

Surfing the World (Footprint - Activity Guides)

Chris Nelson, Demi Taylor

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#2228803 in Books Footprint Handbooks 2006-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.63 x .87 x 7.63l, 1.76 #File Name: 1904777767320 pages | File size: 25.Mb

Chris Nelson, Demi Taylor : Surfing the World (Footprint - Activity Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surfing the World (Footprint - Activity Guides):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent details, a little thin on 'world' coverage By Roger McEvilly (the guilty bystander) This is a very good overview of some of the world's best, and best-known waves, as of 2006. There are around 80 waves described in fairly good detail, each wave covering 2 pages of notes and pictures. It includes monthly swell and wind data, tides, wave lengths and sizes, surfable days/month, board recommendations (but no surfer weights), access, hazards, general travel issues, surf stories and histories, cultural backgrounds, nearby spots, good photos, surfers top10s, and various environmental issues. Coverage includes Indo (10 waves), Philippines (1), Canaries/Azores (2), Europe (10), USA/Hawaii (13), Africa (9), Australia/NZ (12), Pacific (5), Central America/Caribbean (9), South America (8), other Indian Ocean (2). Probably the best thing about this book is the individual wave details, and the surf stories and histories, rather than the completeness of the 'world' coverage. In attempting to cover so much ground-the whole world-not only have they left many waves out (one could list around 500 *currently known* similar quality waves, but many of these are still difficult to access and/or secret/semi-secret), but some details are also a bit sketchy. I've seen this kind of thing before in 'world surf guides', some of the information is second and third hand, particularly for remote locations. A wave may be described as consistent when it isn't, or not even the best wave in the area (eg Chicama-nearby Pacasmayo is probably a better wave). A few photos

are incorrect (eg Macaronis photo p225 is actually Lances Left). Most wave lengths given are correct, except for exceptional days, when some get much longer (eg I've seen Outside Uluwatu on big days go for 500m, here it says 50-200m). Also, Padang Padang p230 is a left reef break, not a right. There are other similar minor errors in the book, either because the writers haven't actually been there, or there was a rush to print, and/or a lack of careful editing. Despite these occasional errors, there is a wealth of very good information. (Note: for those who don't like waves being 'promoted' in virtually any form- most world-class spots get 'leaked' 'legitimately', either through surf operator advertisements, word-of-mouth, local tourism, crowd pressures elsewhere, surf magazines and DVDs (these 2 much less recently), and regional guides. It is not *always* a bad thing to promote a region or particular wave, especially with surfing's growing internationalism. It also helps local business, offers a cheap option from expensive operators, spreads crowds out etc.) (Note also: I've seen commercial surf operators who charge \$300/day, and who harp loudly about not telling anyone about their 'secret' waves, who then go and surf other 'secret' nearby world-class waves at \$5/day, after the \$300/day tourists have gone home). Changes in some regions are aplenty (eg Mentawais, Madeira, Nicaragua), and despite some spots getting 'exposed', there are also some positives, such as spotlights on destroyed waves through development, artificial reefs and their potential (eg NZ and the Gold Coast), local initiatives in tourism (eg El Salvador, Taranaki NZ, and recently the Mentawais), and cheap surf alternatives from big business, all of which highlight the value of 'world coverages', such as this guide. The world is a damn big place, and there are *still* many places with world class, consistent waves with no-one riding them-think of most of Chile, southern Peru, NZ's south Island, Andamans/Nicobars, Madagascar, western Tasmania, most of French Polynesia, Carolinas, southern Argentina (hardly anyone lives there), mainland Sumatra (wild rumours), Siberia, Kamchatka, northwestern Canada, islands off Alaska (wild rumours), remote Pacific-the list goes on and on. You only need one J-Bay in Siberia or somewhere and you have one hell of a surf trip. A further note on world coverage-in all of Indo, where there are literally thousands of remote islands which receive good wind/swell, there are at least 50 *currently known* (as of 2006) world-class waves, with more being 'discovered' every year. I've seen about 30 world class waves there, and I reckon there might be 100-200+ world class waves in all of Indo, which is more than all the waves compiled in this book. Indo is one place where world-class waves and swell, access, promotion and commercialism versus 'on the cheap' is being fought out particularly keenly. Places like Uluwatu and G-Land became famous partly because they were near international airports and accessible. But there are many other waves in Indo just like them. The Mentawais are becoming more well-known, to the lament of some (partly because nearby Padang has an international airport). One reason other waves aren't yet 'known' is because they are too remote even for commercial boat operators to get to (eg most of Simeulue), and are not near any airports or tourism infrastructure (eg Southern Sumatra-but this is changing). Make no mistake, in the next 20 years+, the number of 'world class waves' in Indo you will read or hear about will just keep going up, (with the usual complaints). Central America is another place with the same sorts of issues. New Zealand is another place with uncrowded excellent waves, but with modern infrastructure (and cold). There is an excellent new NZ surf guide out, with 470 breaks, (with about 30+ world class waves), but for some reason not available on -search the internet. This book then, is only a snapshot of the world's best and most *well-known* waves-but by no means the last word. Other waves/regions left out include: Cylinders, North Point, Jakes, Cactus, Shipsterns, Sandon, Wreck Bay, King Island (Oz); Seconds/Spit, Mangamaunu, (NZ); P-Pass (Carolinas); Japan; Sumba, West Timor, mainland Sumatra, Hinakos, Simeulue, Banyaks, Telos, (Indo); most Canaries and Azores, Maldives; Madagascar; west Africa up to Morocco; southern Peru; Oregon; Nova Scotia etc etc. Other world surf guides recommended include other Footprint, Wave finder, and Stormrider guides, and the internet-surf operators advertise 'their waves' on the net, but you may need to cross-check them with swell data and reports-everybody says their waves are the 'best'- which is one reason you need these sorts of world guides. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. inspirational! By pabtake this review with a grain of salt as I haven't been to all but one of the places here (soupbowl) and just started to learn how to surf. however, the pictures and articles make me want to go to each of these places to try them out. i saw this book many times in the bookstore before buying it used here on , and I'm happy that i did. I can't wait to try out some of the spots here, and if I don't, at least I'll be dreaming about it while I enjoy the pictures and the articles. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Very good!!!

