



Edge of Wildness Times

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

NIHI SUMBA'S NEWS

ISSUE 02 || JULY TO NOVEMBER, 2025



New York Times

*Sumba is Not Bali.
That's the Point.*

- 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 transcends mere relaxation, offering a sanctuary for the soul and a haven where nature's embrace meets wellness, including the healing presence of horses at the Equine Sanctuary.

Nestled within 100 acres of pristine paradise, just a 15-minute journey from the main resort, this secluded retreat is enveloped by lush rice fields, verdant jungle, and the boundless ocean. Here, serenity and nature harmonize, inviting an immersive journey of renewal.

With two pristine beaches and a tranquil infinity pool, the spa beckons you to bask in pure bliss. Our carefully curated holistic treatments, each spanning at least 90 minutes, restore balance, awaken the senses, and nurture the spirit. For ultimate privacy, expert therapists bring this experience to your villa or our exclusive wellness bale, an open-air haven where gentle ocean breezes and sweeping sea views craft a deeply restorative escape.

Within the tranquil embrace of Nihioka Spa lies the Equine Sanctuary, where NIHI's Sumba Sandalwood Horses find their retirement home. Surrounded by the soothing rhythm of waves and the shade of palm trees, guests are guided through the gentle, healing power of these majestic horses.



NIHIOKA SPA



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 Nihioka 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 Nihioka Spa, where serenity awaits. Sip a refreshing young coconut as waves crash below, then enjoy breakfast or lunch at the Nihioka 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.

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



SPA SAFARI

Luxurious Treatments

Immerse yourself in 2.5 or 5 hours of exquisite pampering, featuring luxurious massages and body treatments crafted to rejuvenate and restore your spirit. Enhance your journey with our unique equine wellness options, available to be blended into your spa experience or as an enriching extension at Nihioka Spa.

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 Nihioka: Your Journey Continues

Your Spa Safari™ continues on the following days with 50% off additional in-villa treatments throughout your stay.

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



MINDFUL 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.

RECOVERY SESSION

A restorative session that aids in muscle recovery, alleviates soreness, and helps rejuvenate your body after physical exertion.



MINDFUL WELLNESS

EQUINE WELLNESS

Nestled in Nihioka’s Equine Sanctuary, rest under palm trees, soothed by ocean waves and the gentle presence of Sumba’s horses.

The Equine Wellness at Nihioka Spa is not about riding, it's a profound, soul-enriching journey that invites you to engage with horses through stillness, gentle touch, and mutual trust. There are no crowds, no reins, no spectacle, only genuine presence. Set in a pristine corner of Nihioka Spa, perched on a dramatic cliffside where ocean winds and wild nature create a space for reflection and integration, this experience unfolds at the Nihioka’s Equine Sanctuary. Here, retired horses live with dignity, serenity, and purpose.

In a barefoot paddock overlooking the sea and under the palm trees, guests meet these emotionally attuned beings on equal ground. Through quiet companionship, the horses mirror your inner state (calm, tension, or truth), creating a silent dialogue that often reveals more than words ever can. This connection is rooted in reciprocity, care, and understanding. It is a journey of presence, listening, and soulful connection.

EQUINE CONNECTION*

A personalized bond with NIHI’s intuitive Sumba horses through our Equine Connection program, rooted in the island’s rich equestrian heritage. Built on four core pillars (*Equine Essence*, *Equine Seen*, *Equine Tuned*, and *Equine Feel*) each session offers insights into trust, mindfulness, communication, and natural leadership, fostering a deeper connection with yourself, the horses, and the land. Tailored to your goals, whether personal growth, emotional balance, or heightened presence, sessions are available as single or multi-day experiences.

YOGA*

Embrace a harmonious blend of yoga, bonding, breathwork, and meditation alongside a calming horse. Start with mindful movement and connection beside your equine partner, with optional simple poses and breathwork while mounted to foster balance and trust. Conclude with a serene beach visit with your horse—a peaceful journey for body, mind, and soul.

* THESE EXPERIENCES TAKE PLACE AT THE RESORT



MASSAGE

A signature spa treatment serves as the final touch of restoration, gently aligning body and spirit in harmony. As expert hands soothe your body and a horse stands quietly nearby, its steady heartbeat and calming energy guide you into a peaceful, balanced state. This subtle heart-to-heart connection eases stress and anchors you in the present, sparking true healing.

