



UTAH

BEARS EARS

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR



- Families with Older Kids
Private Tours and Custom Tours
Solos, Couples & Friends
- Departure: Moab, UT
- Tour Offered: Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep
- Departs On: Monday

- Duration: 5 Days
- Lodging: First-Class Camping
- Fitness Level: 2-3
- Technical Level: 2-3
- Elevation Range: 6,000 - 10,000 ft.

For some, the default image of Utah's southern tier reaches back to the raw and open American frontier, the hard to settle Interior West. For others, it speaks of the mystical lives of bygone, primeval civilizations. Fast forward now: to the feel of a nurturing sun at your back. Before you, at distance, snow-capped mountains loom with an almost palpable majesty. Welcome to the Abajo Mountains!

A 1.3-million acre Bears Ears National Monument, created by President Obama in 2016—reduced by 85% two years later—covers a broad expanse of red rock, juniper forests, high plateau, and cultural, historic and prehistoric legacy. The latter includes an abundance of very early human, as well as Native American historical artifacts left behind by the first wave of Clovis people, followed by the Ancestral Puebloans, Fremont culture and others.

A pair of monumental 2,000-ft twin buttes, the Bears Ears is the remarkable remnant of 200-million-year-old sand dunes. Capped in shades of pale orange to light red sandstone, The Bears Ears formation is so distinctive they can be seen, even at great distance, from nearly every direction. Framed by Dark Canyon Wilderness and the Beef Basin to the west, Comb Ridge on the east, the Grand Gulch Plateau and Cedar Mesa to the south and Canyonlands National Park to the north, our mountain bike tour takes you through the most unique and historical landmarks southeast Utah has to offer. From a start at Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding, Utah, (pop. 3375) an hour's south of Moab, we climb high into the Abajo Mountains. Our ride throughout the week visits not only plentiful archaeological sites, but also many high mountain meadows and forests. We visit gorgeous locales, such as The Notch, Duck Lake, Sego Flat, Reef of Rocks, Maverick Point Overlook, Skull and Crossbones, The Causeway, and Jackson Ridge. Wildlife is abundant atop the Abajos, herds of mule deer bounding through spans of trees while raptors dart and soar overhead. During the day, views atop the Abajo Mountains extend for 75-miles in any direction. At night, the crystal clear skies are so bright they recast the Milky Way as near endless if not impossibly dense with stars.

Our week concludes with a lengthy, 3000-foot descent into the small town of Monticello (named for Thomas Jefferson's estate). From Monticello we stage a brief shuttle to Moab. Back in cozy, ultra-welcoming Moab, we enjoy the best kind of decompression: an evening at one of the town's most quaint restaurants and a colorful local brewery.





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 | Edge of the Cedars Museum

Meet up in Moab, as much our backyard as our second home. Then sit back for a pleasurable one-hour shuttle to Blanding, Utah (pop. 3375; 310-miles southeast of Salt Lake City). In order to better frame, or prepare for a deeply immersive experience—riding and hiking the Ancestral Puebloan homelands known as Bears Ears—our tour unfolds at the Edge of the Cedars Museum (Blanding). A smart coupling of exhibit space alongside a 1000-year old Native American village, Edge of the Cedars also stages lively festivals and events specific to the regions' history. From the largest collection of Anasazi pottery and artifacts in The Four Corners area, we follow interpretive trails around the seven-acre site and kiva. After a proper introduction to the cultural landscape we're poised to enter, cradled in pine forest, high meadows and impossibly sculpted sandstone canyons our group departs Blanding. The Butler Wash Ruins represents our first exertive stop inside Bears Ears National Monument. A lightly traveled, one-mile slickrock trail wends us to a cliff dwelling. Built by the Anasazi in or around 1200 AD, the ruins weren't discovered until the 1800s. We continue on to the Mule Canyon ruins. Where our first hike was marked by 160-ft. elevation gain, the 4.5-mile long trail to Mule Canyon ascends 240-ft., peaking out at 5862-ft. Traversing a wonderfully varied landscape, expect ruins, as well as archaeological vestiges every half-mile or so on this route. Inasmuch, nothing can prepare for the stunning visual that is the House on Fire ruin. Atop a group of deeply set cliff dwellings and granaries, an enormous expanse of overhanging sandstone brings to mind a leaping, orange fireball. Marveling at the impressive construction and element protection inside, if not the great theatre around House on Fire, we go from a contemplative interpose to a more physically engaged modus. Saddling up, our group rides towards the monument's namesake twin buttes, the route peaking out at 8583-ft. elevation. Dabbed in shades of pale orange to soft red sandstone, the 2000-ft. Bears Ears are remnants of 200-million year old sand dunes. Our first day in this national treasure sets the tone: From interpreting the ancient architecture to feeling the discernible energy about the landscape. Be it magnetism/ley lines, Earth chakras, or animal spirits. We settle into our campsite at Hammond Canyon, lifted by a symphony of silence



