

FEBRUARY / MARCH 19

WELCOME TO IKSURFMAG

Welcome to Issue 73 of the World's Number One Kitesurfing Magazine! It's the start of another year and we've got an incredible issue lined up for you! We travel to the far northern islands of Scotland with the Manera crew and discover some of the best conditions on the planet! Lewis Crathern uncovers the

real Egypt in Dahab and Steven Akkersdijk heads off on a road trip around Ireland! On the other side of the world Rou Chater witnesses Guy Bridge smash the course record for the Red Bull Lighthouse to Leighton race and there is plenty more inside too with the best photos, stories and videos!

ENJOY THE LATEST ISSUE



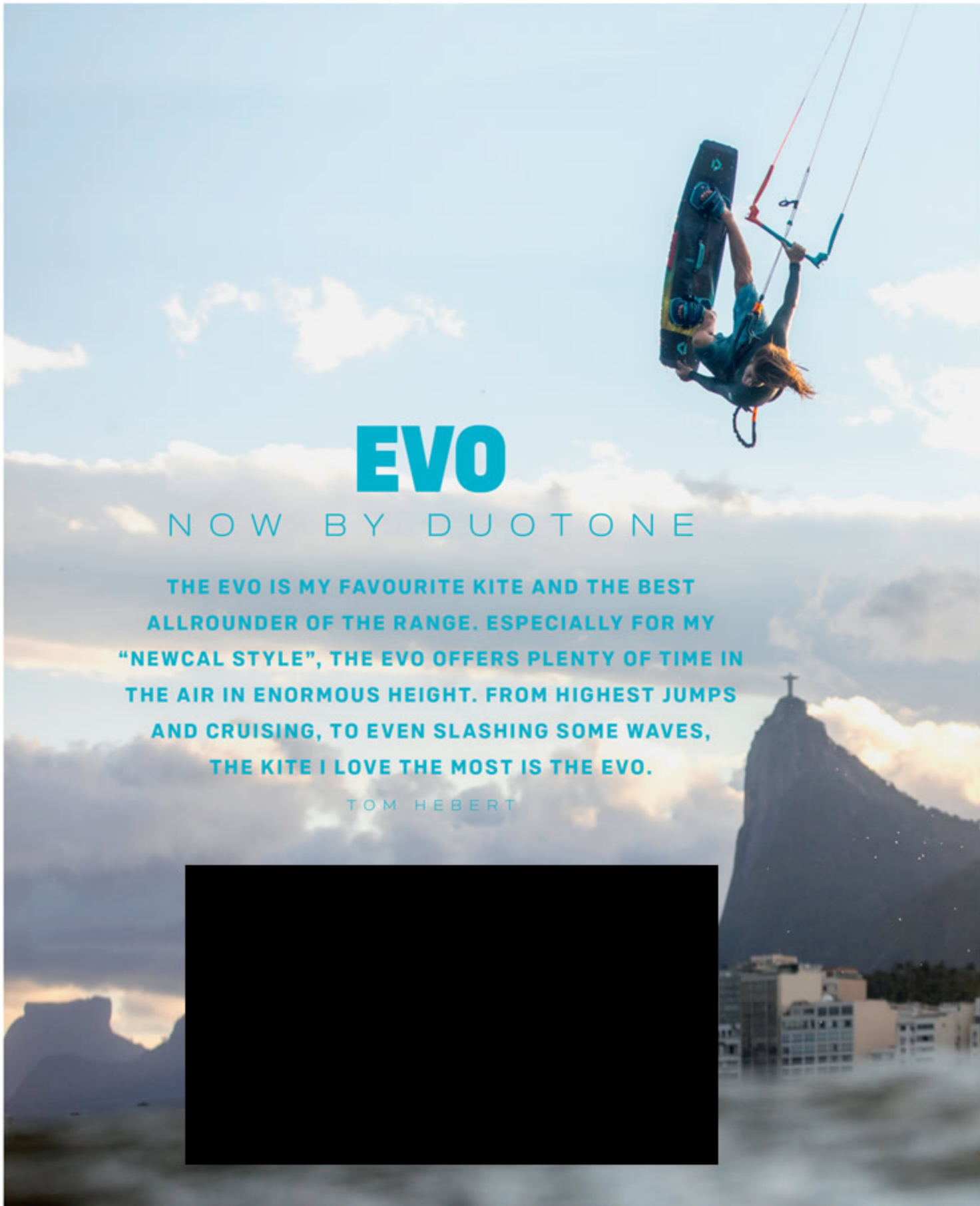
Click on the corners to turn the pages or use the navigation bars. If you are viewing on a touch screen device then you can use swipe gestures. Swipe left and right to turn the pages and up and down to bring up the navigation bars.



- THE ISLAND OF STRANGERS -

STEVEN AKKERSDIJK FINDS LIQUID SUNSHINE / DISCOVERING DAHAB / LUKE MCGILLENWIE
PIPPA VAN IERSEL / TESTS / TECHNIQUE AND MUCH MORE INSIDE!

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE KITESURF MAGAZINE

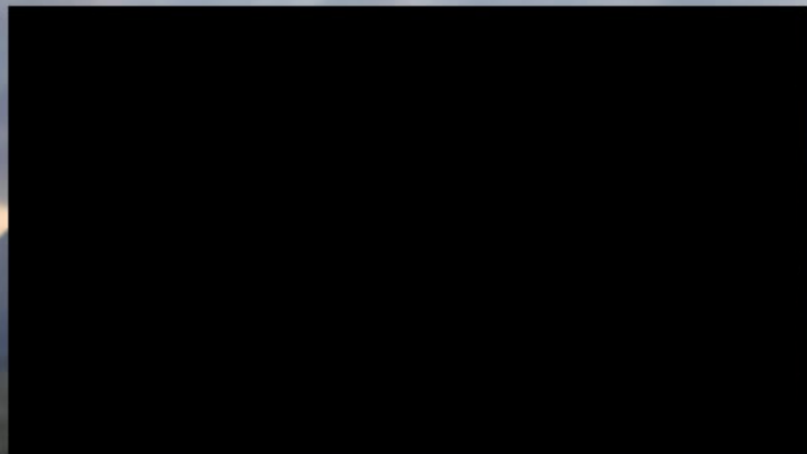


EVO

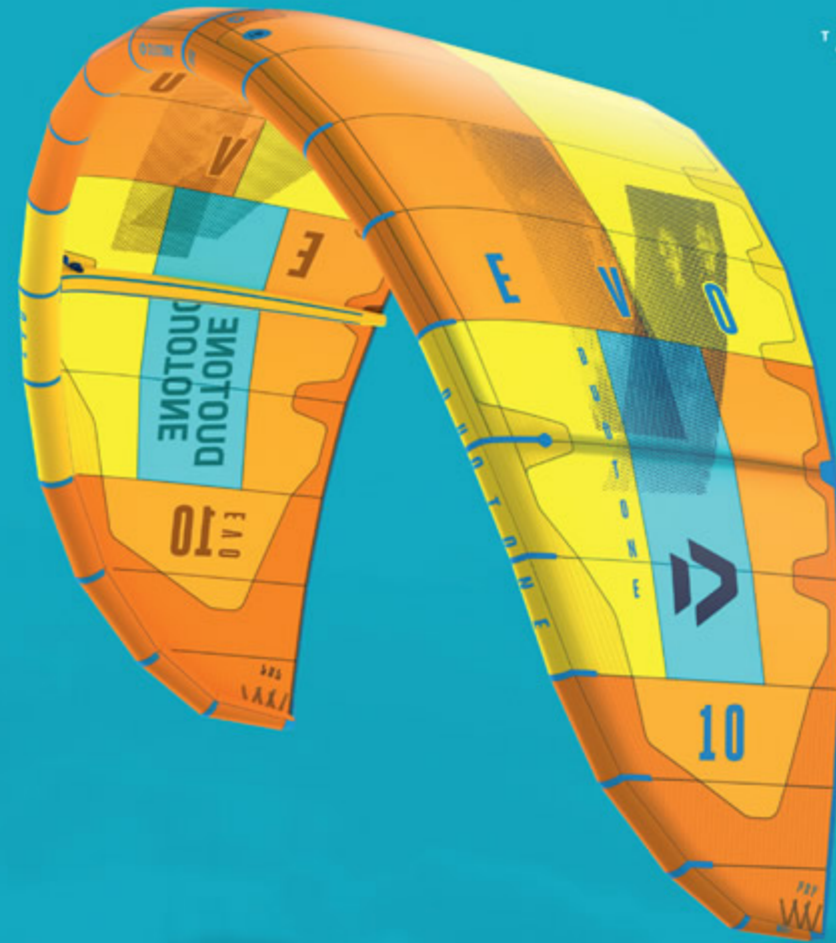
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TOM HEBERT



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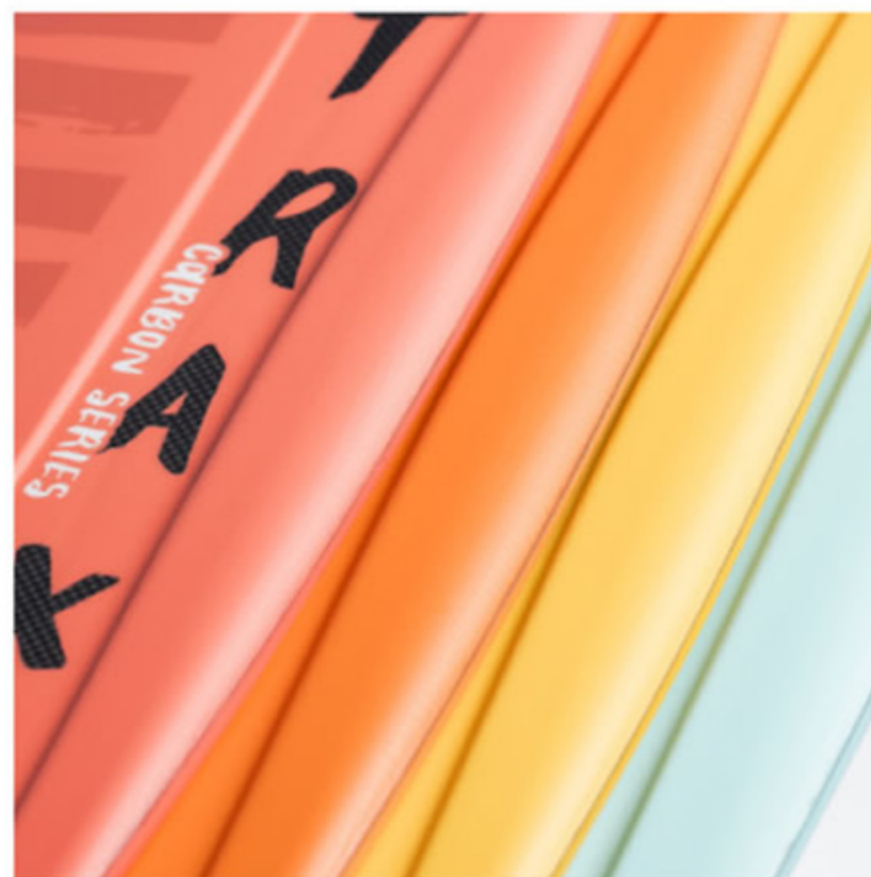
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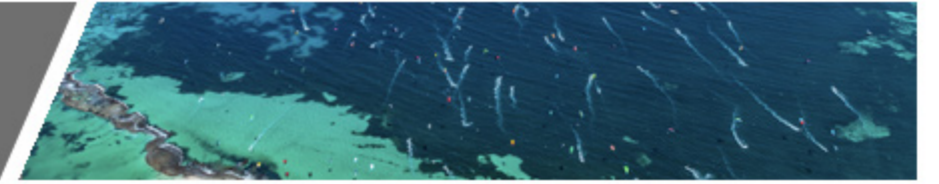
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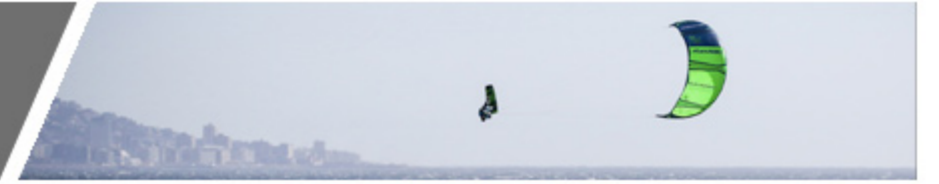
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pinch of salt. Kitesurfing is a
dangerous sport & none of the
activities depicted within this
magazine should be participated in
without full instruction in person by a
qualified instructor.

MASSIMILIANO SUPPAN RIDING IN ITALY
PHOTO THOMAS OTT





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We've teamed up this issue with Kitelement to bring you this fantastic prize. A brand new re solve split kiteboard in a size of your choice! Kitelement use a unique A-Lock joint system to connect the two sides of the board together, this creates a superior feeling when on the water with better distribution of the loads throughout the board.

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travelling. When you connect the two halves together you get a high-end twin tip with blistering performance capable of exciting even the most discerning of riders. The finish on all the Kitelement boards is sublime and the team really pride themselves of turning out exceptionally high quality products.

Remember you've got to be in it to win it!

HOW CAN I WIN THE PRIZE?

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enter you into the prize draw. We will pick a winner from our subscriber list, if you are already a subscriber, then you are automatically entered into the prize draw!

By subscribing to IKSURFMAG you'll be entered into all future prize draws and be first to read the magazine. We will never spam you and only email about new issues or important IKSURFMAG news.

ISSUE 73 I'm entering my sixth month off the water now and to say I am missing kitesurfing would be an understatement. The recovery is going well, and I'm taking the physio incredibly seriously, with a bit of luck my next editorial can be about that first session back on the water!

This issue I want to talk to you about something else though, We'll be thirteen years old this year, officially becoming a teenager if you will. A lot has changed over the last decade plus three. When we started out the Internet was barely fast enough to run our digital magazine concept that we had dreamed up!

Right now I'm sat in Cape Town getting ready for the KOTA enjoying download speeds I couldn't have imagined all those years ago. Our motto back then was that IKSURFMAG should always be free forever, and I still want that to continue. However, the world of publishing is changing, and it's changing fast.

As more and more mega-sites like Facebook, Google, YouTube and Instagram steal marketing budget away from smaller independent publishers, our bottom line is increasingly put under pressure. Modern publishing is at a crossroads right now, and we have to choose a path that we believe will ensure the magazines future.

One option would be to hide IKSURFMAG behind a paywall and stop publishing our content for free. However, that really doesn't sit well with my ethos,

after all the beauty of the magazine is its accessibility all over the world to anyone who cares to click the link.

Instead, then, we have decided to go for a supported option; it's quite simple really. IKSURFMAG will remain free for everyone, the magazine, website and App will have full unhindered access. All we ask is that if you love what we do, if you enjoy independent testing and Christian and Karine's technique, if you get a kick out of the pictures, stories and videos we publish, then consider becoming a supporter.

For less than the cost of a beer, you can support the magazine you love. Increasingly we are living in a subscription economy, from the gym to Spotify and everyone in between. Of course, we are offering some benefits to those loyal readers who decide to support us, you'll have more entries into competitions, and the chance to own a bespoke supporters t-shirt.

