



UTAH

The Aquarius Trail

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR

Backcountry Hut Trip



- Private Tours and Custom Tours
Solos, Couples & Friends
- Departure: St. George, UT
- Tour Offered: Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct
- Departs On: Sunday

- Duration: 6 Days
- Lodging: Backcountry Huts
- Fitness Level: 3-5
- Technical Level: 3-5
- Elevation Range: 6,000 - 10,000 ft.

Welcome to Utah's Color Country, one of the greatest places in the world to ride your bike. Ride the Aquarius Trail and enjoy the marvels and scenery from the peak of Brian Head, through Panguitch, Hatch and Bryce, down to the beautiful town of Escalante.

From the seat of your bike you will experience, Brian Head Peak at a towering 11,306ft, down Proctor Canyon into quaint little town of Hatch. Meander past the Tropic Reservoir and ride on into Red Canyon, home of the infamous Thunder Mountain Trail and the Red Canyon Bike Path. Keep exploring all the Dixie National Forest has

has to offer; like a big climb up to the scenic Powell Point where John Wesley Powell surveyed Southern Utah. In the days ahead you'll enjoy remote hut accommodations, secret singletrack and fast descents to more beautiful places. You won't want to miss this! Escape Adventures operates under a special permit on the Dixie National Forest.





THE ESCAPE ADVENTURES EXPERIENCE

For over 25 years, the hallmark of an Escape Adventures tour is personalized, hands-on service, before, during, and after each trip.

OUR PEOPLE

Our Trip Leaders are the best in the business. Trained personally by the owners, our WFR certified Leaders understand the areas you ride and the safety of the group.

OUR COMMITMENT

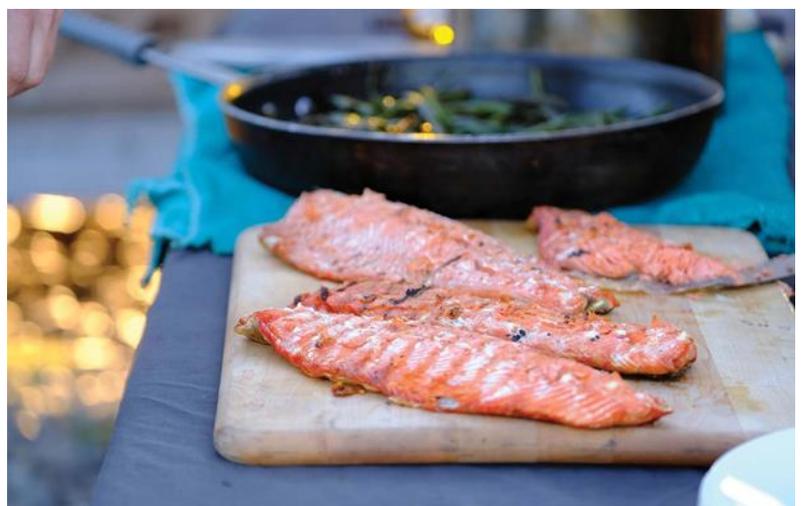
We don't just preach environmental awareness, we live it. We recycle 90% of our waste and run our LEED Platinum facilities with solar and wind power. Additionally, our facilities are net zero energy (we produce more energy than we consume) which makes us the only commercial outfitter in the world who is net positive energy.

OUR FOOD

Our Leaders prepare meals on the trip with an emphasis on fresh, local and organic foods, ensuring you have the fuel you need to ride, and a delicious, meal at the same time.

OUR SUPPORT VEHICLES

We provide a support van and trailer for every 9 guests on all of our trips so you can count on us to be there when you need us.





DAY 1 | Brian Head Peak and Bunker Creek

After meeting in Las Vegas, we'll travel as a group to Brian Head Resort for a light lunch, introductions, and a pre-trip meeting. Our adventure begins at Brian Head Peak, where we descend the exciting Bunker Creek Singletrack. Mountain Bike Action Magazine rated this Singletrack as one of the top ten best trails in America! It descends 2,885 feet over 12 miles to Panguitch Lake where we catch our own secret 15-mile route through ponderosa and juniper forests—dappled with ancient lava beds and rolling meadows—to Hatch, Utah.

