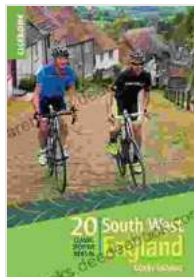


# 20 Unforgettable Classic Sportive Rides in South West England



## 20 Classic Sportive Rides in South West England: Graded routes on cycle-friendly roads in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Avon and Dorset (Cycling)

by Colin Dennis

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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South West England is a cyclist's paradise, boasting a rich tapestry of landscapes, from rolling hills and lush forests to dramatic coastlines and tranquil waterways. With its network of well-maintained roads and an abundance of dedicated cycle paths, it's the perfect playground for both seasoned cyclists and those seeking a more leisurely adventure on two wheels.

Sportive rides offer a unique way to explore this beautiful region, providing organized cycling events that cater to a wide range of abilities. These rides typically cover long distances and often feature challenging climbs, but they also offer breathtaking scenery and a camaraderie that makes the effort worthwhile.

To help you plan your next cycling adventure in the South West, we've compiled a list of 20 classic sportive rides that will leave you with lasting memories:

### **1. The Dartmoor Classic (100 miles)**

This iconic ride takes you through the heart of Dartmoor National Park, with its rugged hills, granite tors, and ancient woodlands. The route is challenging but rewarding, with plenty of opportunities to stop and admire the stunning scenery.



### **2. The Exmoor Beast (70 miles)**

This challenging ride loops through the wild and beautiful Exmoor National Park. You'll encounter steep climbs and breathtaking descents as you cycle through ancient forests, past rugged moorland, and along the dramatic coastline.



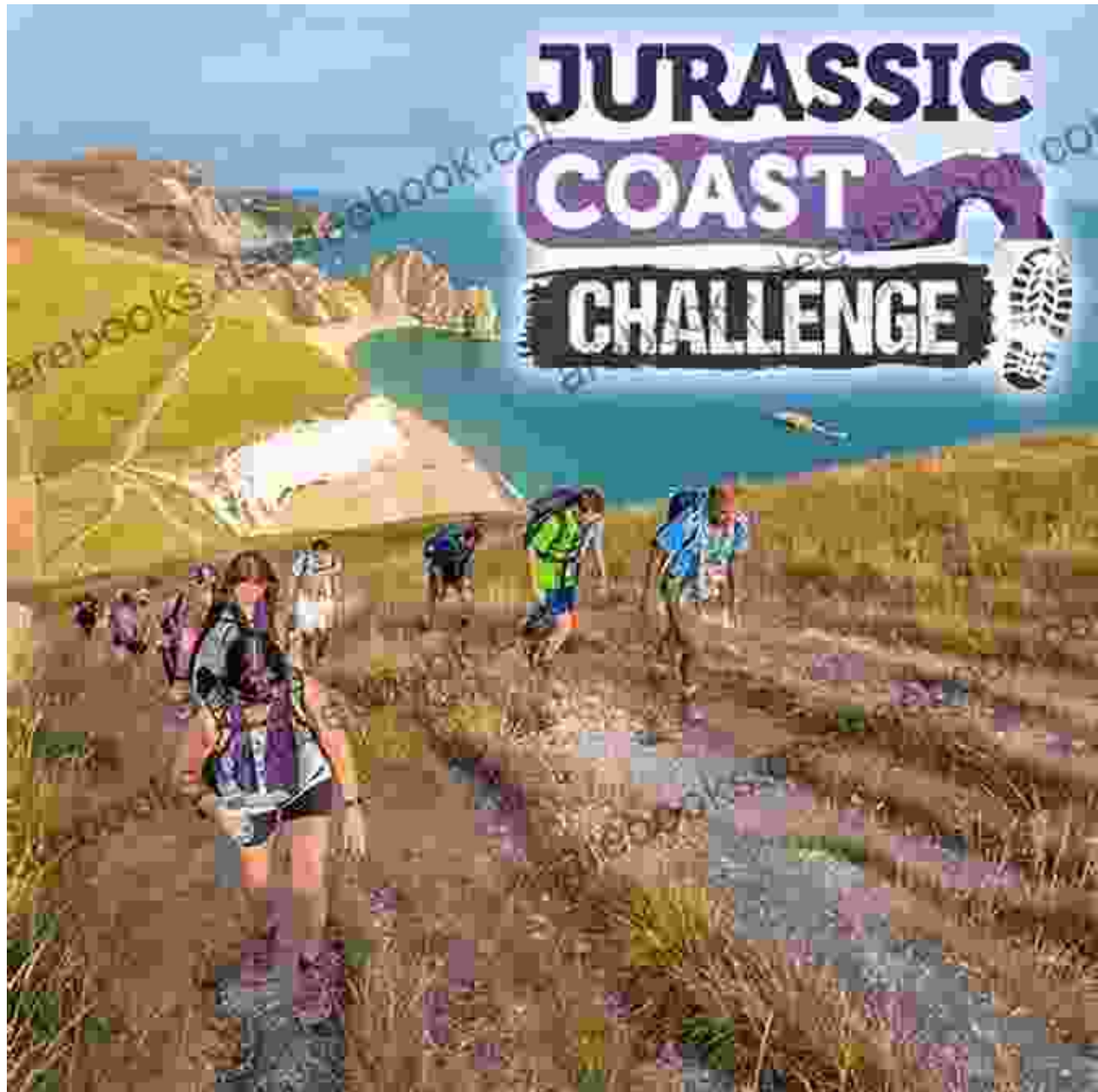
### **3. The Cotswold Classic (100 miles)**

