



## North Mentawai

**1. Promises** Serious right tube off isolated small island beyond Burgerworld. Rarely crowded because few can keep up with the flat out speed barrel while ignoring the drought gripped poly city just below their fin tips. Higher tides, W winds and an iron constitution.

**2. Burgerworld** The place to head when the swell disappears and the wind is W to N. It's a proper pointbreak nestled close to the dense jungle of this uninhabited isle, where the rocky reef platform trips up some hooky little rights, perfect for snap and cutback combos or a little punt. Friendly intermediate wave that's rarely perfect and turns into a huge burger when the swell hits headhigh.

**3. Beng Bengs** Friendly left reef that works from tiny to fairly chunky when Ebay and others are not quite on. Changeable characteristics include fast walls, a couple of hits and some pinch cover-ups, but not really a barreling wave. Main problem is it ends very abruptly on a protruberance of reef that offers nothing but pain; if caught pushing it too far, wash over reef and paddle around to the right.



**4. E-Bay** Lush, lefthand smoker with perfect form, especially when there's more W in the swell and E in the wind. Tight take-off zone concentrates the crew who must do exactly that to avoid a brush with the coral that menaces at lower tides. Vert drop, quick turns then a race to the safety of the channel under the curtain avoiding the two big rocks at high tide and praying that the exit doesn't shut down at low. Handles all size swells but it's really fickle so don't expect to score it often on a two week tour. Less experienced surfers should stick with Pit Stops and Beng Bengs.



**5. Pitstops** Slurpy, fun-park right that is often dismissed, despite a propensity to wedge up and even barrel across a flatter coral shelf and a sandier inside. The whackable walls seem to change speed and wider sets will spread out the pack when the swell is more 5. Prefers WSW like E-Bay and tides are not a problem as it closes out right in front of some thatched huts, just below Pitstop Hill resort. Can get a crew on it but it's usually a laid-back vibe.

**6. Bank Vaults** Fear inducing righthander that bends and warps over the exposed, swell sucking tip of Pulau Masokut. Deceptively fast, shifting sections look makeable from the channel, but only the real chargers will handle this complex line-up. Gets better when it's double overhead or bigger and expect to get pinned on the "get me outa here" inside reef as the sets refract from wide, cutting off the escape to the channel. South swells and winds are sketchier, but tide doesn't faze it. The left around the other side of the tip has been surfed, but is dangerous without the right's rewards. Intermediates should head straight to Nipussi.

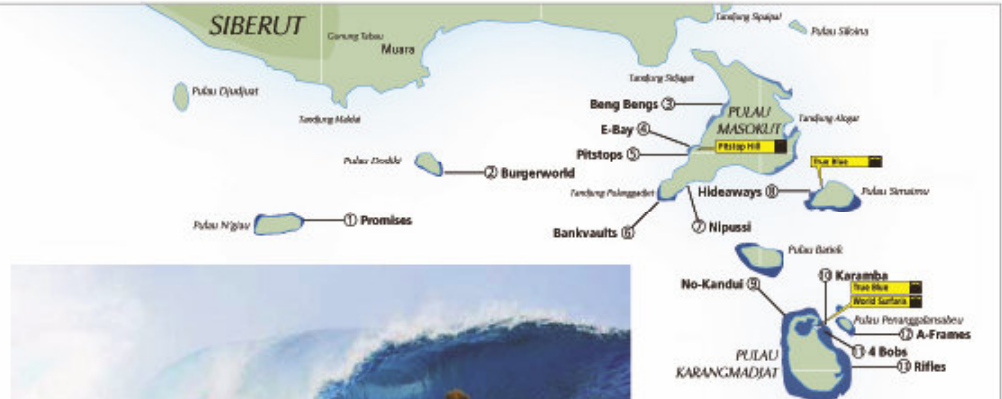
**7. Nipussi** Tucked into a corner close to shore, Nipussi gives lesser mortals a chance to work the consistent walls that are effectively the end of the Bank Vaults swell train. Big drops can be had across a couple of sections



of reef and the inside zippers can offer a tube ride, but it is accessible for intermediates wanting to ride something a little juicier. Often the only show in town when N winds meet a smallish swell. Nipussi is a well-covered reef encouraging you to work it before it goes dry at the sign-posted shut down.



**8. Hideaways** Deceptively heavy left chamber that beckons chargers into a bendy bowl section as perfect as any in the Ment's. When it's on, the drop is sharp and speed through the next section is required, ending in a shouldered wall. So much better in a W swell with decent period and it's not fazed too much by the S devil wind. Suicidally shallow at low tide - advanced surfers only. Less gung ho riders should try Pirates, a much more accessible right. Wave Park Losmen home break so expect company.



**9. No-Kandui** The perfect name for the most difficult and technically demanding left in the Mentawai. A seemingly endless fringing reef stretches down the west coast of Karangmadiat Island causing cylindrical, lefthand barrels to wink at viewers anchored on the NW corner. The featureless line-up makes it hard to know if you are in position and only an air-drop to full tilt, in the barrel, speed pump will be good enough to get into the wave and have a chance of weaving through some of the cavernous sections that spin off down the 500m reef. Rarely backs off enough to allow turns, this is a tube-fest of the highest order. Perfect conditions are SW swell, light E wind, mid to high tide and at least 8ft faces as the reef is bloodthirsty when small. Not too consistent, not too crowded and not for everyone!

**10. Karamba** Slap bang in the middle of Playgrounds anchorage, this inside reef offers something for the longboard crew to check their speed and trim on predictable ruler-edged walls. Lefts offer surprisingly long rides around mid tide and it's usually uncrowded, as full refraction of S swell keeps size down. Karamba means fish storage facility providing other names like Floating House, Duckies and the phonetic Karangbat. There's an even fatter right on the north side of the tiny sandy speck with 1 palm tree (and a snake), usually called Crystals (aka Chubbies).

**11. 4 Bobs** Warm up rights for the less intrepid a short paddle from Kandui resort. Take off behind the peak for a

**13. Rifles** Gun barrel straight shooting, take no prisoners, righthand super-sprint. Riders have to maintain faster than a speeding bullet mentality to keep abreast of the constantly peeling sections and ahead of the foamball. It's not always perfect, often shutting down unmakeable sections, but when it aligns, it's one of the best waves on the planet. Slack



whackable wall before a cutback section tapers off into deep water. Watch out for stunning, but shallow coral heads on the inside. Always more enjoyable than it appears. Across the channel from Karamba.

**12. A-Frames** Aka Kandies Left, this sweet curve of coral welcomes S swell onto a large, peaky, playing field. The wedges may offer a short right, but it's the left that attracts the boat crews sheltering in the safe anchorage. Drop, snap, tuck and play around with this less daunting line-up that needs N quarter winds and a lower tide to spread the punters. Not too shallow, but getting caught inside can result in a long and arduous paddle-out at size.

