

Mountain Biking in Washington



Highlights

Spend 5 days Mountain Biking in Washington, north-west USA. Hit the stunning trails, including the famous Kettle Crest, in the Colville National Forest with an expert guide, then unwind in a mountainside lodge.

Located in the North West of the USA, Washington is divided by the Cascade mountains which run north to south. To the more populated west is the Pacific Ocean and a marine (and wetter) climate. To the drier east lie miles and miles of forests and lesser know parks to explore. Lying in the north east corner of this relatively undiscovered wilderness, is the Colville National Forest; home to grizzlies, black bears, wolves and the renown mountain biking trail, the Kettle Crest.

The tour of five riding days and six nights stay takes in the stunning pine-forest trails in and around the Colville National Forest and the legendary Kettle Crest Trail itself. Expert guides will lead riders through the range's creeks and valleys, before breaking into a plethora of wildflower meadows to reveal panoramic views of the lush Washington contours. There are lakes to see and a superabundance of wildlife in these virgin canyon forests, not to mention plenty of time to take a breather and enjoy the scenery. Accommodation for the trip is in a mountain lodge and keeps you close to the nature you came to enjoy!

Is it for me?

Lakes, creeks, canyons, ridges; Colville National Forest has it all. This is a ride for those who want to enjoy some epic scenery as well as tear it up on some excellent singletrack. The views are extraordinary and as a bonus, come without the colder temperatures of higher trails.

It's recommended that you don't come in without some intermediate mountain-biking experience and a decent level of fitness- guides can lead but they can't do the cycling for you! The elevation remains constant between 5000 and 6000 ft throughout so there are no killer climbs to test your stamina to the limit. You should make sure you're well equipped for the terrain- that means right clothing and boots. Your tour company can recommend and source the right bike for you locally to make the most of this unforgettable riding adventure.

Accommodation

The accommodation is a real treat on this tour. After a tough day out in the great outdoors, you can look forward to coming back to your basecamp with lots of creature comforts. The accommodation is top notch, so you can look forward to a hot shower, a nice glass of wine and a dip in the hot tub!

Foodwise, the trip is all inclusive, so you don't need to worry about cooking after a long day out on the saddle. The food is a mixture of home-cooked fare and cafes and restaurants. For the home cooked meals, the menus have been devised by a professional chef and the staff have all been trained on how to reproduce it, so you can look forward to some delicious food!

Itinerary

Day One: You will meet the group 7:30am to load up and head out for the week. From Spokane there is a shuttle of a few hours to the Kettle Mountains and the first day's ride. The ride starts with a pleasant open spin up Old Stagecoach Trail. Half of the trail meanders through the site of the 2001 Leona fire, affording wide expanding vistas across the range. Tying into the Crest a short climb up and over to Midnight Ridge Trail and onwards, will

Prices from

716 GBP (5 days) per person

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afford you continued stunning views of the Lambert Creek drainage to the West. You now descend Midnight Ridge Trail, which is a perfect payoff with perfect grade for a super fun descent. You will roam down smooth fast track through stands of fir and old growth Lodgepole pine. The sky seems to open up as you transition multiple times out of forest and into wildflower riddled open fields. This stellar trail ride ends with a switchback descent back down to Lambert Creek for a coast and cooling splash through the water. Ride length approximately 15 miles.

Day Two: Multiple climbs and multiple descents are the treat as this stretch of trail has everything a mountain biker could love. Beginning with a shuttle, this splendid dirt ribbon will still easily appease a rider who enjoys spinning up challenging climbs. For the rider who favors the easier side of gravity this ride will satisfy your deepest downhill desires. For the rider who appreciates both, this could be the best stretch of singletrack you have ever ridden, easily will earn consideration for top shelf ride experience of your life. The trail meanders atop the Kettle Range providing fabulous views of the Kettle Crest Mountains and Kettle River Valley. Springs provide a cooling wetland before a short climb across Profanity Peak down another joyous descent. Rocky challenging terrain, as well as a steep push up Ryan Hill will be an investment for the pure adrenaline rush that is Stickpin Trail. Dropping into from awe-inspiring vistas above the South Fork Boulder Creek drainage, you are quickly immersed in a thick dark timbered trail. A smooth quick rush of pure fun as you drop 2000' in less than 3 miles, a trail that will inspire high-fives across the group. A very pleasant easy rolling descent down South Fork Boulder Road will enable you time to reflect on the awesome journey you have took, and contemplate the greatness ahead. Ride length is approximately 30 miles.