REIKI

Immerse yourself in a restorative Reiki session, enveloped by the grounding energy and calm presence of horses, which naturally ease stress and guide you into the present for true healing. As Reiki energy flows, the soothing resonance of sound bowls enhances vibrational harmony, fostering emotional release, balance, and renewal. Subject to Reiki Master availability.



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 Nihioaka 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).

Chase the Cool. Find the Wild.

In this summer time, let the heart of Sumba cool your spirit with two unforgettable journeys into the wild.

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.

Blue Waterfall

Begin with a breathtaking drive to Matayangu, then follow a guided trek through pristine national parkland to the famed Blue Lagoon. This 1.5-hour journey is rich with wild encounters, such as macaques, rare birds, even elusive pythons. At the trail's end, a towering waterfall unveils itself in full majesty. Pause, picnic, and let the scale of nature move you.

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 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. Outfitted with 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

Sumba on Two Wheels

Explore the hills and coasts of Sumba on a guided e-bike ride, with pedal-assist for effortless adventure.

TUESDAY

The Ride to Wanukaka

A memorable 15km e-bike ride through Sumba's varied terrain. Starting with a quiet coastal stretch and a brief stop at Rua Beach, then climbing through lush hills and traditional villages. It finishes above Wanukaka Valley with sweeping views. Tailored for nature explorers looking to discover the outdoors on a smooth and enjoyable bike journey.

THURSDAY

Redhouse Morning Ride

An intermediate and calming 21km e-bike ride through rolling hills, quiet villages, and coastal roads, with stunning views of rice fields and shorelines. Ideal for guests seeking a scenic start to the day that still gets the heart pumping, truly a special Sumba morning.

SATURDAY

Adventure Redhouse Ride

A thrilling advanced 30km e-bike ride through Sumba's lush hills, coastal views, and village roads. With 530 meters of elevation gain, this route offers a perfect blend of challenge and beauty. Perfect for thrill-seekers who want to go off the beaten path and experience the island from a whole new angle.



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.

DOLPHIN VIEWING

We invite you to join us to view one of the ocean's most beautiful creatures. Different species of dolphin are regularly spotted, both from our shores and out at sea.

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



2 TO 26 JULY, 2025

BODYWORK THERAPY BY ALEX SCRIMGEOUR

Alex is a skilled Bodywork Therapist specializing in Dien Chan Facial Reflexology. After studying Acupuncture and completing clinical internships in Saigon, he expanded his expertise across various therapies, including Tui-Na, Thai Massage, and Qigong. His signature Dien Chan treatments release tension and emotional stress, promoting optimal health and well-being.

18 SEPTEMBER TO
13 OCTOBER, 2025

PAIN & ENERGY RELIEF BY KADEK SUKRAWAN

Su is a Balinese healer who blends Reiki, mantras, and hypnotherapy with movement and mindfulness for powerful, holistic treatments. Trained in massage, cupping, dry needling, and yoga, his approach draws from both ancient wisdom and modern techniques. Su creates intuitive, personalized sessions that restore balance and well-being.



2 AUGUST TO
1 SEPTEMBER, 2025

MOVEMENT & OSTEOPATHY BY EMILIE NYMAN

Emilie, a Norwegian osteopath with 17+ years of experience in yoga and wellness, blends biomechanics, neurology, and yogic philosophy to support holistic well-being. Specializing in women's health, she offers tailored treatments and retreats that guide both women and men toward deep mind-body connection and lasting transformation.



12 TO 29 OCTOBER, 2025

THE VOUSY EXPERIENCE BY TATSUYA HIRAKAWA

Blending Japanese martial arts with refined global techniques, trusted by gold medalists, Grammy-winning artists, top models, successful entrepreneurs, and the world's most elite circles, and sought after across the globe. Achieve your best in recovery, beauty, and physical performance.



1 TO 17 SEPTEMBER, 2025

ROLFING THERAPY BY MARIA HUSSAIN

With 20+ years in bodywork and movement therapy, Maria Hussain specializes in Structural Integration, Scar Therapy, and Shaw Method swimming. Her fascia-focused approach blends hands-on treatment with movement re-education to restore alignment, ease pain, and enhance mobility, ideal for athletes, adventurers, and anyone seeking lasting vitality.

