

4 READING

- a Read the article below and look at the photo. Would you like to go cycling there? Why (not)?
- b Read the article again. Then cover the text and answer the questions in pairs.
- 1 Where is the North Yungas Road?
 - 2 Why is it called 'Death Road'?
 - 3 How wide is the road?
 - 4 Why is it popular with cyclists?
 - 5 When is the most dangerous time of year to go?
 - 6 Why is the road similar to London Bridge and the Sydney Opera House?
 - 7 Why didn't Marte enjoy cycling on the Yungas Road?
- c In pairs, guess the meaning of the highlighted words.
- d Is cycling popular in your country / region? Is there an area that is very popular for cyclists? Why?

Cycling on the most dangerous road in the world

High in the Andes, the North Yungas Road goes from La Paz, the highest capital city in the world, to Coroico in the Yungas region of Bolivia. The road is only about three metres wide and the Coroico river lies 200 metres **below**. Bolivians call it 'El Camino de la Muerte' (Death Road) because of the number of accidents, and in 1995 it was officially declared 'the most dangerous road in the world.'

'One mistake and you are dead.'

Since a new road opened in 2006, there are **fewer** buses and lorries on the old road. But now thousands of mountain bikers come from all over the world to have the most exciting ride of their lives. They start at La Cumbre, 4,700 metres **above** sea level, and go down to 1,525 metres, travelling

at **nearly** 80 km an hour down the **narrow** road. During the **rainy** season, from December to March, only **experienced** cyclists can take part, but some die every year on the road. So, why do people do it?

Andrew Jagoo, 26, from Melbourne, said after finishing the ride, 'If you go to London, you have to see London Bridge and if you go to Sydney, you have to see the Opera House and if you go to Bolivia, you have to do the most dangerous road.'

Marte Solberg, 22, from Norway said, 'A lot of people said it was **fun**, but I was scared of falling over and dying. I was worried because I had no experience of mountain biking. One mistake and you are dead. I asked myself a thousand times, "Why am I doing this?"'

