



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

More Colorado

Steamboat's Greatest Gravel Rides, Races & Experiences Summer 2019/Summer 2020

Ski Town, U.S.A.[®], Bike Town USA, and now maybe Gravel Town USA? Yep, we're talking about [Steamboat Springs](#). Home to 600 miles of dirt and hard-packed gravel roads and easy access from town, some are calling this a nirvana for world-class gravel riding and racing. Below is a little dirt on Steamboat gravel.

Gravel riding around Steamboat Springs

Here are a few of our favorites. Find a comprehensive list of rides in and around Steamboat Springs on The Dirty Roads website, created and curated by Steamboat Springs locals: <https://www.thedirtyroads.com/rides/>.

Airport Plus Gravel Grinder Loop – Length: 21.3 miles. Difficulty: moderate/intermediate. Ride-able: May to October. Minimum tire size: 28mm.

Emerald Circuit (partially paved) – Length: 27.6 miles. Difficulty: moderate/intermediate. Ride-able: April to October. Minimum tire size: 28mm.

Sleeping Giant – Length: 41.3 miles; Difficulty: difficult/advanced. Ride-able: May to October (impassable when wet). Minimum tire size: 34mm.

Steamboat Unbridled – Length: 60.3 miles; Difficulty: difficult/advanced. Ride-able: June to October (ride finishes with a singletrack climb up the Hot Springs Trail so lower gearing may be necessary). Minimum tire size: 35mm.

Strade Sporco – Length: 111.5 miles. Difficulty: very difficult/expert. Ride-able: May to September (CR 45 – Cow Creek – may be impassable when wet; stay on CR 33 to bypass). Minimum tire size: 35mm.

SBT GRVL Black Course – Length: 140 miles (9K foot elevation gain; 100 miles of gravel). Difficulty: very difficult/expert. Ride-able: June to October. Ideal tire size: 33 – 38mm.

[*Steamboat's Unofficial "Ranch & Brew" Gravel Ride*](#) – Length: 16 miles from west Steamboat (free parking at the West Side Transit Center or the Bear River Bike Park). This gravel route was created with the opening of two craft breweries that form a two-stop celebration at the end of the ride. It incorporates county roads (CR 42 and CR 44) and a bit of paved access (via Hwy 40 and CO 129), as well as Butcherknife Brewery (first celebratory stop) and Storm Peak Brewing (second celebratory stop). Butcherknife features pints and growler fills, as well as 5 oz. taster pours. You may also receive a discount for biking in so be sure to mention your ride.

Storm Peak also offers 5 oz. taster pours, in addition to pints, growler fills and 32 oz. crowlers (can growler). Grab a to-go order from Moe's BBQ next door and you've got a complete meal you can devour at the brewery. Ready for more? Bike into downtown Steamboat Springs and opt for tasters at Mountain Tap and Mahogany Ridge to round out your gravel-brew experience.

Steamboat gravel races and special events

SBT GRVL – August 17 – 18, 2019

The newest national gravel event in the area, SBT GRVL showcases the many miles of quiet, gravel roads in and around Steamboat Springs. The race offers three course length options: Black Course – 141 total miles and approx. 9,000 feet of climbing with 100+ miles of gravel; Blue Course – 100 total miles and approx. 6,000 feet of climbing with 70+ miles of gravel; and Green Course – 37 total miles and approx. 2,000 feet of climbing with approx. 20 miles of gravel. Registration is closed for this year's event, however spectators are welcome. Don't miss the Expo and Bike Demo on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or the Block Party along Yampa Avenue on Sunday, Aug. 18, beginning at 11 a.m. And, then get ready for next year. <https://sbtgrvl.com/>.

The Steamboat Gravel Festival – May 11 – 17, 2020

Described as “a gathering to celebrate dirt roads, friendships and all things ‘Gravel Bikes!’,” this Northwestern Colorado festival showcases the vast network of remote dirt and gravel roads crisscrossing Routt and Moffat Counties. The weeklong festival, introduced in 2018, features a free daily group ride, social opportunities, and route recommendations for “on your own” gravel experiences from [The Dirty Roads](#), “a curated selection of Colorado's finest dirt & gravel road rides” created by Steamboat locals. Check the event website for the 2020 schedule, coming soon: <https://gravelfest.com/>.

Moots Ranch Rally – June 2020

This renowned gravel ride fundraiser traversing Routt County just wrapped up its sixth annual event. The Moots-Colorado Ranch Rally features 50 miles of gravel and dirt roads (just 5 miles of pavement), as well as a big giveback; this year's event raised \$5,000 for the Community Ag Alliance of Steamboat, and around \$23,000 over its six-year history. The Moots-Colorado Ranch Rally is limited to just 200 riders and begins at Moots World Headquarters in Steamboat Springs. From there, riders crisscross the countryside on rural dirt and gravel roads connecting area historical ranches and farms. This non-timed, non-competitive ride is self-paced and fully supported. The reward? Camaraderie, stunning scenery, and a little socializing, both on and off the bike. Enjoy lunch at one of the local ranches and an evening celebration at Moots HQ. Riders receive an event SWAG bag, morning coffee and pastries, lunch, evening food and beverages, entry into the Moots raffle, on-course medical and mechanical support, and mid-point aid station fuel. Check the [Moots website](#) for information about next summer's event.

Steamboat Ramble – July 2020

This is the original Ramble in the three-ride series. Traveling through the Roosevelt and Routt National Forests, and starting in Fort Collins and ending in Steamboat Springs, this non-competitive, 218-mile (35 miles of pavement), semi-supported ride is ideal for serious riders. It's also a good option for those newer to bikepacking, as the ride requires that you carry your own tent and sleeping gear. Open to just 100 riders each year, the \$400 registration fee includes: three nights of camping (Red Feather Lakes, Walden and Steamboat Springs); transport of an up to 50-liter bag; three days of food; a dinner celebration on the final night; and beer. Riders also have access to medical support throughout the ride, and an all-important shuttle back to Fort Collins. <https://ramblerides.com/2019sbr/>.

Tour de Steamboat – July 2020

In 2019 (race date: July 20, 2019), the favorite Tour de Steamboat featured a 100-mile gravel race: the Bingham Built Gravel Gruel. The new route starts in downtown Steamboat Springs and riders ascend Rabbit

Ears Pass on pavement before turning onto dirt into Buffalo Park and through National Forest. The aid station at the bottom of Gore Pass preps riders for a few miles along Hwy 134 and then back on dirt into Steamboat Springs via Lynx Pass, Stagecoach Reservoir, Sarvis Creek, County Road 14 and finally, the paved River Road. Organizers caution this ride is for experienced and prepared riders only; SAG support is minimal between aid stations (up to 35 miles apart). The Tour de Steamboat also includes four historic road routes.
<https://www.tourdesteamboat.com/routes/>.

About Steamboat Springs

A Northwest Colorado gem just 2.5 hours from Denver, Steamboat Springs is a year-round outdoor playground and a historic resort town where western heritage meets abundant adventure. Summertime in Steamboat means miles of single track and endless county roads, tubing the Yampa and soaking in the hot springs, golfing among the peaks and valleys, and exploring the abundant lakes, rivers and streams that dot the landscape. Downtown Steamboat Springs pays tribute to its ranching roots with a renowned weekly rodeo, heritage shops and outfitters, and a culinary community that takes homegrown to new heights. Throughout the summer Steamboat blooms with activity from Lincoln Avenue to the mountain base and beyond. Get Up Here and experience one of Colorado's authentic western mountain towns.