



Edge of Wildness Times

*Immerse yourself in Sumba's Untamed Beauty
and NIHI's Unforgettable Experience*

NIHI SUMBA'S NEWS
ISSUE 01 || APRIL TO JUNE, 2025



A Message from the Edge of Wildness™

A PLACE TO CONNECT WITH SOMETHING LARGER
THAN ONESELF. A HAVEN FOR THE ADVENTURER,
THE WANDERER, THE ENDLESSLY PASSIONATE AND
THE CURIOUS. ARRIVE WITH AN OPEN HEART AND
LEAVE CHANGED FOREVER.

We appreciate that you have travelled many miles to come and spend your well-earned holiday here with us all at NIHI® Sumba. The mystical island of Sumba is one of Indonesia's most peaceful islands and we are honored to have you with us in our unique home. More than a place for a conventional vacation, NIHI® Sumba is an invitation to harness the power of connection with oneself, to refine one's sense of purpose, and to give back to the world in a meaningful way.

NIHI® Sumba is not only an introduction to an uncharted land with its ancient culture and mysticism, it is also the greatest opportunity to safely stretch yourself outside of your comfort zone as you embark on a personal quest for freedom, discovery, prosperity, and joy.

Sincerely, the NIHI® Team.



Wild Wellness

Step into a world where nature's raw beauty meets unregulated luxury. At NIHI® Sumba, wellness is more than a practice—it's a way of being.

BE WILD. BE FREE. BE WELL.

Welcome to Wild Wellness, a holistic immersion where nature's raw beauty meets untamed luxury.

At NIHI® Sumba, true wellness comes from deep connection with nature, offering experiences that go beyond the spa to awaken the mind, body, and spirit. From walking the remote Nihiwatu Beach and meditating underwater to yoga in the jungle and having soulful equine experiences, every moment invites transformation and reconnection. Lose yourself in the wilderness and rediscover your true, vibrant nature.

NIHIOKA SPA

The Nihioka Spa is more than just a place for relaxation, it's a sanctuary for the soul and a haven for nature.

Nestled on 100 acres of untouched paradise, just a 15-minute journey from the main resort, our spa is a secluded haven of tranquility, embraced by lush rice fields, verdant jungle, and the endless expanse of the ocean. Here, nature and wellness intertwine seamlessly, offering an immersive experience of rejuvenation and serenity. With two pristine beaches and a serene infinity pool, this sanctuary invites you to unwind in an atmosphere of pure bliss.

Our curated selection of holistic treatments, each lasting a minimum of 90 minutes, is designed to restore balance, invigorate the senses, and nurture the soul. For those seeking ultimate privacy and convenience, our expert therapists can bring the spa experience directly to you — whether in the comfort of your villa or at our exclusive wellness bale, an open-air sanctuary designed for deep relaxation, where gentle ocean breezes and panoramic sea views create a truly immersive escape.



NIHIOKA SPA



DESTINATION
DELUXE
AWARDS & WELLNESS DAY 2024



Indonesia's
Best Wellness Retreat



**ASIA SPA
AWARDS 2015**

Spa Safari™

Shake off your jet lag and begin your NIHI experience in the most rejuvenating way possible with our signature Spa Safari™.

Let us take your spa experience to the next level. Immerse yourself in a journey of tranquillity, where breathtaking landscapes meet world-class wellness at Nihioaka Spa. Our Spa Safari™ is a transformative wellness journey designed for those seeking profound relaxation at NIHI® Sumba, amidst Sumba’s natural splendor.

Begin Your Journey

Embark on either a 120-minute trek, a 90-minute horseback ride*, or a breezy 15-minute safari drive along Sumba’s rugged west coast. As you pass rolling hills and cultural villages, your Sumbanese guide shares insights into the island’s rich heritage and timeless way of life.

Unmatched Tranquillity

Arrive at Nihioaka Spa, where serenity awaits. Sip a refreshing young coconut as waves crash below, then enjoy breakfast or lunch at the Nihioaka treehouse, overlooking breathtaking ocean views.

Relax & Explore

Stroll along secluded beaches, swim in a pristine jungle pool, and soak in the tranquility before your ultimate spa experience.

Luxurious Treatments

Indulge in 2.5 or 5 hours of pampering, with luxurious massages and body treatments designed to rejuvenate and refresh.

The Journey Back

End your day with a scenic safari drive back to the resort, or, for experienced riders, return on horseback or by bicycle for an added sense of adventure.

Beyond Nihioaka: Your Journey Continues

Your Spa Safari™ continues on the following day with a 60-minute Sumba 7th Heaven massage in your villa, featuring a full-body massage and a 30-minute facial with our signature botanical elixir.

Enjoy 50% off additional in-villa treatments and 30% off Sumba 7 products throughout your stay.

*Please note that the horse ride experience to Spa Safari is an add-on and incurs an additional charge. For pricing details reach out to our team for assistance.



SPA SAFARI

SUMBA 7 BOTANICAL ELIXIR

Born from the Sumbanese forest, the Sumba 7 Botanical Elixir harnesses the cleansing and healing properties of seven powerful bio-dynamic plants, roots and herbs unique to the ‘Wallace Line’ area. Ginger, galangal, mangosteen skin, betel nut, coriander seed, cinnamon and turmeric work in synergy to assist cellular detoxification whilst deeply nourishing the skin.



SUMBA 7
BOTANICAL ELIXIR



MINDFULL WELLNESS

Our mindful experiences foster deep peace and a profound self-connection.

Immerse yourself in a journey of mindfulness and self-connection with our diverse range of yoga and meditation practices.

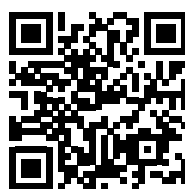
For a holistic approach, our Yoga & Mindfulness sessions integrate movement with awareness, while private yoga sessions offer personalized guidance. Dive into Aqua Lungs for breath-focused water meditation or experience the soothing combination of Breathwork & Yin Yoga. Our Recovery Sessions aid in muscle rejuvenation, ensuring overall well-being. Each practice is an invitation to slow down, breathe, and reconnect with yourself.

