



ISSUE 1
JANUARY 2019

The Bajau People
The exotic sea gypsies
of Flores and the islands

Chilli Recipes
For the love of chilli and
traditional Flores recipes

Top Ten things to do in Flores
Our must-do list for Flores exploration

The *Beauty* of Flores

Flores and the islands need to be explored and experienced, the beauty is unlike any other, and the spirit is captured within the land, the ocean and its people.



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with it.



Meet the Team

The question of the month:
What is your favourite thing about Flores?



Launch Issue Editor

Adam St John-Foti

"The diversity, from the lush green hills to the turquoise water. And the food, never forget the food."



Creative Director

Sinead Kenny

"Jumping on the back of a van and exploring the beautiful community and culture of inland Flores."



Chief Writer

Clare Srdarov

"Everywhere you look there is something new; a stunning view demanding your attention, friendly people wanting to chat and the food is just so good!"



Photographer

Thomas Antcliff

"Coffee, coffee, coffee. Oh and the beautiful landscape, photographing Flores never gets boring!"



A letter from the Editor

Welcome to The Voice of Flores

I experienced Flores for the first time last year, and it changed my life. I thought I knew Indonesia because I had been to Bali so many times before, but nothing prepared me for the magic of Flores. Flores is dragons and coral, beautifully coloured beaches and lakes, coastal and mountainous villages. But for me, Flores is about the people and their lives, the stories they have to tell.

This issue we wanted to explore more about the food of Flores which led us to interview so many wonderful people, so we dedicate our first issue to the fabulous Flores contributors who opened their doors and shared their stories with us. I am so honoured and excited to be the launch issue editor of this magazine, and I encourage you to contact us and get involved. Whether you are a Flores resident, long-term visitor or tourist, we want to share your Flores adventures and love for these beautiful islands.





Until we meet on Flores,
Adam - Launch Issue Editor

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The Voice of Flores sections

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 Experience Flores	 Taste of Flores

A special thanks to our contributors and partners

Biba Brownlie, Nada Bechara, Rikki Saguntala, Suzanne Srdarov, Anselmus Ragha, Yohanes Nua, and The Travellist team.



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The Sea Gypsies of Flores

The Bajo people have traditionally lived on timber boats, moving according to the weather and tides.

Written by Clare Srdarov and edited by Suzanne Srdarov

The Bajo People are the sea gypsies of Flores, a sub-group of the Sama-Bajau people found throughout South-East Asia. Known for their nomadic, sea-faring existence, these ocean-dwelling people have traditionally stayed on timber boats, moving according to the weather and tides.

The Sama-Bajau are peaceful people who live in family groups that rely on each other for support. While the boat-dwelling Sama-Bajau of today still travel around on their timber houseboats, they tend to find a common anchorage with other small family groups or communities. The boats are often tethered to one mooring or to each other, creating small floating villages.

Traditionally the Sama-Bajau are known to be uninterested or fearful of confrontation, and they claim never to have wielded a weapon towards anyone, despite the seas being occasionally subject to piracy. They would rather flee a situation and find a new anchorage to set up their water village, avoiding conflict altogether.

The Bajo children are famed for their water skills, with many learning to swim before they can walk. Young children take pride in their ability to free-dive for long periods to help the family fishing business, provide food for their family, or merely to explore the crystal-clear waters full of amazing marine life.

The Bajo children seem to have an idyllic lifestyle, with the freedom to explore the sea and its pristine waters, climbing aboard the other village boats to play with their friends.

Their nomadic lifestyle means that school is an informal arrangement, with the focus instead on learning and discovery in the natural world around them.

Many children are also busy helping their family to fish, and support their families growing fishing business as industry and tourism to the region increases. Indeed, the nomadic lives of the Bajo people are changing, as the areas they traditionally inhabit are developing with

new industry and tourism. They can now earn an income, fishing no longer just for sustenance, but also for market and supplying the local restaurants and hotels that cater to tourists. As the fishing industry changes and demands more of the Bajo, some have started to shift their transient lifestyle, such as constructing villages on stilts in a more permanent location. Tidal fluctuations mean that the villages are either on tall stilts or some even on reclaimed coral or dead coral, which provides a base for the houses.

Changes in family circumstances, and a desire or need to move away from the sea-gypsy way of life has also seen some Bajo people move to the mainland to enter into farming or similar industries. Most find a way to link these new lifestyles to the water, maintaining the ocean heritage that has sustained their people. The family connection is central to the shared history and culture of Bajo communities, and they typically marry within the same tribe or extended 'family' unit. Oral story-telling traditions are also vital to passing down the unique knowledge of the Bajo people, keeping their culture alive and helping it flourish throughout successive generations. In fact, their profound wisdom and understanding of the ocean may prove vital to researchers looking to preserve the pristine waters and ecosystems under threat from climate change elsewhere.

