

DISCOVER INDONESIA
發現 印尼

Damselfish make enjoyable
dive partners around the
corals near Bali

在峇里附近的珊瑚礁
潛泳，有成群的
小熱帶魚相伴

Island in the 生命流域 stream

by SIMON PRIDMORE

An underwater photograph showing a diver's legs and fins in the upper left corner. The water is filled with a large school of small, silvery fish. In the foreground, there is a dense field of green and yellow sea fans. The background is a clear, deep blue.

The natural phenomenon that is the Indonesian Throughflow is thought to be responsible for the rich marine biodiversity around Bali, creating one of the world's top diving destinations

印尼貫穿流為峇里周邊海域帶來豐富多樣的海洋生物，不僅締造了大自然奇觀，更讓當地成為世上最精采的潛水勝地之一



Heading off for an underwater adventure (above left); the shore at Nusa Lembongan (above); and drift-diving among the soft corals (right)

一群潛水者出發到深海歷奇 (左上圖) ;
Nusa Lembongan島近岸 (上圖) ;
在軟珊瑚之間進行漂流潛泳 (右圖)

AT THE eastern end of Pemuteran Bay in north-west Bali, the ocean laps onto the shore where children cavort in the sand, fishermen rest beneath shady trees after a day's work and boats rock gently at anchor, close to a rusty old jetty. But a number of divers standing on the beach are content for a different reason: they've just glimpsed Bali's beautiful underwater sights. Even seasoned divers are often impressed by a dip into the shallow waters by the beach, says Paul Turley, owner of the Sea Rovers dive centre. "They emerge from the sea beaming from ear to ear, having just photographed a whole host of animals they'd previously seen only on National Geographic TV," he says. Bali is one of the few destinations in the world that has vibrant tourism attractions alongside great scuba diving. The waters around the island are home to an astonishing array of sea creatures, many of which are found only in Indonesia. While diving can be done year-round, it's best during the dry season from June to September, when the northern bays



The soft-coral growth and marine life can take your breath away

軟珊瑚體及魚類生態令你歎為觀止

A green turtle moves in for a closer look (below);
divers with juvenile sunfish and a pair of bannerfish
(right); a black manta ray (bottom left); and a
blue ribbon eel (bottom right)

一隻綠海龜在咫尺之遙 (下圖)；潛水客與
幼年翻車魚及一對關刀魚相遇 (右圖)；
黑色的蝠魞 (左下圖) 及藍海鰻 (右下圖)



are calm and clear and big pelagic fish gather in the cooler waters in the south-east.

The area's rich marine biodiversity is thought to have been brought about by the Indonesian Through-flow, a massive moving body of water, part of which flows through the Lombok Strait, the chasm between Bali and the nearby island of Lombok. The rush of water is dumped from the Pacific into the Indian Ocean, resulting in seasonal changes to sea level.

“ **The Throughflow races by ... offering lots of big animal sightings and exhilarating drifts**
貫穿流洶湧而過.....帶來多采多姿的海洋生物
景觀及驚險的急流

As this enormous mass of water leaves the Pacific and sweeps through tropical seas into the Indonesian archipelago, it picks up and carries along with it a vast bounty of marine creatures' eggs, larvae and juveniles, which it then deposits wherever it encounters land. The Throughflow thus populates all of Bali's major dive sites, from the multi-coloured, soft-coral-covered walls of Menjangan in the north-west, to the calm, species-rich bays of black volcanic sand in the north-east and the sheer underwater cliffs around Nusa Penida in the south-east. "If you stay here long enough, eventually you'll see pretty much everything," says Lol de Haan, a diving instructor in Lipah Bay, on the island's eastern tip.

The speed of the Throughflow also provides thrill-seekers with some dramatic drift-diving. Towering barrel sponges lean at 45 degrees as if



【生命流域】

峇里西北部的Pemuteran Bay東端，海濤拍岸，孩子們在沙灘上跑跑跳跳，辛勞一整天的漁民在樹蔭下歇息。在鏽跡斑斑的舊碼頭附近水域，拋錨停靠的船隻在水中輕輕晃動。

然而，真正讓沙灘上一群潛水愛好者感到滿足的，是峇里水底夠麗多采的美景。潛水中心Sea Rovers的東主Paul Turley指出，這片海灘的淺水區景色美得連潛水常客都為之驚艷。他說：「他們上水時高興得眉開眼笑，因為剛在水底拍攝的照片，全都是只可以在國家地理頻道看到的海洋生物。」

峇里環島的水域是多種海洋生物的棲息之所，當中不少更是印尼獨有。那裡全年皆適宜潛水，但最理想還是在6月至9月的旱季前來，因為那時北面的海灣風平浪靜，海水清澈，東南面水溫較低的水域則有大條的深水魚聚集。

