

CASS GILBERT'S WINDOW ON THE WORLD



Cass Gilbert really likes to ride his bike. As a 26-year-old college graduate in 1998, Gilbert decided to ride his bicycle from Australia back to his native England and the former London bike courier has been adventuring on two wheels ever since. A tandem ride with his girlfriend from Turkey to Turkestan followed in 2001, and he has spent the rest of the decade exploring the British Isles, the Himalayas, and Southeast Asia, primarily on mountain bikes and way off the beaten path. The more he rode, the more he photographed, and we now consider him one of the premier adventure cycling photographers on the planet.



Previous pages: China: Cass poses in front of a Tibetan house in North Yunnan with his bike and Extrawheel trailer, which provided him with a spare 700c wheel for his 29er.

1. China: At the top of the pass leading into the junction town Litang, a motorbike-riding cowboy pulled over to check out our bikes. **2.** Wales: On the epic, 100-mile Trans Cambrian. Although this is a mountain-bike route, most of it is doable on a touring or cyclocross bike (rider Eugenie Frerichs). **3.** Tunisia: Watch out! Camels roam free here. **4.** China: A frigid pass in November in West Sichuan, over 4,500 meters high (rider Cara Coolbaugh). **5.** Tunisia: In the middle of the desert, we stumbled across this unlikely cafe, serving shots of jet-black coffee.



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1. Laos: Festival time in one of the small Laotian villages. 2. Laos: The stunning, jungle-clad limestone outcrops on the road between Luang Prabang and the capital, Vientiane. 3. Laos: Cara greets the local youth welcoming committee from her saddle. 4. Tunisia: In Douz, a market adds a splash of color to the ochre desert background. 5. Wales: We stripped down our kit and fitted 700x45C tires for extra comfort and wild camping in a tarp along the way (bike: Surly LHT).



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1. Laos: In remote northern Laos, Cass and Cara strayed off the main road to head into the hilly, rutted interior to Phongsali. 2. China: Kids loved to vie for the bike traveler's attention in the high-altitude mountains of North Yunnan. 3. Local produce. 4. Tunisia: Cass' brother Nick takes a break along the bolt-straight road in the salt flats of the Jebel Dahab desert. 5. China: Another cold mountain pass in Sichuan.



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