

Scramblers 2018 Enchanted Circle Tour

June 18th - 28th



- **The enchanted circle ride** will begin and end in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in beautiful Colorado Springs. From this point we will explore southeastern Colorado, entering New Mexico near Carson National Forest. Most of the ride will be at higher altitudes to take advantage of cooler temps. In June. Much of the routes will have alternative dirt routes for those that want to get more intimate with the topography. Our goal has been to stay longer at key areas like Taos and Santa Fe so we can take in what the area has to offer. We will be doing day rides, exploring the countryside and small towns. Back at our home base will be social time and great authentic foods from the area.

New Mexico has long been known as The Land of Enchantment, and it's only fitting that this designated scenic byway be called the Enchanted Circle. We will explore Northern New Mexico's mountains, valleys, mesas, and national forests All unique to the area. We will tour through remnants of Old Spain, still evident in the religion, architecture, topography, history, and people along the route.

Our Day End destinations are as follows:

Colorado Springs: Meet here and be ready to ride on Monday morning.

Day 1: Monday 18th: Raton N.M. We will experience some of the scenic routes in southeastern Colorado on our way to New Mexico. Consider a ride up to Pikes Peak before heading south. We will be traveling south through the Highway of Legends Scenic Byway. A mining area in the late 1800's with legends of gold and other stories. Our ride will end in Raton N. M. for the evening.

Day 2 Tuesday: 19th Santa Fe -----Depart from Trinidad and we will be on our way to New Mexico. Our destination this evening will be Hotel Santa Fe, near the heart of the city. Our route will take us on the eastern route of the Enchanted circle traveling through the Sangre De Cristo Mountains as we descend into Santa Fe.

Day 3 Wednesday: 20th Santa Fe – We will be doing a loop to the west of Santa Fe traveling through the Jemez Mountain trail. This trail span desert, canyons, lush forest and more in a region steeped in Spanish and Native American history. Explore cliff dwellings, pueblos, mesas, red rock buttes and waterfalls.

Day 4 Thursday: 21st Santa Fe - Today we travel southeast through the Sandia Mountains (average temps in June are 64 degrees) and Sangre De Cristo Mountains. Traveling the winding road to the Sandia Crest. From here we will travel down to I -40 (Historic Rt 66) for a short ride east to exit 230 north to Las Vegas. Good Restaurant in town for lunch –

Spic-N-Span Dinner. In the area is Madrid, where the movie Wild Hogs was filmed. You can stop in Maggie's Dinner there.

Day 5 Friday: 22nd Taos Leaving Santa Fe today heading for Taos. Taking the High Road To Taos heading north out of town This Scenic Byway takes you again through authentic remnant of Old Spain.

Day 6 Saturday: 23rd Taos Taos to Mora 106 miles—Angel Fire Loop This is a diverse road trip, relatively low traffic, many alpacas, and yellow flowered meadows. After a few houses of Guadalupita, the road will remind you of a roller coaster ride. Sierra Bonita marks the point where the road is just about wide enough for two cars to pass each other. Very tight corners are the consequence. Shortly before Black Lakes the road will catapult you out of the canyon into a high and wide valley. Travel over the Palo Flechado Pass and visit the Pueblo de Taos. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States.

Day 7 Sunday: 24th Taos ----- Taos through Chama loop approx... 202 miles —The day starts rather strangely. That is, until you reach the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, the fifth highest bridge in the county. The road will hug the tree line before suddenly opening up on a great view toward the west. It doesn't take long before nearly addictive switchbacks lead me down to Tierra Amarilla. This is the place for fuel and facilities. None for the next 80 miles.

Day 8 Monday: 25th Durango —200 miles Today we travel north to Durango Colorado We will be staying in Downtown Durango at the historic Strater Hotel.

Day 9 Tuesday: 26th Gunnison— A day of site seeing in this beautiful area of Colorado. Travel up to Crested Butte for lunch. We will be traveling through the Gunnison National Forest coming into Gunnison from the west.

Day 10 Wednesday: 27th Return to Colorado Springs— A scenic ride back to Colorado Springs starting out along route 50. Going by Royal Gorge.

Ride Organizer: Susan Tiedt smtiedt@aol.com Cell: 630-327-3192

Special Notes:

- Bring your National Park Pass

We will be reserving approximately 10 hotel rooms at each location. We will also be doing a tour shirt. Please send a \$30.00 for shirt and to get a list of hotels for registration.

Susan Tiedt

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