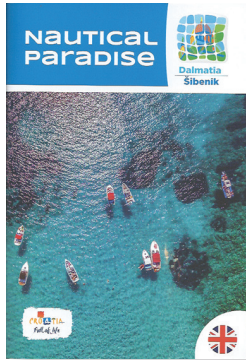


of the pictures are full page but not captioned, including high water flooding.

A dozen good practices are listed, including keeping right while walking, and fines for bad practices are also listed. Swimming in the canals is fined at €450, walking about in a swimsuit or bare chested costs €200 and eating or drinking while sitting on the ground and outside designated areas also costs €200. Venice is a law to itself and to visitors.

Eight lined pages are set aside for your notes.

Nautical Paradise



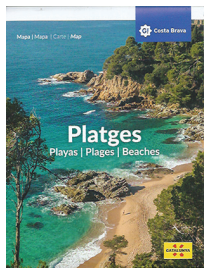
Šibenik-Knin County Tourist Board
240 x 160mm
54 pages, paperback

Šibenik is the most indented part of the Croatian coastline and accounts for a quarter of Croatia's maritime tourism income. It has cliffs, reefs, islets and 249 islands, only six of which are inhabited.

This guide to ports, marinas and anchorages is of most use to us in giving information on tidal flows and, particularly, winds, which can be quite boisterous. Details of weather forecasts, given in English, are listed.

Also given are indications of which marinas have or are near to supermarkets, water supplies, electricity and parking, brief but factual, and suggestions of local events. Aerial photos give the flavour of the coastline and there is a loose folded map, 'not for navigation'.

Platges



Patronat de Turism Costa Brava Girona
2025
540 x 780mm folding to 180 x 130mm

This map has been updated since Nov 2021 (p40) the time of Covid. Each beach has dozens of icons listing out all the facilities and attractions. You might expect some of these to have changed but there have even been some changes in the list of beaches, now up to 70 despite some deletions.

The large photographs are all new although the small one with each beach is unchanged where the beaches are still included.

Not everything is listed, however. After a trip along the coast from Roses this spring we discovered the road train, honestly, the sort of thing that is powered by an old saloon car engine and disguised to look like a railway engine to trundle along the prom with tourists. The longest distance trip from Roses lasts a couple of hours and the locomotive is powered by a JCB engine, with two carriages, taking it into a different league.

It set off up the hill, weaving between parked cars, into the Parc Natural del Cap de Creus, stopping to unlock barriers preventing the public from accessing tracks through vineyards, also stopping within a metre of the edge of high vertical cliffs to take in the view and ending up at the very top of the mountains to consume biscuits and something quite alcoholic while viewing a large sweep of Mediterranean. The trip back was much faster, belting down a main road, keeping up with the cars and lorries despite the two trailers.

A map that fails to include this stunning trip is seriously deficient!

AI ripoffs

We have noted an increase in number of paddling guidebooks, with pubs included as necessary factors, including by Adlard Coles who publish most of our books, and others, eg Nov 2024, p37/38.

Peter Knowles, author of *Pub Paddles*, has flagged up a paddling and pubs title he has found on Amazon which he thinks has all the hallmarks of an AI generated book.

The ISBN begins 979, not 978. It is for Kindle (colour pics) or in paperback (black and white pics), with the appearance of being print on demand.

The publisher is not one known to us and we have been unable to find a website.

The author's name is not given, unusually modest.

The photographers are not credited. Pictures are often of indifferent quality. Could they have been pulled from the web? A trip off the north Norfolk coast at Holkham has an accompanying Getty Images stock photo showing Holkham Bay with jagged mountains in Alaska, complete with icebergs.

There are no maps, despite the online blurb saying that there are.

The language is flowery and facts are not all accurate. The online sample for Padstow fails to mention the Doom Bar, the main hazard on that route. Unlike in *15 Short Walks Perthshire North - Pitlochry, Aberfeldy & Dunkeld*, the Tay route doesn't mention Grandtully.

The writer, if that's the right term, seems not to have been there.



The Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC staff produce *O Dan y Don*, a substantial magazine in English or Welsh with high quality photographs of wildlife around the coast of northwest Wales. It is free in the area or online at <https://www.penllynarsarnau.co.uk/magazine%E2%80%93o-dan-y-don>.

Whittling down

Whittles Press of Dunbeath, Caithness, have been acquired by Porto Press, who have taken over their authors and projects, and will no longer be publishing books. Past titles from Whittles have included *Fallen Pieces of the Moon*, *Canals across Scotland*, *Mediterranean*, *World Heritage Canal* and *Kayaking the Sea Roads*.