More than though you'll have our eternal gratitude and some good karma. The world is changing, and we want to move with the times rather than get left behind. Hopefully, you understand that and can see why we are doing it. It's entirely up to you, you can buy us a pint if you like us or not, the choice is yours...

We'll keep doing what we've been doing for the last thirteen years, and we can make it bigger and better with your support.

Enjoy the latest issue.

Rou Chater
Publishing Editor



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ALEX MAES GETTING HIS CARVE ON IN KENYA
PHOTO JAMES BOULDING



NEW MODIFIED OPEN C

WE DECREASED THE OPEN C ARC OF THE RPM IN FAVOR OF A FULLER AND DEEPER C. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO THE KITE. ON THE BEACH, IT WILL LOOK ABOUT THE SAME, BUT IN THE AIR, ANYONE WHO KNOWS THE RPM WILL SEE AND FEEL THE DIFFERENCE RIGHT AWAY. THIS DIFFERENCE IN SHAPE HAS A BIG IMPACT ON PERFORMANCE- MOST NOTABLY IN OVERALL POWER, STRUCTURAL STABILITY, HANGTIME AND CONTROL IN THE AIR.



NEW FLYLINE BRIDLE

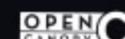
THE 2019 BRIDLE (FLYLINE BRIDLE) IS A COMBINATION OF THE PULLEYED BRIDLE FEATURED ON PREVIOUS RPM MODELS AND THE BUNGEE IRS BRIDLE WE ENGINEERED A FEW YEARS AGO. WE INTRODUCED PULLEYS ON THE RPM TO GIVE THE KITE MORE STRUCTURAL STABILITY AND DYNAMIC STEERING, THEN WE REPLACED THE PULLEYS WITH OUR IRS BUNGEE SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE A MORE DIRECT FEEL AND SMOOTHER POWER DELIVERY AS THE KITE FLIES THROUGH THE WINDOW. THE FLYLINE BRIDLE COMBINES BOTH PULLEY AND BUNGEE, IN A NEW CONFIGURATION, THAT RESULTS IN A FASTER, HIGHER-FLYING, MORE POWERFUL RPM THAN EVER BEFORE.

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THE ISLAND OF STRANGERS

WORDS JULIEN SALLES / CHLOE SCAMPS

PHOTOS ROBIN CHRISTOL / MATT GEORGES (THIS PAGE)

RIDERS PAULINE VALESA, LIAM WHALEY, PAUL SERIN, SET TEIXEIRA, MAXIME CHABLOZ, MALLORY DE LA VILLEMARQUÉ, CAMILLE DELANNOY.

MANERA set the tone three years ago in Iceland, where they filmed 'Valhalla'. They tend to bypass the paradisiac cliché videos, and choose to test and shoot their products in remote locations where wind, waves, rugged beaches are guaranteed, if the sun shines then that's a bonus. The following year, the crew spent ten days off the coast of Vancouver on a remote island, to film 'Rugged Point'. Last May, the crew once again shared frozen smiles as they drove to the Outer Hebrides in northern Scotland to film their latest project 'The Island Of The Strangers'. In this issue, we find out what goes on behind the scenes when putting a movie like this together!



“ HE CAN PILOT THE DRONE, SWIM WITH A CAMERA IN 6 FOOT WAVES, AND FILM FROM THE TOP OF A CLIFF, ALL IN THE SAME SESSION.”

Julien Salles, MANERA's Brand Manager, has one set goal when it comes to creating a movie, and that is to inspire riders to go for a session during the coldest months of the year. With a strong crew, a shared vision and extreme conditions, the plan's set in motion!

Julien explains, "I mostly travel with the same crew, we get along well, and share the same ideals. It's important to work with people that enjoy what they are doing, as that reflects on the outcome."

The cameraman, Olivier Sautet from Petole Prod does all the filming and editing himself. He can pilot the drone, swim with a camera in 6 foot waves, and film from the top of a cliff, all in the same session. He's a remarkable videographer and does a fantastic job. Our photographers are Robin Christol, who mostly shoots sailing and regattas, and Matt Georges, who is a snowboard/skateboard specialist. The combination of talents, angles, and styles left us with jaw-dropping footage.

The riders are chosen based on their adventurous spirit, and their determination to put on a wet wetsuit in freezing temperatures! Besides that, a crew of eleven will be divided into two campervans (plus an additional van for equipment) for two weeks; what could go wrong?

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

Matt Georges: Photography, surfing, kiteboarding and skateboarding while camping and exploring the Outer Hebrides in Scotland with the crew; it doesn't get much better than this!





“ I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE WE WERE ON A PRODUCT SHOOT, WE WERE ON AN ADVENTURE, AND I WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE THAT ESSENTIAL VIBE IN THE MOVIE. ”

Olivier: We found ourselves in remote and uncharted places with cold, grey, rough conditions and that's what made the trip so memorable. I didn't feel like we were on a product shoot, we were on an adventure, and I was able to capture that essential vibe in the movie.

HOW WAS IT LIVING IN A CAMPERVAN?

Mallory: To be honest, I was a little bit worried about that. During our trip to

Iceland, it was pretty tight living with six guys in such a small space, but I must say, it went better than I expected this time.

Pauline: It's not easy to keep things tidy when you're six people chilling, eating and sleeping in 6m², but it wasn't as bad as it sounds. Our first experience in Iceland prepared me for 'how to survive in a campervan with five people!'

Matt: It was of course very tiny, and we weren't exactly travelling light. We each had at least two big bags each, including drones, flashes, water housing, a variety of lenses, tripods, all the kiteboarding equipment,

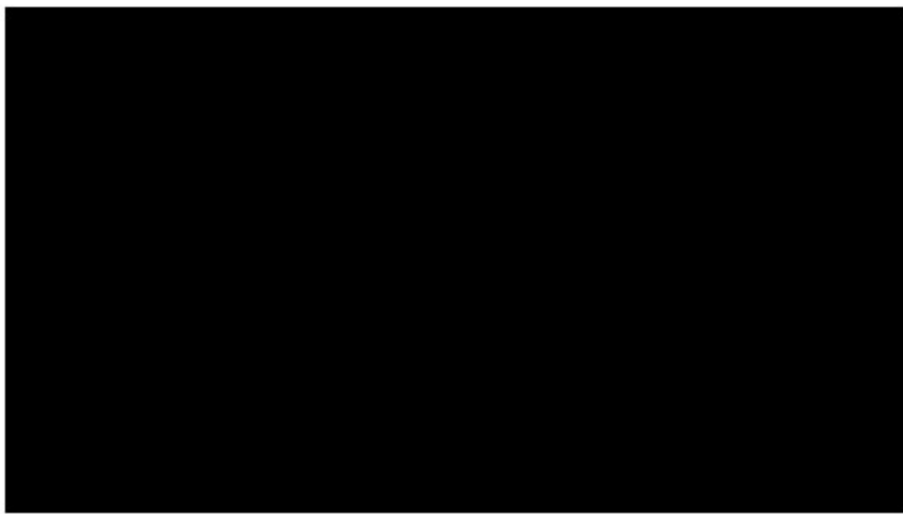
our regular clothes and above that (literally) we had Robin Christol, a 2m tall guy, and who took up loads of space!

Paul: The main problem I faced while living with two photographers and a cameraman is the amount of equipment that needed to be charged every evening; the campervan had cables everywhere!

HOW DID YOU SLEEP?

Camille: I slept pretty well during the trip, but my roommates seemed a little sleep deprived - apparently I snore quite a bit!

Set: Camille's snoring problem didn't help the sleeping situation at all!



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“ WE SPENT OUR FIRST NIGHT SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF SCOTLAND, WITH ONLY CAMILLE’S SNORING SETTING THE AMBIENCE! ”

Mallory: I had to share the same bed with Liam, which was fine but Camille's snoring was intense and kept us all up at night!

HOW WAS THE DRIVE?

Julien: We arrived in Edinburgh airport late in the afternoon, drove six hours to the Isle of Skye, and that's where we took the ferry to Lewis & Harris Islands. Driving on the left-hand side of the little roads at night, while we were exhausted was not the best idea. We decided to stop, and we spent our first night somewhere in the middle of Scotland, with only Camille's snoring setting the ambience!

Paul: Olivier and I drove our campervan 99% of the time because Matt was busy taking photos on the road. Julien and Robin drove the equipment van and Liam and Mallory the other campervan.

Olivier: Matt, Paul and I shared the wheel, to begin with, but later on we consciously decided to skip Paul in the rotation, as we probably had a better chance of getting to the spots in one piece!

Camille: Who was the best driver? I would have to say, Liam, as Mallory shattered one of the side mirrors on our campervan.

WAS IT HARD TO FIND A HOT SHOWER EVERY DAY?

Pauline: I've been on MANERA shoots many times, and I came to terms with the fact that I was not going to get a hot shower after a cold session!





"I NAIVELY ASSUMED THAT WE HAD ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST US THE WHOLE TRIP, BUT WITHIN THREE DAYS, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT."

Matt: We found hot showers a couple of times, but other than that, we rocked the so-called "French Shower", and we used deodorant to cover up the smell!

Camille: I had no choice but to live up to the MANERA slogan and "Stay Salty", that's what it's all about, right?

Mallory: This was the longest time I'd ever stayed without showering, but I smelt pretty good, I think!

HOW DID YOU FEED YOURSELVES?

Mallory: You should have seen the amount of food we bought on our first shopping run! Two shopping carts filled to the top, with a mixture of healthy and junk food, as that is precisely what you need after a freezing session!

Pauline: I was impressed by the amount of food that the guys were able to consume. When we went shopping, I naively assumed that we had enough food to last us the whole trip, but within three days, there was nothing left.

Olivier: Paul was the rookie in our campervan, but he also did most of the

cooking. Robin helped him a little, and they did a great job. By the end of the trip, they even managed to cook pasta properly!

Max: I was stuck in the van with all the vegetarians, so I didn't eat meat for a week, so that was pretty boring.

Paul: I was the designated dishwasher in our campervan, as I was the youngest. Max was in the same situation in the campervan in he was in!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO KEEP YOURSELVES BUSY WHEN YOU WEREN'T RIDING?

Camille: Well, most of the time we were driving around, looking for new spots and taking "lifestyle" photos. We also played soccer and card games.

“THE SPOTS AT THE BAY WERE MAGICAL; THEY’LL FOREVER BE IN MY MIND! THERE WERE TWO PERFECT WAVES (ONE RIGHT AND ONE LEFT), AND TWO BIG LAGOONS FOR FREESTYLE”

Matt: Liam and I went skateboarding on the grass, and we flew the drone around to explore our surroundings.

Mallory: I loved playing football. Paul, Liam and I kicked ass! Playing UNO was fun too. The rest of the time we were driving, kiting and surfing.

HOW WAS PARTYING WITH THE SCOTS?

Camille: We ended up at a local pub in Stornoway, and met some great people over there. They were very welcoming and surprised to meet a group of strangers coming to shoot a movie on their island.

Paul: It was one hell of a night! It’s not every day that the locals meet kitesurfers in the area, so they were pretty happy to talk to us and of course, drink lots of beers. The locals were very friendly, and they loved sharing their stories with us.

Olivier: It was whiskey after whiskey after whiskey, and we woke up exceptionally hung over! The morning after we realised that our campervan’s battery was flat, so that was a little hectic to deal with.

TELL US ABOUT THE RIDING

Mallory: The spots at the bay were magical; they’ll forever be in my mind! There were two perfect waves (one right and one left), and two big lagoons for freestyle, all at the same spot. The first day, we scored some epic lefts surfing, and the following morning,







the wind picked up, and it was like riding Ponta Preta but as a left. The freestyle spot in the lagoon was comparable to Brazil (minus 15-20°C!) The following day, the wind shifted, and I rode with Camille for hours on the endless right-hander that would be comparable to the waves in Dakhla. I was the last to leave the water, and that was at about 11:00 pm.

Paul: The Lochs were perfect for freestyle; we just had to find some with the right wind direction

Max: We started playing a game called 'K.I.T.E', where we take in turns doing a trick, and then the next person up, needs to match it and if not, they get a letter; first to get K.I.T.E loses. Liam and I are both very competitive; we were trying tricks we knew the other wouldn't be able to match. I almost beat him, but we had to stop, as we were on our 13m kites, and the wind picked up so strong that I was only able to perform tricks holding onto my chicken loop.

"LIAM AND I ARE BOTH VERY COMPETITIVE; WE WERE TRYING TRICKS WE KNEW THE OTHER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MATCH"



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"GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME. AFTER 3 YEARS OF TESTING ALMOST EVERY KITE ON THE MARKET I'M SO STOKED TO HAVE FOUND THIS GREAT BRAND TO MOVE FORWARD WITH WHO SHARE THE SAME VISION AND ABOVE ALL PASSION."
Ruben Lenten



“ COLD WATER ADVENTURES BRING ME FAR MORE PLEASURE THAN ANY TROPICAL TRIP, PROBABLY BECAUSE MOMENTS LIKE THESE ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN ”

Set: Coming from Brazil I'm used to slightly warmer climates! I kited in cold waters in Europe, but it was the coldest water I have been riding in. It was worth it though; the spots were terrific.

Camille: In only 500 meters, the spot offered a surf and kite wave (left) with offshore wind and another surf and kite wave (right) with side onshore wind. It may be one of the craziest spots I've ever ridden: perfect waves and incredible backdrops.

Olivier: The shooting conditions were excellent. The most beautiful landscape, awesome crew, perfect wind, waves, and a sunset that seemed to last forever. We couldn't have asked for better locations and conditions!

Mallory: We foiled and surfed small but clean waves and we scored perfect lefts and rights kiting. For freestyle, the guys could throw big doubles in the lagoons. Looking back, it couldn't have gotten any better.

Julien: We arrived in a bay up North, and the swell was pumping, with long left and a right reef breaks. We surfed great waves; all geared up in our hoods, boots and gloves under an extraordinary light. Cold water adventures bring me far more pleasure than any tropical trip, probably because moments like these are never forgotten.

MANERA will come back for 2020 with another fantastic location and a film to be remembered.

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NAISH



Ireland can be grey, cold and rainy. The waves can get huge, and the storms that hit will blow you away, even if you're not holding a kite. When going out for a session, the chances are high that you'll be the only one out there, with possibly some sheep and cows watching over you. If I had to describe this place in one word, it would be "RAW".

THE LAND OF "LIQUID SUNSHINE"

WORDS & PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK



PHOTO JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD

“ I SAW IRELAND AS I EXPECTED IT WITH ALL ITS HIGH CLIFFS SEPARATING LAND AND SEA, AND BAYS AND RIVER MOUTHS BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS.”



Ireland has always been on my 'must visit' list and this past autumn; everything lined up perfectly to finally make a trip over there happen. I bought a campervan that we packed to the roof with gear, and off José Denis-Robichaud and I went. From the Netherlands, we drove down south to catch the ferry in Cherbourg (France) and then drove straight to Ireland from there.

ARRIVING IN THE SOUTHEAST (ROSSLARE)

Upon our arrival in Ireland, within minutes

we were at the beach. We ventured over to Ladies Island Lake, which is very close to the ferry in Rosslare. After a quick power nap, we had the perfect conditions for some freestyle, with perfect flat water. The Southeastern part is relatively flat and has some fantastic flat-water spots that work with any South wind. Some of the places like Tramore are tide dependent, as it's a river mouth, but there is also a couple of lakes to choose from around the area. Besides that, there is also an entire coastline to explore!