當地豐富多樣的海洋生物，相信是由印尼貫穿流帶來的。隨著季節性的水位變動，大量海水由太平洋注入印度洋。這股巨大海流的支流穿過峇里島及鄰近龍目島之間的龍目海峽。

當這股海流離開太平洋，經過熱帶海域流入印尼群島一帶時，沿途捲走大量海洋生物的卵子和幼苗，這些生物在遇到陸地時就會沉積下來。就這樣，貫穿流為峇里的潛水區帶來多采多姿的海洋生態，從西北方Menjangan島水底佈滿七彩珊瑚的岩壁，到東北方海洋生物繁多、平靜的火山黑沙海灣，以至東南面Nusa Penida島一帶的水底峭壁。

在峇里島東端Lipah Bay擔任潛水教練的Lol de Haan說：「如果你逗留時間夠長，一定可以盡覽所有精采景致。」

尋求刺激的潛水客，還可以在

驚險的急流中享受箇中快感。急流所經之處，巨大的桶狀海綿猶如置身狂風之中，被捲至45度傾斜，尖岩和岩壁的天然植物也被沖刷淨盡。還幸海底有幽谷和其他可遮擋海流的地形，讓軟珊瑚和海魚可以安然避過急流。

在峇里東部Banyuning Bay的海口，離岸數米的水域便有綿延數公頃的彩色鹿角珊瑚。這片色彩柔淡的珊瑚帶棲息了大量小熱帶魚，每當有潛水者游過，就會成群起伏游走，景象足可媲美島上著名的稻米梯田。

峇里島東南邊的Tepekong和Padang Bai一帶，貫穿流所經之處，海底有許多細小的嶙峋岩石，成為海魚的天然庇護所。

貫穿流在峇里與龍目島之間的島嶼Nusa Penida和Nusa Lembongan兩旁洶湧而過，帶來精采的海洋生物景觀及驚險的急流。由於海流湍急，在該區潛水時最好有專家陪同。

在旱季到峇里島潛水，還可以看到學名叫mola-mola的翻車魚。但這活動並不適合潛水新手，因為海流非常洶湧，而且水溫甚低。在這個季節，峇里島南部的的水溫可以急跌至攝氏十多度。但當你親眼看到四米長的翻車魚時，一切寒意似乎都消失得無影無蹤。

有點兒諷刺的是，當潛水新手親睹海洋奇觀時，卻往往不懂得欣賞。De Haan表示，初學者在上潛水班時就常有機會看到珍罕的海洋生物，只是他們卻身在福中不知福。他說：「例如我們游過一塊大圓石時，旁邊就有五、六條鬼龍魚，有時還會看到一隻擬態八爪魚在下方的細沙上匆匆游過。可是當我指著牠們叫學員觀看時，他們只會聳聳肩，繼續前進。這些生物很罕見，也許他們再潛水多年也再沒有機會碰上。」



being blown by a powerful wind and, in places, pinnacles and walls are scoured bare of their natural coatings. But in the valleys and other spots where the topography provides a little shelter from the onslaught of the currents, the soft-coral growth and fish life can take your breath away.

At the mouth of Banyuning Bay in east Bali, just a few metres offshore, lie hectares of multi-coloured staghorn coral. These fields of antler-like coral in pastel shades, populated by clouds of damselfish that rise and fall as you pass, offer a sight that rivals the glory of the island's famed rice terraces.

In the south-east, around Tepekong and Padang Bai, small jagged rocks lie in the path of the Throughflow and provide shelter for huge schools of fish clinging together to protect themselves from



Clockwise from bottom left: outrigger boat at Menjangan; sea arch at Nusa Penida; leaf scorpionfish; Coleman shrimp; even the shallow waters of Bali can impress seasoned divers

左下圖起順時針方向：Menjangan島岸上的臂架式漁船；Nusa Penida島的拱形石；石頭魚；科爾曼蝦；連峇里的淺水地帶亦足以滿足資深的潛水愛好者

the predations of the reef sharks that circle nearby watching for weakness and waiting to strike.

Partially blocking the southern end of the Lombok Strait are Nusa Penida and Nusa Lembongan, islands that lie between Bali and Lombok. The Throughflow races by on both their sides, offering lots of big marine-life sightings and exhilarating drifts. But sometimes the ride can be a little too wild, so it's best to be conservative and dive with experts in this area. Currents are usually strongest in August when the dry season is at its height.

The dry season is also the time to see oceanic sunfish, or mola-mola, which draw divers from all over the world, but bear in mind that this is not an experience for novice divers. Not only can currents be fierce, they can be cold, too. Water temperatures

in the south of Bali can drop to the high teens Celsius at this time of year, although if you're face to face with a four-metre mola-mola, the cold suddenly seems to dissipate.

Beginner divers, ironically, are often among those who are least impressed by the island's extraordinary marine life. De Haan says new divers frequently see rare marine animals on training dives but fail to appreciate the sheer wonder of it all. "We will swim past a boulder with half a dozen ghost pipefish floating around it, or a mimic octopus will scuttle across the sand beneath us," says de Haan. "I point them out but my student just shrugs his shoulders and moves on. He doesn't know just how rare these animals are. He could dive for years and not see anything like this again." ■

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