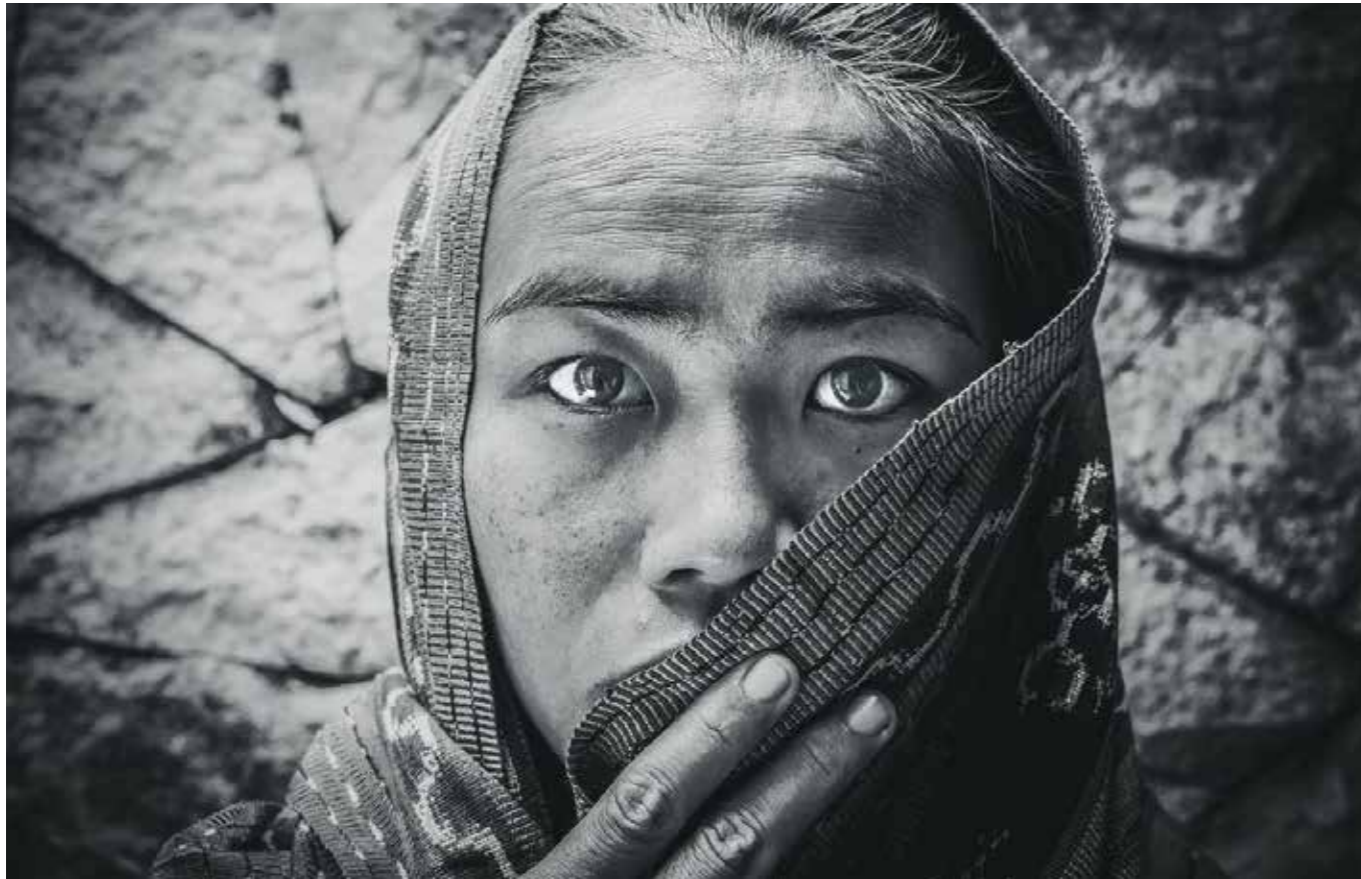
When in Flores, we encourage you to take a guided tour of a Bajo house village and boat community, with a skilled guide to translate for you. Don't be afraid to ask questions, as the Bajo people will be just as interested in getting to know you, as you are in them.



Turning generations of tradition into a business to support the whole family.



Formerly nomads of the sea, the Bajo are building villages on stilts over the sea they call home.



My life in Flores

The first of our 'real people of Flores' series features Megah Bintaranny-Brownlie.

Written by Megah Bintaranny-Brownlie and Clare Srdarov and edited by Suzanne Srdarov

At the heart and soul of the idyllic island life on Flores, are its beautiful, smiling people. With so many stories to tell, we thought it was time to get to know the locals, and bring you our first in a series of 'real people of Flores' interviews. First up, we welcome Megah, who was born and raised in Flores, and who now divides her time between her homes in Bali and Flores.