CLIFFS AND BAYS IN THE SOUTH WEST

Driving through Ireland sometimes feels like you're driving through different countries, as the scenery is so diverse. When we arrived in the southwest, I saw Ireland as I expected it with all its high cliffs separating land and sea, and bays and river mouths between the mountains. Driving from one side of the inlet to the other could take you over an hour, even though you could see your destination from where you started!

Finding the right spot here is not easy, and it takes many hours of searching on Google maps to find the right bay for that specific wind direction.

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 **MANERA**
- STAY SALTY -



We figured it was best to ask the locals where to go, as there were way too many options!

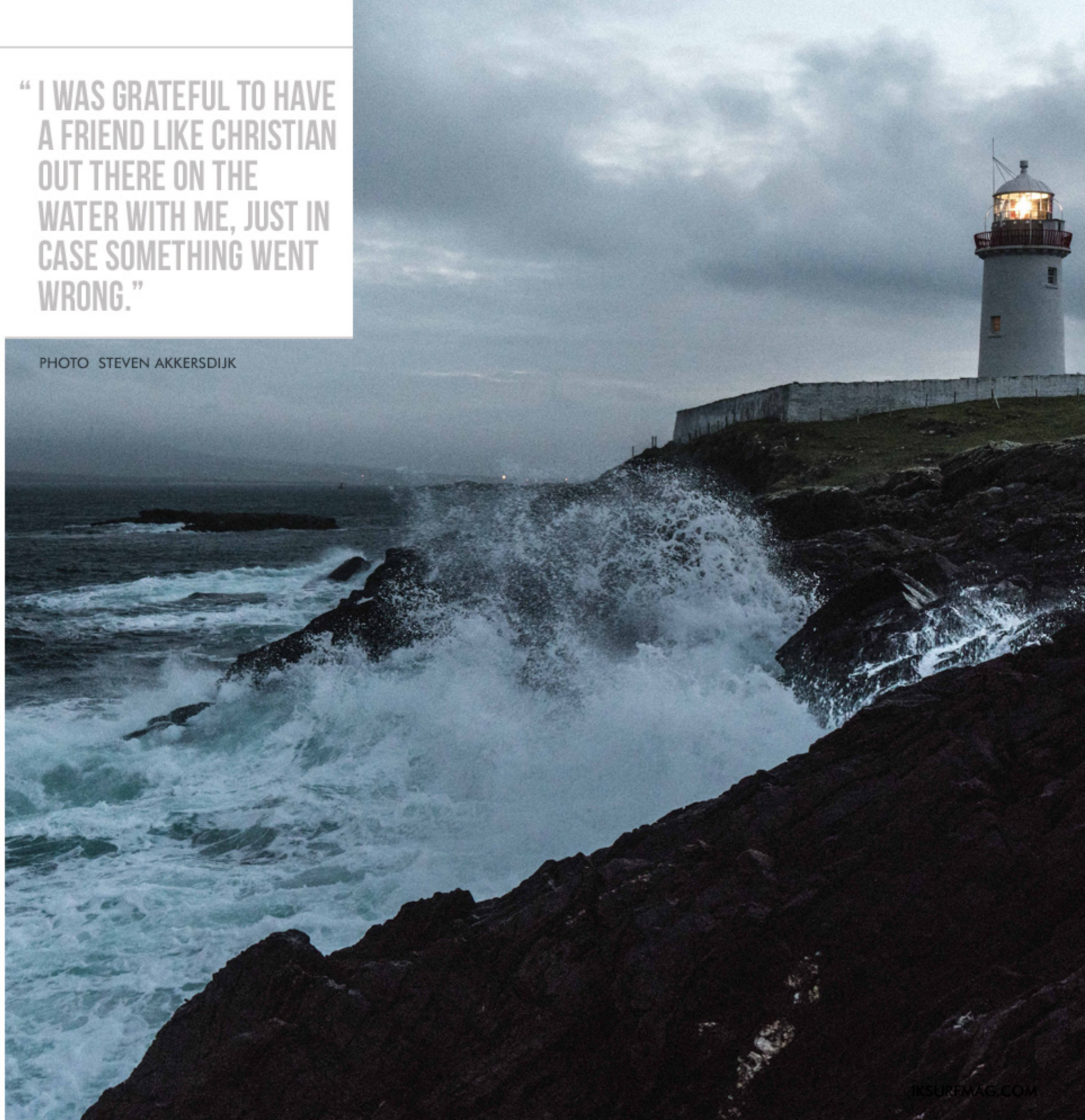
It was here in the southwest that we got our first big storm front that hit the coast. On the news, a 'Code Orange' was mentioned, and as well as a caravan that had blown off the cliffs, with an elderly lady sadly still inside (may her soul rest in peace). The forecast was a good 40 knots at Inch Beach, but due to the shape of the bay, it increased to a staggering 50 knots! With waves breaking 300 meters into the coast, and then there is me, with an 8m GTS5 that I could hardly hold down in the gusts, it was survival mode ON! In these conditions, I was grateful to have a friend like Christian out there on the water with me, just in case something went wrong.

After 45 minutes of fighting the wind, Christian and I were done. We packed up and found this little waterfall from a drainage pipe. After having a quick check if it was clean, this was the closest thing to a shower we had, and we gladly washed our gear there.

The southwest of Ireland offers a broad diversity of bays you can explore depending on the wind and swell direction, but all the bays provide pretty much the same kiting conditions, which are onshore winds, and long flat sections between the waves. Due to the shape of the bays, it's hard to find decent side-shore conditions, as it gets super gusty. The one place you might find good wind with side-shore conditions is Brandon bay. This is a big bay that provides a couple of point breaks, and additional beaches to accommodate various wind directions.

“ I WAS GRATEFUL TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE CHRISTIAN OUT THERE ON THE WATER WITH ME, JUST IN CASE SOMETHING WENT WRONG.”

PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK





“ I LOVED IT AND WOULD DO IT AGAIN IN A HEARTBEAT; MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A HEATER, SOME WARM CLOTHES AND A PORTABLE TOILET. ”

PHOTO JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD

VANLIFE IN IRELAND

Sleeping in your campervan in Ireland was a bit odd! Most parking areas had 2m high barriers, so we were unable to park. Often, we ended up parking our van on a little parking spot on the side of the road, which felt a bit sketchy. A couple of times, I had the feeling that the police would come by and ask us to move on, but luckily, that never happened.

The only hard part was finding a shower and toilets, but I like to believe this adds to the overall experience! Would I recommend going to Ireland in a van? For sure! I loved it and would do it again in a heartbeat; make sure you have a heater, some warm clothes and a portable toilet.

THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

One of the most impressive sceneries I've ever seen! The Cliffs of Moher are stunning, especially when you go and visit them at sunset. I'm not a big fan of tourist attractions, but I was in awe. Luckily, the locals advised us to park at a different parking lot around the corner; no tourists and best of all no paved paths to follow. The local's trail led to a wave spot down by the cliffs, and we got to surf with an unforgettable backdrop!

STRONG WINDS IN THE NORTHWEST

There was a big storm about to hit the Northwest of Ireland, and of course, I was keen to get some strong winds and nice kicker waves with side shore wind. After having a chat with Marcel (a local from Achill Island), we travelled up to Belmullet in search for the perfect spot to ride the storm.



Once we arrived, we not only found the brutal conditions we were seeking but also a lot of French riders. We were only a few days away from 'The Battle for the Lake' event, so where you would typically find yourself alone on the water, there was now an entire crowd on the beach and in the water!

Belmullet provides a lot of spots that work with different wind directions, but you won't find high cliffs here, so the wind is reasonably clean even if there are side shore conditions. We stayed up here for a few days, but unfortunately, there was a lot of rain and not the right type of wind. So after a few days, we decided to drive over to Achill Island, where the event was taking place.

“ WE NOT ONLY
FOUND THE
BRUTAL
CONDITIONS WE
WERE SEEKING
BUT ALSO A LOT
OF FRENCH
RIDERS. ”

PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK

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IN BETWEEN THE SHEEP AT ACHILL ISLAND

The moment we started getting close to Achill Island, there was one thing that we noticed; there was sheep everywhere! We had to be mindful while driving because there could be a herd of sheep around the corner!

Once we reached Achill Island, the scenery amazed us. It's a big bay with massive cliffs on the one side and a village on the other. The waves that roll into the bay slowly start breaking far out, and gently roll into the bay, providing perfect flat spots in between. The dominant wind direction here is Southwest, which is dead on-shore and making for some incredible freestyle conditions.

Not so keen to ride in the waves? No problem. There is a lake 600m away from the beach providing you with perfect flat water. When it comes to places to sleep in the van, we had no problems finding a spot. The first night we slept on the rocky beach, and the other nights rested just under the cliffs on the left-hand side.

If you visit around the same time we did, you'll hear about 'The Battle For The Lake' annual event. This is a super fun event that brings people from all over Ireland to Achill. The days are filled with watersport activities and live bands in the evening. It is worth keeping an eye on the date and synchronizing it with your travel itinerary.

One of the days, we got a solid swell and a Northwest wind. I was a little hesitant that the wind would be way too gusty, but it turned out to be pretty good. I can't say it was steady, as it came over the mountains,

“THIS IS A SUPER FUN EVENT THAT BRINGS PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER IRELAND TO ACHILL. THE DAYS ARE FILLED WITH WATERSPORT ACTIVITIES AND LIVE BANDS IN THE EVENING.”

PHOTO JOSÉ DENIS-ROBICHAUD



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“THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS TO DO DURING THE TRIP THAT I HADN'T BEEN SURFING AS MUCH AS HOPED TO”

PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK

but the side offshore conditions and solid swell made for a perfect playground. At one point we even had some sunshine, lighting up the background, which made for a fantastic view.

SURFING UP NORTH

After a few days in Achill Island, it was time to head up north in search of some solid breaks. One of the reasons I wanted to go to Ireland in the first place was the number of point breaks vs. amount of surfers. There were so many things to do during the trip that I hadn't been surfing as much as hoped to, but the North would for surely deliver.



PHOTO STEVEN AKKERSDIJK

“THIS COUNTRY CAN DELIVER YOU SOME INSANE SESSIONS! ALL YOU NEED IS A LOT OF PATIENCE, AND A BIT OF INSIDE KNOWLEDGE ON THE SPOT.”

We drove up to Easky, where there are a few breaks the area. The breaks ranged from slow lefts to faster rights, and a super hollow slab. It was perfect for surfing, but unfortunately, the conditions didn't allow for a kitesurfing session. I honestly think that if the conditions lined up, you could score some seriously good sessions here!

BEST TIME TO GO

We were in Ireland from mid-September to

the beginning of October, and I think we should have gone a month earlier. Even though we got a lot of windy days, and decent swell, we also had a lot of rain from the storms passing through. If we went earlier, we probably would have had less wind but more sunshine. So, in the end, it comes down to your personal preference.

SUMMING IT ALL UP

After spending almost a month in Ireland,

I must say that I enjoyed the country. Although we didn't score the perfect conditions and had a lot of rain, I firmly believe this country can deliver you some insane sessions! All you need is a lot of patience, and a bit of inside knowledge on the spot.

What makes for better memories than searching for the perfect conditions with friends, especially in a country as breathtaking as Ireland!

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M Y S T I C B O A R D I N G . C O M



Lewis Crathern has travelled to Egypt extensively, and he thought he knew what it was all about, until he went to Dahab and discovered a whole new world had been waiting for him!

DISCOVERING DAHAB

WORDS LEWIS CRATHERN
PHOTOS SURFHOUSE LT – DANULIS MACIJAUSKAS



“ IT IS ALWAYS A CRITICAL MOMENT WHEN YOU TURN UP AT A NEW SPOT AND MAKE THAT SUBCONSCIOUS DECISION WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. ”

As a professional kiteboarder, it's not uncommon to have totted up trips to the same countries in the double figures, and it is often easy to premeditate how the trip will go.

SurfHouse LT (DUOTONE Lithuania) invited me out on a coaching clinic to Dahab, Egypt. I had been to Egypt uncountable times over the past thirteen years including spots like Ras Sudr, El Gouna, Hurghada, Sharm El Sheik, Soma Bay, and Zafarana but Dahab would be a first. I thought I knew what to expect, but now, I can genuinely say that I've had my first real Egyptian experience.

Dahab is a short drive north from Sharm-El-Sheikh airport, which is a relief if you have ever braved the 2-3 hour transfers to some of the other resorts.

The following morning, Kriste and Nerutis, the couple that runs Surfhouse LT pulled up in a stylish 1950's black Jeep, with their kids hanging off the back!

“Welcome to Dahab, Lewis! What would you like to do today? Kite? Football game later with the Bedouins? Coffee? You have to try the cheesecake!” The options were endless, so naturally, we decided to head to the first kite spot called 'Baby Bay', south of where we were staying.

It is always a critical moment when you turn up at a new spot and make that subconscious decision whether you like it or not. It's that first impression that sticks with you forever.





When we arrived at the spot, I realised that it was nothing compared to the way they had described to me, it was far better! I am not a lazy kiteboarder, but I love to get as close to a kite spot as possible with all my gear, and the access was superb; you could drive into the water if you wished.

The water was as flat as a pancake, and the stunning turquoise sea quickly turns deep blue, which was an indication that it becomes deep very quickly. Kite traffic was also not a problem, at a spot like this elsewhere in the world, there would be a minimum of fifty kiteboarders out, and at this spot, there was barely five!

“ I AM NOT A LAZY KITEBOARDER, BUT I LOVE TO GET AS CLOSE TO A KITE SPOT AS POSSIBLE ”

Eleveight



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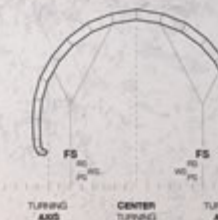
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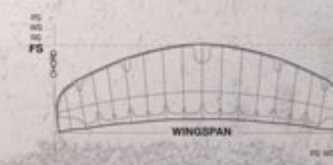


SIZES: 06 / 07 / 08 / 09 / 10 / 12 / 14 / 16



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“ SOME OF THE LOCALS WERE GOING FOR IT, EAGER TO SHOW ME THEIR FREESTYLE MOVES, SO I GRABBED MY BOARD WITH BINDINGS AND GOT INVOLVED! ”

I grabbed my 11m Rebel and went straight out there for my first session. Immediately, I noticed just how beautiful the Sinai Mountains were. They are huge and so close to the shoreline that they make the most beautiful backdrop.

This main spot in Dahab is ideal for intermediates and advanced riders. The wind is clean with no obstructions, and the half moon shape bay has plenty of space.

It's also very easy to blast straight out to sea, heading towards the ever-visible Saudi Arabia, but the flat-water spot is the place to be!

Some of the locals were going for it, eager to show me their freestyle moves, so I grabbed my board with bindings and got involved! For a moment, it felt like I was competing against Sam Light or Ali Barrett back in my old British Tour days, but I reminded myself that I had to prepare for the coaching experience. The clients were showing up soon, and I had to do a quick spot check and dive straight into the lessons.

