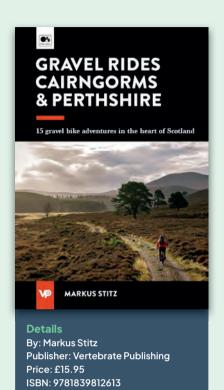


# **Gravel Rides Cairngorms**& Perthshire



Having spent a fair bit of time enjoying the spectacular Cairngorm mountains and beautiful Perthshire countryside on foot, I was excited to see what this guide had to offer for exploring by pedal power. Written by route design guru and Bikepacking Scotland founder Markus Stitz, it has something for everyone. The 15 routes are divided into 'easy', 'straightforward' and 'challenging' categories.

As a parent with two young children, I was delighted to see that the shortest route – a loop through Kindrogan Forest near Pitlochry – is less than 15km. In total, more than half of the routes are under 35km, giving

plenty of options for those looking for smaller-scale adventures.

There's also enough here for more experienced off-road riders; all four of the challenging routes are over 50km, include more than 700m of ascent and take you into remote territory. The Dunkeld Moorlands & Big Tree Country route immediately caught my eye, thanks in no small part to the stunning photography that brings each route to life. Taking in remote heather-clad moorland, historic native woodlands and stunning loch-side views, it's typical of the varied experiences these carefully curated routes offer.

Each route description includes an Ordnance Survey map, turn-by-turn route description, points of interest and nuggets of historical information, and recommendations for local eateries and places to stay. There's also a GPX file for every route.

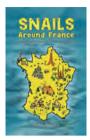
With a 20-page introduction that includes responsible access, bike and equipment choice, safety and local beasties (beware the midge!), this guide has everything you need to explore the stunning heart of Scotland on a gravel or mountain bike. Time to plan a trip!

Sam Waller



You can read excerpts from some of the books that Cycle has reviewed at: cyclinguk.org/cyclebook-excerpts

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



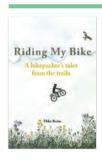
## **Snails Around France**

Details

By: John and Kate Bosley Publisher: Austin Macauley Price: £9.99 ISBN: 9781035860128 This is the story of retired couple John and Kate Bosley's slow tandem ride

around France. But it's also a love letter to France, an inspiring story of Kate's courage in taking on this challenge despite her visual impairment, and a witty, romantic tale of adventure and curiosity in retirement. It's got me talking to my partner about riding a tandem around France!

#### **Duncan Dollimore**



## Riding My Bike

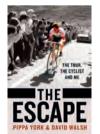
**Details** 

By: Mike Raine Publisher: Paragon Publishing Price: £14.99 ISBN: 9781787920668

As a new bikepacker, I picked this up looking for inspiration. Most of

the book is written in diary fashion with a smattering of monochrome photos; I'd love a hand-drawn map as well. The rides are around Mike's native Wales, plus Scotland, mostly in the rain. Mike is a flora and fauna expert (I must learn more of this), although the book has fewer tips than I expected.

### Ian Small



## The Escape: The Tour, the cyclist and me

Details

By: Pippa York & David Walsh Publisher: HarperCollins Price: £22 ISBN: 9780008510602 During three recent

Tours de France spent travelling together as journalists, David Walsh interviews Pippa York, formerly pro cyclist Robert Millar. York reveals how they coped from an early age with the dysphoria of being male, how cycling forced them to hide their true feelings, and the tumultuous journey of transitioning. York and Walsh also talk racing, but it is the resilience of Pippa York that stands out.

### **Dominic Kelly**

46 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025