

Labuan Bajo

Flores Island · Indonesia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Labuan Bajo is a small port town on the western tip of Flores. It is the main gateway to Komodo National Park and the base for most boat trips, snorkelling and diving in the area.

The town itself is simple. Most visitors spend a few nights here, book a day or multi-day boat trip, and enjoy the harbour sunsets. It suits divers, wildlife lovers and travellers who want to combine the islands with the green highlands of Flores.

When to visit

The dry season runs from about May to October. July and August are the driest and sunniest months, with calm seas and the best conditions for boat trips.

The wet season, from about November to March, brings heavy rain and rougher seas. Boat trips can be delayed, but divers still come because manta rays are often seen from October to April.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	28° / 29° Feels like 32°	25° / 24°	30 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 11 (Extreme)
February	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	28° / 29° Feels like 31°	25° / 24°	27 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 12 (Extreme)
March	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	28° / 30° Feels like 32°	25° / 24°	28 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
April	Fair Fair for watersports	29° / 30° Feels like 33°	25° / 24°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
May	Great Great for watersports	29° / 30° Feels like 33°	25° / 24°	Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
June	Great Great for watersports	29° / 30°	25° / 24°	20 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for watersports	28° / 29°	24° / 23°	23 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for watersports	29° / 30°	24° / 23°	27 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Great Great for watersports	29° / 30°	25° / 23°	27 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
October	Great Great for watersports	30° / 31° Feels like 33°	25° / 24°	26 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 13 (Extreme)
November	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	30° / 31° Feels like 34°	26° / 25°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
December	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	29° / 30° Feels like 33°	25° / 24°	29 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)

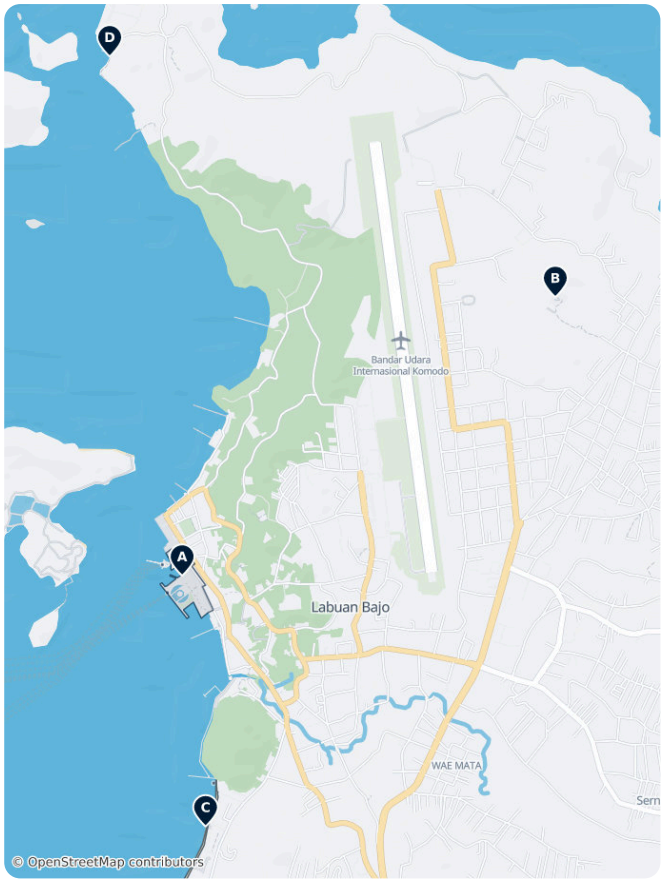
Best months: July, August

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

Labuan Bajo is a base for trips, not a town of big monuments. These sights are close to the centre.

