



AMPERSAND'S TRAVELS..

Top 10 Luxury Lombok

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Ampersand has recently returned from a research tour of [Lombok](#) & the [Gili Islands](#) and have one thing to say: GO NOW! Lombok is like [Bali](#) was 25 years ago: wonderfully relaxed and ravishingly beautiful. Now is the 'sweet spot' in the luxury tourism cycle of the island – the perfect moment in time to visit. Luxury has arrived (more of that below) but authenticity remains and, crucially, it does not yet feel spoilt and overrun if you choose your spot wisely.

We highly recommend visiting the Gili Islands – as often as you can – but do not stay here. There are currently no hotels on the Gili Islands we would recommend to an Ampersand client; some are billed as ‘luxury’ but they are not. Far better to stay somewhere fantastic on Lombok and take a 10 minute private speed boat to the Gili Islands for day trips. Enjoy world-class scuba diving and snorkelling, stop for lunch at a local eatery or enjoy a private picnic, then return to the lap of luxury on Lombok!

Lombok ticks all the boxes for a charming and rustic beach break, but you can forget what you remember from your backpacking days – she now rivals Bali for first-class style and service. Luxurious options are popping up in the northwest, specifically in Malimbu and the Sira Peninsula, which has a remarkably innocent and untrampled vibe. You have white sandy beaches, cows strolling idly through coconut groves, sweet local villages with mosques humming with the call to prayer. You’ve got sunset views over Mount Agung in Bali, sunrise views of Lombok’s own volcano, Mount Rinjani, and the Gili Islands within grasping distance.

There is also something very exciting happening at the exact opposite end of Lombok island: an incredible new eco retreat on the remote south-eastern peninsula set on one of the most beautiful beaches we’ve ever seen...



Here are Ampersand's Top 10 Luxury Lombok properties:

1. Ibiza-chic with an Asian twist... **Lombok Lodge** [9 room hotel]
2. Ampersand's favourite family villa... **Sira Beach House** [6 bedroom villa]
3. Eco-retreat in the unspoilt southeast... **Jeeva Beloam Beach Camp** [11 room resort]
4. Cliffside James Bond villa... **Malimbu Cliff Villa** [4 bedroom villa]
5. Ethnic boho-boutique... **Hotel Tugu Lombok** [18 room resort]
6. Homely tropical paradise... **The Anandita** [4 bedroom villa]
7. Austin Powers, eat your heart out!... **Villa Sapi** [5 bedroom villa]
8. Charming (& affordable) all-rounder... **Jeeva Klui** [35 room resort]
9. The perfect wedding venue... **Sepoi Sepoi** [5 bedroom villa]
10. Classic Oberoi: service, style, space (& no surprises!)... **The Oberoi Lombok**[50 rooms, 32 villas]

THE ANANDITA LOMBOK

The Anandita is the embodiment of "tropical paradise". It is a fantastic four bedroom villa shrouded in luscious gardens and colourful flowers – frangipani, bougainvillea and towering palm trees – backing on to a white sand beach with sunset views of Mount Agung in Bali. The villa has a stunning curvy swimming pool with several shaded alcoves to lie in and read your book. The pool links straight into a cool living room with a pool table, funky lights and oversized Asian furniture. The dining room is a breezy pavilion decorated with statues, which looks out over the gardens and the lily pond. There is also a beachside balé for sunbathing, cocktails or candlelit beach BBQs.

The Anandita feels very much like a home away from home and staff are exceedingly warm and friendly; Gusti, the villa manager, is a ray of sunshine. He can take guests snorkelling and kayaking offshore from the villa or cycling through nearby local villages and fishing markets. If required, he can also accompany guests to the Gili Islands, or arrange for a private boat to take them snorkelling, diving and fishing at Gili Meno with a beach picnic on Gili Air, just 5 minutes away by speed boat. The property is situated right next door to Hosaido golf course.

"To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted." - Bill Bryson