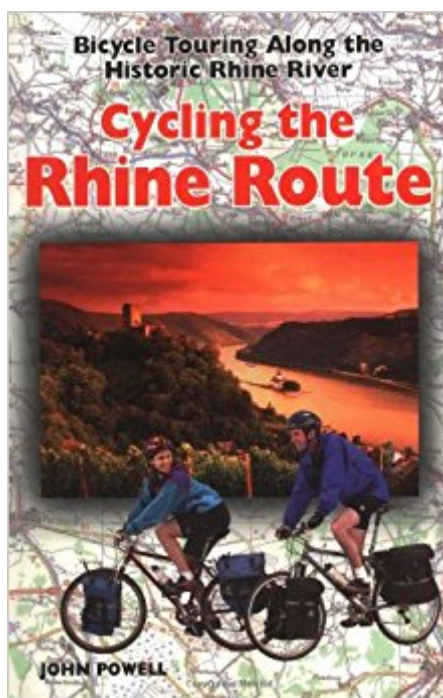


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Cycling The Rhine Route: Bicycle Touring Along The Historic Rhine River



Synopsis

For over 1,000 years, the Rhine river has been Europe's main corridor of transport, connecting markets and cultures from the sea border in Holland with the inland regions all the way to Switzerland. Today's bicycle tourist can experience the great diversity of geography, architecture, trade, and culture that is still apparent along this spectacular waterway. Best of all, it's not an exhausting ride: despite the sometimes formidable mountains that loom over the river, author John Powell has mapped out a course that keeps mainly level. The trip can be traversed all the way, requiring about three weeks of cycling, with all levels of accommodation readily available, or cut up into sections, with convenient access points identified. This April 2000, hard copy, first edition of this book has been updated in the 2012 e-book version, of the same title, available on all platforms with Kindle access. New features include links to maps, GPS, and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Rhine Route. This book is out of date. I have updated and improved this route guide in e-book form, available on all platforms in the KINDLE section. CYCLING THE RHINE ROUTE by John Powell, Second Updated edition, 2012, in e-book format, includes online links to MAPS, with DOWNLOADABLE GPS, SmartPhone Map Links and many more features.

This is a terrific book, but I do have some reservations. What is so terrific about it is that it is jam-packed with information useful to any bicyclist planning, or in the middle of, a trip along the Rhine River. It includes sections on equipment, geography, history, money, climate, foreign words

and phrases, etc., as well as detailed routes, alternate routes, and "diversion routes" (with maps) along the Rhine. Of course, one could bring along a pack of books on all these topics, but any traveling bicyclist is obviously greatly limited as to what he/she can carry. So it's nice to have so much information in one place. Naturally the longest part of the book is devoted to Germany, as this is the longest (and probably most interesting) stretch of the river. I traveled my own "Rhine journey" by bicycle (the Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland) a few years ago, and it was one of the most memorable events of my life. I kept a detailed diary at the time (highly recommended), and frequently still turn to it. John Powell's book also brought back many happy memories. My quibbles (mostly minor) about Powell's book are as follows: I found that for each route, the number of tiny instructions offered to the bicyclist seem obsessively detailed, almost to the point of being funny. For just one example, to bicycle from Bacharach to Mainz, a very simple stretch of 37 miles, all on the western side of the river, Powell offers more than 90 instructions! Long-distance bicyclists are a pretty resourceful and intrepid lot, really don't need this kind of detail, and rarely get lost. I myself bicycled the entire Rhine route with just good maps, notes I made at home before I left (about places and sights), and a small guide to youth hostels. And I never got lost! Speaking about youth hostels, most long-distance bicyclists in Europe are relatively young and stay in hostels along the way. Hostels are usually fun, cheap, and a good way to exchange travel tips and make friends. Powell devotes very little space to them. A hostel guide is very useful in planning. The one from the Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk in Detmold is great, also "Hostels Germany" by Paul Karr and Martha Coombs is useful and fun. A tiny point: Powell says, regarding bicycle tires, that he uses "slick (smooth) treads for better speed." What's the hurry? Why not slow down a bit and enjoy the marvelous scenery? Also, I think a somewhat thicker tread is advisable, unless one is adept at fixing flat tires (not all the bike paths are free of sharp pebbles and glass!). Powell's book is a thoughtful guide, obviously not a book to sit down and read cover to cover, but a good resource for planning or executing that trip along the Rhine. If you do make the trip, I hope you have as great a time as I did!

I am cycling part of this route in 2014 and was very interested to read this book. It is detailed, descriptive and very rider focused.

Cycling the Rhine Route is well worth the buy as it gives you a good overview of the trail as well as what to expect along the route, with sightseeing side trips that you can do if you want to. A comprehensive publication.

I like reading this book because it's packed with so much information any cyclist would need to know before launching themselves on a cycling tour across this part of our beautiful world.

I'm planning on cycling the Rhine route in a few weeks and bought this book in preparation... useless, completely useless. I didn't realize that when the title says, "Historic Rhine River" the author was referencing a section of the river, not the river in its entirety. I'm starting at the source of the river in Andernach and only going to Koblenz. His route starts in the Netherlands and goes south. This is opposite of what the maps (the Bikeline series) and other people have done. So all of the little maps with turns in his book are of no use as they go in the opposite direction of the route I'm traveling. As I live in Germany, the entire first 80 pages were not necessary. Although, maybe for someone coming from outside of Europe they would be, I don't know. The author also does not even show pictures of the Rhine route markers! For example, the EU marker is a blue background with a yellow cyclist. If you cannot hold his book, follow the directions and ride all at the same time, you can always keep an eye out for the markers. Overall, I was very disappointed. I was excited to see this book (in English) on Amazon but now am just going to invest in the Bikeline maps. I think I actually got more information out of the rheinradweg.eu webpage. The book is also 10 years out of date and still references Deutch Marks and Francs. Save your money and do research online. Not only will it be updated, but you'll be able to cater it to your personal trip.

I make one to two 500 to 800 mile bike travel a year. My next one (July/2009) is from Zurich to Amsterdam via Rhine river. This book has good intentions but is not well organized, some excess information in turn left and right and no detailed information on elevations, wind, temperature or GPS points. The direction shown in the book is west/north to east/south and I am really going the other way following the river flow. The maps inside the book aren't good either. I am not taking this book to Europe with me.

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