

along with a descent of Harwood Hole (Takaka) and 15 South Island high mountain ascents.

Ray has used quotes from books, interviews with the 10 adventurers and his own impressions of the adventurers for an engrossing read. The full page colour maps work well, along with enough photos to say the book is well illustrated. Each chapter nicely concludes with a thumbnail history of what the adventurers have got up to since.

A bonus with this book that we rarely see these days with adventure books is a comprehensive reading/blog reference list with an index and two rather good appendices, the first on New Zealand traverses compiled with the help of Shaun Barnett and Alastair McDowell and the second really important one on kayak circumnavigations.

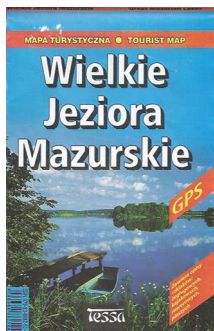
The layout works well; the dustjacket cover design is superb and it is a hard cover book, one with longevity for reading and passing on to reliable friends, those who will return the book!

So, all positive, but are there any omissions that could have been included with the fabulous traverses and circumnavigations in New Zealand that have been accomplished by Kiwis? The stand out omission is the Deavoll /Tyrell unique traverse of the South Island by sea kayak from Te Waewae Bay around Fiordland to Jackson Bay, biking the West Coast up to Arthurs Pass, then tramping north to Farewell Spit. What is so special about this mission is that Ginney Deavoll used her photos and paintings to illustrate a wonderful book, *The Long Way – A Coast to Coast of the South Island by Paddle, Pedal & Foot*.

Overall, this has an excellent layout, a very readable, well designed book with wonderful insights into what makes Kiwi adventurers tick.

Paul Caffyn

Wielkie Jeziora Mazurskie



Wydawnictwo Tessa
978 83 8882 52 4

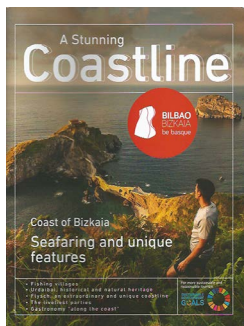
870mm x 1.22m folding to 220 x 140mm

The Mazurian lakes, with their connecting rivers and canals, offer some of the best canoe touring lakeland in Europe. This double sided map at 1:50,000 is very clear and easy to read, despite the amount of information it contains.

It is entirely in Polish, except for the legend in Polish, English and German, an extensive legend that includes things likely to be useful to touring canoeists, campsites and hotels, railway and petrol stations and hiking and cycling trails for those who want a varied trip.

Sometimes the relevant icons are grouped together so it may be necessary to walk around a village to track down what is required. Lakes are all named, even small ones not connected to the rest of the waterways.

A Stunning Coastline



Bilbao Ekitza EPEL
5th edition 2023
210 x 160mm

55 pages, paperback

This tourist guide to 150km of the Bizkaia coast includes the unusual Flysch coast.

Noted for its surfing, a map of breaks locates them, not least Bakio, Sopela and Mundaka, the last with waves 400m long and to 4m high, the best left break in Europe.

With calmer conditions, sit on top kayaks are suggested for use along the coast of Getxo. Bizkaia is primarily the coast, its fishing villages, cliffs, lighthouses, watchtowers, beaches, whale and dolphin watching, seafood, Txakoli wine and everything coastal.

A short dictionary of Basque language includes food dishes and such coastal terms as high and low water.

Beaches [Cullera]

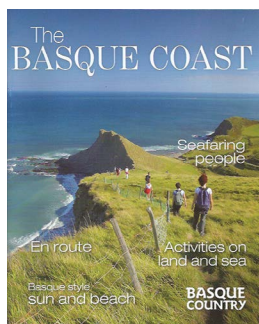


Cullera

270 x 330mm folding to 270 x 110mm

This Spanish Mediterranean guide covers 11 sandy beaches over 15km of coastline. There is one small photograph for each beach, all totally devoid of people, apparently taken at dawn. A sketch map shows the relative locations of the beaches and important places inland. A corresponding list of beaches uses lines of icons to show the facilities at each beach.

The Basque Coast



Eusko Jauriaritzaren Argitalpen
Zerbitzu Nagusia

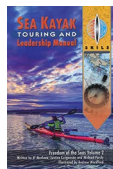
2023 edition

210 x 170mm

63 pages, paperback

Other than minor cosmetic changes and the inclusion of the occasional QR code, this is little more than a reprint of the previous edition (May 2020, p43). A couple of the pictures have been updated and the detailed list of events has been replaced with an overview of what the coast has to offer in the way of festivities plus some pictures of examples.

Freedom of the Seas Vol 2



JF Marleau, Justine Curgenvan & Michael Pardy
446 pages

<https://408518.e-junkie.com/>

With my serious bias to the *KASK Handbook* as the best sea kayaking manual in the world, I have to confess that this *Freedom of the Seas Volume 2* is now the best sea kayak manual in the world. This 2024 446 page tome is low on words and huge on superb diagrams, figures and photographs. It is a visual delight and its focus is solely on sea kayaking.

A prior 2020 manual (identical lovely graphic layout) covered navigation, sea state and weather so this 2024 manual focuses on 'the most complete source of information for sea kayaking touring paddlers worldwide to increase knowledge, safety and enjoyment. It covers day trips to multi-month trips with examples from across the world'.

I'm a big fan of visually appealing layout, be it a book or a magazine, but from the full page photos leading each chapter to the colourful cartoon diagrams by Andrew Woodford this manual is a visual feast. The text is tight, not too many words, and each chapter has a superb bibliography for further reading.

What lifts this manual is the inclusion of what we term in NZ as Bugger File! moments, actual sea kayaking incidents with near misses, injury or fatalities along with the lessons learned.

There are some cracker chapters like 16, *Tarpology 101*, so applicable with paddling trips into deepest darkest Fiordland, anchors, knots, choice and configuration with erecting tent flies.

Although the emphasis with risk to *Humans from Wildlife* has a focus on North American and polar critters, there is much with how to deal with bears, ticks and mosquitoes when heading overseas.

The *Risk Management* chapter, 'The best way to avoid trouble is to anticipate it', includes the story of Tara Mulvany and Sim Griggs when they were separated after a huge surf launch off the Heaphy River mouth, north of Karamea.

There is much on leadership and group dynamics, also a leaf from the *KASK Handbook* with a chapter on *Leave No Trace & Conservation Ethics*. Superbly illustrated with both cartoons and photos, it includes the female straddling technique for a pee with a photo example of Justine Curgenvan.

There is much also on planning for overseas expeditions but a well