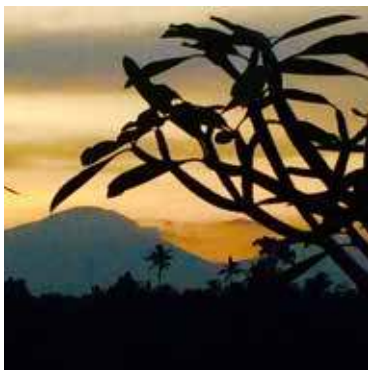




**IAN**  
A travel writer from Sydney committed to unearthing the lesser-seen parts of Bali



# WEEKEND WARRIORS



ONE DESTINATION, TWO DIFFERENT ADVENTURES



**KELLEE**  
A fashion designer from Sydney searching and shopping for fun, sun and inspiration in Bali





**ARRIVAL TIME**

I check into Kubu Villas (Jalan Raya Seminyak, Gang Plawa 33F, Seminyak; villakubu.com). Kubu was one of the first villas in Seminyak and is still one of the best. I love the traditional Indonesian artwork and interiors. It makes me feel I've arrived in Bali.



**IAN** fills up on Indonesian food and stocks up on essentials in Seminyak



**CURRYING FAVOUR**

As soon as I hit the streets I find a neighbourhood "Padang" restaurant. Named after the city on the island of Sumatra where the cooking style originated, Padang food is all about thick, rich coconut-milk curries. Rendang – twice-cooked buffalo meat – is my all-time favourite.



**GRAB A BARGAIN**

Board shorts. T-shirts. A new pair of thongs. All these things are dirt cheap in Bali – so long as you know where to go. The market stalls in Seminyak Square and the shops running along Jalan Legian south of Bintang Supermarket are bargain-hunters' territory.



**HANGING WITH THE BIG KIDS**

While the cool kids are squeezed like sardines around the pool at the popular Potato Head Beach Club next door, I'm chilling in style with the grown-ups at Alila Seminyak's subliminal beachfront pool (Jalan Taman Ganesha 9, Kerobokan; alilahotels.com). Sunset is mind-blowing. Time for a drink.



**TAPAS TIME**

Earlier this year, the first overseas chapter of Movida, Melbourne's famous tapas restaurant, opened at the new Katamama Hotel (Jalan Petitenget 51, Kerobokan; katamama.com) in Seminyak. I've arranged to meet a few friends there for dinner.



**HANKS FOR THE MEMORIES**

Chef Brent Mills turned The Corner House into a Bondi Beach institution with his thin and crisp Roman-style pizzas. Now he has his own place – Hanks Liquor and Pizza (Jalan Kayu Aya 27X, Oberoi). More than just a pizzeria, Hanks is a hub for the Bondi-Byron-Bali brigade. The place pumps on weekends with live bands and DJs.



FRIDAY

12:00

13:00

16:00

17:00

18:30

19:30



**MOON LANDING**

Luna 2 (Jalan Sarinande 22, Seminyak; luna2.com) is a quirky design "studiotel" that appeals to travellers looking for something different in Bali. There's a champagne and caviar bar on the rooftop, a Mondrian-inspired pool and a retro nightclub in the basement that's very Austin Powers. Yeah, baby!



**RELAX AND UNWIND**

Bodyworks (Jalan Kayu Jati 2, Petitenget; bodyworksbali.com) in Seminyak is the perfect place to recharge after a long flight or to meet the girls for a spa date. I've booked a manicure, pedicure and their signature cream hair bath rinse and scalp massage to make my hair shine.



**VEGGING OUT**

After all the spa action I'm feeling peckish, so I hightail it to salad bar Cafe Zucchini (Jalan Kayu Aya 49, Seminyak) for an organic salad packed with feta and quinoa and a green smoothie. It's just what I need to rebalance and keeps me fuelled until dinner.



**SUNSET DRINKS**

I'll never forget my first sunset bar experience in Bali 10 years ago when a friend in the know took me to Ku De Ta (Jalan Kayu Aya 9, Seminyak; kudeta.com) – and it's still one of my favourites. It's right on the beachfront with comfy daybeds, divine cocktails, cool tunes and DJs.



**SAIGON STREET**

Saigon Street (Jalan Petitenget 77X, Seminyak; saigonstreetbali.com) is a hotspot in Bali. I love the spearmint and pink pastel interior and 1980s pop tunes; this place has fun written all over it. And I love the Vietnamese menu. Tonight I'm having the crab dressed with coconut, chilli and lime and a Miss Saigon cocktail.



