

Reviews

Books

CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

Print queue

Cycle doesn't feature all books received. Reviewers pick the ones they think you need to know about from the editor's list. Send books to: Cycle, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX



Bikepacking Scotland



Details
By: Markus Stitz
Publisher: Vertebrate Publishing
Price: £20
ISBN: 9781839811937

I DELVED INTO Bikepacking Scotland seeking to find inspiration for future adventures far from home – and there are plenty here. For starters, the breathtaking scenery of the Catevan Gran Fondo and, more ambitiously, the 420-mile Wild About Argyll Trail have both been added to my to-do list. However, it also reminded me of the opportunities on my doorstep, with the family-friendly Go East Lothian Trail and coast-to-coast John Muir Way both passing just 300m from my front door. The perfect opportunity, then, to test out Markus Stitz's route guidance.

I found the punchy descriptions to have a good level of detail – identifying the key landmarks and points of interest without the forensic detail that I've found overwhelming in some other guides. I

was glad to see listings of local eateries and accommodation options for each route, alongside bike shops and cycle hire locations.

The 'route conditions' section is simple yet invaluable, giving you an exact percentage breakdown of singletrack, path, cycle path and road to aid with bike choice and trip planning. The wee route profiles are also a nice touch, providing an at-a-glance idea of where the bulk of the climbing will be found, and there's a GPX file for each route.

Alongside the 20 inspiring and varied routes (who doesn't read 'Ayrshire Alps, Coast & Castles' and want to immediately jump on their bike?) there's a detailed introductory section that will be particularly handy for newer bikepackers, and profiles on Scottish adventure cycling luminaries such as Jenny Graham and Mark Beaumont. Allied with some beautiful photography, this is a guide I can wholeheartedly recommend.

Sam Waller



Save money on this

Cycling UK members save £5 if they buy any two of the following titles and £10 if they buy any three: *Bikepacking Scotland*, *Great British Gravel Rides*, *Big Rides Great Britain and Ireland*. Use the code **CYCLINGUK** at cyclinguk.org/bikepacking-scotland-discount



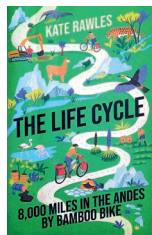
Details
By: various authors
Publisher: Lonely Planet
Price: £29
ISBN: 9781838695019

The Bikepackers' Guide to the World

A FEAST FOR the eyes, this hefty coffee table book is bursting with beautiful full-page images that will fill your head

with daydreams of adventures near and far. There's lots of information about difficulty levels, the best time of year to visit, how to get to the start point and whether camping is compatible with the local wildlife. I was pleased to see Cycling UK's King Alfred's Way and West Kernow Way in here alongside some pretty epic routes.

Sophie Gordon

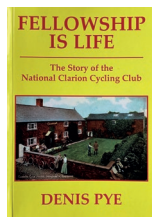


Details
By: Kate Rawles
Publisher: Icon Books
Price: £18.99
ISBN: 9781785787874

The Life Cycle

BY TURNS DEPRESSING and inspiring, Kate Rawles's second book details her 8,000-mile trip through South America by bamboo bicycle. She looks at the rich biodiversity of the region, the ways in which it is under threat and the innovative schemes being devised to prevent its loss. Kate travels as sustainably as possible, searching out projects to visit to try to understand what can be done to prevent the catastrophic loss of the habitats and species on which humanity's existence depends. A fascinating and enjoyable book.

Julie Rand



Details
By: Denis Pye
Publisher: National Clarion 1895 pub.
Price: £12.50 inc p&p from cgoode@yorkshire.net
ISBN: 9780952507130

Fellowship is Life

AS A TEENAGER I was riding with Bury CTC when we were passed by a group of cyclists described as "the other lot": the Bury Clarion. Half an hour later, the politics and history were still being explained to me, though Denis Pye's account is undoubtedly far more balanced! The Clarion Clubs thought that socialism could only come through cycling. In the 1930s they attacked CTC, saying "it glorifies capitalism and religion by electing kings and landowners as its patrons and presidents". If anyone tells you cycling isn't political, point them to this historical gem.

Duncan Dollimore