

# INDO SURF & LINGO

20th Anniversary Edition



From Morning of the Earth to The Drifter,  
The Search now continues with You



**THE #1 GUIDEBOOK TO  
SURFING IN INDONESIA**

BY PETER NEELY

## LIVE THE DREAM

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# DISCOVER THE WORLD'S BEST RIGHTS



Golden sunset glass-off at Lance's Right, aka HT's. Photographer: Pete Frieden

HT'S, MENTAWAI ISLANDS

# EXPLORE THE WORLD'S BEST LEFTS

Desert Point Lombok, Photo Cory Scott



DESERT POINT, LOMBOK

# EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S BEST TUBES



A wide-angle photograph of a surfer riding a massive, green wave. The surfer is a small silhouette in the center, riding the face of the wave. The water is a vibrant green color, and the wave is breaking into white foam. The background shows more waves and a hazy sky.

ENJOY THE LONGEST  
RIDES OF YOUR LIFE

SURF INTO THE SUNSET  
IN THE LAND OF LEFTS



# ESCAPE THE CROWDS EVEN IN BALI?



Time it right, and you might get an hour alone. Photo: Mick Curley

BALANGAN, BALI

WANT TO PUT YOURSELF  
IN THIS PICTURE?

MENTAWAI DREAMING



Photo: Tim McKenna



SUMATRA DREAMING



The view from your room at Surf Camp Sumatra: [www.surfcampsumatra.com](http://www.surfcampsumatra.com)



YOU WANT LONG TUBES?

Is this "The Longest, Best Tube in the World"? Desert Point, Lombok. Photo: Jon Huberman

DESERT POINT, LOMBOK



GET ONBOARD  
WAKE UP TO THIS EVERY DAY

Is this "The Longest, Shallowest, Deadliest Tube in the World"? One Palm Point, West Java. Photo: Tipi Jabrik

ONE PALM POINT, PANAITAN ISLAND



GO FOR A PADDLE  
SEE WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND

# SECRET SPOT #9,999?



# 20 YEARS OF DISCOVERY

In the 20 years since **Indo Surf & Lingo** was first published, there have been many exciting new surf discoveries in Indonesia. Feedback we've received shows this book has helped inspire quite a few adventurous souls to venture where no surfer has gone before. Surfers are one of the few lucky "tribes" on the planet still able to enjoy the rewards of exploration.

While Bali is still the best starting point for your first trip, if you speak a little Indonesian, the outer islands can deliver incredible rewards for the truly adventurous among us. But even if you don't get out of the comfort of Kuta Beach, try to learn some "**Indo lingo**". It will make a huge positive difference to your trip.

The first surfers to discover the perfection of Sumatra's **Mentawai Islands** all learnt enough basic Indonesian to enlist the help of local fishermen who knew these treacherous waters better than anyone (up till then). These days Padang harbour in Sumatra has become a major base for over 30 yachts venturing out to the Mentawais and beyond. This book actually started out as a language guidebook, because it's still the best way to escape the crowds and discover your own perfect surfing paradise.

Java, Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba, Timor and many of the 17,000 other remote "**Spice Islands**" still have unexplored areas slowly revealing their hidden treasures each year to surfers who dare to roam off the beaten track. Secrets are still out there.

As you travel through Indonesia, enjoying your holiday of a lifetime, please remember how lucky we all are to be "free-and-easy surfers", born now into this age of cheap air travel.

In all the history of mankind, there will only be **One Generation** that will be **The First** to explore the world through the eyes of The Travelling Surfer. We are part of this lucky generation. As children we could only dream of undiscovered Tropical Waves. Yet by the time of our old age these dreams can become reality, familiar "second homes" to us, joyful new playgrounds in the short history of surf exploration. How lucky we are.

One hundred years ago mankind could only travel by sailing ship. To travel to "The Far East" would take years. These days it's just a day away in an air-conditioned airplane.

One hundred years from now, air travel in oil-powered jets will almost certainly no longer be possible. Surfing in a clean, unpolluted ocean may also become impossible if **Our Generation** does not spread positive ideas and inspiration while we enjoy this unique luxury of international air travel.

Go far but tread lightly. Search and discover, but also continue to learn and educate. Spread your knowledge and insights so that future generations can continue to share this stoke that only a surfer knows. Let your journey begin...

# SEARCH & DISCOVER respect & protect

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." Mark Twain



Photo : JS Callahan / tropicalpix



Surfing on the Razor's edge - The Search is endless. Photo: Mark Newsham courtesy Rip Curl.



