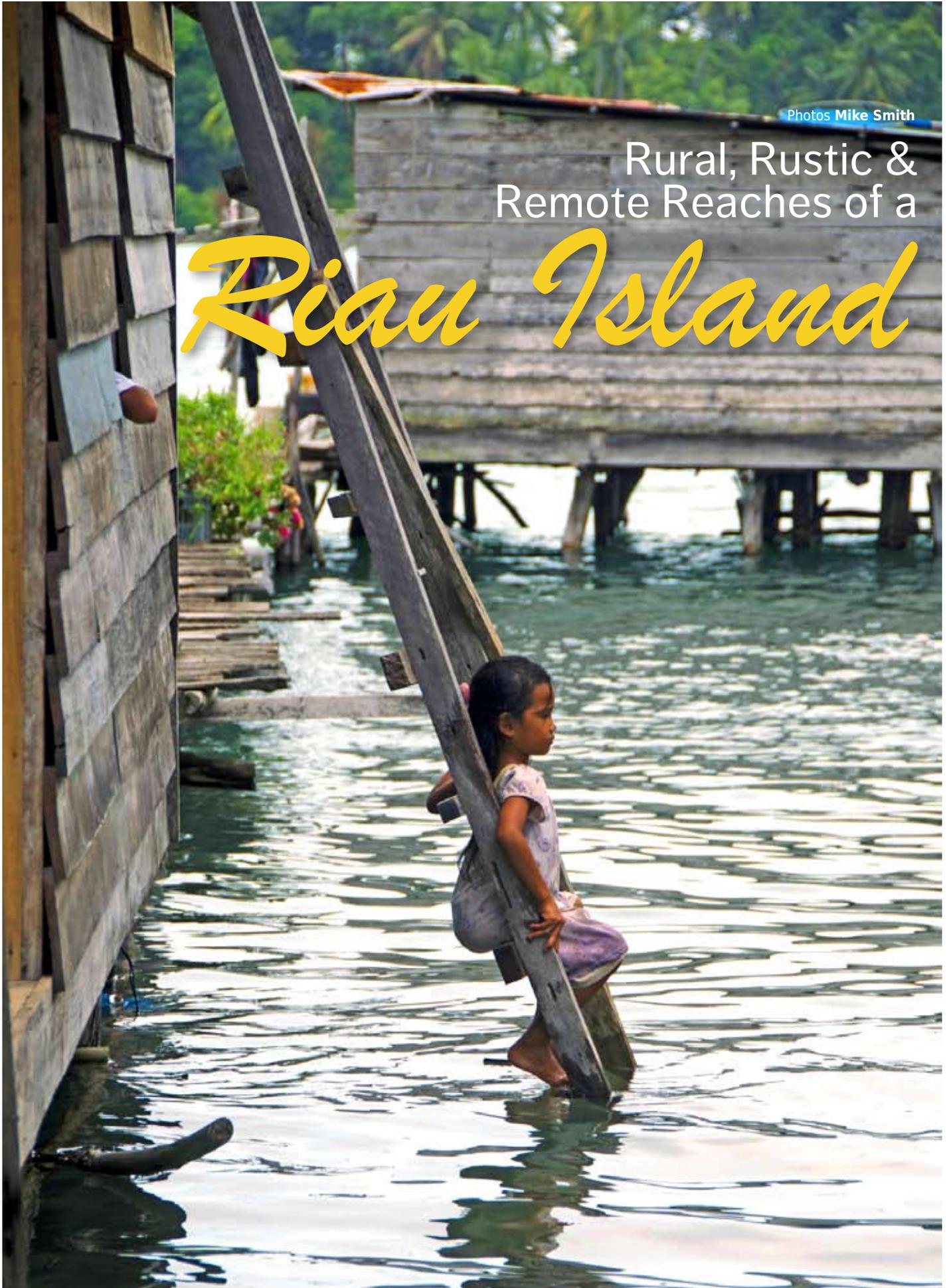


Photos Mike Smith

Rural, Rustic &  
Remote Reaches of a

# Riau Island







Batam is one of the largest islands in the archipelago, but don't let us mislead you that it is just another poor place with coastal villages and unspoiled nature. When Batam became a free trade zone in 1989 it rapidly changed. It now has a modern airport, resorts and spas, and there are thriving business centres. For now, you'll have to find those on your own, as you take a walk along the back paths with Mike.



While Batam, Indonesia is one of the closest foreign islands to Singapore the two places couldn't be more different. The Riau island brings rustic, to its rural and remote feeling, where Mike Smith was charmed by the warmth of the people who were delighted to be in his pictures.





See more of Mike's photos at [www.asiaphotostock.com](http://www.asiaphotostock.com) where you can see images of people, places & nature of Asia.