

HeartCycle Touring Club Spring Training in Texas Hill Country 2024

Dates: March 15, 16-22, 2024
Leaders: Jimmy Schroeder, Tina Vessels
SAGS: Kathleen Schindler & Mayoma Pendergast
Rating: Intermediate with Advanced options, 233 - 334 Miles
Riders: 30
Price: \$1900 double occupancy, single supplement \$2850, deposit \$500, balance due December 15, 2023
Cancellation: [Standard cancellation policy](#) Travel insurance is strongly recommended



OVERVIEW

Welcome to Fredericksburg, a delightful blend of German charm and Texas spirit that will transport you back in time! Get ready for an exhilarating spring training experience, as we embark on abundant paved country roads, surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Texas Country's wildflower.

Our goal is to capture the awe-inspiring seasonal wildflowers as we pedal through hilly terrains, meandering county lanes. and picturesque ranch roads. Be prepared for some up-close and personal encounter with the local wildlife: including longhorns, sheep, chickens, pigs and goats as we traverse open-range roads. Jimmy made a rest stop out of a fifteen minute holdup because a longhorn refused to move off the road.



Fredericksburg proudly holds the title of the cycle capital of Texas, where avid riders come to train during the legendary Hell Week. We have plenty of stories for y'all. Don't worry though, we'll be avoiding that intense week.

Our tour will be a fixed-based adventure, with daily rides carefully selected from a weather-dependent list. All bikes welcome including e-bikes and tandems. The sprinter will transport bikes round trip from Denver for \$150. And fear not, each day will begin with a hearty hot breakfast to fuel our cycling

escapades. We will add an extra ten or so unsupported miles on each day if some of your want more adventure.

Our hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of art galleries, charming boutiques, fascinating museums, lively music venues and the renowned restaurant that put Fredericksburg on the culinary map. Our favorite restaurants include Hondo's (the famous founder of Luckenbach), Hill and Vine (very gourmet) and loads of other casual places like Social Haus, The Kitchen, Twisted Sisters Bake Shop and many more. Included in the tour will be a group dinner at a local restaurant.



Recently a refuge for giraffes and rhinos opened ~30 minutes drive outside of Fredericksburg-Longneck Manor. It allows folks to feed the giraffes and scratch a rhino. And don't miss a visit to the National Museum of the Pacific War. You'll have plenty of opportunities to explore and indulge in the local culture.

Sprinkled throughout Texas Hill Country are over 50 wineries and vineyards as well as a bourbon distillery and craft breweries. The wineries have produced a variety of quality wines that have won both state and national honors. Each winery and vineyard has its own distinct personality. Featuring courtyards with spectacular views while others offer quiet patios with lush shade.

Two airports service Fredericksburg. It is 68 miles from San Antonio and 87 miles from Austin Airport to Fredericksburg. For those driving it is ~900 miles from Denver. For those who plan to fly, Tina will setup an email list for you to coordinate transportation from one of the airports.

As we warm up for spring, expect delightful weather with average daily temperatures ranging from 40-70F, ensuring comfortable cycling conditions. The air is dry, setting the stage for an enjoyable and refreshing adventure.

ITINERARY

Friday, March 15, Orientation meeting at 8pm

Day 1: Saturday, March 16 - Gypsum Mine, 34 miles, 1815 ft or 60 miles, 3160 ft.

The Gypsum Mine Summit leads you to an actual Gypsum Mine with visual interest, if not beauty. That mile or so of road will be gypsum, not gravel!



Day 2: Sunday, March 17, Bat Cave, 45 miles, 2100 ft or 63 miles, 2700 ft.

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).



Day 3: Monday, March 18, Luckenbach, 47 miles, 1800 ft or 70 miles, 3100 ft.

Luckenbach Texas, memorialized by Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings.

Day 4: Tuesday, March 19th REST DAY

A day to relax, tour the attractions in and around Fredericksburg.

Day 5: Wednesday March 20 Willow City, 55 miles, 2700 ft or 70 miles, 3300 ft.

The Willow City Loop is the queen of cycling attractions in Gillespie County. Always pretty, the spectacle of the loop peaks during wildflower season in mid/late spring when it glows in a blaze of natural beauty. Along these rides you will find opportunities to visit the famous Gillespie County Country Schools.



Day 6: Thursday, March 21 Enchanted Rock, 55 miles, 3100 ft.

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.

Day 7: Friday March 22, Departure after breakfast

Special Note:

Participants who would like to arrive early or late please contact the hotel directly:

Fredericksburg Inn & Suites
830-997-0202
201 South Washington Street
Fredericksburg TX 78624

Bike storage: If you are shipping your bike, the hotel will store your bike in a secure area until you arrive. Please inform Tina if you are arriving late and need the information left at the front desk.

For more information contact:

Tina Vessels
tina.vessels@gmail.com
303-507-5860

Jimmy Schroeder
jimmyschweb@gmail.com
260-450-2007

