



Bike Buying Guide

Please Note: All prices in information in this document reflect data collected in 2005 when this document was first compiled

Here are some ways for you to acquire a bicycle for the MS150 Bike Tour. Besides borrowing one, the guide below will help you buy or rent a bike. It's also a great idea to always shop around; you'll never know what kind of deal you'll get. Bike technology has advanced quickly and many components once found on \$1000+ bikes are now available on \$299-\$699 bikes.

Don't be fooled with getting a \$50-\$150 Walmart bike. They look flashy, but by just paying 50% more (like \$299) you can get a bike that is 500% better. The only great thing about a Walmart bike is that you can leave it outside and not care if it gets stolen or rusted (no offense to any Walmart buyers).

Most great entry level bikes start at \$299 (\$200-\$299 on sale) and anything above that will get you a bike that is faster, more maneuverable, more durable, and lighter than anything you will ever need on the MS150. Get a more expensive bike if you plan to grow as a biker and continue to challenge yourself even after the MS150. Here several types of bikes that you can get:

Front Suspension Bikes (Hard-tail): The most popular kind of mountain bike. They are made of either steel (\$), aluminum (\$\$), carbon-fiber (\$\$\$), titanium (\$\$\$\$), or magnesium (\$\$\$\$). They offer the most versatility as they can go anywhere and environments.

Full Suspension Bikes (Soft-tail): Heavy bikes that have front and rear suspension. Great for going downhill, but for going long distances (i.e. the MS150), this is a big NO-NO.

Tandem Bikes: Tandem bikes require 2 or more people to ride them. Tandems can come in Mountain Bike or Road Bike flavors.

Road Bikes: The kind of bike Lance Armstrong uses. Very fast and smooth on concrete and tarmac (street)...on anything else it'll break the wheels. Road bike are lighter and generally more expensive than mountain bikes.

Buying A New Bicycle

There are several outlets to buying a bicycle:

Non-Bike Stores (Walmart, Kmart, Big Lots) -

These are places which do not specialise in bikes, for example garages, department stores, toy stores and supermarkets. Like the catalogue companies, they do not have any bike experts on hand, and usually your bike comes packed in a box. If it has been assembled, ask yourself: does someone who has been trained to stack boxes of cornflakes have the skills to make sure a bike is safe? The only advantage with buying from these companies is that when you do have problems you can go complain in person.

Chain Bike Stores (Sportsmart, Oshman's, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Sports Chalet) -

These are companies which have a chain of stores selling bikes, usually alongside other things like car parts. They do often have trained staff, and your bike should be properly assembled and safe. These stores can afford to keep large stocks of the most popular bikes and parts, but are not particularly cheap. Their staff, while trained, do not usually have the breadth and depth of experience needed to deal with the more complicated problems some bikes raise.

Internet Only Bicycle Dealers (Ibex) -

With the increase in popularity of internet usage, a number of specialist online sellers have emerged. The number of places where you can buy a new bicycle on the internet is on the increase and these range from sites which only sell bikes and accessories to those with a wider product range. A number of real bricks and mortar stores have websites from where you may purchase, but in addition to these there is an increasing number of internet only bike shops. The service these sites offer varies in quality, with some being operated at an extremely professional level with genuine stock holdings and dedicated staff, but there are also a number which are operated more like hobbies, often from somebody's bedroom. Talk to a real live person to ensure that you will be getting what you pay for. Also be prepared for the possibility of dissatisfaction resulting from possible damage caused by delivery companies!

Independent Bicycle Dealers (JAX Bicycles, Performance Bike, SuperGO, Rainbow Bicycle) -

These are independent companies and can range from your small local bike shop to large companies with several stores. IBDs generally have the best-trained staff, with years of practical experience. Larger companies have huge stocks of bikes and parts, not just the most popular ones. Smaller IBDs do not have the space or finance to have huge stocks of bikes or parts, but most are very willing to order something in for you if you ask. Many IBDs specialise in niche markets, selling bikes and parts that no-one else does.



Some great stores to buy from:

Ibex Bicycles (Internet Only Dealer)

<http://www.ibexbikes.com/>

Ibex Bicycles is kind of like the "Dell Computers of bicycles". They only sell bikes online and do not operate any stores of any kind. Therefore, they have amazing bikes (with awesome components) at really competitive prices. When you receive the bikes, the only thing you have to do is attach the wheels, the seat post, the handle bars, and you're set to go.

