

RIDE CENTERS





INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION



RIDE CENTER

KANSAS

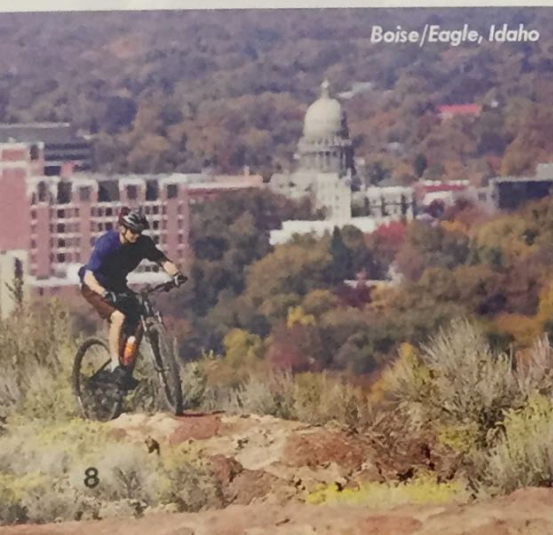
2015 RIDE CENTERS

GOLD-LEVEL RIDE CENTERS

BOISE/EAGLE, IDAHO

The amazing trail system here began more than 20 years ago when creative mountain bikers and land managers decided to focus on community connectivity via a large singletrack network. Today, thanks in part to volunteer-led groups including the Boise Area Mountain Bike Association and South-West Idaho Mountain Bike Association, you'll find everything from rocky, mountainous terrain to buff trails and a bike park, all accessible from Boise and Eagle.

Boise/Eagle, Idaho



DULUTH, MINNESOTA

From the buffed-out, flowing trails at Lester to the freerider's playgrounds at Piedmont and Brewer, the riding in Duluth is both high-quality and highly varied. The entire community has embraced trail-based recreation, including a major initiative to create the Duluth Traverse. This in-progress effort—led in part by the Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores—will result in a 100-mile singletrack ride in an urban environment.

NELSON, NEW ZEALAND

Riding Nelson's trails is a year-round adventure, with sunny days and bluebird skies the norm throughout the year. The riding options include several bike parks, as well as natural trail in both a plantation forest and the native bush. The range of trail types is amazing, from gentle, family-oriented trail riding to full-on downhill runs, backcountry adventures and everything in between.

OAKRIDGE, OREGON*

This small town styles itself as the mountain bike capital of the Northwest. The local IMBA chapter, the Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards—alongside other stakeholders such as the U.S. Forest Service and local bike-centered businesses—constantly works to improve the mountain bike trail options. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to sample the 30-mile Middle Fork trail, the 20-mile circuit of Waldo Lake and dozens of other high-quality options.

PARK CITY, UTAH*

Since hosting the IMBA World Summit in 2008, Park City and its trail system have been on the rise. There are now over 450 miles of trail, all accessible from town. In addition to new development, Park City continues to show a strong commitment to maintaining and improving existing trails. Between the volunteer-led Mountain Trails Foundation, various city and county agencies, and the resorts, the collective annual trail budget tops \$1 million, resulting in a huge amount of varied, high-quality riding.

Nelson, New Zealand



ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

According to Redbull's mountain biking web series On Track, "When we die and go to mountain bike heaven, there's a good chance it will look a lot like Rotorua, New Zealand." The riding varies from extensive trails in the Whakarewarewa Forest to the gravity park at Skyline Rotorua, New Zealand's first year-round gondola-assisted bike lift. Rotorua also provides a plethora of other activities and attractions, including natural thermal spas and hot pools.

Entries marked with an asterisk (*) had already obtained Ride Center status and were reevaluated in 2015.

