



# Nusa Tenggara

POP 9.7 MILLION

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## Best Resorts

- Pearl Beach (p309)
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## Best Beaches

- Pantai Segar (p322)
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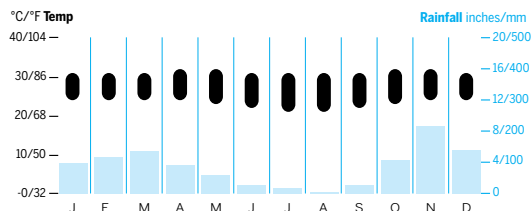
## Why Go?

If you're seeking white sand, azure bays, hot springs and hidden traditional villages, Nusa Tenggara is your wonderland. Here's an arc of islands that is lush and jungle-green in the north, and more arid savannah in the south. In-between are some of the world's best diving spots, limitless surf breaks and technicolour volcanic lakes. It's a land of pink-sand beaches, schooling sharks and rays, and swaggering dragons.

You'll also find a cultural diversity that is unmatched elsewhere in Indonesia. Animist rituals and tribal traditions still thrive alongside the countless minarets, temples, convents and chapels, and though Bahasa Indonesia is a unifying tongue, each main island has at least one native language, which is often subdivided into dialects. Whether your wish is to drop into the easy, tourist-ready life of a car-free Gili island, or you crave something, somewhere less comfortable, more challenging and a shade deeper, you're exactly where you're supposed to be.

## When to Go

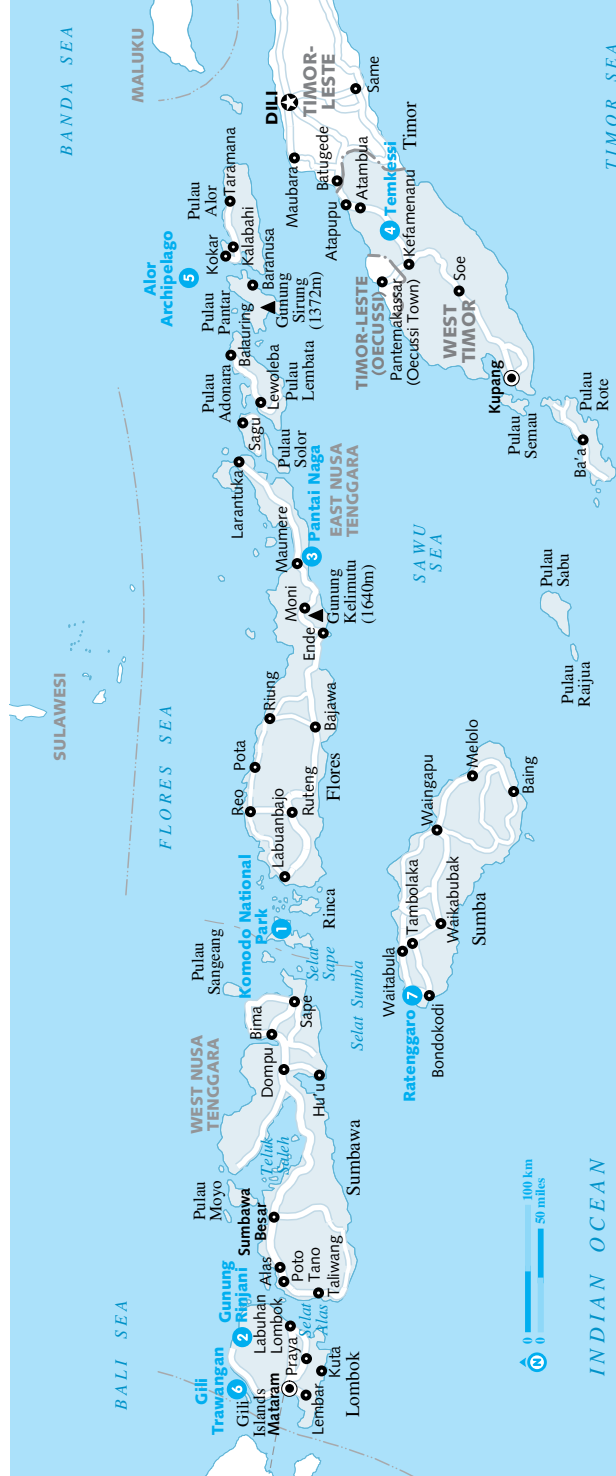
### Mataram



**Apr–Sep** The dry season brings great diving visibility; travellers flock to Komodo and other locales.

**May & Oct** Epic waves and thin crowds in Rote and Sumbawa.

**Oct–Mar** Sumba's spectacular Pasola festival, in February, is reason enough to visit in the wetter months.



## Nusa Tenggara Highlights

- 1 Seeing dragons on land, then snorkelling or diving with underwater critters in **Komodo National Park** (p352).
- 2 Trekking up the slopes of the sacred volcano that dominates northern Lombok, **Gunung Rinjani** (p315).
- 3 Exploring Flores from one end to another – a world of ancient cultures, volcanoes, rainforests and beaches such as **Pantai Naga** (p375).
- 4 Discovering the remote villages of West Timor, characterised by their beehive-shaped clan houses, such as otherworldly **Temikessi** (p390).
- 5 Diving on the **Alor Archipelago** (p378), which feels like one stop before the end of the world.
- 6 Plunging into watery pleasures by day, and then choosing between many at night, on **Gili Trawangan** (p326).
- 7 Bouncing between one sensational beach and the next in West Sumba, then pausing at the ancient village of **Ratenggaro** (p406).