

WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



Black Canyon Trail — 3-day 3 days/2 nights

DAY 1



We begin our trip from our Phoenix meeting point with a shuttle north to the start of the BCT. We'll start near the town of Mayer which is just outside of Prescott National Forest. From here, we'll get a glimpse of what to expect for the next few days as we head toward the Bradshaw Mountains. We'll begin by riding south through varying desert terrain in between the tiny towns of Cleator and Cordes and on to camp among the towering Saguaro cactus near Bumblebee. The trail is fun and challenging, you're going to love it.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 25 miles

DAY 2



As we head on down the trail the major geographic features include the deeply incised canyons of the Agua Fria River and the foothills of the Bradshaw Mountains. On today's ride, passes and ridgelines will offer views east to Black Canyon City. Complementing this are the rugged landscapes and many flat topped mesas of Black Canyon. The trail itself continues to be as exciting and rugged as yesterday, but with a few more technical sections thrown in, not to mention a potentially exciting river crossing!

TOTAL MILEAGE: 22 miles

DAY 3



Our final day on the Black Canyon Trail is really the heart and soul of the trail. Another

river crossing, fantastic views and vast Saguaro forests round out the day as we transition from the rugged terrain of the higher elevation to the rolling hills of the Emery Henderson area. The closer we get to the end, the flatter and faster the trail gets—which makes for a perfect finish. Our trip will end with a shuttle back to Phoenix where we will say our good-byes.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 22 miles

RIDE NOTES

This tour contains some difficult riding on technical singletrack trails and a small amount of jeep roads. We will be without vehicle support during many sections of the ride. Many cacti, sharp vegetation, and sharp rocks exist along trail.

Itineraries are subject to change due to weather, road conditions, rider safety, and other factors which may affect the logistics of the adventures.

Road Surface: Mostly singletrack. Includes packed sediment, some rocky and sandy sections and smooth dirt sections.

Overall Rating: Intermediate/Advanced

Technical Difficulty: Advanced—rocky, loose and sometimes steep singletrack, some moderate exposure.

Physical Difficulty: Intermediate/Advanced—short but steep climbs, longer days and technical sections make this ride a challenging one.

Altitude: 1,000 - 4,000 feet

Travel Logistics

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Phoenix, AZ

The trip will meet at 8:30 AM local time at The Holiday Inn Express, 3401 E. University Dr. & I-10. You may park your car here, gratis, during the trip. You will need to spend the night before in Phoenix.

ENDING TIME

We will return to Phoenix between 4:00-5:00 PM on the last day.

SHIPPING YOUR BIKE

If you are shipping your bike, send it to:

The Velo
828 North 2nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2016
602-759-8169

It is critical that you include your name, "Western Spirit Cycling" and tour date on the outside of the box. If you choose this service, you must get this organized through our office.

It is imperative to have your bike finely tuned and cleaned before your tour so you know it is in top running condition.

This area has cacti and occasionally thorns. It is highly recommended that you have tubeless tires or slime tubes on your bike.

GETTING TO PHOENIX, AZ

Phoenix, Arizona is truly a diamond in the rough. Its active nightlife and beautiful scenery make for the sixth largest city in the nation to be a top choice for anyone's vacation! Inexpensive flights to Phoenix are quite often abundant from most any city.

LODGING BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Phoenix is a popular vacation spot. It is a good idea to book your rooms several months in advance if possible; here are a couple of recommendations:

Holiday Inn Express, Phoenix Airport

3401 E. University Drive & I-10
602-453-9900

This is where the trip meets. We recommend making reservations here ahead of time.

The Clarendon Hotel

401 W. Clarendon Ave
www.theclarendon.net
602-252-7363

For transportation from the airport either call Discount Cab (602-200-2000) or use the Uber app on your smartphone.

TAXI SERVICE

Paul's Taxi: 602-222-2227

Ejecutivos Taxi: 602-678-1444

Discount Cab: 602-200-2000

Packing for your trip

Be sure to bring everything on this list. We have carefully developed this list to ensure your comfort on the tour regardless of the weather. If you are prepared for extreme weather, it is an adventure. If you are not prepared it can be a serious problem.

We recommend the layering system, including a wicking or long underwear layer, an insulating layer and a weather barrier for wind and rain. This list reflects that philosophy. Weather can be unpredictable so be sure to bring all the warm clothing and rain gear listed!

HOW TO PACK: The bulk of your gear and clothing will ride in the Western Spirit support vehicle (preferably in a large duffle bag) and will **not** be accessible during the day.

For this trip, you will need a riding pack and optional day bag:

- Your riding pack may be a hydration pack, but needs to carry 2-3 liters of water, rain gear, other warm clothing, and food for the day. You may be away from camp and the support vehicle all day

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C y c l i n g A d v e n t u r e s

and need to be self-sufficient.

- A small day bag is optional and may be used to store things you'd rather not ride with, but would like to have access to during the day. This day-pack will remain with the support vehicle and may not be accessible, depending on the day.

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- ✓ meals, snacks, water, electrolyte drinks, non-alcoholic drinks
- ✓ camp mugs, all kitchen and dining ware
- ✓ 2 large cycling water bottles
- ✓ camp chairs
- ✓ solar showers
- ✓ sunscreen & bug spray
- ✓ bike stand and lube
- ✓ guides bring their own bike tools and can assist with repairs
- ✓ first aid kit with basic medications

BRINGING OR RENTING

- mountain bike (Our rentals come with flat pedals. You are welcome to bring your own if you prefer.)
- helmet (gratis w/rental bike)
- tent
- sleeping bag
- sleeping pad

CYCLING CLOTHING

- cycling shoes
- 3 pair cycling shorts
- 3 cycling shirts
- long sleeve cycling shirt
- long sleeve cotton shirt or solar sleeves. Highly recommended for protection from sun, cactus, and potential falls.
- tall socks (knee socks, soccer socks). Highly recommended for protection from cactus and potential falls.
- knee & elbow pads. Highly recommended for protection from cactus and potential falls.
- windbreaker
- tights or leg warmers
- 2 pair cycling gloves (1 pair full length for warmth)
- rain jacket (Gore-Tex or similar)
- rain pants (Gore-Tex or similar)
- warm layer (lightweight synthetic puffy jacket or long sleeve fleece shirt)

- sunglasses or other eye protection

CAMP CLOTHING

- camp shorts
- shirts
- warm socks
- long underwear, top and bottom (wicking layer, not cotton)
- 2 pair warm long pants
- long sleeve fleece or sweater
- pile or down jacket (insulating layer)
- warm gloves and hat
- brimmed hat or visor
- bathing suit (for solar showers on the trip and at the hotel before/after your trip)
- hiking shoes
- sandals
- cheap PVC rain gear (to wear in camp)

PERSONAL

- toiletries
- medication (daily and emergency)
- towel
- biodegradable soap
- wet-wipes
- flashlight or headlamp (with extra batteries)
- sunglasses
- riding pack: 10-15L gear capacity with 2-3L water storage (Camelbak Mule or Camelbak H.A.W.G. are good choices)
- optional day bag
- cash for tipping guides: your guides work as a team and share all of their gratuities. A tip of 10-20% of the price of your trip given to either one of your guides when you return to civilization is a great way to say thanks for a job well done.

OPTIONAL

- camera, extra batteries
- binoculars
- alcoholic or any of your favorite beverages (your guides will pack these)
- books or maps
- we encourage you to turn your devices off, but if you cannot, please bring a way to charge them. We recommend a portable USB charger with 1-2 charges. Also, putting your phone on airplane mode to save power is recommended.