

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 shortlist. Send review copies to: Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ



Gravel Rides Scotland



ONE OF THE BIGGEST challenges in this new era of gravel cycling is finding suitable routes without a great amount of patience or local knowledge. Many a singletrack path on route planning apps has turned out to be nothing more than an unmarked path across a bog. Ed Shoote's debut offering fills this gap, detailing 28 carefully curated and varied routes across mainland Scotland.

Details
By: Ed Shoote
Publisher: Vertebrate
Price: £25
ISBN: 9781839810503

The routes are clustered into seven locations, which allows for easy linking of multiple routes to create longer bikepacking adventures as you please. Each route comes with a wealth of information – from detailed ride maps and elevation profiles to information on transport and facilities within the local area,

including the nearest café stops.

One of the most useful features is a 'gravel scale', which indicates the roughness and technicality of the riding for each route. This allowed me to easily select routes appropriate to bike setup and ability. Also helpful is the link to GPX files, which can be easily downloaded onto a navigational device of your choice. Using both the book and supplied GPX files I found it effortless to follow in the author's footsteps and experience first-hand some of the terrain depicted in the book's many beautiful photographs.

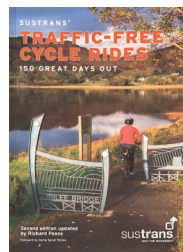
My only wish is that it was easier to carry since I found the histories of the local areas and descriptions of interesting features enhanced my rides and allowed me to truly immerse myself in the landscapes I passed through.

Tamzin Dewar



Excerpts

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

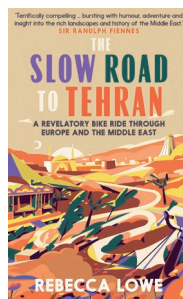


Sustrans' Traffic-Free Cycle Rides

THIS SECOND EDITION of Sustrans' traffic-free guidebook is brimming with rides that show the delights of the UK National Cycle Network, with routes from four to 30 miles. The 150 routes detailed are, as you'd expect, almost entirely traffic free. Each has an easy-to-follow map, transport information, a difficulty grading, and recommendations for café stops. Buying the book also helps contribute to Sustrans' essential work of keeping these routes open.

Details
By: Richard Peace
Publisher: Sustrans
Price: £15.99
ISBN: 9781914410437

Jordan Matthews

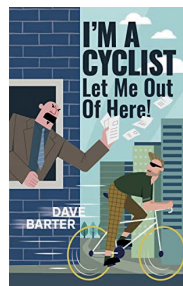


Slow Road to Tehran

FROM ROADSIDE REPAIR rescues to impromptu dinner invitations, the kindness of strangers is something with which nearly all cycle tourists are familiar. In *The Slow Road To Tehran*, Rebecca Lowe uses these moments to shed light on cultures, landscapes and peoples which are altogether less familiar to most Western readers. It's an eye-opening read, impeccably well-informed, thoughtful, good humoured and important. Recommended.

Details
By: Rebecca Lowe
Publisher: September Publishing
Price: £18.99
ISBN: 9781914613029

David Harrold



I'm a Cyclist Let Me Out of Here

MANY OF US have wistfully gazed out of the window during the 9-5 wondering whether our cycling hobby could be turned into a living. Dave did just that, throwing in the day job to try to become a cycling author – even without the guarantee of a book contract. He chronicles that journey of putting pen to paper and tyre to tarmac searching for his cycling muse. Less a handbook for how to do it, more a humorous journey of the descents and climbs towards his dream.

Details
By: Dave Barter
Publisher: Independent published
Price: £7.99
ISBN: 9798522729943

Matt Mallinder