

FIELD TEST

EVOC BIKE TRAVEL BAG

Your bike belongs on vacation with you



Easy rollin': Sturdy roller wheels negate the weak point of most travel bags. Weekends can now be spent catching trains to your bucket-list trails.

The founders of EVOC are diehard adventurers through and through. Finding themselves cycling through the Himalayas and bombing descents in the jungles of Cambodia, they decided to create a variety of gear solutions to make their travels easier. Using their intrepid friends as testers, they came up with the industry-leading, soft-shell bike bag they now produce for all your worldly travels.

Tech Info: The external surfaces of EVOC's Bike Travel Bag are made entirely of polyurethane-coated ripstop nylon that covers 10mm of padding. The bag is compatible with all three of the common mountain bike wheel sizes, along with all the available road options out there. To avoid any cassette-on-frame contact, each side of the bag has a padded wheel compartment that allows room for beefy 2.5-inch downhill tires. Throwing the wheels in rotor side out, additional abrasion-resistant panels and integrated PVC piping create a solid protective frame to prevent your rotors from looking like potato chips when you arrive at your destination.

Supporting the entire rear triangle of your bike by means of a hefty foam block, the EVOC Bike Travel Bag elevates your crankset and derailleur off the bottom of the bag to prevent bent chainrings. Total volume capacity is 270 liters, including compartments for pedals, chain lube and any tools you need for assembly. Retailing for \$475, the EVOC Bike Travel Bag allows you to damage your bike on the trail rather than during transport.

Field Test Results: For starters, we find it crucial for any sort of luggage to be available in bright colors that stand out from across the tarmac. A standout color means less time wondering if our bike made the connecting flight. If the bright red, blue or multicolor options don't suit your tastes, though, the bag is still offered in black.

Securely packing a bike in the EVOC Bike Travel Bag takes less time than a single trip to your local bike shop to pick up one of their busted-up bike boxes. It's as simple as removing the wheels and pedals and then unbolting the handlebars from the stem. Don't forget to toss the necessary hex key into the accessory compartment for reassembly once you hit your destination. The bag's belt system (consisting of straps, Velcro and a few buckles) makes securing the bike a (pun intended) cinch. Since the bottom of the fork lowers is the only area where the bike touches the outer shell of the bag, additional padding and buckles are there to prevent damage in case of an impact, also providing a little extra cushion for your brake calipers.

Post-ride tales of traveling with a bicycle bag always end with complaints about the roller wheels. This is not the case with EVOC's offering. With more air miles than a traveling salesman, the sealed bearings of the inline-skate wheels roll smoothly and allow one-hand maneuverability. This is important, because with the bag weighing 18.9 pounds and the average mountain bike being around 30 pounds, you'll be packing your clothes in another suitcase to avoid the 50-pound weight-limit fee. Strolling across rough terrain or need to conquer some stairs? Handles, mid-height on both sides, make it comfortable and safe for anybody to lift alone.

Spanning over two years, this may have been the longest testing period in Mountain Bike Action history. Numerous trips in America and across the pond to Europe have given us every reason to trust the quality of the EVOC Bike Travel Bag. Given the option, we would only make one change. While it hasn't caused any problems, some of the high-abrasion pads are losing their single stitching; double stitching would have provided the durability needed in such areas. The simplicity of the belted securing system is what really makes the EVOC Bike Travel Bag stand out. The EVOC Bike Travel Bag eliminates any excuses for leaving your ride behind—aside from explaining to your significant other why your bike now has to come on every vacation. □



MBA FIELD TEST RATINGS

★★★★★
Perfection

★★★★☆
Delivers above-average value and performance

★★★☆☆
Recommended for intended application

★★☆☆☆
Shows potential but has drawbacks

★☆☆☆☆
Save your hard-earned bucks