As the wind is offshore (there is a rescue

boat) I would advise beginners to ride in the shallow lagoon just upwind, which is where most of the kite schools are.

Standing right by the water's edge, I found it to be one of the best places for coaching, both for those setting up, and those on the water via my Bb Talkin devices. Once Lesson One was over, and we headed back to our base.

On our way back, we picked up Kriste and Nerutis's kids from school, and they excitedly jumped on the back of the Jeep. "They drive the car sometimes, it's funny!" Nerutis explains. I don't know if he was serious, but nothing seems like it is a big deal around here, everything is a maximum 10-minute drive away; I like it.



“ DOORS ARE LEFT UNLOCKED; THINGS FEEL SAFE. I REMEMBER THINKING TO MYSELF, HOW OFTEN HAVE I HAD THIS TYPE OF EXPERIENCE IN EGYPT? ”

The whole group, including myself, were staying at a lovely big house on the beach, with our private apartments, which were a nice change from the usual hotel experience in Egypt. We were based in the Bedouin region of Dahab, called Asalah, which is just north of the main town. It has a relaxed vibe, and Nerutis tells me how comfortable he feels here.

The local people are great people, and throughout the week, I learn that it's not uncommon for them to pick his kids up from wherever they are. Doors are left unlocked; things feel safe. I remember thinking to myself, how often have I had this type of experience in Egypt?

One evening, we all headed for dinner, which was a pleasant 20-minute walk along the seafront. There were coffee shops, local restaurants, Indian restaurants, quirky cafes and plenty of interesting shops. I advise calling your partner on FaceTime while you are near the shops, your bags will be heavier a lot heavier on the return leg!

Dahab is a colourful town and has a Moroccan feel to it. The food is exceptional and extremely affordable, and the service is excellent. After dinner, we went to one of the many cafes by the shore, and we tried 'Ice Sheesha', and of course, I had the cheesecake and a coffee. This instantly became one of the valued luxuries of my week after long days on the water!



Walking back along the promenade, I realised that my expectations of 'just another Egypt trip' had been entirely wrong. I enjoyed getting around by myself and enjoy the daily walk to and from town. This sort of independence is new to me in Egypt, where usually, you do not leave the resort. I noticed many other families and couples enjoying it as well.

After another great day of kiting, we went scuba diving, and then I'm offered a football game against the locals. I jumped at the chance; I love football, and still, at thirty-three, have aspirations of becoming pro! It's times like these; you can appreciate how something as simple as football can bring people together. It's also times like these when you think hard about what other people have in life; some of the children are playing in just there bare feet, but they're happy!

"IT'S ALSO TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN YOU THINK HARD ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE IN LIFE"

OCEAN ROdeo.



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Rider: Reece Myerscough Photo by: Jay Wallace

“ WE WERE COMPLETELY IMMERSSED IN OUR PASSION FOR KITEBOARDING AND WERE 100% PRESENT WITH EACH OTHER. I CAN'T THINK OF THE LAST TIME THAT I HAD SPENT TIME LIKE THIS.”

The wind is consistent in Dahab, and after some more kiting action and great evenings out; I started to forget what day it was.

Kriste and Nerutis told me it was time for a new experience, and that we had to prepare for a trip to a secret spot up north. The group does not question the decision for a second. It's clear that Kriste and Nerutis are great hosts, as well as keen kiteboarders, and can sense that it's the right time to bring new experiences to the group.

After a short 20-minute drive, we offloaded our equipment into boats and headed north. Next, some old Toyota trucks picked us up, and we went blasting across the desert right at the foot of the Sinai Mountains; it is an incredible experience! Our Bedouin driver was smiling, playing loud music and the trip had become an adventure! This, right here, is exactly what I signed up for when I first started kiteboarding.

After 20 minutes in the trucks, we saw the most beautiful kite spot I have ever seen, along with a small camping area. This would be our home for the next two nights. There is no Internet, and no phone signal; my sort of place!

Off the water, we ate together, sat together, told stories and looked at the stars. We were completely immersed in our passion for kiteboarding and were 100% present with each other. I can't think of the last time that I had spent time like this.





Towards the end of the week, we kiteboarded out the front of the apartments in Asalah which was also a great kite spot. The reef is deep, and runs parallel to the beach, and has small waves rolling in - an excellent opportunity to teach some new techniques off of the ramps, like transitions.

On my last day, Kriste and Nerutis took the group deep into the mountains. They had a local Bedouin friend there that took us on a day out that I will never forget. He was a calm man, that spoke perfect English, and his two young sons joined us.

“ THE REEF IS DEEP, AND RUNS PARALLEL TO THE BEACH, AND HAS SMALL WAVES ROLLING IN ”



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“ THERE IS A SOUL TO THE PLACE, AND THE PLEASANT NATURE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE IS INFECTIOUS. ”

We explored the terrain, which had been carved out by the winds and rains over thousands of years. From time to time, he stopped to pick up naturally grown herbs like chamomile and explained how you could use it in everyday life. A small group of his friends prepared incredible food for us and cooked it in the earth. I was getting an abundance of information about Egypt, first hand, to the point that I started to feel guilty it had taken these many years to appreciate it!

When I thought that my day could not get any better, I experienced something I will never forget; I swam in the desert! Luckily, it had rained the day before (which I was told never happens), and I took my once-in-a-lifetime chance, to submerge myself in a deep pool.

With the many checkpoints and things we might see on the news, it's easy to look at Egypt as quite a controlled place; Dahab is different though. There is a soul to the place, and the pleasant nature of the local people is infectious. This is a Bedouin town, and you can feel it everywhere.

As I head to the airport, I realised I had experienced Egypt in a way that I never had before. I couldn't recommend Dahab enough to all levels of kiteboarders; you will have a great time!

Thank you to the great group that shared this experience with me and both Kriste and Nerutis for inviting me.

Surf House Lithuania regularly run group trips in both Snow and Kitesurfing.

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KARINE AND CHRISTIAN



HELIIARDE

TECHNIQUE

WORDS & PHOTOS CHRISTIAN & KARINE

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Hello Ladies and Gents. There's nothing like starting the New Year with a few fresh challenges and as chance would have it we've three here for you! In this first issue of 2019 we're mixing it up from toeside, from blind and something rather freestylee! If you're good on your toes have a read through our back loop kite loop from toeside, a shocking name but a beautiful move. Then if reversing is your thing why not try out the sent front loop/roll from blind? And finally Heliarde is on hand to make the Hinterburger Mobe look rather to easy, but absorb the info and it could well be yours.

Hope you enjoy! C&K and Heliarde.

For upcoming 2019 CKPerformance clinic dates please visit - <http://www.ckperformanceclinics.co.uk>

BACK LOOP KITE LOOP FROM TOESIDE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

FRONT ROLL FROM BLIND



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

HINTERBURGER MOBE



CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE

BACK LOOP KITE LOOP FROM TOESIDE >

Another celebration of the diversity that kiting offers by the mere action of marrying a couple of skills that you have down, to make yet another enchanting move. These next few pages will see you cavorting with your toeside back loop (or roll) and kitemove with the net result hopefully rewarding you with a stunning new move with a somewhat less stunning name, the back loop kite loop from toeside. Hopefully common sense prevails and you'll only be up for this should you already have the two pre requisite moves already firmly in the bag. That said however, we will of course repeat the required methodology for both so that there's no need to go hunting.

Let's start by having a talk through all the necessities.....

The Approach Pic A

To resist efficiently and effectively you need a whole lot of edge. The more edge you have in the water the more resistance you get, but without drag. Drag slows you down, resistance squirts you forwards. Now think about your early attempts at toeside, or perhaps toeside on your weaker foot – where is your weight. Right back over the tail of the board. You're sinking the board, it's dragging through the water and slowing you down. It might feel like resistance but really, it's no different from towing your laundry behind you. To make it efficient you have to learn to get your weight forwards, trimming the board from front to back



whilst still edging. Look at the picture and you can see plenty of Christian's board in the water.

Suffice to say you need to get your weight forwards and onto your front foot. The easiest way to do this is to open your chest and hips, facing forwards down the board so that you have a shoulder each side. This with a bent front knee, hips and head dipped forwards and both knees driving forwards, pointing in the same direction and working together opens the door to a world of possibilities. Think of a surfer racing down the line or a slalom snowboarder in hard boots. Coming into any toeside trick this is your approach position - speed, no drag and kite flying at 11 or 1 o'clock on the edge of the window, ready to send. You can see in the picture that the other advantage of this position is that Christian is able to control the bar with two hands and therefore send the



kite with the usual push pull, dropping his weight to resist the kite as it lifts towards 12 o'clock.

Take-Off Pic B

With the aim of adding a back rotation you will need to add a bit of back leg kick, which can only be done with your weight back. However as discussed in the last paragraph you can't just be back. Also, it's impossible to kick off your back leg if all the power you're edging against whilst sending the kite is already transferring through it, unless you've got legs like a Dutch speed skater. The art is to time perfectly when to drop back over your back foot to kick up into your rotation.

If you have a look at Pic B. Christian has sent the kite from 11 o'clock and was still edging on all his board during the approach. As the kite reaches around 12,



he's edging super hard but then drops his weight quickly back by moving his hips and extending his front leg. However, he doesn't bend his back leg any more as he would then lose his edge! From here he's ready to kick. It's a sudden movement, from edging to suddenly rocking back a kicking off. The result of moving your weight back on the board also gets it carving which will help initiate your back rotation.

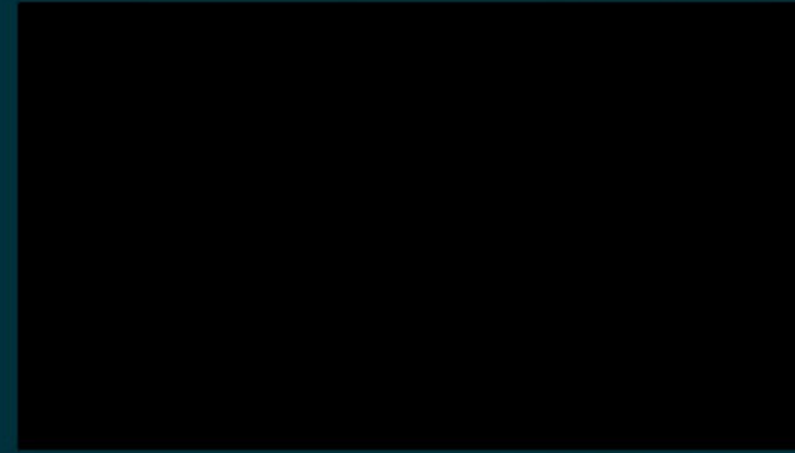
As you take off, the kite will pull you slightly back as it lifts you. As you feel it pull, you must stamp down against your edge, digging the tail in as this will encourage more up and less back.

You can see in the pic that Christian's shoulders and his head are leaning back. As long as you go up you'll have time to rotate. Once you do start to go up it is super important to stop the kite going any further back in the window. As a result of being a weaker edge your kite will likely fly further back than you'd like, so stop it on take-off by levelling the bar as Christian has here.

Another Slow Back Roll Pic C

The rest of the rotation should be simple enough once you're up as long as you can keep control of the kite.

FLYSURFER



PEAK4

FREERIDE, TOURING, PROGRESSION
3 / 4 / 5 / 8 / 11



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Your aim is to rotate slowly so that you know where you are and can anticipate the timing of the kite loop. It's a must to go round slow, otherwise the kite loop is likely to over rotate you and dump you unceremoniously with some force. It should be the kiteman that helps you finish your rotation. With the kite keen to go back, you need to be aware of where it is at all times. Even though it'll help pull you back and start your rotation, if it carries on back it won't be in the right place to start the loop. If you look at Christian, his bar is in and level, which stops the kite going any further back and keeps tension on lines, meaning that the kite is ready to move as soon as he pulls. Then once he's up and going slow he turns his head to look over his front shoulder to make sure that his rotation continues.

Pull The Trigger Pic D

Much the same applies once the time comes to loop



the kite. If you're well versed in the back roll kite loop, there'll be very little difference here. By the time that you're half way around your rotation your body and board should have come around to where they'd be in a heelside back roll. So once you're halfway around, look over your shoulder for the water downwind of you. Once you can see it, it's time to get the party started. In fact there's more than pulling as to get the most out of the bar and therefore the kite you'll want to push as well. A decent pull and push will give you the most leverage from the bar and it'll help you keep the bar on the sweet spot, preventing you from stalling the kite and killing the pull. You can see that Christian has started to pull and push to get the kite looping. It's worth noting his backhand is placed in the middle of that side of the bar. If your hands are squeezed up together around the centre line it'll be much harder to pull and push!



Don't Stop Pic E

Once the kite starts looping, you'll feel the pull. As with any form of kite loop, it's imperative that you keep pull-pushing the bar and hold it in on the sweet spot. It can be tempting, especially if you're surprised by more power than you expected, to ease the bar out, or let it out completely. However, best ignore the wisdom of evolution and hold on for the ride. This way the kite will continue to loop, quickly and will therefore get round enough and start its merry way back up to 12 o'clock, which will lighten your landing considerably. As long as you keep your head turned and eyes focused on your potential landing spot, the kiteman will pull you through and out of your back rotation. Looking at Christian you can see that he's still pull-pushing, the bar is in, his head is turned and he'll be focused on where he wants to go. The result, his kite is on the way back up.



Prepare For Landing Pic F

With the kite moving North, your legs, feet and ultimately board will catch up and drop beneath you. You want to land downwind, so keep looking that way. It's also important to finish the loop with the kite up high, so resist the urge to dive the kite or stop the loop. From here you'll have a softer touch down. Just be ready to take the landing and put the board down on the water before you carve back onto your edge.

TOP TIPS

When learning this it makes total sense to make life easy for yourself. You want a kite that turns quick and responds well, so your 9m will be preferable to your 16m. You also want confidence to give it the beans and pull the trigger. If you stacked and it's blowing you might hesitate, think twice or just quite reasonably bottle it. So pick a session when you've enough to get off the water, but not too much to nail yourself. And finally, regardless of kite size, get your hands further apart so that your kite will turn more easily.

Now it's time to review the sequence and study the videos.

COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're only getting a small amount of air, or launching yourself out of the straps the chances are you don't have enough speed on entry. Come in a bit quicker and the board will be happier to edge rather than stick and you'll be able to send the kite a tad more aggressively.

If you find that you're not getting around and the kite is pulling through the loop but dumping you on your back, bum or side, chances are that the kite has gone too far back before take-off. Start with the kite a bit lower before sending, and send with a tad more conviction.

If you're getting the height but you're not finishing the rotation, you could well be looping the kite too early. Make sure that you can see the water over your back shoulder before looping it.

If you're landing too hard or are bouncing out on touch down. This is often a sign that the kite is not

finishing its loop up above you. Potentially two reasons for this. Firstly you might be stalling the kite, pulling the bar in too far when you loop. Let the kite breath as it comes around the loop, so that it can fly back up. Secondly you may be coming down and thinking about diving the kite to land, therefore stopping the loop prematurely and then rather than being pulled down wind for a soft landing, you'll be landing more across the wind on an edge. Finish the loop.