Day Three: First, a quick stopover of a short trail to some falls; followed by a drive up to the top of Thirteen Mile Mountain. Today's recovery ride will be minimal in climbing but still provide tremendous views, and quality singletrack. During your descent down a pleasant grade, you will be afforded spectacular views of the Sanpoil River Valley, while also sweeping through numerous drainages filled with old growth pine. You will feel like the first person to ever roll tires upon the trail on this isolated gem of a trail. You'll end on a challenging rocky stretch as you descend through a wondrous canyon where the tour guides speed you away to the second chapter of the day's adventure. After a nice meal at Swan Lake you are treated to an easy spin around the lake. During the right time there is ample opportunity to pick juicy huckleberries or thimbleberries for an extra snack. There is plenty of time to take in the quaint lake views and ample opportunity to view wildlife with an abundance of small animals and waterfowl. Ride length is approximately 19 miles.

Day Four: Start with a steady climb up a shaded forest of pine and fir with a few peek-a-boo views along the way. This is a warm up as you climb to Sherman Pass and resume your climb on Kettle Crest North. This stretch of well-groomed superb trail meanders through forest, open fields, and past rocky outcrops. A quick out and back lollipop loop around Columbia Mountain provides an exquisite stretch of rocky trail along breathtaking vistas. Along the saddle on the north side of the mountain lays a hidden rocky outcrop. There a meal can be enjoyed after scurrying up to take in panoramic views. On a clear day you can see the North Cascades, all the way into Canada, and across to the mountains in the Idaho Panhandle. And it keeps getting better. Continuing along Kettle on singletrack so fun you'll dream about it while you're still riding the trail. A fun, long sweeping switchback descent to the saddle in between Columbia and Jungle Hill followed by one last grunt. As you pass a rare spring fed wetland high on the mountain you soon approach the Jungle Hill Trailhead. Another great view spot to settle for a break then get ready for yet one more epic descent. After completing this harmonious run you'll feel that you've encountered the Shangri-La of the North Americas. Ride length is approximately 18 miles.

Day Five: Start with another climb up Sherman Trail this morning. Only this time at the Pass you head south. Heading up a challenging trail with just a perfect amount of rock and dirt, you spin your way through immaculate forest stands of fir and pine. A split in the trail will take you clockwise around Sherman Peak. Soon you will ride into the vast viewscape created by the 1988 White Mountain Fire. The South side of the mountain in particular will leave you breathless, with a spectacular view of Snow Peak and the Columbia River Valley. After a break to take it all in, some of the most challenging sections of rocky trail await. No shame in walking a few spots as you work your way towards Snow Peak Cabin. Reaching the cabin for a well-deserved break, take a little time to decompress after all the incredible ride experience. But you're not quite done yet. Back to Sherman Peak only to continue the loop around the West end of the mountain. Again passing through incredible meadows, and more rocky terrain mixed evenly with smooth singletrack. One final joyous run down Sherman Trail to bookend this incredible adventure, Kettle Crest is the hidden special gem you can acquire for your special collection of riding memories. Ride length is about 18 miles. You will then be shuttled back to Spokane.

Details

Getting there

You will meet the group in Spokane. Most major airlines have numerous flights into Spokane daily. Please plan your arrival for the day before the first riding day of your tour and you will be picked up at your scheduled arrival time. From there it's 2 hour shuttle to Colville and the start of your tour.

Price includes

Meals, Guide, Accommodation & Transfers. Bike hire is not included, but can be arranged separately.

Price details

Rates based on double occupancy; single supplement available on request

Typical Duration

5 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required
Experts / Enthusiasts only