Megah's mother is Chinese-Indonesian, and her father was a Balinese policeman. When stationed in Flores it was expected that they would live in the police compound, but instead of shutting his family away behind police gates, he moved them into the community. He wanted his family to immerse themselves in the island culture, to become a part of the local community and experience all that life in Flores has to offer. Megah describes her parents as liberal-minded and progressive, encouraging their children to learn voraciously, soak up their surroundings, and read everything they could get their hands on. She remembers very early on in her childhood

walking up to four kilometres home from school most days so that she could spend her bus money on books to read, instead of bus fare.

Megah and her siblings grew up with the kind of freedom that many children can only dream about. They spent hours playing and exploring outside, roaming the island paradise with their friends, making their own fun and adventures. Locals had warned the kids about crocodiles in the lakes and beaches, but this never stopped Megah and her friends from playing in the water, and luckily she never once saw a crocodile. But the story of the crocodile lurking in the lake to eat unsuspecting swimmers was part of the local folklore, and she wonders now whether it was told (without success!) just to keep young children out of the water.

Traditionally the people of Flores farmed and ate cassava instead of rice; however Megah recalls that during the change in government a new 'lifestyle choice' was encouraged, replacing cassava with rice. Today rice is widely grown in Flores, providing for local consumption with enough leftover to ship to Indonesia to help fill the rice deficit, reducing the need for Indonesia to import rice.

Megah's parents were both hard workers, and they instilled this work ethic in their children. Megah and her siblings all went on to university, where her sister studied marketing and her brother studied medicine. Megah spent several years at university in Jogjakarta, then a further two years in Germany studying, and is now splitting her time between Flores and Bali while she studies law.

She remembers very early on in her childhood walking up to four kilometres home from school most days so that she could spend her bus money on books to read, instead of bus fare.

Nowadays, when she's not studying, you can find Megah tending to her beehives, and she attributes her love for the environment to her upbringing in Flores. She is committed to protecting it for future generations to enjoy and welcomes the chance to show visitors to the region just how spectacular the islands of Flores are. While the growing tourism industry in Flores will bring the challenges of an increased population and potential for pollution, Megah believes that by taking steps now to manage these risks, the environment can be protected before any damage is done. In fact, she sees tourism as a way to showcase what is at stake, and why it's worth fighting to preserve a pristine environment.

It's time to throw away the old misconceptions about Flores, like the idea that the land is dry, or people poverty-stricken, or just too much trouble to visit, couldn't be more wrong. In fact, Flores is lush, with a stunning coastline that provides trade for fisherman, and dense jungles and inland waterfalls that give water and fertile soil for farming. The authentic wonder of the landscape, once hidden from

tourists, is now being carefully managed to allow the rest of the world to experience its rare beauty.

The main port of Flores is located in Labuan Bajo, and the government has been focussed on building the infrastructure needed here to support further growth in the region. But Flores has so much more to discover beyond these well-known tourist spots like Labuan Bajo or Komodo. Megah says visitors should also venture out to Ende and Maumere, as the older cities with their already established infrastructure have a rich history to share.



The gentle calm of Megah belies her strength and courage to challenge herself and to continue learning.

I also asked Megah for her top tips on the must-see places to visit in Flores, and after a little deliberating she decided on the three coloured lakes of Kelimutu, Komodo Island and National Park, and Lembata.

Lembata is a village where the ancient tradition of whale hunting started. While whale hunting may sound at odds with our ideas about ocean conservation today, Megah explained it's not whale hunting as we know it. The locals revere the ocean as a life and food source and limit their catch to one whale only per season. They use every last piece of the whale to feed the whole village, and then use the bones of the whale for construction around the community. It is a custom that has been carried out for generations, and while today whale hunting is mostly frowned upon, Megah feels it is essential to understand the importance behind this tradition and the value the villagers' place on the whale.

It is not about exploiting the ocean, but instead, they celebrate the whale and the sea it came from, treating it with the utmost respect, as a life source that brings the village together, helping them to grow and thrive.



The VOF team visit Keling and Wae Rinding

In what was to be a life-changing experience, The Voice of Flores team was fortunate to be invited to visit remote villages and a school supported by these villages.

Written by The Voice of Flores Team and edited by Suzanne Srdarov

A few weeks ago we interviewed Marsel, a good friend and Flores local, who owns and runs a Bali tour company, introducing travellers to the beautiful islands of Flores. Marsel told us about his local primary school that needs new tables and chairs for its 120 students. The primary school takes children from five surrounding villages, with many students walking a two-hour round-trip to get to and from school.

The school and villages are remote, inaccessible by car, and not easily reached by motorbike either for that matter. During the wet season, the only way in or out is by foot. During medical emergencies, for example for pregnant women or if someone is sick, they rely on community members to carry them on the one hour journey along the rough path to the main road. There they can get the 'taxi truck' to drive them another bumpy hour and a half to the nearest hospital. It makes you wonder how many babies have been born en-route.

