



**FROM THE EDITOR**

**ONE OF THE** few chinks of light in the dwindling days of December is that it's an ideal time to think about where your bike will take you next year. Or, conversely, where you'll take your bike. For the difference between a cycling holiday and a holiday on which you'll squeeze in some cycling is easily blurred.

You can't define a cycling holiday by daily mileage nor the number of hours spent in the saddle. And while a moving-on tour with a bike is always a cycling holiday, not all cycling holidays are moving-on tours; the one CTC Cycling Holidays trip I've done was a fixed-base tour – and no less enjoyable for that. Perhaps it's a matter of focus? That's easily established by gauging the percentage of bike kit in your bags.

What unifies the different kinds of trip, aside from the enjoyment you'll get from riding your bike, is the hassle you'll likely endure when transporting it. Sometimes that's minimal: a Brompton in a bag is luggage you can check in, hop on a train with, or stash in a car boot.

Sometimes there are hurdles: the cardboard box my 29+ Genesis Longitude last travelled in was so big, it wouldn't go through airport doorways when balanced on a luggage trolley, nor fit the x-ray machine... or the oversize baggage x-ray. (It went in through an even bigger machine, on a different floor, with millimetres to spare.)

But I'd no more have left it behind than my passport or travel documents. A bike is a passport: to fun.

**DAN JOYCE**  
Cycle editor



CW from far left: Matthew Crompton, Lee Craigie, Neil Wheadon

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**ON THE COVER**  
Mark Beaumont in Australia, on day 40 of his 80-day epic. By Johnny Swane-Poel © artemisworldcycle.com

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