**Western Spirit Cycling Adventures**

**Telluride to Durango**

**5 days/4 nights**

**DAY 1**

After meeting in Durango, we'll load up and shuttle 2-1/2 hours to Telluride. On the way we'll drive through the historic mining town of Rico, over 10,222 foot Lizard Head Pass, and beneath the 14,000 foot peaks of El Diente and Mt. Wilson. From Telluride we'll ride the gondola with our bikes up and out of town to the ski area's core at Mountain Village. Once we're on our bikes again a 2,000 foot descent on singletrack awaits, plunging us into the Ilium Valley where we'll have lunch. The remainder of the day will be spent climbing beneath the trees on the Galloping Goose railroad grade. At a consistent 3% grade the “Goose” climbs 2,200 feet, topping out in an alpine meadow where we will camp for the night.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 26 miles

**DAY 2**

Our route this morning follows the difficult East Fork Trail up the headwaters of the Dolores River. This roadless drainage is extremely beautiful as it traverses high meadows beneath the towering peaks of the San Juan Mountains. The trail is fairly primitive and discretionary riders may want to walk some short sections. The East Fork Trail eventually intersects an old double-track that we'll follow to our Bolam Pass camp. From this 11,000 foot elevation camp, fine views of Graysill Mountain and the La Plata Mountains dominate the skyline. After setting up our tents, an optional ride to Sliderock Pass on the Colorado Trail is available. Celebration Lake is near camp, where the hardy can enjoy a truly refreshing dip in the afternoon.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 15 miles, shorter options available

**DAY 3**

Today we'll join the alpine singletrack of the Colorado Trail for a spectacular ride at an altitude few people ever reach on their bikes. The Colorado Trail offers incredible wilderness scenery and runs nearly 500 miles from Denver to Durango. From camp the trail begins by winding around the slopes of Hermosa Peak before ascending 12,000 foot Blackhawk Pass. There will be some short hike-a-bikes on this section, which offer a chance to stretch our legs and enjoy the far reaching views from this high elevation trail. At the pass we'll have a snack, and maybe a nap, and begin our ride back on the same trail to our camp at Bolam Pass. This layover day gives us a great opportunity to choose this challenging ride or take in a midweek day of relaxation at our high mountain camp.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 15 miles

**DAY 4**

Another great ride awaits us today. We will start our ride with the Relay Creek Trail, a singletrack that traverses the base of Graysill Mountain. From the trail we'll pick up a dirt road to our lunch spot. This will set us up to ride part of the mountain bike trail system at Durango Mountain Resort, home of the 1990 mountain bike world championships. Our camp tonight is in beautiful Hermosa Park, just above our last ride.

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 19 - 26 miles

**TOTAL MILEAGE:** 8 - 16 miles

WesternSpirit.com | 478 Mill Creek Drive, Moab, UT 84532 | 800-845-2453
Day 5

The Hermosa Creek Trail is considered one of the best singletrack trails in the Rockies. Although we are almost always losing elevation on this 18 mile trail, it is a challenging workout. Beginning in the open meadows of Hermosa Park, we ride beside Hermosa Creek for a few miles before the creek drops away from the trail. The singletrack threads through large stands of aspens and conifers. After intersecting Dutch Creek we will begin a short, but strenuous climb. Some of the best riding of the day occurs after the climb, as we roll along at a fairly steady elevation, high above the roaring creek. Once we reach the trailhead, we’ll descend the four miles to the highway and we’ll shuttle into Durango where our journey will end.

**Total Mileage:** 19 miles of unsupported single-track to 6 miles on paved road

**Ride Notes**

This tour contains some very difficult riding on narrow, steep mountain trails. A high level of skill and fitness is required to enjoyably navigate much of the route. We will be without vehicle support during all of the singletrack sections of the ride and medical help is far away. 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:** Singletrack on clay, packed sediment, some rocky sections, pine needles, smooth dirt and short sections of county roads and asphalt.

**Overall Rating:** Intermediate/Advanced

**Technical Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult. Technical, narrow trails; lots of obstacles.

**Physical Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult. High altitudes (over 10,000 feet), steep climbs and long unsupported sections.

**Altitude:** 8,000 - 12,000 feet

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**Travel Logistics**

**Meeting Place and Time**

**Durango, CO**

This trip will meet at 7:30 AM MST at Hassle Free Sports, 2615 Main St., Durango, CO, 970-259-3874. There is parking at the bike shop. We will load up the truck and then drive the 3 hours to Telluride 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:

Hassle Free Sports
2615 Main St.
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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**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:
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 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, we will give you a dry bag in which to pack your gear. This will be much easier for you to use if your clothing and gear are packed in a duffle bag rather than a suitcase.

The bulk of your gear and clothing will ride in the Western Spirit support vehicle and will not generally be accessible during the day. Your small daypack will be used to store things needed during the day such as rain gear, prescription drugs and sunscreen. This will be in the vehicle and be accessible throughout the day.

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
- cycling socks (wool preferable)
- windbreaker
- tights or leg warmers
- 2 pair cycling gloves (one warm pair)
- rain jacket (Gore-Tex or similar)
- rain pants (Gore-Tex or similar)

CAMP CLOTHING
- 2 pair shorts
- shirts
- wool 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 souvenirs
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)
- hydration pack large enough to carry extra water, lunch, warm layers and rain gear
- day pack (see HOW TO PACK, above)

**OPTIONAL**
- camera, extra batteries
- 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).