ISLANDS OF INDONESIA
TEXTILES & HANDCRAFTS TOUR
9 - 24 July 2027

retreat|recreate is delighted to offer this very exciting 16 day, 15 night women's tour exploring the fascinating textile and handcraft heritage and cultural traditions of EAST FLORES, LEMBATA, SOLOR & ADONARA

Major highlights of this itinerary are our **village visits, cultural experiences, handcraft demonstrations and EIGHT hands-on workshops**.

We'll experience **traditional culture** including **welcome ceremonies with dancing and music**; engage directly with talented **local artisans and craftspeople**; observe **demonstrations of intricate handcraft techniques** which have been handed down through generations; learn about **traditional designs and motifs**; visit local **markets**; marvel at the **superb range of handcrafts and textiles** on offer; participate in an **annual traditional village ceremony** and the opening of a **cultural festival**; be in awe of **breathtaking land, mountain and sea-scapes**; visit an ancient **rock art site**; savour simple but **delicious, fresh, local cuisine**; and be humbled by the **gentle, generous hospitality** for which these islands are known.

DON'T MISS this exciting **trip-of-a lifetime** and immersive foray into the textiles, handcrafts and culture of Indonesia's less-travelled islands!

We do hope you'll join us!

www.retreatrecreate.com

ITINERARY

as at November 2027





Day 1 ***Friday 9 July***

BALI to BAJAWA, FLORES

Selemat datang! Welcome to Indonesia!

To kick off our very exciting journey together, we'll gather at **8.00AM** (TBC) at **Bali's Denpasar Airport (DPS)**, meet your local guide and retreat|recreate host.

Together, we'll complete check in and security formalities for our flight to Bajawa, via Labuan Bajo. Afterwards, we'll gather for a briefing meeting, run through the program, introduce ourselves and begin to get to know each other.

As per the current flight schedules (which are subject to change without notice), we plan to have lunch during our transit stop at Labuan Bajo airport.

Upon arrival at Bajawa airport, we'll collect our luggage, and transfer to our hotel.

This evening we'll enjoy our first dinner together as a group

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 ***Saturday 10 July***

BAJAWA, FLORES

This morning we'll enjoy our first **workshop** together. With a master indigo dyer, we'll explore traditional dyeing with indigo as well as dyeing with sappan wood, mahogany and jackfruit. This village is also known for producing yarn made from pineapple fibre and we'll be able to see that too.

Our lunch venue offers spectacular views over the surrounding mountains and valleys. It's sometimes possible to view the clouds from above.

We'll continue to Bena village where we'll be welcomed with the J'ai dance. This traditional mass dance is also performed at festivals and weddings and for expressing gratitude, joy and community unity. We'll visit houses built in traditional style and see weavers working at their looms. The textiles here are famous for their horse motifs (symbolising bravery, wealth, prestige) and 'mamuli' (symbolising fertility and female strength). When woven together into an ikat fabric, the pairing of horse and mamuli motifs signifies a balanced, equal relationship and harmony within the community

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3 Sunday 11 July

ENDE, FLORES

As we leave Ende, we'll see **picturesque sweeping rice terraces** which stretch between the coast and the dramatic mountains. The rice fields in this region are deeply integrated into local village life. The Lio community practice ancient soil cultivation rituals which support and preserve the natural ecosystems.

Our lunch location is **Penggajawa beach** which is famous for its naturally coloured turquoise, blue, and green pebbles.

In the afternoon, we'll visit **Kapok Kale women's weaving group** to learn about **Lio-Ende textiles,** including **Lawo Mangga** (women's three-part tube skirt) and **Semba** (men's shoulder cloth). The mid-section of Lawo Mangga are comprised of bands of white ikat motifs on a blue-black background. Candlenut combined with ash collected from kitchen fires is used to prepare and modify the cotton yarn, making the cellulose fibres more receptive to absorbing indigo and other organic dyes.

We'll check in to our hotel in the late afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4 Monday 12 July

MONI, FLORES

As we drive to Moni, we'll stop on the way at **Wolo Paku coffee plantation**. This region is famous for its excellent coffee, which is grown in rich, volcanic soil.

We'll be treated to a step by step **demonstration of the traditional methods for processing and preparing coffee**.

After lunch at the plantation, we'll **explore the nearby village of Wolo Gai and experience a traditional welcome ceremony**.

Once we arrive at tonight's eco-lodge accommodation, there'll be time to relax before dinner.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5 Tuesday 13 July

MAUMERE, FLORES

This morning there's the option to rise early to **watch the sun rise over Kelimutu's three spectacular, summit, crater lakes**. The lakes are known for their changing colours due to geochemical processes.

After returning to our hotel for breakfast, we'll drive to **Nggela** for a demonstration of **Lio ikat textiles** and to visit a traditional house.

