

Reviews Books

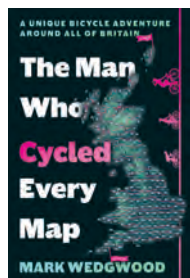
CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

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



The Man Who Cycled Every Map



Details

By: Mark Wedgwood
Publisher: The Book Guild Ltd
Price: £15.99
ISBN: 9781835740767

THERE'S A UNIQUE satisfaction in challenges and adventures that tick off a list – be it climbing every Munro, riding every road in a Strava tile, visiting every Wetherspoons... Mark Wedgwood set himself the challenge of cycling across every Ordnance Survey Landranger map in a single year, perhaps the most comprehensive coverage of the British Isles ever achieved by cycle.

This account captures the reality of a British long-distance cycling adventure, which is to say that the weather, B&Bs and navigating ferries and railways all play large parts in the tale. Mark also shares his stories of people met along the way, from other long-distance cyclists to friendly local business owners supplying a steady supply of lattes.

My favourite things about this book were the snippets of local history, such as the fascinating history of humans and seabirds sharing Britain's remotest island, St Kilda in the Outer Hebrides. Readers will envy Mark the miles he's ridden on spectacular, quiet roads in the remotest parts of England, Scotland and Wales and the Isle of Man.

This book will appeal to the traditional cycle tourist, perhaps planning their own challenge for a career break or retirement. While international holidays are back on the rise after the pandemic, Mark's book is a timely reminder that there are stunning places to see in all 204 British OS Landranger maps, many of them idyllically remote, and all reachable by cycle with a bit of planning and perseverance.

Will York



More online

Mark wrote an article for the April/May 2023 issue of Cycle about his 7,300-mile journey across every OS map. It's online at cyclinguk.org/ride-all-os-maps



Details

By: Various contributors
Publisher: Daunt Books Publishing
Price: £10.99
ISBN: 9781917092067

Freewheeling: Essays on Cycling

THIS COLLECTION OF essays from 12 writers, including Jon McGregor and Dervla Murphy, is a change from my usual diet of ex-pro biographies and humorous travelogues. The blurb says it best: "a celebration of life on two wheels and how bikes can become an extension of ourselves..." Although worthy in places, there are parts that will resonate with you. David O'Doherty is his usual hilarious self while addressing the topic of vintage bike curation, but the most profound paragraph for me came from 'Lime Bike, After a Party'.

Ian Small



Details

By: Marlon Lee Moncrieffe
Publisher: Bloomsbury
Price: £20
ISBN: 9781399405560

New Black Cyclones

IT'S BEEN EXCITING to watch the rise of Eritrean sprinter Binium Girmay. But if there's one thing that his presence has highlighted, it's the whiteness of the peloton. New Black Cyclones is about racism in the sport of cycling. A former professional racer turned academic, Dr Marlon Moncrieffe interviews Black cyclists from around the world about racism and Eurocentrism in cycling and what can be done about it. It makes for interesting, though sobering, reading.

Rebecca Armstrong



Details

By: Steve Peat, Tim March
Publisher: Vertebrate Publishing
Price: £25
ISBN: 9781839810961

Forged by Speed

THIS IS NO LITERARY masterpiece, but it doesn't pretend to be one. It charts downhill mountain biker Steve Peat's rise from local, regional and national races to the international world cup circuit, where he had to balance his will to win against his will to drink, party and enjoy everything life threw at him. His approach to being a world-class athlete might not fit the usual accepted mould, but his story and blunt approach aren't shied away from and are told very much from the horse's mouth. If you've ever met Peaty, then you'll hear his Yorkshire accent in the words as you read them.

Ross Adams