Total Mileage | 14.8 Miles
 Total Hiking Mileage | 1.9 Miles
 Total Hiking Mileage | 1.3 Miles
 Terrain | 100% Jeep Road, 100% Van Support
 First-Class Camping | Hammond Canyon

Feet Gain | 2013
 Feet Gain | 69
 Feet Gain | 348



DAY 2 | Hammond Canyon and Anasazi Ruins

Following South Elk Ridge, we'll descend down to Arch Canyon. This lightly traveled route, which transits the Manti-La Sal National Forest peaks out at 8802-ft. Besides one moderately technical descent, you can expect a few climbs between 2.2 and 3.5% grade, respectively. At Arch Canyon, we dismount to hike into 62,000-acres of primitive wilderness: from something of mini Grand Canyon to stands of Oak and Pine, lower elevation Pinion-Juniper forests to cactus-studded arroyos. After viewing a series of awe-inspiring ledge ruins, built into a sheer cliff wall—no less than 200-feet up—we humbly enjoy lunch. Hiking out from these staggering Anasazi dwellings, we mount up again. Occasional rocky pitches punctuate the trail ahead, though the majority of our nine-mile route is more than manageable. Reaching camp, those who yearn to up their mileage can do so with an extra ride. Those who just want to relax, the afternoon is yours to do so.

Total Mileage | 14.6 Miles

Feet Gain | 1708

Total Hiking Mileage | 4.2 Miles

Terrain | 100% Jeep Road, No Van Support

First-Class Camping | Hammond Canyon



DAY 3 | The Notch

Egressing from our camp, we again drop onto Elk Ridge, the primary point-to-point trail to the Bears Ears' twin buttes. Our first ride sweeps toward The Notch. Edging the Dark Canyon primitive-wilderness area to one side, Cottonwood Wash to the other, the 8760-ft Notch represents yet another in a blur of commanding if complex geologic formations. Today, our push across high plateau country will peak out at 9744-ft.; anticipate four gear-down climbs of between 4 and 5.3% grades. Our route surges past the gentle slopes of the 10,374-ft. Abajo Mountains, also known as the Blue Mountains; or simply, the Blues. Treading south of Canyonlands, we sweep into one of the wildest and most ecologically rich areas in the West. Speaking to analytics, Bears Ears scores in the top ten percent for eco-intactness/connectivity as well as night sky darkness (Center for American Progress). Leaving The Notch, we ride a ridge top before dropping towards the Gooseberry Ranger Station, Sego Flat, Reef of Rocks, and Chippean Rocks inside Manti-La Sal National Forest.

Total Mileage | 25.9 Miles

Feet Gain | 2397

Terrain | 100% Jeep Road, 100% Van Support

First-Class Camping | Chippean Rocks





DAY 4 | Maverick Point Overlook

A stack of enormous grey rock faces and citadel-like formations that soar above tall Ponderosa pines distinguishes our basecamp: Chippean Rocks (elevation 7700-ft.). We first ride towards the Abajo Mountains. If perplexing geology is your thing, this is your kind of ride. At Maverick Point Overlook, we find an abrupt plug; its bulbous promontory deeply gouged and partially imploded conjures Mount Rushmore after a nuclear strike. At the east end of 6.6-mile Maverick Point (dirt) road, we surge into the 8156-ft. high Skull and Crossbones Summit; then The Causeway, a narrow saddle marked by steep drops. Locked onto a rolling hogback, this ridgeline above grassy valleys separates the Colorado River (to the north) from the San Juan River on the opposite side. Hydrology to high, narrow lines... today's signature stretch lends a head-in-the-sky feel before transitioning to a go-big downhill. In sum, marked by one burly climb, a three-mile span of 6.0% grade, we gain just short of 1200-ft. in the saddle. Nonetheless, despite all that we see and cover, today's route is better known for the density of the unseen. Conservative estimates hint at tens of thousands of archaeological sites away from the canyon systems: from great houses, ancient roads, underground pit dwellings, villages and shrines set atop the 400-sq miles of mesas and remote plateaus. Moreover, in the broad swath that separates Grand Staircase-Escalante from Bears Ears, paleontologists continue to unearth new dinosaur fossils. Tonight's camp is hidden deep in a beautiful aspen grove.

