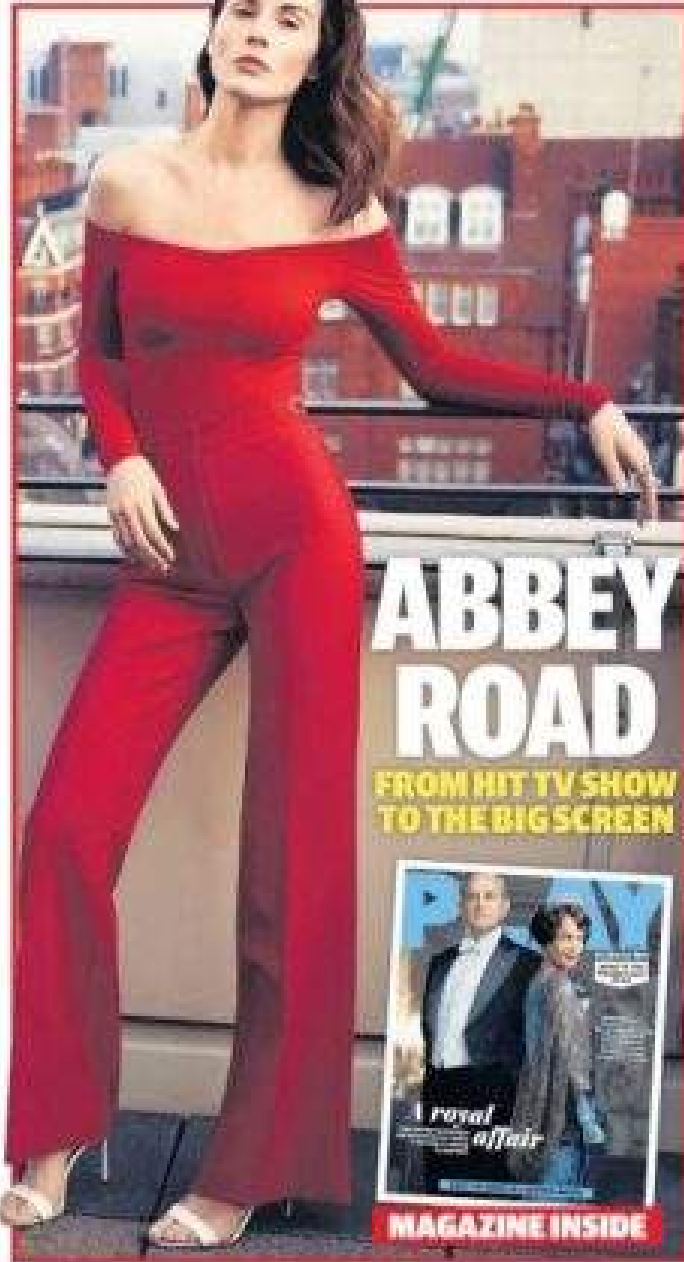



# The Weekend West



**ABBNEY ROAD**  
FROM HIT TV SHOW TO THE BIG SCREEN



**MAGAZINE INSIDE**

**EXCLUSIVE:** The \$5m plan for a CBD pool from the big end of town

# SWAN DIVE

**KIM MACDONALD**

The city centre is poised to get its first public swimming pool in more than a century.

The \$5 million plan is being locked by building magnates Dale Alexander and Olympian Bronn

Bellman, who described the four-year lease development in the Swan River at Elizabeth Quay as a "stroke of genius".

**FULL REPORT PAGE 18**



## EXCLUSIVE: Inside the fake blue line

**PHIL HICKEY**

Public servants are being used to fill senior police roles, a move that has raised concerns that sensitive investigations could be compromised.

Examples include a public servant appointed as an acting detective superintendent in the same division that backs after the homicide squad.

Police Union president Harry Arnold said the practice risked

eroding "the effectiveness of the force".

The union has written to Police Commissioner Chris Dawson to demand answers.

**FULL REPORT PAGE 16**

# HAIR WE GO!

**YOUR GIANT NICK NAT FACE MASK INSIDE**



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Weather details PT14

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Takeshita Street, Tokyo. Picture: Will Yeoman

## Tokyo on tap from Perth

WILLIAM YEOMAN gets off the first direct flight and jumps into Japan ...

