline on a matching blue sun lounge or shady bale. Breakfast is part of the deal, and the beachside restaurant seems a pleasant spot to while away a few hours watching the fishing boats. Friendly staff mentioned they have the occasional beach bonfire, complete with local guitar accompaniment.

Overall, we thought Starlight a good deal and being one of the few beachfront hotels in Lovina at this price range was a bonus. Internet deals seemed to be better than walk-in rates, so do check online first.

**Room rates**

*Deluxe- Double: 650,000 rupiah (low season) 900,000 rupiah (high season)*  
*Family room: 1,200,000 rupiah (low season) 1,575,000 rupiah (high season)*
Mandhara Chico Bungalows

Budget beachfront
Access from Jalan Kubu Cembong, Anturan
T: (0812) 360 3268
info@mandhara-chico-bali.com
Under 150,000 Rp (Backpacker)
Check online rates: [Booking]

If you’re on a budget and have your heart set on beachfront and a swimming pool, Mandhara Chico Bungalows have got you covered. This simple family-run place is tucked away at the end of a laneway about 3.5 kilometres east of central Lovina.

A choice of fan-cooled or air-con basic rooms don’t offer much but are clean enough, and some have sea views from the balcony. Showers are warm, there’s free WiFi and did we mention the beach? To be honest, the beach isn’t that great and was strewn with rubbish when we visited — you probably wouldn’t want to swim here, but it’s pretty to look at (beyond the litter). The family who run the place, however, are charming and very accommodating and the swimming pool is rather nice, decorated with a small stone fountain (although there’s nowhere to sit and no shade). Unusually for this area, breakfast isn’t included in the rate, but can be taken at their small attached beachside restaurant.

Mandhara Chico Bungalows was under renovation when we visited in June 2016, which will mean an improvement in the rooms, but hopefully not too much of a price hike. For now it’s a good budget choice, you’ll not get closer to the sea in the Lovina area for a lower price tag.

Room rates
Standard - Double: 150,000 rupiah - Fan-cooled.
Superior - Double: 175,000 rupiah - Air-con.

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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West Lovina -- Kaliasem

To the west of central Lovina is the village of Kaliasem. The road runs closer to the coast and...
good accommodation options thin out a little, but it’s still walking distance to the action.

**Lilin Hotel**

*Fresh and fun*

*Jalan Raya Seririt-Singaraja, Kaliasem*

*T: (0362) 41670*

reservations@lilinlovinabeachhotel.com

[http://www.lilinlovinabeachhotel.com/home.html](http://www.lilinlovinabeachhotel.com/home.html)

400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)

Check online rates: [Agoda](http://www.lilinlovinabeachhotel.com) [Booking](http://www.lilinlovinabeachhotel.com)

A semicircle of cute individually styled bungalows each with their own plunge pool grace the beachfront at Lilin Hotel. The glass-fronted air-con rooms are individually styled using cool refreshing sea tones with bamboo, recycled wood and rustic elements. The look is fresh and fun with a bit more thought than the average bland bungalow.

Rooms are smallish, but light and bright, perhaps too bright in the mornings as curtains seemed a tad thin. Beds are bouncy with clean white linens, and amenities include a small fridge and water dispenser — great to see hotels cutting down on plastic bottles. Simple and clean ensuite bathrooms are semi-outdoor style with hot-water showers.

![One of Lilin's charming interiors.](image)

Step off your small terrace directly into the turquoise plunge pool or just sway on the swinging “love-seat” day lounge — the perfect spot for catching the sea breeze.

A sweet two-bedroom villa, set slightly away from the other bungalows with a pretty collection of white lacy kabayas as wall decoration and a larger outdoor living area than the other rooms offers a little more solitude. Although we love the style and ambience of Lilin Hotel, we feel they oversell themselves a little as “private villas with private swimming pools” with prices to match — there’s not a lot of privacy, and you’re not going to be doing laps of the pool.
A welcoming exterior.

Changing daily breakfast and WiFi are included. A small restaurant sits beachside, however Lilin Hotel doesn’t have a full kitchen, so meals are ordered from nearby restaurants. Massages and treatments are offered in your bungalow.

Staff are as sweet and charming as the rooms. Rates vary according to the size, position and season. If you don’t mind a bit of a steep price for a charming beach bungalow, go for it, just don’t expect a resort.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 550,000 rupiah (low season) 1,300,000 rupiah (high season)* - Double courtyard villa.

*Private pool villa: 700,000 rupiah (low season) 1,400,000 rupiah (high season)* - Double. King/twin pool villa: 1,000,000/1,700,000 rupiah.

*Family room: 1,000,000 rupiah (low season) 2,200,000 rupiah (high season)*

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**PADMASARI HOTEL**

Modern resort with great pool

Jalan Raya Seririt-Singaraja, Kaliasem

T: (0362) 343 5750

info@padmasariresort.com
Padmasari Hotel is a fairly standard modern-style beachfront resort with a sensational large infinity pool looking out to sea, and the pick of a row of similar resorts along the strip west of central Lovina.

Forget the poor value superior rooms which are small, roadside and have no view. Go instead for the deluxe or better, if your budget stretches. Rooms are mostly housed in a simple modern brick double-storey building overlooking the pool with a couple of suite rooms to the side. Interiors are spacious with minimalist modern dark furniture in neutral tiled rooms. It’s comfortable, inoffensive but a tad bland, equipped with all the amenities you would expect.

Bathrooms are clean and fresh, but the rooms we viewed didn’t have tubs.

The winner in this resort is the swimming pool — a vast square of seductive blue. A covered bale and umbrella-shaded sun lounges are appealing places to chill out. Grab a cocktail from the bar and watch the sun set over the Bali Sea. The on-site restaurant serves an included breakfast. While the restaurant is often not operational in quiet season for other meals, Padmasari Hotel operate a free shuttle bus to central Lovina where there’s a selection of restaurants, so you won’t starve.

**Room rates**

- Superior - Double: 430,000 rupiah (low season) 540,000 rupiah (high season) - ++
- Deluxe- Double: 470,000 rupiah (low season) 600,000 rupiah (high season) - ++. Super deluxe beach view: 660,000/830,000++ rupiah.

**Santhika**

*Enchanting boho guesthouse*

*Jalan Pandji Tisna, Kaliasem*

*T: (0817) 359 993*
150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)
Santhika is one of the most hospitable little guesthouses we’ve ever encountered, with a
great boho atmosphere.