3 NOVEMBER TO
3 DECEMBER, 2025

HYPNOTHERAPY BY PHIL DAVIES

Phil has been on a spiritual journey since his teens, dedicating over 20 years to healing and transformation. As a skilled practitioner, he helps clients overcome trauma, limiting beliefs, and negative emotions. Phil's sessions offer a path to freedom, confidence, self-connection, and lasting peace.



Savor & Explore

A photograph of an outdoor dining area at sunset. The scene is set on a wooden deck overlooking a beach and a forested hill. In the foreground, there are several wicker chairs with white cushions and patterned pillows arranged around wooden tables. A stone fire pit with a fire burning inside is on the left. A tall wooden pole with a lantern is also on the left. In the background, there are palm trees and other tropical plants. Two staff members in blue uniforms are visible, one standing near a table and another walking. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, and the ocean is visible in the distance.

At NIHI[®], every experience flows effortlessly between indulgence and authenticity.



Dine barefoot with the ocean at your feet, savoring seasonal dishes crafted from the island's freshest bounty. As you unwind, little adventurers set off on enriching journeys through Sumba's wild landscapes where play, learning, and nature blend seamlessly. Whether around the table or under the canopy of the jungle, every moment is designed to inspire connection, wonder, and a deeper sense of belonging.





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



ENGLISH GOES
TO KAMPUNG



WIDELY FIT



REBALANCE



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.

From barefoot beach lunches to starlit feasts, every dish is crafted with fresh island ingredients and inspired by Sumba’s rich culinary heritage. Savor bold flavors, share unforgettable moments, and let each bite draw you deeper into the spirit of the island.

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, 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.

Savor What’s Next at NIHI

17, 19 & 21 OCTOBER, 2025

TERRA FIRMA

Embark on a bold culinary adventure where flames dance and flavors soar. Terra Firma unites nature, culture, and fire-to-table cooking at NIHI, an immersive experience blending primal techniques with Chef Charly Pretet’s French finesse. Outdoor dining is redefined as guests step into the kitchen and become part of the process.

Movie Night

Sunday nights at NIHI come with a touch of wonder. Settle in by the pool, feel the ocean breeze, and enjoy a curated film under the stars. With soft lighting, cozy comforts, and a view of the sea, this open-air cinema experience is

relaxed, intimate, and unforgettable, just like the island itself.

8:30 PM **SUNDAY**

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**

BURCH FOUNDATION NIGHT

Enjoy a thoughtfully curated buffet as you witness the Burch Foundation’s remarkable work in uplifting local communities through a moving short film, an experience that nourishes both heart and soul, and strengthens your bond with Sumba.

7:00 PM **WEDNESDAY**

HATS ON, BOTTLES UP LUNCH

Lunch flows into an afternoon of bubbles, music, and barefoot fun. Be creative dressing for the party. Wear a playful hat or let our NIO weavers craft one for you. No hat? No problem. Just come ready to sip champagne, dance on the bar, or try balancing a tray like the Sumbanese.

12:00 PM **FRIDAY**

WHITE PARTY DINNER

NIHI’s legendary night of barefoot glam! Sip a signature cocktail, indulge in a lively beachside buffet, and dance beneath the stars in all-white island style.

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



EXPLORE
OUR MENUS



NIHI WILDLINGS KIDS CLUB

At NIHI, we believe childhood should be wild, wondrous, and magical, just like the island itself.

That’s the spirit behind the NIHI Wildlings Kids Club, a **full-day immersive program for children** aged 4 to 12*, operating like a school with activities starting at 9:00 AM, with lunch and snacks, it keeps young minds engaged until 4:00 PM, thoughtfully designed to spark imagination, nurture curiosity, and let kids simply be kids.

While the Wildlings are discovering new passions, building friendships, and soaking in the spirit of Sumba, parents are free to indulge in their own moments of peace, whether it's a long spa treatment, a surf session, or simply a quiet breakfast with the ocean as their only company.

Let your little ones run barefoot, curious and free, because at NIHI, adventure is for every age.

*Children under 4 years old are welcome to join when accompanied by a parent or dedicated nanny.



