

Max Explores the World

Wave Rock, Whales and Waterfalls



About the Book

Five-year-old Max and his Dad are off on a global adventure! They will gaze in awe at waterfalls in South America, go whale watching in New Zealand, hike through Sumatra's dense jungle and climb Table Mountain in Cape Town. Join Max as he travels across four different continents, learns about new cultures and makes new friends along the way.

Aimed at children age 4-8, but with a wider appeal to anyone interested in the unique diversity of our planet, "Max Explores the World – Wave Rock, Whales and Waterfalls" is a child's perspective of a trip around the world.

Max's trip includes stops in Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Madagascar. The story is based on a real trip taken by 5-year-old Max and his father that lasted from November 2018 to May 2019.

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Book Synopsis

The text has a loose narrative following the course of the journey, and can be interspersed with facts and pictures throughout, but the general storyline is as follows:

Max's journey begins at home, in Bavaria, when he's looking at the globe and begins asking questions about different countries. He and his father decide to take a trip around the world so Max can see them. They prepare for their trip, and then head to the airport.

Their first stop is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they take a helicopter ride to see Christ the Redeemer. Then they head south to Florianópolis, where they sledge down sand dunes and ride horses on the beach. Finally, they visit the Iguazu Falls and the Itaipú Dam in the Tri-Border Area of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina before heading to Buenos Aires.

When they encounter tango dancers, Max begins to miss his guitar. So he writes to Saint Nicholas asking for an instrument.

Their last stop in South America is in Uruguay, where they see La Mano – a piece of artwork on a beach.

From here, they take a long flight to New Zealand. They ride a train through a forest on the North Island and visit a glow-worm cave as well as Redwood Forest. They also see the geysers of Te Pui and the volcano Mount Taranaki.

They stay on a sheep farm where Max meets some of the local children. At this point, it's Saint Nicholas's Day (6th December) and Max wakes up to discover that Saint Nicholas did find him – he's received a harmonica.

They take a steamer to the South Island then visit the Pancake Rocks and Franz Josef Glacier. They also encounter lots of indigenous wildlife, like kiwis, blue penguins, seals, dolphins and even whales.

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From here, they fly to Australia, starting off in Sydney at the Opera House. Then they go to the Wave Rock (Katter Kich), see sharks in the sea and play with wallabies.

For Christmas they go to Bali, and are joined by Max's mum for a short time. They make friends with another family and explore the island together, including experiencing a Fire Dance at Uluwatu Temple.

After Bali, Max's mum returns home, but Max and his father head to Singapore and explore the city. Then they go to Kuala Lumpur to explore its skyscrapers. North of the city, they visit the Batu Caves. From here, they travel to the jungle of Sumatra, getting to see orangutangs and a herd of elephants.

Next up is Thailand, where they take a train travelling across the country. Then in Bangkok, they visit the floating market.

Their last stop in Asia is Vietnam, where they take a motorbike from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi.

Leaving Asia, they head to Africa, and Max's mum meets them in Cape Town. They climb Table Mountain and meet some of the locals at a church service. Max's mum has to go home again, but Max and his father continue their journey. Then they go to Victoria Falls and encounter a wild elephant in Zimbabwe. They spot the Big Five while on safari in Botswana. Then they venture to Madagascar, where Max goes diving and discovers even more animals. Max meets a group of children and is able to play with them for a while.

At this point, Max decides he'd like to go back home, and they're welcomed back by their friends with a party. And not long after, they start planning their next trip.

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Series Potential and Future Plans

Each continent could be split into its own book, or even per country/region. For instance:

- Australia & New Zealand
- Southeast Asia
- Southern African Countries
- Brazil & Argentina

The format lends itself to numerous opportunities. Max can visit places all over the world and let children know what it's like to be there alongside some interesting facts. As well as visiting some of the most famous places in that country/region, he can introduce them to the wildlife, culture and the people who live there.

Max and Axel plan to take another global adventure: They will cycle around the world, travelling only by land and sea.