

# Break away with your bike

## Touring in the Ardennes

Brussels is only two hours 20 minutes from London. Change there for Namur, the gateway to the Ardennes.

## City hopping in Germany

Comfortable, fast efficient trains, good food, beautiful towns. Try Speyer, Freiburg or Heidelberg for ancient buildings, Cologne or Berlin for exciting modern cities. Take a train to the top of the Alps at Garmisch-Partenkirchen and freewheel down!

## South of France

During the summer Eurostar trains run directly to Avignon every Saturday in just six hours 15mins. The hills of Provence and the mighty Ventoux are on your doorstep.

## Holland

...is fantastic for bikes and public transport. From the Port at Harwich you are within easy reach of Delft, Rotterdam or the towns of Zeeland in the delta area. Or pedal up the coast to the bicycle island of Texel.

**Taking a folding bike** when you go travelling opens up a world of new ways to explore. Folding bikes are ideal for short tours and city hopping. With a bike the size of a small suitcase you can escape the tourist traps and wander at will, using buses, trains or under your own power.

Many continental cities are now doing their best to discourage people from entering by car, so a folding bike is a great way to explore new towns and cities without the problems of access and parking.

The train is very often the quickest way to get from one city centre to another. Combine it with a bike and you have the 'freedom of the city' as soon as you arrive. (Eurostar and other high-speed trains won't take conventional bikes, but will allow your folder on board). Use the bike for orientating yourself and go back and explore the bits that interest you later. You'll experience

the city more like the locals do, and you might even discover places that aren't in any of the guidebooks.

If you are exploring the countryside you can use public transport for getting to the attractive areas and then ride where you like, knowing that you can easily fold your transport and hop onto a local bus or train if you get tired or the weather changes. If you rent a house or a caravan it is easy to take your folder along for fun and exercise or for errands to the shops.

At your hotel your bike can be stored safely and securely, and with your amazing machine you will often find that you become an instant celebrity. *Bonne route!*

## Dutchman sells English bikes to Catalans

When Koos Kroon decided to open a bike shop in Barcelona he was leaving behind an established career as a photographer in Amsterdam for uncharted territories.

"Until recently, no-one rode bikes here; only on Sundays the racing men on their racing machines. We are trying to introduce northern cycling culture to a southern country, but the Catalans are practical people who appreciate the benefits of good design."

His first coup was to become the agent for the classic Brompton folding bicycle in Spain. "We have taken sales up from zero to over 400 in less than a year," he says.

"We sell all over the country, and at the moment it tends to be academics and technical people, but more and more people are getting the idea. People here tend to have small apartments so the Brompton fits in really well into their lives."

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Contact Bikefix for more information on our fantastic folding bikes, or for details of any of our other featured bikes, from fully equipped continental-style commuting machines, through workbikes, to the latest fast recumbents.



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