

Reviews

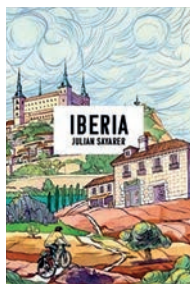
Books

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*



Iberia



Details
By: Julian Sayerer
Publisher: Fox, Finch & Tepper
Price: £9.99
ISBN: 9780993046773

WHILE COVID LOCKDOWN halted many of our cycling tours, Julian found himself in Portugal at the beginning of the pandemic so decided to do what any worldwide cycling writer would: ride through Portugal and central Spain to Barcelona.

Julian's got form, having held the world record for a circumnavigation by bicycle – riding 18,049 miles through 20 countries in 169 days.

Julian's laissez-faire travelling style adds authenticity. Many of us plan for months, pack and repack carefully selected kit, spec, fettle and bed in our choice of trusted bicycle companion; Julian's selected second-hand bike, christened Miles, was chosen as the least bad option days before the start in Lisbon.

For his route and overnight roadside camping spots he follows his nose. This introduces us to unpolished Spanish interior towns and villages unseen by tourists, and shows that a tour's unpredictable nature can be as much of an adventure as the route itself, with real lives observed through interactions with locals in bars and cafés.

This is not a guidebook: you'll find no maps nor hotel reviews. Instead, it is a charming 'pedalling philosophy.' Anyone who's spent long hours alone in the saddle cycling from point to point will recognise Julian's musings of daily life happening around him, blending political and historic context with comparisons with his own worldwide cycle travels.

No subject is off limit. Julian's advice on selecting the perfect hue of orange from those seen growing at the roadside shows a level of detail only afforded to one who has no deadline, allowing their mind to get lost in the moment.

Matt Mallinder



Details
By: Stefano Amato
Publisher: Gestalten
Price: £35
ISBN: 9783967040135

Bikepacking

GOOD BOOKS, LIKE good cooking, are all about the right balance of ingredients. Bikepacking's editor, Stefano Amato, has cooked up a feast. The menu of 40 cycling adventures around the world, all along paths less travelled, are equal parts inspiration and frustration as you try to decide which you might like to do first. For sides there are hand-drawn maps and illustrations from the editor, which complement the picture-led prose of the cycling adventures from the book's global list of contributors. A good book to give as a gift – possibly to yourself.

Sam Jones

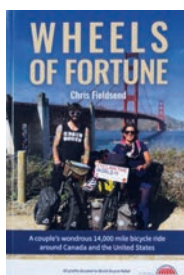


Details
By: Hannah Reynolds
Publisher: Vertebrate Publishing
Price: £20
ISBN: 9781839811098

1001 Cycling Tips

THIS GLOSSY BOOK has 1001 tips, pearls of wisdom, and nuggets of inspiration that should inform and amuse any rider, however many miles they've pedalled. However, it's probably aimed at people getting the biking bug as it's like having an experienced friend providing sage advice on every eventuality and cycling situation. Everything you need to know, from spanners to Strava, cycling lingo to cyclocross, is condensed into this easy-to-read guide.

Jim Densham



Details
By: Chris Fieldsend
Publisher: Independent Publishing Network
Price: £9.99
ISBN: 9781800499775

Wheels of Fortune

MOST PEOPLE WOULD find the prospect of cycling 14,000 miles (23,000km) around ten Canadian provinces and 26 US states over one year daunting. Not writer Chris Fieldsend and his partner Ties Benguedda. Wheels of Fortune celebrates the sense of freedom bikepacking brings, while acknowledging the bumps in the road along the way. This book is filled with entertaining anecdotes – from tornadoes and alligator encounters to random acts of kindness from locals and fellow travellers. It includes useful maps, route descriptions and bikepacking tips for those ready for their own journeys.

Joanne Clark

Excerpts
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