

THE RIGHT BICYCLE FOR YOUR OVERLAND TRIP

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS, VERMONT, NEW ENGLAND COAST AND NOVA SCOTIA & ACADIA: A touring bike, a hybrid, a mountain bike or a sturdy road bike with the right components will work well. You can also choose to rent a bicycle from Overland for use on one of the above programs. You will indicate your preference later, as part of the enrollment process.

PACIFIC COAST, CANADIAN ROCKIES & MONTANA 3-WEEK AND CALIFORNIA: A touring bike or a hybrid will work well. Mountain bikes are not allowed. If you are considering doing the **American Challenge, European Challenge** or **Canadian Rockies & Montana 2-week** in the future, please see the below list for acceptable bikes. You can also choose to rent a bicycle from Overland for use on one of the above programs. You will indicate your preference later, as part of the enrollment process.

FRANCE: A touring bike or a hybrid will work well. Mountain bikes are not allowed. If you are considering doing the **American Challenge, European Challenge** or **Canadian Rockies & Montana 2-week** in the future, please see the below list for acceptable bikes.

AMERICAN CHALLENGE, EUROPEAN CHALLENGE AND CANADIAN ROCKIES & MONTANA 2-WEEK: One of the following bikes is required: the Trek 520*, the Surly Long Haul Trucker, the Fuji Touring, the Salsa Marrakesh or the Novara Randonee**. The bike must be in excellent condition and have been purchased in the past 48 months.

Please note: performance road or racing bicycles are not acceptable on any Overland bike trips.

* Starting in 2017, the Trek 520 will only have mechanical disc brakes. This is acceptable.

** The Novara Randonee was discontinued in 2017. A model from the past 48 months is acceptable.

TYPES OF BICYCLES

All bicycles must have a triple chain ring in front and 24 or 27 gears, quick release front and back wheels, two water bottle cages (with water bottles) attached to the bicycle frame and a good quality rear rack designed to carry 40+ lb loaded panniers. Mechanical disc brakes are acceptable but not preferred. Hydraulic disc brakes are not acceptable as repairs require a specific level of expertise and equipment that necessitates a visit to a bike shop.

In addition, each type of bike must have the following:

- **MOUNTAIN** (Only acceptable for Cape Cod & the Islands, Vermont, New England Coast and Nova Scotia & Acadia): Mountain bikes should weigh 30 pounds or less and have 28 mm (or wider) road tires (not knobby off-road tires), full-suspension mountain bikes (those with shock absorbers on the front and rear wheels) are not acceptable because racks do not fit over the rear wheel with shocks. Mountain bikes with shocks only in the front are acceptable. Please note: mountain bikes are heavier than hybrids, road bikes and touring bikes. On a longer trip the difference in weight is noticeable.
- **TOURING:** These bikes are designed specifically for touring. Touring bikes must have sturdy rims and wide tires (typically 28-35mm). These bikes rarely have tire or wheel problems.
- **HYBRID:** Be sure the hybrid you are considering has 28mm (or wider) tires.
- **ROAD:** Only sturdy road bikes with 28mm (or wider) tires and sturdy rims with plenty of spokes (i.e. not reduced spoke rims) are acceptable. If a bicycle has tire widths less than 28mm or a reduced number of spokes, the bicycle will have problems carrying the weight of packed panniers (e.g., flat tires, broken spokes and bent wheels). **Please note: performance road or racing bicycles are not acceptable on any Overland bike trips, as these are not designed to carry extra weight.**

IF YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE A NEW BICYCLE

- Look for a quality bicycle. A quality bicycle runs between \$500 to \$1000 (touring bikes are more—\$1050 to \$1450).
- Choose a bicycle that fits you. Visit a bike store, have them fit you correctly to a frame, and select features that are comfortable for you (handlebars, seats, pedals etc.).
- If you are considering doing the American Challenge, European Challenge or Canadian Rockies & Montana 2-week in the future, please note that specific bikes are required (see above).

Questions? Concerns? If you have any questions or concerns about a bike you are considering, or about the appropriateness of your bike, contact bikes@overlandsummers.com.