









# COLORADO

## DURANGO IN COLORS

### MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR

#### Mountain Biking

-  Private Tours and Custom Tours  
Solos, Couples & Friends
-  Departure: Durango, CO
-  Tour Offered: Jul, Aug, Sep
-  Departs On: Monday

-  Duration: 5 Days
-  Lodging: First-Class Camping or Casual Inns
-  Fitness Level: 3-5
-  Technical Level: 3-5

In the smartly preserved Victorian town of Durango, cycling isn't merely an activity... it's a lifestyle. Cycling's roots and colorful lineage here, in what's known as Colorado's wildflower capital date back more than a century. Genius.

Teddy Roosevelt's vision, circa 1905, was to preserve "America's Alps", the San Juan Mountain Range within a 1.8-million acre (3000-square mile) National Forest. Our guides live for this: sharing some of the area's unbelievably scenic routes, the unique terrain features. Big open runs through high meadows that roll like waves, exploding in shoulder-high wildflowers. For point and shoot types, the low-key signage at the trail head, "Watch for Traffic" means sharing

space with mule deer, coyotes, fox, Wild Turkey, bobcat, not to mention some 200 type of songbirds and raptors. Then prepare yourself for the piece de resistance: home-cooked, outrageously flavorful secret recipes, specifically drawn from the area. So savory, these dishes continue to surprise even our Durango returnees.

Taming the climbs, living and breathing five-digit elevation days, we cover the best this biking heaven has to offer: Hermosa Creek, Jones Creek, Dry Fork, Kennebec Pass, plus the Telegraph Trail System. Yours to explore for five fun-filled days.

This tour is scaled from intermediate to advanced riders, those possessing above average fitness and moderate technical riding skills.





# 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 | Hermosa Creek Trail

After our pick up and orientation, we will begin our ride on a true Durango classic. After a quick ford of Hermosa Creek our guides will lead you south down the Hermosa Creek Trail. Like every day, we'll be at the end of the trail waiting with refreshments and snacks.

Total Mileage | 20 Miles

Feet Gain | 1182 ft

Terrain | Singletrack

First-Class Camping | La Plata Canyon

Casual Inn | The Leland House & Rochester Hotel



## DAY 2 | Jones Creek, Flagstaff and Dutch Creek

Today's ride is physically challenging, but simply amazing and well worth your effort. We'll start by climbing up Jones Creek Trail through thousands of turning aspens. Soon we will top out near the Hermosa Cliffs and stop for a breather and take in the epic views of the Weminuche Wilderness. As we turn onto the Pinkerton Flagstaff Trail, the yellow canopy will remain, but the climbing gets a bit more challenging. It's quite common to do a little pushing in this section. Views both east and west will keep your mind off the climb! Soon we'll swing onto the Dutch Creek Trail. The first few miles of the Dutch Creek Trail are a mix of double track and forest service road, but it quickly turns to singletrack. The vistas from this first leg of singletrack are legendary. The Weminuche comes back into view on our left and the La Plata Mountains reveal themselves to our right. It's a great place to stop for photos and to "soak it all in."

Hold on to your knickers – the "soak" is over and we're headed downhill on one of the best descents in all Durango. The trail now hugs Dutch Creek itself, which we will cross many times as we weave through aspen groves, through open meadows and over technical root and rock. A final little climb spills us out onto the tail end of Hermosa Creek Trail and a smooth cruise back to the shuttle van.

Total Mileage | 19 Miles

Feet Gain | 4144 ft

Terrain | Singletrack

First-Class Camping | La Plata Canyon

Casual Inn | The Leland House & Rochester Hotel





## DAY 3 | The Dry Fork Loop

Today we hit a local's favorite: the Dry Fork Loop. This ride is perfect for a mid-week recovery. The singletrack climb starts in the high desert scrub oak and ascends to a thick forest of aspen, spruce and Ponderosa pine. The climb is generally very gradual and mild. Eventually we connect to the Colorado Trail and finish on a fast-flowy descent back the waiting van.

