



Lombok

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Why Go?

Long overshadowed by its superstar neighbour across the water, there's a steady hum about Lombok that's beginning to turn into a distinct buzz. Blessed with exquisite white-sand beaches, epic surf, a lush forested interior, and hiking trails through tobacco and rice fields, Lombok is fully loaded with tropical allure. Oh, and you'll probably notice mighty Gunung Rinjani, Indonesia's second-highest volcano, its summit complete with hot springs and a dazzling crater lake.

And there's much more. Lombok's southern coastline is nature on a very grand scale indeed: breathtaking turquoise bays, world-class surf breaks and massive headlands.

For years Lombok has been touted as Indonesia's next hot destination. Finally the reality seems to have caught up with the hype, and with a new international airport and renewed interest from around the globe, Lombok's time seems to be nigh.

When to Go

Lombok is hot, sticky and tropical throughout the year, with a marked rainy season (roughly between late October and April). The driest months coincide with the peak period in July and August. The rainy season offers an excellent time to catch a local festival, such as the spectacular rice-throwing event called Perang Topat (held at Pura Lingsar in November or December), Peresean stick-fighting competitions (in December) or the Narmada buffalo races (in April). For more on Sasak festivals see the boxed text, p284.



Lombok Highlights

- 1 Surfing (or learning to surf) the ride of your life in **Gerupak** (p283)
- 2 Scaling **Gunung Rinjani** (p273), Lombok's incomparable sacred peak
- 3 Setting eyes on idyllic **Mawun beach** (p283) for the very first time
- 4 Picking your own deserted-cove beach **north of Senggigi** (p270)
- 5 Catching a **Sasak festival** (p284), such as Peresean near Mataram
- 6 Soaking up the incredible scene at the unique **fish market** (p283) of Tanjung Luar
- 7 Exploring the off-the-beaten-track beaches and islands of the **Southwestern Peninsula** (p263)
- 8 Indulging in a blissful treatment or massage in a **Senggigi spa** (p265)