

## HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club SPRINGTIME IN FREDERICKSBURG 2022

- Dates:** Orientation meeting Saturday, March 19, 2022. Riding Sunday, March 20 – Friday, March 25, with departure Saturday, March 26 (lodging on Friday night is included).
- Leaders:** Janet Slate and Clare Bena; **SAGs:** Kathleen Schindler and Mayoma Pendergast
- Miles:** 275 miles; 13,345 ft of climbing
- Rating:** Intermediate
- Riders:** 30
- Price:** \$1480 (based on double occupancy). \$400 deposit to register. Single supplement \$2220. Balance due by January 14, 2022.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#). *Travel insurance is strongly advised.*



## OVERVIEW

A fixed-base tour, we'll be spending the week in Fredericksburg, Texas, where they'll be celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary (from May 8, 2021, through May 9, 2022), <https://175th.org/>. Settled by German immigrants, the charming town is known as a fusion of German and Spanish cultures and the unofficial capital of food and wine in the Texas Hill Country. Wildflowers are a real draw. The population of Fredericksburg is ~10,000; it's the county seat of Gillespie County, located 70 miles north of San Antonio and 78 miles west of Austin. We'll stay at the Fredericksburg Inn and Suites, <https://fredericksburg-inn.com/>, located on 5 acres along Barons Creek, just a 5-minute walk from the historic downtown. Places to explore include the Admiral Nimitz Museum, the World War II of the Pacific Museum, numerous art galleries and boutiques, plus wineries and restaurants. Texas Hill Country is home to more than 50 wineries and vineyards as well as a bourbon distillery and 3 craft breweries. The wineries have been producing wines that have won both state and national honors.

As an early season tour, we've got intermediate routes planned. Fredericksburg is in the Hill Country, an area known as the cycling capital of Texas. Average temperatures for March are between the mid 40s to 50s for the lows and the mid and upper 60s to mid 70s for the highs (in degrees Fahrenheit). It's typically dry (precipitation <2 in); average wind speeds are 10–11 mph.

The HeartCycle Sprinter will be supporting our tour with the ability to transport bicycles from the Denver area.

Mileage will be about 275 miles. Climbing for this early season tour will be limited, about 1000 ft per 20 miles (13,345 ft of elevation gain).

We will have one group dinner. The hotel provides continental breakfast. We'll have the usual morning sag stop (aka 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast) and lunch.

Detailed route maps, cue sheets, and GPS files will be provided in advance to tour participants. Routes include the following (several days have options for more riding).

## ITINERARY

Saturday, March 19. If you arrive early on Saturday, we've got a short lollipop loop for you to the west of Fredericksburg (19.3 mi, 925 ft of elevation gain).



Sunday, March 20. Gypsum Mine aka “Little Switzerland” loop—63.6 mi with 3160 ft of elevation gain. The route heads northwest from Fredericksburg through an area that locals refer to as “Little Switzerland” with a bunny ear farther off to the northwest, then heads northeast on a 2.2-mi, smooth packed dirt road; the route then heads southwest back to Fredericksburg—a lot of rollers in store for us on this day.

Monday, March 21. Luckenbach loop—45.6 mi with 1625 ft of elevation gain. This loop makes a circle to the southeast of Fredericksburg. We start off heading southwest, swoop south, then east, continue north then west back to Fredericksburg. Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson referenced Luckenbach in the #1 song, *Luckenbach, Texas (Back to the Basics of Love)*. “Everybody is somebody in Luckenbach” is the town motto. Basically, a ghost town—their ZIP code was retired—Luckenbach holds festivals and hosts tourists like us.

Tuesday, March 22. Enchanted Rock loop—61.0 mi with 3830 ft of elevation gain. Our route loops out to the northwest of Fredericksburg today. We’ve got an out and back (3.5 mi each direction from the loop) to Enchanted Rock State Park, <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock>, a massive, pink granite dome.



Wednesday, March 23. We’ve designated this as a rest day during which you may choose to ride on your own or explore the many sites in and around Fredericksburg.

Thursday, March 24. To the Bat Cave, Robin!—37.8 mi with 1605 ft of elevation gain. This is a southerly loop with an out and back (1.8 mi off the loop) to Old Tunnel State Park, <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/old-tunnel>, famous for its bats. The abandoned railroad tunnel is home to up to 3 million [Mexican free-tailed bats](#) and 3,000 cave myotis (another species of bat).

Friday, March 25. Willow City loop—67.2 mi with 3125 ft of elevation gain. Considered the cycling attraction of the area because of the terrain, views, and wildflowers, our route makes a counterclockwise loop to the northeast of Fredericksburg. The Texas bluebonnet is the state flower, and this area is known for them!

Saturday, March 26. Depart for home or stay longer if you choose.

### **SPECIAL NOTES**

We may mix up the day's routes depending on the weather, but we will ride all of the above routes. Open range, cattle guards, and dips in the road that may have water or wet moss require caution.

### **TOUR LEADERS**

For questions contact:

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