I'm a bit excited to be back in Tokyo after arriving, early Monday morning, on ANA's first direct flight from Perth, the nine-hour flight kicking off their new daily direct Perth-Tokyo service. Previously I'd sampled the 787 Dreamliner's surprisingly roomy economy seating. To provide a point of comparison, this time I flew business class. The space, comfort, food and level of service are all exceptional. The only drawback is having not much more than half a day to spend exploring Tokyo before I head to Okayama. What to do?

### AN AFTERNOON IN TOKYO

- Whether you're into shopping or not, just head straight for Shibuya City, one of the most vibrant and interesting parts of Tokyo. It boasts not just two of the world's busiest train stations — Shibuya and Shinjuku — but effortlessly combines the quirky and the classic.
- Stroll down leafy Omotesando Avenue and marvel at the extravagant architecture and the high-end stores.
- Stop for a delicious, healthy lunch at Brown Rice, just off the avenue.
- Explore the funky shops and cafes in the nearby back streets collectively known as Ura-Harajuku, or Urahara.
- Plunge into the youth-culture madness that is Takeshita Street and drop into Mocha Cat Cafe for some cuddles or grab a diabetes-inducing monster fairy floss.
- Cleanse your spirit by visiting the famous Meiji Shrine and Yoyogi Park near Harajuku Station and walk to the music of thousands of cicadas.
- Inspect the superb woodblock prints of Hiroshige, Hokusai et al. at the small but perfectly formed Ukiyo-e Ota Memorial Museum.
- Finish the day with an early dinner and a bowl of ramen from a restaurant like Shinbusakiya on Dogenzaka Street. If you're a veggie, their broiled miso ramen is a must.

### FLIGHT TIMES & COSTS

- All Nippon Airway's daily flight from Perth to Tokyo (NH 882) leaves WA at 9.45pm and arrives at Tokyo's Narita airport at 8.25am. The return flight (NH881) leaves Tokyo daily at 11.10am and arrives in Perth at 8.15pm.
- ANA has been offering \$860 return fares to launch the service. As an example of general fares, to fly economy on November 1 and return on November 11 is \$897 (at the time we went to press). The cheapest economy legs on February 1, with a return on February 11, give \$972 return. As a comparison, where "super value" economy is \$404 per leg, premium economy is \$1009. ana.co.jp/en/au

### ... AND SINGAPORE FLIES DIRECT TO SEATTLE

The first ever direct flight from Singapore to Seattle touched down on Wednesday. Our writer Simon Collins was on board and reports that Singapore Airlines' Airbus 350-900 covered the 13,000km from Changi to Sea-Tac (Seattle Tacoma International Airport) comfortably in 14 hours and 10 minutes. "And there was a water cannon salute as we taxied on the tarmac in Seattle." The flight set off on Tuesday — launched with a lion dance. Seattle is now the fourth US destination for non-stop Singapore Airlines flights. It will fly there three times a week, increasing to four from October.

## LOMBOK

# Laid-back, open for business



... and after a four hour direct flight, NATALIE RICHARDS goes tropical

"How was your flight? We thought you might be hungry so we made you some sandwiches." It's midnight, and while Selong Selo Resort and Residences sleeps, a handful of staff beam at their latest incomers.

It might be 2½ hours since the kitchen closed but here in the hills of South Lombok, a guest is a guest and if there's a chance they might be hungry, you rustle up something with all the trimmings, regardless of the time.

So, in the small hours, we're welcomed into our villa with a midnight snack and enjoying a taste of the hospitality, which is reserved for "Miss Natalie from the media" and her guest (my very excited mum-in-law).

It's dry season in this tiny Indonesian island and, with temperatures a good 15C hotter than Perth, Lombok should be in the throes of a busy tourist season.

In neighbouring Bali, Southern Cross-tattooed Aussies are throwing around rupiah as carelessly as

Novie serves poolside cocktails at Selong Selo Residences.



