



BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUYING A BIKE

THIS SHORT GUIDE TO BUYING A NEW BIKE WILL HOPEFULLY ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS AND POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

REMEMBER: BUYING A BIKE SHOULD BE FUN AND EXCITING AND WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

1. FIRST CONSIDER YOUR BUDGET

Quality new bikes for adults usually start around £300. Many you see for less are cheaply made, poorly assembled, and generally come with low-quality components that will wear out fast or break. They are NOT fun to ride and you will likely be back at the bike shop before you know it. A good bike is built to last and will actually save you money (and headaches) in the long run. Buying a cheap new bike is a false economy, so our advice is to consider spending a little more and get something that will bring you joy for a long time.

Note; This doesn't mean you can't find something good quality on the second-hand market for less than £300. At BikeTown we sell high-quality refurbished bikes that are built to last and come with 3 month's warranty.

2. WHERE WILL YOU RIDE?

Start by figuring out what kind of riding you want to do. There are many kinds of bikes; each style suited to a particular kind of cycling. Knowing how you will use yours will narrow your choice and allow you to focus on a bike that suits your requirements.

Think about how often and how far will you be riding. What kind of terrain will you be encountering on your way? Are you cycling to work or are you more interested in long weekend rides along country lanes? Have you big off-road adventures planned?

Once you have considered your budget and what kind of riding you will be doing; you can look at the different styles of bikes available.

3. WHAT KIND OF BIKE DO YOU NEED?

Let's have a look at some different styles of bike and try and match a bike to your needs.

Hybrid

The hybrid was originally created to provide the advantages of road bikes, touring bikes, and mountain bikes. A great all-rounder with fatter tyres than a road bike and a much more comfortable riding position due to the upright handlebars and laidback geometry.

The general-purpose Hybrid can tolerate a wide range of riding conditions and are best suited to shorter commutes, casual riding, and cycle paths. They will also accommodate racks for carrying pannier bags and are therefore ideal for commuting, errands, and trips to the shops. Many will come equipped with mudguards and a rear rack as standard.

Some hybrids that are more focussed on leisure cycling will come with a step-through frame. This means the usually horizontal 'top-tube' of the bike slopes down and makes mounting and dismounting a lot easier. These bikes generally offer the most upright riding position too.

Buy a hybrid if;

- You are interested in casual riding and leisurely trips along cycle paths
- Are keen to commute to work
- Are looking for a do-it-all bike
- Value comfort over speed

Mountain Bike

A mountain bike is designed to be ridden off-road and will excel on rough terrain, woods and trails. To deal with these conditions they will be equipped with larger, wider, knobbly tyres to help with grip, and disc brakes for better braking in wet, muddy conditions.

Depending on the kind of riding you are planning and your budget, you will choose either front suspension (hardtail) or full suspension.

Mountain bikes are generally heavier than road bikes and the addition of suspension and wide/knobbly tyres can be inefficient for road riding. You will, of course, have a more relaxed, upright riding position and a wide gear range.

Buy a mountain bike if:

- You are interested in off-road, single track, woods and trail riding
- Are interested in lightweight bikepacking trips that will take you over rough terrain.

Touring Bike

A touring bike is a bike designed for longer rides on mainly tarmac road, but are tougher than road bikes and have a more relaxed riding position. Usually made of steel with mounting points for racks and mudguards.

The hybrid was originally created to provide the advantages of road bikes, touring bikes, and mountain bikes. A great all-rounder with fatter tyres than a road bike and a much more comfortable riding position due to the upright handlebars and laidback geometry.

Cam Glen Bike Town

Road Bike

Think skinny tyres, drop handlebars, lightweight frames and a more aggressive riding style. Road bikes are best suited to (you guessed it!) tarmac roads and are built for longer distance and speed.

They can also be great for longer commutes, but keep in mind that many will not have the correct mounts for racks if you also need to carry anything on the bike.

Buy a road bike if:

- You are interested in longer, faster rides.
- Fitness is your priority
- You are looking for something lightweight
- You have a long commute

Gravel / Adventure Bike

Most bikes will come under one of the above headings, but there are some other terms and styles worth noting.

A Gravel bike (sometimes called an adventure bike) is generally a bike with road geometry but with off-road capabilities.

Usually, these bikes will have drop handlebars like a road bike (but not always), but will accommodate much wider tyres and low gears.

The road bike design with the larger tyres and lower gearing means that you can make good progress on tarmac roads, but can transition to rougher terrain when required. The general idea is a bike suitable for adventure riding, unconstrained by the terrain.

Also known as the do-it-all bike!

Buy a gravel bike if;

- You are looking for something fast but capable of handling some rougher terrain
- Interested in a do-it-all bike
- Considering some light touring/bike-packing
- Adventure is your thing!

STILL NOT SURE?

If you're still not sure what bike is right for you, come in and see us for a chat or pick up the phone. We are a community of bike enthusiasts with years of experience in different kinds of riding. We are always available to help and offer friendly, professional advice and talk you through the available options.

Better yet, come down and test-ride a few! There's nothing like getting a feeling for each bike and discovering what you like and dislike about various styles.

FIND US:

Feel free to contact us, we're always happy to hear from you!

You can call us, find us using the map or fill in the contact form below:

Tel: 0141 647 3250

Location: Unit 5 Thomson Court, Rutherglen, G73 2RR

We are open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm
(Closed Mondays)

