

WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



Yellowstone and the Gravelly Range Family Trip

5 days/4 nights

DAY 1



The Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest is a remote area just northwest of Yellowstone National Park. After meeting in Bozeman, we will shuttle 2-1/2 hours south to Ennis, Montana, home of millions of trout, and a few people. Ennis is located near the beautiful Gravelly Range in the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest. After a quick pit stop we will continue up into the mountains to the Gravelly Range Road where we will unload and begin our ride for the day. Our route takes us through beautiful alpine meadows full of wildflowers. The views from up here are world class. A few strenuous climbs and fun descents will bring us to our camp for the evening at Clover Meadows.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 10 - 15 miles

DAY 2



After breakfast at Clover Meadows we will continue south, and today becomes a big climbing day. Three climbs (shuttle options are always available)! Along our route we will pass through several more stunning meadows full of wildflowers and an occasional lingering snowfield. In this area, the wildlife is abundant and we have an excellent chance of spotting deer, elk, moose, yellow-bellied marmots and several species of birds of prey. Crossing our highpoint at Monument Ridge affords us distant views of the rugged Taylor-Hilgard peaks in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. After lunch we roll along towards Black Butte and camp near Black Butte Cabin.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 12 miles, optional hike

DAY 3



This morning dawns with a one mile climb and then a long descent. For the last two days we have been traversing across the ridge and today we get to descend all the way to the Madison River. Today's ride is big fun as we lose almost 3,000 feet over approximately 20 miles. We will ride through huge stands of Lodgepole Pine, expansive meadows, through Wolverine Basin, and finally to the West Fork of the Madison River. Our riverside camp for the evening gives us the opportunity for a quick dip or perhaps a chance to fish in the famous waters of the Madison (if you brought your pole and fishing license).

TOTAL MILEAGE: 20 miles

DAY 4



After riding through the Gravelly Range, we will load up the bikes, jump in the van and shuttle over to Yellowstone National Park. We start our ride on one of the few dirt paths that allow bikes in Yellowstone and enjoy incredible views of intense color and beauty. As we make our way toward the Old Faithful Geyser, we will ride a combination of paved park roads and dirt bike paths. Yellowstone National Park is a treasure and inspires awe in everyone who travels through it. Between the geysers, the abundant wildlife, and the powerful waterfalls, we are constantly impressed by its natural wonders. Our afternoon route takes us right to Old Faithful. The world's best known geyser predictably erupts every 90 minutes, so we can tour the area and the historic Old Faithful Inn and visitors center while waiting for this must see attrac-

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tion. Our last night's camp will be inside the park at Grant Village on the West Thumb of Yellowstone Lake, North America's largest mountain lake.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 15 miles

DAY 5



After breakfast we will drive from Grant Village through Hayden Valley along the famous Yellowstone River. In this open parkland you may see moose, bison and possibly even grizzly bears, all from the safety of the Western Spirit van. Waterfowl, including white pelicans and trumpeter swans, are abundant in the marshy areas. Our stop at the Mud Volcano will show us the varied thermal features here, including the Dragon's Mouth Spring. And yes, we are quite sure there is a real dragon in there. Our tour of the park will conclude at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone where the river plunges 1,000 feet. We will hike the South Rim Trail along the river which affords us incredible views of the spectacular upper and lower falls. Hot water acting on volcanic rock created the canyon's yellow colors and our view from Artist's Point is truly one to remember. After lunch we will shuttle back to Bozeman.

TOTAL MILEAGE: AM van/walking tour; 2-3 mile hike

RIDE NOTES

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: Packed dirt and gravel roads, some sand and some loose rock, pavement.

Overall Rating: Introductory/Intermediate

Technical Difficulty: Easy

Physical Difficulty: Moderate.

Altitude: 5,000 - 9,000 feet

Travel Logistics

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Bozeman, MT

This trip will meet at 8:00 AM MST at the Hampton Inn Bozeman, 75 Baxter Lane, Bozeman, Montana, 406-522-8000. You will need to spend the night before in Bozeman and we recommend the Hampton Inn.

ENDING TIME

We will return to the Hampton Inn Bozeman between 3:00 - 4:00 PM on the last day.

GETTING TO BOZEMAN, MT

Driving

Interstate 90 runs directly through Bozeman. It is located 3 hours east of Missoula and 2 hours west of Billings. There is parking available at the hotel.

Flying into Bozeman, MT

Airport Code: BZN

Flying into Billings, MT

Airport Code: BIL

Rent a car and drive to Bozeman, a 3 hour drive. You can park the car at the Hampton Inn while on the tour.

TAXI SERVICE

Greater Valley Taxi: 406-587-6303, greatervalleytaxi.com

LODGING BEFORE YOUR TRIP

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

Hampton Inn Bozeman (This is our recommendation and also where the trip starts and finishes. You can leave your car here while on the trip.)
406-522-8000

Homewood Suites by Hilton Bozeman
406-587-8180

Holiday Inn Bozeman

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406-587-4561

Comfort Inn of Bozeman

406-587-2322

Voss Inn Bed & Breakfast

406-587-0982

SHIPPING YOUR BIKE

If you are shipping your bike, send it to:

Bangtail Bicycle Shop
137 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT, 59715
406-587-4905

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.

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 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 tools
- ✓ 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 - 5 pair cycling shorts
- 3 - 5 cycling shirts
- long sleeve cycling shirt
- 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)

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

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
- bathing suit
- hiking shoes
- sandals
- cheap plastic rain gear (to wear in camp)

PERSONAL

- sunscreen & lip balm
- medication (epi pen, inhaler)
- towel
- insect repellent
- biodegradable soap
- personal items
- wet-wipes
- cash for tipping guides: your guides work as a team and share all of their gratuities. A tip of 5-15% 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.

GEAR

- flashlight or headlamp (w/ extra batteries)
- sunglasses
- brimmed hat or visor
- 2 large water bottles (provided by WSC)
- riding hydration pack large enough to carry water (min. 2L reservoir), lunch, warm layers and rain gear. Many of our guests use the Camelbak Mule
- day pack (see HOW TO PACK, above)

OPTIONAL

- camera, extra batteries
- binoculars
- alcoholic beverages (your guides will pack these)
- books or maps
- we recommend that you turn your devices off, but if you cannot, please bring a way to charge them.

We recommend a small portable battery charger capable of holding 1-2 charges. Also, putting your phone on airplane mode to save power is recommended.

- If you plan to fish on the trip, you must obtain a Montana fishing license. They are available at Powderhorn Sporting Goods right across the street from the bike shop.

