

CORY MORTENSEN

OFFICIAL AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES | MEDIA & PRESS

SHORT BIO · 50 WORDS

Cory Mortensen is an award-winning travel memoir author, entrepreneur, and long-distance cyclist based in Arizona. His books chronicle journeys across North and South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Asia, combining firsthand adventure with history, curiosity, and personal reflection. His fifth travel memoir, *Mississippi Ramble*, follows a 30-day solo bicycle journey.

MEDIUM BIO · APPROX. 130 WORDS

Cory Mortensen is an award-winning travel memoir author, entrepreneur, and long-distance cyclist based in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. His books explore what happens when curiosity leads him beyond familiar roads and into the history and lives of the people he encounters. His travels have taken him across North and South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Asia. His previous books include *The Buddha and the Bee*, *UNLOST*, *Embracing Bewilderment*, and *Middle Miles*. In his fifth book, *Mississippi Ramble*, Mortensen recounts a 30-day solo bicycle journey from Minneapolis to New Orleans, tracing the Mississippi River through ten states and centuries of American history. His writing blends the practical challenges and unexpected moments of travel with historical exploration, dry humor, and reflection. Across his work, the journey is never only about reaching the destination; it is also about understanding the places along the way.

LONG BIO · APPROX. 280 WORDS

Cory Mortensen is an award-winning American travel memoir author, entrepreneur, and long-distance cyclist based in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. He writes about journeys that begin with a route on a map and become something larger: encounters with unfamiliar places, unexpected people, and histories that complicate the scenery. His work combines firsthand experience, curiosity, personal reflection, and an appreciation for the absurdities that accompany travel.

Mortensen's adventures have taken him across North and South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Asia. In *The Buddha and the Bee*, he recounts a bicycle journey across the United States. *UNLOST* follows his travels through South America and to Antarctica. *Embracing Bewilderment* moves through Iceland, Scotland, England, and Southeast Asia, while *Middle Miles* chronicles a long-distance ride down the Pacific Coast from Canada toward Mexico. Together, his previous books have received more than 30 literary awards.

His fifth travel memoir, *Mississippi Ramble*, follows a different American route. At 56, Mortensen departed Minneapolis on July 6, 2026, aiming to reach New Orleans by bicycle in thirty days. The ride took him through ten states along the Mississippi River, past historic towns, shifting landscapes, and places shaped by Indigenous cultures, European exploration, commerce, slavery, the Civil War, and generations of river life. The book pairs the physical realities of a solo summer ride with the complicated

history of the country built along the river.

Before and alongside his writing, Mortensen built a career in business and entrepreneurship. That background informs a practical, observant narrative voice, but the heart of his books remains the experience of being out in the world: moving slowly enough to notice what is there, asking questions, and following the story beyond the next bend.

MEDIA CONTACT · cory@corymortensen.com · www.corymortensen.com