This scenic route winds through the rolling hills of the Cotswolds, with its charming villages, honey-colored stone cottages, and picturesque landscapes. The ride is relatively flat, making it suitable for cyclists of all abilities.



#### **4. The Jurassic Coast Challenge (100 miles)**

This epic ride follows the stunning Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, and unique rock formations. The route is challenging but offers unforgettable views of this geological wonder.



## 5. The Somerset Levels Cycle Challenge (100 miles)

This flat and fast route takes you through the tranquil Somerset Levels, a vast wetland area known for its wildlife and historic villages. The ride is perfect for beginners or those looking for a more relaxed cycling experience.



## **6. The Bristol to Bath Cycle Path (25 miles)**

This scenic cycle path follows the River Avon between Bristol and Bath. The route is mostly flat and traffic-free, making it suitable for all ages and abilities. You'll pass through picturesque villages, rural landscapes, and the historic city of Bath.



## **7. The Granite Way (11 miles)**

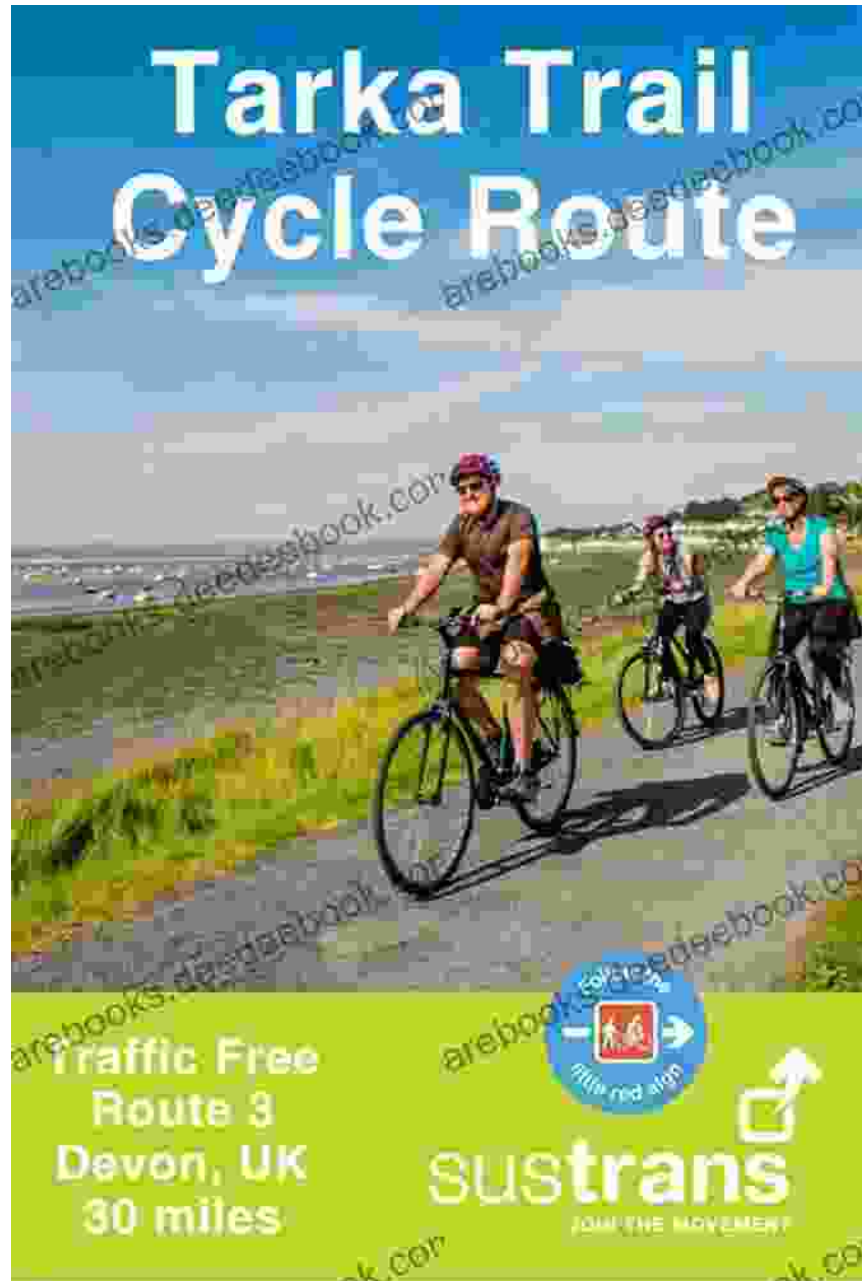
This short but challenging cycle path follows a disused railway line through the rugged Bodmin Moor. The route is mostly uphill, but the stunning scenery and sense of achievement make it well worth the effort.



## **8. The Tarka Trail (31 miles)**

This traffic-free cycle path follows the River Torridge from Braunton to Instow. The route is mostly flat and easy to navigate, making it perfect for families or those looking for a leisurely ride.





## 9. The Camel Trail (18 miles)

This picturesque cycle path follows the River Camel from Wadebridge to Padstow. The route is mostly flat and traffic-free, offering stunning views of the river, estuary, and surrounding countryside.



## 10. The Plym Valley Cycle Path (16 miles)

This traffic-free cycle path follows the River Plym from Plymouth to Tavistock. The route is mostly flat and easy to navigate, making it suitable for all ages and abilities.



