

Colorado Backcountry Hut-to-Hut Multisport Tour

A Chalet-based Hiking, Biking and Whitewater Rafting Adventure

The classic allure of the Colorado Rockies in the summertime is manifested in wildflower-laden meadows, gentle aspen groves and snowcapped peaks. Imagine a multi-sport getaway where you are literally immersed in the pristine wilds of Colorado's backcountry. On our lofty adventure, we bicycle historic pathways, raft exhilarating whitewater and hike among jagged peaks and glaciated lakes by day. At day's end we settle into the luxurious comforts of another backcountry chalet. Though the "huts" are set high in the mountains, this tour is geared for the beginner biker and hiker

The huts are remote and idyllic hideaways perched high on mountain ridges with magnificent views. These charming chalets offer you the unique opportunity to stay in the high country among endless trails, wildflowers, elk and deer. Featuring amenities such as vaulted ceilings, bay windows, wood stoves and photovoltaic lighting, you will enjoy evenings of backcountry comfort. After a day on the trail snuggle up to a good book or relax on the sun deck and soak in the view.

Please note: This is our standard itinerary for 2012. The July 29, 2012 departure will have some variations in activities and lodging. See *General Information, Questions and Answers* section below for the details for that trip.

This is not a backpacking trip. Your luggage will be transported to each hut and you will be doing day hikes with a small daypack.

Day 1. Hike from Tennessee Pass to Uncle Bud's Hut via the Colorado Trail, Uncle Bud's Hut http://www.huts.org/hut_details/uncle_bud_hut_details.html

Our group assembles at the Evergreen Lodge in Vail at 9:00 a.m. After a short orientation and a shuttle, we lace up our boots for a day of hiking along a portion of the 490-mile Colorado Trail, which stretches from Denver to Durango in the southwest corner of the state. Today's trailhead straddles the Continental Divide at Tennessee Pass and the views are spectacular. Midday we enjoy a picnic set beneath the craggy Galena Peaks. The grades along the trail are moderate as we begin our hike at a high elevation.

Trail's end is Uncle Bud's Hut, our home-away-from-home for the next two nights. Situated above 11,000 feet, the hut is picturesquely set near tree line in an open expanse. Enjoy a stroll, relax on the sun deck and marvel at the magnificent view, or cap off the day with a game of frisbee in the meadow that fronts the hut.

Dinner this evening is truly a well-deserved feast. Under clear mountain skies, we relax on the deck and enjoy the peace of the Rocky Mountain backcountry.

- Colorado Trail hike [8 miles; approximately 1,300 feet of elevation gain, 300 feet of elevation loss]

Day 2. Rafting the Arkansas River or Hiking Galena Mountain, Uncle Bud's Hut

Today we experience a thrilling rapid-filled day rafting Brown's Canyon of the Arkansas River, Colorado's most popular stretch of whitewater. Zoom Flume, Pin Ball, Staircase, and Devils Punch Bowl are just a few of the exciting rapids we'll encounter.

For those who do not want to raft, walk a portion of the 490-mile Colorado Trail that ventures into the alpine reaches of the Holy Cross Wilderness. The trail leads to a series of remote lakes before climbing above treeline along the edge of Galena Mountain. This treeless expanse is a wonderland for exploration as you can ascend Galena ridge for "top-of-the-world" views. If you choose not to raft, please be sure to notify our office staff before the trip begins.

- Brown's Canyon rafting [Class III+ Rapids]. Please let us know upon registration if you do not want to raft.
- Option: Galena Mountain hike [up to 6 miles; 1300' elevation gain/loss]

Day 3. Hike from Uncle Bud's Hut to Timberline Lake, Skinner Hut

http://www.huts.org/hut_details/skinner_hut_details.html

Continuing on the Colorado Trail we hike past a series of emerald-tinted alpine lakes and through a verdant valley peppered with colorful wildflowers to an open meadow where we begin our ascent to Timberline Lake. We soon

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find ourselves on the shores of the sunsplashed lake set at the base of the Continental Divide. Permanent snowfields cling to the high, unnamed peaks surrounding this beautiful lake. From the lake we enjoy the return descent along the cascading Lake Fork.

