

## White Rim Bike Trip Canyonlands National Park, Utah Spring 2006

We often head to Utah for Spring Break, where winter has usually eased its grip and we can enjoy the outdoors in relatively warm weather. This year we did a multi-day bike trip on the “White Rim” road in Canyonlands. Camping spots along this road are tightly controlled and it often takes a year or more to get a reservation. However, due to a last minute cancellation and a friend's quick action, we got to go. Below are some pictures and a description of this wonderful trip. (click on an image to be taken to a larger version on the Web)



We rode the loop clockwise, descending from the Island in the Sky on the Shafer Trail, which turns into the White Rim Road and can be seen in the distance in this shot. The entire loop is 118 mi., but we avoided the paved section on top of the mesa by leaving another car at the top of climb out of Mineral Bottom.



Since it was a 3 day trip, we needed car support to carry water, food, camping equipment and tools, so our 4Runner was called into duty. While most of the road is passable in a 2 wheel drive vehicle, there are sections where a high clearance, 4WD vehicle is necessary.



Our companions were Marty and Helen Petach, and their 3 kids, Anika, Tanya and Trevor. Jitka and Barbora are on the far left. Partially visible in the background is Musselman arch.



Barbora looking happy.



Our first campsite was at Airport Tower, a serene spot where we were glad to pitch our tents, take a rest and eat. This shot is at sunrise, before folks had gotten up.



Siri Jodha and Washer Woman Tower (the right hand tower of the pair in the distant background).



It's called the White Rim road because it follows the exposed edge of a light colored sandstone layer. This layer is harder than the layers above or below it, so it often forms the rim of dramatic canyons. The rim can be seen here ahead of the riders.



Jitka bravely standing on the rim with Monument Basin in the background.



We took shifts piloting the 4Runner.



Our second camp was on Murphy's Hogback. This is a relatively elevated portion of the trail, affording spectacular views into the surrounding canyons.



Jitka and Barbora cooking up dinner. We never lacked for tasty, wholesome food.



Barbora outside our tent at sunrise.



Packing up our camp at Murphy's Hogback early, in anticipation of a long ride.



The descent from Murphy's Hogback, heading west.



Dropping back towards the White Rim.



Siri Jodha bookin' along.



Siri Jodha posing next to the Edge, Middle fork of Buck Canyon..



Much of the day was spent pedaling downhill, cruising through unbelievable beauty.



Another shot showing the White Rim at the top of dramatic cliffs.



Barbora riding a section of road next to the White Rim.



Looking down at a section of a gooseneck of the Green River.



Barbora and Jitka riding together near Holeman Slot.



Barbora and Tanya with seemingly endless miles of smooth dirt road ahead.



Taking a break. We've just rounded a bend and will be heading north along the Green River. You can see where the White Rim (which we're sitting on in this shot) and the Green River intersect in the distance.



A few more climbs and a long descent before the road comes level with the Green River.



The 4Runner negotiating the last bits of the White Rim. Kayakers on the Green River below.



Biking Potato Bottom, on some softer dirt.



Marty hammerin' through the tough climb up Hardscrabble Hill.



Looking at the Green River and Hardscrabble Bottom. We had a reservation at the campsite visible at the end of the road closest to the bottom of the picture, but as we arrived there just about noon and the forecast was for rain, we decided to push on, and finish the ride that day.



Looking down at Horsethief Bottom and the Green River from the top of Mineral Bottom Road. We raced from the bottom to the top, where a car was waiting and it was the end of the ride.



Celebration and dinner at Fiesta Mexicana in Moab.