DAILY YOGA GROUP CLASSES

Complimentary group classes are offered daily on the beach yoga pavilion, at 8am and 4:30pm, including Hatha, Vinyasa Flow, Restorative, Yin Yoga, Breathwork, Meditation. In the afternoon it's the perfect location for our new Sumba Sunset Sculpt class. Private bookings are also available in the privacy of guests villas or one of the awe-inspiring locations around the island.

AQUA LUNGS

A 60-minute water-based meditation exercise that strengthens lung capacity and enhances breathing techniques through aquatic resistance training.



MINDFULL WELLNESS

EQUINE WELLNESS

At NIHI® Sumba, connect with our intuitive Sumba horses, honoring the island’s deep cultural traditions and the wild horses’ enduring bond with the land.

Whether seeking stress relief, balance, or a deeper connection, their presence provides a unique path to wellbeing. Our Equine-Wellness sessions are personalized and suited for all guests, from beginners to experienced riders.

EQUINE CONNECTION

Immerse yourself in a **deep, personal connection** with NIHI’s intuitive Sumba horses, rooted in the island’s rich equestrian traditions. Our Equine Connection program harnesses their grounding nature to offer transformative experiences for all guests. Guided by four core pillars—**Equine-Essence, Equine-Seen, Equine-Tuned, and Equine-Feel**—each session explores trust, mindfulness, communication, and leadership through equine interaction.

Whether for personal growth, emotional balance, or deeper presence, these encounters create a profound connection with yourself, the horses, and the land. Customize your journey with focus areas and single or follow-up sessions to strengthen your bond.

YOGA WITH HORSES

A unique and calming yoga experience that blends mindful movement and breath-work whilst on and beside your equine partner.

MASSAGE WITH HORSES

Indulge in a soothing massage where the calming presence of a horse enhances the flow, promoting deep relaxation and a profound sense of harmony with nature.

REIKI WITH HORSES

Experience the blend of energy healing and nature as you receive a soothing reiki session surrounded by the gentle presence of horses.



FROM 28 MAY TO 2 JUNE, 2025
& 17 TO 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

Equine Intuitive
Awareness Retreat

Step into the wild heart of Sumba, where ancient wisdom and the healing power of horses ignite transformation. Guided by Carol, the original horse whisperer, this immersive retreat blends energy awareness, meditation, Reiki, and yoga with horses—awakening connection, clarity, and renewal.

Whether seeking personal growth, emotional healing, or a deeper bond with nature, this experience is designed for solo travelers, couples, and those embracing life’s transitions.

While you reconnect, loved ones can explore NIHI’s adventures—water sports, scenic hikes, and more.



NIHI RETREATS

Other Equine Experiences

BUSH TO BEACH, RIVER & RICE FIELD RIDES

Ride through Nihiwatu Beach's back trails, passing palm groves, rice fields, and rustic villages. Encounter water buffaloes and immerse yourself in Sumbanese life, with the option of an exhilarating beach gallop.

NIHIOKA RIDE & BREAKFAST

Descend into Nihioka Valley on horseback, traversing palm groves and rice paddies. Visit Weihola village before enjoying a fire-cooked breakfast at the Spa Safari™.

RIDE TO COCONUT COVE

Journey through rolling hills and traditional villages to Coconut Cove at Rua Beach. Once there, enjoy activities like stand-up paddleboarding or a refreshing swim.

Due to the size of our horses, weight restrictions must be considered 75kg (165 lb) for all rides except for beach sunset/sunrise riding and swimming with horses, where the max weight allowed is 85kg (187 lb).

Lapopu Waterfall

Dive into paradise sooner! Lapopu Waterfall is now open for an early season escape. Enjoy a scenic 40-minute drive through Wanukaka Valley before reaching this breathtaking 100-meter cascade. Swim in crystal-clear waters, sunbathe on mossy rocks, and soak in the beauty of this hidden oasis. Our guides will set up the perfect picnic with fresh, healthy snacks from the NIHI® kitchen.

ACTIVE WELLNESS

Active wellness flows naturally, turning workouts into immersive experiences in nature.

Amidst untamed nature, guests embrace movement while prioritizing rest and recovery. Guided by expert trainers, explore diverse activities — from padel and pickleball to surfer-specific mobility training. Work out by the beach with free weights or in an air-conditioned gym. Move with purpose, restore balance, and build lifelong fitness.

NIHIOKA HIKE

This intermediate 7km trek starts at NIHI® and takes explorers across beautiful rice fields and over jungle ridges, finishing at our out-of-this-world spa destination with a delicious breakfast cooked over open fire. Or do this hike in reverse with an open-fire breakfast at Nihioaka to fuel yourself for the 7km trek back to NIHI®.

DASANG BEACH HIKE

A 10km intermediate to advanced hike that takes explorers over three bridges and verdant rice fields, and through four small villages.

WANUKAKA TREK

A 17km advanced hike that begins at the infamous Pasola grounds. Discover the local life at Praigoli village, ancient culture, and every day rituals around the nurturing of precious rice fields. The trek ends with majestic views over Pahiwi Beach.

PADEL & PICKLEBALL

Experience the fastest-growing sport in the world on the first and only Padel court in Sumba. We also have a Pickleball court for a fun, sociable (and highly addictive) racket game for players of all ages. Both courts are open from 6am to 9pm.

GYM

Located in the gardens of Menara, our air-conditioned gym is open 24/7 and thoughtfully designed to support your wellness journey. With a dedicated free weights area and curated equipment, it's a space to move with intention, foster happiness, and restore your nervous system. Get fit for life—on your schedule, in style.



EXPLORE MORE
ACTIVE WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

Wanukaka River

Drift through the heart of Sumba
on a serene kayak journey along
the Wanukaka River where locals,
horses, and buffaloes share the riverbanks.



BOOK NOW WITH
OUR EXPERIENCE TEAM

OCEAN EXPERIENCES

The Indian Ocean's underwater sea life is dynamic and vibrant, while inspiring tranquility and harmony.

Discover its exotic energy and natural beauty with any one of our individual ocean activities, or request a tailored package for water enthusiasts. Please note that all water activities are weather/season dependent so we suggest checking in advance to avoid disappointment.

