

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club Paso Robles Wine Country

Dates: April 13, 14 - 20, 2024
Leaders: Cindy Alvarez, Helayn Storch
SAGs: Martha MacCormack, Danna Korak
Miles: ~300 miles with up to 19,000 ft.
Rating: Intermediate /Advanced
Riders: 30
Price: \$2000 double occupancy, deposit \$500, single supplement \$3000, balance due January 14, 2024.
Cancellation: Standard [cancellation policy](#) applies. **Travel insurance is strongly recommended.**



OVERVIEW

Paso Robles Wine Country has been one of HeartCycle's most popular fixed-base tours and we hope that you can join us in 2024. Paso Robles, Spanish for "the pass of Oaks", is one of California's fastest growing wine regions. It is approximately halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles and just 30 miles from a beautiful section of the California coastline. Springtime here is a gorgeous time of prolific wildflowers and new vines beginning to bloom.



This area is home to more than 300 wineries, with award-winning wines, and world class restaurants. Many of the wineries are small boutique producers that have vineyards spread out across the countryside. This unique location with its coastal influence, creates a greater day-to-night temperature swing than other California wine regions. This is a perfect environment for the grapes which thrive with a long growing season and diverse soil types. More than 40 wine grape varieties are grown in Paso. In addition to wineries, the area is known for its distilleries, walnut, olive oil, and cheese tasting rooms. Much of our riding is on quiet, windy, rolling back roads through vineyards, farms, and oak lined lanes.

The daily mileage is approximately 50 miles with 2100–4400 ft. of elevation gain. There will be one day off to explore the town or go wine tasting. Since this is fixed base tour, you do not have to ride every day but can choose instead to stay in town. The weather in April averages from a low of 40 to the mid 70's making this a great start to your springtime riding.

Our hotel is one of the newest in Paso Robles and includes a wonderful hot breakfast, a happy hour with one drink included and a snack. It also has an on-site restaurant and lounge, pool, jacuzzi, laundry and workout room. A short walk gets you to Paso Robles' many fine restaurants. The hotel has shuttle service which can be used to travel within 5 miles of the hotel, and to/from the San Luis Obispo airport.

The tour includes snacks and lunch on daily rides, dinner is on your own. There will be one group dinner which is included in your registration fees. Detailed route maps, cue sheets and GPS files will be provided to tour participants. Route miles and climbing are approximate and include the following but may not be in this order. Your last day's lodging is included in the pricing.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday April 13th - Orientation

Day 2: Sunday April 14th - Tobin James winery. 50 miles, 2630 ft.

Today, we head south out of Paso Robles on quiet roads past many of the most popular wineries in the region. The lunch stop will be at Tobin James Winery, giving you a chance for a quick visit and sip. Any wine purchases that you make throughout the tour can be transported back to the hotel on the SAG vehicle. We return to our hotel in Paso Robles through many lovely vineyards on some of the quietest roads in the region. www.tobinjames.com

Day 3: Monday April 15th - Sculpterra Loop, 52 miles, 2600 ft.

We will travel south again today and pass through the town of Santa Margarita. Quiet roads that travel through many vineyards and ranches.

Lunch will be in the small town of Creston and then on to pass by or stop for a tasting at Cass Winery. Our final stop will be at Sculpterra Winery where you will want to spend some time taking in the incredible sculptures that fill the grounds surrounding the winery. Sculpterra features a fine portfolio of ultra-premium wines, fine art and a multimillion-dollar sculpture garden to greet guests and make for a memorable wine tasting experience.



Day 4: Tuesday April 16th - San Andreas Fault, 67 miles, 4170 ft.

There will be a shorter option available today. The full route starts at the hotel. The option is a remote start which takes off 25 miles and 1100 feet of climbing. This is an out and back ride to the Parkfield Ranch and Cafe where we will enjoy a wonderful BBQ lunch. Parkfield is known as the "Earthquake Capital of the World," because the town sits astride the San Andreas Fault and is one of the most heavily studied earthquake areas in the world. You can actually see the fault from your saddle. We will encounter little traffic and many miles of beautiful back roads.