The third book in the highly acclaimed Footprint Surf Series, Surfing the World by Chris Nelson and Demi Taylor is a dream trip taking in the planet's best 80 waves, as nominated by the global waveriding community. In more than 300 pages, this dreamers guide explores not just the waves and how they work but also the personalities that take them on as well as the breaks' often intriguing histories. With input and anecdotes from legends past and present from Sultan of Speed Terry Fitzgerald to XXL winner Zach Wormhoudt and beautiful photography from surfings leading lensmen, this book is the ultimate world tour.

"" There is plenty of information on each spot and also plenty of good colour photos throughout. The surfers tales give a good insight into the atmosphere of local surfers and a board guide shows what the guys that know their waves are riding. All in all a very useful guide laid out really well. Wavelength "" NEW and in our opinion the best guide to

surfing yet produced. A1 Surfshop On Surfing Britain "" The same great balance of hard yards searching without betraying the secret spots. Stranger Magazine "" World class photography Snowboardclub.co.uk"About the AuthorChris Nelson is one of Europe's leading surf travel writers, with his co-author Demi Taylor (and their combined surf travel experience of over 30 years) they have written five books on surfing. Chris started surfing in the mid-eighties on the frigid reefs of England's northeast coast. He founded and edited Asylum and Freeride, two of the UK's most influential boardsports magazines. Having dreamt up the idea of Surfing Europe on a long road trip, Chris and Demi packed up their desk jobs, packed up their van and undertook a year of intensive on-the-road research - surfing, exploring and documenting the whole of Europe's Atlantic coastline. The resulting groundbreaking first edition was published by Footprint in 2004 to critical acclaim. Chris and Demi have co-authored the best-selling Surfing Britain Ireland and Surfing the World. Demi Taylor has co-authored five surf titles for Footprint, including the bestselling Surfing Britain Ireland, Surfing Europe and Surfing the World, along with her co-author Chris Nelson they 30 years combined surf travel experience and are two of Europe's leading surf travel writers. Demi caught her first wave in 1992 and has been hooked ever since. Before becoming established as a freelance photojournalist she managed the UK communications for the world's largest surf brand. Surfing Europe was dreamt up on a long road trip after which Demi and Chris packed in their day jobs and packed up their van, resulting in the groundbreaking first edition being published in 2004. Since then Demi has turned her attentions to all adventure sports with her new title to be published this June, expect good, clean, green fun with Adventure Britain.