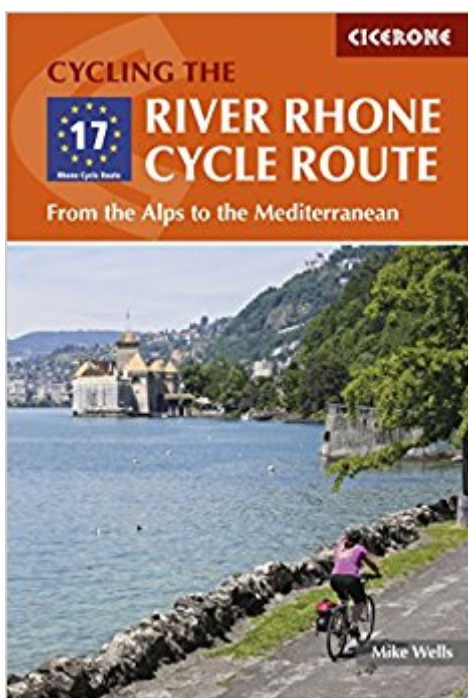




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Cycling The River Rhone Cycle Route: From The Alps To The Mediterranean



Synopsis

Guide to The River Rhone Cycle Route, an 895km bicycle ride starting high in the Alps of central Switzerland and finishing at the Mediterranean Sea, near Marseille. The route - which is mostly downhill - is divided into 20 stages (averaging 45km per stage) and can be completed by most cyclists in 12-14 days. The described route uses two waymarked national cycle trails: the Swiss R1 Rhone Route and the French ViaRh na, which together have been adopted by the ECF (European Cyclists' Federation) as EuroV lo route EV17. The guide provides detailed route descriptions and 1:150,000 mapping for each stage, together with plenty of practical advice such as preparing for the journey, transport options there and back, what to take, accommodation en route and more. A Swiss/French glossary is also included. Taking in dramatic mountain vistas, Lake Geneva's enchanting beauty and the coastal delights of southern France, the route showcases some of the region's most spectacular scenery, making it a veritable gem for any tour cyclist looking to stretch their legs in stunning surrounds. If a visual feast is not enough, cyclists can indulge in the gastronomic wonders of the region. And need we mention the fact that the Rhone flows through some of the greatest wine producing regions of both Switzerland and France?

Book Information

Paperback: 258 pages

Publisher: Cicerone Press Limited (December 31, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1852847557

ISBN-13: 978-1852847555

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.6 x 6.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,460,447 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > Rhone #921 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Cycling > Excursion Guides #3125 in Books > Travel > Europe > France > General

Customer Reviews

Mike Wells has been walking long-distance footpaths for 25 years, and a keen cyclist for 20. He has walked the major British paths, the GR5 from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean, and explored the Dolomites Alta Via routes in Italy. He has also walked in Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Norway and Chilean Patagonia. Starting with UK cycling routes, he soon moved on to long-distance routes in the

rest of Europe and beyond, including a circumnavigation of Iceland and a ride across Cuba.

This book provides the most extensive route information I have found. Other websites for the stages of the Via Rhona state: "This stage not yet complete," thus leaving you in the lurch for planning. And forget the Michelin; it doesn't appear to be nearly detailed enough. Here, there is extensive turn-by-turn routing, with links to a downloadable gpx map of same. Absolutely terrific stuff (if proves to be true--we're going in May).

It's the most detailed guide available to this route and I found it useful, but putting too much emphasis on obvious detailed directions ('turn left 200 metres after the bridge') that you can get from a study of the map. I would have liked more narrative about the things to see and do en route, and also the condition of the cycle tracks. It came as a surprise to find that some sections were farm tracks only suitable for mountain bikes. In other parts the route followed busy roads with no shoulder, and there was no warning of this. My main complaint, however, is that this guide is already out of date and some parts of the route do not match those of the official signposted Via Rhona. I only found out this when I tried to follow the route on my iPhone GPX app using the data downloaded as part of this guide. According to this guide, on Stage 9 "Champagneux Dam to Lagnieu" the route from Port de Groslee follows roads through villages such as Gouvoux and Creys. In reality the marked route is now a dedicated cycle track through the larger towns of Branges and Morestel. This discrepancy led to a lot of frustration and wasted to-ing and fro-ing on that day of my trip. After that I started relying on the Via Rhona website for accurate route maps instead of this guide. The format of the sections is also odd in that many do not end at places with food or accomodation - you have to manually look these places up online and/or consult a map. Why not mark campsites on the maps - that's how most cyclists do the route!

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