- A Marina Waterfront is the harbour promenade and the best place to watch the sun set over the water. Boats to the islands leave from the harbour nearby.
- B Batu Cermin Cave is a limestone cave in the hills about 4 km east of the centre. Sunlight enters through a hole in the roof and reflects off the rock walls. Visit with a local guide.
- C Pede Beach is a long beach just south of the centre. It is popular with locals in the late afternoon.
- D Waecicu Beach is a beach a few kilometres north of the harbour, with a quieter feel than the town waterfront.



Labuan Bajo – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

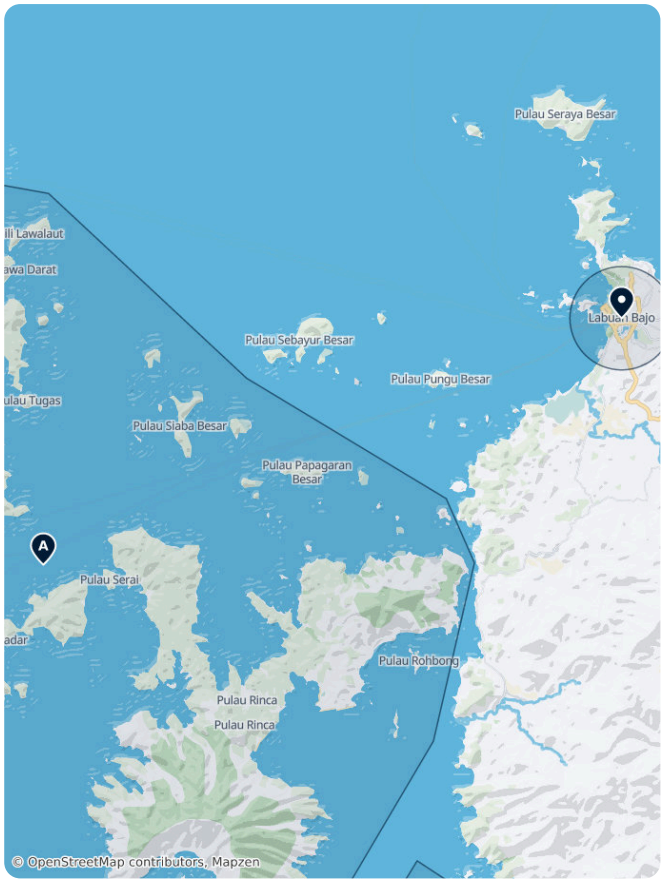
What to experience

- **Dive or snorkel in Komodo**: Many dive centres are on the harbour street. Currents are strong at some sites, so choose a site that fits your certification. Manta rays are often seen from October to April.
- **Sunset at the harbour**: Watch the sun set from the waterfront, or take an evening boat trip. Flying foxes leave their roosts at dusk on some islands.
- **Multi-day boat trip**: Sleep on a boat for two to four nights and visit several islands. Check the boat's safety equipment before you book.
- **Trans-Flores road trip**: Hire a car and driver for a few days to see rice fields, villages and volcanic lakes east of Ruteng.

Day trips

Most day trips here are by boat. Prices and routes vary by operator, so compare a few offices on the harbour street.

- Rangko Cave: a cave with a blue swimming pool. Allow 30 to 45 minutes by road to a small harbour, then a short boat ride. Light is best in the early afternoon.
- Kanawa Snorkeling Spot: a popular snorkelling stop with clear water, on Kanawa Island. It is about 1 to 1.5 hours by boat.
- **Cunca Wulang**: about 1 to 2 hours by road. A canyon with a waterfall and a swimming pool, on the way to Ruteng. Check with your driver that the access road and bridges are open.
- **Komodo National Park**: the nearest islands are 1 to 2 hours by boat. See A Komodo National Park for Komodo dragons, Rinca, Padar and the dive sites. A park day trip takes a full day. Park visits are limited to 1,000 people a day and must be booked in advance, so book early in July to October.



Where to explore

- Komodo National Park: Komodo dragons, pink beach, viewpoints and the main dive sites.
- Flores Island: the island around Labuan Bajo, with highland towns, rice fields and villages along the Trans-Flores road.

