

## Pedal on Train Tracks with Rail Explorers USA

Nov 26, 2019



Families can see beautiful landscapes as they pedal on a Rail Explorers USA tour.  
*Credit: 2019 Rail Explorers USA*

**In 2012, Mary Joy Lu became so intrigued by a Korean soap opera scene depicting a strange contraption pedaled on railroad tracks that, 10 days later, she flew to South Korea to meet the vehicle's manufacturer.**

Three years later, Lu and her husband, Alex Catchpoole, brought a fleet of the unique rail bikes to the U.S., and Rail Explorers USA was born. Since then, more than 130,000 guests have "ridden the rails" in Rhode Island, Las Vegas and New York's Catskill Mountains.

Based on pedal-powered rail vehicles dating back to the 1850s, Rail Explorers' modern, custom-built tandem and quad rail bikes are the global

leader in safety and ease of operation. Best of all, the bikes' steel wheels provide a nostalgic "clickity-clack" sound on the tracks.

Rail Explorers is the perfect family activity because everyone can do it (and, according to Lu, even the grumpiest teens return with a smile). She also notes that each seat has an independent flywheel, so guests don't need to all pedal at the same time, and multiple rail bikes can be hooked together if families want to pool their "pedal power."

"It's slightly more adventurous than going for a walk, but not so high adventure where you have to be super fit," Lu said. "We can have a 2-month-old baby riding in a baby carrier with her mother, and an 87-year-old great-grandmother."

### **Rhode Island**

Clients visiting Rhode Island can have the unique experience of peddling the Old Colony Railroad. The historic tracks, built in 1862, run along the western edge of Aquidneck Island, past Narragansett Bay and through coastal woodlands, offering picture-perfect views of Jamestown, the Mount Hope Bridge and Hog Island Shoal Lighthouse.



Rhode Island tours travel along the Old Colony Railroad.  
*Credit: 2019 Jacob Friedman*

"You see these beautiful landscapes at 5 or 6 mph, so it's slow, but you feel like you're really doing something positive for your body," Lu said.

The 6-mile one-way Northern Ramble tour passes through the Preservation Society of Newport County's Green Animals Topiary Gardens, as well as the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's nature center. At the end of the tour, cyclists get a lift back to the starting point by shuttle. The Southern Circuit roundtrip route — 3 miles each way — goes from Portsmouth Grove Station to Bayside Station, with an exclusive waterfront picnic area midway that provides views of Narragansett Bay.

There are also special weekend tours. The Fireside Tour, only available on Friday evenings, allows families to pedal on a lantern-lit trip to Bayside Station for a bonfire and s'mores. Brunch tours on weekend mornings include mimosas, bloody mary's and Death Wish Coffee — an organic brew claiming to be the "world's strongest coffee" — along with fresh muffins and fruit. Meanwhile, clients on the Saturday Sunset tour can watch the sun go down over the bay.