Last week, the team from The Voice of Flores were in Labuan Bajo and while we were there, we also visited Marsel's school and village. It was such a huge privilege to be able to make a contribution on behalf of The Voice of Flores towards the school's new furniture.

Our adventure started early, as our group including Marsel, his family Robi and Iren, and me, headed off at 6am to begin the long journey to the school. It's a three-hour trip there with much of the road only suitable for trail bikes. It's bumpy and rocky and in some places entirely eroded by the rain, years of heavy traffic and lack of road maintenance or repairs.

We made lots of stops along the way, taking a break for a coffee and away from the bumpy roads, plus there were so many opportunities for spectacular photos. But finally, we made it to the meeting point at a village near the school. The truck was there as were so many of the students and people from the village, as everyone came out to see what was going on.

The truck was unloaded, and the students all carried several chairs each on their heads as they walked an hour to the school. At this point, the road is inaccessible to the truck, so people transport is the only option, and it's worth noting that some of these kids were as young as seven years old.

We arrived at the school, and I'm not embarrassed to admit, I had tears and a lump in my throat when I saw the



whole school had come out to greet us, immaculate in their uniforms and traditional clothes. They performed a welcome dance and ceremony that was truly beautiful – the joy on the kids' faces as they danced, and the giggles as they snuck a peek at this tall Western woman, made my day. Pak Roni and Ibu Yati were gracious hosts, and I can't thank them enough for inviting me into their school, they will all be in my heart forever.

We were invited to lunch, and I sat and listened as Marsel and the school leaders discussed important matters, like the state of the roads, the environment, and of course the kids' needs at school. I am very proud to be part of The Voice of Flores team who were able to contribute to the new tables and chairs, and we have also committed to assisting with new books and pencils for the kids. All of this new and much-needed equipment will arrive at the school via the 'taxi truck' and be carried to the school again by the same smiling children.

Most households in these villages do not have any fresh running water. During wet season this is manageable, but after six months without rain, water runs low, and someone from each house must walk up to 5kms every day balancing a pole and heavy containers across their head or shoulders to fill with fresh water. In the heat, over what could be described as a very rocky and steep path at best. I've never had to consider how the condition of a road or lack of running water could threaten my health and safety, but in these villages, this is the reality. Safe drinking water, roads and electricity are services we often take for granted in cities and towns. A lack of power for a few hours or longer is more of an inconvenience than a permanent way of life. However here in these villages, the majority of homes have no electricity at all and those that do, only have electricity for a few hours a day.

I have been very fortunate to have met and worked with some truly incredible and passionate people, and spending this time with Marsel at his school, gave me an insight into his commitment to helping the villages he calls home. Already feeling emotional about my visit, the school then said it had been an honour to meet me, and presented me with a stunning Manggarai sarong.

Through Marsel's translation and my tears, I told them that the honour was, in fact, all mine, and they would be forever in my thoughts.

The day was life-changing for me, meeting such beautiful people and learning about a way of life so different to my own. The landscape was breathtaking, and unlike anything else, I have ever seen. The coast and blue ocean of Labuan Bajo giving way to rice terraces as far as the eye can see, and then thick green jungle, offering welcome relief from the heat.

Wild monkeys ran around us, we rode through creeks and rivers, and some of the steep roads had me just holding on, closing my eyes and hoping for the best. Flores is truly a magical and spectacular place, and you simply MUST visit, but be prepared to fall in love hard and never want to leave.

Marsel is passionate about his home villages having safer roads and clean water for everyone. Education for the children is also a priority, as not all of the students will have the opportunity to go onto higher education. Only a few are selected to carry on with their education, and the whole village supports them by contributing to their care and study in Labuan Bajo.



If you want to learn more about how you can help Marsel and these villages obtain safer roads and clean water, please email us on contact@thevoiceofflores.com



Chillies of Flores

Chillies are a part of almost every dish in Flores, whether the large sweet chillies or the tiny and deceptively strong ones. Enjoy our chilli recipes and take care with the heat.

Written and edited by Clare Srdarov

Like all Indonesians, the people of Flores love their chillies. Sambal is usually a part of every meal or at least offered on the side. There are all kinds of sambals; sweeter, tomato based, shallot based, or those made using the shrimp paste that is almost acrid when being cooked but delicious when it's ready to be eaten. All over the world, herbs and spices were used traditionally for cultural reasons and to preserve food before storage or fridges were available. Chillies also play a considerable role in Indonesia's financial success. Last year saw chilli prices soar as a heavy wet season caused crops to suffer. Chillies can't grow in too much water, and the damp air causes them to spoil quicker during the storage and distribution stage. In fact, in 2017, chilli prices accounted for approximately an eighth of Indonesia's headline inflation (**), and as chilli prices soared locally, many chose to try growing their own.

(** source Jakarta Globe).



