

# Reviews Books

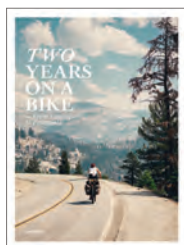
CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

## Print queue

Cycle doesn't feature all books received. Reviewers pick the ones they think you need to know about from the editor's list. Send books to:  
[Cycle, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX](mailto:Cycle, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX)



## Two Years on a Bike



**Details**  
**By:** Martijn Doolaard  
**Publisher:** Gestalten  
**Price:** £45  
**ISBN:** 9783967040500

**MARTIJN DOOLAARD** has created a mammoth book to chronicle his mammoth journey. *Two Years on a Bike* – part travelogue, part coffee table photography book – covers a squiggly-line journey from Vancouver in Canada all the way south to Patagonia.

Doolaard takes you along with him. As well the abundant photos, there are some spectacular illustrations of his route, bike and kit, provided by top cartographer Alex Hotchin. The account doesn't dial in on the miles, elevation and stats, preferring to focus more on people, locations and stories, such as coyote encounters in Yosemite and the Death Road of Bolivia.

Other highlights are the relationships made en route. Doolaard teams up with other cycle tourists at various stages, and has a potential journey-stopping romantic encounter in San Francisco. "I don't want to, but I have to leave now," Doolaard admits.

It's not all open roads and freewheeling. In Mexico City, Doolaard's bike is stolen while he is at the cinema. (Surly comes to the rescue and ships him a new one.) On leaving Mexico City, he hears news of two cyclists who look to have been "deliberately robbed and murdered" close to where he is heading. Serious decisions have to be made.

The book is more about the journey than the destination. As

Doolaard puts it: "Not only am I travelling slowly, I am choosing to stop and settle in places along the way... to take part in the same pattern of life everybody else follows." It is some journey, and following Doolaard along it is fascinating.

**Jordan Matthews**



### Excerpts

You can read excerpts from some of the books that *Cycle* has reviewed at [cyclinguk.org/cycle-book-excerpts](http://cyclinguk.org/cycle-book-excerpts)



**Details**  
**By:** Simon Warren  
**Publisher:** Vertebrate Publishing  
**Price:** £14.95  
**ISBN:** 9781839811968

## 100 Greatest Cycling Climbs of Spain

**SIMON WARREN TURNS** his attention to Spain for his latest collection of must-do road climbs. It follows the successful formula of his other books. Each of the 100 climbs gets two pages: a full-page photo; a rating out of 10 for difficulty; mini-maps; gradient and altitude details; and a description that hovers between exultation and masochism. But then his bottom gear was only 34/28! As well as mainland Spain, Mallorca and the Canaries also feature. It's well worth £15 if you plan to be in Spain with a road bike.

**Dan Joyce**



**Details**  
**By:** Neil Carter  
**Publisher:** Bloomsbury Publishing  
**Price:** £27.99 (paperback)  
**ISBN:** 9781472572080

## Cycling and the British

**BEGINNING IN THE** late 19th century, Neil Carter's book charts the rise, fall and rebirth of cycling's presence within society, charting its complex social and cultural interactions with gender, class, sport and the environment. Carter argues "the act of riding a bicycle is in itself a political gesture". It's hard to disagree. *Cycling and the British* is a complete work for anyone looking to appreciate cycling's position within our social fabric and the lives of people it changes and defines. It helps us grasp the events of the past to better understand the world we live in.

**Zak Viney**



**Details**  
**By:** Kitty Pemberton-Platt  
**Publisher:** Apres Sport ([apresport.co.uk](http://apresport.co.uk))  
**Price:** £30  
**ISBN:** n/a

## Cycling Cafés

**MANY CYCLISTS BEGIN,** stop mid-ride or end up at a cycling café to enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake. This book highlights 22 cycling-themed cafés in England and Wales, with a few suggested routes if you wish to give one a visit on your next ride. It includes each café owner's story about why they opened, how they serve the cycling community in their areas and why they can be a hub for those who enjoy cycling while providing exquisite food and drinks to refuel. Literally a coffee table book for cycling enthusiasts.

**Mo Halloum**