

# WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



## Kokopelli Trail

5 days/4 nights

### DAY 1



We start our trip with a quick shuttle to the Mary's Loop Trailhead in Loma. Our day starts with a gentle doubletrack climb to a high bench overlooking the Colorado River. From here the singletrack begins and connects us to both the Lions Loop and Troybuilt trails. The singletrack riding here is so good that the locals from Moab travel to Grand Junction to ride these very trails. A stout singletrack climb and some hike-a-biking takes us to our lunch spot where the support truck will be waiting. Our afternoon ride is a fun rolling double track through Rabbit Valley which takes us into a sandstone walled canyon. After our final climb for the day up to Harley's Dome we will camp perched high above the Colorado River and enjoy a tasty Dutch Oven dinner.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 32 miles

### DAY 2



Shortly after we leave camp today, we will cross the state line into Utah while riding through a beautiful canyon. The riding this morning is on a rugged four-wheel drive road which climbs out of the canyon to the higher Pinyon pine and juniper covered plateau. We will descend to the banks of the Colorado River, and cruise past the Westwater boat ramp. Downstream, the river cuts through Precambrian rock which is approximately 1.8 billion years old. Not only is Westwater Canyon known to river runners for Class 3-4 rapids, it is one of the only times this ancient rock is exposed along the river until the bottom of the Grand Canyon gorge. After lunch we enjoy some open desert riding which

delivers us to more fun jeep roads along the river and singletrack. Then we'll cross the Colorado River and ride a final section of dirt road that takes us to our camp at the base of the Entrada Sandstone bluffs.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 40 miles

### DAY 3



This morning we start with a major climb, insuring a good strong appetite for lunch. This famous 2,400 foot climb will take us to the top of Sevenmile Mesa, rewarding us with great views of the Uncompahgre Plateau and the Dolores River canyon. There is a spur ride off our route called "Top of the World," which is pretty much how it feels! Toward the top of the climb the road gets rough and the riding gets technical. Wildlife abounds in this remote country and we may see bighorn sheep or a bald eagle. We'll eat the lunch we packed on the edge of the spectacular canyon and then descend down Rose Garden Hill into Fisher Valley and Onion Creek. Tonight we will camp near beautiful slickrock formations among the pinyons and junipers.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 22 miles

### DAY 4



Now we have reached the La Sal Mountains and to start we must climb up to North Beaver Mesa. The riding is loose at the beginning but improves as we gain altitude, as do the views, which are truly incredible. The La Sal Mountains were named by the early Spanish explorers who called them "mountains of salt." These mountains seem to rise

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right out of the desert. They are laccolithic which means they were pushed up by volcanic forces but the crust was never broken, resulting in their rounded appearance. Just over the top, having gained several thousand feet, we will stop for lunch near some very distinct dinosaur tracks in the slickrock high above the valley floor. We will also enjoy a great view of Fisher Valley below. After lunch we descend on pavement into Castle Valley, then settle in to the climb up the other side. We're straddling ecosystems here with alpine over the left shoulder and the desert's red rock canyons over the right. The last section of today's ride is back on dirt on one of our favorite segments of the Kokopelli. A two track swoops down off the shoulder of the mountains and this is where the aspens meet the slickrock. We'll camp tonight with sunset views of Arches National Park.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 32 miles

## DAY 5



From camp this morning we will head down the Sand Flats Road, which is also the route of the Kokopelli Trail. Today's ride is payback for all the climbs we have done along the way. The sun is at our back as we descend, lighting the finned rock and the red wall cliffs of the Moab Rim. Our views reach as far as Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. As we finish our epic ride we will have one more delicious lunch and then we will shuttle back to Grand Junction.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 20 miles

## RIDE NOTES

This tour contains some difficult riding on technical jeep roads and some singletrack trails. A high level of skill and fitness is required to enjoyably navigate much of the route. We will be without vehicle support during many sections of the ride. If you do not consider yourself to be an expert rider and doubt your ability to complete this tour, 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:** Variable. Includes packed sediment, some rocky and sandy sections of double and single-track, some smooth dirt sections and some asphalt sections.

**Overall Rating:** Intermediate/Advanced

**Technical Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult—some steep and technical sections.

**Physical Difficulty:** Difficult—steep climbs, long days and technical sections make this ride a challenging one.

**Altitude:** 4,000 - 8,500 feet

## Travel Logistics

### MEETING PLACE AND TIME

#### Grand Junction, CO

This trip will meet at 7:30 AM MST at the Clarion Inn, 755 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction, Colorado, 970-243-6790. You will need to spend the night before in Grand Junction.

### ENDING TIME

We will return to Grand Junction between 5:00-6:00 PM on the last day.

### 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.

### GETTING TO GRAND JUNCTION, CO

#### Driving

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Grand Junction is 250 miles west of Denver and 50 miles east of the Utah/Colorado state line on I-70.

## Flying into Grand Junction

Airport Code: GJT

## LODGING BEFORE YOUR TRIP

It is a good idea to book your rooms in advance; here are a few recommendations:

### Clarion Inn

970-243-6790, 888-489-9796

This is where the trip will meet—mention that you are on a Western Spirit trip. They have storage available while you are on your trip.

### Ramada Inn

970-243-5150, 800-272-6232

### Best Western Sandman

970-243-4150

### Quality Inn of Grand Junction

970-245-7200, 800-790-2661

All of these hotels offer airport shuttles.

## TAXI SERVICE

**Sunshine Taxi:** 970-245-8294

## 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

- 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

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- 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)

## 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 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.