Walking in is like stumbling into a funky antique junkyard — there’s so much going on you
don’t know where to look: overgrown plants, wooden carvings, canopied daybeds, chill-out
music. Then you are greeted by the extremely welcoming staff and owner who offer
cinnamon-infused welcome drinks, fruit platters and foot massages.

Stuffed into the tiny yard are a handful of wooden guest rooms and a dorm, plus the odd
“tent” in the garden and a minuscule swimming pool. Private wood and bamboo bungalows
offer a mix of air-con or fan-cooled rooms, some with share bathrooms and all with hot-water
showers. Beds are mosquito netted, and furniture and decor styling follow the same mix of
antiques and craziness as the garden. Some bathrooms are open-air style with plants and
pebbles — one we viewed was encrusted with snail shells (intentionally).

The seven-bed dorm is decked out with mix of wooden, batik-covered beds in a curtained-off
section, and larger iron canopied beds, plus one double bed for a couple. It’s fan cooled, and
the high ceiling keeps it pleasantly breezy. We love the unusual floor made from cross
sections of wood and pebbles.
An attached outdoor-style bathroom has only one hot-water shower and toilet for all. Punctuating the garden, a couple of mosquito-netted beds are offered as “tent” accommodation — not particularly private, but possibly rather delightful on a warm evening.

Benches, chairs and tables and places to laze around are crammed into the outdoor areas — it’s chilled, organic and enchanting. We did however feel the dorms (and tent) are overpriced, considering you can stay in a rather nice guesthouse with a private room in central Lovina for the same cost or less, but the atmosphere at Santhika is unique and special and it’s a great place to meet other travellers. Go for the private rooms.

Breakfast, WiFi and all-day tea or coffee are included. Other healthy meals are available too. Santhika also offer yoga class at very good prices, spa treatments and local tours.

You'll find this guesthouse tucked away in a quiet village area inland from the beach about one kilometre from central Lovina. Closer to town, the same owner also runs Funky Place, a bar with live music, beer pong, and (probably noisy) rooms.

**Room rates**

*Tent: 120,000 rupiah
Dorm Fan: 150,000 rupiah - Small bed. Large bed: 200,000 rupiah. Double: 250,000 per couple.  
Dbl fan private b'room: 300,000 rupiah  
Dbl air-con private b'room: 360,000 rupiah*
**Jhon House**

*Bargain beachfront apartment*

*Jalan Raya Seririt-Singaraja, Kaliasem (access via Hotel Puri Manggala)*

*T: (0362) 42 189*

150,000 to 400,000 Rp (Flashpacker)

In a prime position, right on the beach and only a five-minute walk from central Lovina, Jhon House is a relative bargain. In a double-storey brick block with two rooms up, and two down, all have unobstructed sea views.

Set up more like an apartment than a hotel room, each has a fully equipped kitchen, a spacious living / dining room, with separate small bedroom and bathroom behind — no sea views from the bed. Bedrooms are air-con and living areas are cooled with ceiling fans. The living space in the downstairs rooms is slightly larger, but upstairs rooms have better views and add a balcony with a daybed and table for some outdoor living. Tiled interiors are bright and clean if a tad tired and worn, glass-fronted for maximum sea view. The bedroom at the back is a little darker, and needs a light in the daytime, but fine for a good night's sleep. Minimally furnished, the bedrooms provide a mosquito-netted, four-poster bed, and that's it. Living spaces offer a dining table and chairs, and lounge seating plus a small flatscreen TV and DVD player. Hot-water bathrooms are clean with adequate hanging and surface space.

Outside, a low fence and shady tiled bale separate the small paved courtyard from the beach. Jhon House isn’t going to win any design awards, but it’s comfortable and functional, an excellent value option, particularly if you plan a longer stay. We like the relaxing “holiday house” atmosphere in this local style choice. Breakfast is not included, but can be added for an extra 50,000 rupiah per room. Jhon House is not obvious from the road — access is via Puri Manggala Beach Hotel, or from the beach near Lovina Beach Hotel.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 300,000 rupiah*
Lovina Hills: Kayuputih / Cempaga / Temukus

You want views? We’ve got views. Peppering the hillside villages sheltering the coast above Lovina some excellent accommodation options await, including one of Bali’s best luxury resorts. Bring your wallet.

**DAMAI**

*Faultless luxury*

_Jalan Damai, Kayuputih (head inland at the 5-way intersection in Kalibukbuk) T: (0362) 41008 F: (0362) 41009*

resort@thedamai.com

http://www.damai.com

Over 2,500,000 Rp (Luxury )

Check online rates: [Agoda ] [Booking ]

High above Lovina, Damai offers secluded and luxurious bungalows in lush tropical jungle grounds. Classically elegant with hardwood furniture, rich fabrics and textures and local antiques plus all the mod-cons needed for a comfortable stay, this high-end boutique hotel has got it just right.

Widely spaced and varying in size from quite large to enormous, some rooms enjoy spectacular sea vistas and private infinity swimming pools, while others lack the views, but are surrounded by flourishing gardens. Magnificent outdoor bathrooms accommodate tubs and / or rain showers, some equipped with Jacuzzis. The swimming pool overlooking the valley is splendid but on the small side, however that’s a minor quibble, and if you go for a room with a private pool it won’t be a concern.

Innovative fusion cuisine is served at the outstanding restaurant, which is really worth visiting even if you’re not staying. It offers a daily set menu as well as a la carte (plus free pickup from the Lovina area) with fresh produce from the hotel’s own garden. Indulge in traditional pampering at the spa or get out and explore — local excursions can be arranged.

Staff at Damai are friendly and professional. This is one of Bali’s best and we can’t fault this place, as it delivers more than it promises. It’s exceptional and worth every rupiah if it's within your budget — you won’t be disappointed.

**Room rates**

Puri Tugu Belanda

Genuine hospitality with stunning views
Jalan Sing-Sing, Temukus
T: (0812) 3934 8411
info@puritugubelanda.com
400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)
Check online rates: [Agoda] [Booking]

High on the hills above Lovina with a jaw-dropping infinity lap pool, the small and friendly family-run Puri Tugu Belanda not only offers excellent views, but free transport to Lovina whenever needed is part of the deal.

