

# Reviews

# Books

CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

## Print queue

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## Two Wheels Good



**JODY ROSEN'S TWO** Wheels Good: The History and Mystery of the Bicycle is an eclectic mix of journeys, contextualising the bicycle through a jovial historical narrative that builds on his own personal accounts.

Rosen rightly gets us to expand our narrow Western image of the bicycle to a global perspective. He explains that a cyclist in the 21st century is far more likely to be a migrant worker in Dhaka than an urban bohemian in Amsterdam.

The book is foremost a testament to the marvel of the bicycle. Rosen shows how its simplicity of design captures an uncanny synergy between human and machine, generating speed, efficiency, and freedom for the individual. He also talks through the ways

history repeats itself: the anti-cyclist sentiments in our cities that now comes from [some] car drivers used to be voiced by horse riders.

Rosen's thesis is that the bicycle is a human-centric transportation device, global in reach, and a disruptor of urban space, making it well placed as a vehicle for social justice. He provides historical evidence for this, right through to today's social movements.

Rosen is skilled yet selective in navigating the complex and rich history of the bicycle, taking us across continents and through centuries. He's less concerned with the metal and rubber that bikes

are made of, telling instead a fundamentally human story as we accompany him on his excursions around the planet. He's imaginative in his storytelling, making for a thoroughly enjoyable, and sometimes surprising read.

**Ben Porter**

### Details

**By:** Jody Rosen  
**Publisher:** Vintage Publishing  
**Price:** £25 (hardback)  
**ISBN:** 9781847923073



### Details

**Edited:** Stefan Amato  
**Publisher:** Gestalten  
**Price:** £40 (hardback)  
**ISBN:** 9783967040661

## Grand Bikepacking Journeys

**IN A WORLD** where it's all too easy to find GPX routes to follow, a book that provides 'adventure templates' is reassuringly retro. If you've a penchant for remote places, then the posse of bikepackers gathered by editor Stefan Amato to supply routes from the Cairngorms to the Caucasus will delight. Expect big-picture photography, illustrations with hidden jokes, and words to ride by. It's a book to inspire holidays, sabbaticals and retirement.

**Sam Jones**



### Details

**By:** Cyclist magazine  
**Publisher:** Octopus Books  
**Price:** £30 (hardback)  
**ISBN:** 9781784728090

## Climb

**PLANNING YOUR NEXT** cycling holiday but not sure where to go? **Climb** contains 35 epic cycling ascents from around the world to inspire your next adventure. While each climb has a basic route map, statistics, and a gradient profile, it's the combination of stunning photography with detailed descriptions that make this book compelling. It immerses you in the environment, evoking the essence of each climb, and includes history from the major races that have tackled them. I'm already planning some future challenges.

**Chris Tyson**



### Details

**By:** Michael Meath  
**Publisher:** self published  
**Price:** £12 plus £2.50 p&p  
**ISBN:** n/a. To buy, email [m.meath@btinternet.com](mailto:m.meath@btinternet.com)

## A Bench – a Bike and a Pipe

**THIS IS A** story – with evocative recollections and photographs – of more mundane days when a six-day week was the norm, and Sunday was the day the Barnoldswick Clarion Cycling Club was free to explore the Yorkshire Dales and Lakeland. Regular club runs were the mainstay, with youth hostelling at home and abroad, plus some racing. After a post-war golden age, the club folded in the 1960s. A few local enthusiasts got the club back in the saddle in 2008.

**Philip Ashbourn**



### Excerpts

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