FISHING & SPEARFISHING

Our Boathouse team leads anglers on unmatched fishing adventures in Indonesia's nutrient-rich waters, home to pelagic giants like tuna and trevally, plus reef dwellers like grouper and trout. With diverse fishing sites and top-tier gear, every trip is an exciting challenge. Billfish are catch-and-release.



PRIVATE BOAT CHARTERS

Explore Sumba's southwest coast on a private fishing charter. Whether you are looking for a day-long journey to a remote beach to relax and swim, go stand-up paddle boarding, snorkel, go surfing on another wave, catch sunset from the ocean or maybe even see dolphins in the wild, NIHI has plenty of boat adventures to offer.

JETSKI

Experience the thrill and freedom of jet skiing as you carve through the waves with the wind in your hair and a huge smile on your face. Reserve a jet ski for a spin around the water in the Nihiwatu bay.

SURFARI

Surfing is all about the perfect wave. While Nihiwatu Beach offers some of the best, we know you may want to explore more. Within 30-60 minutes by car or boat, several breaks await, let us take you there.

VISITING GURUS

Immerse yourself in
transformative experiences
with a diverse range
of Visiting Gurus.

Engage in personalized sessions or group workshops tailored to your needs, whether seeking physical relief or enhancing mental well-being. Surrounded by Sumba's breathtaking beauty, each session offers a nurturing environment for personal growth and holistic healing. Experience the journey of self-discovery and rejuvenation at NIHI Sumba.



VISITING GURUS

Meet the Upcoming Gurus at NIHI® Sumba



15 MARCH TO 25 APRIL, 2025

THERAPEUTIC JOURNEYS BY JAVIER DE PRADO

Licensed Psychologist and Thai Massage Master, Javier has 15+ years of experience in Osteothai, Craniosacral Therapy, and Visceral Manipulation. Trained in South Asia and Europe, he shares “The Art of Touch” at leading wellness centers worldwide.

28 APRIL TO 17 MAY, 2025

VOUSY PERFORMANCE CONDITIONING BY TATSUYA HIRAKAWA

Reawaken your body through a technique that stimulates skin and joints, enhancing movement, recovery, and balance. Trusted by elite athletes and performers, this method is now tailored for individual renewal.



11 APRIL TO 21 MAY, 2025

JASON CHILDS PHOTOGRAPHY GURU

Acclaimed surf photographer Jason has a deep history with NIHI Sumba. His work, seen in top surf magazines, is loved by NIHI guests. He offers custom photo and video sessions to capture your stay—surfing, riding, swimming with horses, and more.



21 MAY TO 11 JUL, 2025

JASON WOLCOTT PHOTOGRAPHY GURU

With over 25 years behind the lens, Jason Wolcott is a world-renowned ocean sports photographer. His work has appeared on 55+ magazine covers and in 10,000+ published images. A creative force, he also excels in landscape, travel, fine art, video, and aerial cinematography.



15 APRIL TO 15 MAY, 2025

SCULPTING IN BRONZE BY ROBERT LEGGAT

Acclaimed for his anatomical precision and lifelike forms, Robert Leggat is a master bronze sculptor. His practice is rooted in close observation and drawing from life. In this workshop, he guides participants to capture essence and balance while fostering individual expression.

23 MAY TO 29 JUNE, 2025

HOLISTIC WELLNESS BY FABIO PACIUCCI

A certified Transformational Breath Facilitator and Hatha Yoga instructor, Dr. Fabio blends Reiki, shamanic healing, and Traditional Chinese Medicine. His sessions include acupuncture, gua sha, cupping, moxibustion, breathwork, EFT, and facial rejuvenation therapies.



25 APRIL TO 9 MAY, 2025

SCAR THERAPY BY MARIA HUSSAIN

With over 20 years of experience in bodywork and movement therapy, Maria offers a unique blend of Structural Integration, scar therapy, and Shaw Method swimming. Her approach integrates manual therapy with movement to align the body and create a foundation for healing.



25 MAY TO 2 JUNE, 2025

NEIL DANKOFF PHOTOGRAPHY GURU

Neil Dankoff specializes in panoramic landscapes using layered exposures. Represented by Lonsdale Gallery and co-founder of Kandy Gallery, his 800+ image commission for Hotel X Toronto remains Canada's largest fine art photography transaction.

Savor & Explore

At NIHI[®] Sumba, each day is a blend of fresh flavors and new adventures, from locally inspired dining to immersive activities for little explorers.



From vibrant dining experiences crafted with fresh, local ingredients to immersive activities designed for little explorers, there's something for everyone. Savor the island's bounty with thoughtfully curated menus, then watch as children embark on unforgettable journeys through nature, culture, and play. Here, every moment is an opportunity to connect, discover, and create lasting memories.



