



KABUNOHI SORAKE RESORT

The hosts of KabuNohi Sorake Resort, Australian Mark Flint and his Indonesian wife Debi have spent the best part of the last 30 years on Nias. Mark is regarded as a legend of the surf scene having been here from the early days when they had to swim from a distant beach into the bay to surf at the point. Together they have built KabuNohi Sorake Resort on their 2,400 square meter freehold private property located directly in front of the surf point; Sorake Beach, Lagundri Bay. Overleaf is a rundown on the sumptuous resort but first here's an excerpt from a recent interview with Mark by Shaun Levings on why he first came to Nias.

SO WHEN DID YOU FIRST COME TO NIAS MARK?

First came to Nias in 1980. It was a bit of a mission. There was not a lot of things happening out here transport wise. We had to travel through the jungles of Sumatra.

I originally came in from an island off the coast of Singapore, up through the rivers, up into Sibolga (port town on the west coast of North Sumatra) and then got on a cargo boat that took about 17 to 20 hours to get here, well just north of Nias. In 1980 there still wasn't any road transport to the south where the Sorake wave is so you had to get a speedboat to get here or do a 3-day trek down here.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU AS AN INTREPID TRAVELLER TO GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO COME HERE?

When Erik Aeder put this photo of this palm point with a perfect, glassy, oily right hander, I think that captured a lot of imaginations. No one knew exactly where it was but if you want to find something out you often can. I knew it was up



near the equator and I knew someone who knew someone and we found out how to do it. You had to bring your own food in. It was a mission of great fun because there were perfect waves and no one here.

I came by myself but when I came into Sibolga and went to immigration to extend my visa I met some other guys who were doing the same mission and we all came out together.

YOU OBVIOUSLY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PLACE BECAUSE YOU HAVE PRETTY MUCH BEEN IN INDONESIA EVER SINCE?

I headed off from my hometown of Newcastle with the goal to surf Nias before I went over to Thailand and up to India and eventually across to Jeffreys Bay in South Africa. That was my goal but I never made it. I got here and thought this is good enough. It was the perfect right hander, no one here, tropics and I got in with people here pretty good from the start.

FAST FORWARD 37 YEARS LATER AND YOU HAVE SET

UP A BEAUTIFUL RETREAT HERE AT LAGUNDRI BAY.

Yes, well my wife is Indonesian and so are my kids. I have lived here more than half my life so this is our family home that we have set up on the point at Sorake. I have surfed and made boards and been involved in the surfing industry all my life since I was a little kid and when you get to my age, having lived all my life up here, it is really hard to go back to Australia and fit back in. So this is home and we have set up our family home here and we have a couple of nice bungalows.

IT IS A FIRST FOR NIAS ISN'T IT, IN THAT IT'S HIGH-END QUALITY ACCOMMODATION WHEN MOST ACCOMMODATION HERE ARE BUDGET LOSMENS (HOSTEL).

We had the land here for a long time and part of my plan was to build a nice family home with a good kitchen using local materials in the traditional

style. I also wanted to use all my friends to build it. Bringing my friends in on the job was a way to put back into the local community.

LAGUNDRI BAY IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE BEST BARRELS IN THE WORLD BUT HOW CONSISTENT IS IT?

It is interesting because it is only known as a perfect wave where you have to wait a long time for waves but this comes back to us when we were here in the 80s. Anyone who came here was sworn to a pact to tell anyone who asked there was Malaria and all that. So there were a lot of fallacies about Nias.

I live here 365 days of the year and nearly every day you can get some sort of wave. It may not be the perfect wave out the back, or outside point as we call it. The wave itself is three sections – The Point / The Keyhole Point, inside Kiddies Corner and the Rice Bowl section right out in front of our place. Through the year there is a wave on in any of these sections but that is just here in Lagundri. If the winds change there are other little waves around the corner just outside of the bay that are easy to get to.

KABUNOHI SORAKE RESORT

KabuNohi Sorake is a 'handmade resort' on Nias Island with world class waves on the door-step. It is the next level in quality, environmental and culturally aware, surf-side accommodation.

Here you can paddle directly out to the world-class right-hander of Lagundri Bay, voted by many as one of the Top 10 A-grade waves in the world and stay in a small stylish and very private retreat.

RESORT FEATURES

As you enter the front gate of KabuNohi Sorake you are greeted with a tropical oasis. The unique building structures, local artifacts and vegetation offer an instant impression of paradise and the quality of the resort is immediately obvious.

The name Sorake (Zorake), in Nias language means 'broken coral rocks'. KabuNohi Sorake is absolute beachfront and the coral sands are pushed up the beach to the retaining wall by the breaking waves. The KabuNohi, Oceanfront garden area has a large private viewing deck

that is a great camera spot covering the view directly up the length of the point, and the three wave sections with the Rice Bowl Peak (directly out the front), Kiddies Corner, and the Main Nias Break. This deck is the ultimate place to hang out in between surfs or relax on sunset with a cold beverage. Non-surfers will enjoy this relaxation area as much as the surfers with some shaded areas to relax in a deck chair with a good book whilst catching the sea breeze and checking out the surf action beyond.

KabuNohi Sorake will meet the higher standard requirements of couples, families and discerning surfers looking for quality accommodation, the

highest quality cuisine and personalised service, something that until now was lacking in Nias.

KABUNOHI BUILDINGS

As you enter the front gate, you will arrive directly to The 'KabuNohi Surf House', built in the traditional south Nias style. The open plan ground floor houses the reception area, office, large and well equipped kitchen, an impressive bar and an impressive locally carved dining room table overlooking tropical gardens. Meals are served in this relaxing garden area although deluxe



bungalow guests can opt to dine in the deluxe area.

The first floor of KabuNohi Surf House is split between the owner's private room on one side and a large guest room on the other side, with a large open plan living room as the centre-piece and a fantastic place for Surf House guests to relax.

The KabuNohi Sorake property is 100 meters deep in length from the front gate through to the ocean front. Mark's study of Feng Shui ensured a perfect design of the resort and the breezeway from ocean to road ensures a cooling breeze most of the time.

KabuNohi is aesthetically pleasing with the design of the gardens and buildings flowing with the natural surrounds and instilling a relaxed mood.

ACCOMMODATION

Is currently offered in three categories, catering to most budgets: Deluxe Bungalows, Standard

Bungalows and the KabuNohi Surf House. All bungalows are connected via wooden deck walkways on one elevation, wheel chairs can access all the property. Bungalows are spread throughout the property and built to within 30 meters from our beach viewing platform. This is maintaining a privacy barrier and green buffer zone, here we have a walkway through our small garden of bananas, pineapples, root potato, tropical trees and coconuts to the front surf view area at KabuNohi Sorake.

CUISINE

KabuNohi packages are all inclusive of breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as fruit, snacks, drinking water, tea and local coffee.

There is an emphasis on high energy fresh food using the best ingredients with an amazing array of fresh fruits, vegetables and protein. Mark Flint is an excellent cook and has put together a varied, tasty and wholesome menu that will satisfy most people. Dietary requirements can also be catered for. **S**