At Sikka village we'll experience a traditional **welcome ceremony** and enjoy a local lunch. Afterwards, we'll stop at a **19th century, timber, catholic church** in which the interior walls feature traditional **Sikka ikat weaving patterns**. Afterwards, we'll continue to our beach-side hotel in Maumere, where we'll stay for three nights.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6 Wednesday 14 July

MAUMERE, FLORES

This morning we'll visit a village to watch a **demonstration of backstrap weaving** before participating in a natural dyeing **workshop**. We'll learn about **traditional processes for dyeing cotton yarn** - blue with **indigo paste**, brown with **morinda (combined with candlenut**), **pink with morinda (without candlenut), orange with mahogany bark** and **brown from reo bark.**

After lunch, we'll visit **Blikon Blewit Museum** to learn about the ancient cultural and textile history of Flores. One of the oldest exhibits on display is the **skull of Homo Floriensis** - an extinct species of small archaic humans who inhabited the island of Flores until about 50,000 years ago.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7 Thursday 15 July

MAUMERE, FLORES

Today's **workshop** location will be alongside the beach at our resort accommodation. Using offcuts of traditional ikat textiles, we'll learn to create adornments, such as a bracelet, necklace or earrings. We're sure to acquire some valuable skills for repurposing textile scraps of any kind.

Palue weavers group are located near our resort. We'll visit the group and see their unique traditional style of beautiful warp ikat textiles, woven on back-strap looms.

The rest of the afternoon is available for you to enjoy free time, swim and relax.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 8 Friday 16 July

LARANTUKA, FLORES

On our way to **Larantuka** on the north-eastern tip of Flores, we'll break up the journey with stops for coffee, bathrooms and photos - there are picturesque rice fields and landscapes just begging to be photographed

At Leraboleng village we'll enjoy a traditional welcome ceremony, visit clan houses containing intriguing elephant tusk treasures (traded many years ago**), see a demonstration of superb Leraboleng-style ikat weaving and savour a home-cooked village lunch**.

After checking in to our hotel, there'll be time to freshen up before we join the opening of the **Ile Mandiri cultural festival.** Villages from across the region will each showcase their own style of dance and music, and demonstrate their weaving and ikat textiles. We'll also enjoy a feast dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 9 Saturday 17 July

LARANTUKA, FLORES

This morning, we'll return to the village we visited on the evening of day 8 and participate in **TWO workshops**:

- we'll weave a plate from the ribs of coconut leaves and
-
- learn to weave a mat from lontar palm leaf

Afterwards, we'll watch a demonstration of **broom-making using palm fibre** and also observe the stages of the process for **cleaning and preparing locally grown, red rice** - removing the stems and husks and pounding/breaking the grains.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 10 Sunday 18 July

LEWOLEBA, LEMBATA

Together with Lembata, Solor and Adonara comprise the Solor Archipelago, in the Lesser Sunda islands.

This morning, we'll take a private boat to the **island of Solor.** We'll visit a village where the fruit of a locally grown cactus is used to create pink dye. Some of the women will **demonstrate natural dyeing and basketry** and we'll see some of the beautiful hand-woven textiles in which the pink threads have been incorporated.

After lunch, our boat will take us to **Adonara Island** where we'll explore the local **warp ikat textiles, most-used natural dyes and traditional motifs** which include **Bur'a** (also translated as **Bintang**, meaning "star).

A third boat trip will take us to Lewoleba, the main city and capital of Lembata Regency.

We'll check into our hotel and take some time to relax and perhaps take a dip in the hotel's pool.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 11 Monday 19 July

LEWOLEBA, LEMBATA

Kedang and **Lamahalot** are the two primary indigenous ethnic groups and languages which coexist on Lembata Island. While they share a deep geographical, social, and ritual connection, they each represent distinct cultural and linguistic identities.

Today, we'll drive to East Lembata, where we'll be welcomed at the Kedang village of Leuwayan.

We'll learn about **traditional Kedang textiles** (which often feature a plain indigo midsection), view some of their **basketry** and enjoy a **music performance featuring traditional bamboo Tatong.** The Tatong. instrument has ancient origins and is entirely crafted from local bamboo. Raised bamboo fibre strings are either plucked or struck with small sticks to produce a rhythmic, resonant sound.

On the way back to our hotel, we'll stop at one of Lembata's many beautiful beaches. We'll enjoy a delicious, fresh, beach-side dinner with the option to have a swim beforehand.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 12 Tuesday 20 July

WENA BEACH, LEMBATA

At a very special **'living culture' village** where cultural traditions have been maintained for centuries, we'll visit a **prehistoric rock art site (anthropomorph)** and watch the village weavers at work.

Although the upper village is known as the '1000 steps village', there are actually only 460 steps (yes, we counted) which lead to 77 clan houses. Today, only a handful of the houses are permanently occupied. Most of the community now live on the coast and only return to the village for festivals and ceremonies.