DISCOVER A DESTINATION ON THE
EDGE OF WILDNES

WHERE ROGUE LUXURY MEETS UNREGULATED FREEDOM

NIHI SUMBA
SUMBA ISLAND

NIHI KOTE
KOTE ISLAND



MEET NIHI'S
SANDALWOOD HORSES



EXPERIENCE
WILD WELNESS

NIHIOLA SPA



29 OCEAN-VIEW &
UNIQUELY DESIGNED VILLAS
IMMERSED IN NATURE



BECOME
YOUR NEW HOME



AWAY FROM HOME



EQUINE CONNECTION

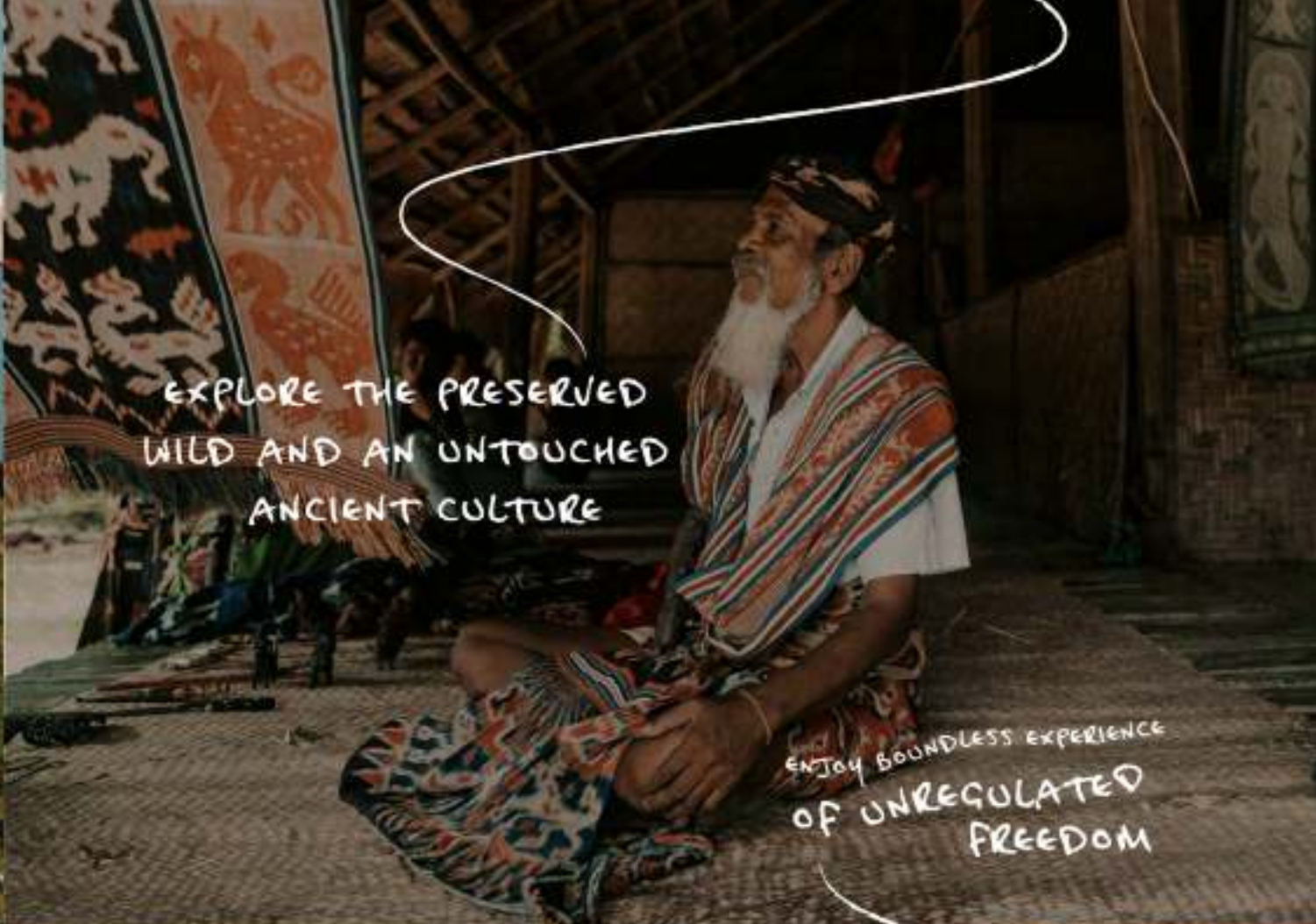


A DESTINATION
WHERE ADVENTURE
AWAITS.

TRANSFORM
YOURSELF.



TAKE A
GASTRONOMIC JOURNEY



EXPLORE THE PRESERVED
WILD AND AN UNTOUCHED
ANCIENT CULTURE

ENJOY BOUNDLESS EXPERIENCE
OF UNREGULATED
FREEDOM



IN A HIDDEN PARADISE
THAT TRANSCENDS SPA.

BE WILD.
BE FREE.
BE WELL.



CREATE A BRIGHT
FUTURE TOGETHER

THE SUMBA FOUNDATION



SUMBA HOSPITALITY
FOUNDATION



WIDELY FIT



REBALANCE



ENGLISH GOES
TO KAMPUNG



HAVE A RARE
SENSE OF DISCOVERY



COME WITH AN
OPEN HEART

NIHI
SUMBA





EVENTS & DINING

Indulge in fresh, quality cuisine with locally sourced ingredients at NIHI Sumba.

Our menus are full of flavor and variety thanks to our flourishing organic gardens that are used in conjunction with a bounty of local fruit, vegetables, spices and herbs sourced from the neighbouring villages and farms.

Our Restaurants

OMBAK RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST || 6:30 AM - 11:00 AM
DINNER || 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

NIO BEACH CLUB

BREAKFAST || 6:30 AM - 11:00 AM*
LUNCH || 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
*EVERY SUNDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, WEATHER DEPENDENT

KABOKU

DINNER || 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM*
*Space is limited (6 pax) for this extraordinary dining experience so pre-booking is essential. Kaboku is not inclusive in the daily accommodation price.



EXPLORE
OUR MENUS

Weekly Dining

JUNGLE-THEMED DINNER

Dine under the stars, where open-fire cooking and local ingredients create a family-style feast in a lush tropical setting.

🕒 7:00 PM 📅 MONDAY

SUMBA FOUNDATION NIGHT

Enjoy a curated buffet while watching a short film on The Sumba Foundation's impactful community projects, deepening your connection to Sumba.

🕒 7:00 PM 📅 WEDNESDAY

WHITE PARTY DINNER

NIHI's most iconic night! Start with a signature cocktail, then enjoy a lively buffet-style dinner and celebration under the stars.

🕒 7:00 PM 📅 SATURDAY

Special Dining

CHEF'S TABLE

An exclusive tasting menu inspired by Sumba's seasonal ingredients, crafted by our Chef for an unforgettable private dining experience.

DINNER || 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM*
*Space is limited (6 pax) for this extraordinary dining experience so pre-booking is essential. Chef's Table is not inclusive in the daily accommodation price.

DINING UNDER THE STARS

Dine beneath a starlit sky, with the ocean's rhythm as your soundtrack. Ombak's open-air setting, Nihiwatu beach or Nio Beach Club, these are just a few options that offer an unforgettable candlelit experience.

DINNER || 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM*
* Pre-booking is essential.

