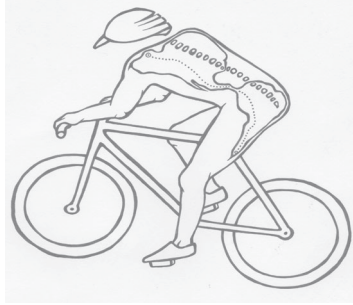


RIDING THE SPINE

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ACROSS THE WORLD BIKE TOURISTS ANNOUNCE FUNDRAISER TRIP TO SUPPORT JOURNEY

Be a part of this intrepid off-road bike adventure spanning the continental divide of the Americas

Few people think of bicycling when contemplating the sky-reaching peaks that parade from the northern tip to the southern extremities of the Americas. The normal response to the idea of criss-crossing high mountain passes the length of two continents is, "That's crazy!" It is, but whenever there are challenges there are challengers.

In July of 2006 David, Jacob, and Sean, three friends from the University of California, Santa Cruz, embarked on an incredible off-road bike tour along the spiny backbone that stretches over 17,000 kilometers from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, to Ushuaia, Argentina. They are "Riding the Spine" on a mountainous route down the continental divide through a dozen countries, a three year odyssey worthy of the Homeric epic. Check it out on www.ridingthespine.com.

Their goal is to ride dirt trails, gravel byways, and paths as much as possible. They ride custom made heavy-duty mountain bikes in lieu of the traditional lightweight touring models, allowing them access to rougher, more isolated routes. They call themselves bikepackers, camping almost every night, cooking their own meals, and stretching their scarce funds while seeking the most scenic places rather than the shortest or easiest routes. For them, the journey is the destination.

They've been chased by a starving wolf in the upper reaches of Alaska, ridden through blinding blizzards, gotten lost in the wilderness, and suffered up steep, endless hills, but they've also experienced the endless sunshine of an Alaskan summer, watched the northern lights in awe, crossed the continental divide over three dozen times, and descended the tallest peak in Central America. There is adventure around every corner, in every village, on every mountainside, down every valley.

They are currently traversing the steep mountains of Guatemala and Honduras, en route to Costa Rica where, for the first time, the public is invited to join them. Without major sponsors or deep pockets of their own, they need to raise money to continue their trip. Interested riders will have a chance to join them for a moderate three day ride across the continental divide alongside Volcano Miravalle, and on to Arenal Volcano and lake. The final night of the tour will feature a dinner with slide show and talks by the three Spinners in San Jose where all will be welcome. Itineraries will be offered both for international visitors and local riders at very reasonable costs.

Please be a part of the Riding the Spine adventure, and ride outside the paved lines with the intrepid three from February 3-10, 2008. For more information, Costa Rican residents can contact Mike Lapcevic at mike@coasttocoastadventures.com, (506) 280-8054; international inquiries should be addressed to John Yost, jbyost@gmail.com.

WWW.RIDINGTHESPINE.COM

EDITORS: For more information, photos, or to arrange an interview, please contact Jacob Thompson at Jacob@ridingthespine.com or John Yost at jbyost@gmail.com