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# TRAVELLER

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**THE ASIA ISSUE**  
**REORIENT YOURSELF**





### JUMP ON A MOTORBIKE

Nusa Lembongan, Nusa Penida and Nusa Ceningan make up the Nusa Penida district, part of the Lesser Sunda Islands just a 30-minute boat ride from Bali, Indonesia. Hiring a motorbike is the best way to explore these islands that were once dominated by seaweed farms and now welcome visitors drawn by the wild coast and turquoise waters. Head south to the Devil's Tears, where waves pound a horseshoe pool causing huge sprays. Or cross the Yellow Bridge into Nusa Ceningan to marvel at Secret Beach and Blue Lagoon.



### HANG 10

Catch a wave just as red skies sink into sparkling waters in the shadow of the mesmerising Mount Agung volcano, surely the most volcano-shaped volcano on the planet. While there may be better surf breaks elsewhere, Lembongan is right up there on the magic moments list. To get to Playgrounds, Shipwrecks or the aptly named Lacerations you must paddle out at medium or high tide. Many Balinese surf, and with growing awareness around plastics disposal, they are keen to keep beaches clean. Join the Lembongan Surf Team on their clean-ups. See [lembongansurfteam.com](http://lembongansurfteam.com), [monkeyactivities.com](http://monkeyactivities.com)



### STAND UP FOR YOURSELF

If you are going to sail into the sunset, you might as well do it on a stand-up paddleboard. And Lembongan provides just the sort of sunsets to write home about. Carve your way through rosy waters off Mushroom Beach or try the lagoon area between Jungut Batu beach and the reef breaks – just stay away from boat channels. Or try paddleboarding through a mangrove forest on the north side of the island. Here you can immerse yourself in forest sounds as you glide through a series of channels. See [monkeyactivities.com](http://monkeyactivities.com)

# SIX OF THE BEST

## THINGS TO DO ON LEMBONGAN, INDONESIA

BY JANE RICHARDS

The writer was a guest of Batu Karang Resort & Spa, see [batukaranglembongan.com](http://batukaranglembongan.com)



### SWIM WITH MANTA RAYS

They swoop and dive like butterflies: these giant manta rays with vacuum mouths are anything but shy. At one point there are just the two of us in the water with five of them dancing around us. We keep our distance but they are curious and it's unclear exactly who is watching who. Initially it's unnerving to see these giants glide towards us, but they are harmless. We arrive early to snorkel at Manta Point off Nusa Penida and are joined 30 minutes later by other small boats. The currents are strong here and trips are subject to conditions.



### GO ON A CULTURAL WALK

This being Bali, talk of the spiritual is everywhere. Many resorts on Nusa Lembongan, including Batu Karang, hold cultural talks, led by locals. We are guided through Jungut Batu Village where we learn about the ceremonies that are part of daily life – including the making of fragrant offerings. We hear about the festival of Nyepi Laut or the "Day of the Silent Ocean" when all three islands honour the ruler of the sea by spending the day at rest. That means no swimming, no boating, no Wi-Fi. We visit a market, temples and take in the complex cremation systems. See [batukaranglembongan.com](http://batukaranglembongan.com)



### VISIT A WHISKY BAR

Don't let the suit of armour or the Balinese barman in the kilt fool you, the Howff Whisky Bar on the water at Batu Karang Resort is no gimmick. From the Flora McDonald's Fancy (gin, prosecco, spiced tea, elderflower, lime) to the tapas on tap (braised jackfruit gulai, seared foie gras) this bar knows its stuff with its intriguing mix of east and west. Whether it's the speccy location, the tall stories from the surfing Italian barman, or the cocktails, this is a convivial island haunt. See [thehowfflembongan.com](http://thehowfflembongan.com), [batukaranglembongan.com](http://batukaranglembongan.com)