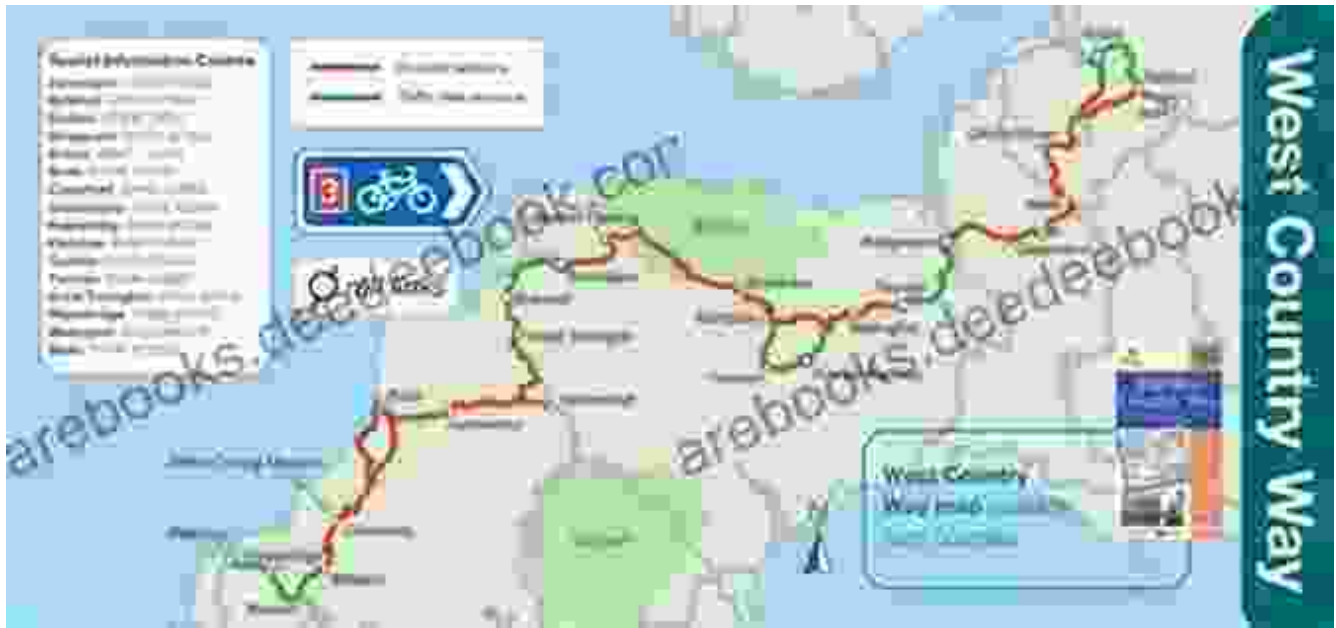
## **11. The Two Moors Way (87 miles)**

This challenging long-distance cycle path crosses Dartmoor National Park and Exmoor National Park. The route is mostly off-road and includes steep climbs and technical sections. It's recommended only for experienced cyclists.



## **12. The West Country Way (292 miles)**

This epic long-distance cycle path follows the River Severn from Bristol to Minehead. The route is mostly off-road and includes challenging climbs. It's recommended only for experienced cyclists with a good level of fitness.