CHILDREN

Sumba's Young Explorers: A journey of learning, crafting and creating memories

At NIHI Wildlings Kids Club, each day sparks joy with a playful start at the Chocolate Factory, followed by themed adventures that embody Sumba's vibrant spirit. Every morning unfolds with activities tailored to the day's theme, igniting young imaginations.

MONDAY || *Sea Adventure Day*

Explore the shoreline and discover marine life.

TUESDAY || *Sandalwood Horses*

Connect with Sumba's gentle horses.

WEDNESDAY || *Sumbanese Culture*

Learn local songs, language, and stories.

THURSDAY || *Earth & Clay Creations*

Craft with natural materials from the land.

FRIDAY || *Edible Food Forest Adventure*

Discover and taste what grows in the jungle.

SATURDAY || *Treasure Hunt*

Race through a playful island-style scavenger hunt.

SUNDAY || *Palm Crafts*

Unwind with creative, island-inspired art.



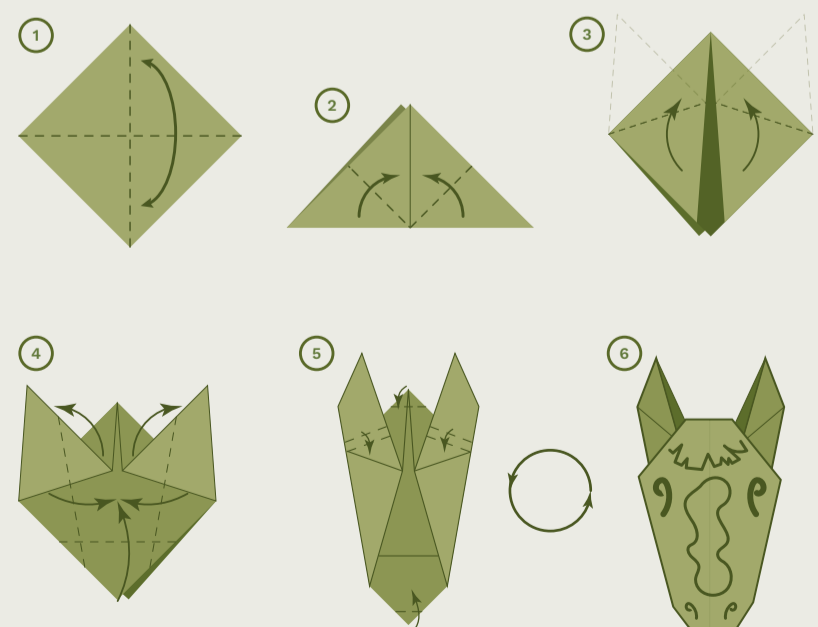
A tropical snack break leads into hands-on learning, group lunch, quiet time, and creative workshops. Each day ends with smoothies and stories, leaving young explorers full of memories at NIHI Sumba.

The NIHI Wildlings Kids Club runs daily from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, with early breakfast supervision available for parents heading out on morning adventures. A **24-hour pre-booking is required**, and every day is thoughtfully led by experienced guides and educators who blend safety, spontaneity, and storytelling in equal measure.



Origami Horse

Follow these steps to fold your own paper Sandalwood Horse! Grab a square sheet, and let's get started. In the end, draw your horse's face with a pen or pencil.



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*

Travel deep into the island’s soul with an enriching visit to two of Sumba’s most iconic ancestral villages.

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 WAITABAR & TARUNG VILLAGE

THURSDAY

A Taste of Sumba*

Savor the island’s flavors as our chefs guide you through a traditional cooking demo in a lush garden setting.

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 ORGANIC GARDEN & MENARA



HILUX

FRIDAY

Sandalwood Horse & Grazing Adventure*

Discover the story of Sumba's sacred Sandalwood horses, then walk alongside them as they graze freely, an intimate encounter with the island's living legends.

🕒 7:00 AM 📍 STABLES

SATURDAY

Ikat Weaving Class

Discover the soulful art of Sumbanese Ikat in our Saturday weaving workshop. Each thread tells a story, join us in preserving a tradition woven through time.

