



# INDO SURF & LINGO

**25<sup>TH</sup>**   
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION SINCE 1992

THE #1 GUIDEBOOK TO SURFING INDONESIA

INDO'S BEST SURF SPOTS,  
FROM BALI TO THE MENTAWAIS  
BEST YACHTS, VILLAS, HOTELS,  
CAFES, LANGUAGE, INSIDER TIPS

YOUR ESSENTIAL  
GUIDEBOOK FOR  
THE BEST INDO  
SURF ADVENTURE

BY PETER NEELY





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# 25 YEARS OF DISCOVERY

*Introduction by Peter Neely*

“TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE MORE DISAPPOINTED BY THE THINGS YOU DIDN'T DO THAN BY THE THINGS YOU DID. SO THROW OFF THE BOWLINES, SAIL AWAY FROM THE SAFE HARBOR. CATCH THE TRADE WINDS IN YOUR SAILS. EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER.”  
MARK TWAIN



Hats off to Sumatra. Alex Gray Photo: Brad Masters

REMEMBER 1992?  
THE MENTAWAI ISLANDS  
WERE STILL SECRET.  
NO INTERNET.  
NO SURF SCHOOLS.  
NO LIVE SURF CAMS.  
NO SWELL PREDICTIONS.  
NO TIDE CHARTS.  
NO DIGITAL CAMERAS.



In the 25 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 rich 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 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 dream off the beaten track. Secrets are still out there.



# SEARCH & DISCOVER

## RESPECT & PROTECT



Above: Ricardo dos Santos (RIP) Kandui Lefts. Not yet discovered in 1992. Photo islandeye

Below: Papua kids Photo:Ryan Robson




**MEANWHILE IN WEST PAPUA  
THE LOCAL KIDS ALWAYS  
KNEW HOW TO HAVE FUN**

Back in the **1970's** surfers on the road didn't want to be seen as a "tourist", staying in foreign-owned hotels. Rather we aspired to be "travellers", staying with the locals, involving ourselves in their lives, learning their language and culture. The friendly communal style of Bali's traditional "home stay losmen" has been kept alive by the modern Surf Camps where you mix with the locals, and really get to know them as more than just a "room boy".

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.

One hundred years ago explorers 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. Too easy.

One hundred years from now, air travel in oil-powered jets will almost certainly no longer be possible. Surfing in a clean, un-polluted 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... 



POSTER available from [www.indosurf.com.au](http://www.indosurf.com.au)

Golden sunrise at HT's, alias Lance's Right. Regarded by many as The Best Indo Surf photo ever taken. Photo: Pete Frieden



# DISCOVER THE WORLD'S BEST RIGHTS

HT'S, MENTAWAI ISLANDS





Yuri Goncalves, Super Suck. Photo: Everton Luis



# EXPLORE THE WORLD'S BEST LEFTS

SUPER SUCK, WEST SUMBAWA





Dylan Longbottom on that rare day when 1% of the tubes let you out. Photos John Olsen, Just Dreaming

# EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S BEST TUBES

APOCALYPSE WOW, WEST JAVA







Melon Busters. Hard to believe this spot is rarely surfed. But waves nearby are much safer, more perfect. Photo: Brad Masters



Sorry, can't say where. Photo: Jon Huberman



# ANY SECRET SPOTS STILL?

TRY SEARCHING EAST OF BALI



Felipe Pomar "remote spice island". Photo Per Ranheimer

# INDO SURF SEASONS

## WHEN SHOULD I GO?



Photos Sebastian Imizcoz, Saraina Koat Mentawai



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

**B**ali 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 motorbike. 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 62 **Bali Wave Size Prediction Chart** for your best 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, while maybe not quite as big or perfect, still has excellent waves with less crowds. Or the best bet is 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 around 9 am, after most tourists have finished their hotel's big buffet breakfast.



**DRY SEASON**

APRIL TO OCTOBER



Impossibles. Photo Everton Luis

**BETWEEN SEASON**

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER



Dede Suryana, Legian Beach. Photo David Deckers

**WET SEASON**

JANUARY TO MARCH



Mushroom Rock. Photo Mick Curley

**BALI SURF SPOTS****DRY SEASON 36-61****WEST COAST - APRIL TO OCTOBER**

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# ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN THE ULTIMATE 100% AUTHENTIC INDONESIAN SURF EXPERIENCE

**Tracks** 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 highly respected, frequently recommended surfing guide-

**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!"

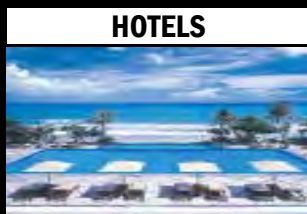
"The book is insane. It has everything I need to know. When I'm on the plane flying to Bali next week, I know that I'll be very, very well prepared."

"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."

"Like a Search engine in a book! Why waste days on the Web when this has it all in one go-anywhere book"

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



- 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."

**SURFER's Matt George:** "An incredibly comprehensive compendium of essential information. A staggering achievement, infused with respect and spectacular photographs. Like holding a dream in your hand, this is a thoroughbred winner"

**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!"



**25th anniversary of "the bali surfer's bible"**