Getting there

- **By air**: Komodo International Airport (LBJ) is a few minutes by taxi from the centre. Direct flights serve Bali (about 1 to 1.5 hours) and Jakarta (about 2.5 hours). Surabaya and Kupang also have direct flights. Most visitors fly via Bali.
- **By road**: The Trans-Flores road runs from Ruteng (about 4 hours) and Bajawa (9 to 10 hours or more). The road is winding, so allow extra time.
- **By ferry**: Ferries link Sape on Sumbawa with Labuan Bajo. The trip from Bima, including the bus and ferry, takes 8 to 12 hours. Slow boats also run between Lombok and Labuan Bajo through Komodo National Park.
- **By rail**: There is no railway on Flores.

Getting around

- **Local transport**: Small minibuses (bemo) and motorbike taxis (ojek) run in town, usually until about 9 pm. Agree on the price before you ride.
- **Taxis and car hire**: Hotels can arrange a car with a driver. This is the easy way to reach the cave, beaches and waterfalls.
- **Boats**: The harbour is the main hub. Day boats and multi-day boats leave from here.
- **On foot**: The harbour area is walkable but hilly, and pavements are uneven. Cycling is not practical for most visitors.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The harbour area is compact but hilly, with uneven pavements.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills, traffic and heat make cycling impractical for most visitors.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town. Taxis and bemos cover short trips. For the Trans-Flores road, a hired car with a driver is easier than driving yourself.
- **Road conditions**: Mountain roads are narrow and winding. Journeys take longer than the distance suggests.
- **Parking**: Parking is informal near the harbour and rarely a problem.

Food & drink

Fresh grilled fish and seafood are the local focus. Flores also grows good coffee, and it is worth trying a local cup.

For seafood, go to the evening stalls near the harbour at Kampung Ujung, where you choose fish and pay by weight. Cafes and restaurants cluster along the main harbour street and on the hill above it. Menus include Indonesian dishes, pizza and burgers for visitors.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Gado-Gado · gado-gado
A vegetable salad with tofu and tempeh, dressed in peanut sauce.

Padang rice · nasi padang
A dozen or more small dishes brought to the table at once; you pay only for what you eat.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Krupuk · kerupuk
Deep-fried prawn or fish crackers, a common side at nearly every meal.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Martabak · martabak manis
A thick, folded pancake filled with chocolate, cheese, or nuts, sold from street carts in the evening.

DRINKS

Kopi Tubruk · kopi tubruk
Coarsely ground coffee steeped directly in the cup, Indonesia's everyday way of drinking coffee.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Nasi Goreng · nasi goreng
Indonesia's everyday fried rice, usually with egg, chicken, and a fried cracker on the side.

Satay · sate
Skewered, grilled meat served with a peanut or sweet soy sauce.

Rendang · rendang
Slow-cooked beef in coconut milk and spices, originally from West Sumatra.

Labuan Bajo – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Labuan Bajo is generally safe for visitors. Petty theft is rare, but keep valuables out of sight on beaches and boats.

- **Boat safety**: Choose a licensed operator with life jackets and a radio. Check the weather forecast. Very cheap offers from street touts often mean poor boats.
- **Komodo dragons**: They are wild animals. Stay with a park ranger and keep your distance.
- **Sun and heat**: The sun is strong on the water. Bring sun protection and drinking water.
- **Mosquitoes**: Use repellent. Malaria and dengue occur on Flores, so ask your doctor before you travel.
- **Medical care**: Clinics and hospitals in town are basic. Buy travel insurance that covers medical evacuation.

History

Labuan Bajo was a small fishing village for most of its history. Its name means Bajo harbour, after the Bajo sea people who settled on this coast.

