



REBA CEREMONY, BENA VILLAGE

## REBA, Thanksgiving Celebration from Ngada

The Ngada district is famed for its extraordinary cultural richness. A distinct architecture and fascinating material expressions of the Ngada people's ancient belief system, such as massive stone altars and a vivid ceremonial life, are just a few features that attract so many visitors each year. It is amazing to see how traditions are upheld with a strong commitment that is based on the honor and respect towards the Ngada people's long-gone ancestors. The most important ceremony is Reba, an annually held thanksgiving celebration to show respect to God and the ancestors for being blessed with a good harvest and wealth.

Reba usually lasts for three days full of ceremonies and ritual activities which involve huge amounts of food crops and livestock that had been collected in advance. It focuses on the legend of the community's ancestors who traveled from far in search of a better place to grow their crops and raise their livestock. As yam used to be the most important staple food in the past, it is not surprising that many rituals focus on this nutritious tuber.

Generally, Reba consists of several different ceremonial stages, beginning with collecting the offerings, receiving guests, dancing, reciting original myths, and praising the yam root. However, initial rituals related to Reba start one week ahead of the actual festival. Some of these rituals are held at the outskirts of the villages. One of them is called Bui Loka, a ceremony to clean the loka or lanu, a ritual site outside the village, with sacrificial stones where animal offerings are made. Some of the Reba ceremonies are then held in the kisanatha, including the communal meals. Other rituals are centered around the ancestral shrines. Ngadhu is a tall wooden trunk with carvings and a conical, thatched roof that represents a clan's first male ancestor. Bhaga, which looks like a miniature of a Ngada house, stands for the first female ancestor. The festival ends with throwing all the yam peels out of the village. Animal offerings are also an important part of the sacred rituals during the festival.

The famous village of Bena is considered to be the mother of all Ngada villages. Thus, the Reba festivities are first held in Bena before other villages follow suit with the celebration. With Bena starting Reba on the 27th of December, other villages – Gurusina, Langa, Nage, Wogo, and Beiposo – follow in January. Some others, such as Deru, Ruto or Turekisa, celebrate it in February.  
*Source: [www.florestourism.com](http://www.florestourism.com)*

## SERVICES



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## RETAIL PRODUCT



### FLORES NOTEBOOK

This handy-sized notebook is especially made to keep your fond loving memories of Flores Island, or anything you can think of.



### FLORES TRAVEL MAP

Especially made to help plan your holiday in Flores, the travel map features Flores Island from the farthest west to its most eastern area. Highlighting more than 40 places of interest Flores is famous for; it also provides 4 main city maps and 5 trekking maps. Be it adventure or leisure, Flores Travel Map is your great guide to an amazing journey.



### BOOK FLORES: ADVENTURE TRAILS

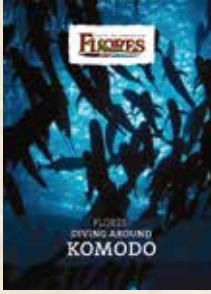
Flores: Adventure Trails brings you to a spellbound journey along 24 select treks from the west to the east of Flores Island. Its colorful pages captivate with information, trekking maps and appealing images exploring Flores' active volcanoes, rugged mountain ranges, pristine forests, wildlife and much more.

This book is the latest Flores' guidebook of a series every thrill seeker looks for to enjoy the beauty of Flores, a perfect setting for an unforgettable energizing trekking adventure.



### BOOK FLORES: A GLIMPSE OF THE PEOPLE & CULTURE

This travel guide takes you into a journey to explore Flores, an island in the eastern part of Indonesia blessed with beautiful natural surroundings, fascinating people and amazing cultures and traditions. The book is a must have for travelers keen on unveiling Flores' long gone past, hidden treasures and the charm of the Florenese people.



### FLORES: DIVING AROUND KOMODO

Flores: Diving in Komodo will put divers enchanted under the spell of Komodo National Park mesmerizing underwater world. The 100 colorful pages explore the extraordinary natural beauty of untouched crystal clear shores and the challenges of dive sites around the park. With tons of useful diving and travel tips, this book makes a great practical guide for diving aficionados in Flores.



