

# Our Spring Newsletter

**Fellow Velo**  
Cycle... Friendly... France

We fitted in a Fellow Velo holiday. Newsletter Issue: April/May 2023



Just before our main holiday season started, we managed to fit in a little holiday for ourselves, along with the irony about cycling like when you run a small cycle company: your own holidays tend to be built around those of others and, fitted in where and when you can... but we mustn't and definitely aren't grumbling! Not too long after our Valentine's cycle-camping trip along the Rienne and Huis (in the last newsletter), we also had a trip to Porto and so, a little feature in this edition, particularly on planning and logistics.

We have quite a few customers who travel from all over the world with their own bikes in tow. It's great to have your cycling adventures on a bike that you know and trust but, that whole travel process is not without its planning issues and the little amenities that go along with bagging or boxing up your precious bike for its own adventure.

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We began from France and so, flew from Nice to Porto for about twelve days. For us, this was a trip away before the Fellow Velo season really started, a holiday with bikes along for the ride, rather than a cycling holiday but, it still required the same kind of planning – the sort of trip where packing for the bike turns out to need so much more time and care than all the other (less limited) luggage.



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The particular bikes we took on this trip weren't our most precious ones but, you still want a fully functioning bike when you get to your destination! Padded semi-rigid bike bags were used on this trip: we packed with wheels, handlebars, pedals and rear derailleur removed (the derailleur wrapped up and taped within the frame space) and, a little extra padding under the chainrings. We don't often make long trips with our own bikes on flights or trains but, it was good to remind ourselves of those logistical things that you need to have covered.

- The travel to and from the airport.
- Being able to transport your bikes some distance inside and outside.
- Whether or not you can access public transport with your bikes.
- Getting to your accommodation at the other end.
- Accommodation, not just with bike storage but also a place to rebuild them.

Of course we had that little sort of anxiety about the bike's safety and security in transit but, all went well on this trip on the way out and back – it's a little leap of faith and, definitely not something to be afraid of. We only rode on a third of our days in and around Porto but, it did mean that we were able to explore the coast and the Douro Valley, somewhat more than we might have done on a standard city-break. Perhaps predictably, the Port experience was as much a focus of our holiday as the cycling along the way.

If you have ever thought of a cycling adventure with your own bike along for the ride, don't be scared to take that leap – and we're happy to help.

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