**SOUTHERN STYLE**

I need to dance off dinner and one of the most energetic places do that is Motel Mexicola (Jalan Kayu Jati 9, Seminyak; motelmexicolabali.com). Like my jewellery label Santos Wish, the venue is Mexican-inspired, full of colours with Day of the Dead theming. Hola amigos, let's dance!



**KELLEE** visits a day spa, catches the sunset and hits the dance floor at a Mexican bar



**TWO WHEELS GOOD**

I walk down to the beachfront at Legian. My mission: to hire a motorbike for a day trip down to the Bukit Peninsula in Bali's deep south. I ensure the owner gives me the bike's registration papers and that I'm carrying both my Australian and international driver's licenses.



**IAN** heads off a road trip down to the Bukit Peninsula to see temples and a museum



**HIDDEN SECRET**

I head south along Jalan Sunset and then veer east over the Mandara Toll-Road to the Museum Pasifika (Bali Tourism Development Corp. Complex, Block P) in Nusa Dua. With 350 paintings and 250 artefacts from 25 different countries, including crazy face masks from New Guinea, Pasifika is the most understated tourist attraction in Bali. Entry is \$7.



**DINNER AT BUMBU**

While I'm in the neighbourhood I pop into Bumbu Bali (Jalan Pramata, Nusa Dua). One of the island's most famous restaurants, Bumbu Bali dishes up gourmet versions of food Balinese people eat at home. I order the seafood and lemongrass satay sticks, slow-roasted duck in banana leaves and a black rice pudding for dessert.



**PRIVATE BEACH**

From Nusa Dua I take the inland road to Bingin Beach (Jalan Pantai Bingin, Pecatu) on the peninsula's west coast. A steep rocky path leads from the carpark down to the beach, giving me 180-degree ocean views every step of the way.



**TEMPLE OF DANCE**

I get back on my bike and follow Jalan Labuansait for 15 minutes to the south-west corner of Bali. Perched upon a steep cliff at the end of the road is Uluwatu Temple, 800 years old and absolutely magnificent. I make sure I get a front row seat for the daily 6pm "kecak" dance performance, where 50 Balinese performers chant hymns and dance.



**PRAWN STARS**

On my way back to Seminyak, I stop for dinner at Sundara (Jalan Bukit Permai, Jimbaran; sundarabali.com), the beachfront restaurant and bar at the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay. I find a table in the alfresco area near the fire pit and order a serving of grilled Jimbaran Bay river prawns and a Bloom of Sundara cocktail.



SATURDAY

08:00

10:30

12:00

14:00

17:30

20:00



**COFFEE, QUICK!**

I must have a coffee before I do anything today, so I walk down to Sisterfields (Jalan Kayu Cendana 7, Seminyak; sisterfieldsbali.com). There's always a free table or I can sit at the bar and have a large latte while replying to work emails on my phone.



**MORNING WALK**

Now that I've had a caffeine hit, I go for a long walk along the beach all the way to Legian and back. The scenery in Bali is brimming with inspiration for my Instagram account, like these two cuties I snapped outside a temple behind the beach.



**LUNCH WITH THE GIRLS**

Catching up for lunch with some of my BFF expat friends: Chloe, who's an interior designer; and Varnie, who owns Nuala (nualaretreats.com), a health retreat. We're meeting at La Lucciola (Jalan Kayu Aya, Kerobokan), a Balinese institution. It has picture-postcard views.



**SHOPPING!!!**

Starting at Seminyak Square, we work our way west along Jalan Kayu Aya. There are a lot of French designers in Bali right now and the latest is Gooseberry Intimates (gooseberryintimates.com), an underwear designer. I also need to pick up a bikini or two from the Natasha Gan boutique (natashagan.com.au), something I do every time I come to Bali.



**ROOM AT THE FINN'S**

We Uber it to Finn's Beach Club (Jalan Raya Pantai Berawa, Canggu; finnsbeachclub.com) in Canggu. This is the hottest new place in town for sunset. It has a really relaxed vibe with a good mix of people – tourists, expats, lots of cute puppies, everyone just unwinding.



