

3RD YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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WINTER 2007

FREE

WSSM

WOMENS SURF STYLE MAGAZINE

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by ChickSurf

surf travel
Mentawai's pg. 14

the SURFER'S GUIDE
VALENTINE'S *D*AY pg. 20

TIDE CHARTS, SURF MAPS, SURF SHOP DIRECTORIES
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MODEL: TIANA

Aloha and welcome to this 3rd Year Anniversary issue of WSSM . . . a NEW YEAR full of



*un-ridden waves, dreamy
sunsets and sandy beaches
to soothe and relax you.*

*The New Year sparks thoughts of
renewed fitness goals, more pas-
sionate surfing, eating healthier,
brushing AND flossing, etc. These
are all very good and we should
strive to follow through on them,*

*but when we don't quite meet these goals, we shouldn't
beat ourselves up over it, but rather, take them on in
bite-sized chunks that we can handle and enjoy. After
all, life should be a journey of enjoyment while con-
stantly improving our inner selves, don't you think?*

*Speaking of improving and enjoyment, in this issue
you'll enjoy the ongoing "Surf Better with Pilates"
column brought to us by Kym Mesa. She's broken down
some basic moves that will do just that, help you surf
better and prepare you for future, more advanced moves
that she will introduce in later issues. See page 64.*

*We've also included more tips on how to keep your
surfer girl hair long and lustrous with a deep condition-
ing treatment that won't strip your wallet or your hair
(pg. 70) a reader favorite – "voice of the surfers"
(pg. 39), an in-depth interview with big wave charger
Dustin Tester and what it takes to ride these giants
(pg. 84), more fantastic surfer girls you should meet,
useful tide charts for Hawaii, California and Florida, a
helpful "Surfer's Guide to Valentine's Day" which high-
lights some of the best surf related items that are sure to
please your surfer sweetie and oh-so-much more... so
dive in, enjoy, and be sure to send us your thoughts,
stories, dreams and surf trip journals... we want to
hear from you!*

*We thank you for your continued support as we enter
our FOURTH YEAR ON STANDS, and we'll see ya in
the lineup!*

Sandra Olson
WSSM Publisher/Editor
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Thank You

PUBLISHERS: Sandra & Dan Olson

SPECIAL THANKS: Leona, another
BEAUTIFUL issue and just in time for our
3rd year anniversary!
Lotus Hawaii (Printer), Tommy & Terence, we
love you! Mahalo for all your hard work.

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Marie Labege: A lovely issue from a lovely
woman. THANK YOU!

Mitch: Welcome aboard - We look forward
to many more great issues with you. Good
job dude!

DISTRIBUTION: Dan, with every issue YOU
keep me going. It's been a great 3 years on
stands! Mahalo for your support my love.

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SURF TRAVEL - MENTAWAIS

You're a surfer girl with a dream to ride un-crowded, perfect waves in a faraway exotic country with family and close friends you can trust. So where do you go and what can you expect once you get there?

Stacie Glass shares her story of an unforgettable surf-boat trip through the breathtaking Mentawais with her father (who not only chartered the boat... he also surfed just as hard as everyone else), along with her supportive boyfriend Todd and a couple of his friends as they carved their way through endless swells and exotic fare.

Stacie is living proof that if you have the desire and courage to achieve the ultimate surfer girl dream...you can do it!

A BOAT CHARTER IS BLISS

The charter company is called Waterways Travel and our boat was called the Freedom II. The cost of the charter plus the travel was extremely high, but well worth every penny!

FAVORITE BOAT FEATURE

Coincidentally, my favorite feature on the boat was the one that I was most skeptical about when we first got on the boat. After traveling for so long, all I wanted to do when we got on the boat was take a shower. When I asked the captain where the shower was, he pointed to this little hose thingy hanging off the back of the boat. I couldn't believe that I was going to spend the next 13 days aboard a boat with 11 guys taking a "shower" outside off the back of the boat! As it turned out, something about surfing all day out in the middle of the ocean and showering on the back of the boat as the air finally cooled off and the sun went down was... amazing!

TIME OF YEAR / WAVE CONDITIONS

Our trip was at the end of July which is supposed to be the time of the year with some of the best surf. The conditions definitely lived up to their expectations. Fortunately, the surf never got too huge (except for one scary day at a spot called Hideaways) and never got too small either.

MENTAWAI SURF BREAKS

Even though we traveled halfway across the world and out into the middle of the Indian Ocean, there were still some crowded surf spots. Our captain was really good at taking us to some of the not so popular spots where we managed to get a ton of great waves to ourselves. I think it's important to have a good captain who really knows the winds, tides, crowds, etc. Just like in Hawaii, these factors can really change a spot quick.



