

THE PERFECT WAVE





The Archipelago Journal



Colours presents a special feature looking at how surfing has helped put Indonesia on the must-visit list of global holidaymakers.

While surfing has never been more popular in the country, nowadays most visitors come for countless other experiences. Giving you the best of both worlds, we visit the archipelago's finest surf spots and then go beyond the surf to explore what makes each destination such an all-around compelling place to escape to.



E Welcome to Indonesia, the new world capital of surfing, with more than enough destinations for a lifetime spent happily riding the incredible energy of the ocean. Where can you find the perfect wave? Indonesia is just the place to search for it, one beautiful beach at a time.

Surfing may owe its origins to the Polynesian high priests who rode waves from Hawaii to Tahiti on huge wooden planks before the dawn of recorded history, but since the waves of Kuta Beach in Bali were discovered just before the start of the Second World War, many now argue that Indonesia has eclipsed Hawaii as the home of the world's best waves.

As word of mouth spread, by the 1970s (the golden age of tube riders) intrepid surfers from around the world began to make the pilgrimage to experience Indonesia's storied breaks. And from then on the archipelago nation and surfing were inextricably linked.

Surfers told more surfers, and the numbers swelled. Some stayed permanently, and to look after these early adventurers, pockets of tourism started to form and development followed. Since those first few discovered Bali's best breaks, tourism has grown beyond compare. Now, more than 40 years on, Indonesia welcomes more than 20 million tourists a year.

Over the next 20 pages, hit the waves with insider tips from veteran surf photographers Tommy Schultz and David Burden, editor-in-chief of *Surf Time* magazine Matt George, and Hawaiian tube-riding legend Gerry Lopez.

① As the search for new surf spots continues, the surf charter business is booming.

② From a humble village background, Dedi Gun grew to become a major talent on the international surfing stage.

Matt George takes us to Bali for a surfer's introduction to Indonesia's most famous island. Next we join him at Sumbawa's spectacular **Lakey Peak** and the ominous **Scar Reef**, before chilling out at **Maluk Village**. On Lombok we take a wave tour from **Mawi** to **Point X**, scale the majestic **Mt Rinjani**, and tuck in to some succulent Sasak food. He saves the most unique surf adventure for last; the curious and mysterious **Seven Ghosts**, which is reserved for only the most determined riders out there.

We test the waters at remote **Sumba** with Tommy Schultz, who gets a feel for the vibrant equestrian culture. On **Gili Trawangan**, he hunts down a rare 'Code Red' swell on the tiny island and unwinds beyond the surf with some world-class diving.

David Burden scopes the **Mentawai**s, 150km off the coast of Sumatra, perfect for intermediate to advanced surfers. He discovers that many non-surfing travellers have begun trickling in too, looking for a destination that retains its 'edge of the world' feel.

And as a special treat, Mr Pipeline himself, Gerry Lopez – one of those intrepid few who first put Bali and Indonesia on the map for surfers over 40 years ago – shares his personal experience returning to Java's G-Land, his 'favourite wave on the planet'.

1 Selamat datang di Indonesia, destinasi baru berselancar dengan lebih banyak tempat menyenangkan untuk menikmati ombak besar. Tempat yang paling ideal untuk berselancar? Kami tak dapat menjawabnya, tapi yang pasti Anda dapat menemukannya di Indonesia. Bisa jadi, tak ada hentinya Anda akan menemukan ombak dengan pulau indahnya sekaligus.

Selancar berawal dari kebiasaan para pemuka agama berkebangsaan Polinesia yang menunggang ombak dari Hawaii ke Tahiti dengan papan kayu lebar, bahkan sebelum awal mula sejarah tercatat. Namun, sejak ombak Pantai Kuta di Bali ditemukan sebelum pecahnya Perang Dunia II, kini banyak orang berpendapat bahwa Indonesia telah melampaui Hawaii sebagai pemilik ombak terbaik di dunia.

Seiring kabar yang beredar dari mulut ke mulut, pada 1970-an (masa keemasan penggemar *tube rider*/selancar dengan tali yang ditarik perahu motor), para peselancar dari seluruh dunia tergugah untuk menjajal ombak Indonesia yang menggegerkan itu. Dan sejak saat itulah Indonesia dan selancar menjadi hal yang tak terpisahkan.

Para peselancar saling mengabarkan hingga jumlah yang datang ke Indonesia semakin banyak. Ada yang kemudian tinggal seterusnya, dan dari sini akhirnya terbentuklah pariwisata dan diikuti dengan sejumlah pembangunan. Dari sejak penemuan pertama oleh para peselancar, kini sudah lebih dari 40 tahun, Indonesia didatangi lebih dari 20 juta wisatawan per tahunnya.

Anda akan disuguh dengan 20 halaman berisi sejumlah *tips* dari dua fotografer senior khusus selancar Tommy Schultz dan David Burden, pemimpin redaksi majalah *Surf Time* Matt George, serta sang legenda selancar dari Hawaii, Gerry Lopez.

Matt George akan membawa kita ke Bali, pulau yang paling terkenal di Indonesia untuk berselancar. Selanjutnya, Matt mengajak kita ke Lakey Peak yang spektakuler dan Scar Reef, sebelum akhirnya bersantai di Desa Maluk. Di Lombok, kita akan berselancar dari Mawi ke Point X, menjelajahi Gunung Rinjani yang megah

dan mencicipi kelezatan kuliner Sasak. Untuk wisata selancar paling seru, Matt menyuguhkan ulasan mengenai Seven Ghosts nan misterius dan mengundang rasa penasaran, tempat menarik khusus bagi para peselancar tangguh.

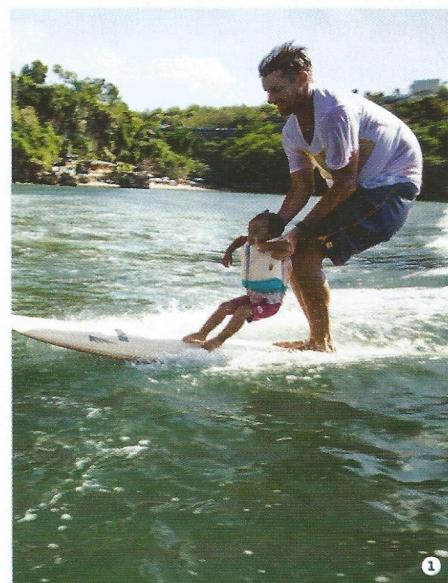
Kami menjajal ombak di Sumba bersama Tommy Schultz, yang menyukai budaya bernuansa *equestrian*. Di Gili Trawangan, Tommy mencoba ombak "berbahaya", yang kemudian dilanjutkan dengan menyelam di lokasi selam bertaraf internasional.

David Burden menjelajahi Kepulauan Mentawai, 150 km dari pesisir Sumatera, tempat yang pas bagi peselancar tingkat menengah maupun senior. Di sana, banyak non-peselancar yang juga datang untuk berwisata, mencari tempat yang masih mempertahankan nuansa alam nan asli.

Dan ulasan khusus datang dari sang legenda selancar sendiri, Gerry Lopez—satu dari sedikit orang yang membuat Bali dan Indonesia tampil dalam peta selancar lebih dari 40 tahun lalu—and membagikan pengalaman pribadinya kembali ke G-Land Jawa, ombak paling favorit menurutnya.

1 Expat Pete Matthews shares the thrill of surfing with his one-year-old daughter, Zoe, at Padang Padang beach on Bali.

2 With over 17,500 islands in the Indonesian archipelago, nowhere on earth is the hunt for surfing's treasures more electrifying.



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