

Bicycling

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WINNERS, P. 79



Gruber Images

Know Before You Go The joke goes, "There are three seasons in Crested Butte: July, August, and winter," so plan your travel accordingly. (Western Spirit offers five-day Crested Butte Singletrack trips in August for \$1,360.) CB is at 8,900 feet and the rides ascend from there, so take it easy until you acclimate. **Difficulty** 6 (terrain); 9 (elevation)—**MATT PHILLIPS**

Province Lands Bike Trail Provincetown, Massachusetts

Experience a kaleidoscope of Cape Cod landscapes on this two-way, 7.3-mile paved path that's part of Cape Cod National Seashore, the first national park to include trails built for cycling. It climbs over sweeping sand dunes that sometimes blow across the trail, cuts through a pine forest rich with green moss and shorebirds, and passes saltwater kettle ponds teeming with frogs and turtles. Offshoots treat you to scenic vistas of beaches (don't miss the sunset at Herring Cove Beach) and the ocean—look for seals. **Know Before You Go** Carry a trail map. With four spurs shooting off from the loop, two corrugated steel tunnels that look identical, and four parking areas, it's easy to lose track of where you are. **Difficulty** 1 to 3 (steep sections and sharp curves made my seven-year-old cry)—**J.S.**

Katy Trail Missouri

At 237 miles, it's the nation's longest rails-to-trails project. How often can you ride a rail trail (nearly) across an entire state? Flat and scenic—more than half of the trail follows Lewis and Clark's route along the Missouri River—it's also a good place for beginners to get started on a bike. **Know Before You Go** Wilderness Voyageurs offers six-day inn-to-inn bike tours (\$1,695) that meet in St. Charles, shuttle to Clinton, and follow the trail back. Plenty of campsites in small towns along the route mean you'll never have to ride far between snack

DIAMONDBACK



TRACTION. RIDE FEEL. EFFICIENCY.



130MM REAR TRAVEL, 150MM ROCKSHOX YARI, SRAM DRIVETRAIN.



130MM REAR TRAVEL, 150MM ROCKSHOX PIKE, SRAM GX 1X11.



130MM REAR TRAVEL, 150MM ROCKSHOX PIKE, SRAM X1 DRIVETRAIN, GUIDE BRAKES.

WOW RIDES

stops or places to sleep. Between Boonville and St. Charles you'll pass through Missouri's "wine country," which, believe it or not, is most definitely a thing. Several wineries are right on the trail. **Difficulty** 1 (day ride) to 5 (longer tour)—C.G.

Allegrippis Trails Raystown Lake, Pennsylvania

Raystown is a roller coaster masquerading as a mountain bike trail. Thirty-three miles of smooth, grippy dirt undulate through the forest like a pump track, with rollers, berms, and plenty of swoopy dips. Though you're doing lots of climbing (one staffer measured almost 2,000 feet of gain on a 20-mile ride), the momentum of the trails cancels out a lot of the sting. If you go slow, the singletrack is easy enough to ride that even beginners will fall in love. Experienced riders need only go faster to up the difficulty. Biggest challenge? Peeling the smile off your face once you're done. **Know Before You Go** Some trails are designated "one-way" so check a map for arrows that indicate which direction to ride. Turn a weekend into #squadgoals with a houseboat rental from Seven Points Marina. **Difficulty** 3 to 5—TAYLOR ROJEK

Kyoto, Japan

This compact city of nearly 1.5 million is one of the most-preserved towns in Japan, and its 1,600-plus temples and 17 World Heritage sites are easy to visit by bike. Cruise wide, flat paths along the Kamo River for views of cherry and maple trees, herons

and egrets, and 48 bridges, or wander narrow back streets, where you might spot a miniature shrine—or even a beer vending machine. Go in late March or early April, when the cherry blossoms bloom—their delicate fragrance (and the festivals held in their honor) are worth the time you'll spend maneuvering through the crowds. **Know Before You Go** Motorists drive on the left side, and traffic can be heavy. There are few bike lanes, so most Japanese cyclists ride on the sidewalks, which are technically off-limits to bikes (unless specially marked), but police rarely enforce the law. Kyoto Cycling Tour Project rents city bikes for about \$9 a day and offers guided tours of the city in English. **Difficulty** 2 to 4—EMILY FURIA

Col du Tourmalet Hautes-Pyrénées, France

When the 17.4-kilometer climb was introduced to the Tour de France in 1910, the first rider to the top, Octave Lapize, had to walk partway and is supposed to have cursed the organizers: "Assassins!" Mostly steady slopes of 4 to 7 percent ascend past two big waterfalls, through four snow tunnels, by rustic hamlets and open fields, and beside precipitous canyons to the ski resort of La Mongie, after which steep hairpins cluttered by cows and sheep careen to a crest that makes it seem as if you're about to ride off the edge of the world. **Know Before You Go** You want the eastern approach, starting from the town of Sainte-Marie de Campan. Also—sorry—it's a gradual, 12-kilometer climb from just about everywhere to get to the base of the Tourmalet. Divine Cycling's \$4,395 Pyrenees Journey

Bike Tour crosses the Tourmalet during trips in July, August, and September. **Difficulty** 5 to 7—B.S.

Kingdom Trails East Burke, Vermont

Two dozen or so trails—more than 100 miles of singletrack and double track through tall ferns, forests, and farmland in the Green Mountains of Vermont—flow like a magical chocolate river through lollipop forests. The one feature Kingdom Trails is missing? Rocks. The area was once a glacial lake that left behind smooth, sandy eskers. **Know Before You Go** It's pay to play, but it's the best 15 bucks you'll spend all year. Riding season is May through October. **Difficulty** 4 to 7—S.V.

Whistler Mountain Bike Park British Columbia, Canada

From high-alpine descents through snowfields and volcanic debris to smooth cruisers with zen-like flow to jump trails that will test (and improve) your skills, Whistler's trails are more diverse than anywhere we've ever ridden or even heard about. **Know Before You Go** Leave your bike at home. Many of Whistler's bike shops demo the latest rides. **Difficulty** 3 to 10—L.M.

Mauvoisin Dam Switzerland

This is a real adventure ride—about two-thirds road, one-third rocky and sometimes very steep exposed hiking trails. There are also more than 3,400 feet of climbing on the 17-mile loop. Start by riding through several long tunnels through cliffs. Once you're out, the scenery is a smattering of

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