



## SO YOU WANT TO BUY A BIKE ...

### Welcome to the club



→ Anything even resembling a bike review or buyers guide is guaranteed to generate at least a few responses about the evils of consumer culture, barriers to entry, and the like. And, of course, those people are right. You almost certainly do not need a new bike. I *absolutely* do not need a new bike. And yet ... for many of us, the gear is part of the fun. The amount of brain cells devoted to head tube angles and axle “standards” is a point of serious concern when I think about what else I could’ve done instead. Learned French?

That’s the double-edged sword of being an “enthusiast” at anything. The nerdy tech bits are the initiation rites, a shared language as an instant signal that you’re among your people. Except, of course, when it’s an instant signal of the opposite — and for an industry that desperately wants more people to join the club, maybe having passwords isn’t such a hot idea.

Which brings us to our annual Cyclists Travel Guide (CTG) issue, in which we focus on tech nerdery, deep dives into cycling obscure, and close looks at the kinds of things that admittedly many riders probably don’t care about. So why do it?

First, you might be in the market for a new bike, in which case you’ll find some ideas starting on page 11. Second, *Adventure Cyclist* has a long history of offering in-depth tech coverage that’s tough to come by elsewhere, and, well, some riders love going off the deep end. While this edition offers a fairly practical approach to tech, over the last few years we’ve been much more theoretical with discussions of fit and geometry and the subtle differences between seemingly overlapping bike categories. Hopefully we supply some of the tools so you can walk into a bike shop and articulate what you’re looking for — or expand your options by adding confidence to buy from consumer-direct brands or used gear. Knowledge is (purchasing) power.

And about that club — if you ride a bike, you’re a cyclist. But just in case somebody stuck in the past asks, these are the passwords.

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#### CHICAGO IN FEBRUARY ...

It may not be the best season for cycling in the Windy City, but the annual CABDA (Chicagoland Area Bicycle Dealers Association, if you must know) trade show does give a glimpse at the year’s newest gear. We wandered the aisles in search of 2020’s best bikes and accessories for the bicycle traveler. Read more at [adventurecycling.org/CABDA2020](http://adventurecycling.org/CABDA2020).

## GLOSSARY

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Cycling is full of all kinds of jargon and contradictory terminology (why, for example, do we use metric measurements on road bikes but imperial for mountain bikes?). Learn your terms with *Adventure Cyclist*’s glossary at [adventurecycling.org/glossary!](http://adventurecycling.org/glossary!)

#### SUBMISSION SEASON

Is it that time again? Indeed, now that *Adventure Cyclist* accepts submissions on a year-round basis, it’s always time to submit your best bike travel tale. As we plan for late 2020 and into 2021(!), we’re especially looking for compelling essays from the road, beautifully photographed tours in North America, and your experiences touring by eBike. Visit [adventurecycling.org/submit](http://adventurecycling.org/submit) for more information and to submit your query or manuscript.