IN-VILLA DINING

Enjoy a private dining experience without leaving the comfort of your villa. Let the NIHI team create a beautiful, starlit setting, perfect for a relaxed and intimate meal with your loved ones.

ALL DAY || 6:30 AM - 10:00 PM



NIHI WILDLINGS

NIHI® Sumba is a wild and exciting second home for your family, with lush tropical jungles, clear blue ocean, an endless, untouched beach, and luxury private family villas.

At NIHI® Sumba, kids connect with nature through **horse riding lessons** and the **Pony Club**, where they learn to ride and care for Sumba ponies. The **Wildlings Morning** offers cooking classes and garden exploration, while **spa treatments** provide a touch of pampering. Budding chocolatiers can craft their own treats in the **Chocolate Making Class**, from bean to bar.



Wildlings Schedule

MONDAY

Sea Adventure Day

Hunt for shells, create ocean-inspired art, and learn about sea turtles in a day full of marine discoveries. Your day begins at 10 AM at the Chocolate Factory, where you'll be introduced to the theme of the day. From there, you'll stroll to the Yoga Pavilion and along the beach to the Boathouse, where you'll enjoy a captivating story about the oceans and marine life. During this scenic walk, collect shells to create your own arts and crafts.

In the afternoon, join us at 3 PM for the Turtle Lovers Activity, where you can learn more about these fascinating creatures and their conservation.

TUESDAY

Meet the Sumba Seahorses

Join us at 10 AM at the Chocolate Factory for an engaging day focused on the rich culture of Sumba. We'll kick off with storytelling about Sumbanese horses and their cultural significance, followed by a visit to the Sandalwood Stables, where children can interact with ponies and learn about their care and diet. Next, we'll explore biodiversity during an Insect Exploration session, where kids will use bug-catching nets to observe local insects like praying mantises, learning the importance of gentle handling before releasing them back into nature.

In the afternoon, at 3 PM, we'll wrap up with a creative Garden Craft session, encouraging creativity and fun!

WEDNESDAY

Cultural Celebration

Join us for a vibrant cultural experience starting at 10:00 AM at the Chocolate Factory, where children will dress in traditional Sumbanese attire and learn about its significance, as well as local customs and basic Sumbanese greetings. The festivities will include a lively parade around NIHI, allowing the children to showcase their costumes while we capture memorable photos. They will then participate in a Sumbanese Dance Lesson, guided by a skilled instructor who will teach them basic dance steps and introduce them to traditional music.

We'll conclude the day at 3 PM with a fun Coconut Smoothie Making session, giving children a chance to enjoy a refreshing treat.

THURSDAY

Earth & Clay Crafts

From storytelling and clay sculpting to playful mud fun, this day is all about connecting with the earth through creativity. The Chocolate Factory will be the meeting point at 10 AM. Here children will learn about working with clay and the story of the Sumba Man before they create their own Sumba Man figures and other clay crafts, guided by demonstrations of basic techniques.

In the afternoon, at 4 PM, we'll have fun with mud play at the Boathouse. It's a wonderful opportunity for creativity and cultural exploration!

FRIDAY

Jungle Adventure

Join us for an adventurous day starting at 10 AM at the Chocolate Factory. We'll discuss jungle safety and the importance of respecting nature while providing binoculars and magnifying glasses for our exploration. Afterward, we'll embark on a jungle walk to search for birds, animals, and fascinating plants, enhancing our understanding of local flora and fauna.

Next, we'll visit the food forest to learn about edible plants and harvest fresh ingredients for a delicious salad that we will prepare together.

Finally, at 3 PM, we'll gather at Ombak to create and design our own pizzas, adding a fun culinary twist to our day.

SATURDAY

Treasure Hunt!

Join us for an exciting day filled with adventure and fun! We will kick off at 10 AM at the Chocolate Factory, where we will gather for a Treasure Hunt Briefing. Children will then explore the resort, following the clues given during the briefing to uncover hidden treasures. This engaging activity encourages teamwork and problem-solving skills. We'll then reconvene at the Chocolate Factory for the Treasure Reveal & Party. Here, we will celebrate the winners—those who found the most treasures—and award them with certificates and prizes. Enjoy fresh juices, cookies, and cupcakes as we celebrate together!

The day will end at 3 PM, with a delightful Chocolate Making session, where everyone can get hands-on and create their own sweet treats.

SUNDAY

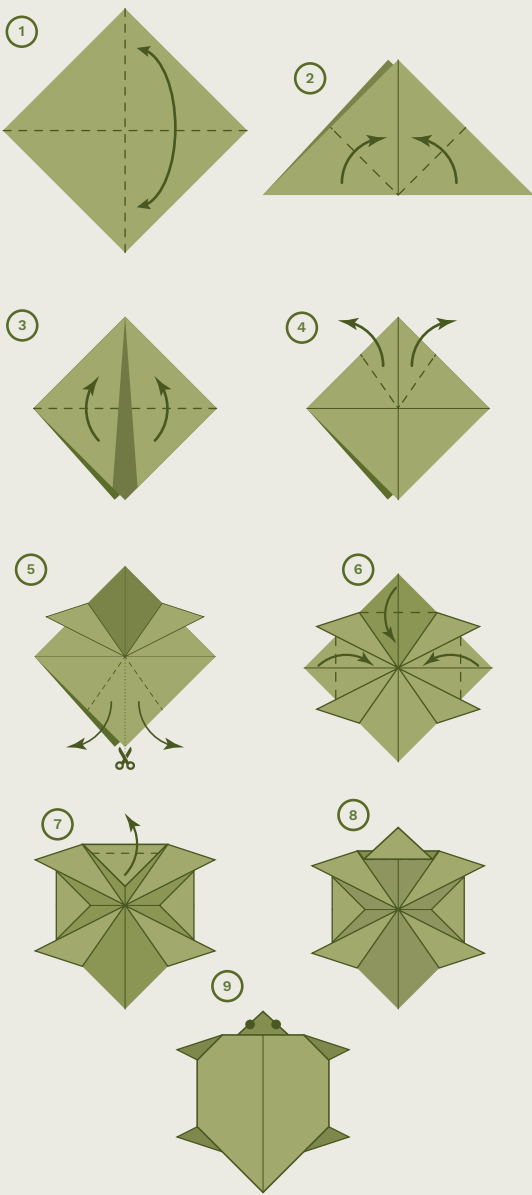
Palm Crafts Workshop

Join us for a creative and fun-filled day starting at 10 AM at the Chocolate Factory, where we will kick off with a Palms Crafts Workshop. We'll showcase examples of beautiful crafts made from palm leaves to inspire the children so they can make their own origami figures, along with fish, balls, and hats to foster their creativity and skill.