Everyone remembers their first severe chilli encounter... that burning sensation that makes you feel as though your face and the entire body is on fire. And yet, you can't help but go back for more. Many locals tell me it's like an addiction and once you start having sambal on all your food, anything else just doesn't come close. It's also said that chillies are an aphrodisiac, but if you are new to hot sambal, I probably wouldn't recommend piling it on your meal at a first date or romantic night out!

When I first moved to Indonesia, I thought I would try to make my own sambal. I scoured recipes, I sourced all the best chillies I could find and prepped all afternoon.

Chopping, crushing with the mortar and pestle, and putting the mix into containers for storage. About 30 minutes after the chilli chopping frenzy was over, my hands started to burn...as in, felt like they were on fire! I tried everything: I washed and scrubbed my hands; I rubbed aloe all over them; I put them in milk and yoghurt (a local friend told me it worked, but possibly she was just joking); I walked around with my hands covered in butter (old wives tale for burns). Nothing worked.

I went to sleep with my hands in plastic bags full of ice. The next morning, I told a friend from Flores the story, and she laughed hysterically. Not particularly supportive I thought although I can see why my rookie mistake had her laughing. Firstly, I didn't wear gloves and while seasoned sambal makers might not wear gloves, as a newbie, you probably should. Also, the day before my sambal-making efforts, I had been learning how to make traditional offerings, and so my hands were covered in tiny little pricks made from the fine bamboo sticks and leaves. Imagine pouring chilli into paper cuts... Sambal and chillies are an integral part of cooking in Flores, and each dish is seasoned using either a different variety of chilli or a different style of preparing it.

Must Try Chilli Recipes



Sambal Lemo Asam (Lime Kaffir Chilli Sauce)

Ingredients

- 8 shallots (peeled)
- 5 chillies
- 1 clove of garlic (peeled)
- Shrimp paste (just a little bit)
- A pinch of salt
- A pinch of sugar
- 1 kaffir lime (thin slices)
- 1 tablespoon of fresh lime juice
- A handful of Thai Basil

Method

1. Grind shallots, chillies, garlic, shrimp paste, salt and sugar, all together in the stone mortar. Not too fine, just enough to be mixed.
2. Add kaffir lime, fresh lime juice and Thai basil and mix all together.



Sambal Tomat Mentah (Fresh Tomato Chilli Sauce)

Ingredients:

- 10 shallots (diced)
- 5 chillies (diced)
- 1 clove garlic (diced)
- 2 fresh tomatoes (diced)
- A pinch of salt
- A pinch of sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- Thai basil

Method:

This is an easy one - just mix them all together to get an even consistency, and enjoy the aromatic flavours of Flores.

A perfect side for all dishes!



Coffee of Flores

Indonesia is the 4th largest producer of coffee in the world, and with the perfect climate for growing coffee beans, it produces some of the world's best coffee.

Written by The Travellist Team and edited by Suzanne Srdarov

Both a valuable commodity and a delicious addiction for so many people, coffee has become a vital part of Indonesia's economy.

The industry is booming in Flores, tourism has taken off and the island is busy building infrastructure to accommodate travellers to the area. There's a buzz about the Flores café culture and connoisseurs are coming to places like Labuan Bajo to kick back and try the world-class coffee in one of its many coffee houses. Coffee from Flores is known to have a sweet chocolate flavour, floral and woody, with milder beans ideal for blends and the flavour of the stronger coffee beans, delicious on their own.

The Arabica bean produced in Flores is stronger in flavour and is prized within Indonesia, as well as all over the world. The Robusta variant is softer, with a more neutral palette making it the ultimate bean to blend or even to create flavoured coffees.

In recent years Manggarai coffee has been making judges at coffee festivals sit up and pay attention, and not just because it's a strong coffee! It has a very distinctive flavour which the producers claim is due to the dry climate in that area which is sheltered from the seasonal winds and harsher weather.

The coffee aficionados attribute the exceptional flavour of Flores beans to its close proximity to the equator and the lush mountainous soil, perfect for coffee production. The Ngada district predominantly grows Arabica beans whereas the Robusta come from more outlying regions of the islands. Arabica is harvested from May to August and Robusta is collected from July to September. After harvest, the beans are transported to various collection centres within villages that then blend and package the beans for export or domestic use.

However, in some areas, coffee production is still rudimentary. There has been a significant push for more government spending on infrastructure as this industry is not affected by tourist trends and can produce huge volumes of product from various areas all over Flores. It makes the coffee bean a popular crop, and it is generally thought the trees are hardy and sturdy and will grow quickly on their own.



The best way to watch the famous Flores sunset



The famed pool at La Cecile has unrivalled ocean views, and watching the sunset over the islands with a cocktail in hand is truly unforgettable. When you've had enough of being poolside, you can retreat to your room to stargaze over the ocean, as every room has its own spectacular ocean view.