After a shuttle up the rugged Hagerman Pass, we find ourselves at our next tranquil hideaway -- Skinner Hut. Blending well with the high, alpine landscape, this handsome stone building appears to have been carved from the underlying crags. In the evening sunset, the sea of peaks that radiate in all directions is truly dramatic.

- Bear Lake Trailhead to Timberline Lake Trailhead hike [3-¾ miles; approximately 500 feet elevation gain and 1,280 feet loss]
- Timberline Lake hike [5 miles; approximately 815 feet of elevation gain, then loss]
- Shuttle up Hagerman Pass to Skinner Hut [1 hour over rough four wheel dirt road]

Day 4. Free Day to Bike, Hike or Relax, Skinner Hut

Today is all yours as we layover for a day at Skinner Hut. The options are limitless. If you are pumped for some cycling, we have the adventure for you!

Rolling out our bikes, we enjoy a downhill ride from Skinner Hut. Our route follows the old railway grade of the Midland Railroad of the 1890s as we descend towards Turquoise Lake. En route, we'll hike to the long since abandoned Hagerman Tunnel and explore the ghost town of Douglas City, once a wild settlement with eight saloons and dance halls.

In addition to the exciting downhill cruise from Skinner, an optional highlight of today is an exhilarating single-track trail that winds along the shores of Turquoise Lake offering unequalled reflections across the crystalline waters. At trail's end you can retrace your tracks or continue around the lake on a rolling paved road. Mirrored in the crystal waters are Colorado's highest peaks, Mount Massive and Mount Elbert.

For those looking to hike, consider venturing up to Hagerman Pass and the Continental Divide. Those that opt for this hike will be rewarded with 360° views that stretch from the open summit back to Leadville and the Arkansas Valley to Ivanhoe Lake and the Upper Fryingpan Valley. In the afternoon limelight, the sea of peaks that radiate in all directions is absolutely breathtaking.

Whatever you choose for the day, be sure to leave yourself some time to simply relax at the hut.

- Bike ride from Skinner Hut to Turquoise Lake [9 miles, 1,800 feet of elevation loss]
- Hike to Douglas City and Hagerman Tunnel, in the middle of the bike ride [4 miles round trip; 750 feet of elevation gain/loss]
- Additional option in the afternoon: mountain bike along Turquoise Lake [7-15 miles; elevation gain negligible]

Tour Details

Trip Type: Hut

Trip Length: 6 days/5 nights

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- Alternative option in the morning: hike the Continental Divide [mileage and elevation change variable]

Day 5. Bike Hagerman Pass, Hike Henderson Park, Peter Estin Hut for July 12 and August 2; Harry Gates Hut for August 16

http://www.huts.org/hut_details/peter_estin_hut_details.html or
http://www.huts.org/hut_details/harry_gates_hut_details.html

As you wake up and breathe deeply the fresh mountain air, get ready for another day of the unique backcountry beauty that only Colorado can provide. For the active enthusiast, gear up for an early morning bike ride over Hagerman Pass on the Continental Divide, followed by an intense downhill as far as you would like to go! Alternatively, join the shuttle for a scenic ride from Skinner Hut. After catching up with our bikers, we all shuttle to the Holy Cross Wilderness and explore expansive Henderson Park by foot. One can not help but wonder how the first pioneers must have felt when they first saw these beautiful mountains and lakes.

We end the afternoon at Peter Estin Hut, a guide favorite -- and for good reason. Perched on a lofty knoll at 11,200 feet, the hut is the perfect place to relax and marvel at the magnificent views. Enjoy this idyllic setting with a late afternoon hike to a nearby vista, or relax on the expansive sun deck and marvel at the jagged Elk Range peaks.

