

Reviews

Books

CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

Print queue

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Britain's Best Bike Ride



Details
By: John Walsh & Hannah Reynolds
Publisher: Vertebrate Publishing
Price: £20
ISBN: 9781839811135

THERE'S SOMETHING CAPTIVATING about cycling across a whole country, whether from side to side or bottom to top. But before embarking on the journey it's worth asking why you want to do it and what you hope to see. A select few will be motivated purely by time: to get it done as quickly as possible or set a record. If riding Land's End to John o' Groats (LEJOG) is on your bucket list and your focus is time, then the 1,000-mile route created for John Walsh and Hannah Reynolds book probably isn't the one for you.

The shortest LEJOG route you can sensibly cycle is 874 miles but involves busy main road sections, and nobody I've spoken to who's ridden that route has talked about

experiencing the best of Britain by bike, just how quickly they did it.

That's what's so special about this book, because the route is a meander through magnificent places and history. It's an invitation to create memories of different regions from the saddle. The route is broken into 30 adaptable stages, with suggested itinerary options for ten-day, two-week or three-week adventures.

All the practical information you need from a guide – including directions, where to stop, stay and eat, mapping and downloadable GPX files – is included. The added magic with this one is its story of a journey through Britain; this is much more than just a trip from end to end.

It's impossible to read this book without wondering how much your ride would be enriched by taking the long LEJOG route, giving yourself the time to breathe in the best of Britain by bike.

Duncan Dollimore



Details
By: Will Butler-Adams & Dan Davies
Publisher: Profile Books
Price: £25
ISBN: 9781788168304

The Brompton

NEVER AGAIN will I simply glance over at a Brompton folded up on a train. Instead, I'll see engineering, precision, enterprise, problem solving, tough decisions, crafting, production lines and, above all, success.

It's a story told passionately from the inside, mainly by Brompton's CEO Will Butler-Adams. It journeys from inventor Andrew Ritchie's shed in 1975 to 2022, titanium frames and a burgeoning turnover. This is a compelling read, a biography of a transformative bicycle. Recommended.

Cherry Allan



Details
By: Simon Parker
Publisher: Summersdale
Price: £16.99
ISBN: 9781800074996

Riding out

CYCLING AROUND BRITAIN in 2020, **Simon Parker** captures a moment that seemed to last forever, when people were nervous even to approach each other. Despite this fraught atmosphere, the vulnerability of being a solo cyclist enables him to connect with people he meets and discover how the pandemic impacted all of us, from Shetland to the Scilly Isles. It's an enlightening book that doesn't shy away from big topics like loss, grief, and mental health struggles, and the healing power of the outdoors.

Sophie Gordon



Details
By: Lachlan Morton
Publisher: Rapha Editions & Bluetrain Publishing
Price: £20
ISBN: 9781912164219

The Dot

COULD A SINGLE, unsupported rider complete the full Tour de France route – including transfers – ahead of the race itself? Inspired by the Tour's earliest riders, professional cyclist Lachlan Morton took on the challenge. Morton's account of his relentless ride is raw and brutally honest – a fascinating window into the world of someone who can pedal many thousands of kilometres. This is an eloquently written and beautifully printed book, although at 132 pages it does feel a tad lightweight for the price tag.

Sam Waller



Excerpts

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