

We're testing TRAILERS

Do you want your trailer to be small and nimble or big and sturdy? Are you going on vacation or just down the street? Will you be carrying long, heavy, pointy objects or large bags and boxes? We asked these questions while testing bike trailers to make it easier for you to decide which one is best for you. Bike trailers are the perfect accessory for the cyclist who wants to carry large loads but does not have the money, space, or need for a full-blown cargo bike. They are also perfect for the cycling tourist who needs to take a few weeks or a few months worth of gear with them as they cycle on EuroVelo Routes. So whether it is the garden center or the open road: we tested five.

Burley Nomad

Weight: 6,7 kg
Dimensions: (open) 82,3 x 67,9 x 57,9 cm
(folded) 82,3 x 54,6 x 16,5 cm
Capacity: 45,5 kg
BURLY.COM



The Burley Nomad is a great choice for the modern "Nomad" who travels by bike.

The aluminum frame and nylon cover safely contain all your belongings during your cycle holiday.

The Nomad is light and really easy to tow. It has a very limited effect on the bike's riding characteristics and it is so narrow that you do not have to think about hitting signposts or curbstones. But despite its narrow frame the Nomad is still quite roomy and will carry 30 kg.

The hitch is easily fitted on the rear wheel axle and the trailer snaps on and off easily by inserting or removing the locking pin. It takes a bit of bending over but the system is simple and reliable.

Because of the low tow-bar the Nomad is difficult and uncomfortable to pull by hand.

The nomad is at its best during cycling holidays. It rides well and your gear is well protected under the cover.

Holiday: ★★★★★
Shopping: ★★★★★
Garden Center: ★★★★★

Burley Flatbed

Weight: 6,5 kg
Dimensions: (open) 93,0 x 78,5 x 40,9 cm
(folded) 94,0 x 66,7 x 10,9 cm
Capacity: 45,5 kg
BURLY.COM



On this flat trailer you can pile items as high as your arms and imagination will reach. This makes the Burley Flatbed the perfect travel companion if you are bringing a large tent on your cycling holiday.

The Flatbed has a large floor, with a capacity of 50kg and as for long items; it is only the law and balance that set the limits.

The design is practical and robust. The aluminum frame is equipped with heavy duty rubber covered nylon and the wheels are separated from the bed so the stuff you carry will not scrape against the rotating wheels. The open design means that you will need a box or a bag and some straps to tie them down if you are carrying smaller items.

The hitch is neatly fitted on the rear wheel axle and the trailer snaps on and off easily by inserting or removing the locking pin. It takes a bit of bending over but the system is simple and reliable.

The trailer has little affect on the riding characteristics but the Flatbed is wider than, for instance, the Nomad, so you will have to be careful when riding to ensure that the trailer does not hit obstacles. Like the Nomad the Flatbed is difficult to tow because of the low tow-bar.

The Burley Flatbed is best suited for cycling holidays when you are carrying loads of stuff but its versatility makes it useful in other situations.

Holiday: ★★★★★
Shopping: ★★★★★
Garden Center: ★★★★★

Carry Freedom Y-frame

Weight: 7 kg
Dimensions: 70 x 50 cm
Capacity: 90 kg
CARRYFREEDOM.COM



The Y-frame from Carry Freedom is strong as an ox and the best all-around trailer we tested. The Y-frame has an open bed and the trailer is made from a strong aluminum frame covered by a plywood board. It will support about 90kg although this amount is probably not entirely legal. The Y-frame is a bit smaller than the Burley Flatbed but that makes it easier to tow and more stable when weighed down.

The design is open, elegant and simple but the wheels are left uncovered so you will have to use a box, bag or some straps to fix your load. Another perk is the anti-slip cover on the surface which helps keep things in place.

The Y-frame is really easy to tow and barely affects the riding experience.

