

SLOW MAGIC BALI

our personal guide to the island we call home

by Chef Kevin & Virginia, founders of Cuca Restaurant.



WELCOME NOTE

Places we love.
Stories we share.



At Cuca, we've always believed that a journey – like a great meal – should never be rushed.

After fifteen years of calling Bali home, we've learned that the real magic of this island is not found in the famous places. It lives in quiet mornings, long conversations, hidden coastlines, and in choosing less – but better.

This is not a list of “must-sees.”

It's a collection of places we genuinely love – where time slows, beauty reveals itself quietly, and Bali feels like Bali.

We hope this guide helps you experience the island the way we do: intentionally, gently, and with space to breathe.

Warmly,

Chef Kevin & Virginia





Step 1 – Choose Your Rhythm

Start by deciding how you want to feel:



Coast & comfort

For travellers who seek ease.
Arrive softly. Leave lighter.



Jungle & stillness

Nature that calms the mind
and restores your rhythm.



Remote & untouched

Wild beauty. Quiet places.
Spaces to simply be.



Cultural & contemplative

Genuine connections.
Meaningful moments.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This is not a checklist.
It's an invitation.





Step 2 – Choose Your Home Base

Each hotel is selected because we personally know its energy, not because it's famous.

Step 3 – Do Less

We encourage:

- Minimum 3 nights per location
- Leaving space for spontaneity
- Pick one meaningful experience per day
- Let the rest unfold





BALI AT A GLANCE

A few places we love.



WHERE THE OCEAN GREET'S YOU



*For gentle arrivals and effortless departures.
Salt air. Horizon lines. Slow mornings.*

ASAI VILLAGE

*Quiet design-forward hideaway.
Minimalist. Calm. Thoughtfully curated.
For travellers who appreciate aesthetics
without excess.
\$\$ - Comfortably Considered.*

BEST FOR: A proper sauna reset and spa mornings that melt the jet lag away.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Sunset walk along Jimbaran Beach before dinner:** walk the curve of the bay as fishing boats return and the sky turns copper — it's Bali at its simplest and most honest.
- **Dinner at Cuca:** a thoughtful first night or last one — creative tapas rooted in local ingredients, prepared without rush. Our home and a product of 14 years of complete dedication.

Coast & comfort



THE MULIA



Impressive beachfront scale.

Immaculate service.

A breakfast worth waking up for.

\$\$\$ - *A Beautiful Indulgence.*

BEST FOR: Long beach walks and claiming your spot by the sea without compromise.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Watching traditional fishermen at first light:** at sunrise, painted jukung boats glide across the horizon — a quiet reminder that Bali's coastline still feeds families before it entertains visitors.
- **Dinner at Cuca:** step outside the resort bubble for an evening shaped by Indonesian produce and bold, unexpected flavors.



ALILA MANGGIS

Understated beachfront serenity.

Clean lines.

Soft, contemplative mornings.

\$\$ - Comfortably Considered.

BEST FOR: Absolute relaxation — where even your to-do list takes a holiday.



MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **A day at Virgin Beach:** Bali's most beautiful beach and one of the East's rare white-sand stretches, still relaxed and undeveloped — a place to swim, read, and forget what time it is.
- **Visit a traditional salt farm:** watch seawater transformed by sun and patience into mineral-rich salt, made the same way for generations along this coast.



KOMANEKA KERAMAS



Spacious rooms.

Quiet stretch of coast.

Perfect if you want waves without crowds.

\$\$\$ - *A Beautiful Indulgence.*

BEST FOR: Private coastal luxury with space to breathe — and waves as your soundtrack.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Watching surfers at Keramas:** at dawn, surfers paddle into powerful reef breaks with Mount Agung in the distance — wild, rhythmic and quietly beautiful.
- **Tegenungan Waterfall:** arrive early and stand in the cool mist before the crowds — water has always been sacred here.



WHERE NATURE BREATHS



*Filtered light through palm leaves.
Mornings wrapped in mist.
Time moving at its natural pace.*



Jungle & stillness

MANDAPA, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve

Refined villas.

Exceptional breakfast ritual.

For travellers who appreciate quiet luxury.

