



INDONESIA

Nihiwatu

Where is it?

Overlooking a striking two-kilometre beach and headland on Sumba Island in Indonesia's remote East Nusa Tenggara province, a 55-minute flight from Denpasar

Why is it amazing?

It is the only resort on isolated Sumba Island, which is best known for its annual Pasola horse festival where clans charge each other with wooden spears and headhunting practices, until a few decades ago. Set on a 438-hectare estate peppered with verdant rice terraces and grasslands interspersed with pristine rainforest, Nihiwatu has soaring views over Sumba's spectacular coastline with a world class surf break on its doorstep. Accommodation is in 19 thatched roof villas which have been hand-built using bamboo, stone and alang-alang grass, then finished with rare ikat textiles made by local tribes-people. While the luxury is understated, the philosophy at Nihiwatu is pure sustainability, with room rates used to assist poverty alleviation, malaria eradication and clean water supply to villages on the island. Meaning you can indulge while being assured that your holiday money is going to a good cause.

Don't leave without

Walking the length of roaring Nihiwatu Beach, where waves pound in from Africa and the sand is a treasure chest of goodies washed in from the sea

When to go

May to September for the best surf

Details

From \$467 per night; +62 361757149; nihiwatu.com

INDONESIA

Amanwana

Where is it?

On Moyo Island, a nature reserve off the coast of Indonesia's West Nusa Tenggara province, an hour from Denpasar by floatplane

Why is it amazing?

Pure extravagance on secluded Moyo Island; Amanwana is so exclusive it has become the much-loved tropical retreat for celebrities, including the late Princess Di. There are only 20 canvas tents, each set under a canopy of verdant forest. Each tent is 58 square metres, sumptuously appointed with hardwood floors, plush cotton lounges, deep soaking tubs and exquisite Indonesian artwork throughout. Soak up the azure-blue ocean vistas from your private deck chair, indulge in a fresh fruit facial at the outdoor Jungle Cove Spa, or book an excursion to explore the 350 square-kilometre island. Moyo Island is home to several stunning waterfalls, including three-tier Mata Jitu; it is also a sanctuary for the indigenous Rusa deer. Have cash to splash? Consider hiring Amanikan, the resort's three-bedroom 32-metre cruiser modelled on a traditional Makassarese sailing ship, and set sail to the Komodo Islands.

Don't leave without

Snorkelling with sea turtles at the house reef, just metres from your tent

When to go

December to March for spotting whale sharks, giant manta rays and pilot whales; April to November for the driest weather

Details

Double tents from \$1075 per night (full board); +62 37122233; amanresorts.com