HAWAIIAN WAVES . . . ESSENTIAL FOR PREPARATION

I've only been surfing for about 4 years so I was nervous about surfing "expert only" waves in the Mentawais. I think that surfing in Hawaii definitely prepared me for this trip. If anything, it over-prepared me. My experiences surfing here on the North Shore in the winter have been way more treacherous and powerful than most of the waves in the Mentawais.

In Hawaii I'm very aware of the crowd that I'm surfing with and I try to be respectful about not dropping in and having good wave etiquette. Often times on our trip, our boat was the only one at a surf spot so it was incredible to just surf alone with my friends and family (my dad chartered the trip - we call him "rad dad"!) and not have to worry about anyone else.

MENTAWAI VERSUS HAWAIIAN WAVES

Before I left, someone best described the waves in Indonesia as "thin and fast". I think this is a really good description. I found that it took me a few days to really get used to surfing over there. I'm used to paddling into a wave, somewhat taking my time to pop up, making a bottom turn and surfing the wave. When I did this on my first few waves over there, I got worked! What I learned to do was angle my board into the wave (my boyfriend Todd would yell "Angle! Angle! Angle!") while paddling and very quickly pop up and surf down the line and then later make a bottom turn and surf as usual.

Most of the waves there have a ton of speed so you don't ever really have to pump your way through a section. A lot of the times you just hang on and get barreled!!



Photos by:
Silas Hansen / primophotos.com

SURF TRAVEL - MENTAWAIS

Most of the spots over there were really shallow and the reefs were very sharp. Hawaii has similar spots, but over there I felt as if I had to be way more careful because there's little/no medical services and I didn't want an incident with the reef to ruin the rest of my trip.

Overall, I think that surfing in the Mentawais spoiled the &%#\$ out of me because the waves were just so... perfect. Sometimes as I was surfing on a wave I would think to myself that I was dreaming. It sounds so cliché, but it's so true! I had no idea that waves could be so perfectly lined up, with the most perfect shape and speed. Not to mention that the water was so clear and turquoise with so much colorful marine life right under your toes.

LOCAL VIBE

It seems as though the locals are really happy with the effects that surf travel has had on their lives. One of the local guys who worked on our boat told me that he felt so lucky to have such a highly desired job. At any given time of day or night, local Indonesian people would paddle their canoes right up to

our boat and just climb aboard unannounced. They came with crafts, jewelry and clothing that they made to sell to us. I later found out that they basically work all year making this stuff just to sell to the people on the surf charters... how could we not buy some?! We brought things with us to give to the local people and they were all very appreciative. They especially love surf shirts and surf stickers. The little kids went wild for balloons and Bazooka bubblegum!

LONE SURFER GIRL AMID MEN

Honestly, it didn't really phase me that there were no other girls around. All of the guys were super fun to be around and even let me have some of their waves which is always a bonus. The only bad thing is that I learned is that boys can be really dirty and stinky when living on a boat without their wives/girl-friends! Oh, and they can pee off the side of the boat which I was secretly jealous about since I had to use the real toilet below deck. My boyfriend Todd was there with me and it was so great to share the experience with him.

LAND EXCURSIONS

I wish I had a chance to find out! Besides our in-transit time, we spent the whole trip on the boat. If I had a chance to do it all over again, I would spend a day or two on land.

NON-SURFING ACTIVITIES

Not much! This sort of trip is definitely geared towards the serious surfer. As much as I wanted to surf constantly, there's inevitably some downtime to watch movies, read a book, or my all-time favorite: take a nap!

STACIE GLASS'S "Top 10 Essentials for a Great Surf-BOAT Trip"

10. Comfort items – while on a boat for so long, it was nice to have things like snacks from home, extra sets of clean clothes, and I brought practically my entire medicine cabinet "just in case"

9. Lots of sunscreen – even if you're not as fair skinned as I am, the Indo sun is stronger than Hawaii

8. Good movies and music – I brought my iPod speakers which could plug in on the boat

7. Leave in conditioner with UV protection – without a real shower and with minimal water supply on the boat, this was the only way to keep my hair tangle free and soft

6. Extra towels – be sure to pack them in a separate plastic bag, all our board bags got soaked during the overnight crossing from Sumatra and so the towels in them were nasty and moldy by the morning. Someone gave me this advice before my trip so I was the only one with clean and dry towels!

5. A surf photographer – thanks Silas, your work is amazing!

Contact Silas Hansen at <http://primophotos.com>

4. A great group of people who all get along...with no wave hogs!

3. A captain who knows all the surf breaks and a chef who can cook well – fortunately we had both!

2. Good surf/weather conditions

1. Your father and your boyfriend aboard the boat with you to enjoy this unforgettable experience with!

*Big mahalo to Eric Howard
of Howard Hawaii;
I love my boards!*

Mahalo to "Red Dad!"



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