



HOME / TRAVEL & CULTURE / THE TRAVEL A-LIST / ASIA HOTELS / INDONESIA HOTELS / BALI HOTELS

## Ubud Hanging Gardens, Bali, Indonesia

Let your cares slip down the mountainside at Ubud Hanging Gardens. Surrounded by lush jungle, it's the definition of sensual serenity.



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Eco-sensitive **Ubud Hanging Gardens** lives up to its name. The waters of the Ayung River rush below. Lush jungle folds around the resort. Villas are staggered at intervals down the hillside, connected to each other and the restaurant, café, reception area and spectacular infinity pool by a funicular. And located 20 minutes outside Bali's most artistic town, it offers complete removal from the rest of the world.

### Packing tips

The resort is quite understated, so no need for your flashiest togs. Do, however, be prepared for anything: the air to cool at night, perhaps a little rain to fall, or the unexplained urge to avoid the funicular and do some stair training.

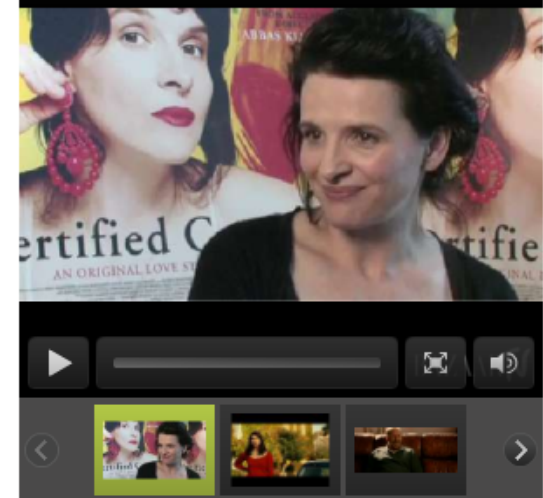
### Hotel restaurants

The main event is Beduur Restaurant, where the chef incorporates local produce - organic vegetables, fruit and spices from nearby farms, seafood from Jimbaran Bay's markets - in his French-Asian fusion cuisine. Try infused lime leaf and coconut miso soup with



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shrimps, calamari, salmon, Asian mushrooms and wakame or steamed butter fish wrapped in banana leaf medley with spicy oil. At lunchtime, the more

casual Diatas Pohon Café serves light meals along with healthy juices and fruit frappes, and is the venue for the daily afternoon tea ritual.

## Hotel bars

Vast French doors connect the interior and outdoor worlds at Bukit Becik Bar. Sprawl across the rattan sofas inside or claim one of the sunloungers on the deck to watch bright-feathered birds flying past, dragonflies buzzing and clouds moving across the sky.

## Activities

Every morning, a hotel guide takes guests for a ramble along the Ayung River and to a nearby village, identifying local plants and explaining their medicinal uses as you stroll. The hotel can help organise a whole range of adventures, from river rafting to mountain biking, as well as more sedate activities such as yoga lessons and painting classes with local artist Dana, whose work appears around the resort. Twice a week children from a local village come to the Diatas Pohon Café for Legong dance lessons. You won't want to miss it and if you've brought the Junior Smiths along they're welcome to join in for a shimmy.

If you can bear to drag yourself away from the hotel, the artistic town of Ubud, often referred to as Bali's spiritual heart, is about 20 minutes' drive away. (During the day, Ubud Hanging Gardens has a complimentary shuttle service, but after 5pm you need to employ the services of a driver or taxi.) There's nothing quite like a stroll down Monkey Forest Road: start at the Art Market at the top, then meander down stopping for coffee and window shopping along the way, before retreating into the Monkey Forest Sanctuary. Apart from the thieving, but rather entertaining, macaques who inhabit this patch of thick jungle, there is also the Temple of the Dead further into the park.

**Contact** Book **Ubud Hanging Gardens** with Mr & Mrs Smith or call 0845 034 0700

**Rates** Low season, US\$375-US\$505; high season, US\$455-US\$585, including breakfast, but excluding 11 per cent tax and 10 per cent service charge.