\$\$\$\$ - *For a Meaningful Occasion.*

BEST FOR: A river sanctuary experience wrapped in quiet, polished comfort.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Rafting on the Ayung River:** float past jungle, stone carvings, and hidden waterfalls — adventure softened by green silence.
- **Tegenungan Waterfall:** a dramatic cascade close to Ubud, best experienced in the early morning calm.



CAPELLA



*Immersive jungle glamping.
Theatrical yet intimate.
An experience more than a hotel.
\$\$\$\$\$ - Once-in-a-Lifetime Magic.*

BEST FOR: Living out your jungle explorer fantasy — with very good sheets.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Campuhan Ridge Walk:** a gentle morning walk above Ubud's valleys, where mist lifts slowly from rolling green hills.
- **Gunung Kawi Temple:** descend through rice fields to 11th-century shrines carved into rock — history felt in your soul.

WHERE BALI FEELS WILD AGAIN

*Open skies. Fewer voices.
Cliff edges, quiet hills, empty coastline.
Space to think. Space to simply be.*



Remote & untouched

SUMBERKIMA HILL

Panoramic calm.

Different villas for different rhythms.

We love Villa Asmara 1 for its openness and views.

\$\$\$ - A Beautiful Indulgence.

BEST FOR: Front-row views of volcanoes meeting the sea — especially at golden hour.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Kayak to Gili Putih sandbank:** paddle toward a strip of white sand that appears and disappears with the tide — dreamy and unforgettable.
- **Spot deer on Menjangan Island or West Bali National Park:** see wild deer wander in one of Bali's last protected landscapes.



SIDDHARTHA

Diving. Stillness.

Spa afternoons.

Time moves slower here.

\$\$ - Comfortably Considered.

BEST FOR: Honest home-style cooking after a day spent underwater.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Dive the USAT Liberty shipwreck:** walk straight from the shore into one of the world's most accessible wreck dives, now alive with coral and fish.
- **Tulamben Traditional Market at sunrise:** watch farmers trade volcanic-soil harvests in the cool morning air — simple, local, unfiltered.

NIRJHARA

Architectural elegance.

Water, jungle, space.

Boutique and beautifully composed.

\$\$\$ - *A Beautiful Indulgence.*



BEST FOR: Waterfall swims, yoga at sunrise, and spa afternoons that stretch into evening.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Nyanyi Beach:** wide black sand, dramatic cliffs, and hardly anyone around — Bali without the noise.
- **Tanah Lot Temple at dusk:** arrive early to see the sea temple before the crowds — waves, offerings, and quiet devotion.

WHERE RITUAL SHAPES THE LANDSCAPE

*Sacred waters at dawn.
Village rhythms.
Offerings placed gently on doorsteps.*



Cultural & contemplative

SUARAPURA

Arguably the most serene rice field view on the island.

Japanese-inspired simplicity.

Seba is a host who genuinely cares.

\$\$ - Comfortably Considered.

BEST FOR: Watching fog slowly lift from the valley at dawn while the farmers work on the rice fields.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Sebatu rice field walk:** wander through working terraces where water flows gently between paddies and farmers move with steady rhythm.
- **Sunrise visit to Tirta Empul water temple:** witness morning purification rituals in sacred spring water before the island fully wakes.



NYAN BALI

*One house. Total privacy.
A hidden jungle retreat that feels
less like a hotel and more like a
well-kept secret.*

\$\$\$ - A Beautiful Indulgence.



BEST FOR: Disappearing — gracefully — into the jungle for a few uninterrupted days.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- **Sidemen rice terraces with Mount Agung views:** stroll among bright green paddies with Bali's most sacred volcano rising in the distance.
- **Visit Besakih, Bali's Mother Temple:** stand on the slopes of Mount Agung and observe Balinese Hindu ceremonies unfolding in daily life.



A FINAL WORD

Remember, Bali is no meant to be consumed. It is meant to be felt...

But we know you will get hungry, and when you do, here is a list of our favourite restaurants around the island (and beyond!).

And of course, we'd love to welcome you to our home, Cuca – the perfect way to ease into Bali, or to say goodbye without rushing.

At Cuca, Slow is not a trend. It's a philosophy. We cook with local ingredients, support local communities, and believe that tourism should nourish the island – not exhaust it.



Local. Legendary. Unforgettable.

