

## HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club

# North Puget Sound Favorites

- Dates:** Arrival/Orientation Meeting July 25, 2021 Ride July 26-31, 2021
- Leaders:** Richard Williamson, Dave Olausen; **Sags:** Kathleen Schnidler, Mayoma Pendergast
- Rating:** Intermediate-Advanced ~365 miles with 17,000+ vertical feet climbing
- Riders:** 26 max
- Price:** \$1,600 Deposit \$200, Single Supplement \$2,400 total. Final Payment due April 25, 2021.
- Cancellation:** Revised cancellation policy \$75 fee. [Cancellation policy](#) Travel insurance recommended.



### Overview

We hope you will consider joining us for the North Puget Sound Favorites Tour. We will meet July 25th and ride 6 wonderful days departing July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a spectacular time of year in the Maritime Pacific Northwest. Days are long, predictably sunny and dry. Temperatures usually average from 70-75 degrees, perfect riding weather. Dave and I are biased, but we can't imagine a more ideal place in the US to ride a bicycle this time of year. Rides will range from 40-99 miles with shorter options possible on the long days. There will be an opportunity, but not requirement to do a few longer rides with over 5700 feet of climbing over hilly island roads with spectacular water views. We will ride through the fertile farmland of the Skagit Valley with vistas of the North Cascades and Mount Baker and spend a day in the lovely San Juan Islands. We then will be crossing the famous Deception Pass Bridge to explore the "roads less travelled" on Whidbey Island. With the exception of a few short sections, traffic should be minimal with good road surfaces. This is a wonderful time of year to visit and ride in the Pacific Northwest and we hope you can join us. **We just made an upgrade in our hotel in Anacortes for 4 nights at the Majestic Inn & Spa** (thus the price increase).

## Itinerary

### Sunday July 25th

We will assemble at the Majestic Inn & Spa in Anacortes, WA for the orientation meeting at 7pm that evening. This is the premier hotel built in 1890 with a fantastic location in the heart of Anacortes-near restaurants, shops and brew pubs.

**Day 1:** We will ride out of Anacortes through the farmlands of the North Skagit Valley up the scenic Chuckanut Drive to the college town of Fairhaven, circling back by Lake Samish to Anacortes. Views of the Puget Sound, Mount Baker, the North Cascades and even the Olympic Mountain Range on a clear day. Ride length of 70 miles with 2200 feet of climbing.

**Day 2:** Will see us ride out of Anacortes, across Skagit Valley, through La Conner, over Fir Island and into the foothills east. Farmlands, some forest and lakes, along mostly low volume rural roads will be our day. Ride length will range from 50-70 miles depending on options with just a little over 2000 feet of climbing.

**Day 3:** We will board the Washington State Ferry for a sample of the beautiful San Juan Islands, riding the most rural and traffic friendly Lopez Island, then returning to Anacortes later in the day. Ride length can vary on this day from 25-50 miles with up to 2500 feet of climbing depending on your route. Since we do not have a formal rest day on this tour some may choose to make this a recovery day and just enjoy the lovely views from the ferry and Parks along the way.



**Day 4:** We will leave our Anacortes hotel riding along on Fidalgo Island then across the famous Deception Pass Bridge to tour North Whidbey Island. Following the coastline, enjoying Puget Sound views and low traffic volume roads, ending the day in Oak Harbor where we will stay at the Best Western for 2 nights. Ride length can vary but expect from 50-70 miles with 3-4000 feet of climbing.

**Day 5:** Will see us explore the South end of Whidbey Island with beautiful shoreline views. Ride length of 70 to 99 miles with up to 5750 feet of climbing. This will be a big day and there will be an option to do a shorter version with less climbing. Again we will be riding primarily rural low volume roads with water and mountain views.



**Day 6:** On our last day of riding we will return to Anacortes while further exploring North Whidbey Island and Fidalgo Island. For those with energy remaining the option exists to conquer the short but formidable climb up Mount Erie with some short 18-21% grades with views from the top worth the effort and exertion. This will be a shorter day of 30-50 miles depending on rider option. Departure after lunch or you can opt to stay & enjoy a nice summer evening in Anacortes, hotel night not included in tour.

**For more information contact:**

Richard Williamson at: [richard6a@gmail.com](mailto:richard6a@gmail.com)

Dave Olausen at: [d.olausen@comcast.net](mailto:d.olausen@comcast.net)