The hitch is easily fitted to the bikes rear axle. The trailer also easily fits to the hitch with a lock split not unlike the Burley system. It is easy and intuitive, but you need to bend low to do it. On foot the Y-frame is awkward to pull but still a bit better than the Burley trailers.

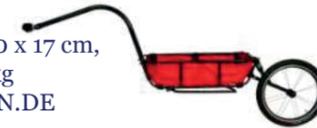
The Y-frame is a good all-around choice. Even with a heavy load it is very stable and rides well. The downside is that you do need extra gear—a box, bag or straps to fit your load. But once you have that there is no limit. If you can pull it the Y-frame can carry it.

Holiday: ★★★★★
Shopping: ★★★★★
Garden Center: ★★★★★



Tout Terrain: Mule

Weight: 6,7 kg.
Dimensions: 73 x 40 x 17 cm,
Capacity: 50 L/40kg
EN.TOUT-TERRAIN.DE



This is the only one wheel trailer in the test and performs excellently on cycling holidays provided you are travelling light. The little Mule can carry 30kg and can hold a 60 liter bag.

Riding with the Mule is fantastic; the trailer is light and follows the bike like a shadow. This is typical for one wheel trailers but the Mule is even better than most because of its suspension which works very well. All these aspects make the Mule the best towing trailer we tested.

But the one wheel construction also means that the trailer is almost impossible to handle when removed from the bike. It is hard to maneuver and balance when loaded. Thankfully the Mule has a large, stable, removable kickstand that holds it still when parked.

For rain protection the Mule comes with a rain cover that'll protect your stuff even if you did not pack it in a watertight bag. A mudguard also limits mud spraying on you and your things. The hitch fits on the seat post of the bike and is easily accessible. Fitting the trailer to the hitch is easy and intuitive, but the hitch will not fit on bikes that have a very low saddle. The towbar also prohibits putting any cargo/luggage on top of your rear rack.

The Mule is best suited for cycle touring due to its stable steel frame and waterproof luggage compartment combined with the excellent riding characteristics. The Mule a fast, lightweight touring treat.

Holiday: ★★★★★
Shopping: ★★★★★
Garden Center: ★★★★★

Christiania

Weight: 17,5 kg
Dimensions: 88 x 48 x 35 cm
Capacity: 100 kg
CHRISTIANIABIKES.COM



The classic from Christianina is by far the most heavy duty trailer we tested. It is a serious workhorse. With a strong and heavy steel frame combined with a plywood box this trailer will carry anything heavy, pointy and sharp you can fit inside. The trailer is easy to pack, just dump your stuff in the box and off you go, but be careful not to let small fragile things rattle round.

The riding characteristics are satisfactory, but it is heavy and you cannot ride fast. It also has a tendency to tip over if you take corners too quickly.

The hitch fits on the seat post and it is easy and straight forward to use. But like with the Mule, the hitch will not fit if the saddle is too low. On foot the Christianina is the best out of all the trailers. It has a good pulling height, is well balanced and has a kickstand that keeps it stable

The Christiania is best for the hard worker or the cozy trip. It is perfect for the garden center or recycling but will also work well during holidays if you have to carry lots of stuff and are not in that big of a hurry.

Holiday: ★★★★★
Shopping: ★★★★★
Garden Center: ★★★★★

The experts at the **Danish Cyclists Federation** organized and oversaw, on behalf of the EU project, **Cyclelogistics** and the **European Cyclists' Federation**, a thorough test of these trailers. The tests were carried out over a period of five days by five experienced persons or small companies who bike daily and are trained to review cycling products. They were simply told to let the item become a regular part of their daily routine. They then gave each trailer a score out of five stars with five stars being the best and zero stars being the worst in addition to providing further comments and critiques. The reviews are honest and based on how well the products function in real life daily use.

Stars are awarded to three different aspects of the trailer:

Holiday: How does the trailer perform on cycle holidays?

Shopping: How does the trailer perform during normal shopping?

Garden center: How does the trailer perform during trips to the garden center?

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