The “Tugu Belanda” in the name refers to a nearby historical Dutch monument (Tugu Belanda) built to commemorate the Banjar War (1868). It can be seen from the hotel but don’t worry, it won’t block the view. Four simple, neat-as-a-pin and spotless air-con rooms sit in a longhouse brick block overlooking the pool and the distant ocean. Outfitted with bamboo furniture, the smallish rooms are modest and comfortable. Ensuite hot-water bathrooms are basic, with the washbasin inside the bedroom, but sparkling clean.

Running along the length of the building, a common veranda with dividing panels is a great spot for admiring the view. A small attached restaurant provides the included breakfast, which you can eat on your veranda if you prefer. Other meals are available on request and Puri Tugu Belanda also offer Balinese cooking classes. The long, but narrow pool maximises the view and offers some shady sun lounges for relaxing. Make your friends jealous by uploading photos of the pool with the free WiFi. Hosts are very welcoming and the whole place is loved and well cared for. As well as the free local transport, tailored tours are offered all over the region.

If you don’t mind being away from the more lively area of Lovina, and paying a little more for
fairly simple rooms, genuine family hospitality awaits at this great little hotel. Bookings recommended. For more private bungalow style accommodation, and similar views, The Hamsa is a good choice.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 550,000 rupiah (low season) 650,000 rupiah (high season)*

[Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.](#)

**The Hamsa**

*Great panoramic view*

**Jalan Air Terjun Sing Sing, Cempaga**

*T: (0813) 3719 4975*

*info@thehamsabali.com*

*http://www.thehamsabali.com/home/*

400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)

Check online rates: [Agoda](#) [Booking](#)

Up, up, up, and up the hill again — it’s a long drive to The Hamsa, but you’ll be rewarded with a spectacular view and a terrific infinity swimming pool. An arch of octagonal light-filled bungalows circle the large pool and have endless views too.

The comfortable tiled air-con bungalows are surrounded with windows to enjoy the scenery from every angle. Bamboo and wooden furniture was a little worn in a few rooms and could do with repair or replacing. Beds are comfortable, and linen clean, but some showed signs of wear. In the rooms we viewed there was only one bedside table and lamp for each double bed so only one nighttime reader per bed! Otherwise furnished with a small desk, wardrobe and minibar. Ensuite hot-water bathrooms are clean, but a little stained at the edges. Cushioned chairs grace the small terrace, perfect for a sundowner or choose from an army of umbrella-shaded sun lounges or several tables and chairs surrounding the swimming pool. Overlooking the pool, an open-air, double-storey restaurant aces the views. Breakfast is not included, but daily free yoga is on offer. There’s free WiFi, but reports are that the signal is poor. Further up the hill The Hamsa offer a couple of larger private villas
too. During our visit in June 2016, they were doing renovations and the garden was more of a construction site, but didn’t seem to cause a disturbance. We think The Hamsa is great for a bit of a getaway, but it’s three kilometres up a steep hill from the main road and really far from anywhere. You’ll need private transport to get there, and will be stuck without your own vehicle. However, some very good deals can be found online at less than half the walk-in rate we were offered and the view is, well, just great.

**Room rates**

*Standard - Double: 550,000 rupiah (low season) 850,000 rupiah (high season)*

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**Seririt**

Between the more touristed areas of Lovina and Pemuteran, the tiny town of Seririt is the main junction from the north coast heading south to Munduk and the central mountain area of Bedugul. In the small villages along the coast northwest of the town centre, you’ll find a handful of relaxing mid to top-range resorts and private villas, several with a meditation or yoga focus.

**Ganesh Coral Reef Villas**

*Relaxing quiet retreat*

*Desa Uma Anyar, Seririt*

*T: (0821) 4530 4627*

*info@ganesha-bali.com*


1,000,000 to 2,500,000 Rp (Toprange)

Check online rates: [Agoda][Booking]
In a quiet oceanfront location and overlooking sea-edged rice paddies, eight traditionally thatched bungalows at Ganesh Coral Reef Villas offer a range of decor themes based on the islands of Indonesia. With either sea or garden views, the high-ceilinged interiors are light-filled and generous.

We like the Irian Jaya and Timor rooms, both with wooden floors, while others are tiled. Teak furniture including drawers, wardrobe, desk and daybed plus timber blinds add warmth and a feeling of quality to the white-painted rooms. Large mosquito-netted beds sit mid-room, surrounded by local (to the theme) artefacts and open-air stone bathrooms with rain shower are positioned behind. Amenities include a safe, minibar and water dispenser and rooms are equipped with both air-con and ceiling fans.

Neighbouring bungalows share a covered courtyard with an open-air dining table. Set back in the garden, the large swimming pool, long enough for laps, with an adjoining kids pool offers a couple of shaded poolside lounges. A restaurant, barbecue facilities and spa are all at your disposal. The owner is a Chinese medicine practitioner and can provide consultations and treatments in the fully equipped consulting rooms. Rates include breakfast, WiFi, snorkelling equipment (for the reef in front of the villas) and a welcome massage. Transportation, cultural activities and excursions can be arranged. Online deals were heavily discounted when we checked, bringing this top-end place down to a midrange price bracket.

**Room rates**
*Standard - Double: 1,200,000 rupiah (low season) 1,500,000 rupiah (high season) - Garden view.  
Superior - Double: 1,300,000 rupiah (low season) 1,600,000 rupiah (high season) - Sea view.*

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**MAYO RESORT**
*Contemporary and fresh seaside resort  
3 Jalan Umeanyar, Kundalini (near Seririt)  
T: (0811) 380 0500  
gm@mayoresort.com  
http://www.mayoresort.com*
400,000 to 1,000,000 Rp (Midrange)

Check online rates: [Agoda][Booking]

Hidden behind the rice paddies and vineyards (yes grapes) near Seririt, Mayo Resort is an intimate boutique resort offering vast sea-view rooms plus a couple of larger family rooms on a private corner of coast.

A large double-storey block overlooking the swimming pool and sea houses the hotel-style rooms, with the family rooms and villas in separate structures. A palette of turquoise, white and warm grey is repeated everywhere from the pool to the restaurant — it’s contemporary and fresh and a bit quirky. Well appointed, bright and airy air-con rooms continue the colour scheme, with comfortable whitewashed furnishings and standard resort amenities. Ensuite bathrooms are spacious and spotless. Wide balconies or terraces offer the full-frontal seaside panorama.

