

Great rides

# Brompton oratory

Wanting a week away with minimal hassle and expense, Cycling UK member **Tony Dabb** packed a borrowed folder into two IKEA bags. Here he talks up the bike's benefits



“**R**ide it like you own it,” the strapline for the Brompton subscription service said. So I did: I went bikepacking in Turkey.

While dropping like a stone off the peak of a pass higher than the Tourmalet, a ferocious Anatolian Shepherd Dog jumped out of nowhere into the road, snarling and snapping. Should I stop, as those in

the know say you should? Or try to outrun it? I did what I'd do on my own bike: slight swerve, hammer down. Fido gave up after 20 metres.

If that was the most dramatic of the ups and downs of my week in eastern Turkey with a borrowed Brompton, it wasn't the only time I was able to sidestep any misgivings I might have had about not bringing a 'real' bike.

I was joining my son, Jacob, on part of his year-long cycling tour, which

would take him through Europe and Turkey, then on to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. But would a bike that folds up laughably small, and is more commonly seen in commuter-train luggage racks, be up to the job of tagging along with a global bikepacker?

### Good things, small packages

My eldest has a very silver-lining disposition, so when he was 'let go'