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BALI

## Best luxury villas in Bali

From beachside boho hangouts to jungly properties with serious eco credentials, here is our pick of the best villas on Indonesia's most-loved holiday island



Lee Cobaj | Destination Expert | Friday April 1 2022, 07:32am



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## Best Luxury Villas in Bali

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A teardrop of land between the Indian Ocean and the Java Sea, one of 17,500 islands that make up the Indonesian archipelago, Bali has long held a special place in the imagination of travellers. The volcanic landscape is diverse and thrilling — plunging valleys, stepped rice paddies, thick jungle, silver beaches and soaring cliffs — and the range of things to see and do extraordinary, from hikes up calderas to ogling thousand-year-old Hindu temples, and from surfing to shopping, cleansing your chakras and late-night partying with the sand between your toes.

Whatever your fancy, there's a villa for you. The Balinese talent for the creative arts has endowed the "Island of the Gods" with an abundance of memorable places to stay, from repurposed antique homes hidden in the jungle, to dreamy thatched roof hideaways spilling onto the beach, to ultra-modern properties perched on top of cliffs.

*Main picture: Grand Cliff Nusa Dua*



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## 1. The Cotton House, Seminyak

Secreted behind high stone walls in the heart of hip and happening Seminyak, this eight-bedroom estate is the perfect spot for a big gathering of friends and family. The rooms and shared spaces — living room, fully equipped kitchen, billiards room, TV room, gym — are split between four glamorous peaked-roofed pavilions. But you're likely to spend most of your time outside in the large tropical garden inhaling the scent of jasmine as you dip in and out of the 20-metre swimming pool.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 16

Price - ££

## 2. Wanakasa at Como Shambala, Ubud



Imagine opening your eyes from bed to see silks of mist drifting over the jungle canopy, with the sound of the Ayung river percolating below — it's what you can expect at Wanakasa, an ultra-luxurious treehouse villa at Como Shambala, Ubud, one of the world's most-lauded wellness retreats. Aside from the canopy-skimming master bedroom, there are two terrace suites, two garden rooms, a kitchen, dining room, open-air living room and a spectacular circular infinity pool cantilevered 100m above the river.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - £££





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### 3. Villa Tantangan, Tanah Lot



This contemporary three-bedroom villa is located just north of Canggu (the Shoreditch of Bali) — and completely off the electricity grid. Minimising its power use with solar panels and clever architecture — open-air bales, flat grass-covered roofs, bamboo screens — it's the perfect example of stylish but sustainable living. It also has a gorgeous saltwater swimming pool sunk into the lawn and is within strolling distance of the silvery sands of Nyanyi beach.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 6

Price - ££

### 4. Villa Florimar, Seseh



Perfect for a lo-fi recharge with friends, this capacious luxury villa for ten puts a sensual 21st-century twist on traditional Balinese design. Inside, obsidian floors



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meet antique carved wood panelling, jewel-toned silks and perfectly positioned bird of paradise plants. Steppingstones lead across koi ponds to a beautiful tropical garden, an opal-green swimming pool and, beyond, the beach. A butler, private chef, and housekeeping staff (included in the rate) will ensure that you never have to lift a finger.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - £££

## 5. Villa Melissa, Canggu



Spilling onto Pantai Lima's pewter beach, the cathedral-like Villa Melissa is the place for that big family reunion you've been dreaming about. The property wows with five en suite bedrooms (three of which overlook the ocean), a sprawling double-height open-air living room and sophisticated Balinese interiors. Outside, there's not one but two private pools and two bales where spa treatments can be performed while you listen to waves crashing on the shore. Guests can also use the estate's private facilities, including tennis courts and a gym.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - £££





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## 6. Villa Joglovina, Pemuteran

With its wild black sand beaches, mist-dappled jungle and vertiginous rice fields, North Bali is a place where it's easy to find serenity. Developments are still few and far between, which makes this luxury pool villa, with butler service, especially alluring. Five 150-year old Javanese joglos (traditional homes) have been reclaimed into a central pavilion and four villa suites, replete with beamed ceilings, intricately carved pillars and huge stone bathtubs. A car and a driver can be arranged for trips to the beach, tumbling waterfalls and ancient walled temples.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - ££