Grassy and palm-tree-dotted grounds surround the good-sized seafront pool with plenty of shady sun lounges and bales for relaxing. The smart contemporary restaurant has a Mediterranean feel — perhaps it’s that colour scheme again? — and an extensive menu of local and international dishes. The bar can whip up a cocktail for poolside sipping while you unwind in a ringside seat for the sunset. Rates include breakfast and free WiFi. Mayo resort offers spa treatments, tours and can organise snorkelling and divining. The resort’s a little out of the way, but they are happy to transport guests around the local area. Staff are friendly and keen to please. We liked the intimacy of this small smart resort which was surprisingly empty when we visited. Check online for deals.

**Room rates**

Standard - Double: 875,000 rupiah (low season) 925,000 rupiah (high season) - Ocean view: 975,000/1,150,000 rupiah.

Suite: 1,500,000 rupiah (low season) 1,950,000 rupiah (high season)

[Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.](#)

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Eat and meet

Lovina

Lovina offers a comprehensive array of international fare alongside local dishes and some great fresh seafood. Tuna and mahi-mahi with the occasional snapper are the most common fish caught here. Squid, locals tell us, is freshest on the dark moon. Beachside the food can be fairly standard, but washed down with a cold Bintang and a sunset view almost anything improves.

The largest concentration of restaurants and bars can be found in Kalibukbuk, so if you opt to stay in one of the outlying villages you’ll probably find yourself trekking into here for a feed at least now and again. Lovina is a good place for a night out, as live bands fight it out in competition, often in bars side by side.

**Beware of cheap cocktails!** The “gin” and “vodka” are more often than not made with arak. Several people have died from ethanol poisoning in Bali via badly distilled arak. Despite what you may be told by some locals, the magic mushroom omelettes and shakes often offered to tourists are illegal and you could end up facing nasty penalties if you are caught (think four to 20 years' imprisonment). Enjoy the real magic Bali has to offer instead.

Plenty of places are aimed at having you watch the sunset with a chilled cocktail while listening to some chilled sounds and feeling the sand between your toes. **Spice Beach Club** on the beach at Kaliasam is the coolest watering hole in town (just don’t compare it to the fancy beach clubs in the South). Burgers (65,000-90,000++ rupiah), salads (60,000-85,000++ rupiah), seafood and local and Western standards (mains from 65,000++ rupiah), as well as weekly specials are on offer, with local wine pairing suggestions. Prices are a little higher than average, but the great atmosphere and friendly service are free. Live music Saturdays and Sundays with a DJ on Friday nights. They offer a free shuttle service around Lovina.

Tiny Akar is green and fresh, both in decor and food. This vegetarian cafe knows what health conscious Westerners want and delivers it with aplomb. Akar means root in Indonesian, and here the philosophy is all about getting back to healthy, sustainable roots in every aspect of its operation, from cheap water bottle refills to the promotion of local village products. The varied menu delivers sensational salads (from 50,000 rupiah), some of the best falafel you’ll
find in Bali (from 55,000 rupiah), an outstanding green gazpacho soup (40,000 rupiah), plus deserts you’ll want to leave room for (from 10,000 rupiah). Vegan and gluten-free options available. Go for a table out the back by the river.

Green gazpacho soup at Akar.

My Greek Taverna has decor that would make Zorba feel at home. This pretty blue and white restaurant serves up standard Greek fare. Lots of tapas-style starters (or whatever the Greek equivalent is called) are offered, with portions on the small side (from 30,000 rupiah). Staff are overwhelmingly friendly. An odd (and not very effective) curtained-off section at the front of the restaurant serves as a smoking area, so if you don’t want to smell smoke while you eat, choose a table at the back.

In a side street off Jalan Binaria, Jasmine Kitchen is the long-running Thai offering in this little multicultural patch of restaurants. Sit downstairs on cushions, or upstairs with a breeze. Tasty, tourist-friendly Thai dishes rated with elephants for spiciness. Mains 40,000-75,000 rupiah. Try a slice of heavenly, although not very Thai, cakes — the Tunisian citrus cake (45,000 rupiah) or the banoffee pie (40,000 rupiah) are delish.

My Greek Taverna delivers the Greek goods.

Next door to Jasmine Kitchen, bright modern and colourful Seyu Japanese Restaurant dishes up the dolphin’s favourite: fresh local tuna sashimi. Sushi, teriyaki, yakitori and bento boxes available. Prices are a little higher than other local places.

Global Village Kafe is a not-for-profit social enterprise with a feel-good, do-good vibe. The
art-lined walls and fun island-style setting of this street-side cafe invite in “all cultures, all colours, all ages, all sizes, all sexes, all abilities, all religions, all creeds, all beliefs, and all people”. Profits go to benefit local healthcare, housing, sanitation and education projects. An extensive menu takes you around the globe (via Indonesia) with mains from 25,000 rupiah. They have great breakfasts and they serve real espresso too. This is also a good place to pick up a gift — artwork and handicraft sales benefit the foundation, plus there’s a free book and DVD exchange.

A sentiment we can all appreciate.

Warung Apple is one of the busiest local restaurants in Lovina — and deservedly so. Their service is spot on, even with a queue outside. Expect well-prepared and fresh grilled seafood at reasonable prices (mixed grilled seafood with chips or rice 40,000 rupiah) along with a huge Indonesian and Balinese menu and the coldest beer in Lovina. You’ll have to queue — it’s tiny.

Unassuming local-style cheapie JB’s Warung Makan has fish “straight from the nets” cooked to perfection. It’s possibly the best we’ve had in Bali (we may have just been lucky). Pizzas and other Western and Indonesian traveller’s favourites are served too, but go for the fresh fish. The service is friendly and the ambrosial lemon cheesecake is creamy and tart -- try it!

Sunny yellow La Madre is a friendly family-run restaurant in a delightful breezy garden setting serving Italian and local food with daily house-baked focaccia. Pasta is priced at 35,000-65,000 rupiah, pizza 40,000-75,000 rupiah. Rattan chairs and yellow cloth tablecloths and serviettes move it up a notch from other local cheapies. The charming owners enjoy a chat too.
Charming owners and delicious Italian at La Madre.

If you’re staying in Anturan, and don’t want to venture very far, Warung Rasta, as you can probably guess by the name, has a laidback and relaxed vibe with Bob Marley on a loop. It’s old-school-Bali style and right on the beach, so chilled Bintangs come with a sunset view. The location is better than the food. Service is friendly but slow, very slow, but you’re on holiday right?

