



MY FAVORITE THINGS

# Kelly Slater

THE 10-TIME SURFING WORLD CHAMPION CHASES MASSIVE WAVES around the globe and has homes in Santa Barbara and Coco Beach, Florida, where he was born and raised. But his favorite place to be? “Nothing beats Hawaii,” the 39-year-old says. “Just drop me anywhere near the island chain and I’ll swim to shore and be just fine.” —AUSTIN SKAGGS

## WAR WOUND

I have a good scar on the bridge of my nose. When I was two or three, I threw a cymbal into the air and watched it hit me in the face. We didn’t have money for a doctor, so my mom just put some butterflies on it. Then we went to the movies.



## ABALONE SHELLS

There used to be tons of abalone in Southern California, but most have been eaten. In South Africa you can still find the shells all over the beaches. They can grow from tiny thumbnail size to bigger than your hand.

## BACKYARD SMOKER

We bought my girlfriend’s dad a big grill, and the first day he used it, his dog ran under it and caught its tail on fire. So we replaced it with a Big Green Egg. I use it too. It’s smaller and cheaper than those big chromed-out ones. You can grill and smoke anything on it.



## UKULELE

I have an eight-string ukulele custom-made by a company called Koolau. I even went to the factory and picked out the wood. It has a pickup to plug it in, but I just sit around the house and play it.

## BOARD

I have a million boards, but my girlfriend had this one made for me for Christmas last year. Channel Islands made it, and an artist, Kevin Ancell, painted it to look like koa wood, inlaid it with abalone shell, gold-leafed the rails, added a coat of arms, painted a picture of my girlfriend on it, and added lyrics from a song I wrote. It’s beautiful. I’d never surf with it. It’s a wall-hanger.

## MORNING ROUTINE

At Ascending Health Juicery, you order the night before. They press juice every night and leave it in refrigerators in lockboxes around Santa Barbara and Montecito. I like to start the day with juice.



## KEEPSAKE

We have sand from all over the world, but my favorite is from Rainbow Beach in Australia. It contains basically every color of sand imaginable — pink, yellow, orange, red, black, white, and everything in between. There’s sand from a beach named Papara, in Tahiti, that’s all thick grains of black, but I can’t take it home. It’s great to lie on and get warm, but don’t take any or you’ll upset the gods. Trust me, I’ve heard horror stories.

## PERSONAL TUGBOAT

It’s a 2007 Honda, and it’s rigged out by this guy from High Surf



Accessories named Mike Slattery. It’s got tow ropes and tires called BigFoots that can launch the Jet Ski from any beach.

## GIFT FROM A FRIEND

Eddie Vedder and I have surfed together a few times, and he told me, “If you win your tenth world title, I’ll name the very first Pearl Jam album after you.”



## SLEEP AID

When I travel, I like to get a window seat and sleep by leaning against the wall, but it was impossible with headphones on. Then for Christmas I got these cool in-ear ones by Etymotic Research. They’re custom-fitted to my ears — which means no one should steal them.

## CRUNK CLASSIC

I connect with OutKast’s *Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik*, being from the South myself. From rapping about waking up society to taking care of everyone — it mixes rap and gospel and acoustic guitars.

## CURRENT OBSESSION

I’m addicted to the app Words With Friends. Every morning and every night, I sit down and run through all 20 games I have going.

the grass is perfect — it’s like someone cut it with scissors. That part of the coast is always 80 degrees with light winds, and it has a perfect view of the ocean. In the winter-time, when the humpbacks are out, you can watch them jump, one after another.

## WAVE

When I was 19, I caught a wave at [Banzai] Pipeline, in Hawaii, that really sticks out in my mind. Two swells met each other — and the waves didn’t look that big — but as soon as it hit the reef, it just jumped up in size. At first, it looked like a 10- or 12-foot face. Then as soon as I stood up, it doubled in size and shot me into the air. I was lucky enough to land perfectly on the board and turn it up into the barrel — and I got spit out.

## SOUVENIR

I save currency from all around the world, from Fiji to South Africa, probably about \$500 worth. I always carry it with me.

## TITLE

When I won my sixth world title, in ’98, I was trailing in third place going into the final event at Pipeline. There has always been a big surfing rivalry between the United States and Australia, and there were two Australians ahead of me. It was like “Us

Basque country. They have a dish that’s a cod-stuffed pepper. It’s so damn good. I took Jimmy Buffett there this year — he has spent his whole life eating seafood, and he said it was the best meal of his entire life.

## TROPHY

Trestles, in San Onofre State Beach



Against Them,” and it wasn’t just about me. All my friends were there backing me. There was a slim chance I was going to win, but I clipped them. It was my fifth in a row.

## RESTAURANT

Tantina de la Playa, in Bidart, France. It’s in

California, was the first point break I ever surfed, when I was 12, and where I won my first pro contest, at 18. I’ve won a few events there since, and the trophy this year from Hurley Pro at Lower Trestles is a perfect replica of real trestles. It’s a work of art.

