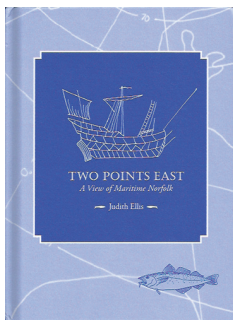


Two Points East

978 1 9997839 0 7
136 pages
2017



Judith Ellis
Red Herring
978 1 9997839 3 8
A5
175 pages, hardback
2018
£14.99

These two marvellous books relate to the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts respectively, both historically and today. The author has been a sailor and her knowledge of the coast, its boats, its buildings and its people is extensive.

They are unpredictable books, frequently going off at tangents, often to subjects which have only thin connections to the coast but usually with maritime associations. Trying to predict where the text will go next is like trying to follow leads down a shallow estuary but it is eminently readable.

You can be reading about the Hanseatic League, the lifeboat rescues of Henry Blogg or mediaeval ships and suddenly you are into the latest developments in self healing concrete.

There are so many 'I didn't know that' or 'I hadn't thought of that' items. The author is not afraid of killing sacred cows, either. Vikings did not have horns on their helmets or burn their boats at funerals. We all think the Black Death, which killed 60% of the population, was spread by rat fleas yet the suggestion here is that it might have been a virus like Ebola.

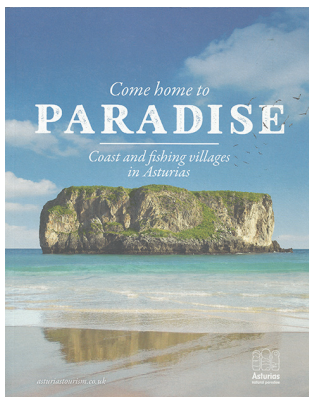
A short history of rudder design uses straight open canoes and quick turning short kayaks to aid description. The design of clinker Viking ships is developed from dugout canoes and Blakeney's flat bottom mussel craft were called canoes.

The books could be seen as compendia of marine trivia, dotted at intervals with red herrings, each a sentence or two of subtrivia, even the term itself. Criminals on the run found it useful to carry some heavily smoked Yarmouth herrings to confuse hounds following the scent.

Illustrations include sketches of local buildings, often with watercolours, and sketch maps of past or present coasts.

Two Points East was shortlisted for the East Anglia Book Awards and *Curllew Coast* shortlisted for the Amberley Press Publishing Prize, both in 2017. They have my full support, too, thoroughly entertaining.

Come Home to Paradise



Susana Neira
Asturias Tourism
260 x 200mm
37 pages, paperback
2018

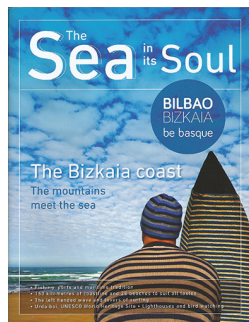
To many paddlers Asturias means large marathons along the northwest coast of Spain, none more so than the Sella Descent, which is mentioned twice in this guidebook to the coast and its fishing villages. A list of watersports includes the obvious ones.

The 401km coast is introduced in several ways. Each towns gets a detailed half page with a picture.

Seafood, often unusual, is introduced and is important to the economy. Most of the coast is rural. Maps name all the beaches and some are introduced in some detail, including which have surfing and which are naturist.

There is a coastal lighthouse tour laid out. Finally, it is all pulled together on one large and detailed map presenting attractions by category. This is a useful guide, whether or not you are heading to Asturias with a marathon kayak.

The Sea in its Soul



Bilbao Bizkaia be Basque
210 x 160mm
59 pages, paperback
Jan 2016

Bilbao and 150km of Biscay coastline with 28 beaches are covered in this guidebook. There are fishing villages, a coastal walking route, birds, marine life, fiestas, shopping, seafood, txakoli wine and more here. Surf enthusiasts will find Bakio, Mundaka (the best left wave in Europe) and Izaro, where the 10m wave is the biggest in Europe.

Paddling is made particularly welcome. La Galea, Plentzia, Urbaibai, Laidatxu, Gorrondatxe, Arriatera and Barinatxe are suggested and the Smugglers Cove is advised as being accessible only by canoe. Is that what the smugglers used?

A Basque dictionary is wonderfully readable, words explained with humour rather than translated.

Formentera, a Child-Friendly Island



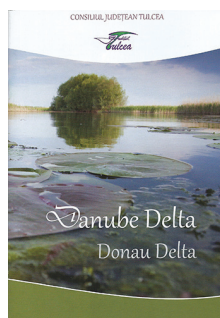
Consell Insular de Formentera
A5
12 pages, paperback
Oct 2014

Formentera prides itself on being friendly for children, calm sea, warm climate and with rural beaches which shelve gently. The coastline includes much that is rural and uncrowded. There are a range

of bodies ready with courses to entertain children and kayaks feature in these and in the pictures.

'The 69 km of coastline are highly diverse and vary between white sandy beaches, rocky beaches and cliffs with different heights where the erosion of the limestone forms caves and hollows, and rockfall creates an original landscape, especially when viewed from the sea.'

Danube Delta



Consiliul Judetean Tulcea, 20 Pacii St,
Tulcea County, România
A5
24 pages, paperback
2018

The rainfall from 8% of Europe falls in the catchment of the Danube, which then flows southeast to the Black Sea via 4,200km² of the Danube delta. This is mostly in Romania but partly in the Ukraine. It is a quiet area noted for its fauna and flora. There are people and tourist attractions in the delta but they are limited. This booklet, in English and German,

is about the wildlife and plants, some unusual.

Listed are 18 areas strictly protected although the booklet does not say how, nor does it show them on the small map provided. Most of the photographs are from or of the water.