For something really special, Damai offers a fine dining culinary adventure. Part of the luxurious boutique hotel at Kayuputih, in the hills above Lovina, the restaurant reinvents traditional Balinese cuisine with house-grown organic and local produce. A daily changing three-course menu (485,000++ rupiah), dish of the day (245,000++ rupiah) or a la carte are offered. The set menu when we visited comprised Balinese village crispy duck, followed by grilled ocean fish, and lak-laks -- pan-fried cakes -- for dessert. Tempting cocktails are served poolside at sunset and there’s an extensive wine list too. Exquisite food in an atmospheric garden setting and charming unobtrusive service makes for a consummate (but pricey) experience. Call for a free pickup.

Go for a splurge at the Damai.

If you’re searching around Lovina on Google maps, you may be surprised to see an aeroplane parked in the ricefields about four kilometres west of central Lovina. This is Krisna Wisata Kuluner, a huge complex of souvenir shops and food stalls aimed at domestic tourists. We’ll let you in on a secret — domestic tourists have pretty good taste when it comes to food. Behind the warehouse-sized oleh-oleh (souvenir) store, a manicured garden full of ponds,
flowers, sculptures ... and a large jet aeroplane is dotted with smart huts, each with a speciality dish including ayam betutu (slow-cooked smoked and spiced chicken), babi guling (roast suckling pig), ikan bakar (barbecued fish) and sate kambing (goat satay).

Home Maid An epicurean's delight — This small take-away deli has you covered for a night in or a quick snack on the run: gourmet pies (from 25,000 rupiah), pates, cakes and home-made muesli.

Ayam Goreng Warung Muslim Banyuwangi is basically a food cart that sets up each evening in an alcove outside the shops on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, near Kristop Money Changer (look for the cloth banner). Finger-licking Ayam Goreng (fried chicken), with an eye-watering spicy sambal. You’ll want to try a side of eggplant and fried tempeh too. It's cheap and doesn’t look like much, but you’ll be pleasantly surprised.

Warung Muslim Lumajang Lalapan is a hole-in-the wall local warung on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt at Kaliasam serving fried chicken, duck, catfish or ocean fish. Basic but quick, tasty and ridiculously cheap. We tried the fried fresh fish with rice, veggies and a drink all for 13,000 rupiah.

Watch the world go by from Zigiz Bar, a tiny, popular and long-running little bar. Pull up a stool with a street view, or upstairs in the lounge, and listen to the live music belt out from the stage below. A small range of beers, wine by the glass, and all your favourite cocktails
“made with imported spirits” (including Sex on the Beach with the risque price of 69,000 rupiah). Bar food available. Staff are a friendly bunch and the band will play all your '80s requests.

In direct competition to Zigiz Bar a couple of doors away is the slightly more spacious Poco Lounge Bar with tables overlooking the river at the back, and a large (for Lovina) dance floor that gets pumping most nights. Cover bands, mirror balls and flashing disco lights create a fun party atmosphere.

Funky Place is essentially hostel-type accommodation, but its bar gets pretty lively in the evenings with live music and beer pong. Balinese dance and barbecues are offered some nights all in a funky garden setting with recycled wood benches and volcanic rocks.

Akar: Jalan Binaria, Kalibukbuk; T: (0362) 343 5636; open daily 07:00-22:00.
Ayam Goreng Warung Muslim Banyuwangi: Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, near Kristop Money Changer (look for the cloth banner).
Damai: Jalan Damai, Kayuputih; T: (0362) 41008; resort@thedamai.com; www.thedamai.com/restaurant. Open daily 12:00-16:00, 17:00-19:00 (cocktails), 19:00-23:00.
Funky Place: Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Kaliasam; T: (0878) 6325 3156; www.facebook.com/funkypalcebali/.
Global Village Kafe: Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Kalibukbuk; T: (0362) 41928; www.facebook.com/GlobalVillageKafe/; open daily 08:00-22:00.
Home Maid: Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Kalibukbuk; open daily except Wednesday 09:00-17:00.
Jasmine Kitchen: Gang Binaria, Kalibukbuk; T: (0362) 41 565; open daily 08:00-22:00.
JB's Warung Makan: Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk; T: (0898) 077 4591; open daily 08:00-23:00.
Krisna Wisata Kuliner: Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Temukus; T: (0362) 343 7209, (0812) 381 4887; www.krisnabali.co.id; open daily 10:00-22:00.
La Madre: Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk; T: (0362) 343 5553, (0817) 554 399; open daily 08:00-22:00.
My Greek Taverna: Jalan Binaria, Kalibukbuk; T: (0362) 339 1503; www.facebook.com/My-Greek-Taverna-Lovina; open daily 12:00-22:00.
Poco Lounge Bar: Jalan Binaria, Kalibukbuk
Seyu Gang Binaria: Kalibukbuk; T: (0362) 41 050; www.seyulovina.com; open daily: 10:00-22:00.
Spice Beach Club: Beachfront, Kaliasem; T: (0851) 0001 2666; www.spicebeachclubbali.com; open daily 10:00-23:00.
Warung Apple: Jalan Mawar, Kalibukbuk; T: (0813) 3496 1799; open daily 09:00-23:00.
Warung Muslim Lumajang Lalapan: Jalan Singaraja-Seririt, Kaliasam
Warung Rasta: Jalan Kubu Gembong, Anturan
Zigiz Bar: Jalan Binaria, Kalibukbuk; T: (0857) 384 4608; www.albe.net/de/zigiz/home.htm; open daily 16:00-late.

Map of eating options for Lovina
Legend

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Sights and activities

**Banjar Hot Springs**

*Bali’s most attractive hot springs*

*10 km southwest of Lovina*

*Daily 08:00-18:00*

The traditional Balinese temple-like architecture and carvings at Banjar’s sacred hot springs help create the most attractive of Bali’s geothermal baths. Amid lush tropical grounds three pools are fed by naturally hot spring water spewing from the mouths of carved stone nagas. In Hindu philosophy nagas (mythical snake/dragons) are the protectors of springs, wells and rivers. They are believed to bring fertility and prosperity and carry the elixir of life and immortality. We don’t know if that can all be guaranteed by bathing here, but it’s worth a try.

![Taking the proverbial cure.](image)

The top narrow pool is the shallowest and warmest with a consistent depth of one metre, and here water gushes in from eight of the carved creatures. The lower pool is fed from the overflow via five more naga heads. This much larger pool ranges from a depth of one metre to two at its deepest point, making it popular for local kids to practice dive bombing at the deep end. In the third pool, water streams from three spouts a few metres high offering an exhilarating, bruising massage. The water itself is not clear, but murky-green and slightly sulphurous, with a mild rotten-egg smell (but not offputting). Be careful climbing into the pools as the combination of heat and minerals have made it ideal for slippery algae to grow on the surfaces, and the stairs into the baths are difficult to see, often causing people to slash in unintentionally. The minerals and sulphur will discolour light-coloured clothing yellow and blacken silver jewellery. The colour usually washes out after a few washes, but don’t wear your favourite pristine whites.

