

INDONESIA

CAPELLA UBUD, BALI

It's not like Bali needed another hotel, especially around the island's teeming spiritual hub of Ubud. But the notoriously inventive architect Bill Bensley envisioned something wholly divergent for this 10-acre patch of jungle north of the city on the River Wos – a fanciful take on a tented camp pitched by early-19th-century spice traders. This is hotel-as-theatre: on arrival, visitors receive a survival kit (SPF and insect repellent, a map) plus a carved cane to help pick their way over the suspension bridges leading to 22 black canvas tents with saltwater plunge pools. Each retreat is a *mise-en-scène* representing expeditionary characters: the Naturalist's Tent is hung with binoculars and watercolours of flora and fauna; the Cartographer is home to a mini-museum of compasses and charts. Nor does the food shake the storyline: the Mads Lange, named after a notorious Danish trader, turns out full English breakfasts in cast-iron pans. Bensley's light-footprint approach (not a single tree was felled) means the camp blends seamlessly into its backdrop, the tent walls porous to the hooting birds of the jungle. It's ideal for those looking to approach Bali in a more conscious way – staying here is like returning to the island's former wild self. **FLASH POINT** Participate in water blessings at the Wos River Temple, which was restored with the help of villagers. +62 361 209 1888; capellahotels.com. Tents from about £1,015