# NEW DISCOVERIES



New Discovery, not yet surfed because nearby waves are better and less deadly. "Melon Busters" Photo by Jon Huberman  
 Photos opposite from top left to right: Lakey Pipe - thanks to Indo Jiwa. Hideaways by daniah. Nokandui - daniah. HT's - daniah.  
 HT's tuberide - by daniah. The S Spot - John Hepler. Desert Point - Mark Newsham. Hideaways - Ethan Ford, Wave Park Resort.

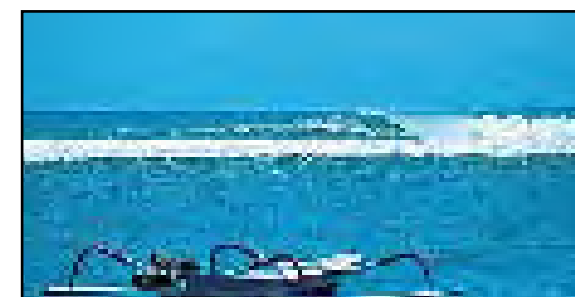
For the last 20 years this guidebook has helped thousands of surfers explore the magical islands of Bali, Java, Sumatra, Mentawai, Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba, Timor, Rote and the 17,000 other uniquely special Indonesian "Spice Islands".

- The **Indo Surf** pages will help you find uncrowded surf in all Indonesian islands, even in Bali.
- The **Trip Planner** pages will help you decide where to go, to catch the waves you want, and make the most of your holiday.
- The **Indo Language** pages will help you learn to speak Indonesian quickly and easily, so you can more easily explore the exotic Indonesian outer islands, in search of your own secret spots, for **The Adventure of a Lifetime**.

More than ever, after the tragic 2002 and 2005 "Bali bombs", being able to speak even a little of the Indonesian language will make a huge difference to your trip. You won't be regarded as "just another tourist", but rather seen as a "respectful traveller". It will open up wonderful experiences for you with the friendly Indonesian people, offering insights into their uniquely spiritual lives. As **Tracks** magazine wrote about this book: "There's nothing better than being able to communicate in a foreign country. It will earn you respect with the locals and get you closer to the culture - and the tube!"

This book delivers to you all the knowledge of Indonesian surfing and language gained by the author over the last 35 years, plus essential courtesies, cultural hints and travel tips that will hopefully save you lots of time, stress and money. We hope this book helps you enjoy a life-enhancing experience in Indonesia that you will treasure forever.

# LEARN TO SPEAK INDONESIAN and you could discover new indo surf spots like these!



The surfing world first heard about Bali in the early 1970's. **Kuta Reef** was the first major discovery, soon followed by **Uluwatu** in 1971 and **Padang**. Then surfers started exploring other islands and discovered two of the world's best waves: **Grajagan** "the ultimate left" in 1972, and **Nias**, "the perfect right" in 1975. New discoveries in the **Mentawai Islands** are even better.

Most of the surf breaks in this book are relatively well known within the worldwide surfing community. But there are many other **"Secret Spots"** and new discoveries which we have respected by keeping secret. These spots await you.

The key to exploring for uncrowded waves in Indonesia is to study the language lessons in this book, and enlist the help of the friendly Indonesian local surfers. And then to respect their secret spots by keeping them a secret.

# INDO SURF SEASONS

## when should I go?

**Bali** offers over 30 top-quality waves on the west and east coasts of the island, which are just **half an hour** apart by car or motor-bike. You'll find offshore winds virtually every day all year.

**The Dry** winter season is offshore on the famous Kuta to Uluwatu west coast, with south-east trade winds from early **April** to late **October**. This is the best season for quality surf and guaranteed sunshine, the best time to plan your first trip.

**The Wet** summer season is offshore on the Nusa Dua to Keramas east side of the island, with north-west winds usually from **January** to late **March**. This is the least crowded season. Although rain averages 2 inches a day in January and February, there can still be a week of sunny weather with perfect surf.

Between seasons can be less predictable, but you can usually find offshore waves somewhere. The biggest swells usually arrive mid-winter from May to September, although tropical cyclones during summer can send up a few days of solid swell.

Most surfers prefer the consistent sunny winter months with the largest swell activity, rather than the humid monsoon months when rain squalls can be more frequent than world-class surf. Unfortunately this means that between June and August every year you will usually have to share Uluwatu with 100 other hot surfers from Brazil, Hawaii, Australia, America, South Africa, Europe and Japan... and the local Balinese surfers rip too!

