

# Meet the Fastest Woman to Cycle the **Globe**

23 Days Ago (Wednesday, December 3rd, 2014 01:22 Pm GMT -6)

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*Talk about some serious pedal power. While we applaud rides of any length or level, we were pretty overwhelmed when we read about Paola Gianotti who just circled the entire globe by bike. Read her incredible story below.*

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Originally appeared on [Bicycling.com](http://www.bicycling.com)  
(<http://www.bicycling.com/news/featured-stories/meet-fastest-woman-cycle-globe>)

Italian Paola Gianotti has broken the women's Guinness World Record for circling the globe by bike. She returned home to Northern [Italy](http://www.bicycling.com/ride-maps/featured-rides/feast-your-thighs-piedmont-italy) (<http://www.bicycling.com/ride-maps/featured-rides/feast-your-thighs-piedmont-italy>) last Sunday after the trip of a lifetime: Over 18,000 miles pedaled around the world in 144 days.

When she started her trek a year ago after losing her job, Gianotti created a website, [Keep Brave](http://www.keepbrave.com/) (<http://www.keepbrave.com/>), to document her travels, explaining, "I want to awaken in people a sense of care for the environment we live. My heart will push me to travel thousands of miles to demonstrate the beneficial effects of sport for the well-being of your body." The 32-year-old says she's always been an adventurer and this was her idea of the perfect next step. Her route included North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

The trip didn't go perfectly, though: She had to pause the trip for two months after suffering a fractured vertebra, but went full-bore in September to make her goal time.

The previous record was held by Juliana Buhring, set in 2012 when she completed the tour in 152 days—over a week longer than Gianotti's ride—although unlike Gianotti, she did not travel with a support van. Even Gianotti would have been surprised with her speed, since her original goal was to finish in 145 days.

When she finished, she celebrated at home like any world record holder should: with a champagne toast.



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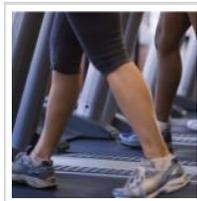
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