Address: Jl. Golo Silatey Lingk. II, Labuan Bajo, Flores

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Top Ten

things to do in Flores

How can you write a top ten list for Flores? You can't, so we took the liberty of adding a couple of extra must-do's you simply can't miss.

Written and edited by Suzanne Srdarov

1. Dive In!

The sparkling waters of Flores is an underwater paradise for divers, offering some of the best dives in the world. With white sand beaches, waters teeming with protected marine life and vast coral gardens, divers come to experience the wonder of Flores. There are many different dive experiences to suit all levels: **Kanawa Island** - off Labuan Bajo - swim with turtles, manta rays, sharks and huge schools of fish. **Komodo National Park** - experienced divers will love the marine life of Komodo. **Bidadari Island** - The offshore reef is a sheltered aquatic home to explore. **17 Islands Marine Park** - go island hopping in search of the perfect dive spot. **Seraya Island** - stop in for a seafood feast at the village after working up an appetite diving with the turtles. Join with an experienced dive tour who can guide you through the local conditions and provide all the equipment and support you need.

2. Komodo Island

A visit to Komodo Island and its

famed and feared inhabitants known as dragons – 3 metre long lizards whose jaws drip with toxic saliva – is an unforgettable experience for any visitor to Flores. Part of Komodo National Park, visitors often come for the dragons but are blown away by the incredible habitat in which they live. Striking, majestic, prehistoric Komodo can't be beaten.

3. Padar Island

A quieter, yet equally as stunning part of the Komodo National Park, Padar Island delivers. Trek to the summit and look out across the vast, pristine beaches; spot Padar's famous pink beach and spend the afternoon on a beach that you may just have all to yourself.

4. Lakes of Kelimutu

The spectacularly coloured volcanic lakes of Kelimutu, in Mt Kelimutu National Park, are not to be missed. An early morning trip to the tri-coloured lakes, to capture the sunrise over the jewelled water, is unmistakably Flores. The three lakes, which are in craters in the mountain, are each a different colour

from gases bubbling away under the surface. Believed by locals to be the resting place of departed souls, the vibrant changing colours of the lakes make for striking photos. There is transport available to the lakes from Moni, around 15km from Kelimutu. From here you can hike around the lakes, keeping to the marked paths that protect the rare native animals and plant life of Kelimutu National Park.

5. Hobbit Cave

Liang Bua, near Ruteng in the Manggarai District, is better known as the Hobbit Cave, due to the discovery in 2003 of a human skeleton that belonged to a short-statured primitive species of a woman called Homo Floresiensis. His remains date from around 60,000 to 100,000 years old, and it is believed that he is one of the latest-surviving species of primitive humans, along with Neanderthals. Interestingly, there is local folklore about the Ebu Gogo – a small, hairy, cave dweller, similar in size to Homo Floresiensis, suggesting that perhaps the 'hobbits' survived



longer in other parts of Flores, living alongside modern humans. Once used as a place of religious worship by villagers, visitors to the cavernous limestone cave can walk in the footsteps of ancient man, making Liang Bua an incredibly significant backdrop to the story of human evolution.

6. Wae Rebo

The trek to the village will take you through some magnificent scenery, with a jade green jungle full of birdsong, natural waterfalls and pools that are welcome stops for cooling off in as you hike. After your hike, join the villagers who welcome tourists with traditional food and renowned friendliness, stay and learn about their way of life. You may even get to sleep overnight in one of the distinctive round huts of Wae Rebo.

7. Blue Stone Beach

Penggajawa Beach, near Ende, is better known as Blue Stone Beach, formed by the unusually coloured sea stones that wash up on the beach. The bright blue, turquoise and green stones that pebble the entire beach

are stunning to see, but please, leave them where you found them - take a photo instead of a souvenir. Blue Stone Beach is another one of Flores' natural wonders, and as tourism to the region increases, it needs to be protected so that future generations can enjoy the stunning seascape.

8. Spider web rice fields

The spider-web rice fields of Cancar are cultivated in intricate web-like designs, creating spectacular views. Drive through the countryside, and get a birds-eye view of their lace-work patterns. The spider-web design is more than just an inspiring panorama, as this age-old system is vital to communal farming practices. Each segment of the paddy spider-web belongs to a different family from the village, the largest sections belonging to the wealthiest.

9. Caci Dance

The Caci dancers or 'whip fighters' of Manggarai are part of the ancient indigenous culture of Flores. A ritual dance or fight, it was tied to the agricultural seasons and Penti festival, to ensure the fertility

of the land. Two men dressed as animals and armed with whips, perform a 'fight', which is actually more of a choreographed ceremonial dance accompanied by drumming and music.

10. Sunsets on Love Hill

Love Hill, in Labuan Bajo, has become a rite of passage for travellers to Flores. A climb to the top of the hill to mark the beginning or the end of your trip is one of those travel experiences that will fill your heart long after your trip has come to an end. With a 360 degree, uninterrupted view of the islands, mountains and sparkling waters of Labuan Bajo, you can watch the sun go down on another day of exploration from your stunning vantage point.