## 7. The Layar, Seminyak



In the depths of Seminyak's puzzle of streets and alleyways a tiny bamboo-lined lane leads to The Layar, a swish and serene pool villa complex that also offers room service. Eschewing the usual thatched-roof look, these private villas have gone full future-luxe, with angular architecture, sloping roofs and minimalist interiors. Steps lead from the alfresco living rooms straight into turquoise pools — perfect for cooling down after trawling the neighbourhood's chic homewares stores.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 2/4/6/8

Price - ££



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## 8. Ananda House, Abiansemal



This extraordinary three-bedroom eco-villa is part of the Green Village, a sustainable living compound with its very own school campus, located in the rainforest a 30-minute drive from Ubud. From its mountain perch rice fields ripple into the distance but turning inwards is just as inspiring. Built entirely from bamboo, the private villa channels some serious Swiss Family Robinson vibes; set over three indoor-outdoor multi-level structures tied together with twisty staircases and leaf-shaped roofs. At the base, there's a delightful stepped terrace with a swimming pool, a barbecue and a reading nook.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 9

Price - ££

## 9. Villa Sienna, Seminyak







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Creamy limestone floors, exposed timber ceilings, Ikat rugs, burly handcrafted furniture and a scattering of tasteful Balinese art combine to make this one of the most stylish stays in Seminyak. Built in the traditional Balinese courtyard style, all three rooms face the garden and swimming pool, as does the fully equipped kitchen and open-air living room. A ten-minute walk from Seminyak beach, everything you could wish for is on your doorstep, from designer shopping to fashionable restaurants and bars, to one of the massage studios in town, Jari Menari.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 6

Price - ££

## 10. Villa Zelig, Canggu



Villa Zelig stands out from the luxury villa crowd with its heritage styling and tip-top location less than 150m from Canggu beach. The architecture echoes traditional gladak homes, built using teak and ironwood, which has been hewn, polished, panelled and intricately carved to stunning effect. Four open-air pavilions (one housing a movie screening room, another with a bar) and five opulent bedrooms mingle around a 20m swimming pool. All are adorned with exquisite Indonesian artworks and artefacts collected by the owner, a well-known Parisian designer.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - £££





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## 11. Villa Sena, Pecatu



This spacious, sunshiny five-bedroom pool villa is hard to beat for multi-generational holiday. The modernist building is decked out in bright whites and pops of cobalt blue, with four pretty bedrooms, plus a kids' bedroom with double bunks and an additional single room. As well as a gigantic infinity pool staring across the hills and out to sea, there's also a shallow children's pool with safety walls and aquatic toys. The nearest beach is Padang Padang, a little gem of pearl-coloured sand popular with families.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - ££

## 12. Grand Cliff Nusa Dua





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You'll find this sprawling luxury villa inside the upmarket Asmara Estate in Nusa Dua in southern Bali. The property is airy and enormous, with four ocean view rooms (three with hot tubs), a games room with a pool table, and a media room with a wide-screen tv and karaoke machine. Outside, there's a wide wooden deck with an inviting infinity pool and lmax-wide views of the Indian Ocean. Your private chef can whip up everything from dadar gulang (coconut pancake rolls) to a suckling pig spit-roast, while the concierge can arrange for a car to take you out for the day.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - £££

### 13. Dragon House, Ubud



Bali has long been a destination where writers, musicians and artists have sought inspiration, usually holing up in private villas far from prying eyes. For your own creative retreat try the Dragon House, a four-bedroom luxury villa located between rice paddies and resplendent jungle on the outskirts of Ubud. It's owned by a music producer and has fabulous maximalist interiors — all jade, ruby and tangerine velvets, OTT chandeliers and Buddha statues. The swimming pool is cantilevered above the living room where you can peer through a glass panel at friends taking a dip.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - N

Sleeps - 8

Price - ££





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## 14. Villa Ten, Uluwatu



The latest villa to be listed inside the chic Karma Kardara Resort is a perfect ten. Set on the edge of 70m-high cliffs with a private infinity pool shooting out towards the Indian Ocean, the three-bedroom luxury villa has nailed the glamorous beach chic look, with whitewashed interiors, chunky wooden furnishings and eye-catching black and white photographic portraits of Balinese life. The villa comes with a private chef but guests can also use the resort facilities, which includes a beach club, two restaurants, a rooftop bar and a spa.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 7