We're privileged to **visit a clan house**, experience the **Utan Wuun Lolon ceremony** and **ceremonial mass dance.** This special event is an act of thanksgiving and reconciliation between humans, God, nature and the ancestors. It promises to be a very special and memorable experience.

Afterwards, we'll drive to our **bamboo lodge accommodation** located on the shore of beautiful Wena Beach. The single supplement does not apply on days 12 and 13. Refer to the note on day 13 and the *Trip Notes for details.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 13 Wednesday 21 July

WENA BEACH, LEMBATA

After enjoying a beach-side breakfast from the open-air bamboo deck, we'll take a short walk to a nearby village.

Joining the local **weaver's group** for a **workshop,** we'll learn about dyeing with turmeric, fresh indigo, 'reo' tree bark (a local species) and mango tree bark. We'll also learn to tie a simple pattern of ikat resist knots in a skein of cotton – a basic introduction to the intricate **warp ikat** process.

In the afternoon, there'll be time to swim, snorkel over the coral reef (a short distance from the shore), walk along the sand, collect shells or simply relax before dinner on the beach.

This evening, you'll be soothed to sleep by the sound of the waves.

Note: Our simple but comfortable bamboo lodge accommodation on days 12 & 13 is idyllically located on the shore of beautiful Wena beach. The single supplement does not apply to days 12 & 13 as all rooms are shared. Each room has its own bathroom. Refer to the Accommodation section of the Trip Notes for more details.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 14 Thursday 22 July

LEWOLEBA, LEMBATA

During this morning's village visit and **workshop,** the women will guide us through the traditional methods for ginning (cleaning) and preparing cotton fibre and hand-spinning the fibre into yarn using a drop spindle.

Salt is an important part of daily life and a valuable means of preserving food. We'll visit a village where salt is collected and processed using traditional methods. We'll enjoy a weaving **workshop** with the village women and learn to make the lontar palm pouches for storing salt.

We'll also join the villagers in **planting mangrove seedlings** to help maintain the valuable eco-system and breeding habitat for the fish that are their main source of food.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 15 Friday 23 July

LEWOLEBA, LEMBATA

Today we'll visit **Lamalera,** one of the few remaining villages where whale hunting is still permitted and practiced. For this tradition to be permitted to continue, the wooden boats may only be propelled by wind and muscle (sails and oars) and whales can only be harpooned manually.

The whaler must leap from the prow of the boat onto the back of the targeted whale with a metal tipped, bamboo spear. It's an ancient and dangerous occupation!

At the chapel on the beach, prayers of hope and thanks for safety and a productive voyage are offered.

Boat building, sail weaving (from pandan leaves), rope-making and harpoon forging are all heritage crafts which are integral to life in Lamalera. The village is also acclaimed for its **naturally dyed, hand spun, cotton ikat textiles**, which often feature distinctive **whale, manta ray and boat motifs**. We'll see demonstrations of some of these crafts during our visit.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 16 Saturday 24 July

LEMBATA to BALI

This morning we'll head to Lewoleba airport for our group flight to Denpasar, Bali via Kupang (transit only).

Our tour comes to an end upon arrival at Denpasar Airport (DPS). Sadly, it's time to head our separate ways.

Our flight details and arrival time at Denpasar International Airport (DPS) will be confirmed closer to departure.

We strongly recommend that you stay at least two nights in Bali to reduce the risk of missing your onward flight due to the possibility of our flights from Lembata being delayed, rescheduled or cancelled.



Meals: Breakfast

Price:

Twin share: AU$ 6790 per person
Single supplement: AU$ 750 (does not apply to days 12 and 13 – see note on day 13)

Inclusions:

- 16 days/15 nights accommodation
- All meals (15 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 15 dinners as indicated)
- Transport: private mini-bus, car, boat
- Flights from Bali to Bajawa via Labuan Bajo on day 1 and Lembata to Bali via Kupang on day 16
- **EIGHT hands-on workshops** (in red), plus demonstrations and activities as per the itinerary
- Entrance to villages and excursion venues as per the itinerary
- Tips for hotel & restaurant staff, drivers, workshop leaders etc on behalf of the group, for group activities
- Services of a local English-speaking tour leader and retreat|recreate host

Exclusions:

- International airfares
- Travel insurance
- Early check in or late check out
- Transfers and accommodation in Bali
- Personal spending (souvenirs, phone, laundry, excess luggage fees etc)
- Meals and drinks not specified in the itinerary
- Drinks with included meals
- Tip for local tour leader

Notes:

- A deposit of AU$2000 is required to secure your booking
- The tour balance is due no later than 23 April 2027.
- Please refer to the **Trip Notes** and **Booking Conditions** for more details.
- As this itinerary was developed many months prior to departure, minor amendments may occur.