Total MTB Mileage | 36 Miles

Feet Gain | 3103

Electric Mountain Bike Mileage | 35.5 miles

Terrain | Mix of singletrack and doubletrack

Hut | Hatch Hut



DAY 2 | Hatch to Red Canyon

Energize with a hearty breakfast for this morning's invigorating ten-mile, 2,500-foot climb through Proctor Canyon to the top of Sunset Cliffs! Sunset Cliffs is the mountain border for the Bryce Canyon Valley. After viewing the stunning scenery, we descend eight miles to Tropic Reservoir, eat lunch, and take a plunge in the crisp (yet refreshing) waters. We'll get back on our bikes and cruise a 19-mile section of the Great Western Trail to Bryce Canyon National Park, tonight's camp. Once you get to the hut take a little time for hiking or opt for the Cassidy Loop in Red Canyon. Enjoy sunset over beautiful Red Canyon.

Total MTB Mileage | 28.3 miles

Feet Gain | 2875

Evening Add on Ride | 13 miles

Feet Gain | 1099

Electric Mountain Bike | 28.3 miles

Terrain | Mix of singletrack and doubletrack

Hut: Butch Cassidy Hut





DAY 3 | Red Canyon to Pine Lake

Get ready for some of the best single-track in Utah—Red Canyon. From the hut, ride down Thunder Mountain Trail through the beautiful hoodoos of Red Canyon. From here cross Highway 12 and ride up to the Casto Canyon trailhead, passing many amazing views of Slate Mountain and Powell Point. Casto Canyon, crosses a small creek bed up to 44 times before eventually meeting up with jeep roads that cross the high planes of Bryce Canyon country to Pine Lake Hut. Pine Lake is a nice relaxing lake where you can fish or swim and cool off for the evening.

Total MTB Mileage | 42.7 miles Feet Gain | 3651
Electric Mountain Bike: 23 miles Feet Gain | 1448
Terrain | Mix of singletrack and doubletrack
Casual Inn | Pine Lake Hut



DAY 4 | The Gap

Today you will climb to the top of the Aquarius Trails namesake – the Aquarius Plateau! Get ready for the BIG climb -2,200 feet over 10 miles to the top of Barney Top 10, 577 feet. On your way to the top, don't forget to ride out to Powell Point (an optional 8-mile out and back ride to a vista overlooking southern Utah). Once back on route, continue onto Barney Top and across spectacular high meadows to the Aquarius Hut at Clayton Springs. If you are still thriving for another ride, opt to ride down to Barker Reservoir and back. The ride drops 500 feet to the reservoir so do not forget you have a climb back to the hut!

Total MTB Mileage | 27 miles Feet Gain | 4094
Optional Ride to Powell Point: 9.1 miles Feet Gain | 804
Optional Ride to Barker Reservoir: 9.7 miles Feet Gain | 500
Electric Mountain Bike: 27.5 miles
Hut | Aquarius Hut





DAY 5 | Clayton Springs to Hell's Backbone

There are two different ride options from the Aquarius Hut to the midpoint at Posey Lake. Take the non-technical ride on Hell's Backbone Road or choose the backcountry singletrack ride on the Great Western Trail. Each is very different. The dirt road option is across big open meadows with antelope roaming freely, while riding along the mountain singletrack, you will be challenged to technical riding and more climbing. Choose to stop at Posy Lake where, time permitting, you might have the opportunity to do some hiking around the lake. From here choose dirt road or then ride cowpuncher 5 mile singletrack to Cowpuncher Guard Station and Blue Spruce Campground. From here both options collide into the ride up to Hell's Backbone Bridge and across Box Death Hollow Wilderness and then finally descending to Hell's Backbone Hut at Sand Creek.

This is a BIG Day if you ride all the singletrack.

Mountain Bike: 30 miles Feet gain | 3367
Electric Mountain Bike: 31 miles Feet gain | 3277
Hut | Hell's Backbone Hut



DAY 6 | Hell's Backbone to Escalante

Passing through various vegetation zones, today's ride borders the Box Death Hollow Wilderness. Continue riding along Hell's Backbone Road until you reach Scenic Highway 12. From here it is a beautiful ride along the Hogback back to Escalante. Along the way, stop at Calf Creek and cool off in the crystal clear waters. Optional 3 mile hike to Calf Creek Falls is a great side trip as well. This 128 foot waterfall is nothing shy of amazing! One big climb on the road after Calf Creek is followed by a gradual descent to Escalante to conclude your 190 mile adventure!

