

Davis Bike Club Colorado Tour 2010

Ride Leader: Deb Ford

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Tour dates: Group gathers in Glenwood Springs: Sun, Aug 15

First day of riding: Mon, Aug 16

Last day of riding: Mon, Aug 30

Location: Starts and ends in Glenwood Springs. We'll head to the southwest corner and visit Telluride, Cortez, Mesa Verde NP, and Durango (the South San Juans). Then we head back north thru Silverton, Montrose, and over the Blue Mesa to Gunnison. The final leg will take us over Monarch Pass to Buena Vista, then over Independence Pass to Aspen. Then it's all downhill to Glenwood Springs.

Mileage: About 700 miles over 12 days of cycling (average ~ 59 miles/day)

Climbing: Yes. ;-} About 37,500' total, as best as I can estimate.

SAG: Yes.

Hotels: Yes.

Fun: Yes!

Cost: My best estimate at this point is **no more than \$975 per person** (with a minimum of 12 riders).

This includes:

- Rooms (double occupancy) for 16 nights (b'fasts are included at most places)
- SAG vehicle (including petrol and insurance) for luggage, maps/cue sheets, van snacks, and vehicle entrance fee to Mesa Verde.

It doesn't include:

- Your transportation cost to Glenwood Springs (don't freak out about that; we'll discuss options when the group forms)
- The cost of a dedicated SAG driver (if the group chooses to have one), or
- Meals (other than most b'fasts and sag snacks/beverages)
- There is also a per-cyclist entrance fee to Mesa Verde (\$8).

Maximum number of riders: 20

Overview

- 12 cycling days; 15 days total, excluding travel days
- 708 route miles; extra miles available!
- 59 miles/day average
- 37,500' of climbing approximately (somebody bring a Garmin...)
- 10 passes

For those of you who may be interested in the tour in Colorado next summer, here are some answers to your FAQs. It was designed to avoid the uber-touristy areas of the front range, and still enjoy some of Colorado's fabulous western heritage and famous cycling passes. It was also designed with someone like me in mind--an average climber who wants enough energy left over at the end of the day to explore the town I'm staying in.

Glenwood Springs directly connects with Davis via Amtrak, and sits at 5,760' (our low point). The first few days we will stay under 9,000'. By Day 5, we will be summiting at 10,000'. Towards the end of the tour, we will climb Monarch Pass (11,312') and Independence Pass (12,095').

With some basic training that focuses on longer climbs (with some of it at altitude), most experienced cyclists should be able to comfortably complete this tour.

Please consult your physician if you have any pre-existing medical condition (asthma, heart disease, blood disorders, for example) that maybe exacerbated by exercising at altitude.

Tour Highlights

D minus 1. (Sun Aug 15) Riders gather. Optional 'leg warmer' ride along the Glenwood Canyon Bike path. Check out the city's hot springs pools. (If you want more time to acclimatize, consider coming a day or two earlier.)

D1. (Monday 8/16) G-Springs (5,760') to Paonia (5,680'). 71 miles; 3500' of climbing. Over McClure Pass (8,760'). Climbing is over within the first 40 miles. Paonia is known for its organic farms and arts community.

D2. (Tuesday 8/17) Paonia to Montrose (5,810'). 52 miles; 1500' of climbing. Optional side trip: Black Canyon Natl Park.

D3. (Wednesday 8/18) Montrose to Telluride (8,750'). 66 miles; 4700' of climbing. Over Dallas Divide (8,970')

D4. (Thursday 8/19) DAY OFF. Explore Telluride.

D5. (Friday 8/20) Telluride to Cortez (6,200'). 77 miles; 2000' of climbing. Over Lizard Head Pass (10,222'); climbing is all finished in the first 15 miles, then it is downhill to Cortez.

D6. (Saturday 8/21) Cortez to Mesa Verde NP (8,040') 25miles; 2500' of climbing.

D7. (Sunday 8/22) Mesa Verde to Durango (6,520'). 51 miles; 3000' of climbing. Plenty of time to explore Durango.

D8. (Monday 8/23) DAY OFF. Explore Durango.

