

# MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES

*in the Methow Valley*

**Winthrop**  
WASHINGTON



When snow makes way for wildflowers in spring, mountain bikers flock to the Methow Valley to enjoy hundreds of miles of well maintained, easy to access singletrack and scenic Forest Service roads. Winthrop is the basecamp for every type of ride imaginable. From gentle family-friendly rides, paralleling the Methow River along the Methow Community Trail, to technical, high alpine single-track, the terrain is endless. Maps and trail guides are available in town and are highly recommended.

## SUN MOUNTAIN TRAILS *All levels*

This is not a specific loop or route but rather a system of trails that can be linked together to provide any length and difficulty desired. Sun Mountain has singletrack, doubletrack and Forest Service roads. Wooded sections and wide-open hillsides provide a variety of scenic options. The Sun Mountain Trails are an excellent place to spend an hour to a full day of riding. You can access the Sun Mountain trails right from Winthrop via the Winthrop Trail or drive 8 miles towards Sun Mountain Lodge to the Chickadee Trailhead. 1 to 35 miles of riding.

## METHOW VALLEY COMMUNITY TRAIL *Beginner*

There are many options for great riding on the trails maintained by the Methow Valley Sport Trails Association (MVSTA). These are the same trails used in the winter for cross-country skiing. The most popular section of the trail is from Browns Farm to Mazama for a 12 mile ride. Doubletrack trails, perfect for riding side by side. 1 to 35 miles in length.



## PIPESTONE CANYON *Moderate & Advanced*

A popular destination in spring and fall, the ride can be done as a loop of dirt roads or as a loop including singletrack along the rim of the canyon. The spectacular canyon is home to rattlesnakes so this ride is best in the spring and fall. Singletrack loop: 14 miles, dirt road loop: 16 miles



*take a break from the ordinary*

## **BUCK MOUNTAIN** *Moderate*

Buck Mountain is the Methow Valley's signature mountain bike ride. Close to Winthrop, this ride showcases everything from wildflowers to open space, to mountain tops. Note: due to logging operations the traditional route is closed for 2012. An alternate route starting from Buck Lake and including the best singletrack sections of the Buck Mountain ride is open. Single track: 10-16 miles.

## **WEST FORK OF THE METHOW RIVER** *Moderate*



The West Fork is a beautiful out and back singletrack that features steady gradual elevation gain. At its end, the trail intersects with the Pacific Crest Trail, on which bikes are not allowed. A forest fire went through this area in 2003 and has since grown back very lush. Some parts of the trail can be heavy with brush. Singletrack: 16 miles out and back.

## **BEAR MOUNTAIN FIGURE 8** *Moderate*

Bear Mountain Figure 8 combines two single track downhills with climbs up gravel roads. There are also a number of good mountain bike rides right in this area such as Lightning Creek and Starvation Mountain. 15 miles total: 6.1 miles singletrack, 8.9 miles gravel road.

## **STARVATION MOUNTAIN** *Advanced*

This is a long mostly singletrack ride to the top of Starvation Mountain (note the name and bring plenty of food and water). Ride up the singletrack Lightning Creek trail and down the Blue Buck Trail. Singletrack Loop: 22.6 miles

## **CUTTHROAT PASS** *Advanced*

Cutthroat Pass is 11 miles round-trip, all on a singletrack trail in a stunning alpine setting. The trail between the trailhead and the lake is popular with hikers so ride in control. The ride is an out and back, gaining 2300 feet. Because this is also a popular hiking trail, this is a good ride to do midweek or late in the day. Singletrack Loop: 11 miles

## **ANGEL'S STAIRCASE** *Advanced*

This is THE Methow Valley Ride for the serious mountain biker. It requires fitness and an adventurous attitude. The loop reaches altitudes of 8000 feet, so being prepared for varying weather anytime of the year is necessary. This is an all singletrack ride that takes a full day, and technical riding experience. This ride is usually not snow-free until August. Start early and plan for a full day of riding. Distance: 25 miles



get maps and more information at

**WINTHROPWASHINGTON.COM**