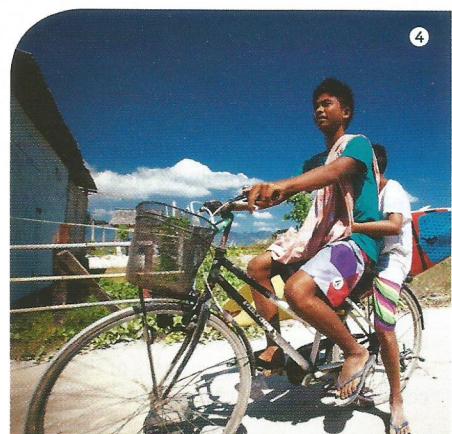
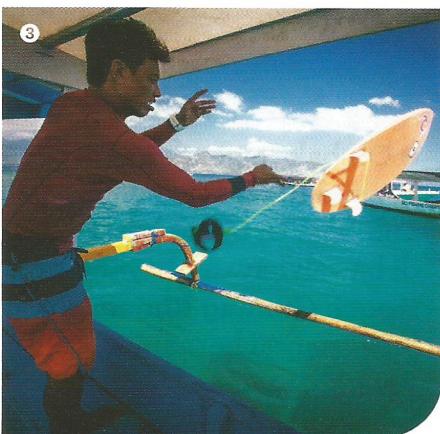
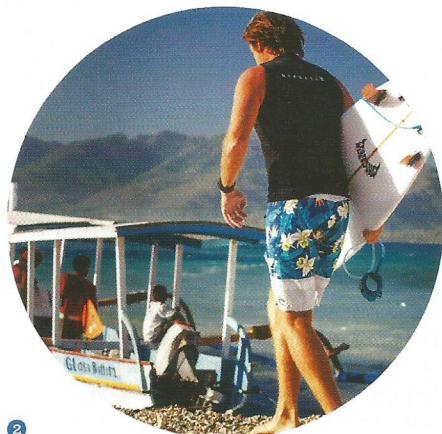
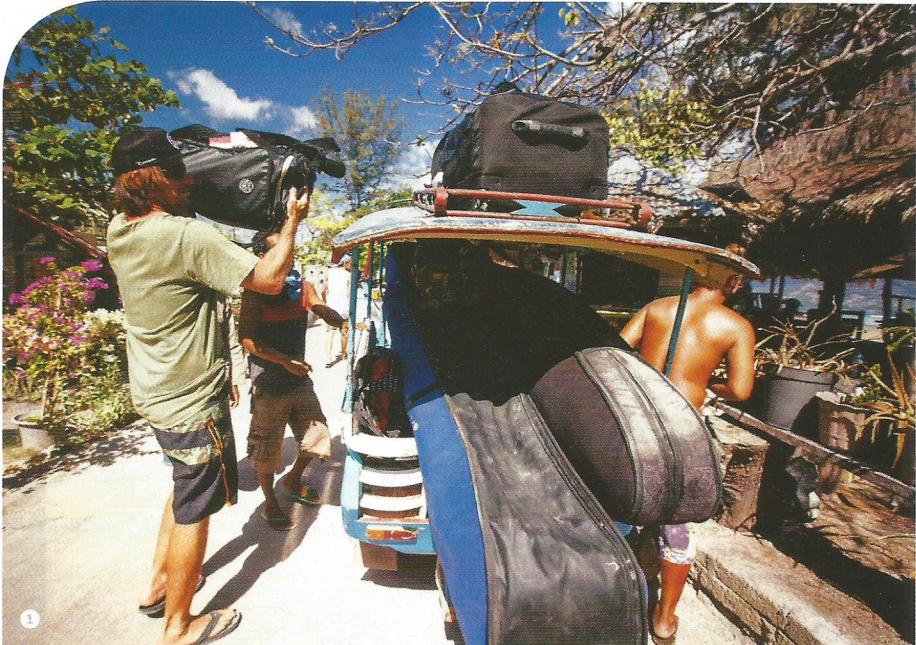


1 When the big, seasonal Indian Ocean swells arrive, the Gilis come alive with smaller, more manageable surf. With no cars allowed on the Gilis, the experience often takes on the patina of an amusement park ride.