KEYSTONES

1. Speed and Edge
2. Short but sharp send
3. Kick off and level bar into slow rotation
4. Look over shoulder and once half way pull trigger
5. Finish the loop for a downwind landing



FRONT ROLL FROM BLIND >

Gosh, it has been a long time since we featured a move from blind. Last time around it was the back roll from blind, so it seems only right to bring the front roll out of the bag now. These are great tricks to have in your armoury whether you're a freestyle veteran or an old school flag bearer. The beauty lies in the fact that you won't see too many riders banging these out and as it's a hooked move, you can still get away with some low level showing off regardless of wind strength. Any blind move is usually the domain of Karine, but as she's still recovering from an injury you'll have to put with Christian instead!

To make sure you know what's going on, this will be a sent front roll, using the kite, taking off from blind and landing heelside. It goes without saying that a good ability to ride blind is a must, although we'll give you a few tips there too, and of course having a standard front roll off-pat is essential. Finally, this will be easier to learn in straps, as you'll be able to adapt your feet position to edge well and take off more easily.

Without further ado let's look at the parts that make this move a whole...

Riding into this move Pic A

Best to repeat what we've said before as there are a few pointers that will give you a better chance. You're intending to perform a jump, so a modicum of speed is essential. The simplest way to carry speed into this is to pop to blind with a bit of velocity so that you can use the momentum for your take off. The tricky bit for



most is getting into an effective blind position with both hands on the bar. We've all seen the rider that casually cruises across the bay, steering the kite with both hands whilst looking totally at ease.

No doubt if you've tried to emulate this relaxed look it's resulted with you tied up in hernia inducing knots. How to make it more comfortable? You'll never reach the bar whilst blind unless you trim your sweet spot down towards you, so this is THE place to start.

Twisting your shoulders down and around will have the magical effect of lengthening what would normally be your free arm. Grabbing the bar near the end, not centred will also help, and loosening your straps a tad so that your new front foot can twist in the strap, should avoid anything going "ping".

Once you're in position, edging, balanced and have both hands on the bar you can contemplate the take off. Much like a normal sent front roll you will still need to give a little bit of pop to help you get off the



water before the kite travels too far. This means that you need to alter your position ready to pop whilst you send the kite. Your aim is to get more weight onto what is your back foot. You need to do this whilst sending. If you do it before you'll carve up and slow down.

To move your weight, you can extend your front leg, pushing your hips over the tail of the board. At the same time, you should be steering the kite, a tad more gently than for a normal jump, but sure enough that the kite moves positively. This is another reason to have your sweet spot close. You can't easily push and pull with opposing hands from this position, so you'll be relying on back hand pull. If your sweet spot is out, you'll stall the kite and get yanked off your edge.

Here you can see Christian pushing his hips back, straightening his front (left) leg slightly whilst pulling to steer the kite. He keeps his shoulders twisted to maintain weight on the edge and keeps his head down to keep as much weight over the tail of the

board as possible, which is essential for what's to come in the front roll.

The Take Off Pic B

The take-off is probably the hardest part, as you're trying to resist the urge to turn back towards the kite. As with every move you need to be kicking off your back leg, against the tail of the board. And as per every front roll you need to kick yourself forwards, towards the nose of the board. When heelside this movement naturally lifts and bends the front knee, but from blind this just won't happen. As you stamp off the tail and throw yourself forwards you will push the front of the board down towards the water. Hence the head down approach.

With more weight over the tail, you'll be able to kick harder without actually burying the front of the board as you try to initiate the roll. If you look at the photo you can see that Christian is standing tall having kicked off his back leg. As the board leaves the water it will turn momentarily against the rotation as your hips and therefore board will try to align with your shoulders. After all, your upper body is facing the bar. You really don't need to worry about this, however whilst you're aligned with your bar, this is the perfect opportunity to level it in order to stop the kite travelling any further behind,



and give it a little pull in for tad more lift.

Front Roll Part 1 Pic C

Once you're off the water and standing tall, assuming that you haven't buried the nose, you're set to continue into the crux of the rotation. The beauty here is that because every part of your body tries to revert to a normal position as you take off, you'll now be in a position similar to which you'd experience in a bog standard, from heelside, front roll.

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As such if you get to this point it should be relatively plain sailing! First port of call is to keep your weight forwards towards the nose of the board. Looking at Christian you can see that he's dropped, actually thrown his head over his front shoulder, tipping his weight forwards in the harness, which will help keep the rotation rolling. Christian has also brought his knees up, which will help him rotate quicker and he's redirecting the kite forwards.

Front Roll Part 2 Pic D

Once you've got your weight forwards, the second part of the front roll is to get yourself turning. Nothing too fancy here, just some good old fashioned use of the head and shoulders. Christian has turned his head back, looking over his back shoulder, whilst lifting his back arm, in an effort to turn further around



the rotation. It's worth noting from Christian's kite face in the last few photos how much effort is involved. This is all down to the fact that you can't kick yourself into the rotation with the same force as you can from heelside.

Front Roll Part 3 Pic E

Once you've got your head and shoulders turning, the final part of the front roll is all about the legs, or more specifically your knees. If all has gone well and you're leading with your head and shoulders, you'll be able to come around enough to see the water. Once you do, you need to pull your knees around to swing the board out in front of you, whilst keeping tension in the lines and the kite above your head so that you can anticipate when it's time to land. Looking at the photo, Christian has spotted his potential landing



zone, he's got the bar in for tension and control and he's bringing his knees and therefore board through to complete his rotation.

Touch Down Pic F

This is really the sum of all the previous parts. Landing, as ever, is all about diving the kite to pull you out of your rotation and downwind, whilst landing over the board, slightly tail first pointing down towards the kite. Job done!

TOP TIPS

Yet again there is no denying that flat water will make this a lot easier, you'll be able to carry more speed and edge more efficiently. Seat harnesses, especially those with a low hook position won't make it any easier to contort either, but on the flip side you will be able to get the bar nearer.



If you struggle with the position at first, aim to pop into blind and then get into the move asap.

And finally work on your blind position. It's the building block upon which all the others are stacked. Think of the position as coming from your shoulders, not from reaching and stretching for the bar. By rolling and twisting your chest around towards the bar you can reach it.

As pointed out earlier, this move requires a lot of physical effort in the rotation stage, as you'll be pulling yourself around. Really tense your body once you're up and try to get everything moving in unison

around the rotation. You probably won't look pretty, but the end result will be sweet.

Now have a look at the videos and sequence, paying close attention to the take-off and initiation of the rotation.

COMMON PROBLEMS

If your board is skipping as you send the kite. This will happen whenever your sweet spot is too far. To get both hands on the bar you're having to pull it in towards you and as such you're stalling the kite. As a result, the kite doesn't go up to 12 as you send it,

but it chops a bit off the top of the window and tries to pull you downwind. Trim!

If you're digging the nose in on take-off. This is generally one of two things and more often than not a combination of both of them. If you're not sending the kite enough it won't pull you up and away from the nose, so you'll push it down too easily. If you're too keen to take off and kick too early the kite won't have travelled far enough, and you'll have the same result. However, do ponder why, is it your trim, are you lacking edge, how is your body position?

If you're getting the take-off but rather than rotating, you end up just performing a normal jump. This is often a result of always stuffing the nose in. So rather than kicking yourself forwards on take-off, you hang back to make sure you don't catch the nose.

Get yourself forwards again but to counteract the dropping nose, give the kite a bit more send to pull you back.

KEYSTONES

1. Trim and speed
2. Roll Shoulders
3. Push hips back as send kite with head down
4. Let kite move past 12 o'clock and kick upright
5. Head down onto shoulder, before turning and then bringing knees through



HINTERBURGER MOBE >

Finishing up this issue we have an absolute cracker of a freestyle move, the Hinterburger Mobe, also known more descriptively as the Late Mobe. This rather fun and exceptionally stylish mobe is not to be confused with a straight Back Mobe. In this version, what makes it both unique and achievable is that it comprises two moves, which are beautifully married to create one rather slick and flowing banger. First off there is a heavily popped and extended back roll, which when completed is swiftly followed by a frontside 3, which in many a man or woman's English is a shifty 3. Realistically even if you've never tried a back mobe, as long as you can claim a shifty 3, this is yours for the taking.

We won't break with tradition so let's start by having a look at all the bits that you'll need to crush this here Hinterburger...

Approach and Take Off Pic A

It goes without saying that if you intend to do an extended rotation and then add on a swift 3, you'll need time and height. As such you'll need some oomph in the kite, a touch of speed and also a bit of pull. You'll need to trim for unhooking, enough so that the kite doesn't stall, but you don't want the back lines and kite flapping, else you won't be going anywhere.

Approach should be as any powered pop move, plenty of speed on an edge before bearing off with your weight back over the tail, unhooking and then carving hard up against the kite. Kite position should be erring on the higher side, as nailing this with your



wingtips kissing the water won't be a walk in the park, so get it just below 11 or 1 o'clock and don't be afraid to lift it slightly as you carve.

Now it is worth pondering that if you want to break this down, you'll need to be in control. This translates to a slow beginning to your back rotation. If you initiate a fast spin with the extension you won't have a scooby doo where you are. If you have a look at Heliarde's head you can see that as he stomps off, his head is still looking downwind. This will give him more of a raley take off and less of an uncontrollable spin.

Slow & Controlled Pic B

This is the result of the aforementioned take off. You could be mistaken for thinking that Heliarde is going into a raley, as his board is flicking up nicely behind



him and his shoulders haven't rotated any further from take-off. This is almost a momentary pause, much like you'd aim for pre rotation in an S-bend. The good thing is you can use this moment to make sure that the kite is still and isn't moving any further towards 12, if you tweaked it up a wee bit.

Up, Up then Away Pic C

Once you're on the way up and you know that you've got the kite where you want it, it's then time to initiate a fast rotation. The way to do this is to lead with your hands and head. This will twist your upper body around quickly, and as is the want of the body and legs, they are guaranteed to follow. One other crux point here is that by leading with the head you will know where you are, which is critical as you can then get an idea of timing for the next bit.



The photo clearly shows how Heliarde is throwing his hands and head into the rotation and as such he can peer over his shoulder and gauge where he is.

An Old Friend Pic D

Look familiar! As promised from Back to Shifty. This is purely the result of starting slow and controlled and then leading with the hands and head. By leading with the head, you can anticipate when you'll need to prep the pass. As Heliarde spots the water downwind of him, he knows it's time to go, so he pulls himself



up and over the bar, he brings his knees up, puffs his cheeks out, and he starts to pull the bar past his hips to set the throw part in action.

The Throw Pic E

This bit should already be in your armoury too. As Heliarde has pulled the bar in and past his hips, he has brought his board, knees and legs up and kicked his back leg through under the bar. He's released his front hand and twists the bar to allow his shoulders to rotate further. The throw is now fully in motion.



The Pass Pic F

With the bar twisted you should be able to roll under the bar, which in turn will wrap the bar behind you, placing it within easy reach. This is a result of kicking the back leg through, as it moves you and the board under the bar, so you're travelling with the kite and not getting left behind. You can see that as Heliarde wraps himself up in the bar, he's reaching up, hand to hand, looking for the bar and ultimately the pass.



Claim It Pic G

Once you feel the bar and release your back hand, remember that you still need to land the damn thing. It's easy to just let yourself drop out of the sky as soon as you feel your free hand grab the bar. However, after all this effort make sure you finish the job! Most importantly keep looking around with your head so that you can see where you're going and keep your chin up. Do this and the rest of the body will follow. If you don't your legs may get left behind and you'll

land in a heap. You can see that Heliarde is still in a dynamic position, legs are still up, he's compact and he's looking towards where he'll land.

TOP TIPS

Step by step will always help. There is no shame in breaking it down so that you can eventually think ahead. Make sure you're comfortable with the kite position and the almost stalled back roll. If you can execute a number of these perfectly, then you'll become more and more aware of where you are,

and the result will be far more successful once you add the 3.

Other than that, control on take-off will always be easier in flatter water. Be aware that the smaller the kite, the less "hang" you'll have and the quicker you'll need to be, whilst the bigger the kite the more it will pull and the harder the pass will be. Find your happy medium.

Now have a look at the sequence and videos to burn the Hinterburger into your psyche...



COMMON PROBLEMS

If you're having problems controlling the kite during take-off and the initial rotation, then don't allow your arms to stretch out too much whilst you're carving up into your pop. This will have the added bonus of making the pass easier too.

If you find that you are rotating too quickly and therefore don't have time to either anticipate or throw the pass, and that you come around all stretched out and extended away from the bar, you're turning your body into the rotation too much on take-off. Really concentrate on extending and popping up

into the move and only then turning your head into the rotation.

If you're being pulled over the board on landing it is a sign that the board and your lower body are being left behind during the pass stage of the move. It's really important to pull yourself up over the bar and make sure that you bring your back leg through and under the bar so that you stay with the kite. You are effectively trying to overtake the bar so that you'll land without being pulled.

KEYSTONES

1. Approach with speed and kite relatively high

2. Aggressive carve and hard pop up
3. Only then rotate, lead with head and hands
4. Pull yourself up and over the bar before passing
5. Make sure your back leg kicks through and under



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TRIED & TESTED

Despite the freezing conditions the Test Team have been out there braving the elements. We've got a bunch of new gear on test including boards and kites from Ozone, Duotone, Ocean Rodeo, Odo Kiteboarding, Slingshot, F-One and Core.

KITES

Core GTS5
Duotone Evo
Ocean Rodeo Prodigy 6
Odo Kiteboarding K1
Ozone Amp V1

TWIN TIPS

Core Choice 3
Duotone Jaime
F-One Trax HRD Lite Tech Girl

SURFBOARDS

Slingshot Angry Swallow



WORDS AND PHOTOS THE IKSURFMAG TEST TEAM
THIS PAGE... RUBEN LENTEN PUTTING THE OZONE AMP V1 THROUGH ITS PACES!
PHOTO ROU CHÂTER



"BIG AIR, LIKE THE LOOPING, IS EXPLOSIVE"



AT A GLANCE

The all-around freestyler from CORE is back for the 5th time as the GTS5. Favoured by their pro team for looping and boosting, we were excited to get our hands on this new version.

The GTS5 is a 3-strut kite, which has a Future C shape design and a new short bridle system with a double pulley on each side. As well back line tuning, there are 3 different back line attachment points for emphasis on different styles. It is well worth playing with these for different disciplines. The fast action inflate valve is incredibly effective, and the slim leading edge and struts ensured record quick set up for more kitesurf time.

As with all CORE products, there is a certain standard we have come to expect, and the GTS5 is no different. Made with CoreTex triple ripstop for an ultra-solid canopy, ExoTex Ultra Rigid Dacron for a high-pressure solid frame through the leading edge and struts, and Grintex abrasion patches for that extra protection in key areas.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND DUOTONE

MODEL EVO

SIZE 9M

YEAR 2019



“EFFORTLESS
BOOSTING AND
HUGE FREERIDE
POTENTIAL.”



AT A GLANCE

The Evo from Duotone has a long heritage as the go-to all-rounder. First appearing in 2008, the Evo has come a long way since then. Still holding its Delta design, the kite has been refined over the past decade to become a genuine all-rounder for beginners and experts alike.

