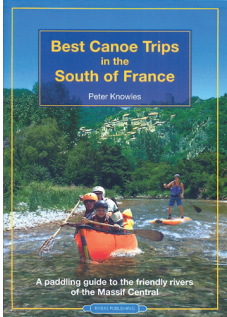


BOOKS

Best Canoe Trips in the South of France



Peter Knowles
Rivers Publishing
978 0 9957513 3 0
A5

185 pages, paperback
2002. 2nd edition 2018

From Cordee Outdoor Books & Maps, 11
Jacknell Rd, Hinckley, Leicester LE10 3BS

If the cover looks slightly familiar, note that the water is now flatter and flowing the opposite way while a paddleboard has joined in. In fact, Photoshop has a lot to answer for.

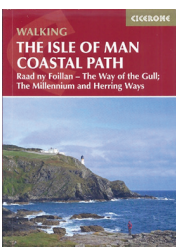
This is the second edition of White Water Massif Central (Aug 02, p33), slightly larger, with more pages, some additional rivers, some extra sections of rivers which were included previously and with many new pictures.

In particular, it is now in full colour throughout and has the format we used in the very popular Pub Paddles. An introductory chart gives each section with its distance, grade, quality, scenery, attractions for children and number of users. Each river is introduced with water levels and temperatures, camping and campsite contacts, other activities off the water, drink and food (particularly Peter's addiction to ice cream), maps, shuttles, tourist offices, canoe hire, rafting and other rivers in the vicinity. Once again, Fluffy has a regular input to keep everything family friendly and the humour is always bubbling away in the background. You cannot take a book too seriously when it says 'A good breakfast is important...' while showing a paddler seated at a picnic table with a box of All Bran and a bottle of white wine.

Attention is drawn to particular regulations, such as slight time zoning, where buoyancy aids are required and access points which must be used. On the other hand, you can hardly fail to notice the positive attitude of the French authorities, the installation of canoe chutes on ever more weirs, the water releases for paddlers when necessary, indeed, the welcoming approach to water users. As a result, the public come in their thousands, brining money into the region from what is a major part of the tourist industry and boosting the local economy and the rural infrastructure.

This is a thoroughly enjoyable read, one which will have you thinking seriously of heading south with the family.

The Isle of Man Coastal Path



Aileen Evans
Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss,
Oxenholme Rd, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7RL
978 1 85284 879 8
170 x 120mm

158 pages, paperback
1988. 4th edition 2018
£12.95

This guide follows the 158km footpath around the coast of the Isle of Man with a few pages at the end to include a couple of inland routes.

Author Aileen Evans is particularly interested in plants and other wildlife but comes to this book with a fine pedigree of production of Cicerone guides and a background of outdoor sports. Her climbing allows her to talk about the safety of the varied cliffs. Several decades ago she was one of our top slalomists and she comments on the sea conditions in more detail than is usual in walking guides, noting overfalls, races and tidal flows with their speeds.

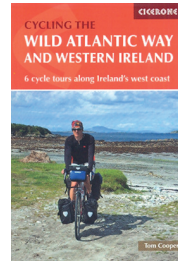
Unusually, the maps are arranged to give the direction of travel from left to right across the page so north can be in any direction. Travelling clockwise on the coastal path means that land is at the bottom and sea at the top, perhaps the opposite of what the paddler might prefer. Also

Reviews of new books and publications

unusual are the number of full page photographs, the sea included in a high proportion.

As usual there are details of logistics such as transport there and on the island, weather, accommodation, where to get free parking discs, tides and tidal constants, maps, geology, wildlife and history of the island, giving a brief background to this independent island in the Irish Sea.

The Wild Atlantic Way & Western Ireland



Tom Cooper
Cicerone
978 1 85284 909 2
170 x 120mm
251 pages, paperback
2010. 2nd edition 2018
£14.95

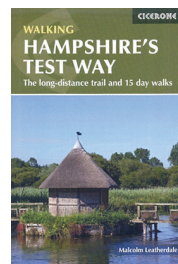
The Wild Atlantic Way is a tourist board route for car drivers. This is a cycle variant, stretched to run from Derry to Cork and getting off the beaten track onto more rural lanes. In particular, Achill, Clare, Inishboffin and the Aran islands are visited. The route does not always follow the coast closely but often it does and it traces most of the peninsulas in the southwest.

Useful for those not on wheels is that the cycle route directions are separated from the rest of the text. Maps are more for route planning than detail.

The introduction includes such topics as history, geology, wildlife, culture, music, language and practicalities such as accommodation, food and cashpoints or lack of them. There is advice on wild camping and the initial stage of no camping notices on beaches.

Of course there are plenty of pictures of beaches and even the Aasleagh Falls, from the mirrored water in the placid harbour at Bunbeg to lines of rugged waves rolling into Lahinch. Take a look at the many attractions which the west coast of Ireland has to offer both sides of the shoreline.

Walking Hampshire's Test Way



Malcolm Leatherdale
Cicerone
978 1 85284 953 5
170 x 120mm
155 pages, paperback
2018
£12.95

The River Test is one of only a couple of hundred chalk stream rivers in the world. The Test Way is based loosely on the river, starting from Inkpen Beacon and finishing at Eling tide mill. In fact, the footpath does not meet the River Test until Longparish, over a third of the way down the footpath.

The book features a full length guide to the path, followed by a series of circular walks from the path, although the section of path following the river runs to less than 30 pages.

The EA claim that there is no non tidal river at all in Hampshire open to the public in boats, this pristine river being one of the most fiercely protected, although the book draws attention to a sign reading 'Landowners welcome caring walkers'. An irony is in describing the restrictions on the various walking routes which range from public footpaths up to BOATs, byways open to all traffic but certainly no boats to be seen now.

Various others rivers are encountered, including the River Dun, Bartley Water, River Dever, River Anton and Oakley Stream. There is a section on the Andover & Redbridge Canal which was 35km long but of which only some 3km remain, very overgrown. Much of it was used as trackbed for the corresponding railway, not entirely successfully as barges at walking pace were better at cornering than were railway trains, which tended to derail frequently.

As is often seen with Cicerone books, the route uses sections of OS 1:50,000 map to accompany the text. It is also well illustrated with various pictures of the river and its tributaries, braiding being a frequent feature in this flat and rural valley.