Here's the *entry to mid-level* Hardtail (the front suspension **Alpine Series**) bikes they have (perfect for the MS150):

Alpine 350 - \$299

Alpine 450 - \$369 (usually \$399) Special!

Alpine 550 - \$499

For some hardcore, cross-country bikes check out their **Trophy Series**:

Trophy 770 Disc - \$749

Trophy 880 LX - \$899

Trophy 880 Disc - \$999 (usually \$1049) Special!

Trophy Pro XT - \$1299

Trophy Pro Disc - \$1499

JAX Bicycles (IBD = Independent Bicycle Dealer)

<http://jaxbicycles.com/site/intro.cfm> (see website for OC locations)

Jax Bicycles specializes in **Trek** and **Specialized** bicycles. They have some pretty great deals online if you're only planning to spend \$200-\$230. Anything more you might as well buy from Ibex. For example, the Ibex Alpine 350 (\$299) has 8 speeds and a Shimano Alivio Rear Derailleur, while the Trek 4100 (\$319 from JAX) is only 7 speeds and has a Shimano Acera Rear Derailleur (not as good).

Performance Bike (IBD)

<http://www.performancebike.com/> (see website for OC locations)

This is another great shop with friendly people and great deals. They carry a wide selection of **Giant** brand bicycles. **Giant** is a bike manufacturer from China and some great bikes can be had at low prices.

SuperGO (IBD)

www.supergo.com

Supergo Bike Shops

8850 Warner Avenue

Fountain Valley, California 92708-3200

(714) 842-3480

Super GO is a nice shop that specializes in the brand **Specialized**, **Rocky Mountain**, and **Cannondale**. They have some great apparel items on sale, but it's rare to find a great bike under \$400-\$500. Can be very \$\$\$, but great selection and lots of hardcore biking components no one else has. They currently have a nice sale on helmets.



Two Wheels, One Planet (IBD)

<http://twowheelsoneplanet.com/site/intro.cfm>

420 E. 17th Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
949-646-7717

The Path (IBD)

<http://www.thepathbikeshop.com/>

215 West First Street
Tustin, CA 92780

Switchback Cyclery (IBD)

(no website)

3436 E. Chapman Ave.
Orange, CA 92869

Chain Bike Stores

Sportsmart

Sports Chalet

Big 5 Sporting Goods

Here is a good sizing chart to use when buying. For a perfect fit, ask a knowledgeable salesperson. Some stores will have you sit on a bike and then do measurements.

Mountain Bikes

<u>Your Height</u>	<u>Size of the Bike Frame</u>
4'9" to 5'1"	13"
5'1" to 5'5"	15"
5'5" to 5'9"	17"
5'9" to 6'1"	19"
6'1" to 6'5"	21"

Road Bikes

<u>Your Height</u>	<u>Size of the Bike Frame</u>
5'2" to 5'6"	51cm
5'5" to 5'9"	54cm
5'9" to 6'1"	57cm
6'1" to 6'5"	60cm



Renting a Bicycle

Schwinn Bicycles Orange

(no website)
210 S Glassell St,
Orange, Ca 92866
(714) 532-6838

This bike shop will not rent out NEW bikes that they sell, but will rent out USED bikes they're selling. The way it works is that you have to purchase the USED bike (they will charge the full amount), then when you're done just bring it back and they will refund you the full amount minus the rental fee. The rental fee is \$15 a day for a mountain bike. When I called them on 7/30, they had a great deal on a particular bike:

Used Recreation Tandem (2-person) Mountain Bike – Selling for \$250 and renting at \$25 a day. Woohoo!

Rainbow Bicycle Company

<http://www.teamrain.com/>
485 N. Coast Hwy
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(866) 494-BIKE

Mountain & Road Bike Rentals
Rentals Based On 24 Hour Day
All Rentals + Calif. Sales Tax
5 Day & Weekly Rates Available
Full Suspension (soft tail)-----\$30.00
P/W Wild Hare Full Suspension--\$40.00
Road Bikes-----\$35.00
Shimano SPD & Look Pedals \$5.00 Extra
Free Use Of Helmets

What a great deal if you plan on biking just once a year.

Borrowing a Bicycle

A room has been set up on the Team Disney MS 150 website (www.teamdisneymms150.com) for Team Disney riders to post of they are in need of a bicycle, or if they have an extra bicycle that someone can borrow.

Once on the Team Disney website, choose the "Message Board" page. Once you have established an account and signed in to the message board, choose the 'Equipment' room and then the 'Bicycles' subject.