







## NIHIWATU

VILLAS: 21 well-appointed villas comprising of six categories. We stayed in a 183 square metres Marangga villa with a private pool, garden and a cliffside bale complete with sunbeds and panoramic ocean views - our favourite spot for sunset drinks. The suite's decor takes inspiration from traditional Sumbanese design featuring natural stone floors, teak wood furnishings and neutral shades ranging from cream and wood to brown. Decorative accents include artwork made of wooden carvings, home decor pieces made of seashells, blue and white patterned fabric upholstery, and freshly plunked flowers that give an understated and homey feel.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS: Ombak (meaning wave) is an open-air all-day restaurant and bar where we enjoyed dinners during our stay. The menu is small but concise, offering a selection of Western and Asian dishes, as well as vegetarian options. Standouts include Nasi Goreng, and tuna salad with spinach and fresh herbs. Make sure to visit the Nio Beach Club for spectacular ocean views and fresh seafood. Guests can choose from a variety of dining options ranging from a cliffside barbeque lunch at Nihioka beach with magnificent ocean views, to picnics by a waterfall or sunset dining by the beach.

RECREATION: The natural unspoilt setting of Nihiwatu offers some of the best water and outdoor activities. Guests can choose from an array of water activities including surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving, standup padding, free diving and fishing. Excursions range from hiking and horse riding to mountain biking and visiting local villages. However, at the time of my visit (in early December, the quiet season and the monsoon season), the waves can be rough for water activities, while some of the hikes have to be cancelled due to muddy paths and the hazards of leeches.

WHAT ELSE? The resort is undergoing construction of 11 new villas (scheduled to open in July) and new facilities including the Tree House Jungle Spa (scheduled to open this spring). I experienced two divine massages in the comfort of my villa.

HOW TO GET THERE? From Hong Kong we fly with Garuda Indonesia to Bali for an overnight stay and catch an early morning flight to Sumba the next day. On arrival at Sumba, it takes approximately 90-minutes by car to arrive at Nihiwatu. The journey along the way offers glimpses of local villages and incredible views of the island's coastline. www.nihiwatu.com