

- EPIC BIKE RIDES OF THE WORLD -



MAI CHAU CYCLE RIDE

*Pedal through gorgeous rice terraces and
timeless village life to see an enthralling slice of Vietnam
in the classically Asian style – by bike.*



In a narrow lane outside of Mai Chau, I stop my bike to let traffic pass. A water buffalo lumbers towards me, taking up the entire space of the lane. Its calf wanders docilely behind, trailed by a wizened old farmer. In these rural passages, this is as close to a truck, sidecar and driver as I will see.

I'm cycling through the valleys that run like a delta from the town of Mai Chau in northern Vietnam. Pyramids and domes of limestone rise out of the valleys, creating an inland version of Halong Bay. Everything between the mountains, however, is almost ruler flat, with rice terraces underscoring the heavily forested peaks in an archetypal Asian rural scene. It's a landscape so beautiful and yet so kind on my legs, a cyclist might have created it.

For two days I'll pedal through these valleys without any real destination – A to B is not the goal here; I'm riding simply to immerse myself in the place and its rural life. Roads lead to lanes, which lead to unmarked trails along the levees of the rice terraces. Nowhere here is out of bounds to a bike.