🕒 10:00 AM 📍 MENARA

*PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED

Breathe, Move, Explore, Belong

Your journey with us goes far beyond your villa. From sunrise yoga to sunset horseback rides, cultural workshops to ocean adventures. Our curated weekly activities are designed to immerse you in the soul of the island.

Explore what's happening this week. All activities are complimentary.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS

Driven by a deep commitment to uplifting the Sumba community.

When Chris Burch acquired NIHI for his sons, Nick, Henry, and Sawyer, he imagined more than a resort. He envisioned a place where values could be lived, not just taught. A sanctuary where adventure meets purpose, and where family, responsibility, and meaningful contribution are as integral as the surrounding natural beauty. That vision has since evolved into something far greater than a destination. NIHI is now a haven of wild luxury and deep connection, a place where impact is woven into every experience. The Burch family remains deeply involved, with Nick, Henry, and Sawyer each bringing their heart to a venture shaped by intention and guided by care.

“I have witnessed Chris Burch give with quiet grace and extraordinary heart. What he has created at NIHI, born of love for his sons and a profound care for the people of Sumba, has touched lives in deeply lasting ways. His generosity has powerfully expanded the legacy of the Sumba Foundation, bringing clean water, restoring health, and igniting transformation across the island, offering more than aid: a lasting light toward a brighter future.”

- JAMES MCBRIDE, PARTNER & CEO - NIHI HOTELS

In 2025, Chris Burch established the Burch Family Foundation to expand and deepen that vision. As the philanthropic heart of NIHI, the Burch Family Foundation offers long-term support and coordination to a growing constellation of community-driven initiatives across Sumba. It exists to ensure that generosity is not just a gesture, but a sustainable force for good. The Foundation continues a path first forged by Claude Graves, who founded The Sumba Foundation® in 2001. His early work laid the foundation for progress that still resonates across the island today.



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 the malaria clinic or help with the school lunch program.

TEACHING ENGLISH

Join the Sumba Foundation and English Goes to Kampung for an afternoon English class session, a joyful time of learning through play, songs, and storytelling. Help introduce the world to the children around us, and give them the chance to practice and grow their English skills in a fun, supportive environment

SUMBA DINNER

We invite you to join us every Wednesday to celebrate the impactful work being done in our community. Enjoy a thoughtfully curated buffet dining experience, complemented by a short, inspiring film that highlights our ongoing initiatives and the lives being touched through the Foundation's efforts.

KUDA HERITAGE PROJECT

Supported by the Burch Family Foundation, this monthly initiative brings essential veterinary care — hoof treatment, parasite control, and wellness checks — to horses in remote Sumbanese villages. Led by Doc Osta and the NIHI Stables team, it also provides mentorship for local youth, nurturing equine knowledge and empowering the next generation of compassionate caretakers.

CHEF GOES TO KAMPUNG

A soulful culinary exchange where NIHI chefs step beyond the resort and into Sumba's villages, joining local women in a celebration of food, culture, and shared wisdom. Together, they create nourishing meals from homegrown ingredients, blending modern nutrition with ancestral techniques. It's a two-way journey that empowers communities, honors tradition, and transforms each village visit into a story of connection and care.

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 next to the Boathouse, our ocean-facing main boutique offers a thoughtfully curated selection of exquisite clothing, handcrafted jewelry, artisanal pieces, and unique treasures. For iconic NIHI-branded items, visit Boutique Kecil at the reception area, the perfect spot to pick up meaningful mementos before your journey 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.

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT THE NIHI BOUTIQUE.



ROBERT LEGGAT X NIHI SUMBA

A Limited Art Collection Inspired by the Island's Heartbeat

During his NIHI residency, South African sculptor Robert Leggat drew from the rhythms, rituals, and raw beauty of Sumba to create an exclusive bronze collection. Each of the three pieces is a tribute to the island's culture, spirit, and ancestral bond with nature. The **Baya Bust**⁽¹⁾ honors the elders central to Sumbanese life, the **Pasola Warrior**⁽²⁾ evokes the power of the island's ceremonial battle, and the **Water Buffalo**⁽³⁾ reflects the deep harmony between villagers and their animals. For those who seek something truly personal, guests may also order custom pieces by Robert Leggat, speak with our NIHI Boutique team to explore more.

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT THE NIHI BOUTIQUE.