This isn’t the place for wearing Western-style swimmers — it’s a holy spring and treated locally somewhat like a temple, so shorts and a T-shirt are more appropriate, although men can usually get away with just shorts. We have seen plenty of Western women in bikinis (and local guys photographing them from behind the bushes), however when we have asked the local women they have suggested more modest attire.
The smaller of the three baths.

The pools are newly filled each morning, and at this time the water is warmer, and it gradually cools thought the day, particularly if it rains. Around 17:30 the water begins to drain into the river below. A path behind the pools leads uphill to a small temple (wear a sarong and sash if you wish to enter), where you can see the source of the water pouring into a small sulphur-stained pool. Within the complex a restaurant (with free WiFi) overlooks the pools, and a spa offers massage treatments. A couple of small shops sell ice-cream and drinks. Smelly change rooms are available free of charge. You can rinse off the sulphur at cold outdoor showers constantly flowing from two pipes — often with a queue.

The ticket booth is in the carpark, then it’s a 250-metre walk past a bombardment of souvenirs stalls. If you’ve forgotten something to dry you off, “Gucci” and “Chanel” towels are for sale at several stalls. The springs are hugely popular with the Balinese, especially on weekends and holidays. The area is particularly lovely during temple anniversary dates when the nagas are “dressed” in colourful cloth and covered in flowers.

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.

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**Sekumpul Waterfall**

*Impressive double and triple cascades*

*18 km southwest of Singaraja (27 kilometres from Lovina)*

Sekumpul Waterfall is arguably Bali’s most spectacular cascades, and less visited than some
less pretty, because they take a little bit of effort to reach. If you’re staying in the Lovina region, that minor effort is certainly rewarded as it means that as well as having a good chance of enjoying the area to yourself, fewer souvenir shops and hawkers are trying to sell tourist tat than at other more popular spots.

Accessed from Sekumpul Village, 18 kilometres southeast of Singaraja or 27 kilometres from central Lovina, a steep trek though a valley of jungle vines and fruit plantations, and a lot of slippery stairs, plus a river crossing or two leads you first to two impressive adjacent waterfalls. They fall from two separate sources: a spring and a river, plummeting about 80 metres into a swimmable pool. Backtracking a little, a further 30-minute trek through the valley with more river crossings will have you passing some minor waterfalls then three more dramatic cascades, evenly spaced, but of different heights. This second group of waterfalls is signposted both Lemukih Waterfall (the name of a nearby village) and Gombong Waterfall, however the whole area of seven falls (according to our guide), which possibly includes the smaller falls, is locally referred to as Sekumpul, literally in Indonesian, “a group”.

![The second group of falls.](image)

As with most natural attractions in Bali, there’s an entry fee: 15,000 rupiah, payable at a small booth in the village. A local trekking association offers guided treks of the area with warnings that it’s at your own risk if you don’t use a guide. It would be easy enough to reach the first falls unguided, but we found our guide helpful navigating the paths and several river crossings to the second group of falls as the trail wasn’t so obvious. Rates quoted for a group size of up to four trekkers are 100,000 rupiah for a short trek (two hours), 150,000 rupiah for a medium trek (three hours), and 300,000 rupiah for a long trek (four hours).

From the ticket booth, it’s a 30-minute walk down a steep cement path to the top of some even steeper stairs. Locals offer ojek services for this part of the trail — 50,000 rupiah for a return trip (a bit steep! — both the incline and the price), but may be appreciated for the return journey. Be careful in wet weather and wear a helmet if you go by motorbike, as the path is slippery. Three-hundred-and-forty uneven, steep and slippery cement stairs take you down to the river. A couple of viewing spots on the way enable you to see the falls, so if you’re unfit or short on time, you may opt for a quick look only, however if you continue to the bottom, the view is more impressive and a cooling dip in the icy pools is a refreshing reward.
Great trekking opportunity, too.

At the bottom of the stairs a narrow bridge takes you across the river; the path to the left continues for five minutes to the double falls and the path right, 30 minutes to the triple falls. To reach the base of the double falls, a shallow river crossing is necessary, and for the triple, several deeper and slightly more hazardous crossings are required. We would recommend a guide in the wet season. Bring a waterproof bag as spray from the falls wets the whole area. Trekking sandals or water shoes with good grip are the most appropriate footwear and take enough water for the trek. The return journey follows the same path, but this time it’s up those three-hundred-and-forty uneven, steep and slippery stairs.

Allow two-and-a-half to three hours for the return trek to both groups of waterfalls, not including travel time to the village, a little less if you use the ojek option. There is no public transport to Sekumpul. A car return from Lovina including waiting time is around 400,000 rupiah or add a stop at Sekumpul to a day tour of the Singaraja area. If you only have time for one waterfall visit in the area, and enjoy a trek, we’d suggest heading to Sekumpul over Git Git.

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**Git Git Waterfall**

*Popular and pretty*

12 km south of Singaraja (18 km from Lovina)

Powerful Git Git Waterfall is one of the most popular spots of the North Bali tour route, but if you time it right, it may be possible to enjoy in relative solitude -- or with fewer of the hordes, anyway.

Easily reached, about 12 kilometres south of Singaraja on the road to Bedugul, a further 20 kilometres away, it makes a good detour if you’re travelling in either direction. From the main carpark, a one kilometre well-signposted cement path passes a ticket booth, and meanders though picturesque jungle, clove plantations and a plethora of stalls with somewhat insistent traders selling mass produced handicrafts.
The path is relatively easy to navigate, but includes a large number of stairs which could be difficult for the less mobile. The 35-metre single cascade impressively pounds into a small icy, but rocky pool in which it’s possible to swim. A cooling mist of water spray engulfing the entire area is refreshing on a hot day. Change rooms and toilets are nearby and can be used for 2,000 rupiah per person.

As with many natural sites in Bali, this area is considered sacred to local Hindus, and a small temple and holy rock wrapped in poleng cloth and covered in offerings flank the path near the falls.

The best time to visit is early in the day before 10:00 when most stalls open or the tourist buses start to roll up.