Mountain Bike: 35.7 miles Feet gain | 2573
Electric Mountain Bike: 35.7 miles



Daily Activities

Day	Activity	Easy		Moderate		Seasoned	
		Miles	Feet Gain	Miles	Feet Gain	Miles	Feet Gain
1	Ride from Brian Head to Hatch					36	3103
2	Ride from Hatch to Red Canyon					28.3	2875
	Optional Evening Ride					13	1099
3	Ride from Red Canyon to Pine Lake			23	1448	42.7	3651
4	Ride from Pine Lake to Clayton Springs					27.5	4094
	Optional Ride to Powell Point					8.5	804
	Optional Ride to Barker Reservoir					9.7	500
5	Ride from Clayton Springs to Hell's Backbone					30	3367
	E-Bike Route					31	3277
6	Ride from Hell's Backbone to Escalante					35.7	2573

Mountain Bike Tour Fitness Levels



		Mountain Biking			Multi-Sport Activities			
Level	Hours of Activity	Total Elevation Feet Gain	Mountain Bike Miles	Hiking Miles	Rock Climbing	Canyoneering	Rafting/Canoeing	
Easy	1	1-3	700	5-10	1-5	Low Angle Large Handholds	Hiking/No Ropes	Relaxed, Slow Moving Water
	2	2-4	1200	10-15	5-8	Level 1 PLUS Small Handholds	Level 1 PLUS Occasional Ropes	Level 1 PLUS Easy Rapids Wide Channels
Moderate	3	3-5	1800	15-25	8-10	Level 2 PLUS Steep Angles	Level 2 PLUS Easy Rapels	Level 2 PLUS Waves, Up to 4' Narrow Channels
Seasoned	4	4-6	2200	25-35	10-12	x	Level 3 PLUS Complex Ropes, Multiple Rapels	Level 3 PLUS Long Rapids
	5	5-7	3000	35-50+	12-16+	x	x	Level 4 PLUS Spinning, Large Waves

HOW TO PREPARE

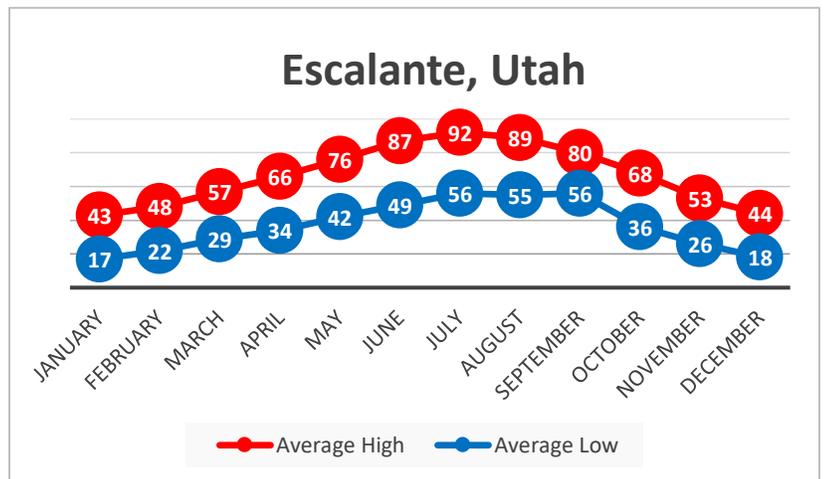
MOUNTAIN BIKE

For optimal physical preparation, we recommend that you ride at least several hours per week during the month preceding the tour. During the tour you will be on your bike every day, and we can assure you that an unprepared bottom is a sore one! If you can't ride your bike, or don't own one, take a spin class at your local gym a few times a week.



WEATHER

Weather predictions in this area are often unreliable due to the elevation, so it is best to be prepared for cold nights and inclement weather. Please use the following locations when checking the weather online: Escalante, UT



PACKING

Luggage is limited to one small soft-shelled suitcase or medium/large sized duffel bag (no heavier than 40 pounds). We also suggest bringing one daypack or small backpack for valuables. Please ensure your luggage container is water repellant.

A complete list of what we consider essentials for every trip, as well as items that can be rented from Escape Adventures, is available at www.escapeadventures.com/packing-lists/

BICYCLES RENTALS

Escape Adventures rents quality bicycles. We will fit you with a high quality, durable and safe ride. Our chosen bike is equipped with an aluminum frame designed for a smooth, comfortable ride. Our mountain bikes are full-suspension, lightweight, equipped with a dropper post and adjustable. Availability of bikes are specific to your destination and should be confirmed in your itinerary. For more information call 800-596-2953.

Specialized Stumpjumper - 29er



The new Stumpjumper is the ultimate trail bike. It's supple over small bumps, yet it possesses a firm mid-stroke and exceptional bottom-out support.

- All bicycle rentals are equipped with flat pedals and a complimentary water bottle.
- Helmet and clipless pedals are available upon request and are included in the rental.
- Please specify your individual needs when confirming your reservation.



Santa Cruz Tallboy - 29er



The Tallboy muddles the line between XC and trail. The Tallboy climbs almost as well as an XC bike, but shows its true colors when the trail turns downward.

