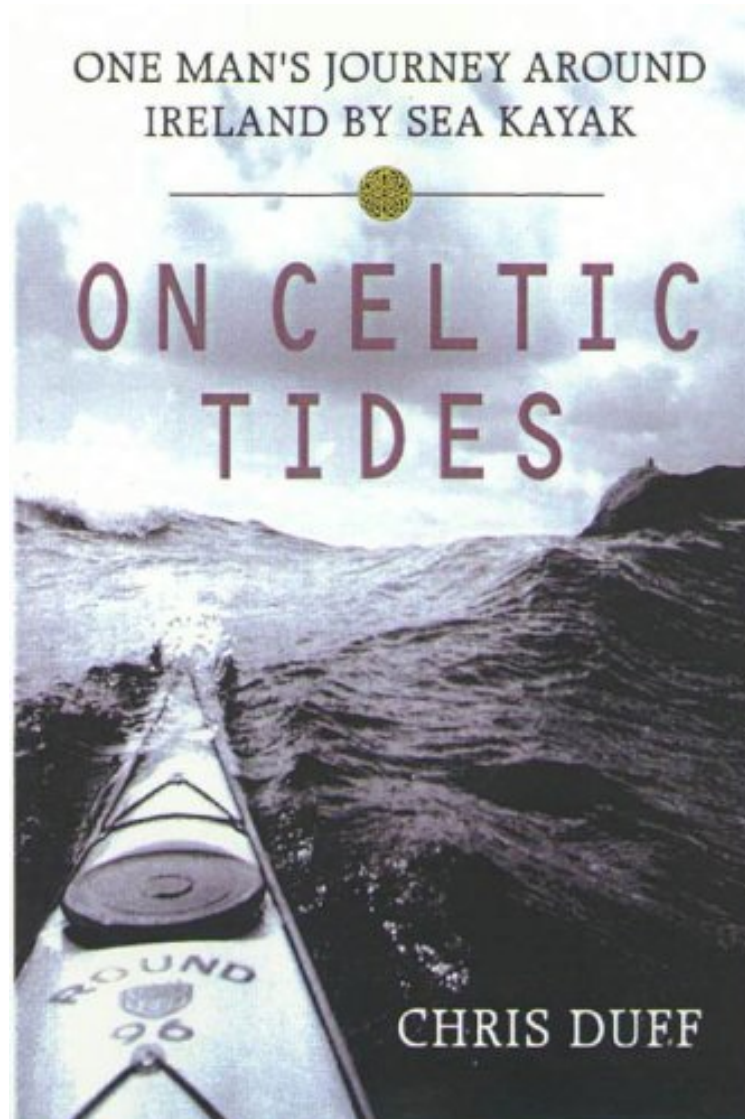


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On Celtic Tides: One Man's Journey Around Ireland by Sea Kayak

Von Chris Duff

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Von Chris Duff : On Celtic Tides: One Man's Journey Around Ireland by Sea Kayak before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Celtic Tides: One Man's Journey Around Ireland by Sea Kayak:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellant book! For lovers of kayaking and/or Ireland.Von Ein KundeFrom the very beginning of this book it is apparant that it is as much about Ireland as it is about kayaking, and therein lies its magic. I have never been in a kayak, but I have spent time visiting the offroad sections of Ireland. After reading Chris's journal, I feel that I have

