

# RIDE THE *wave*

Forget channel-surfing or surfing the web – hire a board, grab a wetsuit and hit the world's best breaks. Beginners welcome.



## 05

### BEST FOR... EASTER HOLIDAY FUN

#### Bells Bowl, Bells Beach, Victoria

Every Easter, the longest-running pro surfing contest – now known as the Rip Curl Pro – comes to town, and brings with it some of the best surfers from across the world. The waves are consistent, generally reaching 1.8 to 2.4 metres, and the limestone cliffs provide the perfect backdrop for an epic day of seaside chill times.

*Hot tip: Pack your beanie and UGGs because things can get pretty damn chilly around that time of year.*

## 06

### BEST FOR... KEEPING FIT



#### Superbanks, Gold Coast, Australia

This mega-break consists of a man-made sandbank. Hop on the right wave and, with the right balance and leg strength, you'll be able to ride further than 1km.

*Hot tip: Hit up this spot in the morning. By midday it gets insane busy (we're talking 200 surfers in the water at once).*

## 07 BEST FOR... THE ULTIMATE CONTRAST

#### Joe's Point, Sur, Oman

It's only recently that Oman has become a popular mainstream tourist destination, but avid surfers tapped into its secrets long ago. Located in the Middle East, its coastline faces the desert on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other. And, unlike many other destinations, the water here hovers around a comfortable 25°C.

*Hot tip: Respect the local culture by wearing something that covers your legs and shoulders in the surf.*

## 08 BEST FOR... NON-STOP ACTION

#### Bundoran, Donegal, Ireland

Known as a surfer's 'cold water Eden', Bundoran serves up constant swells; Tullan Strand and The Peak are a couple of the popular breaks. The town even offers extra accommodation for surfers in the peak season (September to May).

*Hot tip: Some of the surf schools offer a road-trip-style package so you can hit the waves at different beaches.*

## 10

### BEST FOR... FEELING FREE

#### Killer Point, Taghazout, Morocco

Don't let the name scare you – it was inspired by killer whales, as they frequent during the summer months. This fishing village in southwest Morocco isn't often visited by humans though, leaving the waters free for adventurous surfers. May to August is pretty beginner-friendly, whereas the waves are seriously epic from September through to April. 🐋



## 01

### BEST FOR... A LONG PEAK SEASON

#### Arugam Bay, Sri Lanka

The peak surfing season here is from May to October, and with it comes a laidback vibe surfers are renowned for. The reef at the main break could cost you some skin though, so even though you may lose a bit of street cred, it's definitely worth investing in a pair of good quality surf boots.

*Hot tip: Main Street has the best bars and restaurants – just make sure you cover up with a T-shirt or sarong when you're away from the beach. The rule of thumb? Look to what the local women are wearing to gauge what's expected.*



## 03

### BEST FOR... CELEB-SPOTTING

#### Hossegor, Aquitaine, France

Dubbed the 'surfing capital of Europe', this spot in the south of France has stars paying way too much to nab a mansion by the beach. The shallow sandbank can be unnerving to even professional surfers, but the tubes created on the water rival those in Hawaii – sans coral. All of this makes a Hossegor holiday an all-round luxury surfing experience.

*Hot tip: To make the most of the waves and the weather, book your trip for spring (March/April) or autumn (September/October).*



## 02

### BEST FOR... VIP TREATMENT

#### Cloudbreak, Tavarua, Fiji

Waves in this paradise can reach up to an oh-so challenging six metres, so it's little wonder Cloudbreak regularly cracks the world's top 10 surfing spots lists. During these large south swells, you'll be given the tow-surfing treatment (taken in on a jetski then whipped into the wave). Definitely one for the adventurous.



## 04

### BEST FOR... RECORD BREAKERS

#### Huntington Beach, California, USA

'Surf City USA' has four different-facing beaches, meaning there's a decent swell to be caught at any time of the year. One of the most famed beachfront hangs is Huntington Pier; at almost 560 metres, it's California's longest public pier. In June this year, Huntington Beach broke the Guinness World Record for 'The most people riding a surfboard'. Yep, 66 riders surfed unassisted for 12 seconds on the world's longest surfboard (12.8 metres).

*Hot tip: Still learning to surf? Avoid the pier's pilings as the barnacles on them can seriously damage your skin.*



## 09

### BEST FOR... GETTING CLOSE TO NATURE

#### Playa Grande, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

By day, this beachside town serves up consistently steep, powerful waves, and by night it becomes home to the second-largest nesting ground of leatherback turtles, one of the world's largest marine reptiles. Playa Grande is located in the middle of the tropics, so the temperature and water is warm all year. If you want the full nature experience however, book your trip between October and March,

when the turtle nesting season takes place. You won't be able to surf from 6pm to 6am, but you can use that extra time to get to and from party town Tamarindo, about 30 minutes away.

*Hot tip: You'll be tempted to take photos of the incredibly large turtle gathering – and so you should – but make sure that you turn the flash off, otherwise you'll temporarily blind them.*

