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Cover: Cyclists on the Top of the World Highway in North America.
By Steve Fabes



{ F R O M }

THE EDITOR



CYCLE TOURING doesn't end where the tarmac stops. There are cyclists for whom touring means 32mm tyres, panniers and quiet lanes only, and some of them might write off rough-stuff cyclists or mountain bikers as 'not tourers', irrespective of luggage carried and journeys made. Some mountain bikers (and some bike manufacturers!) might even agree. They're not into 'boring old touring' but bivvy biking or adventure cycling or something else that sounds new and dynamic.

Most cyclists, I think, can see that riding in the countryside – for no other reason than to enjoy it, and carrying enough luggage to stay away from home overnight or longer – is fundamentally the same whatever's under your wheels and whatever name you want to give it.

Different cyclists will prioritise different aspects of their adventure cycling, leading to different choices in bikes and equipment. The pioneers of cycle touring, however, didn't have these options and didn't make the fine distinctions we might make now.

Look at the bikepacking feature on page 42. Now look at the touring feature following it: two CTC members fording rivers and riding on unsurfaced roads, on bikes with frame-bags and luggage rolls attached to the handlebars – in the 1890s.

The more it changes, the more it stays the same.

DAN JOYCE



MEMBERSHIP
Get five years CTC membership for the price of four. Details on p78

Photos: Cass Gilbert, UCLA, Chris Juden

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