Reviews

Books

CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

Bikepacking Wales

WHEN REVIEWING A book, I want to enjoy reading it but I'm also looking for any area I think could be improved. On this occasion, however, I cannot fault the book one bit. Emma Kingston has thought of every piece of information I wanted to know and has included it in an easy-to-navigate manner, interspersing the text with stunning and inspiring images of Wales, showcasing the routes and trails in their finest glory. And she’s pulled all of this off in a really neat, unobtrusive package.

The beginning of the book provides all of the context to the later route descriptions, giving guidance on bikepacking gear, accommodation options, environmental stewardship, Welsh language tips and even how to provide updates (because routes and facilities may change over time).

The routes themselves cover the very best Wales has to offer, each having an easy-to-interpret route map, a view of where the route sits within Wales, written details of the route, and useful information regarding places of interest along the way. The routes are also graded to help you choose and plan your adventure, and there is a link to all the GPX files, too. It really is a very well thought out book, and the reader has been placed at the heart of things when it’s been put together.

If bikepacking in Wales is even slightly on your radar, this is definitely the book for you.

Ross Adams

Traws Eryri

FROM MAGNIFICENT PHOTOGRAPHY showcasing the new MTB bikepacking route to thorough descriptions and stage-by-stage Ordinance Survey mapping, the Traws Eryri route guide is as inspiring as it is comprehensive. Not only does it detail each stage of the route and what you’ll find along it, but the guide also describes the evolution of the Traws Eryri, with information about future potential improvements. Hats off to author Guy Kesteven for weaving in so much of Wales’s heritage. If the Traws Eryri is on your ride list, this guide is a must-have.

Katherine Moore

Türkiye

SAYARER TAKES YOU for a ride from Thessaloniki in Greece, the birthplace of Turkey’s founder Ataturk, to Kars in north-east Turkey. He also takes you through its turbulent past, distant and recent. The best travelogues should make you question your preconceptions of a place and force you to engage with what the author is saying. Türkiye succeeds on both fronts, and will take some readers out of their comfort zone when seeing a world from the viewpoint of an author (rightly) proud of their Turkish roots.

Sam Jones

Other Ways to Win

A THOUGHT-PROVOKING READ that takes you on a journey from the structured and demanding world of elite cycle racing to the freedom and fulfilment achieved through personal challenges both on and off the bike. The book takes some unexpected twists and turns, covering a wide range of topics and giving you a real insight into Craigie’s world views and her passion for how cycling can be used as a tool for change. Her anecdotes and antics leave you with a yearning to grab your bike, join the Adventure Syndicate and head for the hills.

Ellen Holmes

Excerpts

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