



T H E D A R K S I D E

Are these trails at all? Are they legal? We don't know, and we're probably irresponsible to tell you about them. We'll avoid taking responsibility by saying we're just reporting the facts. It's up to you whether or not to take the ride.

SWEET STREET, WATERLOO, ONTARIO:

Up in Canada, a lot of electricity is generated by huge dams placed in the nation's thinly populated northern tier. The power lines that bring this juice south have created thousands of off-road opportunities. One of the best in eastern Canada is along the cut that runs toward the city of Waterloo. Big Bad Insane Matt (that's his full and legal name, we're told) lists it in MTBR's trailfinder: "Don't ride if you don't wear Roach pads. If you don't have a freeride bike, forget it. This trail is insane. There are 15-foot drops and big gaps. Only good riders can do it." Fitness? The trail's about a mile long. Finding it? Just follow the cut. Even more secret: the Reaper, also in the cut—still under construction by Rad Adam, one of the area's most prolific trail builders.

MEXICO CITY: The world's most crowded and polluted city also happens to be at 8,000 feet—and surrounded by amazing trails that are as hard and gorgeous as anything you'll find in the world. IMBA sent two representatives to Mexico City to help cut brand new singletrack. Almost 100 miles of new rides have been developed by the Mexican team, mostly around the town of San Nicolas Totolapan. A brand new trail—never officially ridden—in El Ajusco will also be ready for action by the time you read this. "This is the first legitimately recognized mountain bike trail in Mexico City," says Gerardo Ibarra, a local rider. "It's a big step forward to building a permanent off-road community." www.imba.com

**SKYLINE WILDERNESS
PARK, NAPA VALLEY,
CA:** Pete Fagerlin, who maintains a website detailing the rides in this popular area, has a secret: "In a remote corner," he says, "there lies an infestation of switchbacks." Best of all, Fagerlin's website includes video of this trail—and many others in northern California—so you can judge the plague of gnarliness all for yourself. (The last update to Fagerlin's site introduced a "video how-to" section that explains how you, too, can create web videos of your favorite trails. Digital video for everyone.) www.petefagerlin.com

**MURRAY TO THE
MOUNTAINS, VICTORIA,
AUSTRALIA:** This new 125-mile trail connects the Australian state's four major tourist destinations: Bright, Beechworth, Rutherglen and the King Valley. The trail starts in the dry prairies of Wangaratta and extends into the region's high country, making for a stunning multi-day adventure. Regional officials have high hopes for the new trail: "This is a fundamental piece of infrastructure," Pat McNamara, a local politician, told *The Age*, a local news service. "It links together wineries, dairy farms, flower farms, hotels and nut farms." Nut farms? Maybe we'll see Big Bad Insane Matt there.