Cabanas at Selong Selo Residences. Pictures: Natalie Richards

**"I tell them you must be nice to the tourists and not beg them for tips, we want our tourists to be happy and not feel uncomfortable."**

Lalu Tajudin

their Kuta market Ray-Bans.

Just over the Bali Sea, however, the tumbleweed has set in.

Last year's earthquake has spooked western visitors, and while the famed Lombok surf seems to keep the diehards returning, it seems many are taking more persuading.

Locals like Lalu Tajudin have taken it upon themselves to make sure that, when the tourists do return, they want for nothing and are treated impeccably.

Guides whose eyes light up at the sight of western tourists are given a stern word of warning by the driver who stands, arms folded

by our side. "I tell them you must be nice to the tourists and not beg them for tips, we want our tourists to be happy and not feel uncomfortable," Lalu tells me.

"But if you're happy with your guide, it's OK for you to tip, of course." Like cabbies in Australia, Indonesian drivers always have a colourful story to tell, perhaps embellished a tad to pass time on the journey, but entertaining nonetheless.

Lalu is no exception. A keen surfer, he claims to have been among the first to take a board to the gentle waves of Selong Belanak Beach a decade ago.

The tourists, he says, followed suit, enticed by the easy, beginner waves and safety of a rock-less ocean floor. Nowadays, if you're not walking the beach with a board in hand, you're missing out, with peels of infectious laughter ringing from the water with every dumped tourist.

"We kept counting how many foreigners come every day. In a day, we could count less than 20. Now, it's about 200. Soon, we hope there will be a thousand," Lalu says.

At only 50,000 rupiah for a couple of hours surfboard hire, it's a well-spent five bucks to keep the kids happy, but that doesn't



Lalu Tajudin.



Surfboards at Selong Belanak Beach.

stop the parents zincing up and giving it a crack too.

Around the corner in Kuta (yes, there's a Kuta in Lombok too) and Belongas Bay and Desert Point, the waves are bigger and enough to keep more experienced surfers occupied.

The locals are well aware of the big business offered by the white horses. Repair shops offer cheap fixes for broken boards and hotels happily stack travelling surf boards at the concierge and offer daily shuttle services to the ocean.

But if you prefer your water chlorinated and splashing over the edge of an infinity pool, you can barely match a private villa, like those at Selong Selo.

Even the smallest one-bedroom villa comes with its own private 4m infinity pool, while those with family big enough to fill a seven-bedroom



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**LOMBOK**

**FROM P 5**

laid-back Indonesian vibe here and you need to relax a bit to suit.

That means you must go with the flow if your driver runs a little late and try not to plan



Monkeys in Lombok. Pictures: Natalie Richards

your day to a strict schedule — you can do that enough at home!

The staff will also be forgiving if you decide to change your plans at the last minute and it only takes a WhatsApp message from your villa (a mobile phone with internet is provided in each villa) to get almost anything delivered to your own retreat.

Drinks in resorts aren't far off western prices — say \$13 for a cocktail — but, at the risk of sounding like a holiday snob, it's worth it to keep the Bintang singlet crowd away.

I don't have to say the "B-word" for you to know exactly the type I'm talking about, but the rumours are true that they're in the minority here on Lombok.

The island's Muslim influence means any drinking culture only exists among visitors, and to the disappointment of one sunburn tourist I came across, "no ham sandwiches anywhere" — major eye-roll!

Speaking to locals, you get the impression they don't mind who visits, as long as they bring their much-needed tourist dollars with them.

But, while Lalu and his friends may be keen for the gold rush to begin, it's with



Selong Belanak Beach.

reluctance I tell you Lombok is open for business.

After all, I'd much rather gaze out at the lush greenery from my infinity pool and feel like I've got the island to myself for just a tad longer.

**Natalie Richards was a guest of Elite Havens and Air Asia. They have not seen or approved this story.**

**fact file**

- Selong Selo costs from \$US200 a night, with discounts available for longer stays. [selongselo.com](http://selongselo.com)
- Air Asia offers the only direct flight from Perth to Lombok, with flights available from \$111 one way. [airasia.com](http://airasia.com)

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