Sumbanese Soul on Hooves

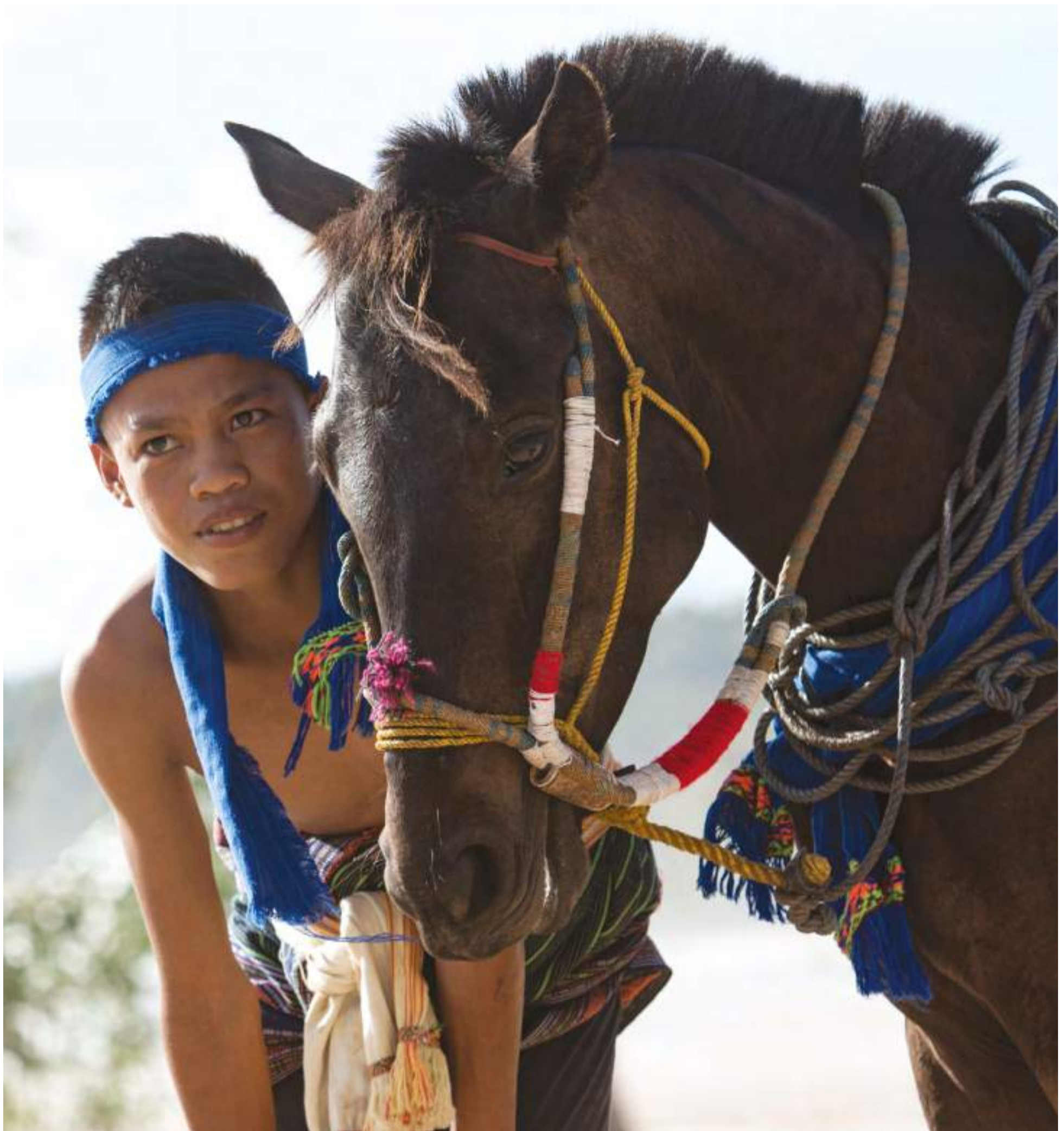
Sumba's iconic horses are more than a symbol of tradition. They are living vessels of heritage, shaped by centuries of ritual, resilience, and reverence for the land.



The Sandalwood horse, native to the rugged island of Sumba, is as unique and valued as the fragrant wood it's named after, it's a living symbol of the island's culture and spirit.