Total Mileage | 10 Miles

Feet Gain | 1483

Terrain | 100% Jeep Road, 100% Van Support

First-Class Camping | La Plata Canyon

Casual Inn | The Leland House & Rochester Hotel



## DAY 4 | Kennebec Pass to Durango

Kennebec Pass to Durango....a 5000 foot descent....a true Durango classic. Weather permitting, this ride starts at tree line and immediately sends you on a thrill ride down narrow singletrack hugging the mountain side. After regrouping at the Champion Venture Road crossing (our alternate start if snow is an issue), the downhill bonanza continues through thick, forested singletrack, past a gorgeous waterfall and finally onto the rocky singletrack cutting through the lush vegetation alongside Junction Creek. Wide-eyed and grinning, we'll regroup again at the Wall's Gulch Bridge and start a heavy climb away from Junction Creek....sorry, it can't ALL be downhill!!

Finally we'll reach what the locals call "High Point", named for its status as a turnaround for riders climbing up from Durango. They climb, we descend. The downhill buzz continues for another 2500 feet of great Colorado Trail singletrack to the Junction Creek Trailhead, the southern terminus of the Colorado Trail.

Total Mileage | 20-25 Miles

Feet Gain | 1924

Terrain | Singletrack

First-Class Camping | La Plata Canyon

Casual Inn | The Leland House & Rochester Hotel





## DAY 5 | Townie Ride

The Townie Ride. Sure, Durango is famous for its many backcountry trails, but locals know that a spider web of excellent routes is right in and around town. We've found that this is a great way to leave a lasting impression on our guests – live a day in the life of a Durango mountain biker. We'll start with a breakfast at the area cycling hive, Bread, where there's a good chance of spotting one of Durango's many local pros. This bakery serves up a delicious variety of croissants, bagels, cookies, breads, muffins and many more aromatic treats. Once we've had our fill and crammed our packs with extra goodies for the ride we'll climb up the tight singletrack of two new connector trails recently constructed by the local advocacy group, Trails 2000 (we are a proud member and contributor). The top of this climb rewards us with a panoramic view of Durango, the Animas River Valley and the San Juan Mountains.

The terrain here is high desert, which you will certainly notice as you snake through junipers and pinon pines. Soon we'll turn south into the Telegraph Trail System, called Horse Gulch by the locals; a trail system IMBA designated an "IMBA Epic." The Telegraph Trail System includes over 30 miles of singletrack for us to choose from, but rather than outline our route in advance we like to gauge the mood of the group and pick a few loops to please everyone.

Total Mileage | 18-25 Miles  
Terrain | Singletrack

Feet Gain | 1822 - 2500



## Daily Activities

Day	Activity	Easy		Moderate		Seasoned	
		Miles	Feet Gain	Miles	Feet Gain	Miles	Feet Gain
1	Mountain Biking			20	1182		
2	Mountain Biking					19	4558
3	Mountain Biking			21	2000		
4	Mountain Biking			20-25	1924		
5	Mountain Biking			18-25	1822-2500		

## Mountain Bike Tour Technical Levels

Level	Description
Easy	1 Maintained Gravel Roads, Easy Grades
	2 Level 1 PLUS Unmaintained Dirt Roads, Maintained Singletrack Trail
Moderate	3 Level 2 PLUS Moderate Grades, Some Unmaintained Singletrack
Seasoned	4 Level 3 PLUS Rocky Terrain – PLUS Longer, Steeper Ascents & Descents
	5 Level 4 PLUS Some Exposed Sections Of Trail, Some Loose Climbs & Descents



## Mountain Bike Tour Fitness Levels

Level	Hours of Activity	Total Elevation Feet Gain	Mountain Bike Miles	Hiking Miles
Easy	1 1-3	700	5-10	1-5
	2 2-4	1200	10-15	5-8
Moderate	3 3-5	1800	15-25	8-10
Seasoned	4 4-6	2200	25-35	10-12
	5 5-7	3000	35-50+	12-16+



