

Colorado Mountain Expeditions Katy Trail - BIKE REQUIREMENTS

Your bike is the most important piece of equipment you will bring on this trip. Riders are responsible for arriving with a bicycle that is in excellent working condition and appropriate for multi-day riding on the Katy Trail.

We strongly recommend having your bike professionally serviced prior to the trip, including at least a basic tune-up. This helps prevent mechanical issues during the week and ensures you'll have the best possible experience.

At a minimum, your bike should be checked for:

- Reliable brakes with plenty of pad life
- Tires in good shape (puncture-resistant tires strongly recommended)
- A well-functioning drivetrain (chain, cassette, shifting)
- Wheels in true condition with no loose spokes
- No loose bolts or mechanical concerns

While our guides can assist with minor repairs such as flat tires or basic adjustments, riders should not expect full bike shop support on the trail. There are bike shops all along the trail, but sitting out while your bike is fixed isn't a fun way to enjoy the trip.

Here are the tools and supplies CME brings on every Katy Trail trip:

- Floor pump (for use at hotels)
- Mini pumps (guides carry during the ride)
- Spare tubes (mix of common sizes)
- Tire levers
- Patch kits
- Multi-tools
- Quick links
- Small selection of bolts and basic replacement parts
- Chain lube + cleaning rag
- Duct tape + zip ties (always)

WHAT KIND OF BIKE SHOULD I BRING?

This trip follows the Katy Trail State Park, a crushed limestone rail-trail with mostly flat to gently rolling terrain. Daily rides range from approximately 35–50 miles, so comfort, efficiency, and durability are key.

We recommend a bike that is well-suited for long-distance riding on gravel or rail-trail surfaces, such as:

Gravel bike
Hybrid bike

Touring bike

Cross bike

Hardtail mountain bike with smooth or semi-smooth tires

Your bike should ideally have:

Comfortable geometry for long days in the saddle

Disc brakes (recommended, especially in wet conditions)

Tires in the 35–50mm range for stability and comfort

Gearing that allows for steady pedaling over rolling terrain

Full suspension bikes are not necessary for this trip, but riders may use them if preferred.

E-BIKES

E-bikes are permitted on this trip. Riders using e-bikes should be comfortable managing battery life over multiple days and ensuring they can recharge each night at the hotels. If you have any questions about whether your e-bike setup is appropriate, feel free to reach out in advance.

Don't forget your e-bike charger. An ebike with a dead battery is just a really heavy bike.

If you have questions about whether your bike is appropriate for the Katy Trail, please contact us before arrival — we are always happy to help you choose the best setup for a comfortable and successful week on the trail.