

A L M A N U S I A

EAST SUMBA CREATIVE RETREAT 2024



Monday, October 7th / Saturday, October 12th

6 days / 5 nights

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PROGRAM

We are so thrilled to open again our Sumba Creative Retreat program this year!

Join us six creatively infused days of architecture, textiles, culture and workshops on one of the most picturesque and untouched island of Indonesia. You will experience natural dyes with Sumba's master weavers and dyers, exploring various plants and colors, mud dye and Indigo. You will visit a royal village, have talks and demonstrations, on Ikat and Pahikung. Apart from these incredible workshops and village visits, we will be swimming in the ocean, enjoying morning walks and sunset all with like-minded people that love textiles and exploring cultures.

Sumba is a unique Island of Indonesia with a very strong and unique culture, particular vast and dry landscapes due to the fact that it is the only island not situated on the ring of fire and volcanic soils. Untouched by tourism, the East part is much less traveled than the West (you will probably not see other visitors apart from our group), yet it is where most of the traditional IKAT weavers are, with communities still doing natural dyeing and traditional weaving actively. The Sumba IKAT is one of the most famous and prized textile for world collectors and you will be lucky to meet some of the most talented remaining weavers of those special textiles. We will be warmly welcomed within 6 and more communities of artisans, dyers, weavers and makers during our journey.

Minimum 8 guests | Maximum 15 guests

Family friendly trip



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ITINERARY

DAY 1

Welcome in Sumba



14.40 WINGS AIR Flight from Bali domestic airport to Sumba Waingapu airport
Arrival 16:30.

We are all meeting in Waingapu, Sumba airport, where we will pick you up, transfer to hotel for check-in and have dinner all together at the hotel. If you are already in Sumba, we will meet directly at the hotel for checkin and dinner.

This evening will be for everyone to meet each other and rest before the busy days of adventures to come ...

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DAY 2

Natural dye workshop

We will start our day with an early morning walk to view the sunrise and incredible hills of Sumba. After breakfast, we will make our way for our full day natural dye workshop with a master weaver and dyer of Sumba.

Starting with a botanical dye garden tour, we will follow with the story of the motifs, design and textiles of the island.

Natural dye practice

We will visit a Royal traditional village with a few traditional Sumba homes and famous megalithic tombstones. We will be welcomed by the wife of the village's King, Sarah, who is from Australia, in their newly built bamboo home. This afternoon will include walking around the village, viewing of Ikats, a talk and presentation on local life, culture and textiles with Rambu Sarah.



ALMANUSIA

DAY 3

Natural dye workshop DAY 2

Early morning kayaking on the river for those who want to!
In the morning, we will resume our natural dye practice then drive to the beach Pantai Walakiri for afternoon swim and sunset, to see the famous mangrove trees growing in the sea. Enjoy local fresh grilled fish on the beach for dinner

DAY 4

Indigo demonstrations

Today we visit the special region famous for their indigo dyers.
The village family will show us the most devine Indigo Ikat weavings and demonstrate the process of Indigo dyeing. We will have lunch at the community home.
The afternoon will be spent at the beach swimming and watching the sunset.
Dinner will be at the beach with a special fish barbecue made by Ibu Ika.



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DAY 5

Dyeing with mud and Pahikung weaving demonstrations



This morning will be for MUD dye workshop, exploring mud to create dark greys and blacks! We will have lunch at the community home, then visit a Royal village specialising in a special weaving: Pahikung, where Ana, a very respected young weaver will be welcoming the group and introducing the special technique of weaving. We will also meet the jewellery makers of the famous Sumba “mamuli”, a very important symbol of this island.

DAY 6

Early morning good byes! You are welcome to persue your Sumba journey with recommendations we can offer for an adventure in the West part of the island, enjoying surfing, clear white sand beaches and waterfalls. We are happy to arrange a transfer car and recommend places to stay! If you plan to return to Bali, we will drop you at the airport for the WINGS AIR Flight at 06.35, arriving in Bali at 08.10.

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FINE PRINT

What's included

5 nights accommodation, all breakfasts, lunches and dinners
Workshops and materials, including your own dye journal and fabrics
Adventures, talks, presentations, and tours
All transfers on cars as well as contributions on your behalf to all villages
and people visited during our trip

What's not included

Airfares from Bali to Sumba, travel insurance
Your textile purchases or other items bought at the markets or from the local villages.
Alcohol drinks.