The Evo features 3 Fusion struts, which allows for controlled distribution of forces between the leading edge and strut. This is achieved by the struts all being 100% connected to the leading edge with a flexible and robust Dyneema line which in turn promotes a cleaner line and higher canopy tension resulting in a more solid kite.

The Evo is able to be flown on either 4 or 5 lines, the choice of which is entirely down to the rider. 4 lines is a simpler mode, and 5 lines has a slightly more direct feel. The 5th line attachment when in 4 line mode is simply tucked into a neat little pocket on the leading edge of the kite.

The canopy of the kite is made with strong and exclusive Trinity TX ripstop from Teijin.

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WEBSITE, CLCK HERE



BRAND OCEAN RODEO

MODEL PRODIGY

SIZE 9.5M

YEAR 2019



"THE PRODIGY 6 IS A TESTAMENT OF WHAT AVERAGE RIDERS WANT AND NEED."



AT A GLANCE

Canadian kitesurfing players Ocean Rodeo bring their all-around favourite 'The Prodigy' back for round 6. A kite designed to be a genuine all-rounder, the Prodigy features an incredibly lightweight design for increased low-end use. Three struts and only essential reinforcements in critical areas keep the weight down low for better low-end performance and ease of use while travelling.

There is a simple bridle system on the Prodigy which is short with 2 pulleys for extra motion through the turn. New knots and larks heads have been added to the front and rear pigtails which encourages the kite to climb faster out of loops and stabilise the leading edge.

Ocean Rodeo have long been known for quality, and we are pleased to see the kites now made with high-grade Teijin D2 ripstop and Dimension Polyant's K-PE Dacron. These materials coupled with 3 stage buck stitching, load distribution panels and Armourtex Kevlar bumper pads make for a pretty solid piece of kit.

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



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BRAND ODO MODEL K1 SIZE 9M YEAR 2019

" GREAT EASE OF USE AND A FUN FLYING EXPERIENCE. "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

New to the kitesurf game, Odo kiteboarding have impressed us so far with their YO kite, so we were very excited to get the more all-around/ freestyle orientated kite, the K1 out on test this issue.

The K1 has been designed as an all-around kite for use in a wide range of styles and conditions. The kite has 3 struts, a simple bridle, and a good quality 1 pump system. There are multiple tuning options on the kite to trim it to your exact style and preference as well as the wind conditions of the day. There are added self-rescue handles too which is always a well thought out addition.

The kite is made using triple yarn ripstop, the C3 from Japanese manufacturer Techifiber Sakai. This is high strength, low stretch and lightweight which make it the perfect material to use for a kitesurfing kite. The bridle uses low friction titanium rings as opposed to pulleys. This creates a smoother feel without the risk of the pulleys snagging or jamming.

The trailing edge of the kite has been reinforced, as have key areas along the leading edge for added protection when landing or launching.

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BRAND OZONE MODEL AMP V1 SIZE 9M YEAR 2019



" BAGS OF
FREESTYLE
AND PARK
PERFORMANCE
AVAILABLE TO
ALL. "



AT A GLANCE

An entirely new kite from Ozone, the Amp has been designed for those dedicated freestyle and park riders who need a tool to help them progress. Featuring 5 struts, a mid to high aspect ratio, both 4 and 5 line options and a C kite shaped design, the Amp has all the attributes to keep you at the top of your game.

As with all Ozone kites, the Amp has been made with longevity in mind, and the construction backs this up. Using Teijin materials exclusively, the canopy is made with D2 ripstop and the leading edge and struts with Techno Force Dacron. Both of these together create a lightweight, well-built kite with a solid feel in the air. The struts are connected directly to the leading edge, and while Ozone doesn't add excessive protection patches and weight to their kites, there is plenty of stitching and reinforcement in the right places.

There are various tuning options on the kite, both on the back line adjustment for turning speed, and also the bridling for the feel and dedication of the kite. For those who are going to be looping,

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WEBSITE, CLCK HERE





" A FAST FLYING AND POWERFUL PLATFORM "



BRAND CORE **MODEL** CHOICE 3
SIZE 137 X 41.5CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

We have long been fans of the products that come out the CORE factory with precision and class. The Choice 3 is an update on their favoured all-around freestyle board which aims to be a do it all board for those slightly more experienced riders in both boots and straps with some fantastic new weight savings.

The board itself has a 3D wood core for stability and durability. This then has layers of woven Carbon, and

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" CONTINUES TO IMPRESS IN EVERY CONDITION AND STYLE WE COULD THROW AT IT. "



BRAND DUOTONE **MODEL** JAIME
SIZE 142 X 42CM **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

The Jaime has been a long-standing favourite around the world for all calibres of rider. An all-around freestyle outline, the Jaime has progressed with kitesurfing.

The board has been designed as an all-around freestyle crossover board which will suit both enthusiastic beginners looking for a board to last, and also a board for those experienced riders who like to mix it up with hooked and unhooked freestyle as well as big air and loops.

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" A FANTASTIC BOARD DESIGNED WITH BAGS OF PERFORMANCE AND LOOKS TO MATCH. "



BRAND F-ONE **SIZE** 135 X 39CM
MODEL TRAX HRD LITE TECH GIRL **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

F-ONE have long had an impressive and versatile board range, and the 2019 offering is the best yet with an impressive 28 boards on offer. Their women's range holds 3 boards for different levels of twin tip rider, and we were excited to get the first of these, the Trax HRD Lite Tech Girl, on test.

This board has been designed for the all-round kitesurfer who needs something, which will keep up

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" IT LOOKS GREAT, RIDES BRILLIANTLY AND HAS A VERSATILITY TO SUIT ANY KITESURFER. "



BRAND SLINGSHOT **MODEL** ANGRY SWALLOW
SIZE 5'6" **YEAR** 2019

AT A GLANCE

The Slingshot Angry Swallow is back again for 2019 with fresh graphics and a new tail design for even more freestyle performance. Designed for real-world mushy waves and strapless freestyle action, there will be many happy people see the continuation of this classic board.

Sticking with the wooden design, Slingshot have incorporated large carbon stringers on both the top

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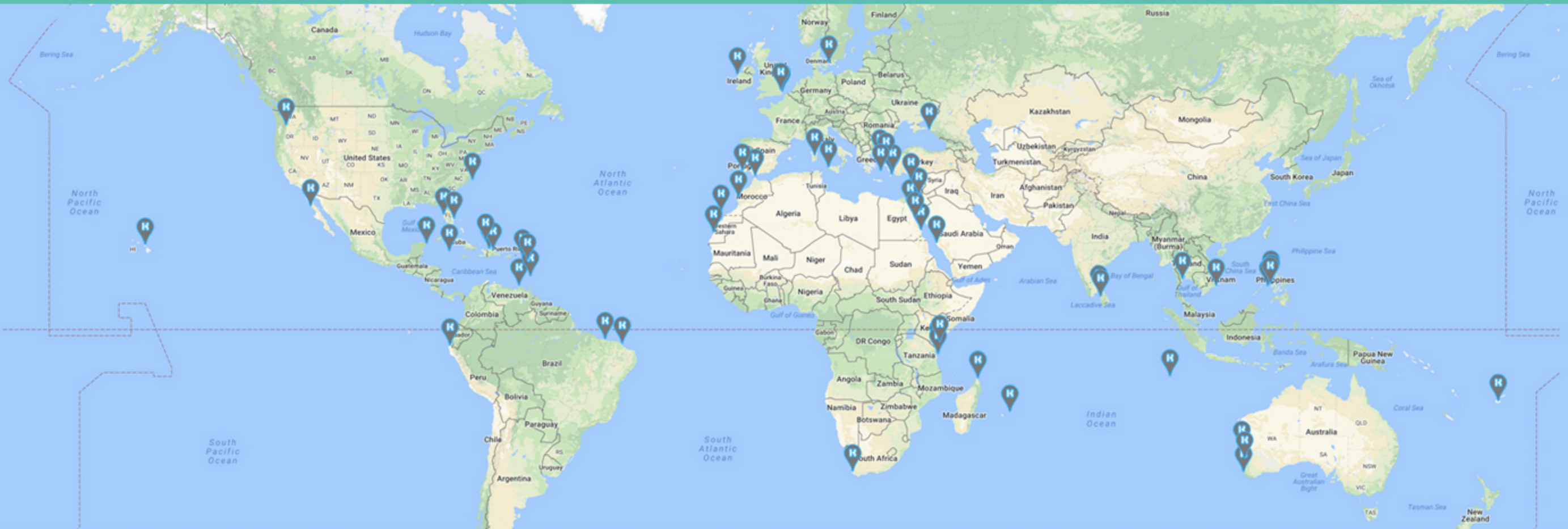
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Guy Bridge smashed the record at the Red Bull Lighthouse to Leighton race in Perth at the end of last year. Despite a crash, which, in his words "kinda knocked me out a bit", he battled on and crossed the line with a time of 18 minutes and 49 seconds on the clock!

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET... RED BULL LIGHTHOUSE TO LEIGHTON 2018

“ MORE EVENTS MEANS OUR GREAT SPORT GETS SHOWCASED ON MORE BEACHES, AND THAT’S GREAT FOR EVERYONE. ”

The calendar of kiteboarding events just seems to get busier every year. Whichever way you look at it, that’s a good thing, more events means our great sport gets showcased on more beaches, and that’s great for everyone. It seems we are entering the post Virgin/PKRA handover debacle now with the GKA taking on the freestyle tour for 2019 in addition to their already very successful strapless tour.

On the race scene, the Hydro Foil Pro Tour has been successful alongside the IKA events sanctioned by World Sailing. Kiting is looking pretty healthy at the moment in terms of the competitive scene. If there is one event I’d sell the house for though, without a doubt, it is the Red Bull Lighthouse To Leighton in Perth, Western Australia.

Of all the events I’ve been involved with over the years, this is the one I keep coming back to, for many reasons. Perhaps the real draw is that unlike professional events where you need to be a pro to be involved, the L2L is for everyone, world class racers rub shoulders with weekend warriors in a mass start blast across the water fighting for bragging rights and some of the fanciest trophies in the business.

There aren’t many events where you can have a crack at the best riders on the planet. The entry requirements are pretty simple, if you can kite, you are good to go. You do need to be confident in open water of course, after all, it’s quite a stretch to get from Rottnest to Leighton beach, but that’s about it.





PHOTO ROU CHATER

The tricky thing about the entry is that it is limited to 140 riders each year and the race is hugely oversubscribed. Just getting a place is probably the hardest part about entering. Essentially you need a little bit of luck and some persistence. If you don't get in on your first attempt, keep trying year after year until you get an entry into this race. It's an experience you'll never forget.

The beauty of the L2L isn't just the race itself it's everything leading up to it and what happens on the day too. Lots of riders build special boards, spend months, weeks or perhaps just days practising, friends develop rivalries and even if you aren't gunning for the podium you are sizing up the competition around you to see who you can beat.

"JUST GETTING A PLACE IS PROBABLY THE HARDEST PART ABOUT ENTERING."

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“ ROTTNEST IS TRULY STUNNING; I’D HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT TO ANYONE TRAVELLING TO WA, EVEN IF YOU AREN’T RACING ”

Come race day, it’s not just about the race either, Rottnest is one of Western Australia’s premier tourist destinations, and you get to travel over there with plenty of time to explore before the briefing for the race itself. Tim and the team have engineered this to give the racers the best chance to enjoy the island as much as possible.

Rottnest is truly stunning; I’d highly recommend it to anyone travelling to WA, even if you aren’t racing if you ever get a

chance to make the trip over. 7,000 years ago you could walk from the mainland to Rottnest, rising sea levels then turned it into an island. Known as the “Island With a Thousand Stories” it’s an incredible place to visit, and there is a 100% chance you’ll get to meet a quokka.

These small marsupials are indigenous to the island, and the colony of some 10,000 is unique to Rottnest, you won’t find the quokka anywhere else on the planet. If you imagine a cute looking rat crossed with a kangaroo, you get the picture. Just don’t be tempted to feed them or touch them, while they love to eat human food it actually

makes them sick. If you want to be guaranteed a sighting, hang out at the bakery in the mornings or the pub at lunchtime and keep an eye to the ground.

On top of a great day out, all the competitors get a stunning rash vest, t-shirt and the event even provides flares too. Just be sure to hand those back at the end of the day as they use the flares as a way of counting the racers off the water. Every year they are always hunting for that one person who forgot to hand back the flares!

The race itself runs like clockwork, this is an incredible achievement in itself, in 9 years the L2L has run on the weekend planned, usually the first weekend in December. There can’t be many races on the planet that have that kind of guaranteed record.



PHOTO PETA NORTH

“ THIS YEAR THE FORECAST WAS ONE OF THE BEST WE HAD EVER SEEN FOR THE RACE, THERE WAS EVEN TALK OF IT PERHAPS BEING TOO WINDY! ”

Aside from the conditions, the success of the race is a testament to the race crew and volunteers, as well as the riders who make it all work smoothly. Up to 70 volunteers help out on all aspects, from launching and landing kites to carrying kit off the beach and running the start, finish and rescue boats.

The course itself is simple enough, a straight blast from Rottnest Island to Leighton Beach, a distance of 20km. Depending on the wind direction it's either a straight crosswind blast or has a slight downwind bias. The Fremantle Doctor blows all summer long in Perth, and this is the wind that has seen the event be so successful. Every year it has blown, and it usually reaches a solid 20-25 mph.

There have been two years when it's been tricky, oddly enough both the years I've raced. The first time was in 2015 the wind switched off a couple of miles from the beach, it filled in eventually but meant the leaders were becalmed with foil kites filling with water. In 2017 the wind was super light, and the race started late to make the most of what breeze there was.

This year the forecast was one of the best we had ever seen for the race, there was even talk of it perhaps being too windy! With such a great forecast the course record was on the cards too. Over the years it's been held by esteemed riders such as Alex Caizergues, Nico Parlier and current champion Olly Bridge. All the talk this year was around Guy Bridge, as arguably the most decorated rider in the fleet surely with a decent breeze he'd be able to take the record.



PHOTO PETA NORTH

However, this is the Lighthouse to Leighton and nothing is guaranteed. While the race itself seems relatively straightforward, it is much more nuanced than that. The first hurdle is the mass start line. Actually, I've jumped ahead a bit there, the first hurdle is getting off the beach cleanly. With a narrow strip of sand barely 20 foot wide in places the launch area is tight, and the wind blows over a cliff and some dunes so it's gusty and can be tricky. If the wind is on then, it makes it a lot easier, and this year everyone made it off the beach to the start area with ease.

The start line is a mission in itself. 140 racers are packed into a small area just off the beach, the start line is long, but it isn't huge, and it's certainly a squeeze as the numbers start to run down.

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“THE TRICK IS TO FIND SOME SPACE AND KEEP YOUR KITE FROM TANGLING WITH ANYONE ELSE. WHICH IS A LOT EASIER SAID THAN DONE.”

Last year, talented rider Tom Bridge ended up in a tangle and blew his race, it was so bad he came back on a ferry! The trick is to find some space and keep your kite from tangling with anyone else. Which is a lot easier said than done.

Once the gun goes the riders all streak across the line towards Perth, arguably the toughest part of the race is now over, and it's just a blast to the finish now. However, fitness plays a key role here. For the fast riders, it takes about 20 minutes, for the average weekend warrior perhaps 40 minutes, for the less experienced up to an hour! That's a long time to be blasting along in one direction. To say it puts some pressure on the legs would be an understatement!