Luckily though, Indonesia's outer islands offer lots of less crowded waves during these months, from South Sumatra down through Java, Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba, the West Timor islands, and even Irian Jaya. It is with this in mind that this guidebook has been created, especially to help the adventurous surfer-traveller exploring the more remote Outer Islands.

The major exception is **the Mentawais** which enjoy far more glassy days due to Equatorial doldrums. Plus yachts can quickly motor around the small islands to find wind-protected reefs. Conditions can be perfect **all year**, with average 4-8 feet from May to October, and fun 3-5 feet the rest of the year.

**How to Avoid Crowds in Bali.** Not easy anymore, but first read all the info describing each break in Bali. Then go to page 46 "**Where Will We Surf Today?**" for three pages that chart your alternatives on any wind direction, tide or swell size. Sometimes most of the crowd automatically goes to the biggest and best spot for that day's conditions. But you can use this guide to slip away to another spot that while maybe not quite as big or perfect, still has excellent waves with less crowds. Or try the other side at dawn hoping for an hour or three of glass.

One tip to remember is that most Bali waves get better in the afternoons, after the trade wind has straightened the swell out, so sometimes the early mornings aren't too crowded. The sun comes up around 6:30 am. The surf doesn't get too crowded until 9 am after most tourists finish their buffet breakfast.



Photo: Sebastian Imizcoz, Saraina Koat Mentawai



Lovina Photo: Sebastian Imizcoz, Saraina Koat Mentawai



Photo: Sebastian Imizcoz, Saraina Koat Mentawai

[www.mentawaiislands.co.id](http://www.mentawaiislands.co.id)

# BALI SURF SPOTS

## DRY SEASON 20-37

### west coast - may to september

Uluwatu	22
Padang-Padang	26
Impossibles	29
Bingin	28
Dreamland	30
Balangan	30
Jimbaran	31
Airport Rights	31
Airport Lefts	31
Kuta Reef	32
Kuta Beach	33
Halfway	33
Legian	34
Canggu	36
Pererenan	36
Balian	37
Medewi	37
Nusa Lembongan	45

## WET SEASON 38-44

### east coast - december to march

Nusa Dua	39
Sri Lanka	40
Turtle Island	40
Hyatt Reef	41
Tanjung Sari	41
Sanur	42
Padang Galak	43
Keramas	43
Lebih	43
Padang Bai	43
Nyang Nyang	38
Green Ball	38

The #1 Best Seller

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAN THE BEST POSSIBLE INDONESIAN SURF ADVENTURE

**Tracks mag** wrote: "The best advice I was given when going to Indo for the first time was "Buy Indo Surf and Lingo!" It's Indonesia's most complete, up-to-date surfing guidebook, perfect for a hassle-free, surf-rich trip."

**Stoked Customers** wrote:

"I am so impressed with this book. Definitely worth the price. It really made planning my trip easy. It covers everything - surf spots, hotels, restaurants, travel tips. It's actually 1,000 times better than I expected!"

"The book is insane. It has everything I need to know. When I'm on the plane flying to Bali next week, I know that I'll be very, very well prepared."

"This book has a bloody awesome reputation. All my mates told me it's an absolute MUST HAVE. And they were bloody right! It really made the trip."

"We had a fantastic trip and your book made a huge difference. Every day we'd say "What does the book say?" Then we'd use it to surf the right places at the right tides, at breaks that matched our ability. It really made the whole trip just so much better."

"Exactly what I've been after. I'll recommend it to anyone planning a trip to Bali. Know before you go"

"Yep, this book rules. I used it last trip and scored epic surf away from the crowds. Saved more than it costs with the discount vouchers too. My opinion? Get this book and don't look back."

## SURF SPOTS



## SURF CAMPS



## YACHT TOURS



## HOTELS



## CAFES



## DISCOUNT VOUCHERS



■ BALI ■ JAVA ■ SUMATRA ■ MENTAWAIS  
■ LOMBOK ■ SUMBAWA ■ SUMBA ■ TIMOR

**Tracks Mag:** "This amazing book of wisdom has helped countless travellers on their Indo sojourns. It will make your search so much easier. Describes the best conditions, and points you to uncrowded surf all over Indonesia."

**Australia's Surfing Life:** "This guide's become the adopted **Indo Surfer's Bible** for surfers heading to Indo on the hunt for perfect waves. At around the cost of a carton of beer, you'd be a goose to step onto Indo soil without a copy. So buy it, eh!"

**Surf Life for Women:** "The ultimate resource for any surfer going to Indonesia. It crams everything you need into one handy book. A definite must have. If you've never been to Indo, and you want to do it right, this book is the perfect travel companion!"



20th anniversary edition of "the indo surfer's bible"