ALMANUSIA

YOUR HOSTS



For this very special trip, we are very excited to share our collaboration with **Irma Yasandikusuma**, founder of a wearable designs studio IRMAWY STUDIO, who will be the co-host during this experience in Sumba. Irma is an Indonesian born designer who grew up in Switzerland and studied Fashion in Paris, using jewelry and clothing design to express her creative identity and Indonesian heritage.

Irma will share her connection with the Indonesian culture, natural fibers and natural dyes, local metals and stones that she uses in her processes.



Studying Hotel Management at the Ecole hoteliers de Lausanne in Switzerland, Almanusia Founder **Diane** arrived in Bali in 2014 to manage the iconic boutique hotel Bambu Indah, owned by John and Cynthia Hardy. She naturally used the hotel as a platform for creative expression, cultural exchanges and creating beauty, while looking after a refined international market of likeminded people searching for experiential travel experiences. Diane has always considered hospitality as a medium for bigger changes and collaborative explorations. She has the heart for hosting people and creating memorable experiences with a positive impact. Traveling through the islands of the archipelago - and the world with recent trips to visit remote communities in Mexico and India - she is always expanding her network while weaving special connections with local artisans and professionals involved in all kinds of creative expressions (natural dyes, textiles, basketry, ceramics, architecture, art...).

Her aspiration is to support heritage preservation and traditions, while building connection between international artists, students, curious individuals and local artisans, allowing them to shine with their own art and co-creating magic.

Trough those 5 days, you will be also be welcomed by our Almanusia Sumba team of local communities, weavers, natural dyers, and guides that we are happily collaborating with us since the begining of our adventures, 7 years ago...

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ACCOMODATION

We will stay the 5 nights at a comfortable, locally owned hotel, 10 minutes out of the main town of Waignapu

East Sumba doesn't have the luxurious options of stay that Bali offers, but our hotel of choice is comfortable and clean and will be just what we need for the little time spent there to sleep at night. Our days are filled with adventures, rides and community visits, therefore, we will not be staying a lot of time at the hotel.

A few room options are available, depending if you are traveling alone or with friends or family.

SUPER DELUXE - Double bed: 1 available **US\$ 1555 per pers.**

DELUXE - Double bed: 4 available **US\$ 1475 per pers.**

STANDARD - Double floor bed: 2 available **US\$ 1430 per pers.**

STANDARD SHARED: Twin floor bed: 2 available **US\$ 1320 per pers.**

Traditional Indonesian breakfast is included

(note: there is only a maximum of 15 guests, depending on the bed configuration choices, however we need a minimum of 8 people to be filled to make this trip happen)

Deposit

700 US\$ deposit is required to secure space, balance to be tranfered by bank transfer

Cancellation policy

We reserve ourself the full right to cancel the trip if we do not reach the required amount of people, or if any unforeseen sanitary or safety issue should compromise the experience.

Deposits will be refunded fully excluding bank charges. Deposit is refundable in case of disease, accident, or emergency situation. Cancellation for personal reason, the deposit will be non refundable but could use as a credit for future experiences!

Food

Please, be aware than Sumba island is not stocked as well as Bali, and the East region where we travel, is much less touristy and off the beaten path, therefore food options are very limited

Passport / Covid Test

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Please ensure you are in possession of a 6 months validity passport and a Covid test if necessary to present to the airline company upon check-in at the domestic airport

What to bring

In Sumba, you are very remote so please bring everything you require such as medicine and toiletries, bug spray, chocolate, cookies ;)... sunblock, hat, sunglasses, reusable water bottle. Any prescription or regular medicine you need. Light rain jacket in case of rain during the rainy season. Bikini for beach breaks and stainable clothes for natural dye workshops. Bring your own yoga mat for your own practice...

Travel Insurance

We recommend you to travel in Indonesia with a travel insurance, covering trip cancellations, covid related expenses and evacuation cover for any emergencies

ABOUT US

ALMANUSIA builds bridges between artisans, creatives, curious minds, forgotten techniques and remote communities, sustaining the human heritage and weaving memories...

Traveling with us, you support directly the communities we will meet, exchange and learn with.

We are working on developing a collaboration with Sumba Hospitality Foundation graduates that are on the island of Sumba currently to help translate and enhance your experience during the trip, offering them to work during these difficult times.

You are also helping preserve the culture authenticity, ancestral knowledge and deeply hoping that those adventures will be the first step to creating more creative collaborations between fashion designers, weaving experts, weavers and modern artists, and the visited local communities.

Mostly we hope you will have just a wonderful time with all of us.

We look forward to traveling with you ...