



No. **5310**



Feeling the Love

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALLY MABRY STORY BY GAGE POORE

→ “THIS TRIP HAS BEEN FULL OF SURPRISES, AND EVERY CHALLENGING CLIMB HAS BEEN WORTH IT. SEEING America at the speed of a bicycle has been one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.” Ossiris Pinto wrote this about a third of the way through his 89-day bike trip from San Francisco, California, to Yorktown, Virginia, during the summer of 2021. The 30-year-old from Las Vegas started planning the trip in December of 2020 when he discovered the Adventure Cycling website. After saving up, buying some gear, and quitting his jobs, Pinto departed on his first bike trip only six months later. “Before the tour, I had only done about 100 miles on my bike and my longest day was only 35 miles,” he wrote. “I can honestly say I’m built for this type of stuff. I’m averaging 60 to 80 miles a day and I feel good.”

Pinto’s journey began along the Pacific Coast, traveling from San Francisco to begin the TransAm Trail in Eugene, Oregon. “The coastline was so beautiful,” he wrote. “Going to sleep and waking up to wave crashes was such a great feeling.” Along this stretch of his journey, Pinto encountered other cycle tourists, generous strangers who bought his meals and offered him places to stay the night, and a group of professional clowns called Circus Nature. Pinto began his journey east on the TransAm Trail during a heat wave. His first five days on the trail were a brutal 110°F, but as he said, “Luckily, I’m from Las Vegas, so the heat was not that bad, actually.”

Pinto was delighted by the beauty of the country and the kindness of the people he met. “My parents migrated from Mexico when they were 20 and my mom was pregnant with me. To be embraced by these little communities as a brown boy on a bicycle has been the most heartwarming thing I’ve ever been through,” he wrote. “You grow up getting warned about certain places and cultures to stay away from because of rejection or being made fun of for trying something new, but I can honestly say it’s been the complete opposite. No one is scared to talk to me and everyone has been impressed and genuinely happy that I’m on such a great adventure.” Upon completing his bicycle trip across America, Pinto wrote, “It was really surreal to be a part of such a welcoming and giving community of cycle touring. I had no idea going into my journey what to expect and it all blew my mind. I now want everyone to experience the life of cycle touring. It was like feeling love in real-time from complete strangers and them feeling the love from me.”

From Adventure Cycling’s National Bicycle Touring Portrait Collection. © 2021 Adventure Cycling Association.



See more portraits at
adventurecycling.org/gspg