### FLORES, THE CAPE OF FLOWER

This CD is dedicated to those who place music in life as one of important priorities. In this album Ivan Nestorman tries to capture the spirit of his homeland Flores through his music from a more pop angle. The real richness of Flores music is there within the island and you don't really know it until you get there yourselves. Listening to this album at least gives you a glimpse of Flores music and a warm welcome to Flores.

## EVENT CALENDAR

### DECEMBER- FEBRUARY

**Reba**  
Reba is an annual tradition to pay respect to the Almighty for the harvest. Reba tells history of the community ancestor's journey to different mainlands in search of livestock and crops.

Some rituals precede Reba one week before the festival's peak. Paki Sobhi, comb making, is a making 13-rowed comb made of thin bamboo believed to prevent the village from wind or storm. Bui Loka, a ceremony to clean Loka or Lanu - structured stones for animal sacrifice. Most rituals centralize in Kisanatha where Nga'dhu, a tall carved wooden trunk topped with a conical thatched-roof - representing the first male ancestor, and Bhaga, a miniature of a traditional house symbolizing the first female ancestor, are placed.

You can also see Reba in Gurusina, Langa, or in other places such as Nage in Jerebu'u, Wogo in Golewa, and Beiposo in Bajawa. In Februarys Reba is held in Deru in Jerebu'u, Ruto in Aimere, Turekisa; while in December it is held in Bena, Luba, Bea, Tololela, Gurusina, Watu, Maghilewa, Jere and Ngadhusawu. It is advisable to wear Ngadanese traditional costume if you attend Reba.

### Waning Bar

Waning Bar is a ritual asking for rains to the ancestors. Held in Marutauk, Sambinasi, Riung, this festival is a truly enlivened scene packed with dances day and night..

### FEBRUARY-JULY

#### Waeng Wawi or Kalizo

Waeng Wawi or Kalizo is a ceremony celebrated in Benteng Tengah, Riung to ask for rain to the ancestors.

#### Etu, Traditional Boxing, Ngada & Nagekeo

Traditional boxing is one of Ngada and Nagekeo's well-preserved cultural attractions passed for generations. "Sagi" or "Etu" in Soa language means to fight. The people of Soa call it Sagi, the community of Tadhoo refers to it as Mbela; in Zepe, Sarasedu (in the past) and Rowa it is called Sudu; while in Nagekeo, especially in Boawae, Rega, Nagemi, and Watugase it is named Etu.

Being a war exercise for the warriors in the old times, Sagi or Etu is also a thanksgiving for good harvest. Thus it also a lively celebration with sing along accompanied with bamboo music. It is believed that bloods dropped from the fighter's body marks blessing for that year's abundant crop and is anticipated with gratitude.

Unlike modern day boxing, the players wear special gloves - Tai Kolo (Soa) or Wholet (Tadhoo) - made of palm fibre rod sticks held together using palm tree gum that forms a hard clot with sometimes glass flakes added, then wrapped with a cloth to the size of an adult fist.

The match also serves as a means of strengthening communication, brotherhood and kinship among the villagers. The spirit of brotherhood is highly respected that there shall be neither loser nor winner from the game and fighters of the same family are not allowed to join. Boxers are called Ata Sagi and each has a Sike (Soa) and Banggang (Tadhoo) - a companion protecting and giving instructions when to strike or defend. The referee - Dheo Woe (Soa) or Pampang (Tadhoo) - ensures the match runs fairly. Spectators or guests are welcome to box.

Sagi forms an inseparable part of Reba celebrated in Watujaji, Bowejo, Turekisa, Mangulewa, Warikeo, Boba, Bajawa, Deru, Gisi, Liba and Solo. Mengeruda holds it in March, Soa and Piga in April, Masu, Lade and Libunio, So'a in May. Tadhoo, Boawae, Natanagan, Natalea, Raja, Loa Gero, Dhereisa, Nunukae, Tadhoo in July.

### Oreng

Oreng is held in Wue, Denatana and is a tandak dance to expresses happiness and gratitude to the Almighty for the good harvest.

