

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club Underground Railroad Year 1

- Dates:** April 27, 28 - May 11, 2024
- Leaders:** Jimmy Schroeder, Ron Finch
- SAGs:** Mayoma Pendergast, Kathleen Schindler
- Rating:** Advanced, 758 miles, 36,000 ft.
- Riders:** 30
- Price:** \$ 2300 double occupancy, single supplement \$3450, deposit \$800, balance due January 28, 2024
- Cancellation:** Standard [cancellation policy](#) applies. **Travel insurance is strongly recommended**



OVERVIEW

HeartCycle's Adventure Series is the brainchild of the venerable Steven Parker. Adventure Cycling has designed many cross country routes. HeartCycle has done many of them in two week increments. It is an incredible commitment to bicycle for two weeks for three to five years, but it is well worth it. Riders on these tours imbed themselves into the spirit of what this country is all about.

HeartCycle has chosen to re-initiate our Adventure Series with Adventure Cycling's Underground Railroad ride over three years. Ron Finch and Jimmy Schroeder are excited to be chosen to lead this. If you've ridden any of Jimmy's rides, this route is right up your alley. The leaders have worked very hard to design the first year. We have designed it to meet the standards for hotel and dining accommodation of HeartCycle along with ensuring airline services at the beginning and the end of the tour.

This first year includes Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee; starting in Mobile, AL and ending in Nashville, TN. encompassing geography that most of us in HeartCycle may not have experienced. Please join us on this two week adventure. You are sure to learn a few things as we did along the way.

Airline service at the Mobile Regional Airport (MOB) includes American, Delta, and United. Ron and Bev will be driving the HeartCycle Sprinter to Mobile, so be sure to pay and reserve a spot for your bike in the van. Remember that this is a one way tour!

There are many books to read about the Underground Railroad. There is also a 12 part series on Amazon Prime and is based on a Pulitzer Prize Winner novel written by Colson Whitehead. Note: there is not a railroad!

ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, April 27th - Orientation

Day 2: Sunday, April 28th - 48 miles, 1314 ft.

A tour of downtown Mobile, some antebellum homes, Africatown, the USS Alabama and great views as we cross Mobile Bay, the last Civil War battlefield, and a stop at a Veteran Cemetery.





Day 3: Monday, April 29th - 65 miles, 3023 ft.

We leave the gulf coast and head north with this pure water spring at our morning stop.



Day 4: Tuesday, April 30th - 62 miles, 2625 ft.

We pass through countless pine forests and cross the Alabama River.



Day 5: Wednesday, May 1st - 71 miles, 2877 ft.

Welcome to plantation country, so they say. Today will be a trek to reach the next lodging spot. Green everywhere you look. We'll be staying outside Demopolis, a very historical city. 94 mi, 4389 ft



Day 6: Thursday, May 2nd - Rest Day

Kick back and relax! OR Ride around the very historic town of Demopolis. It is known as the plantation city. Check out Gaineswood and Bluff Hall or take a boat ride on Lake Demopolis and the Tombigbee River.



Day 7: Friday, May 3rd - 93 miles, 3135 ft.

Back to work! A long day but this might just be one of your favorite days. Flat, quiet roads and scenic. A perfect cycling day and we cross into Mississippi!



Day 8: Saturday, May 4th - 60 miles, 2260 ft.

Down here, Blues is big. Maybe you heard some in Columbus last night. Well, today we travel along some of the Mississippi Blues Trail and have lunch at a lock/dam recreation area.



Day 9: Sunday, May 5th - 73 miles, 3000 ft.

We travel north up along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, including a nice bike path along this lock and dam system. A nice recreational area to bicycle in. Booneville is indeed in the boonies!



Day 10: Monday, May 6th - 71 miles, 2700 ft.

Toward the end of the ride we'll be skirting through the south end of the Civil War Shiloh Battlefield and our afternoon stop at the Visitor Center on the north end.



Day 11th: Tuesday, May 7th - Rest Day

A well deserved day off in Savannah, Tennessee! Go back to the Shiloh Battlefield. Also, The Tennessee River Museum and US Grant's Cherry Mansion.



Day 12: Wednesday, May 8th - 51 miles, 2800 ft.

We are staying east of the Tennessee River as we roll through more farmland and forest most of the day. Lunch in hospitable Collinwood, skirt by the Natchez Trace and finally scream down to Waynesboro.



Day 13: Thursday, May 9th - 60 miles, 2895 ft.

Today we head east for 10 miles and hop onto the Natchez Trace. There will be a few sites to stop at along the way. After lunch we turn onto Mt. Joy Road and climb "Mount Joy" before heading into Columbia.



Day 14: Friday, May 10th - 58 miles, 3900 ft.

We inch closer to Nashville as we will be on the Natchez Trace Parkway. We leave the Trace passing through Liepers Fork and enter historic Franklin with a possible stop at a Civil war museum. Then through busy Franklin to our Hampton inn near I-65.



Day 15: Saturday, May 11th - 47 miles, 3151 ft.

We head back to Leipers Fork the same way through Franklin. We continue our trek on the Natchez Trace all the way to the outskirts of Nashville. Time to relax and be a tourist. Lunch at Loveless Cafe, Belle Meade, the Parthenon, and downtown. Group dinner at Pucketts and then Broadway!

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