



# Bikepacking – South East Gravel



**Details**

By: Ed Hunton  
Publisher: Cicerone  
Price: £16.95  
ISBN: 9781786312372

Ed Hunton is a lifelong cycle tourist, on and off road, and you can tell he likes plotting an interesting journey. Bikepacking – South East Gravel details 12 routes within a triangle between the New Forest, north Norfolk and the east Kent coast, all with charts, variations and recommended stops, and all accessible by train.

Two are one-to-two days (69km and 76km), nine are two-to-three days (109km to 179km) and Cycling UK’s Cantii Way is two-to-five days (249km). They average 45% off road, which might not sound like much, but often adds up to at least three-

quarters off road time-wise, with welcome respites on quiet lanes.

I tried the Chilterns route and the ‘Come on Pilgrim’ route near Sevenoaks, and they were beauties. Both were lovely showcases for their areas, with shady wooded trails, open

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views and enough villages and tea stops. The book’s gradings seem fair – the former was the only one graded ‘difficult’ and was definitely best on a mountain bike. Half the routes are ‘easy’ and the rest ‘moderate’.

The book contains a link to the GPX files, and I would absolutely like to do them all. I’m not sure whether there’s a need for the turn-by-turn instructions or the 1:150,000 OS maps that lack enough detail to be useful off road. More background information and narrative would have been nice instead.

**Sean Fishpool**



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## Cycling Edinburgh Details

By: Richard Peace  
Publisher: Sustrans & Ordnance Survey  
Price: £9.99  
ISBN: 9781914410703

As the parent of a six-year-old cyclist, I found this book a brilliant resource. The format is great: a fold-out key, ring binding and thick paper make it easy to use. I’d love more circular routes and a summary of route difficulties, but overall it’s ideal for families, beginners or visitors exploring by bike.

**Kirsty Ryder**



## Roads Towards a Supreme Fiction Details

By: Matthew Crompton  
Publisher: Independent  
Price: £7.99  
ISBN: 9798305025095

At times majestically descriptive, at others philosophical, Matthew Crompton recounts a challenging and not always enjoyable four-month, 6,000km solo ride through western China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. I would not describe this as an uplifting and positive tale but rather a fine description of a tough journey and its psychological impact.

**Dominic Kelly**



## Equator to Cape Details

By: Lloyd Butterworth  
Publisher: Independent  
Price: £9.99  
ISBN: 9798314125885

Equator to Cape is enthralling and educational. It follows the achievements of a couple determined to take on this epic ride, regardless of the (many and frequent) barriers, and how they approached the whole adventure with such gusto and enthusiasm. One for would-be travellers or those who just like to live them vicariously.

**Duncan Jagger**