### JUNE

#### Rentok

Held in Sambinasi, Riung, Rentok is a sacred ritual with tandak dance to show gratitude for good harvest.

### JULY

#### Ka Ngagha

Ka Ngagha is a communal ritual that includes supper, traditional music and dance in Pautola, Nangaroro. Accompanied with Ndato - music made of bamboo - the villagers sing and dance all night long. In the day time Papatadi - a mock warfare between two groups among the people is held. At night, the villagers of Ana Susu clan create a thrill from oa api and sepa api - playing football using a fire ball.

### AUGUST

#### Traditional Hunting

Found among Boawae community, the hunting starts with Bago - a ritual of searching for a rooster in the village. Tuki Tibe, a traditional ritual dedicated for the ancestors takes place in Loka - the outer part of the village. The hunting lasts for 3 days in a meadow pre-selected on a communal consensus.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Malang

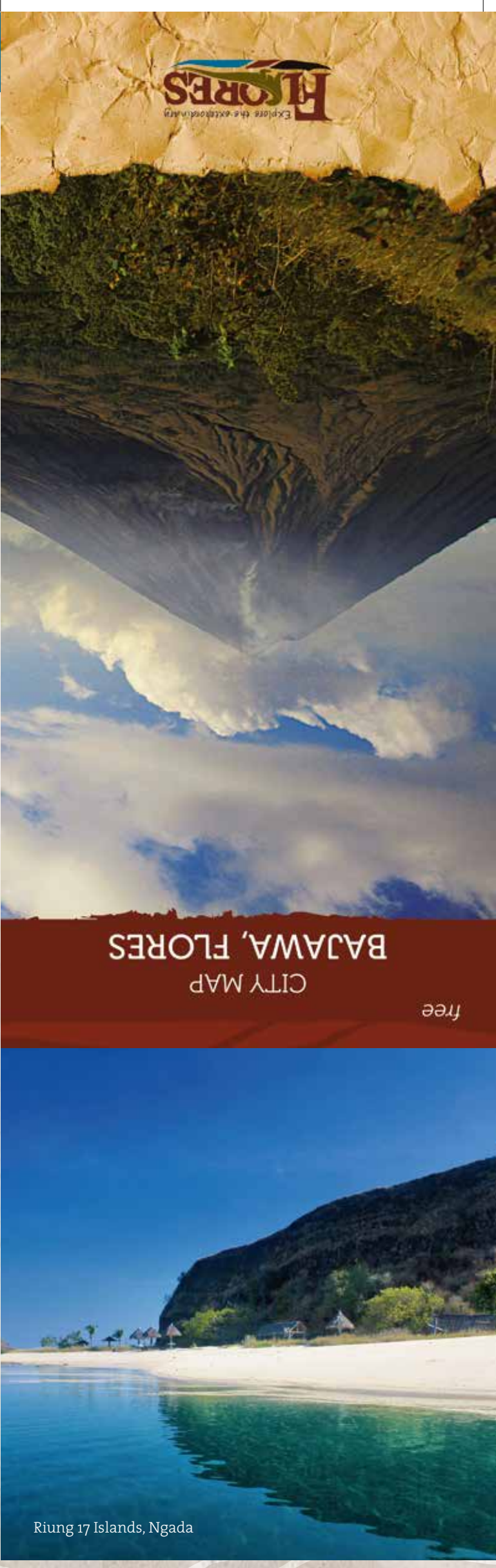
Held in the meadows in Sambinasi, Riung, Malang is a traditional hunting with participants ride a horse and wear their most beautiful bright-colored traditional costumes completed with spear and machete. They hunt wild deer and boar in a meadow and the event sometimes turns into a 'wild wild west' scenes.

### OCTOBER

#### Traditional Hunting

This hunting in Soa is a story retelling of the mother of wild boars who bites and ate the human in the past. The rituals comprises of Teo Ga'a, Lasawitu, Worokaju and the hunting itself.

