

Road cycling in the Andes

Have you ever thought of cycling in the Andes of Peru, Bolivia or Columbia?

I have been in touch with a tour operator over who is running fully supported tours (no panniers needed), just BYO road bike.

The operator is Beyond Andes Cycling Tours, run by Anthony Mortimore (ex-pro cyclist), whom some of you may remember as the organiser of the Rainbow Ride out of Byron Bay. See the website for all the details plus brilliant photos: <https://beyondandes.com>. Relevant tours in 2020 are Bolivia 14 days in May (Sky Roads – including La Paz and Lake Titicaca), Peru 11 or 17 days in June (Tour of the Sacred Valley – including Cuzco and major Andean passes), and Columbia (Emerald Roads – 4 tours) February and July, 5 to 19 days. All involve climbing at high altitude as the base points (La Paz, Cuzco, Bogota) are already high up.

There is plenty of time for sightseeing along the way, with something organised every day. For example, at Lake Titicaca there is a boat trip to islands, at the end of the Peru tour there is a visit to Machu Picchu, and in Columbia one of the February tours includes 3 stages of Tour Columbia, where all the big names in Colombian cycling will be competing.

A group could sign up for one of these pre-arranged tours and get a group discount. Alternatively, a tailor-made tour could be arranged for a minimum of four on preferred dates and routes.

A good level of fitness is required for the set tours, but any currently active Audax rider who likes hills would already be at the necessary level.

Please email me on mhfyson@iinet.net.au or phone 38078266 if you are interested.

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