Price - £££

## 15. Aman Villas at Nusa Dua





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If you possess a black Amex and a set of Callaway Epic irons Aman Villas at Nusa Dua will have the perfect villa for you. Backed by the Bali National Golf Club, flanked by tropical gardens and fronted by wide swathes of white beach, this ultra-exclusive resort has just six villas, which can be arranged as one-bedrooms through to six bedrooms (should you wish to hold your own tournament). All come with private pools, butler service and chefs. For a change of pace hit one of the beach clubs in nearby Uluwatu.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 2/4/6/8/10/12

Price - £££

## 16. Villa Vedas, Tabanan



There's a touch of Miami about this light-filled, eight-bedroom, eight-bathroom luxury villa sitting right on the beach in Tabanan. The proportions are epic, as are the wide-open sea views. The open-plan living space features a floating staircase, flamboyant candelabras and a sunken seating area. Zen bedrooms have glass walls which can be fully retracted to bring the outdoors in and bathrooms with deep soaking tubs. Outside, you'll find two private pools and soul-stirring views of Agung volcano. Perfect for large groups.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - N

Sleeps - 16

Price - ££





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## 17. The Imperial Villa at Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay, Jimbaran Bay



If you want the space and freedom afforded with a private villa plus the frilleries and facilities of a [five-star hotel](#), the newly refreshed Imperial Villa at the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay should fit the bill. Set inside frangipani-dotted tropical gardens on the ocean's edge it features three spacious bedrooms, a living and dining room for eight, a kidney-shaped swimming pool and a private gym complete with personal trainer and yoga guru. Don't miss a trip to the Four Seasons spa; it's one of the world's best.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 6

Price - £££

## 18. Villa Seascape, Nusa Lembongan





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Why visit one tropical island when you can visit two? Nusa Lembongan is a beautiful, rugged island resting just off the southeast coast of Bali known for its laid-back vibes, world-class surfing, white-sand beaches and marine life. Gorgeous contemporary interiors — polished pebble floors, mosaic walls, mid-century-style furniture — are complemented by a huge white stone deck and private pool rolling straight onto the beach. Elsewhere, there are four spacious en suite bedrooms and a flashy home theatre suite that can be converted into a fifth bedroom.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 11

Price - ££

### 19. Villa Pawana, Uluwatu

A secluded cliff edge location, soothing decor and butler service makes this luxury villa ideal for slow-mo reset. The Indian Ocean views are mesmerising and the five bedrooms are temples of serenity, with crisp white walls, exposed-beam ceilings and oversized four-poster beds. Spend your days flitting between the infinity pool and Finn's Beach Club, which Pawana guests have exclusive access to. The Kejak fire dance, one of Bali's greatest spectacles, can be found a 20-minute drive away at Uluwatu Temple.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - Y

Sleeps - 10

Price - £££

### 20. One Eleven Villa, Seminyak

This smart adults-only hideaway has ten one-bedroom pool villas made for romance. Separated by high white walls, all of the villas are exceedingly private so you can happily splash around in your 14m swimming pool in flagrante. Stepping stones lead across the pool to a chic open-air living spaces with low-slung furniture and a fully equipped kitchen, and the white-on-white bedroom has a platform bed and floor-to-ceiling retractable glass walls. Seminyak's bounty of brilliant restaurants are right on the doorstep but if you don't want to get dressed room service is available 24 hours a day.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - N

Sleeps - 2

Price - ££





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## 21. Villa KaRien, Seseh



A poem to Balinese life, this whitewashed luxury villa for six is set in a patchwork of rice paddies close to Seseh beach. Inside, you'll find a sunny open-plan living room, with an alluring palette of natural tones, honeyed woods and contemporary art. The dining table can be found outside, next to the swimming pool, under an awning made from bundles of dried rice. Hire a car to explore the villages and water temples that are dotted along the coast.

Pool - Y

Family-friendly - N

Sleeps - 10

Price - ££

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