Small and spicy but powerful and deeply tied to the island's culture, this rare breed has survived for centuries in one of Indonesia's toughest environments, shaped by a harsh climate, deep-rooted traditions, and a lineage tracing back to Mongolian and Arabian horses.

In Sumbanese life, horses are more than animals. Historically used for transport and trade, now still part of traditional practices. They are central to marriage dowries, sacrificed during funerals, and ridden in the dramatic Pasola festival, where riders hurl spears in a ritual where blood needs to spill to bless the land.



SUMBANESE HORSE CULTURE

The Sandalwood horse is not just a creature of utility; it is a bearer of identity, pride, and spiritual meaning.

Owning a horse is a sign of pride and character. Horses are exchanged in marriage as symbols of union and status, and in funerals, they are sacrificed to guide the spirit of the deceased to the afterlife. These rituals reflect a belief in the horse as both a companion and a spiritual guide. From birth to burial, the horse is a constant presence, sacred, symbolic, and woven into the rhythm of Sumbanese life.

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.

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.





KUDA

HERITAGE PROJECT
BY NIHI SUMBA



KUDA HERITAGE PROJECT

Nowadays, the Sandalwood breed is under threat.

Economic hardship, neglect due to being replaced by machinery, crossbreeding in the racing industry, and disease, especially the deadly Surra virus have led to a sharp decline in their numbers.

Most communities have no access to veterinary care, and many see illness as a spiritual sign rather than a medical issue, malnutrition and lack of interest in care.

NIHI is taking action to change the luck of these beautiful souls. The Kuda Heritage Project, funded by a \$5 contribution from every horse-related experience at NIHI Sumba, preserves the island's cherished equine traditions.

With leadership from Dr. Osta, a dedicated Sumbanese veterinarian, and the stable men of Sandalwood Stables, we are working to protect the Sandalwood horse through regular parasite treatment, emergency care, nutrition support, and education.

A new mobile clinic will provide treatment and training for local caretakers and future vets. Education is key, Sumbanese to Sumbanese.

Dr. Osta, our dedicated veterinarian, volunteers monthly to provide essential pro bono care for local community horses, ensuring their health and vitality. This initiative reflects NIHI's commitment to Sumba's cultural and natural legacy, inviting guests to support a meaningful cause through transformative experiences like Equine Wellness sessions.

Together, we can ensure that Sumba's Sandalwood horses continue to roam free, strong, and proud for generations to come.

Voices of NIHI

Meet Carol, the visionary behind Sandalwood Stables, as she shares her journey, the magic of Sandalwood Horses, and dreams for their future.

To understand the soul of Sandalwood Stables, you must first meet Carol, the visionary behind it all.

What began with two untamed ponies grew into one of NIHI's most soulful experiences. With a lifelong love of horses and a deep connection to Sumba, Carol has built a sanctuary where local tradition, healing, and the wild beauty of the island come together.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SUMBA, AND HOW DID SANDALWOOD STABLES BEGIN?

I arrived in Sumba with my husband, who was managing the redevelopment of NIHI. During our visit, I encountered two Sumba ponies on the property. As a lifelong horse enthusiast, I was captivated. The ponies, intended for guest interaction, were too spirited for the role, so I offered to gentle them. That small start with two ponies grew into the vision for Sandalwood Stables.

“Sourcing proper feed was difficult, but collaborating with local racehorse breeders helped.”

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN STARTING THE STABLES ON A REMOTE ISLAND?

Building the stables on Sumba was challenging due to its isolation. Sourcing proper feed was difficult, but collaborating with local racehorse breeders helped. The absence of veterinary support was another hurdle. I relied on natural remedies like colloidal silver, honey, papaya leaves, and super glue for wounds, and used minyak gosok, a local herbal oil, for colic. Focusing on Sumba ponies, which are hardy and well-suited to the environment, was a key decision that shaped the stables' success.

“He was a challenge, but working with him taught me to listen deeply.”

TELL US ABOUT THE FIRST HORSE AT THE STABLES.

The first horse came from Waikabubak, a nearby town. A government official was selling his prized stallion, the island's top racehorse. Though a dominant stallion wasn't ideal for our guest-focused program, acquiring him strengthened NIHI's ties with the local government. He was a challenge, but working with him taught me to listen deeply. His fiery personality reminded me of my husband, so I named him Covo, my husband's nickname.