spent weeks in a kayak and know how it feels to become one with the boat. At the same time, he has validated for me the mystical sense that the places of Ireland have that is not found anywhere else in the world. There are three key ingredients to the success of this book. The first is the authors ability to describe with great clarity the physical world, be it in the ocean, the view of the ocean from the top of a hill, the ruins of some ancient dwelling, or even in the simplicity of a tent. Even if you have never been there, after digesting his words you "know" what it feels like, what it looks like, what it smells like. The second key ingredient is his ability to portray the people of Ireland in their true character. They are a people of great charm, wit, and abounding generosity. Having spent time in farms and pubs on western Ireland, I could close my eyes as I read his passages and be there again. The third and most important ingredient is his descriptions of the mystical presence found in the old ruins scattered across the country side and sea scape. This is the most profound aspect of a visit to Ireland, the feeling that the only thing separating you from the past is a thin veil of time, lighter than the fog that is almost always present. As I read Chris's description of his visit to Skellig Michael, it was a mirror of a visit I made to a fort on the top of the Slieve Mish Mountains on the Dingle Peninsula. He put into words what my heart and mind felt, but what my mouth and hands could not say. This is not a book about kayaking, it is about embarking on a journey that I have taken, one that delivers you to the root of your existence, a journey totally unexpected. All in all, one of the best books I have read in years.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good kayak travel account damaged by personal philosophy
Von Ein Kunde
Chris Duff gives a good account of his journey around the island. There were excellent descriptions of the weather and sea conditions he paddled through. And his narrative of his interaction with the people of Ireland was great. The addition of the history of the island and its people was good, but could have been better. What really pulled the book down from a 4+ was his constant insertion of his spirituality. Just how many times must a reader of a travel journal be subjected to the authors attempts to feel history by touching a rock, or hut, or trying to draw the souls of long dead monks from the dirt floors of their old dwellings? In a journal one expects and accepts some amount of personal philosophy, including spirituality, but Chris got lost in it and nearly sucked the excitement, the life out of an otherwise great account of his travel.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nice Birthday Read
Von Ein Kunde
I received this book as a birthday gift. Being a fellow kayaker and having done a solo boat trip down a river myself I enjoyed Chris Duff's descriptions of the wild parts of Ireland. I enjoyed hearing about the people and lands he discovered on his journey. His somewhat overemphasized spiritual beliefs when he met up with his monk friends felt a bit saccharine as I read it and I begin to avoid the paragraphs where he wrote about still more water and wave movement but otherwise I quite envy Chris his solitary adventure. I wish him luck down under on his next circumnavigation (if he hasn't already completed that one!).

Kurzbeschreibung
A sea kayak battles the freezing Irish waters as the morning sun rises out of the countryside. On the western horizon is the pinnacle of Skellig Michael-700 feet of vertical rock rising out of exploding seas. Somewhere on the isolated island are sixth-century monastic ruins where the light of civilization was kept burning during the Dark Ages by early Christian Irish monks. Puffins surface a few yards from the boat, as hundreds of gannets wheel overhead on six foot wing spans. The ocean rises violently and tosses paddler and boat as if they were discarded flotsam. This is just one day of Chris Duff's incredible three month journey.

.de"Every time I thought I had reached the peak, that the passion for the journey must certainly begin to wane, I would stumble on another experience that pulled me onward," writes Chris Duff, recounting his solo circumnavigation of Ireland by sea kayak in the summer of 1996. "Stroke by stroke, four miles an hour, Ireland was filling me with its life blood." Beginning and ending in Dublin, Duff paddled 1,200 miles over the course of three months. Sometimes he piloted his frail craft through waters too tumultuous even for hardy local fisherman; other times he sought refuge in sixth-century monastic ruins on coastal islands or waited out storms for days on end in his tent. In this sense, Duff's journey is a study in contrasting worlds: land and sea; past and present; solitude and society. The story's suspense comes not from a questionable outcome but in the surprise of daily encounters. Who or what relic of the past will the author stumble upon next? Ultimately it is Duff's openness to ancient and elemental forces, expressed in starkly honest prose, that propels his narrative through the churning waters of Irish history and landscape. But this is also the story of a sea kayaker at the top of his game, dealing with nature's harsh blows and quiet caresses.

--Kristopher Kaiyala.co.uk "Every time I thought I had reached the peak, that the passion for the journey must certainly begin to wane, I would stumble on another experience that pulled me onward," writes Chris Duff, recounting his solo circumnavigation of Ireland by sea kayak in the summer of 1996. "Stroke by stroke, four miles an hour, Ireland was filling me with its life blood." Beginning and ending in Dublin, Duff paddled 1,200 miles over the course of three months. Sometimes he piloted his frail craft through waters too tumultuous even for hardy local fisherman; other times he sought refuge in sixth-century monastic ruins on coastal islands or waited out storms for days on end in his tent. In this sense, Duff's journey is a study in contrasting worlds: land and sea; past and present; solitude and society. The story's suspense comes not from a questionable outcome, but in the surprise of daily encounters. Who or what relic of the past will the author stumble upon next? Ultimately it is

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