*The above events may or may not be held regularly every year. Unfortunately, there is no fixed schedule because timing usually relies on internal consensus among community members from one tribe to another. Some events may be conducted in the same months yearly, without specific dates. Thus it is strongly recommended to always check the correct dates in advance with your travel agent or Tourist Information Centre near you.*



Riung 17 Islands, Ngada

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This city map is available for free in major business outlets and Tourist Information Center of the town where it is distributed in Flores Island. If you can't find it, please get it from the nearest Tourist Information Center.

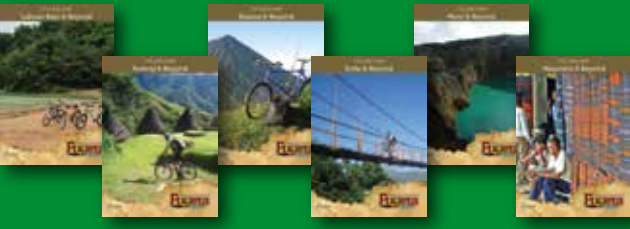


## Cycling in Flores



Flores has absolutely great potential for touring around on various roads using bicycles. Pedalling across idyllic villages, passing rice fields, lakes and forests and enjoying a nice picnic at a spot of your choice is just a wonderful experience you can have while on the island.

Cycling in Flores is an adventure fitting for small groups and individualists and is best done by bringing your own, well maintained, bicycle from home country. Alternatively, rent a bike in Bali and transport it free of extra charges with Garuda Indonesia Airways either to Labuan Bajo or Ende and back. A classical mountain bike with medium broad tyres fits most of Flores' road conditions. Bring a helmet, gloves and lights as well as air pump, good chain oil and an all-purpose toolset with you.



CYCLING IN BAMBOO FOREST, BAJAWA

## IMPORTANT NUMBER

**Immigration Office Class III Labuan Bajo**  
Jalan Gabriel Gampur, Labuan Bajo, Flores, NTT, Indonesia  
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📠 Inquiry/complaint Phone: +62 8123 8554 899  
✉ Inquiry/complaint Email: [kanimlabuanbajo@yahoo.com](mailto:kanimlabuanbajo@yahoo.com)

**Immigration Office Class II Maumere**  
Jalan Adi Soetjipto No. 24 Maumere 86111, Flores, NTT, Indonesia  
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**District Health Care Center Bajawa (Puskesmas)**  
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## TRAVEL PRACTICALITIES

**Getting Around**  
Flores will entangle you with its impressive landscape and unique cultural features. Be aware though that the roads are often steep, curvy, and in a mediocre condition; you will rarely go faster than 30km/hr. Thus, travelling in Flores requires some patience and some time to adjust.

The so-called Transflores 'highway' is the main road that connects Flores from west to east. Starting from Labuan Bajo and ending in Lantuka, this 700km-long road twists and turns across the island and leads you to waterfalls, crosses mountains, and passes traditional villages.

**Bike and car rental**  
Hiring a car with an experienced driver is an alternative to public transport. Most of the cars are privately owned, and no cars are rented for self-driving. A motorbike is a good option for travelling around Flores as well, since some of the remote areas can only be reached by this means of transport.

**Public transportation**  
Within the district capitals and larger towns, it is quite easy and cheap to cover short distances by hopping on and off bemo (minibuses). The ojek, a motorbike taxi, is another option for shorter distances. Price is negotiable. For longer distances, you may choose to ride on one of the many buses and trucks that bring their passengers from one town to another. It is advisable to reserve a seat in advance at a local travel agent. They mostly depart and arrive via public bus stations. Exact time schedules are not available, and buses will only depart once all seats are occupied.

**Money**  
In Flores, only Indonesian rupiah (IDR) is accepted for cash payments. In general, the payment in Flores is cash-based. There are ATMs in the district capitals which – depending on

the bank – accept major credit cards (Visa/Mastercard) where you can get cash. The ATMs of BNI (National Bank of Indonesia) are the most reliable. You also have the option of changing your money at local money changers. Be sure to check their exchange rates and fees before the transaction. Travelers' checks are rather difficult to change.

