Welcome

Last August the talk was of ‘air bridges’, which turned out to be pie (as opposed to planes) in the sky. This year it’s traffic lights, a form of transport restriction that everyone understands and respects. Ahem.

Red is clear enough: stop (at home). Green is also straightforward: go on if the way is clear (which rules out, say, the Falklands because the way to reach them isn’t). Amber, as ever, is trickier. It seems to mean: you can go but it’s your fault and not your Government’s if things go wrong. Or perhaps people will interpret it like they do on the highway: speed up to nip through ‘just in time’.

It’s difficult to predict what will happen regarding foreign travel and everyday freedoms between Cycle going to press and dropping on your doormat. But it’s fair to say that foreign touring this summer will be at best a gamble.

The safer option for August will again be a cycling staycation. That doesn’t rule out adventures. You can have those close to home, even when taking a toddler (see page 38). It doesn’t rule out long rides: end-to-ends, coast-to-coasts, and point-to-points like ‘furthest east to furthest west’ (p34) are still on the cards. And it doesn’t necessarily mean mixing with the staycation crowds. Pick your destination carefully (p50) and you might have the roads and trails to yourself.

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