Total Mileage | 20.4 Miles
Terrain | 100% Jeep Road, 100% Van Support
First-Class Camping | Jackson Ridge

Feet Gain | 3778



DAY 5 | Johnson Creek & Monticello

As a reward for getting worked, today's ride is nearly all play. After breakfast, our route clings tight to Johnson Creek, descending gleefully to Monticello. Leaving the tall Ponderosas and high, sacred places—the River House, Hotel Rock, The Ballroom, Comb Ridge, Wolfman Panel and Valley of The Gods—our group reemerges from deep, ancestral past into more familiar High Desert climbs followed by a final lunch and a shuttle back to Moab.

Total Mileage | 17.1 Miles
Terrain | 100% Jeep Road, 100% Van Support

Feet Gain | 2411



THE IMPORTANT STUFF

Daily Activities

Day	Activity	Easy		Moderate		Seasoned	
		Miles	Feet Gain	Miles	Feet Gain	Miles	Feet Gain
1	Hike Mule Canyon	1.9	69				
	Hike Tower Ruins and Butler Wash	1.3	348				
	Mountain Biking			14.8	2013		
2	Mountain Biking					14.6	1708
	Hiking			4.2			
3	Mountain Biking			25.9	2397		
4	Mountain Biking	Support vehicle available at any time				20.4	3778
5	Mountain Biking			17.1	2411		



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.

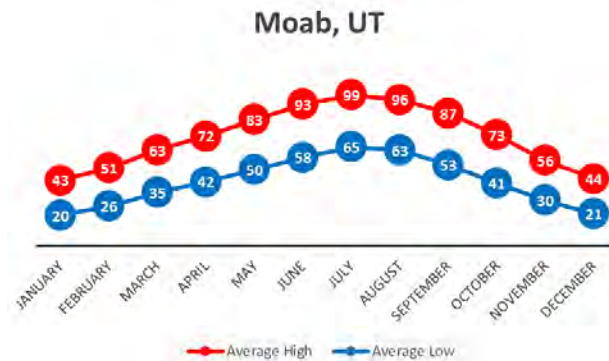


HIKING

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 brining 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: **Moab, UT**



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/

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.

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



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

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

Driving from Grand Junction to Moab is just over 100 miles and takes less than two hours. The main thoroughfare, I-70 W to US-191 S, is the quickest and most direct route. Kids will appreciate a pit stop in nearby Fruita, home to the Dinosaur Journey Museum and other fun finds. For those that seek the road less traveled, allocate an additional 15 minutes (one way) and take the picturesque Upper Colorado Scenic Byway U-128 W. The views are spectacular (especially during sunrise) and definitely worth the added travel time.

DEPARTURE CITY: MOAB, UTAH

Moab, Utah is a gateway to massive red rock formations in Arches National Park. Southwest, Canyonlands National Park features mesas and buttes carved by the Green and Colorado rivers, plus Native American rock art. Dinosaur tracks can be found at sites like Bull Canyon Overlook and Copper Ridge. In the city, collections at the Museum of Moab include dinosaur bones and archaeological artifacts. For more information visit www.discovermoab.com.



MEETING AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION

MOAB CYCLERY

391 S Main St, Moab UT 84532

(800) 559-1978 or (435) 259-7423

www.moabcyclery.com



DEPARTURE TIME

8:30 AM on the first day of the tour.

RETURN TIME

By 3:00 PM on the last day of the tour.

MOAB, UTAH HOTELS



BIG HORN LODGE

550 SOUTH MAIN ST

(800) 325-325-6171 or (435) 259-6171

www.moabbighorn.com



BEST WESTERN PLUS CANYONLANDS INN

16 S Main St

(800) 649-5191 or (435) 259-2300

www.canyonlandsinn.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











THE MAZE OUR MOST POPULAR TOUR

-  Families with Older Kids
-  Private Tours and Custom Tours
-  Solos, Couples & Friends
-  Departure: Moab, UT
-  Tour Offered: Mar, Apr, May, Sep, Oct
-  Duration: 5 Days
-  Lodging: First-Class Camping
-  Fitness Level: 2-3
-  Technical Level: 2-3
-  Elevation Range: 4,000 - 7,000 ft.

Tucked away into the most remote section of wonderfully secluded Canyonlands National Park, The Maze is one of the biggest and best of the last: A rarely traveled, wholly inaccessible wilderness.



THE TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS THE NEEDLES AND LOCKHART BASIN

-  Private Tours and Custom Tours
-  Solos, Couples & Friends
-  Departure: Moab, UT
-  Tour Offered: Apr, May, Sep, Oct
-  Departs On: Sunday
-  Duration: 6 Days
-  Lodging: First-Class Camping
-  Fitness Level: 2-4
-  Technical Level: 2-3
-  Elevation Range: 4,000 - 8,000 ft.

East of the Colorado River, the Needles District of 330,000-acre Canyonlands National Park remains one of the most remote regions left in America.