**Shopping**  
The hustle and bustle of Flores markets will bring you closer to an important part of Flores daily life. Not only will you see a range of familiar or unknown local products, you may also witness a barter transaction, which used to be the traditional way of doing business in Flores. Of all Flores products, ikat cloth, which is sold in locally different forms, colors, and styles, is definitely the most meaningful, valuable, and unique souvenir. Flores ikat is mostly hand woven, and some of the cloth is made out of all-natural local ingredients. Traditional Flores coffee is another typical island product that you should not miss.

**Dos and Don'ts**  
**Dress conservatively!** For female travelers, it is highly advisable to dress rather conservatively – a shirt covering the shoulders and a lower body garment to the knees – especially when visiting villages and cultural objects. Unless you are on a dive boat or on the beach or islands frequently visited by tourists, you should wear more than just a bikini to swim. Please also consider that it is inappropriate for men and women to change clothes in the same place.

**Smile a lot!** Probably the most important thing is smiling. Arrogant visitors who do not respond to smiles or greetings will find it hard to get close to the local people.



## PLACES TO VISIT

**Belaraghi, Ngada**  
Trekking, Culture  
Prepare yourself for an 11km hike to find this village that is rich in stunning, untouched natural beauty and imbued with cultural traditions. You will find that the challenge is worth taking. The Belaraghi clan that has been in this village has never been mentioned in any travel guides, and it was their ancestors who in the 16th century built Ngadanes-style houses (sao) that are beautifully decorated with carvings rich in symbolism and cultural values. There is no electricity yet in Belaraghi, so enjoy this rare moment of silence with only oil lamps and the sounds of the rainforest lull you to sleep.

**Bena, Ngada**  
Trekking, Culture  
Bena is a traditional community located about 16km from of Ngada's capital city, Bajawa. It is the most visited village in the district and has famous for its impressive stone formations, ancestral shrines, Ngadanes-style houses, and for its traditional way of life. The village takes the form of a rectangle and is comprised of 18 traditional houses clan system. Bena people have agreed to conserve their tradition as part of their daily lives, which includes preserving their ikat weaving technique. Indeed Bena is living history as their traditions are still active. Take the trekking route from Bena to neighboring villages and end the exploration at Malanage Hot spring or Wae Roa Waterfall.

**Mangeruda-Soa, Ngada**  
Relaxing, Nature  
Enjoy yourself in the warm water that flows from a natural spring to a river under the shade of coconut trees, or take a short trek to a more untouched scenic area of the hot spring, starting from the road to Virgin Marie Cave which is located next to the entrance to the spring. Request that a guide takes you for a walk along the descending river amid rice fields to the canyon where the hot spring emerges. If you come in May–July, make sure you also catch Sagi, traditional boxing.

**Gurusina Village**  
Culture  
Gurusina's traditional houses are situated around a wide courtyard, which displays several sets of ture lenggi, the ancestral stone altars. The village was founded in about 1934 by people coming from the highlands. At present, 33 families live in Gurusina, belonging to the three clans of Ago ka'e, Ago Gasi, and Kabi. Conforming to the Ngada adat, each clan owns its own sao pu'u (original or 'trunk' house), a sao lobo (youngest or 'tip' house), a ngadhu, and a bhaga ancestral shrine.

**Mount Inerie**  
Climbing, Adventure  
Mount Inerie with its beautiful, harmonic pyramid shape, is an eye-catching peak in the Flores 'mountain skyline'. With an altitude of 2245m above sea level, Mount Inerie is also one of the highest volcanoes in Flores. From the top of Mount Inerie, you have a stunning view that sometimes even goes as far as Sumba Island in the south. Starting from an altitude of about 900 meters, the hike will take you about 2½ - 4 hours. Be aware that climbing Mount Inerie demands a good physical condition, and the expertise of a local guide who knows about the safe trails and weather conditions.

**Riung 17 Islands, Ngada**  
Snorkeling, Diving, Relaxing  
Travellers embrace Riung as a journey to an archipelagic retreat that offers the dazzling beauty of pristine white sandy beaches, and emerald shorelines back-dropped by lush green hills. Riung is an array of precious jewels spread along a chain of islands that are acclaimed dive sites, famed for snorkeling, island lifestyle and particularly for the prevalence of the red sea rose nudibranch that is found around Pulau Rutong and Bukit Tiga.



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