Santa Cruz 5010 - 27.5



An agile trail whip that turns on a dime and loves to pop and play. Turning trails into pumtracks the 5010 begs to spend as much time above the ground as on it.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

All meals starting with lunch on the first day through lunch on the last day, Specialized road bike rental, support vehicles, snacks, first-aid, bike maintenance, community gear, and a custom sublimated Limited Edition Jersey.



TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airfare to and from departure point, lodging before or after the tour, personal camping gear (if applicable), or gratuities to Escape Adventures Trip Leaders. Tips to the Trip Leaders are given at your discretion and based on the quality of your experience. We suggest 10-20% of your trip cost to be divided between all Trip Leaders.

MEALS

Our Trip Leaders prepare all of your meals on our camping trips. On inns tours our Trip Leaders prepare all of your picnic style lunches and breakfasts and dinners are served in the best local restaurants.



TRIP AMENITIES

First-class campers will enjoy well-maintained public campgrounds. Inns on this tour are chosen for comfort, scenery, and proximity to our activities. Cell service for this tour is spotty, Verizon is the best service to have for this area.

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

We are always seeking opportunities to enhance this itinerary. We'll notify you of any changes prior to departure; other changes may be communicated on the trip by your Trip Leaders.

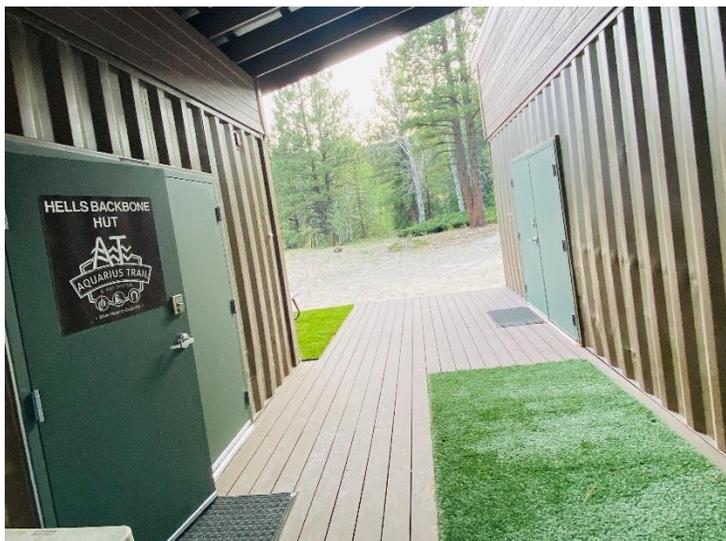
This is a general itinerary and may vary. Escape Adventures reserves the right to make changes due to weather, local conditions, government intervention, or any other unforeseen reasons that may affect the quality of the trip and/or safety of the participants. Accommodations are subject to change.



Aquarius Trail Hut System

The Aquarius Trail Hut System provides and supports a backcountry experience like no other! A system of five huts are strategically placed along a 190-mile route through some of Utah's most scenic backcountry – spanning from the peak of Brian Head at 11,307' to the beautiful town of Escalante at 5,820'. The section of Utah called "Color Country" includes many well-known attractions such as Powell Point, Bryce Canyon National Park, Brianhead Ski Resort, Red Canyon, Aquarius Plateau, Dixie National Forest, the Hogback, Escalante National Monument and much much more!

From the seat of your bike, you'll enjoy remote hut accommodations, purpose built singletrack to wild singletrack, challenging jeep tracks, dirt roads, hidden lakes, and spectacular vistas. E-bikes are allowed at each hut so groups of mixed abilities can enjoy the same adventure. Our huts provide a luxury bikepacking experience, complete with showers, solar power for charging electronic devices, fully stocked kitchens with a refrigerator and freezer, lighting, hammocks, large decks, bathroom facilities, bicycle repair tools and stands, playing cards, fire pit, cozy sleeping arrangements, and more.



GATEWAY CITY: ST. GEORGE, UTAH

St. George is a city in southwestern Utah. Nearby Snow Canyon State Park offers trails, dunes and red sandstone cliffs. Sand Hollow State Park features a large reservoir. Stately 19th-century buildings such as the Pioneer Courthouse and Brigham Young Winter Home dot downtown. The St. George Art Museum houses historical photos and work by regional artists. Zion National Park, with canyons and streams, lies northeast.



MEETING AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION Optional shuttle from Vegas/Element Hotel 6am \$75 pp

MEETING LOCATION

DESERT GARDEN INN

1450 South Hilton Dr, St. George, UT 84770
(435) 688-7477

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/trademark/st-george-utah/desert-garden-inn-a-trademark->



DEPARTURE TIME

9:30 AM on the first day of the tour.

