

MISSION

Adventure Cycling Association inspires and empowers people to travel by bicycle.

AREAS OF FOCUS

• Provide the premier tools and inspiration for people to travel by bicycle. • Expand and integrate bike travel networks for North America. • Create the best possible conditions for bicycle travel.

HOW TO REACH US

To join, change your address, or ask questions about membership, visit us online at adventurecycling.org or call 800.755.2453 or 406.721.1776.

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RIDING TAIWAN

Could this country become the next big cycling destination?

→ I REPORTED IN THE MAY ISSUE that I spent a week riding around Taiwan in early March, after presenting at the Velo-city Global conference on all things bicycle. I enjoyed a deluxe, 5-star tour courtesy of the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, which is spotlighting the country's cycling assets.

So what's my initial verdict? Though it doesn't match up yet with top-tier destinations in Europe and North America (especially Québec), Taiwan is already an attractive cycling destination and could reach the upper echelon in the near future.

The reasons to go now are the reasons to cycle anywhere: varied and beautiful landscapes, fantastic food (Chinese of course, but also Japanese and other global cuisines), very friendly people, lots of good lodging, sub-tropical climate, and some good cycling infrastructure. I was smitten with the coastal riding, particularly on the Pacific (eastern) coast, and the sinuous mountain roads in the heart of the country. As someone who enjoys good urban riding too, it was a blast navigating the alleys and using the growing bikeway (and bikeshare) systems in major cities like Taipei and Kaohsiung.



Bike bridges near Lotus Pond form part of the emerging urban cycling network in Kaohsiung. Taiwan is investing millions in urban facilities, signage, and rest stops for cyclists in the countryside.



Perhaps most exciting was learning about all the investments being made in new bike infrastructure, including the perimeter route around the country (Bicycle Route 1), separated cycle tracks, signage, and refreshment stations for traveling cyclists. Also positive: Taiwanese motorists were courteous in giving plenty of space to cyclists although that's sometimes not the case with scooter riders, who swarm major city roadways. One other issue: periodically and in a few places, the air pollution can wear on you.

As a major hub for bike manufacturing, Taiwan wants to be the "cycling kingdom" when it comes to pedal-powered tourism. The main obstacle is the lack of a complete cycle route network, with comfortable riding options for all users in cities and rural areas. But with Taiwan's compact size and accelerated government investment, that may not take too long.

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Top: On the road out of Taroko Gorge and into the mountains; in Taiwan, you can quickly transition from coastal riding to alpine terrain. **Bottom:** At a Buddhist temple overlooking Sun Moon Lake; Jim was lucky to borrow a KHS road bike from Adventure Cycling Life Member (and a top executive at KHS) Henry Hsieh. **Inset:** A deluxe lunch at an "aboriginal" restaurant near Taitung, featuring local vegetables and meats; for Chinese and Japanese food lovers, Taiwan is an endless banquet.