



Lombok

Includes »

Mataram	259
Lembar	265
Southwestern Peninsula.....	265
Senggigi.....	266
Bangsals to Bayan	272
Senaru & Batu Koa	273
Sembalun Valley.....	274
Gunung Rinjani.....	275
Tetebatu	277
Praya.....	278
Kuta.....	280
East of Kuta.....	283
West of Kuta.....	283
Labuhan Lombok.....	284

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: 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 is now.

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).

Best Places to Eat

- » Astari (p281)
- » Warung Bule (p282)
- » Ikan Bakar 99 (p262)
- » Square (p270)

Best Places to Stay

- » Pearl Beach (p265)
- » Qunci Villas (p270)
- » Rinjani Beach Eco Resort (p272)
- » Tugu Lombok (p272)
- » Heaven on the Planet (p285)

WEST LOMBOK

0370

Though the region's biggest city, Mataram, must now cope with the loss of the island's air traffic, the rest of West Lombok appears to be progressing. Senggigi especially looks ready to emerge from its comfortable 1990s time warp thanks to a happening new phase of resort development. Lombok's western hemisphere is at its best south of the Lembar port, where the peninsula bends forward and back, the seas are placid, and bucolic offshore islands beckon.

Mataram

Lombok's capital is a blending sprawl of several (once separate) towns with fuzzy borders: Ampanan (the port); Mataram (the administrative centre); Cakranegara (the business centre, often called simply 'Cakra') and Bertais and Sweta to the east, where you'll find the bus terminal. Stretching for 12km from east to west it's home to half a million people. There aren't many tourist attractions, Senggigi is close by, and the airport has moved too, so unless you're booking plane tickets (easily done elsewhere) or need a hospital there isn't any reason to visit, much less stay the night. Yet Mataram's broad tree lined avenues buzz with bemo, thrum with motorbike traffic and are teeming with classic markets. If you're hungry for a blast of Indo realism, you'll find it here.

Sights

Pura Meru

HINDU

(Jl Selaparang; admission by donation; ☉8am-5pm) Pura Meru is the largest and second most important Hindu temple on Lombok. Built in 1720, it's dedicated to the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The inner court has 33 small shrines and three thatched, teak-wood *meru* (multi-tiered shrines). The central *meru*, with 11 tiers, is Shiva's house; the *meru* to the north, with nine tiers, is Vishnu's; and the seven-tiered *meru* to the south is Brahma's. The *meru* also represent three sacred mountains, Rinjani, Agung and Bromo, and the mythical Mount Meru. The caretaker will lend you a sash and sarong if you need one.

Mayura Water Palace

HINDU

(Jl Selaparang; admission by donation; ☉7am-7.30pm) Built in 1744, this palace includes the former king's family temple, a pilgrimage site for Lombok's Hindus on 24 December. In 1894 it was the site of bloody battles between the Dutch and Balinese. Unfortunately, it has become a neglected public park with a polluted artificial lake.

Sleeping

Most folks nest among Cakranegara's quiet streets off Jl Pejanggik/Selaparang, east of Mataram Mall.

Lombok Plaza

BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$

(☎629 718; www.lombokplazahotel.com; Jl Pejanggik 8; r 450,000-785,000Rp; 🏠🚶🚲) Mataram's newest and shiniest hotel has welcome flash and class. Rooms are sizeable with stylish wood desks and end tables, wall-mounted flat-screen TVs, high ceilings, a breakfast buffet and 20m lap pool on the second-floor mezzanine. The Chinese restaurant serves excellent dim sum and a wonderful *soto ayam* (chicken soup) at reasonable prices (dishes 30,000-60,000Rp).

Ratu Guesthouse

HOMESTAY \$

(☎0852 8100 8284, 0819 1590 4275; Jl AA Gede Ngurah 45; s/d 60,000/80,000Rp; 🏠) A great value place in the heart of Cakranegara, a block from the market. Rooms are spacious and have spring beds, mosquito nets, shared baths and wi-fi.

Hotel Melati Viktor 1

GUESTHOUSE \$

(☎633 830; Jl Abimanyu 1; d with fan/air-con 100,000/150,000Rp; 🏠) The high ceilings, clean rooms and Balinese-style courtyard, complete with Hindu statues, make this one of the best values in town. If they're full, head to Viktor II across the street, where everything is a bit newer and fresher.

Hotel Lombok Raya

HOTEL \$\$

(☎632 305; www.lombokrayahotel.com; Jl Panca Usaha 11; d 470,000-510,000Rp; 🏠🚶🚲) Still a favorite of old school business travellers, this well-located hotel has spacious, comfortable rooms with balconies and all the mod-cons, including a terrific spa. The local Silk Air airline office lives here.

Eating

The **Mataram Mall** (Jl Selaparang; ☉7am-7pm), and the streets around it, are loaded with

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'