

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to address a concern I have, not specifically with your hotel, but with the tourism industry in the Gili Islands. I believe the hotels have great potential to help a terrible situation.

I have not visited the Gili Islands before, but as I intend to travel to Indonesia soon, I was made aware of this situation by a friend who went to Gili Trawangan in April 2017 and she was horrified by the abuse of the horses by the horse cart drivers.

Her experience was the following: Those horses are pulling too much weight for their size, cruelly whipped, not given adequate rest, appear malnourished and are extremely dehydrated. Even worse is the fact that they are sometimes given only salt water to drink!

My friend is working with some animal welfare groups and using her website to make other tourists aware of this issue. Eventually once the news spreads, tourism to your beautiful island could be affected, since many tourists are very sensitive to animal welfare.

I am writing to your hotel and other top hotels on the island to ask you to please come together and take a stand. Offer your hotel guests an alternate form of transportation from the ferry. Write to your guests and warn them to avoid the horse carts. Offer them a pedi-cab or some small cart pulled by person on a bicycle. Maybe greet them at the port with complimentary bicycles if the guests can ride. For the luggage, a hotel employee pulling a wagon or cart could work. There are many options that could be explored. A non-motorized electric golf cart maybe permitted on the island. If the tourism industry came together and petitioned the local government, change could be made. Tourism is important to the Gili Islands, and nobody wants to lose tourist dollars.

The horses may seem romantic to many travellers but abuse is not.

I would like to travel to Indonesia from my home country of the UK soon, but I will not consider the Gili Islands as a place to visit until I know that changes have been made, and I will also spread this news to other travellers. I work in the travel industry and I will continue to spread the news of this abuse to increase the awareness and work towards changing it.

My friend has a very popular travel blog website and she would be happy to actively promote hotels that took steps towards changing this situation and acting on the case of animal abuse.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding this.

Kind regards,