

WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



Telluride to Durango

5 days/4 nights

DAY 1



After meeting in Durango, we'll load up and shuttle 2-1/2 hours to Telluride. On the way we'll drive through the historic mining town of Rico, over 10,222 foot Lizard Head Pass, and beneath the 14,000 foot peaks of El Diente and Mt. Wilson. From Telluride we'll ride the gondola with our bikes up and out of town to the ski area's core at Mountain Village. Once we're on our bikes again a 2,000 foot descent on singletrack awaits, plunging us into the Ilium Valley where we'll have lunch. The remainder of the day will be spent climbing beneath the trees on the Galloping Goose railroad grade. At a consistent 3% grade the "Goose" climbs 2,200 feet, topping out in an alpine meadow where we will camp for the night.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 26 miles

DAY 2



Our route this morning follows the difficult East Fork Trail up the headwaters of the Dolores River. This roadless drainage is extremely beautiful as it traverses high meadows beneath the towering peaks of the San Juan Mountains. The trail is fairly primitive and discretionary riders may want to walk some short sections. The East Fork Trail eventually intersects an old double-track that we'll follow to our Bolam Pass camp. From this 11,000 foot elevation camp, fine views of Graysill Mountain and the La Plata Mountains dominate the skyline. After setting up our tents, an optional ride to Sliderock Pass on the Colorado Trail is available. Celebration Lake is near camp, where the hardy can enjoy a truly refreshing dip in the afternoon.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 8 - 16 miles

DAY 3



Today we'll join the alpine singletrack of the Colorado Trail for a spectacular ride at an altitude few people ever reach on their bikes. The Colorado Trail offers incredible wilderness scenery and runs nearly 500 miles from Denver to Durango. From camp the trail begins by winding around the slopes of Hermosa Peak before ascending 12,000 foot Blackhawk Pass. There will be some short hike-a-bikes on this section, which offer a chance to stretch our legs and enjoy the far reaching views from this high elevation trail. At the pass we'll have a snack, and maybe a nap, and begin our ride back on the same trail to our camp at Bolam Pass. This layover day gives us a great opportunity to choose this challenging ride or take in a midweek day of relaxation at our high mountain camp.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 15 miles, shorter options available

DAY 4



Another great ride awaits us today. We will start our ride with the Relay Creek Trail, a singletrack that traverses the base of Graysill Mountain. From the trail we'll pick up a dirt road to our lunch spot. This will set us up to ride part of the mountain bike trail system at Durango Mountain Resort, home of the 1990 mountain bike world championships. Our camp tonight is in beautiful Hermosa Park, just above our last ride.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 19 - 26 miles

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



DAY 5



The Hermosa Creek Trail is considered one of the best singletrack trails in the Rockies.

Although we are almost always losing elevation on this 18 mile trail, it is a challenging workout. Beginning in the open meadows of Hermosa Park, we ride beside Hermosa Creek for a few miles before the creek drops away from the trail. The singletrack threads through large stands of aspens and conifers. After intersecting Dutch Creek we will begin a short, but strenuous climb. Some of the best riding of the day occurs after the climb, as we roll along at a fairly steady elevation, high above the roaring creek. Once we reach the trailhead, we'll descend the four miles to the highway and we'll shuttle into Durango where our journey will end.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 19 miles of unsupported single-track to 6 miles on paved road

RIDE NOTES

This tour contains some very difficult riding on narrow, steep mountain trails. A high level of skill and fitness is required to enjoyably navigate much of the route. There will be riding along steep mountain ridges with exposure to falls on the downhill side.

We will be without vehicle support during all of the singletrack sections of the ride and medical help is far away. Please call us and we can help you determine whether this trip is appropriate for you.

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

Road Surface: Singletrack on clay, packed sediment, some rocky sections, pine needles, smooth dirt and short sections of county roads and asphalt.

Overall Rating: Intermediate/Advanced

Technical Difficulty: Moderate to difficult. Technical, narrow trails; lots of obstacles.

Physical Difficulty: Moderate to difficult. High altitudes (over 10,000 feet), steep climbs and long

unsupported sections.

Altitude: 8,000 - 12,000 feet

Travel Logistics

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Durango, CO

This trip will meet at 7:30 AM MST at 2nd Ave Sports, 640 East 2nd Avenue, Durango, CO, 970-247-4511. After loading up, we will shuttle all guest vehicles to the Durango Transit Center.

Please notify Western Spirit if you need to park your car during the trip and Western Spirit will make arrangements. From there, we will drive the 3 hours to Telluride to begin our ride. You will need to spend the night before in Durango.

ENDING TIME

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

SHIPPING YOUR BIKE

If you are shipping your bike, send it to:

2nd Ave Sports
640 East 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

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.

GETTING TO DURANGO, CO

Driving

Durango is located in southwestern Colorado. It is a 6-hour drive from Denver via Interstate 25 to US 160. From Grand Junction, Colorado it is a 4-hour drive via US 50 and 550. Please notify Western Spirit if you

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need to park your car during the trip and Western Spirit will make arrangements.

Flying into Durango, CO

Airport Code: DRO

LODGING BEFORE YOUR TRIP

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

Lightner Creek Inn B & B

970-259-1226, 800-268-9804

Comfort Inn

970-259-5373, 800-228-5150

Best Western Durango Inn

970-247-3251, 800-547-9090

Best Western Mountain Shadows

970-247-5200, 800-780-7234

Budget Inn

970-247-5222, 800-257-5222

Super 8

970-259-0590

TAXI SERVICE

Durango Transportation:

970-259-4818 or 800-626-2066

Airport Shuttles are available and you need to reserve your seat at least 2 hours in advance. They also have a taxi service which will help you get to Hassle Free Sports in the morning, please call ahead.

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 in the mountains can be unpredictable so be sure to bring all the warm clothing and rain gear listed!

HOW TO PACK: When you arrive for your tour, you will be given a dry bag in which to pack your gear for the trip. Smaller bags may fit, but very large duffels will not.

To pack efficiently in a dry bag, we highly recommend you compartmentalize your clothing and gear into separate bags. Stuff sacks, reusable grocery bags, etc. in different colors work great for this (example: cycling gear in blue stuff sack, camp clothes in red stuff sack, etc.).

Your dry bag will ride on the Western Spirit support vehicle 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 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
- ✓ dry bags to pack your gear
- ✓ solar showers
- ✓ sunscreen & bug spray
- ✓ bike stand and lube
- ✓ guides bring their own tools
- ✓ first aid kit with basic medications

BRINGING OR RENTING

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

- 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 - 5 pair cycling shorts
- 3 - 5 cycling shirts
- long sleeve cycling shirt
- long sleeve cotton shirt or solar sleeves
- knee & elbow pads - optional
- cycling socks
- 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)

- 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
- stuff sacks or reusable grocery bags (or separate compartments for your dry 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.

PERSONAL