2 When it's on, the surf in the Gilis is some of the best in Indonesia. There are plenty of colourful fishing boats willing to drop you at its front door.

3 Indonesian champion Pepen Hendrik prepares for blast-off.

4 The bicycle culture of these small islands seems to create an overall feeling of well-being, with surfing being at the top of the list for the young at heart.



Gilis

Words by Tommy Schultz

2 hours from Bali by fast boat

➊ Surrounded by shimmering cobalt-blue seas and fringed by coral reefs teeming with a wealth of diverse marine life, the islands of Gili Trawangan, Gili Air and Gili Meno have long been popular with divers.

Located just a short boat ride from Lombok's northwestern coast, the Gilis lie mostly out of reach of the powerful Indian Ocean swells that draw thousands of surfers every year to the mainland's southern coast. However, a small group of local and international wave hunters has found world-class surf in a most unlikely place – Indonesia's top dive destination.

Gili Trawangan, the hub of the trio's nightlife and dive operations, is home to a small but committed community of local surfers who can be seen paddling out from the quiet beach at the southern tip of the island's coast. Waves rarely reach beyond waist height, but with spectacular views of Lombok's rugged coastline and regular sightings of Bali's legendary Mt Agung, an afternoon spent on the waves of 'Gili T' are guaranteed to be a memorable experience even if the waves aren't massive.

Beyond Gili Trawangan, the laid-back islands of Gili Meno and Gili Air also receive waves, but only under very special ocean conditions. With mainland Lombok largely blocking the path of most waves that manage to thread the Lombok Strait, only the very largest swells manage to send any surf to these outer islands.

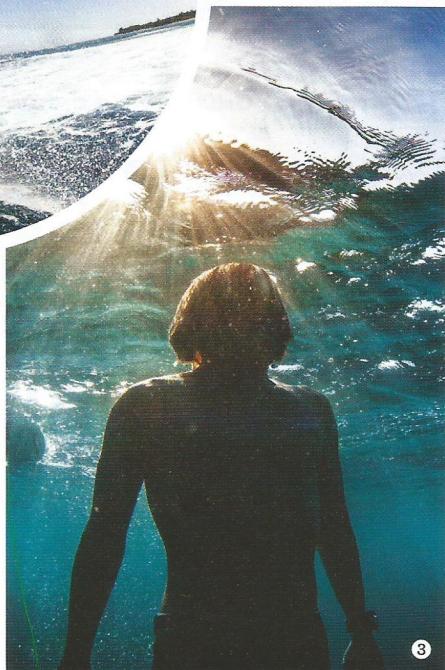
Known as a 'Code Red' swell, these rarely seen oceanic conditions can produce waves of up to 12m at the most exposed surf spots like Bali's legendary Uluwatu Beach. Seen only a few times every five to 10 years, storms in the Southern Indian Ocean can create three-metre to five-metre surf at some of the most popular snorkelling spots in the Gilis. For those surfers lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, the sight of glassy blue walls of crystalline water rolling past some of the world's most beautiful coral reefs is one that won't soon be forgotten.



① Pepe Hendrik waits for waves above a wonderland of clear water, dazzling sealife and wondrous mystery.



② The gentler waves in the Gilos allow for experimentation, often pushing the limits of Indonesian surfing into the stratosphere.



③ An old surfing trick, diving off your surfboard for a few moments to re-boot your surfing performance.