SILVER-LEVEL RIDE CENTERS

CUYUNA, MINNESOTA*

The Cuyuna signature is a cycling experience for families and experts alike that provides overwhelming fun. More than 25 miles of purpose-built trails wind through a landscape created by 70 years of iron ore mining. Nature has reclaimed the area: water has filled the pits and turned them into deep lakes. It's the perfect canvas for crafting year-round trails to conquer by bike, with all the riding skillfully cared for by the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew.

HELENA, MONTANA*

More than 20 different trailheads and 75 miles of singletrack can be accessed from the downtown area of Montana's Queen City. Helena offers free shuttles that run five days a week, reaching the best trailheads in the South Hills Trail System, as well as to the top of the Continental Divide to access the iconic Continental Divide Trail. Farther east, the Trout Creek Canyon-Beartrap Gulch loop navigates steep limestone canyons. Plus, Helena offers a vibrant, in-town cycling scene.

MCCALL, IDAHO

This lakeside community has quietly assembled a diverse collection of trails with options for every ability level and riding style. Once known for its rugged backcountry trails, the Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association recently began adding purpose-built trails. On a summer day, you can ride a fern-lined trail through stands of towering old-growth Ponderosa, then test your skills on a lift-served gravity trail. Or ride an IMBA Epic trail to beautiful Loon Lake and discover the wreckage of a rare WW2 bomber before ending your day with a microbrew and dinner.

BRONZE-LEVEL RIDE CENTERS

BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA

Just a short distance from the major metro areas of Indianapolis, Louisville and Cincinnati, it's no secret that Brown County has some of the best mountain biking in the Midwest. You'll find a 28-mile IMBA Epic ride within Brown County State Park, with route options for every skill level. There are many more miles of flowing singletrack within the state park, plus more being built in the state park and neighboring state forest by the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association.

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

Hot Springs isn't just home to outstanding mountain biking, it's also a first-class tourist destination. The geothermal baths alone have been bringing visitors to the area for hundreds of years. Trails, horse racing and historic hotels define the downtown area, while three IMBA Epic trails are just a short drive away—including the state's newest Epic and longest mountain bike trail in the state, the 110-mile Ouachita National Recreation Trail. The Central Arkansas Trail Alliance and other volunteer-led groups help keep the trails in top shape.

Helena, Montana



McCall, Idaho



Brown County, Indiana



Cuyuna, Minnesota





The newest Arkansas Regional Ride Center IMBA's 2015 Model Trails recognition includes the Northwest Arkansas Regional Ride Center. With the Bentonville (silver-level) and Fayetteville (bronze-level) Ride Centers located less than 30 miles apart, the two towns have formed the the first and only region-wide Ride Center designation. Mountain bikers visiting the Ozarks can double-down, with a wide range of riding to choose from and two cycling-crazed communities hosting some of the nation's finest trails.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Big things are happening in Richmond, including the upcoming (Sept. 19-27) World Road Cycling Championships. For dirt lovers, rvaMORE and a host of partners have raised over \$325,000 in just two years, opening miles of new trails, including a purpose-built hand-cycle line, plus a flow trail and beginner-level singletrack. This is truly an urban-based center with great connectivity allowing riders to access standout trails without getting into a car.

TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA

Since 1994, the Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) IMBA chapter has worked diligently on its mission of "gaining and maintaining trails" in the Twin Cities metro area. Today, MORC oversees 85 miles of singletrack within 11 parks, and is the organization behind the acclaimed Cottage Grove Bike Park. And, during the winter months, there are over 50 miles of groomed singletrack trails to explore and enjoy.

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

The Greater Reading Trails System, overseen by the Berks Area Mountain Biking Association, consists of more than 125 miles of trails in five major preserves, all of which be accessed via the Schuylkill River Greenway Rail Trail. The trails range in difficulty from beginner-friendly to some of the most technical, rock-strewn trails you'll experience anywhere. There's also an abundance of in-town amenities, including bike shops, craft beer bars, hotels, music venues, restaurants and sporting events.

Richmond, Virginia



Reading, PA



Twin Cities, MN