D9. (Tuesday 8/24) Durango to Silverton (9,310'). 50 miles; 5500' of climbing. Over Coalbank Pass (10,640') and Molas Divide (10,910'). Don't want to do all that climbing? The Durango/Silverton Narrow Guage Railway will get you there; have to see whether they will take a bike...

D10. (Wednesday 8/25) Silverton to Montrose (5,810'). 60 miles; 2000' of climbing. Over Red Mtn (11,018'); climbing is finished in the first 12 miles, then it is all downhill to Montrose.

D11. (Thu 8/26) Montrose to Gunnison (7,700'). 65 miles; 4500' of climbing. Over Cerro Summit (7,950') and Blue Mesa (8,704'), then a meandering ride along the Curecanti Natl Rec Area.

D12. (Friday 8/27) DAY OFF. Relax in Gunnison. Optional: Ride or take the free shuttle to Crested Butte.

D13. (Saturday 8/28) Gunnison to Buena Vista (7,960'). 84 miles; 4400' of climbing. Over Monarch Pass (11,312').

D14. (Sunday 8/29) Buena Vista to Aspen (7,910'). 63 miles; 4300' of climbing. Over Independence Pass (12,095').

D15. (Monday 8/30) Aspen to Glenwood Springs. 45 miles, all downhill, along the mostly paved Rio Grande Bike Trail. Optional: Climb up to Maroon Bells and/or Snowmass before heading down to G-Springs. Cars are not allowed on the road up to Maroon Bells; there are buses, however, but hopefully few and far between.

D16. (Tuesday 8/31) Travel home :-{

Date	Start Town	Start Elev	End Town	End Elev	Approx Climb	Day Miles	Total Miles	Pass	Of Interest	
Sun, Aug 15	Glenwood Springs		GROUP GATHERS							Glenwood Canyon Bike Trail; Glenwood Hot Springs Pool
Mon, Aug 16	Glenwood Springs	5,760'	Paonia	5,680'	3,500'	71	71	McClure 8,763'	Organic farms: Peach season??	
Tue, Aug 17	Paonia	5,680'	Montrose	5,810'	1,500'	52	123		Optional: Black Canyon National Park	
Wed, Aug 18	Montrose	5,810'	Telluride	8,750'	4,700'	66	189	Dallas Divide 8,970'	Sorry: we end on an uphill :-{	
Thu, Aug 19	Telluride		DAY OFF					189		Ride, glide, hike or just be lazy
Fri, Aug 20	Telluride	8,750'	Cortez	6,200'	2,000'	77	266	Lizard Head 10,222'	15 miles of climbing, 60 miles of downhill!	
Sat, Aug 21	Cortez	6,200'	Mesa Verde National Park	8,040'	2,500'	25	291		Anasazi cliff dwellings and the treasures of Mesa Verde	
Sun, Aug 22	Mesa Verde National Park	8,040'	Durango	6,520'	3,000'	51	342			
Mon, Aug 23	Durango		DAY OFF					342		Four microbreweries, river rafting, zip lines.
Tue, Aug 24	Durango	6,520'	Silverton	9,310'	5,500'	50	392	Coalbank 10,640' Molas Divide 10,910'	Race the train? Or ride the train? Another uphill ending :-{	
Wed, Aug 25	Silverton	9,310'	Montrose	5,810'	2,000'	60	452	Red Mountain 11,018'	Consider a stop in Ouray – great hot springs.	
Thu, Aug 26	Montrose	5,810'	Gunnison	7,703'	4,500'	65	517	Cerro Summit 7,950' Blue Mesa 8,704'	One of these is known as the “son of a b**ch' hill”	
Fri, Aug 27	Gunnison		DAY OFF					517		Optional: Crested Butte by bike (or take the free shuttle)
Sat, Aug 28	Gunnison	7,703'	Buena Vista	7,960'	4,400'	83	600	Monarch 11,312'		
Sun, Aug 29	Buena Vista	7,960'	Aspen	7,910'	4,100'	63	663	Independence 12,095'	This is what we came for...	
Mon, Aug 30	Aspen	7,910'	Glenwood Springs	5,760'		45	708		Optional: Maroon Bells, otherwise all downhill on Rio Grande Bike Trail	
Tue, Aug 31			HOME							