# 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.

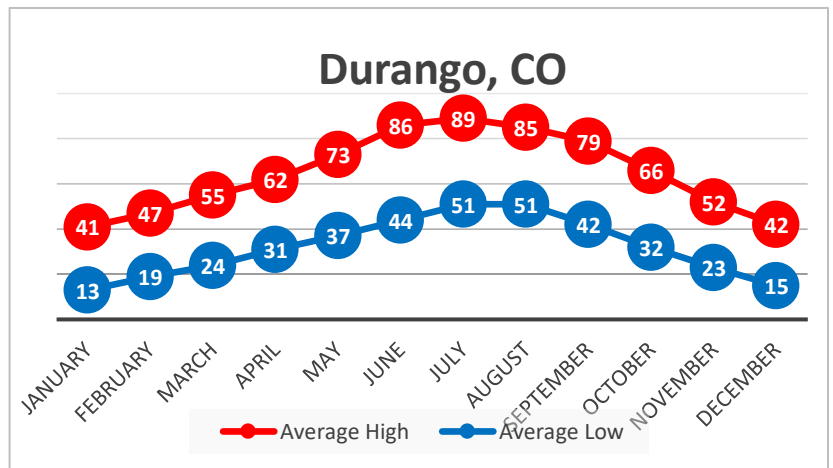
## HIKING

To prepare for the tour, we recommend that you hike, jog or run at least several hours per week during the month preceding the tour. Walk/run in the shoes and sock you are bringing on the trip. This will help prevent blisters and sore feet.



## WEATHER

You will be riding and sleeping at elevations over 4,000 ft. for this trip. Weather predictions in this area are often unreliable due to the elevation, so it is best to be prepared for cold evenings and inclement weather. Please use the following location when checking the weather online: Durango, CO



## PACKING

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

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/](http://www.escapeadventures.com/packing-lists/)

## BICYCLE 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 pumptracks 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, 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. Expect three delicious meals a day consisting entirely of freshly prepared foods. These include fresh organic fruits and vegetables as well as meats.

## TRIP AMENITIES

First-class campers will enjoy well-maintained public campgrounds. 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. Inns are subject to change.



ROCHESTER HOTEL & LELAND HOUSE  
726 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Durango, CO 81301  
(970)385-1920  
<https://www.rochesterhotel.com/>

Enjoy all the comforts of home while staying at our hotel in downtown Durango. With comfortable guest rooms and suites, each characterized by their own unique Western character and charm, your travels to Durango are sure to be unforgettable. Make yourself at home and enjoy free highspeed Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV and cable channels. After a wonderful night's rest in our comfortable bedding, start your day off the right way with a complimentary gourmet breakfast.



## FIRST-CLASS CAMPING



There is nothing better than rolling into camp to fresh made chips and salsa, homemade guacamole and Dutch oven enchiladas. Then making your way to the inviting campfire, sharing your favorite anecdote or image from the day's activities while marshmallows roast. Enjoy a small-batch local beer before retiring to your tent where inside a sturdy raised cot, fluffy sleeping bag, and a plush full size pillow await.

We choose well-maintained public campgrounds with scenic vistas. The majority feature indoor facilities and showers. However, in more remote backcountry camping scenarios, we'll provide portable toilets and private solar showers.

**CAMPING GEAR RENTALS - \$100 per camp kit (items also available a-la-carte)**



Camping gear may be rented or you may bring your own. Our camp gear package includes a three-man tent with ground tarp, sleeping bag, bag liner, full size pillow, raised cot and self-inflating ground pad.

# GATEWAY CITY: GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Grand Junction is a city in Colorado's Western Slope region. From breathtaking red rock scenery and thrilling outdoor adventure, to cultural attractions and farm-to-table dining, Grand Junction is a premier destination on Colorado's Western Slope. The city sits along the Colorado River. It's known as the hub of Colorado's wine country. The Museum of the West displays prehistoric pottery and 19th-century firearms.



