



A peer group at Kuala Lumpur's Car Free morning ride.

The **power** of cycling communities

The benefits include responsible ownership, thrilling adventures and lasting camaraderie.

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BICYCLE communities are the go-to groups for promoting responsible bike ownership and cycling etiquette.

These communities consist of small and large groups, ranging from road bike enthusiasts to folding bicycle enthusiasts, who organise their rides on weekends and public holidays.

If you're interested in joining such groups and participating in their activities, social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram are excellent sources of information.

Apart from organising cycling activities, senior members of these communities often help newcomers by addressing their queries.

This mentorship approach is common among experienced cyclists who share their rides through photos and videos.

However, joining a community has both advantages and pitfalls. Established groups have thousands of members worldwide who share their experiences; whereas smaller and more-exclusive groups may be biased towards specific brands and bike makes.

To maintain order and discourage abuses like cyberbullying and fraud, these communities are overseen by administrators and moderators.

With the Internet being a hub for free speech, individuals can be banned for veering off-topic or engaging in sensitive content.

In addition to peer groups, bicycle manufacturers have also created online communities on platforms like

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Facebook and Instagram.

Registered members of these communities can communicate directly with the manufacturers regarding product performance and issues.

Cycling communities thrive through events where members can meet and socialise during organised rides.

These rides are usually listed on the community's "events" page, providing information on meeting points and

starting locations.

A ride leader and sweeper are appointed to ensure everyone stays together and follows the planned route.

For those who prefer a more personal experience and want to avoid large crowds, there are paid events offering specialised riding routes of varying distances.

These commercial events may also provide certificates and "finisher" medals for participants seeking motivation or bragging rights.

Local authorities, such as the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, have been organising "Car Free Sundays" for over a decade, which have been well-received by the cycling community.

These events occur in Kuala Lumpur's city centre, allowing cyclists to ride along a predetermined route and allowing new cyclists to connect with others.

For a more personalised ride, consider hiring a bicycle guide.

Experienced cyclists offer customised rides in and around the city, often including visits to iconic landmarks and food outlets.

Exploring these places on a bicycle can be a unique and enjoyable experience, as some destinations may be inaccessible by car.

Taking it a step further from group rides and events, some cyclists embark on cycling tours.

They become two-wheeled tourists, exploring the countryside and immersing themselves in rural life.

Experienced cyclists typically undertake these tours to cover long distances using their bicycles as their primary mode of transport.

Peninsular Malaysia offers numerous bicycle touring routes spanning over two thousand kilometres.

Another straightforward way to explore the country is by commuting multimodally, utilising roads, trains, and buses to reach small towns nationwide.

However, check if it's allowed before bringing your bicycle on a train.



(From the top) Cyclists and fitness enthusiasts burning calories at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall Car Free mornings; riders setting their bikes during a fun ride in Putrajaya; and biking groups getting together using social media platforms.