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Desert Journeys
By Jerry Rosen

Reviewed by Elizabeth Preston

There is a point at which many I-just-like-to-ride-my-bike-around-the-neighborhood cyclists become it's-Saturday-so-I'm-going-on-a-big ride cyclists. In many communities across the country, budding cyclists have to cobble together their own cue sheets, based on Web sites done by enthusiasts, books with more texts than maps, and friends' recommendations. Luckily, in Tucson, riders now have an option: Desert Journeys, an incredible new book by Jerry Rosen. Rosen, a cycling enthusiast and 30-year-Tucson resident, saw a lack in an otherwise very bicycle friendly place (the Tucson area has a gold rating in the League's Bicycle Friendly Community program): namely, an easy-to-use local resource for Tucson road cyclists. With some help from very talented friends of his, he's laid out an excellent book with full-color maps, cue sheets, mileage, feet of climbing, and descriptions of more than 30 journeys around the Tucson area. The rides range from very flat 2-mile rides to the 105-mile monster climb called Sonoita. In addition to clear ride descriptions and great ideas to get out of your riding ruts, he also includes tips for riding in groups and a map of all the bike shops in the Tucson area. Every city in the country could use a helpful, colorful, and spiral-bound book just like this one. Next time you plan on going for a ride in the Tucson area, be sure to take this book with you.