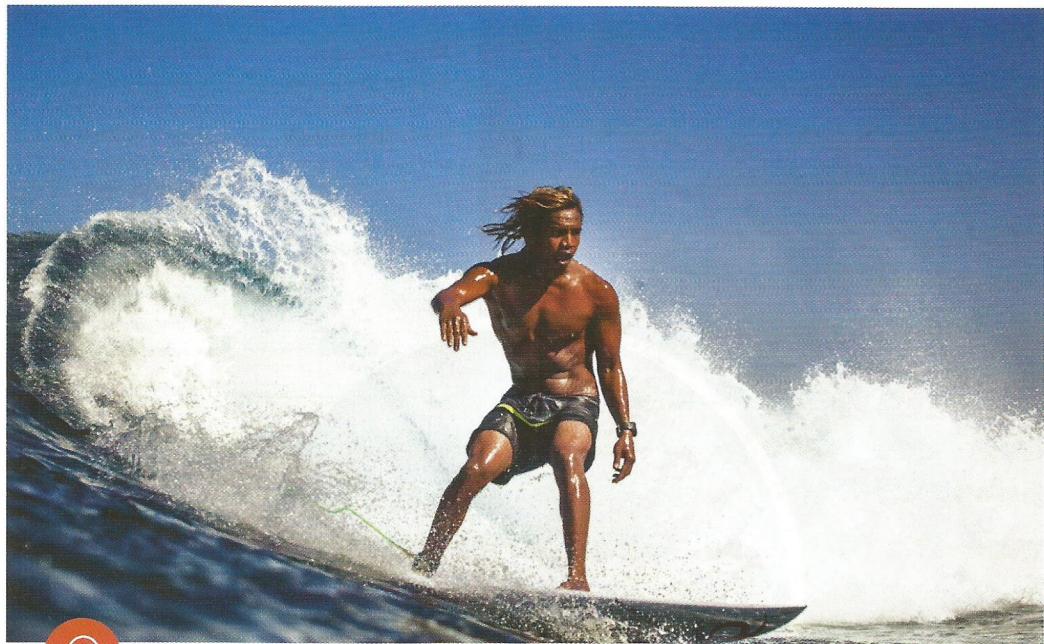
① Birunya laut dan gugusan terumbu karang yang kaya akan biota laut menjadikan Pulau Gili Trawangan, Gili Air, dan Gili Meno lokasi yang cukup populer di kalangan penyelam.

Tak memakan waktu cukup lama dengan perahu dari pantai barat laut Lombok, tiga Gili ini sebagian besar tidak terpapar ombak besar Samudra Hindia, tak seperti pantai di selatan Lombok yang didatangi ribuan peselancar setiap tahunnya. Namun kini para pemburu ombak dari dalam dan luar negeri telah menemukan lokasi berselancar kelas dunia di Gili, yang selama ini lebih dikenal sebagai lokasi menyelam paling indah di Indonesia.

Dari ketiga gili, Gili Trawangan-lah yang menjadi pusat kehidupan malam dan kegiatan menyelam, sekaligus menjadi tempat bagi sekelompok kecil peselancar lokal yang sering terlihat mengayuh papan selancar mereka dari pantai sepi di ujung selatan pulau. Ketinggian ombak di pantai ini jarang melebihi pinggang. Namun dengan pemandangan pantai berkarang, dan penampakan Gunung Agung Bali yang legendaris, menghabiskan sore di tengah ombak Gili Trawangan akan menjadi pengalaman tak terlupakan.

Di luar Gili Trawangan, ada Gili Meno dan Gili Air yang suasannya lebih tenang. Pantai di dua gili ini hanya berombak dalam kondisi tertentu. Karena sebagian besar daratan Lombok menghalangi gelombang laut yang melewati Selat Lombok, hanya ombak sangat besar yang bisa sampai ke pulau-pulau terluarnya.

Dikenal dengan sebutan gelombang "Code Red", kondisi laut yang jarang terjadi ini bisa menghasilkan ombak hingga 12 meter di tempat-tempat surfing seperti Pantai Uluwatu yang legendaris. Sementara, di lokasi-lokasi snorkeling paling populer di Gili, angin kencang di selatan Samudra Hindia bisa mengirimkan ombak setinggi 3-5 meter. Peselancar yang beruntung ada di sana saat fenomena alam itu terjadi akan dibuai oleh indahnya ombak biru sebening kristal yang melewati gugusan terumbu karang paling menakjubkan di dunia. Sebuah pemandangan yang tentu tak akan terlupakan.