If your legs hold out you'll be looking to minimise the crashes, each one takes its toll and adds time. While riding in a straight line sounds easy, there can be some swell running alongside serious chop. The windier it is, the tougher the water state becomes. The final obstacle is the weed, fine if you are in the twin tip class, but on a foil or race board, this can be a menace.

A race that sounds easy then, with minimal entry requirements, which is actually a lot harder than it seems. Anyone who has raced will testify to that. This year I was shooting pictures from the lead boat. Thanks to the broken ankle, racing was well and truly out for me.



PHOTO PETA NORTH

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GUY BRIDGE WAS SO FAR AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE FLEET IT WAS CRAZY!
PHOTO ROU CHATER





“ THE KITE WENT HIGH AND THERE WAS A HUGE SPLASH, BUT IN A SPLIT SECOND HE WAS BACK UP AND RIDING AT FULL SPEED AGAIN. ”

I was on the lead boat again, which isn't a bad place to be. The Rottnest Eco Express is a super fast large rib that usually takes adventure and thrill rides around Rottnest. It's a custom built 12.5 Naiad RIB that can seat up to 42 passengers and has a top speed of 49 knots with three 300hp supercharged engines delivering 900hp!

I was lucky enough to watch Nico Parlier smash the course record from this vantage point a few years ago, it was rough and wild,

but it was an incredible sight. This year it was Guy Bridge who would blow my mind. With a clean start, Guy pulled a fairly early lead from Mani Bisschops and Alty Frisby who were having a close tussle for second. You can see from the image at the midway point just how far ahead Guy had managed to get. He was absolutely flying.

The Rottnest Eco Express has cruising speed of between 28 to 30 knots, we were pushing 37 most of the way across just trying to stay in front! In choppy conditions, Guy was absolutely flying. He had a gnarly looking crash when he hit some weed, I watched as the kite went high and there was a huge

splash, but in a split second he was back up and riding at full speed again. Guy later admitted to me that he had borderline knocked himself out in the crash and he felt like he didn't know where he was.

From the boat, the crash was all over in a nanosecond, so kudos to Guy for pulling himself together again so quickly. After that one wipeout, it was a blast to the line for bragging rights over his brother Olly who won the event last year but missed out on taking the record from Nico Parlier which was set in 2016 at 19 minutes and 3 seconds. As Guy hit the finish line, we checked the watch to see he'd taken the record by some margin with a time of 18 minutes and 49 seconds, the first person ever to make the crossing in under 19 minutes!



“ AS THEY ALL FOLLOWED ACROSS THE LINE AND HIT THE BEACH THE SMILES WERE A MILE WIDE. ”

While Guys achievement will always be the headline, it's all the racers who make this event as unique as it is. As they all followed across the line and hit the beach the smiles were a mile wide. Everyone had had an incredible run, and the inter rider battles were the talk of the bar that evening. Let's just say the after party in the Fremantle Sailing Club was a celebratory affair.

After such an incredible day it seemed a shame not to carry on the proceedings, I even got to teach the old socks over your shoes routine to Ryan Crawford AKA the Sail Doctor. Except this time it was stripy black and blue socks over flip-flops that sneaked us past the bouncers at one of Fremantle's premier night spots, but that's a whole other story...

Fun and games, as they say, next year I'm hoping to be back having a crack at racing once again, my ankle should have healed, and I'll be keen to see if I can have a windy crossing. Hopefully, I'll see you there!

A huge thanks goes to Tim Turner and the entire Red Bull Lighthouse to Leighton crew who did such an incredible job of ensuring everyone had an incredible time!



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10 QUESTIONS

WORDS JEN TYLER

LUKE MCGILLEWIE

Luke McGillemie slays waves like no other! Born and bred in Cape Town, Luke makes the most of the unruly adventurous environment around him. He's in his element when he's being sandblasted on the beach or hammered by waves testing equipment. We got the chance to catch up with Luke, and we're stoked to have him featured this issue!



“ YOU CAN'T BEAT THE SCENERY AND THE ACCESS TO ADVENTURE SPORTS WE HAVE HERE IN CAPE TOWN. ”



PHOTO BIANCA ASHER

Luke, you are known for slaying waves in niking winds in Cape Town, tell us how it all began? When and where did you start kiteboarding?

I live for slaying waves! I started back in 2005 in Cape Town, which was probably one of the windiest seasons; you couldn't get away from it! I was at the beach every day, and all I wanted to do was kite. That season, Grant Ross gave me kiteboarding lessons, and in return, I set up boards, untangled lines, and fixed bladders. My first lesson sealed the deal. Every day after school, I would do repairs for Grant and have a kiteboarding lesson with him, until he was happy enough for me to start using the school's equipment.

How was your childhood in South Africa? What were your interests besides kiteboarding?

It was fantastic! You can't beat the scenery and the access to adventure sports we have here in Cape Town. I used to surf before I started kiteboarding, so it seemed like the natural progression. I also enjoyed motocross, surfing, foil surfing, and road trips. There's way too much to see and do around here!

You must take quite a beating on the waves, have you had any severe injuries in the past? Can you share one of your craziest stories with us?

It's quite refreshing and humbling to get a good hold down every once in a while. It puts things into perspective and makes you appreciate Mother Nature, and the risks you take to get that perfect wave.



I had a gnarly hold down in Cape Point a while back on an offshore day. I launched my kite and jumped off the rocks into the swell. I didn't realise until I was already out there that I was severely underpowered. I went for a hit on a sizey 6 ft. wave and had no power to pull me out of turn, so I ended up in the impact zone getting smashed against the rocks. Not my proudest moment!

I've also had a few bruised ribs from going over the falls and landing on the rail of my board, and a pretty nice slap to the face, which ended up on @kookslams! At the end of the day, it's all part of the game!

PHOTO GOPRO

" I ENDED UP IN THE IMPACT ZONE GETTING SMASHED AGAINST THE ROCKS."

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" IT'S GOT THE IDEAL COMBINATION OF FAST TURNING, LIGHT BAR PRESSURE, TONS OF DEPOWER AND DRIFT. "



PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS

Who inspires you and what have you learned from them?

Mitu Monteiro is the one guy who has always encouraged me and helped me along the way. In 2012, when I was competing on the KSP tour, Mitu always had advice for me to help push my riding to the point where I had a few wins against him! I can never thank him enough. It may have been a small thing for him, but it was a massive help to me.

How long have you been riding for Liquid Force and what is your go-to set up? What are the main changes in the 2019 line up?

I've been on the Liquid Force team for five years. It's been a fantastic time, and I'm looking forward to future seasons with them. My go-to setup is the Wow V4 with the Mission Control V2 bar. I'm riding Appletree carbon boards in my custom shape made in collaboration with Dutchie, a local shaper in Cape

Town. I'm doing some big kite loops with some heavy landings on the strapless board, and the Appletree is the only one I can't seem to break!

The Wow V4 is another level of excellence for wave kites. We've put a lot of time into developing a dream kite, and there are some significant changes from V3 to V4. It's got the ideal combination of fast turning, light bar pressure, tons of depower and drift. Any kiteboarder that's into wave riding must demo this kite!



You're involved in the R&D at Liquid Force, what direction would you be interested in taking in the future?

I'm stoked on R&D in the kiteboarding industry, especially on the wave side. I've been involved in testing kites at Liquid Force since the Wow V1 and have continued to provide more and more input through each version. It's been a lot of fun working with our designer Julian to perfect the wave kite. I want to stay involved in the testing and development of kites throughout my career. I can't see myself in a 9-5 job unless I'm getting sandblasted on the beach or hammered by waves testing equipment!

PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS

" I WANT TO STAY INVOLVED IN THE TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF KITES THROUGHOUT MY CAREER."



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“ THERE’S A LOT OF SPOTS THAT ARE UNDISCOVERED THAT I’M STILL STUMBLING UPON; NOTHING QUITE COMPARES! ”



PHOTO CRYSTAL VENESS

Winds on, who is the first person you call for a session?

That’s a tough one! In Cape Town, everybody wants a session. I always call my friend Alessandro for secret wave chasing missions. For the crew sessions, there’s always an epic downwinder to be had at Kite Beach, and a million chat groups to hit up!

South Africa is known for its insane kiteboarding conditions, so we’re guessing it’s pretty hard to find a place that quite compares. Where is the next best kiteboarding spot you’ve visited?

You are 200% right! There’s nothing quite like home. We have everything from flatwater to insane waves. There’s a lot of spots that are undiscovered that I’m still stumbling upon; nothing quite compares! I have to say though, Mauritius would be my first choice for a wave trip, and that’s not too far from home.

If you could give yourself advice ten years ago, what would it be?

Don’t drink beer! It makes you fat or fatter, thanks to Rich Sabo.

Do you have any exciting trips or plans for 2019 that you can share with us?

The 2019 season is starting with a Liquid Force team trip (the destination isn’t confirmed yet) followed by a trip to Canada with my girlfriend to go snowboarding. From there, we’ll take a road trip through kite spots in North America and see where we end up!



Lightroom

More shots with no particular place to go
this issue, feast your eyes!

LIGHTROOM

MARCELINO SANTOS THROWING DOWN IN BRAZIL
PHOTO RENATO BALBINO



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LIGHTROOM

THE POWDER HAS BEEN DUMPING IN THE ALPS SNOW KITE SEASON IS STILL
VERY MUCH IN SWING AND JOHANN CIVEL IS MAKING THE MOST OF IT
PHOTO WARECK ARNAUD/RIDEUP.TV

Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

RUBEN LENTEN GETS ALL SENDY AT SUNSET IN BRAZIL
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO



Lightroom



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LIGHTROOM

MARK SHINN ABOUT TO LAUNCH INTO SOMETHING TECHY IN EGYPT,
HE'S STILL JUST AS STOKED AS HE WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO
PHOTO SHINN WORLD

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LIGHTROOM

KEVIN LANGEREE GOING HUGE AT THE RED BULL KING OF THE AIR ON HIS NAISH PIVOT
PHOTO ROU CHATER



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

POSITO MARTINEZ WAS KNOCKED OUT OF THE RED BULL KING OF THE AIR, BUT HE WAS ONE HELL OF A CROWD PLEASER!
PHOTO ROU CHATER



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

ANNELOUS LAMEST ENJOYING THE WARMTH IN KENYA
PHOTO JAMES BOULDING



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

RAFAEL COSTA SOUZA TAKING ON A NICE LOOKING RIGHT-HANDER IN BRAZIL
PHOTO RENATO BALBINO



Lightroom

LIGHTROOM

LEE HARVEY CARVES A SOLID LINE ON A CHUNKY ONE AT GWITHIAN IN CORNWALL, UK
PHOTO JOHN CARTER

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[FEMALE FOCUS]

PIPPA VAN IERSEL

WORDS JEN TYLER PHOTO SVETLANA ROMANTSOVA

Born in Schellinkhout, Netherlands, Pippa grew up with the sea at her doorstep, literally. She's been kiting since she was fourteen, and she has already been on the podium several times, including claiming 3rd place in the recent World Kiteboarding Championships.



There's no stopping this talented musician/sports addict/kiteboarder! We got the chance to catch up with Pippa, while she was at the Kiteboarding World Championships in Dakhla earlier this month, and we are super excited to have her as our "Female Focus" for this issue!

Pippa, it's great to meet you! Tell us about yourself, describe where you grew up, your siblings, your pets and what your hobbies were?

My name is Pippa, I was born in 1999, and I grew up in a small village called Schellinkhout in the Netherlands. When I was younger, I had four chickens and two rabbits, but now I don't have time to have pets!

Before I started kiteboarding, I wanted to be a professional football player. I played for many years and got chosen for the Dutch youth nationals two times. Besides playing football, I enjoyed skateboarding, wakeboarding and snowboarding in the winter.

My father always said, "you have to do sports, play a musical instrument and go to school", and so I played the saxophone, the accordion and the piano, I did many sports, but I have to admit, school was not my strong point!

I didn't finish high school, but I studied for a year and a half and later on joined the Dutch Film Academy. Filming became my passion, and I started creating promotional videos for my sponsors in kiting.



"FILMING BECAME MY PASSION, AND I STARTED CREATING PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS FOR MY SPONSORS IN KITING."

PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE



Who introduced you to kiteboarding? Did you master the sports from the very start or did it take a little encouragement to keep you interested?

Growing up, I could see the water from my bedroom window. So whenever it was windy, I saw kites up in the air. My father is the most enthusiastic kiteboarder I know; he's been kiting for over 18 years. When I was fourteen years old, he took my sister and me out for our first session, and I fell in love with the sport from the first moment.

You started kiteboarding in your early teens, how did that affect your social life? Were you distracted at school, always checking the forecast or were you able to have a healthy work/ play balance?

Yes, it did affect my social life, but in a good way! I made so many close friends, and now I'm travelling the world with some of them, but of course, there are friends back home that I can't often see, as I'm away most of the time.

PHOTO
SAMUEL CARDENAS

" I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SPORT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT "

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Sensi Graves looks at the rise of the Kite Park League and tracks the success story of one of the best kitesurfing movements on the planet right now!

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“ THE SPEED SPOT IS FANTASTIC! IT IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE FLAT-WATER SPOT I’VE EVER VISITED. ”



In high school, I found it challenging to focus when I knew there was wind. My father always sent me text messages like “skip school and go kiting!” So, of course, I listened to him, and I used to sneak out of the classroom! Later on, when I started competing, the school allowed me to leave when it was windy; in exchange, I had to get good grades and do my homework; which sounded fair!

You seem to lead a very active lifestyle kiteboarding, wakeboarding, teaching, filming and competing. If you had to take a day off from all that, how would you spend a day at home?

That’s very true! I would probably invite all my friends over and play card games. I enjoy playing games, especially around Christmas time!

Congratulations on coming 3rd in the GKA Air Games that must have felt incredible! What did you like most about the Air Games format? What changes would you want to see in future events?

Thank you! It did, and still does feel incredible! What I like the most about the GKA format is, that I can do freestyle and big air, as I love both disciplines. It’s exciting that there’s an event for girls now to be able to show what we can do in big air; there has never

to show what we can do in big air; there has never been a big air discipline for girls previously! I would love to attend a competition in Cape Town, as it’s known as THE big air spot.

You’re in Dakhla right now getting ready for the World Kiteboarding Championships. How do you like the spot over there? What is your mindset for the event?

Yes; I’m in Dakhla now right now competing in the Kiteboarding World Championships. The speed spot is fantastic! It is the most incredible flat-water spot I’ve ever visited. We’ve been here ten days already,

and it has been windy every single day. I stayed at Dakhla Evasion; it's reasonably priced, and they offer a variety of other activities besides kiteboarding like surfing, horse riding and playing pool.

I went into this competition with the mindset to learn. This is my first competition in the Elite, so I didn't have my hopes set too high! However, I put a lot of pressure on myself; I knew if I landed my tricks, I would progress. I can tell you, putting pressure on yourself doesn't work at all! Now, I want to learn from the experience and become comfortable competing, pushing myself to the max and most importantly, to enjoy myself!

