

Labuan Bajo the exotic of many Paradise Islands of Indonesia

- Travel News & Insights



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History of Labuan Bajo

Indonesia is a country that has many islands. There are at least 17,504 islands registered as part of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The whole island has a lot of beauty and provides a tourist attraction both local and foreign. One of the islands which is famous for its beach tourism is Labuan Bajo.



Why Labuan Bajo? Actually, Indonesia is already famous for its beaches in Bali and Lombok. However, recently, with the arrival of a famous football player to Labuan Bajo, it can be said that Labuan Bajo is one of the most famous tourist areas to foreign countries. From the east of Indonesia, in East Nusa Tenggara Province, there is a village called Labuan Bajo. Labuan Bajo is one of the 9 villages in Komodo District, West Manggarai Regency, East Nusa Tenggara.

Labuan Bajo is the capital of West Manggarai district and is located at the westernmost tip of Flores Island, where the inhabitants mostly earn their living on water. This is reflected in a busy bay filled with various sizes of canoes, sailing boats and motorboats.

Most of the travelers and westerners who have a lot of business in Labuan Bajo say that the city of Labuan Bajo is developing, profitable and even romantic. The view in the log huts with thatched roofs camouflaged by the thickets and trees towering over the sloping city, overlooking the picturesque harbor, makes evening conversations with travel companions an unforgettable experience. For some adventurers, Labuan Bajo can be an ideal vacation.



Labuan Bajo is the launching point for memorable trips to Komodo Island and Rinca Island, home to the famous Komodo dragons. Apart from the Komodo dragon (*Varanus commodensis*), the main attraction in this area is the extraordinary marine life. Komodo Island is indeed a paradise for divers and snorkellers. Several operators offer islands by boat from Labuan Bajo and provide great diving and snorkeling opportunities: Bidadari Island, Seraya Island, Sabolo Island to the north of Labuan Bajo, and Kanawa and Sebayur heading west. In the south, the route to Rinca is the island that houses the colony of “flying foxes”, large bats that can be seen flying away at dusk. In recent years, Labuan Bajo has gradually turned into a busy place due to the presence of divers and the increasing number of people. visitors to Komodo Island. Currently, the city offers a wide variety of tourist facilities.

Historically, Labuan comes from the word labuhan, which is a village that was used as a berth for people who came from the Bajo and Bugis of South Sulawesi. Finally this village was later called Labuan Bajo.

With its exoticism, Labuan Bajo has become a tourist destination that is even well known to foreign countries. Becoming a tourist destination, Labuan Bajo later became the capital of East Manggarai Regency with transportation facilities for docks, ports and even airports.



Labuan Bajo has many tourism objects. It can be said that almost every meter of the area has beauty and uniqueness. Why not, Labuan Bajo is indeed a small island that connects all the beauties from beaches, sea, hills and grasslands. There is even a village that is unique with the preservation of its customs which is still maintained today.

Famous tourist objects include Komodo Island, Pink Beach, Manta Point, small islands such as Kanawa, loh liang, waterfalls and even caves in Labuan Bajo. The most famous of all is Komodo Island. Komodo Island is so called because of the existence of Komodo dragons. This animal is the only one who survived after a long time ago the eruption of Mount Krakatau which caused a tsunami. With its lendaris existence, this animal is one of the animals that are preserved. Likewise, Komodo Island is a National Park which is accepted as a world heritage site category by the United Nations body, namely UNESCO.

Besides Komodo Island, which is also famous is Pink Beach and Manta Point. Pink beach is a beach with pink sand that is attractive and has a unique view, while Manta Point is a statue located at the bottom of one of the beaches in Labuan Bajo which is one of the diving spots that is also unique.



Transportation

The town is quite small and easily walkable (in 10-15 minutes). Ojeks and bemos pass every 5 minutes if you get tired of walking. You can rent a motorbike for IDR 75,000 / day. Motorbikes are limited in town and there are only a few scooters available.

Activities

Komodo National Park covers many waters and islands west of Labuanbajo. If you want to go to Rinca Island or Komodo Island you have to take a tour to enter. The current rate is IDR 225,000 plus IDR 50,000 tax. Each group also has to pay a guide for Rp. 80,000. As you walk down the main street in town almost every shop is a service bureau that will arrange transportation to and from Rinca and / or Komodo island for you. It usually costs IDR 350,000 per person for a package that includes round-trip rides, and with stops for snorkeling and lunch on a nearby island on the way home (snorkeling equipment and lunch included).

2 nights / 3 days Boat trips can be arranged with local tour operators ranging from 700,000 to 2,000,000 per person excluding park entry fees, or boat allowance fees. Please note that the tour includes snorkeling at a number of locations and visiting Komodo Island and Rinca Island. The difference in the price of the trip itself is usually identical to the difference in price depending on the season, number of guests, sleeping accommodation on the boat and the type of food you eat.

Rinca Island is a more comfortable place to see Komodo dragons than Komodo Island. Some dive operators may combine stops on this island.

Sembilan Island is a 9 shaped Island – Komodo Island in Labuan Bajo that is worth a visits



Trekking Mount Mbeliling, Cunca Rami Waterfall and Crater Lake are perfect for eco-adventures. Manggarai mountains, lakes and waterfalls offer many hiking and trekking routes to suit all levels of hiker experience.

Trekking Wae Rebo. Wae Rebo is the last remaining traditional Manggariman village with traditional houses. Located at an altitude of 1,125 meters above sea level in the Nature Conservation Forest. There are seven traditional houses, called 'Mbaru Tembong' and each of these houses accommodates more than one family. People live on agricultural products such as coffee, taro and vegetables.

Snorkeling and Diving

Labuan Bajo is the most appropriate point to go snorkeling in Komodo National Park. Snorkeling within the park offers many opportunities to see pristine coral reefs with some of the largest fish and coral diversity in the world.

Komodo National Park offers dozens of immensely pristine dive sites, with many migratory pelagics and well-preserved reefs making it one of the richest marine habitats in the world. The park is located just offshore and is easily accessible to liveaboard operators, although trips may take two hours or more in each direction.

There are about 25 dive operators that offer diving courses. They have a fixed price for diving at IDR 1,300,000 per day including 3 dives, full equipment and lunch, + IDR 175,000 for entrance fees for Komodo National Park and dive fees (IDR 225,000 on Sundays)

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