



dos

- Take pictures of the heron birds.
- Enjoy the serene paddy field view from the Petulu Café.
- Ask the residents about myths and legends surrounding the birds.
- Visit Yan Suryana's art house.
- Trek uphill through the village.
- Observe the biannual ceremony dedicated to the birds.

don'ts

- Don't harm the birds, physically or verbally, as the residents believe that a curse will befall upon those who do.
- Don't forget to cover your head with a cap or hat.
- Don't come at noon since no birds will be around.
- Don't feed the birds, considering their massive number.
- Don't put on your best T-shirt since bird droppings fall unpredictably everywhere.

IMAGES: CHRIS ANDRE AND GETTY IMAGES

route usually goes uphill and lasts around three hours before reaching the finish line off the village area. Or you can, as we did, visit Petulu during sunset. Drop by for a quick pick-me-up at the makeshift Petulu Café close to the entrance. You'll notice many herons perched endearingly on the electric wire mesh along the road.

Another striking characteristic of Petulu is the white splotches spattered all over the asphalt. These are made of dried bird droppings. Luckily, they don't reek anymore.

If you're looking for touches of Balinese art, head for Yan Suryana's house-cum-studio, a 15-minute walk from the *balé*, the village meeting point. The exterior reveals only a long pathway, which leads to a four-storey compound house, replete with a poolside villa

available for rent. Bandung-born Yan Suryana and his Austrian wife, Marina, have lived here for over 15 years. Many of his brilliant paintings depict Balinese dancers whose vivid colours and are created using a special technique – no paintbrushes, only palette knife – cover the interior walls.

The villa is unique as well, given the fact that Yan Suryana himself created the adornments. Furthermore, any visitor here will relish conferring with this humorous painter, who doesn't mind lending his car as transport into the heart of Ubud. And if you do borrow his car, get ready for a wonderful surprise, since Suryana's sedan has been transformed into a breathtaking mobile canvas. Suffice to say, you won't be at a loss for spellbinding visual treats in Petulu. • CHRIS ANDRE

where to stay

Maya Ubud Resort & Spa
Jl. Gunung Sari, Peliatan Ubud,
T: 0361 977 888
 A serene resort famous for its spa sheds dotted along the river banks.

Kamandalu Resort and Spa
Jl. Andong, Banjar Nagi, Ubud,
T: 0361 975 825
 Boasting an entrancing green-field view, the villas are airy and ample.

The Royal Pita Maha
Desa Kedewatan, Ubud,
T: 0361 980 022
 The villas are accentuated with Ubud-style adornments and overlook a river gorge.

Viceroy Bali
Jl. Lanyahan, Banjar Nagi, Ubud,
T: 0361 971 777
 A sophisticated hideaway in Ubud with beautiful sunrise and sunset views.

Villa Suryana
Jl. Petulu Gunung 37B,
T: 0361 976 575
 Artistic pool villa with adornments designed by painter Yan Suryana.

where to shop

Yan Suryana Studio
Jl. Petulu Gunung 37B,
T: 0361 976 575
 Paintings of Balinese dancers in many sizes.

Naif Arts
Jl. Petulu Gunung
 Wood and stone carvings produced by a Petulu resident.

Dara House of Handicrafts
Jl. Raya Andong
 Selling trinkets and some traditional carvings made from local material.

Dandelion Kid
Jl. Raya Ubud, T: 0812 386 5155
 Clothing and accessories for babies, boys and girls.

Baliqui
Jl. Sukma no. 9, Ubud
 Art gallery and craft store.

where to eat

CasCades Restaurant
Viceroy Bali, Jl. Lanyahan, Banjar Nagi, Ubud,
T: 0361 971 777

Serving up a dose of exotic Asian flavours.

Jazz Café
Jl. Sukma, Ubud, T: 0361 976 594
 A music destination with a chill-out bar and bistro.

Nomad Bar & Restaurant
Jl. Raya Ubud no. 35, T: 0361 977 169
 An array of Balinese, Asian and western cuisine set in a friendly atmosphere.

Betel Nut
Jl. Raya Ubud, T: 0361 971 426
 A new venue offering Asian cuisine and a cosy indoor bar.

Ary's Warung
Jl. Raya Ubud, T: 0361 975 053
 Serving contemporary Balinese cuisine with flair and snap.

how to get there

From the main street of Ubud, turn left about two km north. There you'll find an intersection, the left branch of which leads to Petulu. Alternatively, carry on to the north from Jl. Suweta in Ubud until you find Junjungan village, which offers a range of Garuda carvings. A little further on there's a sign on the right hand-side pointing to a turn to Petulu Village.