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The Alentejo Circuit (Pedal Portugal Tours & Day Rides) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

A cyclist's guide to Portugal's sub-baked Alentejo region. Provides a general overview of riding in the Alentejo, plus a highly-detailed description of a tour taking in many of its highlights. The Alentejo Circuit is based on a six-day loop starting from the historic city of Evora. The main ride can be adapted into a 5-9 day trip, with notes on alternative routes and side trips taking in vineyards, a giant dam, bird-spotting opportunities and the chance to visit ancient megaliths. Background information gives ideas for places to stay, where to find shops, cafes, bike stores etc. Directions for each day's ride include details of all important junctions and distances for every section - plus 22 maps. A separate section provides advice on a 3-day coastal extension taking in some of the Alentejo's most dramatic cliffs and prettiest beaches. The guide is based on a popular touring route from the Pedal Portugal website and is the first in a series of planned books on cycling in the country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Huw Thomas is a third-generation tandem rider, and novelist, who turned to writing guidebooks on Portugal because he's unable to spend all his time cycling there. Born in Hampshire, Huw trained as a journalist and worked in PR/communications before finally finding a way of avoiding a 9-5 existence. A tandem trip around the coasts of France and the Iberian Peninsula in 2004-2005 provided his first introduction to Portugal. After retraining to teach English as a foreign language, Huw and his stoker (wife) Carolyn spent three years teaching in Portugal - an ideal opportunity to explore more of the country and discover a number of excellent bike rides. During a

break in their teaching, Huw and Carolyn embarked on a 10,000-mile tandem ride across 11 countries to raise money for the disaster relief charity ShelterBox. The experience of planning that journey inspired Huw to set up the Pedal Portugal website to offer advice and ideas to other cyclists coming to the country. Although now back in England, Huw makes regular return visits to Portugal using the excuse of needing to keep the website up to date. pedalportugal.com is now the leading source of information on cycling in Portugal, containing suggestions for a variety of touring routes plus details of day/short rides within Portugal. The Alentejo Circuit has always been the most popular touring route on the site so has become the first in what it is hoped will be a series of Pedal Portugal guidebooks. Huw's novels include the award-winning 'The Tale of Findo Gask', crime mysteries 'The Vault' and 'Waking Broken'. His latest book is 'Church of the White Rabbits', a story of revenge, feuds and blackmail involving a cast of eccentric characters on a remote Atlantic island. Under the pen name William Webster he has also written the popular archaeological adventure 'Pagan's Sphinx'.

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