In the afternoon, at 3 PM, we will gather at Ombak for a delightful Cupcake Decoration activity, where everyone can unleash their creativity while decorating cupcakes.

Origami Turtle

Follow these steps to fold your own paper turtle! Grab a square sheet, and let's begin!



NIHI CULTURAL IMMERSION

Experience Sumba’s heritage, traditions, and natural beauty through immersive cultural events.

From ancient storytelling and artisan crafts to culinary delights and wildlife encounters, each experience invites you to discover the heart of Sumba in an authentic and meaningful way.

Join us for a journey beyond the ordinary—where history, nature, and tradition come to life.

MONDAY

Ancient Craftsmanship*

Dive into the ancient art of Sumba Stone Carving and immerse yourself in Sumba’s rich cultural heritage with this exclusive hands-on experience.

🕒 11:00 AM 📍 CHOCOLATE FACTORY

TUESDAY

Sumba’s Living Legends

Embark on a captivating journey into the heart of Sumba through storytelling, history, and folklore.

🕒 6:30 PM 📍 OMBAK RESTAURANT

WEDNESDAY

Discover the Heart of Sumba*

Embark on an enriching cultural journey through Sumba’s iconic villages

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 WAITABAR & TARUNG VILLAGE

THURSDAY

A Taste of Sumba*

Embark on an unforgettable adventure with our Traditional Sumba Cooking Demo!

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 ORGANIC GARDEN & MENARA

FRIDAY

Sumba Pony Story & Grazing Adventure*

Immerse yourself in the captivating tale of the Sumba Pony followed by the view of grazing horses.

 7:00 AM  STABLES

SATURDAY

Bird Watching

Embark on a resort discovery where we reveal Sumba's vibrant birdlife.

 6:30 AM  MAMOLE TO STABLES

*PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS

Driven by a deep commitment to uplifting the Sumba community.

Between 1988 and 1994, life on Sumba Island was challenging, with no running water, electricity, or medical care. Malaria was rampant, affecting both villagers and newcomers. Nihiwatu’s founder Claude Graves, and his family, founded The Sumba Foundation®, embodying his vision to uplift the community. Chris Burch continued the legacy by founding the **Burch Family Foundation** to support all philanthropic projects related to the community in Sumba.

“Chris’ kindness and care has touched the hearts of thousands of children and families in the constant quest for eliminating malnutrition for children, eradicating malaria in West Sumba, and providing water wells to villages, amongst many other community efforts. During the virus, he supported the well-being of thousands of people with his huge heart and exceptional generosity.”

- JAMES MCBRIDE, PARTNER & CEO – NIHI HOTELS

Initially focused on health and education, the Burch Family Foundation now expands into providing skills training, creating employment, and developing small-scale businesses with the goal of fostering long-term sustainability.



PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS



Burch Family
FOUNDATION

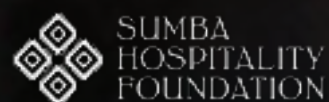
SUMBA FOUNDATION TOUR

Discover The Sumba Foundation®'s impactful initiatives, supported by NIHI® and generous guests, enriching local health, nutrition, and education. Visit a water project, a malaria clinic, or help with the school lunch program.



TEACHING ENGLISH

Join The Sumba Foundation® at a local school to support English classes through play, songs, and games. Connect with Sumba's children in a fun, rewarding way while boosting their confidence. Expect curiosity—they love meeting visitors!



SUMBA FOUNDATION DINNER

Join us every Wednesday to celebrate the excellent work of The Sumba Foundation. This is a curated buffet dining experience where we also feature a beautiful short film on our ongoing work with our community.



BOUTIQUE & CONSCIOUS RETAIL

We might be located on the Edge of Wildness™ but that hasn't prevented us from bringing a conscious and considered world-class retail experience to you.



Located at the Menara Garden, our boutique carries a specially curated range of exquisite clothing and jewelry, traditional crafts, iconic NIHI pieces and unique gifts. Enjoy browsing our collection and hunting for special treasures for yourself and loved ones back home.



Sumba is a unique biosystem outpost located near the edge of the Wallace Line, an invisible geographical border that separates fauna and flora in Southeast Asia. Along with award-winning Pharmacognocist Dr. Simon Jackson, NIHI has been formulating a sophisticated Sumba 7 Botanical Elixir, born from deep in the rainforests of Sumba, using traditional Ethnopharmacology, an ancient apothecary for modern times, that harnesses the healing and regenerative power of unique and endemic Botanical species found in and around the Wallace Line.



THE LAST CHANCE TO

Own your private villa within the breathtaking NIHI® Sumba.

With 6 estates already sold and only one villa left, we offer freehold land, stunning buildings, and world-class amenities. As an owner, you'll have the freedom to stay with family and friends at your leisure, while the resort's expert management team takes care of the property and rents it out during your absence*. Embrace the unique beauty of Sumba, enjoy the incredible benefits of NIHI® Sumba, and receive rental income when you're not in residence. This is your chance to own a piece of paradise.

