

ROAD CYCLING HAPPENINGS

Ride of the Ancients

100 miles through and around two national monuments, the Ride of the Ancients is a scenic fall road biking tour of the canyons of southwest Colorado. Starting in Cortez, the ride winds through scenic McElmo Canyon with the stunning Canyon of the Ancients National Monument visible on both sides. Entering southeast Utah, the ride turns north and passes by the Hovenweep National Monument before returning to the canyons of Colorado and passing through the farm country of Pleasant View and Lewis on the way back to a post ride barbecue and beers in Cortez. With 4,287 feet of total elevation gain and a maximum elevation under 7000 feet, this is an excellent ride for both the rider who wants to try their first century and the rider who want to challenge themselves while touring the canyons of Southwest Colorado.

All of the proceeds of the Ride of the Ancients go to the Montelores Cancer Care Fund of the Southwest Memorial Hospital Foundation, which provides grants to patients to cover travel and any other hidden costs during treatment and recovery that aren't covered by insurance. You can learn more about the hidden costs of cancer care at Ride of the Ancients on facebook.

The Ride of the Ancients is October 8th 2017. More information about the Ride can be found at rideoftheancients.com and you can sign up online or on the day of the ride.



Moab: The New Landscape in Road Cycling

Moab is famous for fat tire mountain biking trails, but skinny tire riders love it too. The Moab Century Tour offers two wheeled touring for road cyclists on routes rated from easy to challenging and ranging from 38 to 102 miles. Cyclists depart from Aarchway Inn Saturday morning to cycle the smooth silky surface of the Moab Canyon Bike Path and the River Portal Route, known locally as the Potash Road.



The Moab Canyon Bike Path places cyclists on Hwy 313 and eventually into Dead Horse Point State Park.

After ascending from the sandstone cliffs, the roadway skirts the cyclist atop of it all. Deep canyons begin to reveal themselves as one feels the vast scale of the landscape. Approaching ahead is an increasingly narrow, but short ribbon of road. For a brief moment, you pass over a sliver of land that connects a small piece of acreage to the mainland. This is "the gate".

Back in the day of wild horse roundups, cowboys herded their stock here. They needed only to pile a little downed timber across this narrow sliver of land to enclose their wild horses, for the surround of this piece of land was, and is, rugged cliff edge. But you get to see it from current day

saddle, your road bike!

Long gazes and a plethora of photos click off as riders peer over the canyon wall to the Colorado River two thousand feet below. The AID station at Dead Horse Point Overlook is rated a highpoint from seasoned cyclists---it just doesn't get much better than this seeing the majesty of the landscape. Thoughts of one's significance in the grand scheme are pondered and relished as you replenish with food and water before beginning your descent. Those wanting the magic number of 102 will follow signs to turn down Hwy 279 and join other cyclists on the River Portal 32 mile route, hosted by Moab Urgent Care. This relatively flat ride along the Colorado River is ideal for cruiser bikes, families, and kids. Towering sandstone cliffs attracting climbers edge along the Colorado River. Stop to view the Ancient Puebloan petroglyphs and pictographs on a section called "Wall Street".



Registration is open 4-8pm Friday September 22 at Aarchway Inn where cyclists receive a wristband, helmet tag for identification, credentials to ride the featured routes,

lunch, support, AID stations, and post-party celebration of food, beverages, and life music.

The event is sponsored by Skinny Tire Events, LLC, a local Moab company, who also sponsor the Skinny Tire Festival in March 2018 which raises donations for the Cancer Treatment room at the Moab Regional Hospital and other cancer survivorship and research programs. Are you a resident of Moab? Ask about the local's deal. Check website for more information, www.skinnytireevents.com or call 435-260-8889.

Expect road cyclists on area roads, Saturday, September 23.

Please.....SHARE THE ROAD!



It's Happening in Cortez, Colorado



Register now for the 2017 Ride of the Ancients. See you October 8th!



Visit www.rideoftheancients.com for more information.