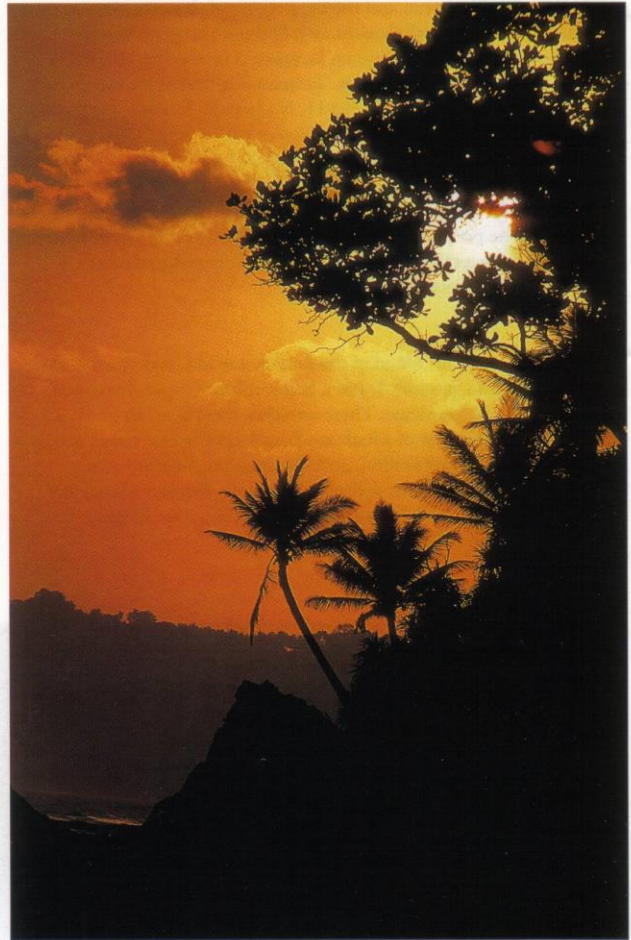
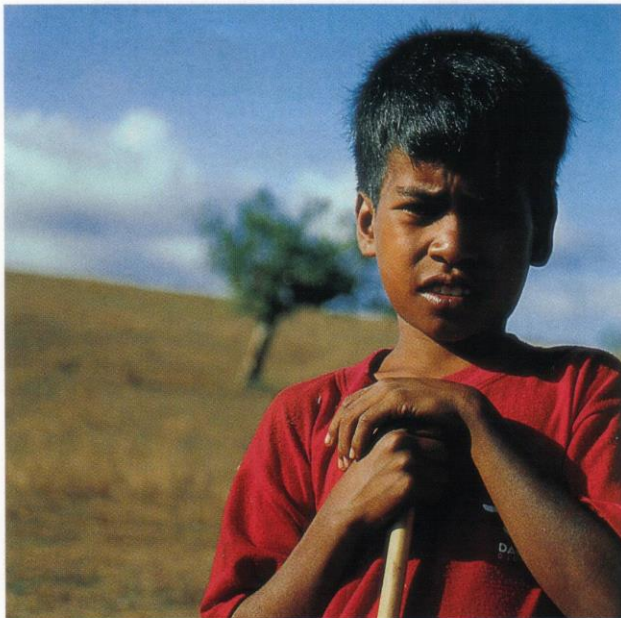
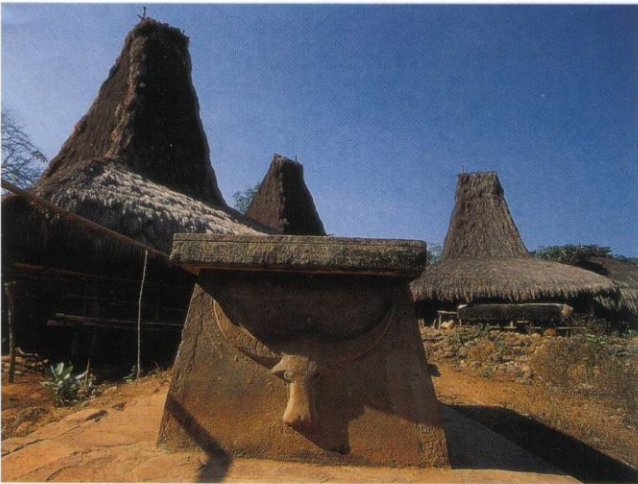


Nusa Tenggara



The islands situated immediately to the east of Bali are known as West and East Nusa Tenggara. West Nusa Tenggara includes the islands of Lombok and Sumbawa while East Nusa Tenggara spans over 500 islands, the main ones being Flores, Sumba and Timor. Whereas Lombok is on the 'Wallace Line' with half the island a tropical humid climate and the other half an arid savanna, the islands to the east are far more similar in climate to Australia than the tropics to the west. Separated by deep ocean beds, these islands have maintained strong individual identities and provide the visitor with a fascinating and colourful mix of culture, language and religion.





horseback hurl spears at each other as they charge around the battleground. Although the government has decreed that the weapons must not be sharp, serious injuries are commonplace and reveal the strong warrior culture that still exists. Ikat weaving is centred in East Sumba, a tradition that has survived for hundreds of years. These colourful cloths are created by a long and painstaking method using natural fibres and dyes, a process that can take months to complete.

West Timor is the most highly populated area in the Nusa Tenggara province and benefits from a better infrastructure than nearby islands. The region's provincial capital Kupang is situated here, which is easily reached from Darwin or Jakarta by plane. Timor island has a turbulent history but to the adventurous traveller offers a wealth of natural beauty and varied culture

West and East Nusa Tenggara are the undiscovered jewels of Indonesia. An area rich in culture, tradition and magnificent scenery which puts the adventure back into travel and offers a rewarding experience never to be forgotten.

Sumbawa has a greater land mass than Lombok and Bali combined which supports a population of mainly farmers and fishermen. The island is far less developed for tourism than its westerly neighbours, which provides a great environment for discovery travel. Sumbawa's waves regularly attract surfers from around the world, determined to find the perfect uncrowded break but the majority of the interior is untouched by foreign influences.

East of Sumbawa is the small island of Komodo, a natural park famous for its wild-life and 'dragons,' giant monitor lizards whose amazing speed and carnivorous behaviour attract nature lovers from all over the globe. Named 'ora' by the local population, these lizards are a not so distant relative to the dinosaurs which roamed the earth millions of years ago.

To the east is the beautiful island of Flores (Portugese for flower), an elongated landmass featuring spectacular volcanoes, mountains and valleys. The largest of the Eastern Nusa Tenggara chain of islands, Flores was an important trading link in the region for centuries and its many well positioned ports were visited by many foreign powers. The result is an island with an amazingly varied culture and one of the most fascinating destinations in South East Asia. Although the majority of the population are Catholic, traditional beliefs are still very strong and visitors can experience a variety of ancient rituals and festivals.

South of Flores is the island of Sumba, famous for its beautiful traditional Ikat weaving and the exciting Pasola festival. This annual ritual is held during February and March in West Sumba and coincides with the arrival on the coast of thousands of colourful sea worms. A mock battle is held and hundreds of combatants on