Git Git Waterfall can be reached via bemo from Singaraja or Bedugul — worth a look if you’re passing by or as a stopping point on a daytrip around the north of Bali. It’s definitely beautiful and justifiably popular but not really worthy of a separate dedicated trip. Allow 40 minutes plus swimming or shopping time.
For more impressive waterfalls in the region (that are worth a dedicated trip), Sekumpul Waterfalls are a further 18 kilometres from Singaraja.

Brahmavihara Arama (Buddhist Temple)

Balinese Buddhist monastery
10 km southwest of Lovina

http://brahmaviharaarama.com/home.html

Tranquil Brahmavihara Arama is an eclectic hillside Buddhist monastery, known locally simply as the Buddhist Temple. Featuring pretty gardens, meditation rooms and a pastiche of Buddhist styles, it’s a restful detour.

Built over a series of terraces, the entry is through a Balinese-style courtyard with a round lotus-filled central pond surrounded by stone guardian figures. Two sets of stairways, each step marked with aspects of the Buddhist eightfold path lead to a meditation room featuring a seated Thai-style Buddha statue, and further up to a another level comprising a Nepalese-style golden bell-shaped pagoda and a three-
tiered Chinese-style pagoda (that was under construction at the time of our visit), also housing another golden Buddha. From this level excellent views of the surrounding countryside and to the coast are possible.

Continuing up, dotted throughout the gardens, numerous small grottos hide somewhat kitsch cement Buddhist statues and meditation areas, eventually leading to an impressive lotus-edged mini-replica of UNESCO-listed Borobudur, the world’s largest Buddhist temple located in Java. Beneath this structure, a white stone hall is lined with relief sculptures depicting scenes from the life of Buddha.

Brahmavihara Arama is a peaceful place to pass half an hour. The flower-filled gardens and manicured lawns add to the sense of serenity, a world removed from traffic-clogged tourist Bali. Entry is by donation and modest attire is required, which includes a sarong and sash, both of which can be borrowed at the entry gate. The monastery also runs Vipassana meditation retreats. See their website for details. A trip here is easily combined with a trip to nearby Banjar Hot Springs.

SINGARAJA

Day trip for history buffs
Singaraja (9 km east of Lovina)
Although not really a tourist destination, traces of former colonial glory are apparent in the port city of Singaraja. Add in some interesting temples and museums, and Singaraja makes a worthy day trip, particularly if also combined with a visit to one or more of the local waterfalls.

Singaraja was once Bali’s capital and the Dutch administrative centre for all the islands east to Timor. Once important politically and economically in the development of Bali and Indonesia as a nation, today it plays second fiddle to Denpasar.

Wander the halls and open pavilions of Puri Agung Singaraja, the family home that was once the royal palace of the former kingdom of Buleleng.

Puri Agung Singaraja (Puri Gede Buleleng, 12 Jalan Mayor Metra), is the royal palace of the former kingdom of Buleleng (Singaraja). Here you can wander the halls and open pavilions of
the family home. Note the royal seal carved above doorways — the winged lion of Singaraja — “singa” means lion and “raja” king. Anak Agung Pandji Tisna, the last holder of the title of Raja, was a well known writer and his typewriter, among other family artefacts, is on display. Known as the founder of the Lovina tourist area, he built the first hotel and coined the name “Lovina” — a contraction of “Love Indonesia”. Within the compound, two ornate silver thrones occupy one pavilion. Historical photographs of the former royals, newspaper clippings and other bric-a-brac make it an interesting stop for history buffs or anyone keen on architecture. You may even meet a member of the royal family. It’s open daily 09:00-17:00.

In the front of Puri Agung Singaraja on Jalan Veteran, Museum Buleleng houses some interesting stone sarcophagi, and its annex next door, Gedong Kirtya, is a lontar library with a huge collection of historical lontar (palm leaf) manuscripts. It’s open Monday-Thursday 08:00-16:00 and Fridays 09:00-12:30.

Check out the stone sarcophagi at Museum Buleleng.

Roemah Soenda Ketjil (Rumah Sunda Kecil) on Jalan Ngrurah Rai was the official residence of Bali’s first appointed governor. Built in 1912, this high-ceilinged colonial-style house now houses a cafe, Sari Mina, and makes an interesting stop for a coffee or nasi goreng.

Pura Agung Jagatnatha on Jalan Pramuka is Singaraja’s largest and most important temple. It features a magnificent Padmasana shrine towering above the inner courtyard and is often busy with worshippers. To enter, a sarong and sash are required.
If you’ve not visited a market in Bali, **Pasar Anyar** on Jalan Diponegoro is Singaraja’s busy main market and it’s worth a quick walk around. Housed in a large double-storey building, it’s where locals go to buy everything from temple decorations to daily cooking needs.

**Masjid Nur**, one of the city’s oldest mosques, is distinguished by its Indian-style architecture. Sandwiched within busy streets on Jalan Erlangga in the old port area, it’s difficult to see other than just by driving past.

**Old Singaraja Harbour** is dominated by the towering **Yudha Mandalatama Monument**, flag waving and standing proud over the oceanfront as a symbol of nationalistic pride at having defeated the Dutch colonial powers. It’s ugly, but impressive in sheer size.

Otherwise occupying the dilapidated but charming seafront is a small sea temple, **Pura Segara**, with its unusual pebble facade, plus a handful of **colonial buildings** in a state of disrepair and a couple of over-the-water **seafood restaurants**.

Just south of the harbourfront sits a colourful Chinese temple, **Ling Gwan Kiong**, dedicated to serving the three faiths of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. This well-maintained and interesting historical place of worship has served the Chinese community in Bali for well over 100 years. A couple of elderly temple guardians are on hand to act as guides for a small donation. Their English is good, and the commentary informative.

Six kilometres east of Singaraja in the village of Sangsit, **Pura Beji**, with its carnival of
colourful (but faded) unusual carvings is well worth a detour out of town. We found a couple of pith-helmeted and safari-suited musicians hidden amid the nagas and flower decorations. The small but impressive, subak (irrigation) temple is dedicated to the rice goddess, Dewi Sri. Sarongs and sash are required, and can be hired at the entrance. Entry is 10,000 rupiah. Pura Beji is 200 metres north of the main road at Sangsit.

Continue east from Singaraja to visit Yeh Sanih, a spring-fed natural swimming pool, and Pura Ponjok Batu. Magnificent Sekumpul Waterfall or popular Git Git Waterfall are worthwhile additions to a day trip around the region.