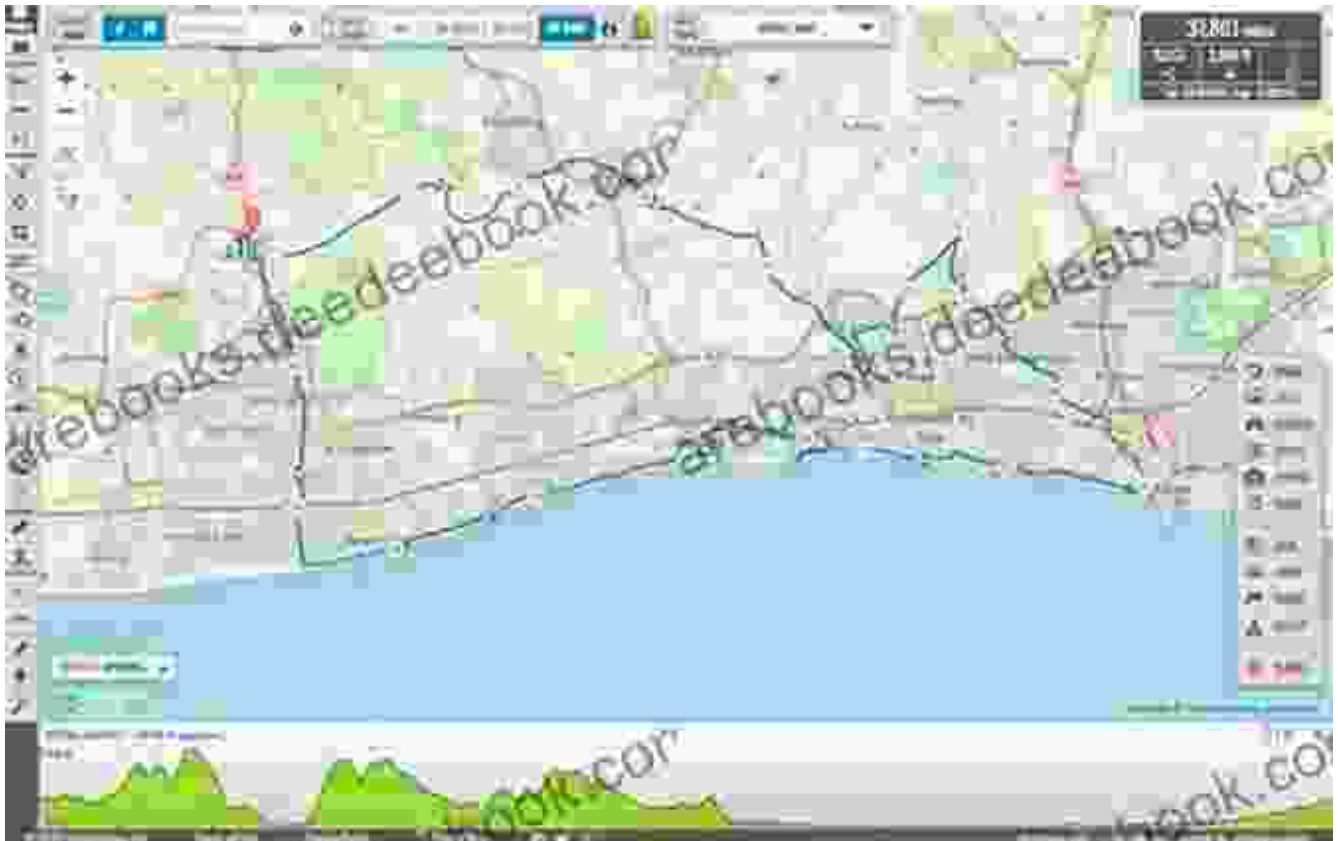
### 13. The King Alfred's Way (229 miles)

This long-distance cycle path follows the route taken by King Alfred the Great during the 9th century. The route starts in Winchester and finishes in Bridgwater, passing through beautiful countryside and historic sites.



#### **14. The Monarch's Way (615 miles)**

This epic long-distance cycle path follows the route taken by King Charles II after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. The route starts in Worcester and finishes in Shoreham-by-Sea, passing through a variety of landscapes and historic sites.



## 15. The Sea to Sea Cycle Route (190 miles)

This long-distance cycle path crosses the South West of England from Minehead on the Bristol Channel to St Ives on the Atlantic Coast. The route offers stunning coastal scenery and challenging climbs.



## 16. The Stride and Stride Sportive (100 miles)

This annual sportive ride starts and finishes in Taunton. The route takes in some of the most challenging climbs in the Quantock Hills, as well as stunning views of the surrounding countryside.



## 17. The Cheddar Gorge Sportive (80 miles)

This challenging sportive ride starts and finishes in Cheddar. The route takes in some of the most iconic landmarks in the Mendip Hills, including Cheddar Gorge and Glastonbury Tor.





## **18. The New Forest Sportive (70 miles)**

This picturesque sportive ride starts and finishes in Brockenhurst. The route takes in the beautiful scenery of the New Forest, including ancient woodlands, heathlands, and wild ponies.



## 19. The Wiltshire 100 (100 miles)

This popular sportive ride starts and finishes in Devizes. The route takes in the rolling hills and picturesque villages of



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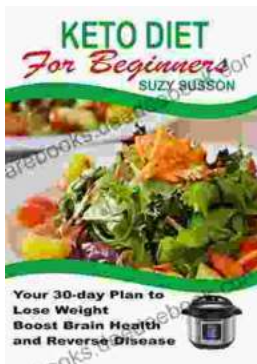
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