**HISTORIC DINNER**

There are so many good restaurants in Bali but Ji is unique. It sits inside a 300-year-old wooden temple from the Indonesian island of Java that was taken apart, shipped over and reconstructed piece-by-piece on the grounds of Hotel Tugu (Pantai Batu Bolong, Canggu; tuguhotels.com) in Canggu. The menu is Japanese with lots of sushi, grilled seafood selections and hot and cold sake to choose from.

**KELLEE** takes a long walk on the beach, meets the girls for lunch and buy a new bikini – or two



**WORK IT OUT**

I use the Bluebird taxi app to order a taxi to take me to the Canggu Club (Jalan Pantai Berawa, Canggu; cangguclub.com) where I kickstart my day with an hour's workout at the gym. Entry is \$30 or \$18 for kids.



**SPLASHING OUT**

After my workout, I cool down at the Splash Water Park (splashbali.com) next door. The waterslides are no joke. They're scary as hell, especially the five-storey Super Bowl. And unlike water parks in Australia, there are no boring queues or crowds to contend with.



**POOL TIME**

I don't go far for lunch. I don't even leave the club. I sashay over to Splash's poolside bar and order a big serving of bacon and eggs washed down with an old-fashioned chocolate milkshake. Then I plonk myself on a sun lounge and take another dip in the pool before I go.



**DIGITAL NOMAD**

Being a travel writer isn't all about beaches and restaurants. I need to answer emails, research what's new in Bali and sweet-talk editors. To that end I order a Bluebird to Dojo Bali (Jalan Batu Mejan, Canggu; dojobali.org), a co-working space in Canggu where digital nomads work in bikinis and board shorts.



**SUNSET SURF**

Come sunset every hipster and his dog in Canggu heads down to Batu Bolong beach to watch the sunset and maybe sink a few beers. But I've got energy to burn so I hire a longboard from a shack on the beach and run into the ocean for a few sets of waves. It's dark by the time I emerge.



**BURGERS 'N' BEATS**

The Deus cafe at the Deus Ex Machina custom motorbike showroom (Jalan Batu Mejan 8, Canggu; deuscustoms.com) cooks up serious beefburgers just how I like them with melted cheddar, caramelised onion, mustard and mayo. A band kicks off at 8pm. Within half an hour, the place is packed. How can you not love Bali?



**IAN** hits a waterpark, checks into the office and catches a band in Canggu.

**SUNDAY**

09:00

11:00

12:00

14:00

16:00

19:00



**ROAD TRIP**

I'm on a mission to find the best pool action that Bali has to offer. So Chloe and I are going driving down to Uluwatu on the Bukit Peninsula where there are designer pools set on clifftops with vast ocean views. But first we're going to need coffee, so we stop off at Starbucks for a roadie.



**POOLSIDE FUN**

Our first stop is Alila Uluwatu (Jalan Belimbing Sari, Pecatu; alilahotels.com), a luxury resort with a huge 60-metre pool poised on the edge of a cliff and a unique cantilevered cabana that hangs mid-air over the ocean. Cire, the pool-front restaurant, does a very good breakfast.



**GOOD KARMA**

Karma Kandara (Jalan Villa Kandara, Ungasan) is another ultra-luxe property on Uluwatu's millionaire's row. A travelator leads down to the famous Karma Beach Club but we're staying at the top by the infinity pool. This is my pick for the most rockstar-worthy Bali pool.



**GREEK GODDESS**

El Kabron Spanish Restaurant Cliff Club (Jalan Pantai Cemongkak, Pecatu; elkabron.com) is a little piece of Mykonos in Bali, with white-washed wooden furniture set around a stunning turquoise pool perched 50 metres above sea level. If you come here, make sure to try the sangrias. They're the best I've ever tasted.



**ROCKIN' OUT**

Rock Bar at the Ayana Resort (Jalan Karang Mas Sejahtera, Jimbaran; ayanaresort.com) has fascinated tourists for years and there's a good reason for that: the design is so daring, it literally hugs the cliffs on the south end of Jimbaran Bay.



**LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING**

Back in Seminyak, I go for a walk down Jalan Legian for some last-minute shopping. This is where you can still find an old-school Bali shopping experience and pick up a few gifts. Anything from sarongs, to silver jewellery.

**KELLEE** drives down to the Bukit Peninsula to see Bali's best cliff-top pools

**FANCY AN ADVENTURE?**  
If you want to be one of our Weekend Warriors get in touch.  
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