Day 5: Wednesday April 17th, Rest Day

Pasobilitates in and around Paso Robles...

Drive to the coast – Cambria, Morrow Bay, Hearst Castle, Elephant Seals, and more.

Tin City, a collection of small, artisanal producers who have set up shop in repurposed industrial buildings, creating a charming, eclectic mix of tasting rooms, breweries, wineries, and distilleries.

Light at Sensorio features four installations by internationally acclaimed artist Bruce Munro. Field of Light is a multi-acre walk-through experience, <https://sensoriopaso.com/>

Paso Robles City Park with its Carnegie Library, completed in 1908.

Estrella Warbird Air Museum

Paso Robles Pioneer Museum

Or just hang out and enjoy the shops and sites in this charming town.

Much more at <https://www.travelpaso.com/things-to-do/>



Day 6: Thursday April 18th Peachy Canyon, 48 miles, 4400 ft.

(Option to shorten this ride by 13 miles.)

Today's ride takes us west of Paso Robles into rolling hills on quiet back roads lined by ancient oaks. We might see mule deer and wild turkeys. We travel through the Adelaide Wine District and pass many of my favorite wineries on this route including Adelaide, Daou, Halter Ranch, Justin, and Opolo. Our lunch stop is at the Pasolivo Olive Oil Company. Here we can

experience their dedication to a time-honored craft of producing California olive oil, specialty food products, and fine bath and body products. California EVOO produced at the Pasolivo ranch is packed full of taste and flavor. Olive oil from California is among the best in the world, and we will have a chance to do a tasting here. We think you will fall in love with this majestic stop among the towering oaks.



Day 7: Friday April 19th - Cowboy Loop, 42 miles, 2800 ft.

Today we travel about 20 miles south to the small town of Santa Margarita. This will be a remote start. For those who don't have a vehicle we can transport both bikes and peddlers. Our lunch stop today will be at the Vintage Cowboy Winery. Whatever you buy, the SAG vehicle will be there to carry for you. Upon our return to Santa Margarita, you might want to stop into the Ancient Peaks Winery tasting room just down the road from our parking area.



Day 7: Saturday April 20th - San Miguel Loop, 46 miles, 2200 ft.

This routes heads northeast into Hog Canyon and back along the Salinas River, the world's largest underground river, called the "upside down river" by locals. Our ride today takes us to Mission San Miguel Arcángel, where we will have lunch and spend some time. The mission was established on July 25, 1797, put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and named a National Historic Landmark in 2006. This authentic mission is one of the jewels of the California mission chain. The picturesque colonnade that leads to the church contains twelve (12) arches of different sizes and shapes - unique among the California missions. It is rich in vibrantly painted fresco murals. An all-seeing Eye-of-God tops the altar. The expansive cemetery on the east side of the church is one of the largest remaining original mission-era "campo santo" (cemetery). Over 2,000 Indians were buried here. San Miguel has collected an awesome number of mission-era and post mission-era artifacts on display in the museum and on the grounds of the mission. One of the most interesting artifacts which has been preserved is part of a tree trunk which has an embedded cross carved into it. Crosses were carved into trees along "The King Highway" to signal the

approach of a mission. A ride around the full perimeter of the adobe-walled mission will give you a good sense of the scale of the average California mission complexes, many of which are now much reduced in size.

Sunday, April 21st Your last night's stay is included. So today say goodbye to your new friends, gather up your booty of Paso wines and memories and travel on with a smile.

TRAVEL INFO:

Amtrak's Coast Starlight makes stops daily both southbound and northbound in San Luis Obispo. United, American, Delta and Alaska Airlines fly into San Luis Obispo Airport. Hotel shuttle available by reservation.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Electric bicycles, please read the e-bike restrictions and guidelines on the HeartCycle website > Selecting a Tour and E-bike guidelines: <https://www.heartcycle.org/selecting-a-tour>. For those traveling from the Denver, CO area, the Sprinter will be available to transport bicycles to/from Paso Robles.

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