Travel Tips - Gili: Beyond the Surf

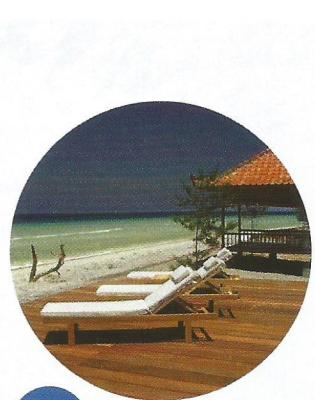


Gili Trawangan's reputation for reliable sea-turtle encounters and beautiful coral reefs has made it one of Indonesia's top diving destinations. The island is now home to more than 20 dive shops offering regular trips daily. Manta Dive is one of the longest-running dive shops on Gili T and comes highly recommended by experienced divers. Here's a tip: the best time to dive Gili Trawangan is a few days before and after the full moon when large schools of rare bumphead parrotfish arrive in the shallower sections of reef.

When the sun goes down, you'll see the sprawling pinpricks of stars glowing in the night sky instead of the glow from Kuta's busy nightspots. While it's true that Gili Trawangan has a small cluster of nightclubs for the party people, it's also true that a short ride on a bicycle or horse cart will easily transport you to a quiet stretch of sand where there's not much to do besides stare into the night sky and think about the amazing surf shredded above the water and stunning marine life spotted under the sea that day.

Reputasi Gili Trawangan sebagai habitat penyusut laut dan terumbu karang yang indah telah menjadikan pulau ini salah satu tujuan utama wisata menyelam terpopuler. Di pulau ini terdapat lebih dari 20 toko selam yang menawarkan perjalanan ke lokasi-lokasi menyelam seperti Manta Dive yang sangat direkomendasikan oleh para penyelam berpengalaman. Sebagai tip: waktu terbaik untuk menyelam di Gili Trawangan adalah beberapa hari sebelum dan sesudah bulan purnama. Pada saat itulah segerombolan besar ikan kakaktua *bumphead* yang langka tampak di terumbu karang dangkal.

Ketika matahari terbenam, yang akan Anda lihat adalah hamparan bintang di langit malam, dan bukan cahaya dari tempat hiburan malam di Kuta. Meski Gili Trawangan juga memiliki beberapa klub malam kecil, di sini Anda bisa mengendarai sepeda atau naik delman untuk menikmati pantai yang tenang dan memandangi langit malam, indahnya ombak pantai dan kehidupan bawah lautnya yang menakjubkan.



Where to stay

As Gili Trawangan hits the mainstream tourist trail, it's starting to lose some of the laid-back beach-bungalow vibe that made it famous in the first place. For those looking for a resort that emphasises the beach, try **Desa Dunia Beda**. Located on the northwest side of the island, the resort is situated front and centre on the most deserted beach I saw on Gili Trawangan. You'll stay in a traditional Javanese Joglo villa appointed with an eclectic collection of handicrafts. The resort is especially popular with young families seeking peace and privacy from the busier backpacker- and diver-oriented accommodation offered on the other side of the island. www.desaduniabeda.com

Setelah Gili Trawangan populer, pantai-pantai dan bungalo di sana tak lagi setenang dulu. Jika Anda termasuk wisatawan yang mencari resor yang mengutamakan pantainya, cobalah Desa Dunia Beda. Terletak di sisi barat laut Gili Trawangan, resor ini ada di depan dan di tengah pantai paling sepi di pulau itu. Anda akan merasakan tidur di dalam rumah Joglo, yang terbuat dari kayu jati terbaik dihiasi ukiran tangan dan dilengkapi koleksi kerajinan tangan yang unik. Resor ini menjadi favorit keluarga muda yang mencari suasana tenang dan privasi, jauh dari ingar-bingar tempat menginap backpacker atau penyelam di sisi lain pulau.