Komodo National Park was created in 1980 to protect the Komodo dragon. It became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991. Tourism grew fast from the 2010s, and the town has changed from a fishing port to a main tourism base in eastern Indonesia.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Indonesia at a glance:

CURRENCY
IDR Rp

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

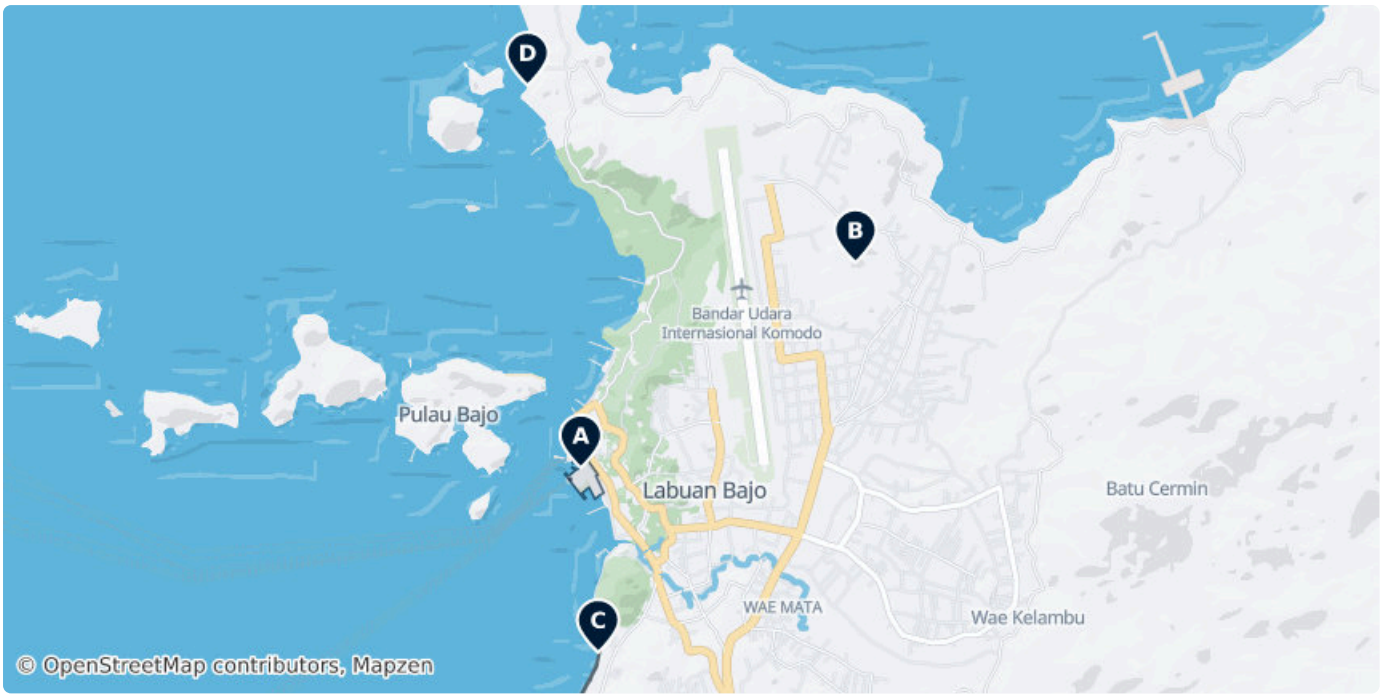


Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Indonesian

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Top sights



A Marina Waterfront

Jalan Soekarno Hatta (-8.49265, 119.87618)

B Batu Cermin Cave

Limestone cave in a rock hill whose salt-bearing walls sparkle when morning sunlight enters through a crevice in the roof. Marine fossils and corals show the area once lay underwater.

Jalan Raimundus Rambu, Labuan Bajo, Labuan Bajo 86554, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia (-8.47726, 119.89701)



C Pede Beach

(-8.50650, 119.87749)

D Waecicu Beach

(-8.46396, 119.87214)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic

IMAGE CREDITS

- Pede Beach — "Pantai Pede florès" by Lasthib, cc0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 22, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.