

Motorized Bicycles

THEN



VS

NOW



Source: Science Museum Group.
<https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk>

Source: Ultra E-Bikes.
<https://www.ultraebikes.com/collections/all-electric-bikes>

Michaux-Perreaux Steam Velocipede

Created in 1868 in France, it is believed to be the first motorized bicycle ever created.

It operated via a single-cylinder steam engine attached to a typical bicycle.

The driver had to start by peddling, which generated the steam pressure and activated the motor.

**This bike maxed out at about 16 km/h.
The engine would last 2-3 hours.
If you do the math, you could make it about 30-45 km before needing a refill!**

E-Bikes

There are now countless makes and models of motorized-bicycles. They even specialize in road vs mountain bikes.

They operate via electricity. The bikes plug into electrical outlets, charging a lithium-ion battery which is part of the bike.

Some models still require the driver to pedal to engage the motor, while other models do not require peddalling.

There are 3 classes of E-Bikes. Class 1 and 2 max out at 32km/h (the legal limit in Ontario). Class 3 maxes out at 45km/h. The average charge lasts 2-4 hours.

Huffy Regatta Motorized Bicycle

Engine: Tanaka 2 Cycle (front wheel drive)

It used a 25-1 mix of gas and oil

It could get 255 miles per gallon

The Huffy Regatta Motorized Bicycle is a normal, 3-speed beach cruiser turned into a motorized bicycle by attaching a gas motor.

These were not factory made, but rather it was a project an individual decided to build.

The serial number on this bicycle indicates it was made in Dayton, Ohio, at Huffy Corporation in 1982. The motor was made in Japan by the Tanaka Kogyo Co. These motors were manufactured with the intention of attaching them to a bicycle. It is a 2-stroke gasoline engine.



This bicycle was imported from Japan after World War II and is rare in Canada.

Donated by the family of Jim Moir
Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village