

Time Out

新旅行

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Beijing

Big in Beijing!

We predict the top local bands to look out for in 2011



CITY'S BEST PIZZA!

We count down the
20 best pies in Beijing

24-hour Beijing eats
Get packing for Pakistan
Michel Gondry goes superhero

February

Our guide to the top

10

cultural events in the
Year of the Rabbit

Sport

On yer bike



Born to be wild Discover the beauty of China on rides with QJ50 Sidecar Group (above) or Beijing Motorists (below)

Hanoi **Christie** meets the faces behind five of the capital's biking clubs, still keeping fit, beating the traffic and getting out of the city through the winter months

Road biking

Name Tiek Pelton.
In the saddle Tim Lambers, founder of the club.
How did the club start? It's in Belgium, so cycling is taken as addition for us. When I first arrived in Beijing, in 2005, I was cycling with Tim Pelton, who was very focused on training. I'm more of a recreational cyclist and began cycling in the mountains around the city (the club was officially founded in 2011) and we have had regular rides every weekend since.

How do I join? Email me to get on the mailing list, and then, each week, I'll send out suggestions of the weekend routes. If you become a member, you will automatically have a place on the bike; if you're not a member, I will email you on Friday and let you know if there's space. We have three levels: A (advanced),

B (intermediate) and C (beginner). I also get a good bike (a reasonable one will set you back 4,000-5,000) if you're serious, but a mountain bike can also be useful for the group.

When and where do you cycle? "We cycle every weekend, either around the city or we get a bus and head into the mountains around Beijing—Changling, Huairou, Pinggu, you name it—and start from there."

What else? "We also arrange trips around and outside of China. In June, we're going to Ulan Bator, where we also have a motor club."

Price 4,000-5,000 (joining fee, plus a minimal fee for transport at weekends. You can hire a bike from Tiek for 100-200,000 per day).

Email timlambers@tiek.com or call 139 1038 6052 to get on the mailing list. Check out www.beijingcycling.com for more info.

Motorcycle sidecars

Name QJ50 Sidecar Group.
In the saddle (Sitting, number)
How did the club start? The club started in 1994. Back then, aside if

even have a name, it was just a bunch of expats with sidecar bikes wanting to get out of the city. The club was named in 2008 and we have had regular outings ever since then.

How do I join? Email me to get on the mailing list, you will need a bike in good condition with a full tank of gas. You can also rent bikes if you don't own one, but following the ride protocol is a priority. We welcome two-wheeled three-wheelers and outings can vary from three to 40 miles, depending on the schedule and on the activity.

When and where do you ride? "We have two or three day outings every month. We are geared towards enjoying the countryside of Beijing, especially exploring different parts of the Great Wall. We normally have a destination and will stop to have a barbecue on the way each time."

What else? "Every month, we have an overnight camping trip, normally near an undeveloped part of the Great Wall. We also have a monthly party at the

Iron Horse Saloon and a bar/restaurant where our bikers and collectors can display their bikes."

Price There's no joining fee (they kick a fee in to it). For sidecar rentals from 200-300 RMB a day, or with a guided tour, visit www.worldcycling.com. Call 261 on 135 0113 9582 or email sidecar@qj50.com to get on the mailing list. Check out www.beijingsidecars.com for more information.

Fixed-gear biking

Name Fixed Gear Bike Club

In the saddle Tom Wilson, founder

How did the club start? "I had been involved in road bike cycling for many years. When I came to Beijing, I was looking for other 'fixies' (people who ride bikes with only a single gear, meaning when the wheels turn, the pedals also turn) to ride with. After I met another enthusiast online, we started the club. We now have almost 700 members."

How do I join? "Sign up to the mailing list on our website and I will send out regular updates of our outings. We even have bikes to rent out if you don't have a fixed-gear yourself."

When and where do you ride?

"Fixed-gear riding occurs in urban areas, so normally ride around the city at night as it's less busy. However, we're riding more on the weekends now that it's cold."

Anything else? "We've got an indoor training gym on Tuesday 22. Everyone is welcome and there will be plenty of food and drink!"

Price There's no joining fee. Although you can join the ride on a conventional two-wheeler, you can pick up a fixed-

