

# The *new* wave

From humble beginnings, Bali's beach clubs have become a huge attraction for travellers who want sun, fun and cocktails. Dana Cape takes a tour of some of the biggest names in the Bali beach club scene.

The idea of the beach clubs that we know today is said to trace back to Penrod's Beach Club in Florida's Fort Lauderdale in the 1980s. The idea soon spread around the world with Ibiza in Spain being an obvious modern example.

Compared to the shores of Ibiza and Miami, jammed with flashy pool parties, and the relaxed summer hangs of Greece and Tulum, Bali's beach club scene is relatively young. Seminyak's Ku De Ta, known for its annual White Night, led the charge in 2000 but it was when Potato Head opened its doors almost 10 years later that the scene really took off.

We take a look at some of the island's best beach clubs.

## 1 *Potato Head*

### SEMINYAK

Potato Head refers to itself as a village, or *desa*, and has a family of artists and collaborators from all around the world. There is a team of 12 resident DJs, each space has its own signature incense and all aspects of design have been sustainably sourced.

### THE HOT SEAT

Rooftop Sunset Park – aka the longest bar in Seminyak, at 20 metres.

### THE SOUNDTRACK

Soulful house, though if you want to turn things up, head downstairs to Klymax Discoteque, the new pet project of legendary DJ Harvey.

### THE DRINK

The signature Kookaburra with passionfruit foam.

## 2 *Ulu Cliffhouse*

### ULUWATU

Introduced as the neighbourhood's first cliffside clubhouse, this venue has an air of exclusivity. The property, owned by the Mandala Group, hosts seven suites each styled after an Indonesian surf break. But most guests of the Cliffhouse just come to play, as the club's range of esoteric movie nights and weekend parties attracts a hip and affluent crowd.

### THE HOT SEAT

"The snakepit", so called for its winding stairway all the way to the beach.

### THE SOUNDTRACK

Afro beats.

### THE DRINK

A bottle of bubbly.

## 3 *Canna*

### NUSA DUA

Entering Canna, you may momentarily forget that you are actually in Bali. White-washed columns and arches echo cliffside Positano in Italy, owner Budi Setiawan's favourite annual escape. As the only independently owned beach club in Benoa, Canna offers families doing villa stays and couples checked into Apurva Kempinski and the Mulia a common meeting ground.

### THE HOT SEAT

A table at the beachfront restaurant during dinner offers the best seat in the house.

### THE SOUNDTRACK

House music is the focus as it makes for easy all-ages listening.

### THE DRINK

An Aperol spritz.

## 4 *The Jungle Club*

### UBUD

Ubud's first boutique club, opened August 2024 by Ini Vie Hospitality, incorporates the wild side of Bali and is set around a pool instead of the customary beach. "The jungle is a wild place, it encourages people to express their true selves," says owner Dwi Agung. This jungle-set day club offers plenty of lounging options and a familiar upbeat soundtrack.

### THE HOT SEAT

The party cave, lined in Turkish and Moroccan rugs.

### THE SOUNDTRACK

Tribal house with melodic techno woven in come nightfall.

### THE DRINK

The Golden Jungle – a rich nectar of whiskey and jackfruit.

## 5 *Luna*

### NUANU CITY

Luna is a fairy-themed wonderland, full of woodland hideaways. It's a relative newcomer and one of the few places in southern Bali still surrounded by rice paddies and farmland. With space for 7,000, there's an amphitheatre, a beer garden with Tex-Mex, an adults-only rave cave, and a build-your-own gelato bar for the young (and young-at-heart).

### THE HOT SEAT

A southern cabana by the pool puts you in the perfect position to slide down to Utopia Cave Club when the sun's out.

### THE SOUNDTRACK

Hip house in the day club, funky beats in the cave club and easy sing-alongs in the beer garden.

### THE DRINK

Slushies and seltzers in the day club and anything from the 'bubbles' list in Utopia.