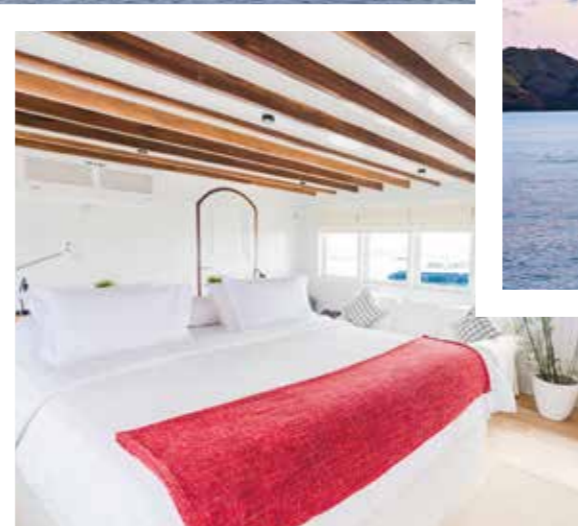
An Experience like no other...

Experience Voyage Mischief

Words can't describe the luxury of this spectacular yacht, so why don't you experience it for yourself.

"Our 15th wedding anniversary trip was the most magical six nights aboard Mischief. We are already planning our next trip. Not sure how long we can live without hopping aboard for the next adventure!"

"This week has been the most incredible experience in our travel lives. The crew looked after us with care, love and respect, making us feel part of a big happy family."



The stunning interior living areas of Voyage Mischief.

Mischief was custom built between 2013 and 2015, a luxury yacht designed to explore the Indonesian archipelago and its islands in style and comfort. Locally constructed by the legendary Konjo Boat Builders of South Sulawesi, Mischief was inspired by the traditional style of Phinisi trading boats commonly found cruising in the region, but with a modern and far more luxurious twist. The unique charm and impeccable service that is offered to Mischief's guests is what makes her an extraordinary luxury private yacht a floating - star resort.

Guests will have the opportunity to explore Indonesia's beguiling islands, all the while being catered to by a professional crew, handpicked by the owner for their in-depth local knowledge and personable service. Considerable effort has gone into ensuring that Mischief's impact on sensitive marine environments is kept to an absolute minimum: a bio-treatment plant breaks down waste, allowing Mischief to cruise in pristine locations with complete peace of mind.

Mischief's luxurious and contemporary style encourages a relaxing experience in a tasteful surround, so guests feel at home from the moment they step aboard. Built from sustainably sourced tropical hardwood, Mischief's hull supports a large volume that forms the foundations for 3 spacious ensuite guest cabins. The enormous master cabin is located on the upper deck with a private aft facing terrace. Further accommodation can be found on the main deck, where a large double and roomy twin cabin are located, each one fitted with its own ensuite bathroom.

Mischief's cabins feature large windows, making the most of spectacular panoramic views. The heart and soul of the yacht, where guests gather to enjoy spectacular sunsets is centred around open dining, bar & lounge area for relaxing indoors. Timber wrap around decks on both levels offer different vantage points for the views of the islands and ocean while ensuring absolute comfort for each guest. Every aspect of Mischief's exterior space has been designed as relaxing oases.



Choose your destination

Custom trips can be arranged across Indonesia, with some of our favourite destinations including Bali, Lombok, the Gili Islands, Komodo National Park, Alor, the Banda Islands and Raja Ampat.



Toys

For thrill-seekers, Mischief is equipped with a broad range of watersport toys including kayaks, stand up paddleboards, windsurfing equipment and a custom built trimaran for sailing enthusiasts.



The ultimate culinary experience

Forward-facing settees are found on the upper and main deck, providing exceptional open-air views and complete privacy. An alfresco dining area on the aft main deck invites guests to gather at a large teak table and enjoy a gourmet feast prepared by Mischief's talented chefs.

Find out more about the wonderful Voyage Mischief and how you can plan an unforgettable holiday.

voyagemischief.com
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Diving in Flores

The underwater world around Komodo National Park and the islands offers an unrivalled dive experience – just ask the divers who travel the world to visit.

Written by The Travellist Team and edited by Suzanne Srdarov

Originally Flores was called Nipa, but that was changed by the Portuguese. I've heard different stories about how Flores got its name – some say it was named 'flowers' in Portuguese because of the stunning flora all over the island; some say it is due to the coral flowers that are a stunning feature of the marine world and coastline of Flores.



The colours of this magical underwater world and its magnificent creatures.



Whatever the real reason, there is no doubt the coral flowers and marine life are what makes Flores so unique and considered the new IT spot for diving and travelling in Indonesia. Indonesia presents many beautiful diving and snorkelling locations; however, Flores offers a new adventure – with beautiful dive locations held as the secrets of boat captains and tidal flows that protect the reef and the incredible number of species that live there.

