

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*



Great British Gravel Rides



Details
By: Markus Stitz
Publisher: Vertebrate Publishing
Price: £25
ISBN: 9781839811265

BRITAIN AND GRAVEL: five years ago these two words would scarcely have been used in the same sentence. The gravel bike boom has changed that. While this kind of riding has arguably been around ever since the bicycle was invented, more and more cyclists – perhaps fed up with the increasing number of cars on our roads – are taking to gravel tracks. Finding such tracks can prove somewhat difficult. What may look like a good gravel track on a map could turn out to be a two-mile walk through a muddy field. Cycle magazine contributor Markus Stitz has taken the work off your hands with this book.

It showcases 26 rides all around Britain, as far north as Beaulieu on a Scottish coast-to-coast adventure and as far south as Exeter on the East Devon Trail. So wherever you live you shouldn't be too far from a great route. For each of his rides Stitz links up with local experts, such as Jami Wilson in the Lakes and Mark Beaumont in East Lothian. This provides some great local insights to the routes and area.

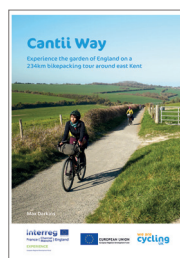
Each route comes with a map, a description, recommendations of where to stop, and a link to its GPX file. It also has some helpful tips about organising and setting off on one of these rides, from

recommended kit lists to legalities and access rights.

What bike should you use for these routes? Markus Stitz's answer: "The bike you own is the best gravel bike."

Jordan Matthews

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

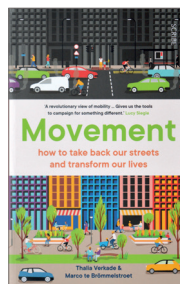


Details
By: Max Darwins
Publisher: Cycling UK
Price: free PDF download: cyclinguk.org/cantii-way
ISBN: n/a

Cantii Way

KENT DERIVES ITS name from Cantii, the Celtic tribe who once inhabited south-east England. This guide invites the modern-day tribe of cycle-tourists to pedal along the 234km, "largely traffic-free", mainly flat, circular trail, called the Cantii Way. Divided into seven legs, the book is crammed with information on the sights you will encounter – everything from Roman ruins to World War Two gun emplacements, sound mirrors, and the stark beauty of Prospect cottage at Dungeness.

Iain Marshall



Details
By: Thalia Verkade & Marco te Broemmelstroet
Publisher: Scribe Publications
Price: £12.99
ISBN: 9781911344971

Movement

THE NETHERLANDS ISN'T quite the cycling utopia we all thought it was. Despite 35,000km of high-quality cycle tracks it still has problems with road safety and streets dominated by cars. As one of the writers takes us on her journey of discovery, changed perceptions and solutions, the book will make you look differently at the streets outside your own front door. Sadly, the UK has many of the same issues with how our roads and communities have been designed around car use rather than people.

Jim Densham



Details
By: Tom Bogdanowicz
Publisher: Fox Chapel Publishing
Price: £12.99
ISBN: 9781913618230

Cycling London

THIS FOURTH EDITION now includes details of cycle shops as well as how to use London's public bike-sharing scheme. It covers more than 40 routes in the capital, all designed by members of the London Cycling Campaign. As an east Londoner I turned to these pages first. Several routes started close by and I gave one a go. Instructions were clear and concise, with information on how to get to the route and maps that were large enough to follow. QR codes to downloadable GPX files would make this guide even more useful.

Rebecca Armstrong