- Bike over Hagerman Pass [mileage variable as the ride is van supported; approximately 400 feet of elevation gain, 2,500 feet of elevation loss]
- Henderson Park trailhead to Last Chance trailhead [6.5 miles; approximately 1,400 feet of elevation gain, 1,200 feet of elevation loss]
- Shuttle to Skinner Hut [1+ hour over rough dirt road]

Day 6. Hiking to Charles Peak, Biking to Yeoman Park

Hiking directly from Peter Estin Hut, our backcountry adventure continues when we climb a high elevation ridgeline to the summit of Charles Peak at over 12,000 feet. Witness staggering views of the pristine Central Colorado Rockies.

Upon returning to Peter Estin we'll mount our bikes and pedal alongside Hat Creek through the heart of the White River National Forest. Our downhill cruise winds through forests of aspen and meadows of wildflowers as we approach Yeoman Park. After our descent from Peter Estin Hut, we shuttle to Vail Valley for our trip's conclusion at approximately 5:30 p.m.

- Hike Peter Estin Hut to Charles Peak and back [3 miles; 800 feet of elevation gain/ loss]
- Bike Peter Estin Hut to Yeoman Park [9 miles; 2,000 feet of elevation loss]

2012 Departure Dates: July 8-13, July 29-August 3, August 12-17

2013 Departure Dates: July 7-12, July 28-August 2 (singles), August 18-23

Price: \$1698

Single Supplement: N/A

Bike Rental: \$95

Sleeping Bag Rental: \$25

Trip Rating: Moderate to Challenging

Activities: hike (2 full and 3 half days), bike (3 half days), raft (1 day)

Gateway City: Denver or Vail, CO

Gateway City Transfer: Public transportation from Denver International Airport to Vail is available for approximately \$92 one way through Colorado Mountain Express. Call Colorado Mountain Express at 800-525-6363 / 970-926-9800 or log onto www.cmex.com for more information. (Transfer from Eagle/Vail Airport to Vail is approximately \$51.00 per person each way). Rates are subject to change and advance reservations are recommended. Advance reservations are also recommended. Vail is 98 miles and approximately 2 hours from downtown Denver. The shuttle from Denver International Airport to Vail takes approximately 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

Meeting Time & Place: 9:00 a.m., in front of the Evergreen Lodge, 250 South Frontage Road West, Vail, 800-284-8245 / 970-476-7810 (www.evergreenvail.com). From Denver, take exit 1-76 on I-70, follow the round-about under the highway. Follow Interstate 70 West to Vail, exit #176. Stay in the right (outside) lane; enter the "roundabout" to go under Interstate 70 overpass. After passing under the overpass, you will take a right heading west on South Frontage Road. The lodge is a seven story cream colored building with green trim. It is approximately ¼ of a mile down on the left hand side of the road. We recommend you have a breakfast prior to our meeting and arrive prepared to hike immediately following our orientation.

Trip Conclusion: 5:30 p.m., Evergreen Lodge, CO. Airline departures should be scheduled no earlier than 9:30 p.m. from Denver.

Trip Fees Include: All meals (lunch Day 1-lunch Day 5), whitewater rafting (full-day), all accommodations, T-shirt, water bottle, support vehicle, professional guides, and mountain biking instruction.

Trip Fees Exclude: Airfare, personal insurance, sleeping bag, miscellaneous hotel expenses (phone, fax, laundry, etc.), additional optional tours, services not specified in the tour itinerary, and guide gratuities (An appropriate gratuity to *each* trip leader is \$75-\$100 per guest).

