



Lombok

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Best Beaches

- ➔ Sire (p266)
- ➔ Pantai Segar (p278)
- ➔ Pantai Dagong (p279)
- ➔ Mawi (p279)
- ➔ Selong Blanak (p279)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pearl Beach (p261)
- ➔ Qunci Villas (p264)
- ➔ Rinjani Beach Eco Resort (p267)
- ➔ Tugu Lombok (p267)
- ➔ Coco Beach (p265)

Why Go?

Long overshadowed by its superstar neighbour across the Lombok Strait, there's a steady hum about Lombok that catches the ear of travellers looking for something different from Bali. 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 equatorial 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. They keep saying development on these splendid beaches is just around the corner, but until that moment comes, they are easy to explore over much-improved roads.

If you're going to the Gilis, a Lombok stopover is a must. Transport options are good and the mood could not be more laid back.

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 tourist 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).

Lombok Highlights

- 1 Surfing (or learning to surf) the ride of your life in **Gerupuk** (p278).
- 2 Scaling **Gunung Rinjani** (p271), Lombok's incomparable sacred peak.
- 3 Setting eyes on idyllic **Mawun beach** (p279) for the very first time.
- 4 Picking your own deserted-cove beach **north of Senggigi** (p265).
- 5 Catching a Sasak festival, such as Peresean near **Mataram** (p258).
- 6 Lounging in pure island bliss on **Gili Asahan** (p260).
- 7 Beholding the idyllic mountain splendour of the **Sembalun Valley** (p269).

