Cycling

Bicycles are hugely popular and now fashionable, with thousands of kilometres of cycling paths available in cities and in the countryside, as an environment-friendly means of transportation or as leisure. The latter activity has developed into an array of sports, on roads, on all-terrains, for acrobatic events, for racing. For each one, specific bikes are available, with an attractive look and more and more sophisticated technology, some of it derived from the automotive or from aerospace industries. There is a wide variety of designs and of materials used, from the very basic to the highly sophisticated and expensive. Stainless is used in most bikes for cables, fasteners, brake disks and spokes. Less frequently, it is also used for frames, cogs, wheel rims and chain links.