

CITY

WEEKEND

城市周报

August 12-25

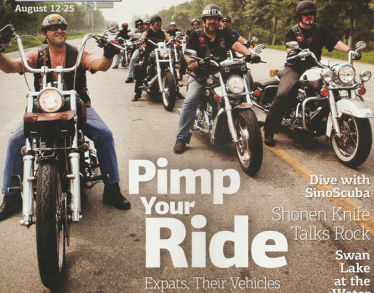
Beijing's only
READER-POWERED

entertainment
magazine and
website

win

Pimp out your bicycle
with a ¥400 gift
certificate
at Natooke

Beijing's
Inflation
Blues



Pimp Your Ride

Expats, Their Vehicles
and the Coolest Ways to
Get Around Beijing

Dive with
SinoScuba

Shonen Knife
Talks Rock

Swan
Lake
at the
Water
Cube

ISSN 1009-4954



9 771009 495104

A woman with curly brown hair, wearing a white tank top and black shorts, is riding a bright pink fixed-gear bicycle. She is smiling and has her arms outstretched to the sides. The bicycle has a large front wheel and a smaller rear wheel. In the background, there is a traditional Chinese wall with a crenelated top and a building with a tiled roof. The title 'Pimp Your Ride' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Pimp Your Ride

Expats tell us about their favorite ways to get around Beijing

By Alex Taggart and Blake Stone-Banks

Fixed-Gear Revolution

"On a fixed-gear, the pedals are constantly moving. It's like the bike is talking to you," says Ines Bruhn, fixed-gear cyclist, acrobat and co-owner of Beijing's only fixed-gear bike store, Natsoko.

Bicycles have long been the vehicle most associated with Beijing, but fixed-gear is a new arrival. With a single gear attached directly to the rear wheel, the pedals on a "fixie" spin constantly as the bike moves forward. Advanced riders can even pedal their fixie backwards or maintain a still, standing "rack

stand" pose when waiting at a red light. Beijing riders are learning that these lightweight bikes—long used for acrobats and in training for serious cyclists—are perfect for getting around the city.

Beijing's fixed-gear community numbered about 60 when Bruhn and her partners launched Natsoko and the first Fixed Gear Revolution Festival in summer of 2009. Since then, fixed-gear bikes in Beijing have skyrocketed, with more than 300 riders, fixie polo matches and weekly community rides.

This year's Fixed-Gear Revolution kicks off on Saturday, August 14 with races, trick shows and contests galore (see p. 56 for details). Join in the madness after trying out a fixed-gear bike at Natsoko.

Vehicle: Custom fixed-gear bike from Natsoko
Cost: \$2,800 and up

Perfect For: Haring hipsters and serious cyclists
Get Rolling: Pick up a fixie at Natsoko (19-1 Wudaoying Hutong, 五道营胡同甲19-1号, Tel: 8402-0925, www.natsoko.com)

win



Pimp Out Your Bike with ¥400 at Natooke

Headquarters for Beijing's fixed-gear community, Natooke (www.natooke.com) is the coolest bike shop we've pedaled into. Each of Natooke's bikes is custom built in-house from a range of parts and frames. Natooke even has its own brand of bikes, Flying Banana.

Natooke wants to see you get your own bike pimped out and rolling down Beijing's streets, so the store is offering a ¥400 certificate to one lucky reader that can be exchanged at the store for new handle bars, seats, gears or air-pollution masks.

To top it off, Natooke will get you rolling with a fixed-gear lesson on one of their own fixed-gear bikes.



To win, go to "Win Stuff" online and enter before August 25.
www.cityweekend.com.cn