

Disclaimer: I have no association with this company other than having just been on a trip with them and had an amazing time. They didn't ask me to write this and everything here is my own opinion blah blah blah.

Hey guys I wanted to provide a review on my 3 Day Mojave trip with Coyote Trail Adventures – www.coyotetrailadventures.com

If you're looking to do the Mojave Desert/Death Valley, riding 5-6 hours a day or riding with everything included (I brought my own bike and gear – literally everything else you can think of is covered, even the bike and gear if you need it) then you absolutely need to ride with this crew. Fantastic service, amazing riding, right level of challenges every day and that scenery.... Just do it.

The long version is that for my 40th birthday I wanted to go on a dirt bike tour with everything included – where my only duties were to eat, sleep and ride my bike as long, as far and as fast as I could and just have fun. I did a ton of research and having previously visiting Mojave and Death Valley before in a car this place definitely caught my attention.

Did more research and assessed at least half a dozen options – Oregon, Moab, Costa Rica, Colorado to name just a few – this one stood out for the best price/performance/time axis – I could drive in Thursday after work and home Sunday night and price was (I think) too good to be true.

Note: I have previously ridden with Costa Rica Unlimited which was amazing but all-up was going to be 4x the cost of CTA once I was done.

So I got to talking to the owner, Steve and found out that this guy is a local since forever, knows this place like the back of his hand and was just ridiculously enthusiastic about the whole thing of riding dirt bikes in his enormous backyard – you could tell that this was a guy that loves putting miles on his bike, loves putting together great rides and was just a nice and easy person to speak to. Before I got off the call I had gone through with him what I wanted and who I was - I'm an Intermediate rider who regularly puts in 5 hours riding who wants to ride a mashup of hold-it-flat vs trails vs sand vs some rocks vs miles of single track and that's the type of riding he was looking to lead. I was so confident that by the end of the call I had signed my buddy and I up for their 3 day Mojave trip.

Side note: I hadn't actually mentioned to my buddy that I was thinking about this until I had signed us up - thankfully he was on board and has many times since confirmed that I made the right call haha.

Over the next few months I would get semi-regular SMS's and emails from either Steve or Jen (Steve's wife) with updates on what he was thinking of doing and I was increasingly excited about just getting down there. In short their planning and communications were on point, with seemingly small details taken care of before I had thought of them. Everything from food preferences to beer selection, you name it and they were already lining me up with what I wanted to make this a great experience. After every call my enthusiasm and expectations rose.

So the date finally arrives and we drove down on the Thursday night where they put us up in a nice, modern Best Western (Lancaster, CA) – everything you needed and nothing you didn't. They met us 7am next day with a 24ft trailer that we loaded the bikes into. We were also able to load everything but the kitchen sink into the trailer and it was great to see that they always trailer an extra bike and there was no charge unless we needed it, then you only pay for the days you use – nice.

<big trailer, fits lots of stuff>



We get out to riding and Steve and John quietly assess our skills – the other two guys with were going to struggle at our level which is fine as we had a pre-planned stop to enjoy the scenery where Steve split us up into two groups and we were handed over to John (side note: 59 years young and would proceed to show us just how unfit, uncool and terrible riders we were over the next three days haha). From that point on we would rip it up then briefly stop to enjoy the scenery and take a few snaps – scenery which was repeated many times over.

<first stop, mining establishment>



<terrible views>



That first day was just magic.....

And it just got better from there for day 2
<rest stop in the middle of nowhere>



.... and day 3.

<that furthest mountain in the distance, yeah we were there less than 2 hours prior - this place is enormous>



We did everything I wanted and so much more – dozens of miles of single track, rock gardens, flat desert and what I'll call playfields – these open fields with very small shrubs that you turn into your own course but if you run over them, no harm.

<taking it all in, my buddy is on the radio saying more than once that we're coming back here again - I couldn't have agreed more>



Each night we stayed at these air-conditioned lodge rooms with all the amenities including showers/toilets and everything else you could want - and no wifi or cell access. I love camping but I didn't complain for a moment.

<slight step up from ground camping>



We were fed an abundance of home-style food and beer as per our requested selection. We made it to the ungodly hour of 10pm each night before crashing out, up, breakfast and back on the road again.

<food, beer, fireplace - what more could one ask for>



I was completely spent by end of day 3 and ready to drive home. Perfect.

<mmm, beer. Also. Yeah yeah, I know we could have had better stuff than Corona 😊>



One important note before I wrap up – I am sure this goes without saying, but the desert is farking daunting place to ride – having someone there who had radio to base + sat phone + 20+ years of local experience is the only way to do this for me. We would ride for dozens of miles and not see a soul – and while others are more adventurous than me, I was particularly glad we had someone there who knew how to get us home each night in one piece – it made the price of entry worthwhile just for that.

Any questions or follow-ups let me know – happy to answer what I can – just note the disclaimer above.

Details:

- Cost was \$970 per person (with my bike) and there were four people (they don't like more than four riders in the group try to keep it small).
- Cost includes trail support, one support staffer/chef with a chase vehicle that met us 2-3 times a day, all meals, all drinks, plenty of beer (after the ride), snacks, Gatorade/drinks, Advil and other medical products to keep old guys like me and the bike moving (chain, filter etc.). They even gave me a branded buff/scarf when I was burning my neck.
- You can rent a bike for not much more (check website for prices and bikes).

Adam

p.s – we're heading back in October, taking my wife and a relatively new rider as there's plenty of fun stuff for them to see – Steve has offered to take us on easier stuff until lunch and then we'll play in the afternoons. I'm looking forward to it.