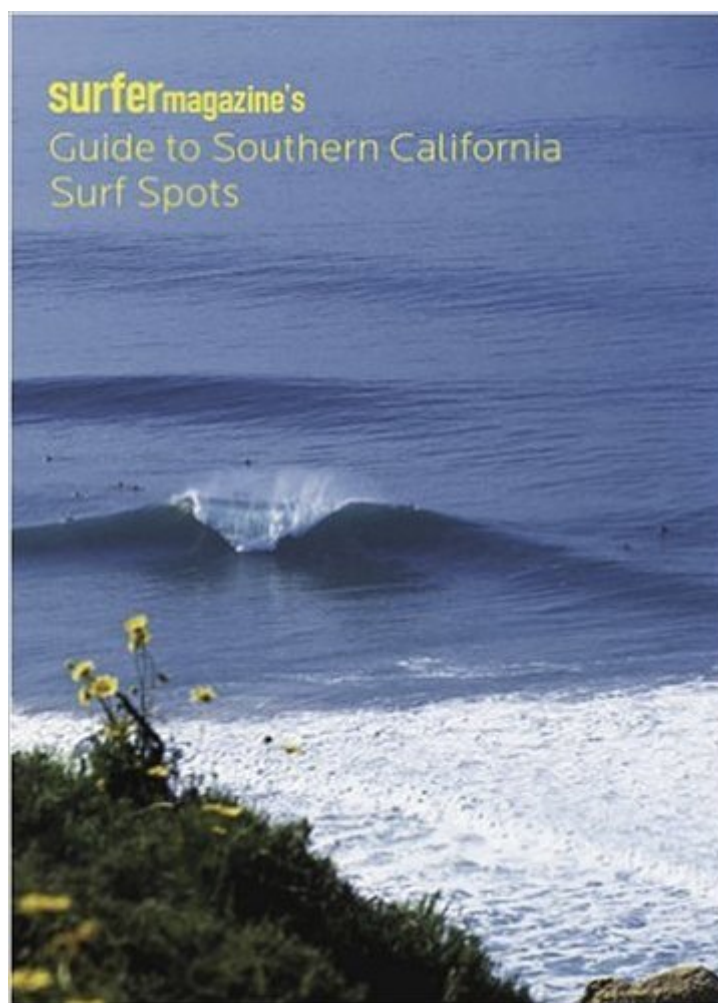


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# Surfer Magazine's Guide To Southern California Surf Spots



## Synopsis

Surfer Magazine offers the ultimate guide to catching the best waves from the pristine points of Santa Barbara to the sunny beaches of San Diego. For more than 250 spots, this sturdy manual sporting a water-resistant cover delivers a clear assessment of wave quality, prime wave conditions, and local hazards (both natural and manmade). Informative text answers the burning questions that surfers often pose: What tide? What wind? What swell? How are the locals? Are they worse than the sharks or the traffic? With helpful maps, photos, and directions, this Surfer's Guide is sure to become the gold standard for anyone looking to score the perfect wave.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is a relatively comprehensive guide to Southern California surf spots. The book includes maps and descriptions of the ideal swell direction for each of the breaks it lists. Unlike other guides, however, it often omits crucial information about how tide levels affect many of the breaks it lists. Although some will be upset by the editors' inclusion of "secret" spots like Hazard Canyon and the Indicator at Lunada Bay, the rest of us are smart enough to realize that these spots haven't been secret since about the time surfboards were carved out of balsa wood. One of the best features of this book (and its companion guide to NorCal) is the waterproof paper it's printed on. All in all, this is a fine edition, and a slight but significant improvement over its predecessors.

If you saw a book on hiking trails or campsites that included the following directions, "Public access exists, but out of respect to the locals, you'll have to do some exploring your own damn self," would

you purchase it? Probably not. But in the secretive and hostile world of surfing we don't have much choice. You'll have to put up with sardonic commentary, and contend with poor directions, but this is still the only up-to-date guide to surf spot still in print.

I found some things are not too accurate... like in Norcal "Pedros" is a.k.a. "Linda Mar," but it's "Pedros" with the locals especially surfers who have been surfing long time... it implies the "Pedros" spot is a spot for experienced... which is not true.

This book provides a 10,000 foot level summary of southern California surf spots without providing enough information to really be a useful planning tool. The maps especially are worthless. The Stormrider Guide to the same area is far better.

It's an okay, basic book highlighting spots and areas down the social coast, but there's a few things that bother me about it. It reads like it was written by a hormone riddled surf bro college student who takes every opportunity possible to mention the bikini babes present in specific areas. He also has an obvious hard on for various pro surfers and shows his idolization for them. I got this book wanting a simple informative text, but mixed into it was this guys diary. It doesn't mention tide, and that's a downer too. Aside from that, it mentions swell, wind direction, crowds, access, consistency, size, and occasionally various other things necessary.

This is not a technical, step-by-step shop manual for California surfing: it is more of a field guide for your own surf exploration. If you want lil' matrices diagramming where and when to surf at any given moment, save up and get yourself a membership to a certain surf website. All in all, the book is definitely useful when getting outside of your normal haunts. It demystifies the places you have heard about but never surfed, and provides enough practical information to get you there. There is definitely a casual, caustic tone to the thing, which could possibly grate on some people. At the end of each section there are a few words about neat stuff and local histories or curiosities. At the very least, it's an interesting read for those who surf the California coast or dream of doing so. Get the nor-cal guide too, even if you don't like Surfer Mag.

Great guide to many of Southern California's waves. The author does a great job of covering everything you would want to know about the spots while still keeping many secret spots off the radar.

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