

WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



Hovenweep Family Trip

5 days/4 nights

DAY 1



After meeting in Durango, we will head west to the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores, Colorado. The center is the perfect introduction to the Ancestral Puebloan culture. In addition to two 12th century archaeological sites, there are interactive exhibits on weaving and food preparation. There are also many displays of pots, jewelry and architecture. After lunch at the center we will shuttle over to the northern boundary of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. From here we will take a short family ride that begins with a pavement warm up and ends on a dirt road with lots of bumps and wiggles. Our ride brings us to a short hiking trail which leads right to Cutthroat Castle. After exploring this, we will shuttle to our campsite at Hovenweep National Monument.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 7 miles riding, 1 mile hiking

DAY 2



Today we will ride along a smooth dirt road that brings us out to Pedro Point and its fascinating ruin. The main Pedro Point Road is double track with a few bumpy, loose sections to keep us on our toes and there are beautiful views in all directions. The ruin is nestled in the piñon pine and juniper forest on the edge of yet another lovely canyon. After lunch we will head south to the Hovenweep National Monument Visitor Center. Here we will find the famous Square Tower group and Circle Tower Point. After hiking to the point, those with extra energy can continue around the entire loop while the

rest of the group heads back to camp.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 11 miles riding, 1 - 4 miles hiking

DAY 3



This morning we will ride from camp this morning north to the Holly Hackberry Road. This area is the home to three beautiful ruins. The Horseshoe Unit is composed of four masonry structures that blend beautifully into the landscape. Each stone was shaped and fitted into place with a clay, sand, and ash mortar that still holds them in place some 800 years later. At the Hackberry Unit, archeologists speculate that over 300 people lived in this area at its height. The seep at the head of this canyon provides one of the more reliable water sources in the region. From here we go on to the Holly group and the famous Tilted Tower. This tower was built on a large sandstone boulder that shifted some time after the canyon was abandoned around 1300 AD. After lunch, those ready for more can hike the 4 mile Holly Trail which finishes right back at our camp, or do a ride from the ruin. The rest of us will shuttle or bike back to camp the way we came.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 6 - 20 miles riding, 2 - 6 miles hiking

DAY 4



Today we leave our Hovenweep camp and shuttle east to Cannonball Mesa. From the mesa top we will head out to find the Cannonball ruin. A steep and loose climb will bring us to the top of the mesa. Most of us will do a bit of a hike-a-

bike to get to the top, but from there it is smooth sailing along the top of the mesa. Again the views are 360 degrees, with Sleeping Ute Mountain watching over us and the mighty La Plata Mountains in the distance. We will have lunch at the ruin. When we return from the ruin the kids will be working on their interpretive skit for the evening, giving the parents a chance to do a longer ride or hike in the afternoon. We will head into Cortez for a comfortable night at a hotel.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 7 - 25 miles riding

DAY 5



Before we return to the 21st century, we will make our way over to Mesa Verde National Park. Starting with the impressive museum and visitor center, we will have the chance to further our knowledge about these fascinating ancient people. We will do a self guided tour of the Spruce Tree House, Mesa Verde's best preserved cliff dwelling. The vegetation we will encounter along the way is the same used by the ancestral puebloans for food, soap and many of the needs and activities of daily living. After lunch we will do a guided tour of the famous Balcony House. This dwelling includes 35 rooms and was occupied for over 100 years—a great finale for our tour.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 10 - 20 miles, other options available

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, loose dirt, gravel, sandstone and pavement.

Overall Rating: Introductory to intermediate

Technical Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Physical Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Altitude: 4,500 - 5,500 feet

Travel Logistics

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Durango, CO

This trip will meet at 8:00 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 shuttle 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. There is parking available.

Flying into Durango, CO

Airport Code: DRO

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



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 insure 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 duffel 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
- long sleeve cotton shirt or solar sleeves

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

- 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)

- binoculars
- alcoholic beverages (your guides will pack these)
- books or maps
- solar charger for your mobile phone/digital devices (we recommend that you turn them off, but if you cannot, please bring a way to power them).

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
- day pack (see HOW TO PACK, above)

OPTIONAL

- camera, extra batteries