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Marriner, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call Frosch Travel, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at Georgia.Terry@frosch.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

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General Information, Questions & Answers

Itinerary for the July 29-August 3, 2012 departure:

Days 1 and 2: same activities and lodges as the standard itinerary

Day 3: same activities as the standard itinerary; lodging at Uncle Bud's Hut for a third consecutive **night**

Day 4: Hike to Douglas City and Hagerman Tunnel [4 miles round trip; 750 feet of elevation gain/loss] and Bike over Hagerman Pass [mileage variable as the ride is van supported; approximately 400 feet of elevation gain, 2,500 feet of elevation loss]; lodging at Betty Bear Hut

Day 5: Bike from Betty Bear Hut Pass [mileage variable as the ride is van supported; approximately 2,000 feet of elevation loss] and Hike from the Henderson Park trailhead to Last Chance trailhead [6.5 miles; approximately 1,400 feet of elevation gain, 1,200 feet of elevation loss]

Day 6: same activities and lodging as the standard itinerary

What weather conditions can I expect? Summer is prime time in the mountains. You can expect low humidity with highs in the 70's and lows in the 40's. However, as in other mountainous regions, weather in the Rockies is very changeable - sunny skies can turn stormy in minutes, afternoon thunderstorms are common and snow, while rare in the summer, is possible anytime of the year.

How difficult is this trip? ... Really? This trip is hillier and more challenging than our Easy tours. It is intended for the average active adult who feels comfortable being active 4-6 hours a day. The hikes are 2-9 miles/day with climbs of up to 1300 feet and elevations up to 12,000 feet.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Marriner at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

How will the change in altitude affect me? This is a difficult question to answer as altitude physiologically affects different people in different ways. The Rocky Mountains range from 5,000 feet to over 14,000 feet of elevation, and have an extremely dry climate. Thus, to prevent altitude sickness we recommend that you always remain well-hydrated, gradually expose yourself to higher elevations, exercise moderately until altitude acclimatized, eat a diet consisting of at least 70% carbohydrates beginning 1 to 2 days prior to your trip, and get plenty of rest. Furthermore, we suggest that you arrive in Vail *at least* 1 to 2 days prior to the first day of your trip.

How nice are the huts? Although the huts are luxurious backcountry accommodations, they are still relatively rustic. They are equipped with pumped water in the kitchen, an attached outhouse, photovoltaic lighting, a social area centered around a wood stove, an expansive sun deck, and your guides will make solar showers available for bathing on nights 2 and 4. Please note that you will need to bring [or rent from us] a sleeping bag and a pillow case [comfortable mattresses make up the huts' 'single' level beds]. There are several sleeping rooms - the size of the group determines how many people will share each room. For more specific information about the huts, visit their web site at www.huts.org.

What are your age limitations for children? Children of 10 years of age or older are welcome on our family departure as well as many of our regularly scheduled departures. All minors must be accompanied by at least one adult. The rafting and mountain biking on this trip are appropriate for young people ages 10 and up. Please call us to discuss the suitability of this particular tour.

Pre & Post Trip Accommodations:

Vail Lodging. If you arrive in Vail the evening before the trip, or stay over after the trip, we recommend The Evergreen Lodge, 250 South Frontage Road West, Vail, 800-284-8245 / 970-476-7810 (www.evergreenvail.com). Travelers with The World Outdoors are eligible for the discounted rate of \$118 for a standard lodge room, subject to availability. Please mention that you will be travelling with The World Outdoors to receive the discount. Below is a listing of other accommodations in Vail.

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|---------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| • Roost Lodge | 800-695-8284 | 970-476-5451 | [rate: \$62-\$250] | |
| • Christiania Lodge | 800-530-3999 | 970-476-5641 | [rate: \$125-\$250] | www.christiania.com |
| • Vail Marriot | 800-648-0720 | 970-476-4444 | [rate: \$200-\$375] | www.marriott.com |
| • Sitzmark Lodge | 888-476-5001 | 970-476-5001 | [rate: \$140-\$170] | www.sitzmarklodge.com |

Denver Lodging: The following hotels are located near the Denver International Airport and offer shuttle service to and from the airport.

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|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| • Holiday Inn DIA | 800-Holidays | 303-371-9494 | [rate: \$125-\$150] | |
| • Doubletree Hotel | 800-222-8733 | 303-321-3333 | [rate: \$109-\$179] | |
| • Embassy Suites Hotel DIA | 800-345-0087 | 303-574-3000 | [rate: \$130-\$155] | |

We're Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.

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