HOW DID THE SWIMMING WITH HORSES EXPERIENCE COME ABOUT?

Swimming with horses was a cherished childhood activity for me, fostering a deep bond. In Sumba, I saw local children doing the same with their ponies. Given the island's warm climate, incorporating this into NIHI's offerings felt natural. It's a joyful experience rooted in both my personal history and Sumba's culture.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE VERY FIRST FOAL BORN AT NIHI STABLES?

The first foal, a colt named Raja, was born to a mare I found on Sumba's eastern grass plains. During the off-season, horses are often released to graze, easing upkeep costs and allowing mares to conceive. I spotted a strong but underweight mare during a roundup and suspected she was pregnant. Despite assumptions I wanted a racehorse, I acquired her at a good price. Raja's birth was a thrilling milestone, marking the growth of our herd with a strong, healthy foal.

“He became a kind of icon at the stables, embodying the spirit of what we do here: giving horses a second chance and letting their true personalities shine.”

BLAZE HAS A POWERFUL RESCUE STORY. HOW DID HE COME TO NIHI?

Blaze is definitely one that really stands out. He originally came to us as a failed racehorse, but he quickly proved that his true talent wasn't in speed, but in connection. At NIHI, he found his stride in a different way and made his way into everyone's hearts with his striking good looks and incredibly gentle nature. Blaze was that horse who's always ready for the hero shot, whether it's an exhilarating canter down the beach or quietly and confidently taking a beginner on their very first ride. He became a kind of icon at the stables, embodying the spirit of what we do here: giving horses a second chance and letting their true personalities shine.

AND WHAT ABOUT LUCKY? HIS STORY HAS ALSO TOUCHED MANY HEARTS.

Lucky came to us as a very young foal, just a few months old, after being rescued by a guest from a traditional ceremony. She was from a local Sumbanese village where even basic necessities are a daily struggle. Poor nutrition, parasites, and disease are common, and I often wonder if, for some of these animals, meeting their end through such ceremonies might even be a kind of relief from that hardship. But Lucky lived up to her name. She was given a second chance, and with care and time, she's grown into a strong and healthy mare. Today, she's a proud mother to her own foal, Peanut, who, thankfully, will never have to experience the kind of life his mother once knew. That's what makes this work so rewarding: seeing that cycle of hardship break, and a new, better story begin.

HOW DO HORSES IMPACT GUESTS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

The sight of the NIHI herd running free on the beach captivates guests, evoking awe and connection. Horses, often in service to humans, reveal their natural power here, fostering respect. For the Sumbanese, horses symbolize pride and tradition, acting as a bridge between cultures, nature, and history. This connection is the heart of NIHI's magic.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE EACH PERSON TAKES AWAY FROM THEIR TIME WITH THE HORSES AT NIHI?

The essence of the NIHI Sumba horse is a beautiful blend of spirit, resilience, and heart. They carry the wild soul of the island in them, strong, agile, and deeply intuitive. They're shaped by the land, by tradition, and by survival, that gives them a kind of raw authenticity. It is my hope the essence of the NIHI Sumba horse is felt, held and reflected lastingly in the hearts of all who encounter them.

“At NIHI, the connection you find isn't just with the horses, but with yourself, with nature, and with a culture that holds deep respect for both... And once you've felt it, you'll understand why we call it NIHI's connection.”

LASTLY, FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED THIS BEFORE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO INVITE THEM INTO THE WORLD OF NIHI'S EQUINE CONNECTION?

I would say come and expect beyond expectations. At NIHI, the connection you find isn't just with the horses, but with yourself, with nature, and with a culture that holds deep respect for both. You don't need to be an experienced rider; you just need to be present. The horses will meet you where you are, with honesty, with curiosity, and with a kind of quiet wisdom. Whether it's your first time brushing a horse, galloping down the beach, or sharing in deep meditation with them, there's a moment here that will move you. It's not about performance, it's about presence, trust, and the joy of simple, authentic connection. This is more than just an activity, it's a feeling. One that stays with you long after you've left the island. And once you've felt it, you'll understand why we call it NIHI's connection.



NIHI

SUMBA



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