## GRAND JUNCTION AIRPORT

### GRAND JUNCTION REGIONAL AIRPORT

2828 Walker Field Drive

(970) 244-9100

[www.gjairport.com](http://www.gjairport.com)

Grand Junction Regional Airport is located three miles northeast of Grand Junction, in Mesa County, Colorado. It is the largest airport in western Colorado and third largest in the state.



## GRAND JUNCTION HOTELS



### MARRIOTT FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES

225 Main St.

(970) 242-2525

<https://www.marriott.com>



### TRAVELODGE

718 Horizon Dr.

(970) 243 -5080

[www.travelodgegrandjunction.com](http://www.travelodgegrandjunction.com)

## DEPARTURE CITY: DURANGO, COLORADO

Durango is a small city in southwestern Colorado, near the New Mexico border. The 19th-century Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad steam train passes mountains and canyons. In the city center, its affiliated Railroad Museum displays restored locomotives, aircraft and a baggage car converted into a movie theater. Nearby, the Powerhouse Science Center offers interactive exhibits in a former power plant.



### MEETING AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

#### MEETING LOCATION

Pedal the Peaks Bike Shop  
598 Main Ave, Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 259-6880  
<http://ptpdurango.com/>

#### DEPARTURE TIME

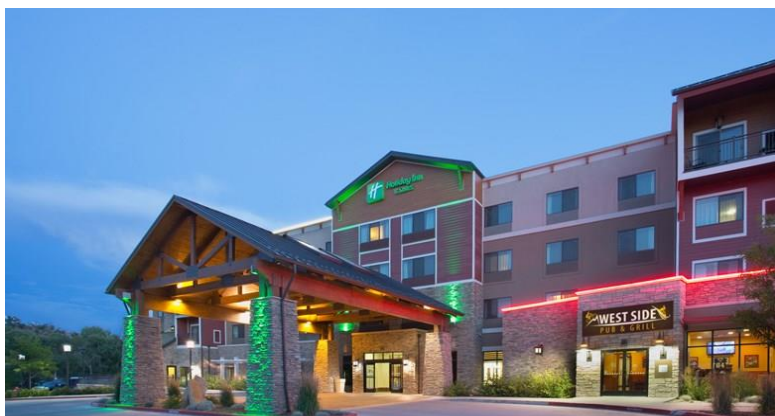
7:00 AM on the first day of the tour.

#### RETURN TIME

Around 4:00 PM on the last day of the tour.



### DURANGO, CO HOTELS



HOLIDAY INN & SUITES DURANGO CENTRAL  
21636 US-160, Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 385-6400  
<https://www.ihg.com/>



ADVENTURE INN DURANGO  
3515 Main Ave, Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 247-4042  
<https://adventureinndurango.com/>

# 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

### GRAND CANYON – 5 DAY NORTH RIM OF THE GRAND CANYON

 Mountain Biking  Hiking

 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, Oct

 Departs On: Monday

 Duration: 5 Days

 Lodging: First-Class Camping or Casual Inns

 Fitness Level: 1-3

 Technical Level: 1-2


 Elevation Range: 6,000 - 9,000 ft.

Providing gently rolling terrain of lung-expanding dimensions, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon has been long-held as almost sacred ground to hikers and cyclists. For trekkers and active travelers of all levels, the chance to experience this singular section of Eternity is nothing less than the opportunity of a lifetime.



### IDAHO SINGLETRACK SINGLETRACK ALL DAY, HOTSPRINGS EVERY NIGHT

 Mountain Biking  Hot Springs

 Private Tours and Custom Tours  
Solos, Couples & Friends

 Departure: Boise, ID

 Tour Offered: Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep

 Departs On: Monday

 Duration: 5 Days

 Lodging: First-Class Camping

 Fitness Level: 3-5

 Technical Level: 3-5

 Elevation Range: 4,000 - 8,000 ft.

Can you handle that truth: five days of fast if transfixing mountain bike rides, bookended by brilliant hot springs and wild rivers make up the deliverables, cut and shaped by the strong-featured Sawtooth Mountains.