RETURN TIME

Around 6:00 PM on the last day of the tour.

ST. GEORGE HOTELS



BEST WESTERN PLUS ABBEY INN

1129 South Bluff Street
(800) 780-7234 or (435) 652-1234

www.bestwestern.com



COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

185 South 1470 East
(888) 867-7457 or (435) 986-0555

www.marriott.com/sgucy

CANCELLATION POLICY

In order to keep our tours affordable and provide proper notice to our lodging partners, we must adhere to this timeline, no exceptions. After our refund deadline has passed we cannot provide a refund for any reason, including circumstances beyond your control such as weather-related travel delays, family emergency, or injury. There is also no partial refund if you arrive late to your tour, or depart early. Insurance agencies however, offer a full or partial refund in many circumstances if you purchase travel insurance to cover your tour. Payment in full is due 60 days prior to trip departure.

IF YOU CANCEL YOUR TRIP	YOU WILL RECEIVE
Up until 60 days prior to trip departure	100% of what you have paid minus a \$200 processing fee per person
59-45 days prior to trip departure	50% of what you have paid minus a \$200 processing fee per person
45-30 days prior to trip departure	15% of what you have paid minus a \$200 processing fee per person
29-0 days prior trip departure	No Refund

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly encourage you to purchase travel insurance to protect against extenuating circumstances such as illness and injury-believe us, they do come up! We have a special arrangement with TravelGuard insurance so that you may purchase reasonably-priced travel insurance at the same time you place your tour reservation. For a detailed description of the TravelGuard policy we offer, visit our website or call 866-385-4839 and ask about product **007715**.

TRANSFER POLICY

If you would like to change to a different tour or departure date after signing up, we will be happy to transfer you on a space available basis up until 60 days prior to your tour. Please provide your transfer request in writing - email is sufficient. Please note, a \$25 transfer fee will be deducted from your previous payments for each transfer, and if you later choose to cancel your tour, the cancellation deadlines will apply to the date of the originally scheduled tour.

TOUR CONFIRMATION

Escape confirms tours 60 days prior to tour departure; prior to this time, tours may be cancelled due to low enrollment. After your tour is confirmed, it will not be cancelled for low-enrollment, but in rare cases may be cancelled due to weather, government intervention, unsafe trail conditions, or any other reason that would affect the quality of the scheduled tour or the safety of its participants. If we are forced to cancel your tour, we will provide a 100% refund and work to add you to another trip that works for you.

TRAVEL PLANS

We advise you to avoid non-refundable flights and other travel arrangements and are not responsible for the costs of such arrangement in the event your tour is cancelled. The travel insurance offered in conjunction with our tours covers the cost of your tour but does not cover additional costs such as travel to and from your tour departure location, and hotel stays prior to or following your tour. Please consider purchasing additional insurance coverage.



SIMILAR TRIPS FROM ESCAPE ADVENTURES

BRYCE & ZION MULTI-SPORT BIKE, HIKE, & CLIMB

Mountain Biking
 Hiking
 Rock Climbing
 Canyoneering

- Families with Older Kids
- Families with Younger Kids
- Private Tours and Custom Tours
- Solos, Couples & Friends
- Departure: St. George, UT
- Tour Offered: May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep
- Departs On: Sunday
- Duration: 6 Days
- Lodging: First-Class Camping or Casual Inns and Cabins
- Fitness Level: 1-3
- Technical Level: 1-3
- Elevation Range: 4,000 - 10,000 ft.

From mountain biking the moderately challenging trails of Red Canyon and Sunset Cliffs, we take to Bryce Canyon's more remote draws: Sunset Point, Brian Head's Cascade Falls, and Zion's Narrows. Our canyoneering day takes us boulder and rappelling deep canyons and chutes.



IDAHO HOT SPRINGS MULTI-SPORT RAFT, HIKE & BIKE

Mountain Biking
 Hiking
 Rafting
 Hot Springs

- Families with Older Kids
- Families with Younger Kids
- Private Tours and Custom Tours
- Solos, Couples & Friends
- Departure: Boise, ID
- Tour Offered: Jun, Jul, Aug
- Departs On: Sunday
- Duration: 6 Days
- Lodging: First-Class Camping
- Fitness Level: 1-3
- Technical Level: 1-2
- Elevation Range: 4,000 - 8,000 ft.

Our Backcountry Hot Springs/multi-sport tour showcases the magnificent Sawtooth Mountain Range, in Idaho's lower midsection

