



FROM THE EDITOR

Touring: rhymes with boring. That's the line that some cyclists, bike shops, manufacturers and even magazines seem to take. Racing, sportives and mountain biking are shiny and exciting, they'll imply; touring is humdrum.

Now I'm not knocking other forms of cycling. I love mountain biking; I like riding to the shops; I race; I've had a great time on sportives. And yet with all of them it's easy to end up going around in the same old groove.

When you're mountain biking it's tempting to fall back on familiar trails. When you're commuting, you go from A to B by the fastest or nicest route. When you're racing the world shrinks to the tunnel you're riding down. And sportives are anything but the road less travelled.

Touring by definition gets you into a different groove. While other cyclists risk living their cycling lives like a video on a loop, the tourist is by definition off piste from everyday life. Call it what you will – expedition cycling, trekking, multi-day mountain biking – touring is the opposite of everyday cycling. The humdrum is left at home with the gas bill and the ironed shirt. It doesn't matter if you're riding around the world or meandering to a relative's house in the next county. Touring is exploring.

Dan Joyce



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