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Baguettes And Bicycles: A Cycling Adventure Across France (Eurovelo Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Award-winning author Steven Herrick journeys across France on a bicycle, meeting the locals and savouring the pleasures of french food. Beginning on the Atlantic coast of Brittany, the author follows the Loire Valley, the Saone River and numerous canal paths through vineyards, quiet forests and small villages, accompanied by his slow red bicycle, christened Craig after a well-known weight-loss guru. But does the author listen to slimming advice? Non! Adopting the intriguing mantra that 'cycling is just an interlude between meals,' Steven Herrick indulges in three courses for lunch and four courses for dinner, straining the bounds of lycra-clad good taste while testing the frame strength of his bicycle. Not content with crossing France from west to east and cycling over 1,200 kilometres, the author also decides to tackle the iconic mountains of the Tour de France. Mont Ventoux, Alpe d'Huez, Col du Galibier and more... in search of cycling nirvana and the perfect boulangerie. 'baguettes and bicycles' is a travel adventure, a restaurant safari and a guidebook for those who enjoy slow food, easy cycling... and fast descents!

About the author: Steven Herrick has written twenty-one books for children and young adults. His novels have twice won the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and he has been shortlisted for the prestigious Australian Children's Book Council Book of the Year Awards on six occasions. He travels the world visiting schools to perform his poetry and to discuss his books. This is his first travel book.

Reviews: 'Simply put, I loved this book!' .co.uk review 'Honest, humble and entertaining whilst being seriously informative.' .com review 'I read this on my busy commute to work. It was a beautiful escape from being stuffed on a tube in central London. Im going to take up cycling now as a result.' .co.uk review 'Inspirational book for any middle aged men (or women) contemplating a mid life crisis on 2 wheels.' .co.uk review 'Really enjoyed this book, which is a witty, fast-paced trek across France.' .co.uk review 'If you enjoy cycling at any level, read this book. You will not be disappointed.' .co.uk review 'I laughed from start to finish. I could smell the French countryside... First class reading thoroughly entertaining and not a downside in it. J'taime.' .com review 'A great read and made me want to fly off to France and begin my own food filled cycle adventure.' .com review 'A pleasant, gentle stroll through France written in an amusing but engaging Australian manner & perspective.' .co.uk review

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Customer Reviews

However, for those who cycle and tour it was OK, but not memorable. I'm sure Steven is a fine fellow, but in my opinion a Willie Weir he is not when it comes to writing about adventuring on a bicycle. It certainly didn't leave me wanting more when it ended. My wife and I are cycling the same route (Eurovelo 6) from St Nazaire to Basel this coming September and I was/am reading just about everything I can find on the trip. That is why we purchased this book (that and the rave reviews). We have toured in France on bicycles before (we flew into Bordeaux and cycled the canals to the Med last year....oddly that is trip Steven Herrick did after this one). Update: My wife and I spent 22 days cycling this route this past September. Conditions obviously vary year to year. Unlike Steven who had lots of rain, we only experienced about 20 minutes of rain for the whole 22 days. Suggestions for anyone contemplating the ride: get the following books: "The Complete Loire Valley Trail Nevers and Orleans to the Ocean" (isbn: 978-2-7373-5001-6) available in english. I bought ours thru UK also get "Eurovelo 6 Atlantique - Mer Noire de Brest à Nevers" (isbn: 978-2-84466-175-3) this is in french. First gets you to Nevers the second from Nevers to Basel (Brest). Both books read as if cycling east to west so one has to work backwards starting at the back of the books and working toward the front. This is not a serious problem but worth mentioning. ALSO: The map pack by Huber Eurovelo 6 (sections 1-6) (isbn: 978-3-9437520-0-7) although supposedly up to date, it is not, however but it is worth the weight of its carry as it makes for easy route planning and overview.

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