

WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



Bears Ears Getaway

4 days/3 nights

DAY 1



Travel to Durango, Colorado to arrive by 6:00pm on Thursday afternoon. We will pick you up at the airport and after a quick stop at our hotel, head out to dinner in downtown Durango. At dinner, we will go over the maps and share some of the fascinating history of the Bears Ears.

DAY 2



After an early breakfast, we will head to Blanding, Utah our jumping off point for the Monument. Today's itinerary is focused on hiking as we explore a series of ruins on our route through Comb Ridge into the Abajo Mountains. We will start at the Edge of the Cedars Museum. The cliff dwellings of this amazing region were built with great care and effort by the Ancestral Puebloans who inhabited the region 900 to 1000 years ago. It is just possible to imagine living in these cozy nooks---until of course, you happen to look down. After a series of short and fascinating hikes to ruins including the House on Fire. We will then head to our camp in the pinions and junipers above the desert floor, where we find a delicious Dutch Oven Dinner and a campfire under the stars.

HIKING MILEAGE: 6-8 miles

DAY 3



After coffee and breakfast—we will jump on our bikes for the ride to the Bears Ears. A gentle climb puts us right between the ears themselves. We will explore the region by foot before

continuing on to Elk Ridge. Our route takes us into the land of the mighty Ponderosas. These beautiful giant pine trees make for a park like atmosphere with beautiful clearings that provide great views into the Dark Canyon Wilderness Area. It is on these forested mesa tops that the ancestors of the cliff dwellers lived, until for unknown reasons they retreated to the defensible locations of the cliff dwellings. Our camp at Hammond Canyon has lovely views and short walk takes us to the opposite rim of the ridge. Another wonderful dinner is in store.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 15 miles

DAY 4



After an early start we will begin the descent off the ridge. As we leave the forest the views of the canyons around us expand. The complexity of the landscape is quite astounding and the descent is one of our favorites as there is a new view around every corner. We drop in to the streambed lined with ancient Cottonwood trees and a few rollers brings us back to the pavement. From here we bid good by to the Bears Ears and head back to Durango to meet flights departing after 4:00pm.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 22 miles

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: Dirt roads. Hard packed sediment

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and clay. Some sandy sections.

Overall Rating: Introductory

Technical Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Physical Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Altitude: 4,000 - 10,000 feet

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

Travel Logistics

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Durango-La Plata County Airport

The trip will meet on Thursday, 6:00 pm MST at the Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO).

ENDING TIME

We will return to the Durango-La Plata County Airport in time for flights departing after 4:00 PM on the last day.

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 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

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.

SHIPPING YOUR BIKE

If you are shipping your bike, send it to:

Western Spirit Cycling
478 Mill Creek Dr.
Moab, UT 84532

It is critical that you include your name 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

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philosophy. Weather in the mountains 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
- ✓ 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

- 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
- 1 - 3 pair cycling shorts
- 1 - 3 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)

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
- stuff sacks or reusable grocery bags (or separate

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

- 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.