Drawn by Alfred Russel Wallace in 1859, the Wallace Line is a deep-water channel that has offered explanations to why certain species are found shared between parts of Asia and Australia

The waters around Komodo National Park are home to 90% of the world's various sea life species, and Komodo National Park is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Listed Natural Site. One of the most spectacular creatures seen in this area are the manta rays, which are found living and migrating around Nusa Penida, off the coast of Bali, and around Komodo. Their migration patterns are followed by divers all over the world, keen to spend time underwater with the majestic animals.

One of the most discussed natural boundaries in the world is a narrow strait that lies between Bali and Lombok – the Wallace Line. Drawn by Alfred Russel Wallace in 1859, the Wallace Line is a deep-water channel that has offered explanations to why certain species are found shared between parts of Asia and Australia. The deep-water levels and the huge volume of water that passes through the channel around Komodo also offer cooler water temperatures which protect the corals from bleaching.



For so many reasons, you need to dive with experienced companies and people who have dived in the area for many years. There are strong currents all around Flores and its islands, so your boat captain and dive instructor are best equipped to direct you on the right places to dive and what to look out for. They also spend their lives in the crystal-clear oceans of Flores, so they know where the most incredible dive sites are and what you can expect to see. For me, there is also something magical about the stories: the dive masters who know the ocean as well as their home and can share the history of the area; the famous or infamous divers who went before them; and of course, the stories about the creatures you 'meet' while diving.

Diving and snorkelling in Flores offer underwater adventures into a new world, a world full of colourful and exotic animals, beautiful corals and pristine waters that are cared for by the people of the islands. We encourage you to take your time while in the water and appreciate the natural beauty that sees Flores being touted as the new jewel in the crown of Indonesia.



GALLERY

Beautiful Flores

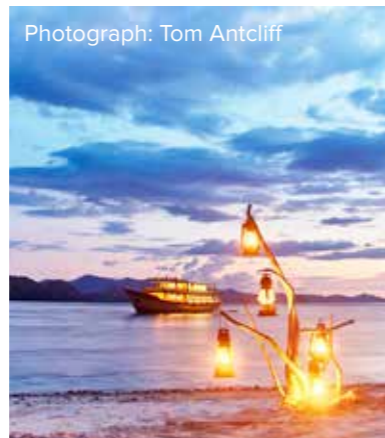
This peaceful island, with Komodo dragons, sleeping volcanoes, shimmering turquoise sea, white beaches and waterfalls, is Indonesia's true hidden gem.



Photograph: Nada Bechara



Photograph: Tom Antcliff



Photograph: Tom Antcliff



Photograph: Adam St John-Foti



Relaxing at Molas Cafe
Photograph: Sinead Kenny



Colourful skies in Flores
Photograph: Ash Ertle



Sunsets in Labuan Bajo
Photograph: Charlise Kenny



Kelor Island
Photograph: Tolo Perry



Photograph: Biba Brownlie



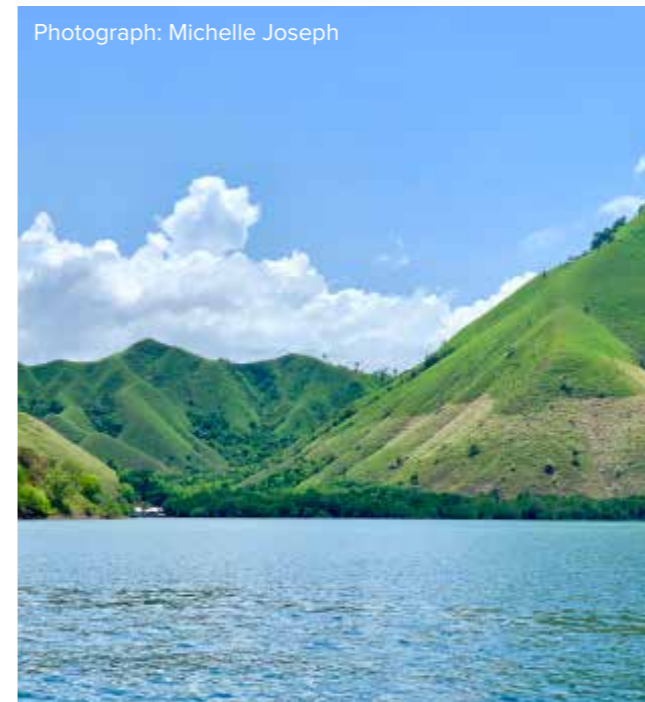
Photograph: Fenella Gath



Photograph: David Ertle



Sunset at La Cecile
Photograph: Collin St John



Photograph: Michelle Joseph



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discoverfloresisland.com / Maria: 0856-1462-460



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