*FULL MANAGEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

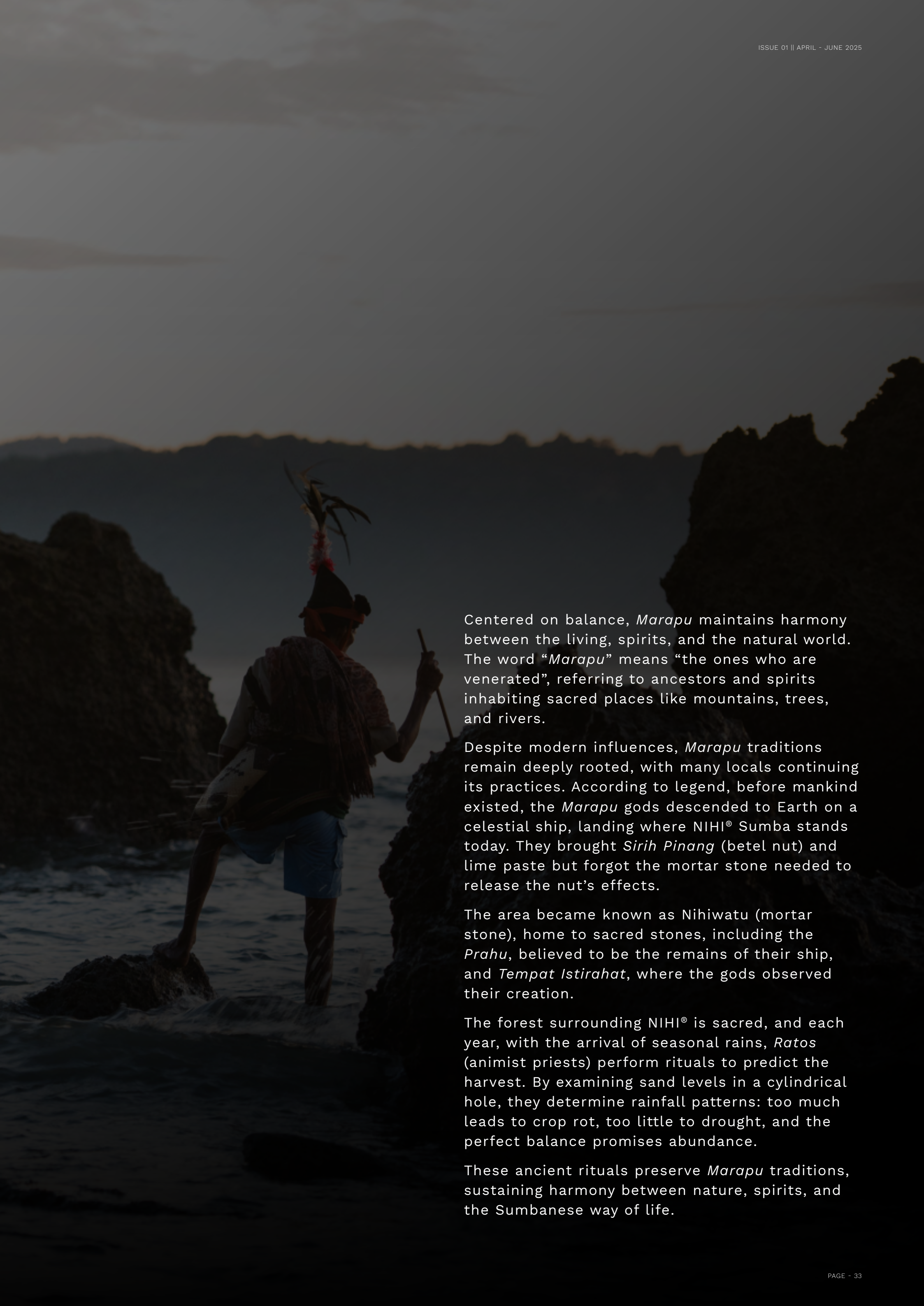


MORE INFORMATION

The Spiritual Heart of Sumba



Sumba Island's breathtaking landscapes are deeply intertwined with the Marapu religion, which links the Sumbanese to their ancestors, nature, and the divine.



Centered on balance, *Marapu* maintains harmony between the living, spirits, and the natural world. The word “*Marapu*” means “the ones who are venerated”, referring to ancestors and spirits inhabiting sacred places like mountains, trees, and rivers.

Despite modern influences, *Marapu* traditions remain deeply rooted, with many locals continuing its practices. According to legend, before mankind existed, the *Marapu* gods descended to Earth on a celestial ship, landing where NIHI® Sumba stands today. They brought *Sirih Pinang* (betel nut) and lime paste but forgot the mortar stone needed to release the nut’s effects.

The area became known as Nihiwatu (mortar stone), home to sacred stones, including the *Prahu*, believed to be the remains of their ship, and *Tempat Istirahat*, where the gods observed their creation.

The forest surrounding NIHI® is sacred, and each year, with the arrival of seasonal rains, *Ratos* (animist priests) perform rituals to predict the harvest. By examining sand levels in a cylindrical hole, they determine rainfall patterns: too much leads to crop rot, too little to drought, and the perfect balance promises abundance.

These ancient rituals preserve *Marapu* traditions, sustaining harmony between nature, spirits, and the Sumbanese way of life.

THE SACRED RITUALS
& TRADITIONS

A stay at NIHI® Sumba
offers ultimate comfort while
immersing guests in the
island’s ancient tribal culture.



Sumba’s vibrant traditions and rituals shape its daily life. We invite guests to venture deeper by visiting markets for unique crafts, and going on village hikes to see renowned ikat weavings and explore megalithic burial sites. Discover why we chose this island as our NIHI home.

MINI PASOLA DEMONSTRATION

Pasola is a vibrant Sumbanese harvest festival on horseback, held each February or March when the Rato (village elder) spots worms emerging from the sand. Riders clash in a ritual to bless the land for a bountiful harvest. Our demonstration features local children in ceremonial attire using softened banana leaf spears, guided by Sumbanese stable staff. Part of the event supports a horse charity.

ANCESTRAL VILLAGE TOUR

A local guide will immerse you in the island's ancestral life, teaching traditional weaving and offering authentic Sumba ikats. The tour includes a visit to the bustling local market, filled with dried fish, chili peppers, tobacco, and betel nuts. Explore fruit stands, an antique store, and hidden gems.





ISLAND WHISPERS

When the moon calls, the ocean reveals its secrets. As the tide recedes, shimmering pools emerge, alive with marine treasures. Witness the magic, taste the tradition, and embrace the rhythm of Sumba's shores.

