

WESTERN SPIRIT

Cycling Adventures



Yellowstone and Beartooth Pass Road Tour

6 days/5 nights

DAY 1



After meeting in Bozeman we will shuttle south along the Gallatin River to the north boundary of the park where we will start our ride. We then head south into West Yellowstone, gateway to the park. Heading east into the park, our goal is Madison Junction, and from there we will head south to Old Faithful and our lodging for the night. Along the way, we will pass the Sapphire Pool, the Great Fountain Geyser, and Fountain Paint Pots to mention just a few. We will also see evidence of the 1988 Yellowstone fire. Fire plays an important role in the forest ecology and we see many Lodgepole pines that have reforested the burned areas. The riding in this section is rolling and fun, a great way to end our first day. After we arrive at the Old Faithful Inn, we may have some time to explore some of the geysers in the area, including Morning Glory Pool.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 50 - 60 miles

DAY 2



After a delicious breakfast we will begin our journey to Yellowstone Lake, along the lower loop. Shortly after leaving this morning we will cross the Continental Divide at Craig Pass which is 8,262 feet. We will pass back over the divide before arriving at Yellowstone Lake. As we approach the western edge of the lake we will pass yet another geyser basin which we can tour. Intense heat from this region indicates an extensive thermal system, that could create a massive hydrothermal steam explosion should lake levels drop just a few feet,

reminding us yet again of the dynamic geologic forces at work all around us. A few more miles and we will arrive at our night's destination, the Lake Hotel. Yellowstone Lake is the largest mountain lake in North America. It is over 20 miles long 14 miles wide and 390 feet deep at its deepest point, where temperatures rarely rise above 42 degrees. This is amazing since there are countless calderas throughout the park whose temperatures remain high above the boiling point at all times. We will arrive at the Lake Hotel in the afternoon, leaving us time for an out and back ride, north through the Hayden Valley. We will want to get at least as far as the Mud Volcano but riding along the Yellowstone River can be quite enticing, so we may go further.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 30 - 65 miles

DAY 3



Today we begin with a short shuttle out to the east entrance of the park so that we can get down to business on the Buffalo Bill Scenic Highway. The ride zips along the North Fork of the Shoshone River through the Wapiti Valley, a stretch that Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt called "the most scenic 50 miles in the world." Keep your eyes peeled today; the Wapiti Valley boasts robust populations of wildlife including bighorn sheep, mule deer, moose, bear and, as it's Shoshone namesake suggests, wapiti or elk. Our route takes us through the tiny settlements of Pahaska and Wapiti, then skirts 7 miles of shoreline along the Buffalo Bill Reservoir. We finish our ride in historic Cody, Wyoming—named for

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William Frederick “Buffalo Bill” Cody, one of the most colorful figures of America’s Old West.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 52 miles

DAY 4



Today we will hook up with the Chief Joseph Highway. While the story of Chief Joseph leading the Nez Perce along this route is quite heart wrenching, the views are so incredible exhilaration will win the day. This amazing mountain pass is one of the very best road rides in the West. The road is narrow and remote with great views of the Beartooth mountains to the north and the volcanic Absaroka mountains to the west. We will pass through a 1,200 foot gorge carved by the Clark’s Fork of the Yellowstone River. Our destination for the night is Cooke City, Montana which is nestled in a narrow valley between the Beartooth and Absaroka wilderness areas.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 60 miles

DAY 5



You will want to eat a really big breakfast this morning because we are headed to the Top of the World! The high point (10,947 feet) of the spectacular Beartooth Scenic Byway takes us through dramatic peaks and jewel like alpine lakes. The Beartooth Plateau is a lofty table of nearly solid rock, which for a few weeks a year is covered with wildflowers. People who see this area from a car just aren’t getting the full effect. It is a truly dizzying array of switchbacks and panoramic vistas. We get a breathtaking 360 degree view right on the border of Wyoming and Montana. You are very likely to agree that the Beartooth is the most beautiful highway in America. All of this swooping and zooming through the peaks drops us into Red Lodge, our home for the night.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 65 miles

DAY 6



For our final ride we head north as we work our way down from the alpine scenery of rugged peaks, pristine alpine tundra and

sheer cliffs. The terrain becomes wide open as we leave the Beartooth Range and approach the basin of the Yellowstone River. Civilization reappears in the form of Interstate 90, which will provide us with a convenient shuttle route back to Bozeman.

TOTAL MILEAGE: 35 miles

RIDE NOTES

Accommodations may be changed due to availability. Itineraries are subject to change due to weather, road conditions, rider safety and other factors which may affect the logistics of the trip.

Overall Rating: Intermediate/Advanced

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Altitude: 6,000 - 9,000 feet

Travel Logistics

MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Bozeman, MT

The 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 where the trip meets.

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

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can park the car at the Hampton Inn while on the tour.

TAXI SERVICE

Greater Valley Taxi: 406-587-6303

greatervalleytaxi.com

Airport shuttles and around town service.

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
406-587-4561

Comfort Inn of Bozeman
406-587-2322

Voss Inn Bed & Breakfast
406-587-0982

ACCOMMODATIONS DURING YOUR TRIP

Prices are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone, we will pair you with another guest. If you prefer your own room, ask about the single supplement and we will accommodate if available.

SHIPPING YOUR BIKE

To ship your bike, please 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.

While this trip is vehicle supported, there will be extended times when you are away from the vehicle. For this trip, you will need to be able to carry some extra clothing while riding. You can either bring a riding pack or carry these items in your jersey.

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 daypack will remain with the support vehicle and will be available periodically throughout the day.

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- ✓ meals, snacks, water, electrolyte drinks, non-alcoholic drinks
- ✓ 2 large cycling water bottles
- ✓ sunscreen & bug spray
- ✓ bike stand and lube
- ✓ guides bring their own tools
- ✓ first aid kit with basic medications

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

BRINGING OR RENTING

- road bike (Our rentals come with flat pedals. You are welcome to bring your own if you prefer.)
- helmet (gratis w/rental bike)

CYCLING CLOTHING

- cycling or hiking shoes
- 3 - 5 pair cycling shorts
- 3 - 5 cycling jerseys
- long sleeve jersey
- cycling socks
- windbreaker
- knee warmers/warm tights
- cycling gloves (including warm gloves)
- ear band
- booties
- rain jacket (Gore-Tex or similar)
- rain pants (Gore-Tex or similar)

CASUAL CLOTHING

- casual shorts
- casual long pants
- shirts (long and short sleeve)
- one nice dinner outfit
- socks
- jammies
- pile or fleece jacket
- warm gloves and hat
- swim suit
- comfortable walking shoes
- sandals

PERSONAL

- sunscreen & lip balm
- medication (epi pen, inhaler)
- personal items and toiletries
- toothbrush/paste
- brush/comb
- cash for souvenirs
- cash for tipping guides: your guides work as a team and share all of their gratuities. A tip of 5-10% 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

- sunglasses
- hat or visor
- 2 large water bottles (provided by WSC)
- riding hydration pack
- day pack (see HOW TO PACK, above)

OPTIONAL

- camera, extra batteries
- binoculars
- alcoholic beverages (your guides will pack these)
- books or maps