All the girls competing seem to be very supportive, genuine and encouraging towards each other, which is great to see! Once you are in competition mode, does the vibe stay the same or is there a slight shift in the mood?

Of course, there's a different vibe when that green flag is up! We all want to win the heats, and we all are competitive. I wouldn't say it's a negative vibe at all; it just shifts to pure concentration. Everybody is fair to each other, and if you lose a heat, you can only blame yourself for that.

In your opinion, who are the most talented up-and-coming riders, and who are your favourite riders, that inspire you on and off the water?

Valentin Rodriguez, Mikaili Sol and Claudia Leon are some of the most talented up-and-coming riders I've seen. I trained with Valentin in Cabarete, and his progression is unbelievable.

"EVERYBODY IS FAIR TO EACH OTHER,
AND IF YOU LOSE A HEAT, YOU
CAN ONLY BLAME YOURSELF
FOR THAT."



PHOTO SAMUEL CARDENAS



He just turned sixteen, and he's already throwing Heart Attack 7's during competitions. There's a huge difference between landing your tricks in training versus in a competition.

During the competition, there's a lot of pressure, and the conditions are never perfect. He already managed to get 4th in the 1st stop of the WKC tour; this is why I chose him as the most talented young shredder.

I have to mention Mikaili Sol! I trained with her in Taiba, and she's pushing the level in women's kiteboarding to a whole new level, which is inspiring to see. I'm sure we will see her non-stop on the podium during the tour for a long time, as she's already claimed her first Freestyle World Title, and she's only fourteen!

PHOTO
YDWER VAN DER HEIDE

" I'M SURE WE
WILL SEE HER
NON-STOP ON
THE PODIUM
DURING THE
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" I WAS IN AWE, AND I WANTED TO KITE JUST LIKE HIM! I ALWAYS HAD SO MUCH FUN KITING WITH MY FAMILY. "



Claudia Leon is a very talented rider as well; she's super consistent with her tricks, in most conditions. The first time I saw her kiting in the Youth World Cup, I was impressed by her solid tricks and style. Her riding always looks super clean, and she's incredibly confident and comfortable when she performs her tricks.

I don't have one favourite rider, so I will have to mention a few! In my opinion, Liam Whaley has the best style. His tricks are always well executed, clean, powerful, and he adds some incredibly stylish grabs. He proved that during the King Of The Air, and of course during the freestyle tour. Carlos Mario is super technical and has by far the most

outstanding freestyle tricks in his pocket, and he has a great personality.

From the girls, my big inspiration was always Gisela Pulido. She pushed women in freestyle to the next level! I got to know her well in Tarifa, and we managed to have a few sessions together; I learned a lot from her. Her technique is not only fantastic, but her lifestyle and training are what keep her in such great shape.

I have to give credits to my all-time inspiration though, my father. The first time I saw him doing jumps, rotations and going so fast on a kite, I was in awe, and I wanted to kite just like him! I always had so much fun kiting with my family.

We've heard you also work as a videographer, and that is also how you finance all your training, competitions and trips; that's incredible! Can you tell us more about that?

Yes, that's true! I studied at the film academy in Holland. Once I finished that, I got in contact with a few companies and started making videos for them, and that's how it all began. It's getting a little more difficult now as I travel very often, but I still edit while I'm abroad for a few companies, although I can't do all the camera work anymore, unfortunately. It's my all-time dream to be able to combine work and kiteboarding.

To finance all the costs, I also organise coaching trips with Bas van Duijvenbode; we are close friends. We managed to rent a big house and cars so we could offer an all-inclusive trip for our guests, which worked out great; we had a full house. I enjoy coaching other people because I learn a lot from it.

We've heard about your coaching and clinics, are those mainly based in the Netherlands or do you travel around the world? Are these clinics targeted towards beginners or in a specific discipline? What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I haven't tried coaching in Holland yet, but when I travel around the world for training, it's the perfect combination to coach as well. We recently visited Greece for a month, and during our trip, we ended up coaching for about two and a half weeks. We mainly coached advanced beginners (people who want to learn their first tricks) and this worked out better for us, as those people already knew the basics, and had their equipment.

I enjoy coaching because it's rewarding to teach motivated kites, and I feel proud when they landed a new trick that they may have struggled a lot with at the beginning; you somehow share their happiness!

We've got to ask you, what is your favourite trick and what trick do you aspire to land this year?

My most consistent trick is a Blind Judge 3, and my favourite trick is a KGB. I would love to land a Blind Judge 5 or Double Heart Attack!



PHOTO YDWER VAN DER HEIDE

“ YOU NEED TO GO FOR IT, AS HARD AS YOU CAN, AND I WOULD ENJOY THE CHALLENGE! ”



If you had to go up against a male rider, who would it be, what discipline and why?

That's a great question! I don't think anybody wants to go up against Carlos Mario in a heat, purely because he lands everything, regardless of the conditions! However, as he motivates me when I see him riding, I would choose Carlos in a Freestyle heat. If you are against a flawless, consistent rider, like Carlos Mario, there is no space for error. You need to go for it, as hard as you can, and I would enjoy the challenge!

For big air, I would choose Jesse Richman, because he's insane and I love his style; he's fearless, and

that inspires me. I prefer to see huge and risky tricks, then safe ones and that's precisely what he does.

Can you describe one of the best sessions you've ever had? Where you were, whom you were with and what made it so memorable?

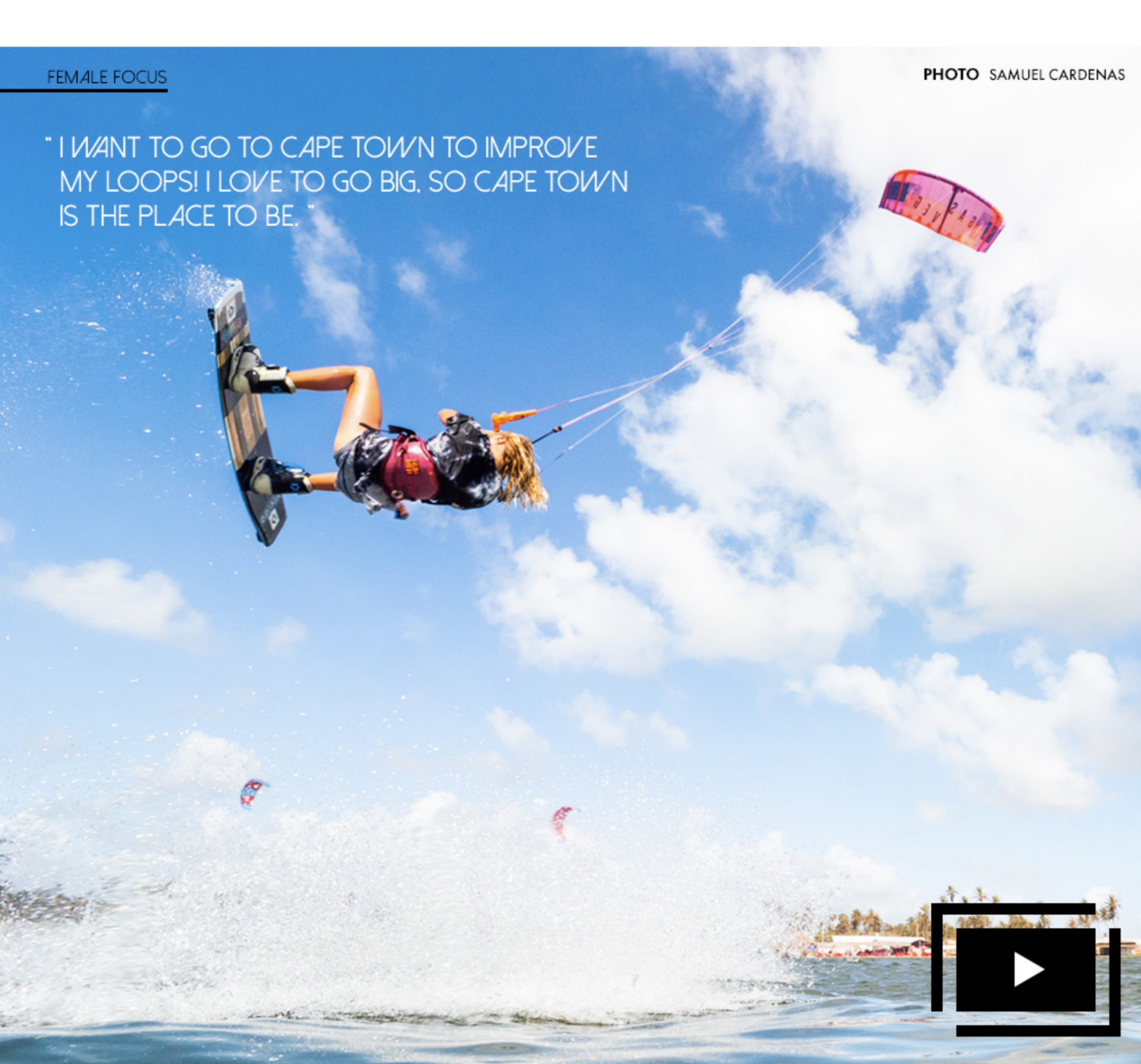
There is one session that comes to mind last year in Brazil, in a perfect flat lagoon with Stijn Mul. We were kiting every day, and he was coaching me. I remember I was trying to pass the bar in the air, but it was so painful and then all of a sudden, the day arrived where it all came together. I learned from all my blind landings to pass the bar in the air.

It was then and there that I started to progress rapidly, and I immediately learned how to land a KGB and heart attack; that felt insane!

You've recently joined Duotone? How do you like your new set-up? What are the main differences in the equipment you've noticed most?

I'm so grateful to join this fantastic team, and the kites are excellent! In the beginning, it took me a while to get used to the new set up, but now I understand the kites well, and I figured out the set up that works best for my riding style.

" I WANT TO GO TO CAPE TOWN TO IMPROVE MY LOOPS! I LOVE TO GO BIG, SO CAPE TOWN IS THE PLACE TO BE. "



When comparing the Duotone Vegas to my old kites, the main difference I've noticed is the slack and the bar pressure. The Vegas offers perfect slack, so it makes it easier to pass the bar during your trick. I'm used to having a lot of bar pressure before; I like bar pressure a lot, but it's even worse for your arms, and I got a tennis elbow a couple of times. You can change your setting on the Vegas to have a lot of bar pressure, medium or low and I have it on medium now to avoid tennis elbow.

Where do you plan to spend the winter?

The Netherlands can be good in winter, but it's freezing! Last year, I spent the winter at home but didn't manage to kiteboard very much. This winter, I want to go to Cape Town to improve my loops! I love to go big, so Cape Town is the place to be.

With 2018 coming to an end, what are your plans for 2019? Are there any projects you'd like to share with us?

My plans are pretty open for 2019 beside the competitions. I will attend the GKA Tour for sure. There are going to be many events, so I will travel a lot and probably train at the competition destinations.

Thank you, Pippa, it's been great talking to you, and we wish you the best of luck during the GKA!

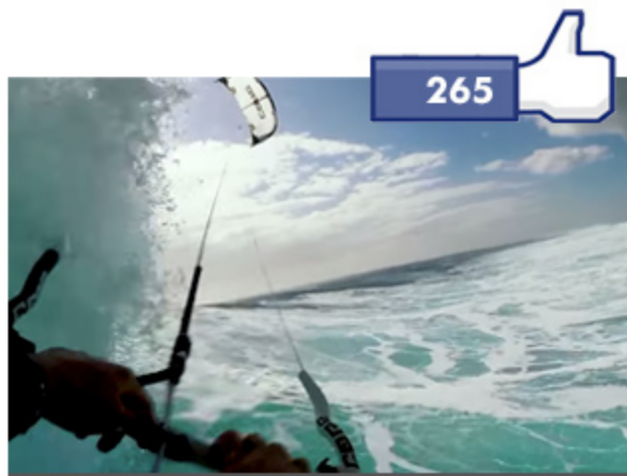
The IKSURFMAG website is crammed with news and videos everyday, we only show the best videos, so to make it onto the site is an achievement in itself.

These are the 4 most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs up likes in the last 2 months! Check out the full list [HERE](#), and if you see a video you like on the site, give it the thumbs up, it might just help to push it onto this page!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1 MAURITIUS 2018

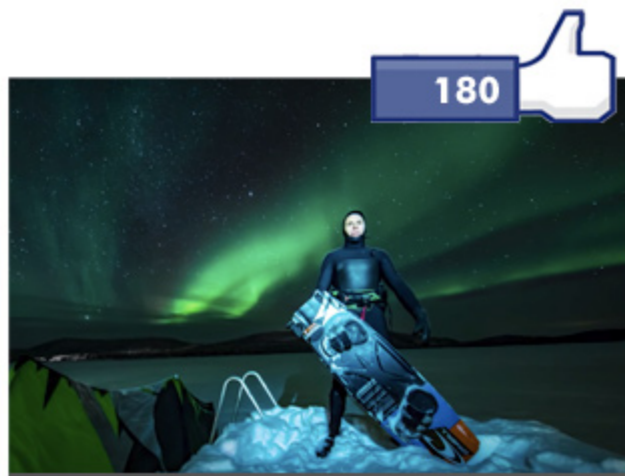
There's a reason why Mauritius is an incomparable kiteboarding and surfing destination; here's a sneak peek of it at its finest! This is what happens when you get all barrel brothers together to share the ultimate sessions on One Eye and in the flat-water lagoons on the island!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2 KITESURFING AT THE NORTH CAPE!

Once again, Kevin Langeree guarantees a spot for himself on our Movie Night list! Kevin Langeree recently got back from a freezing adventure, kitesurfing around North Cape, Norway. In this movie, he spares us no details about his epic adventure, check it out!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3 ANCIENT TIDES

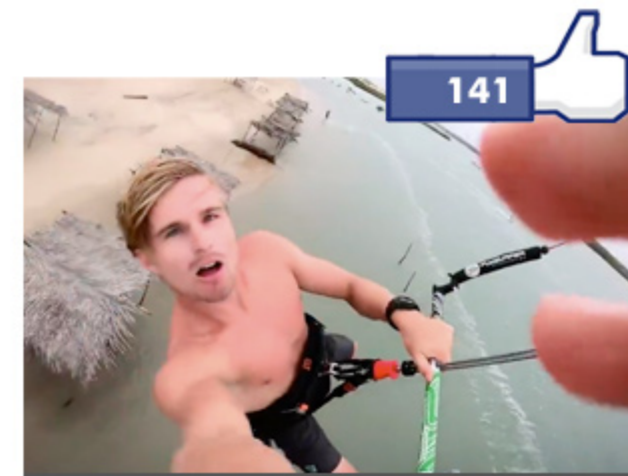
You are going to want to grab a coffee and get comfy, this is a good one! 'Ancient Tides' is the first ever Egyptian kiteboarding documentary brought to you by the Cabrinha Egypt team, aiming to show the world the true beauty of Egypt's incredible kiteboarding spots!



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4 #SOUL SESSION

We're not surprised that Dylan van der Meij made it to the top 4 with this one! Watch Dylan spend more time in the air than he does on water, testing the boundaries as to how many things he could possibly jump over without getting wet!



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GIANMARIA COCCOLUTO GETTING RAD IN BRAZIL UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS!
PHOTO ANDRE MAGARAO

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