During the low tides of the new and full moons, the ocean recedes, unveiling the expansive reef in front of the Boathouse and at the end of Nihiwatu Beach. This natural phenomenon creates shallow pools brimming with marine life.

There's nothing quite like taking a sunset or sunrise beach walk during these low tides, with a chance to explore the exposed reefs and swim in the natural pools. You can also observe local villagers foraging along the ocean floor, gathering seaweed, sea urchins, crabs, fish, and octopus—essential ingredients for their cuisine.

Experience this enduring connection between the Sumba people and the sea, where nature provides and traditions thrive.

Upcoming Moon Phases



13 APRIL, 2025
FULL MOON



28 APRIL, 2025
NEW MOON



12 MAY, 2025
FULL MOON



27 MAY, 2025
NEW MOON



11 JUNE, 2025
FULL MOON



25 JUNE, 2025
NEW MOON

Voices of NIHI

In this exclusive interview,
we explore the sacred role of
a Rato and the enduring
strength of Marapu traditions
in Kadoku Village.

In Kadoku Village, Rato Hilo Pugu upholds generations of tradition as a spiritual and cultural leader in the Marapu faith.

He bridges the living and the ancestors, ensuring rituals are performed correctly and maintaining balance between the human and spiritual realms. In this interview, Rato Hilo Pugu discusses the weight of his role, challenges in preserving ancient traditions, the spiritual guidance from his ancestors, and the future of Marapu beliefs, stressing the importance of passing them on to the next generation.

IN THE MARAPU TRADITION, WHAT DOES IT TRULY MEAN TO BE A RATO?

Being a Rato means holding a position of great respect and responsibility within the community. The role is both spiritual and ceremonial, ensuring that Marapu beliefs are upheld, rituals are performed correctly, and the balance between the human world and the spirit world is maintained.

A Rato acts as a mediator between the ancestors and the people.

“Being a Rato means holding a position of great respect and responsibility within the community.”

IS THE ROLE OF RATO ALWAYS PASSED DOWN WITHIN THE SAME FAMILY, OR CAN OTHERS BE CHOSEN TO BECOME RATOS?

In many cases, the role of Rato is inherited, passed from one generation to the next, as it is deeply tied to lineage and ancestral rights. However, if a family does not have children or a son to inherit the role, a man from another family who demonstrates leadership, strength, and spiritual wisdom may be selected. This man would be knighted as a Rato through a ceremonial process and would receive rice fields, farms, and a herd of buffaloes as part of his responsibilities.

HOW MANY RATOS EXIST WITHIN YOUR FAMILY TODAY?

I am the only Rato chosen by my father to continue the legacy and responsibility of this role. Currently, no child in my family has been designated as the next Rato due to school enrollment requirements, which mandate a baptism certificate and parents' marriage certificate. I am waiting until my child completes their studies before passing the title to the next generation.

“A man from another family who demonstrates leadership, strength, and spiritual wisdom may be selected.”

HOW MANY KINDS OF RATOS EXIST?

In Sumba, there are several kinds of Ratos, each with different levels of responsibility. Some oversee large regions or villages, while others conduct rituals and ceremonies on a smaller scale within their communities. There are also specialized Ratos focused on specific rituals or ancestral duties. In my village, there are 13 Ratos, each with distinct responsibilities. I come from Uma Bei (the Main House), which is responsible for determining all ceremonial events. When a meeting between Ratos is held, one of the Rato's houses is responsible for inviting the others. Some Ratos are also responsible for cooking during traditional ceremonies.

“It is important to respect our culture, preserve traditions, honor nature and ancestors, and show respect for all living beings.”

WHAT KIND OF RATOS ARE YOU AND HOW DID YOU BECOME ONE? WAS THIS A CALLING, OR WERE YOU CHOSEN BY YOUR FAMILY AS PART OF A GENERATIONAL TRADITION?

I am the Rato of Uma Bei (the Main House), which means I am responsible for making decisions regarding all traditional ceremonies. I provide guidance on what needs to be done by the other Ratos during cultural events. My father chose me because I demonstrated leadership abilities and spiritual aptitude from a young age, showing a natural capacity to lead and perform rituals.

WHAT KIND OF PREPARATION OR RITUALS DID YOU UNDERGO BEFORE BEING RECOGNIZED AS A RATO?

Since my childhood, I often participated in traditional ceremonies and understood the customary languages used in rituals. My father, who was also a Rato, received divine guidance from our ancestors that I was the one chosen to continue the role. When the time came, a ceremony was held, beginning with traditional chants and the ritual sacrifice of a chicken to read its entrails. The outcome confirmed the ancestors' approval, leading to a grand ceremony that included the sacrifice of a pig to honor them. At that moment, I was officially crowned as the Rato of my family according to custom.

“My father received divine guidance from our ancestors that I was the one chosen to continue the role.”

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST POWERFUL EXPERIENCE CONNECTING WITH THE SPIRITS?

Every time I am scheduled for a ceremony, I pray the night before. My father, who has passed away, visits me in my dreams, offering advice and guidance on what needs to be done. There have been times when he warned me not to pass certain houses on the left side or advised against specific actions during the ceremony. I see these dreams as messages from my father and ancestors, ensuring that rituals are performed correctly.

“The role is often tied to lineage and ancestral rights.”

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES RATOS FACE IN PRESERVING MARAPU BELIEFS TODAY?

The biggest challenges include the influence of modernity, outside religions, and external pressures that threaten to erode traditional practices. Younger generations may be more inclined to follow external belief systems, creating a disconnect from Marapu traditions. For example, when registering children for school, they must submit a baptism certificate and their parents' marriage certificate, which are tied to Christian practices. I hope that the Marapu religion will be officially recognized so that these administrative requirements no longer become obstacles for preserving our traditions.

WHAT MESSAGE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION ABOUT KEEPING THESE TRADITIONS ALIVE?

It is important to respect our culture, preserve traditions, honor nature and ancestors, and show respect for all living beings, as passed down by our elders. At the same time, it is essential to pursue education, blending traditional wisdom with modern knowledge to ensure the survival and relevance of our cultural heritage in today's world.



NIHI

SUMBA



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THE
EDGE
LIST