If you are passing through Singaraja in the early evening, Banyasri Terminal, west of the town centre on Jalan Jendral Achmed Yani, turns into a bustling night market, with all sorts of delicious food stalls grilling and frying up a storm. It's great for a quick meal after a long day of sightseeing.
Great for a refreshing dip on a hot day, Sing Sing is a small but pretty waterfall close to Lovina.

Following the Singaraja-Serirt road four kilometres west of Lovina, a signposted turnoff to Jalan Singsing continues for another kilometre to the village of Temukus. The short 10-minute trail through the low forested hill begins at the Bale Banjar (the village's community building). We were warned by locals that it wasn’t worth visiting as during the dry season, as there’s no water. However, although not very high or large compared to other local waterfalls, we found more than a mere trickle and a very pleasant and secluded spot for a bit of respite from the heat. We would imagine it to be more spectacular during the wet season.

Beneath the falls, the large lagoon is not sparkling clear, but has a greenish sulphur-like appearance, similar to the water colour at nearby Banjar hot springs. It appears clean. Local guides near the beginning of the trail offer their services for 50,000 rupiah. We ventured alone, and the path was easy to follow, however we missed the trail continuing uphill to another larger falls and bigger swimming hole, supposedly with a mud bath, so if you wish to explore a bit more a guide may be worthwhile.

For history buffs, Jalan Singsing continues uphill to Tugu Belanda (the Dutch monument), built by Dutch colonialists to commemorate the deaths of its soldiers in the Banjar war in 1868. As a show of Indonesian nationalism, in the 1950s the 15 metre white monument was destroyed, but later rebuilt in 1992, perhaps with equal nationalistic pride, preserving it as a historical reminder of those who defeated the Dutch Army.

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BEACHES

Go for the sunset
Despite Lovina being a beach destination, the beaches themselves are frankly disappointing. The black volcanic sand is more of a dirty grey, and while they are mostly clean in the tourist villages, some areas are grubby, with piles of rubbish making them decidedly unappealing. However the sea is clean enough for a swim, and a protective reef means it’s flat, calm and kid-friendly.
Not the most stunning beach by day.

Colourful traditional outriggers line the shore, a reminder that you are in a fishing community, and it's interesting to watch when the catch comes in. A wander along the beach and you will inevitably be accompanied by hawkers trying to sell trinkets and dolphin trips, although not as pressured as some of the southern beaches — take time for a chat, relax and enjoy the laidback pace of life.

... but it does improve for sunset.

Aside from lying around and frolicking in the waters, the big draw of Lovina’s beaches are the truly magnificent sunsets, and we think they make up for any lack of beach beauty. Pop into a beachfront warung or go upmarket with the beach club at Spice Beach, order a fruit juice and enjoy the tropical reddening sky in all its glory.
YEH SANIH

Refreshing local pool
17 km east of Singaraja (25 km from Lovina)
Daily 08:00-19:00

In the drier north of Bali, the midday heat can be overwhelming. Yeh Sanih is an ideal antidote: a cold-water natural spring-fed swimming pool where the waters are crystal clear and the temperature is cool year-round.

Located on the north coast road between Lovina and Tulamben, three larger pools, and a series of artificial channels meander over the spacious beachside complex. A cooling ocean breeze and large shady trees add to the relaxed nature, however on weekends and holidays the crowds of frolicking Balinese families and excited kids at this popular local spot are perhaps a little detrimental to the serenity. You can always join in the fun and hire an inner tube to splash around in.

As you will possibly be the only foreigner, follow the local way and wear shorts and a T-shirt rather than the budgies or bikinis. If travelling with a partner, an extra incentive to make a detour here might be that local legend holds that if a couple swims at Yeh Sanih, their relationship will be long lasting. A collection of warungs sells snacks and drinks. In the southeast corner, a small temple with a large banyan tree shades the source of the spring. Yeh Sanih is also referred to as “Air Sanih” (yeh being Balinese for water and air, the Indonesian equivalent).

Another six and a half kilometres east of Yeh Sanih, the picturesque cliffside temple Pura Ponjok Batu is worth a stop if passing by. According to local folklore, the temple was founded by the 16th-century priest Nirartha after he rescued a shipwrecked crew, and rocks on the nearby promontory began emitting light. A small boat-shaped shrine can be seen in the sea in front of the temple.
Seaside Pura Ponjok is worth a peek if you're in the area. Based on archaeological excavations in 1995, sarcophagi found here suggest the site may have had religious significance for about 5,000 years. Entry is by donation, and you will need to bring your own sarong and sash to wear.

Quirky art at American artist Symon’s Art Zoo.

Also in the vicinity, American artist Symon’s studio, Art Zoo makes a colourful diversion with the opportunity to wander amid a vibrant and sometimes surreal and erotic self-created fantasyland. Invariably holding court from his hammock, Symon is generally happy to discuss his work (with bit of hard sell thrown into the bargain). Entry fee 50,000 rupiah.

Click here or on the map above to see the location in Apple or Google maps.
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Transport

Bus

The Perama tourist shuttle bus operates from Perama Hotel on Jalan Singaraja-Seririt in Anturan (T: (0362) 41161). One daily bus to all southern tourist areas departs at 09:00. Fares are: Bedugul 75,000 rupiah; Ubud, Sanur and Kuta 125,000 rupiah; Padang Bai and Candi Dasa (via Ubud) 175,000 rupiah.

Departure times to Lovina are: Kuta 10:00, Sanur 10:30, Ubud 11:30 (all 125,000 rupiah); Candi Dasa 8:30, Padang Bai 09:00 (both via Ubud - 175,000 rupiah); Bedugul 13:00 (75,000 rupiah)

Ojeks and touts wait at Perama Hotel to offer their services to local hotels.

Singaraja, 10 kilometres west of Lovina, is the major transport hub of the north and services Amlapura in the east, Denpasar in the south, Gilimanuk in the west and all destinations in between.

Buses and bemos operate from Singaraja all day, but services become less frequent as the afternoon wears on.

Sukasada Terminal on Jalan Mayor Metra, in the north of town, services Denpasar (Ubang) via Bedugul (2 hours), passing Git Git Waterfall.

Regular bemo services connect the terminals.

Getting around

Ojeks offer their services from just about every intersection in Kalibukbuk, or can be arranged via your hotel.

A reliable driver in the Lovina area is Made Balon (T: (0812) 360 1814). He can arrange transport and tours.

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