

**HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club**  
**Adventure Series – Underground Railroad**  
**Year 2 – Memphis TN to Lawrenceburg IN (Cincinnati OH area)**

- Dates:** Saturday, May 10, 2025 – 8 pm orientation meeting. Riding Sunday, May 11 – Saturday, May 24. Depart Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport Sunday, May 25, 2025 (lodging last night included).
- Leaders:** Jimmy Schroeder and Ron Finch; **SAGs:** Mayoma Pendergast and Kathleen Schindler
- Miles:** 785–790 miles and ~33,150 feet of elevation gain over 12 ride days plus 2 rest days. Daily rides average 65 miles and 2,760 feet of elevation gain. The longest ride is 77 miles.
- Rating:** Intermediate-Advanced
- Riders:** 26
- Price:** \$3,500 (double occupancy). Deposit \$850 at registration. Balance due by February 9, 2025. Single supplement (solo or with non-riding partner): \$5,250.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#)

***Travel insurance is strongly recommended.***

## **OVERVIEW**

Join us as we embark on the second year of the three-year Underground Railroad Adventure Series. This 2-week leg of the tour takes us from Memphis TN to Lawrenceburg IN/Cincinnati OH along the historic Underground Railroad (UGRR) offering a journey rich in natural beauty and profound history. We start 2025 in historic Memphis, home of Beale Street, ribs, the National Civil Rights Museum at Lorraine Hotel, and the Slave Haven Museum. Pedaling through the lush landscapes of the Ohio River Valley in Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana, the tour weaves through rolling hills, serene countryside, and dense forests that once served as critical hiding places for those seeking freedom. Each mile brings you closer to understanding the immense courage and resilience of the individuals who traveled this path. The route is dotted with historical markers and preserved safe houses, providing opportunities to reflect on the past while enjoying the present-day tranquility of the surroundings.

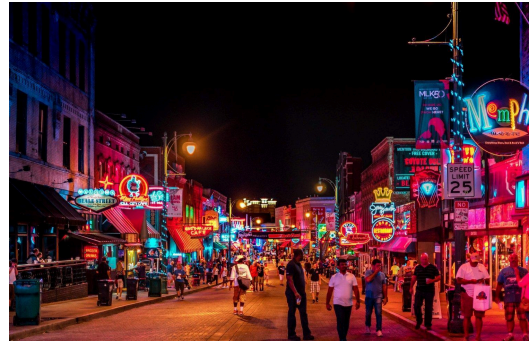
As we move upriver the terrain shifts, offering a mix of challenging climbs and exhilarating descents. The journey is punctuated by charming small towns and vibrant cities, each with their own stories connected to the Underground Railroad. This tour provides not only great biking but a deep dive into the rich tapestry of American history and the enduring spirit of freedom. The local economies on the year-2 route also afford upgraded hotels. Rest days and group dinners are scheduled in the charming town of Paducah KY, and Louisville KY, home of baseball and bourbon. If you missed year-1, please join for year-2 as we continue the journey north to Canada.

## ITINERARY

### **Day 0: Saturday, May 10, 2025**

#### *Orientation in Memphis TN*

Recommend arriving as early as possible to take in the Memphis sites.



### **Day 1: Sunday, May 11**

#### **Memphis TN to Covington TN**

*69 miles and 2,648 ft of elevation gain*

A tour of downtown Memphis while it sleeps on Sunday morning and a stop at Slave Haven, then upriver to Covington TN.

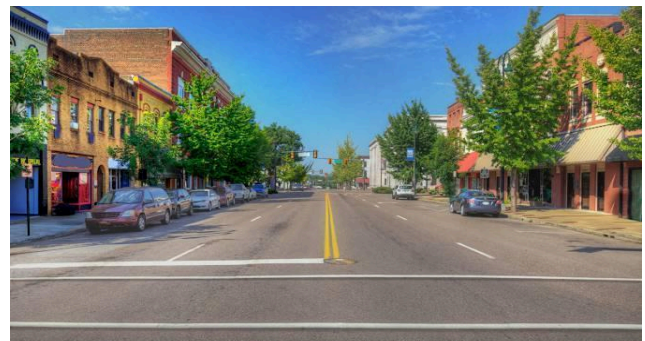


### **Day 2: Monday, May 12**

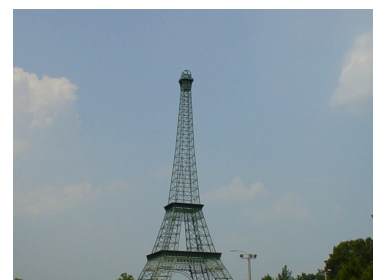
#### **Covington TN to Jackson TN**

*62 miles and 1,908 ft of elevation gain*

We head east from the river to “Hub City,” Jackson TN, home of rockabilly. Download an app to take a tour of the UGRR sites in Jackson where defiant newspapers pounded out antislavery editorials, an 1850s era Romanesque Revival church founded by UGRR agents, and Under the Oaks Park, where abolitionists helped to birth a political revolution.



### **Day 3: Tuesday, May 13**



## **Jackson to Paris TN**

*77 miles and 3,922 ft of elevation gain*

This is the longest day on the tour. We pass a replica of the Eiffel Tower in Paris TN.

## **Day 4: Wednesday, May 14**

### **Paris TN to Barkley Lake KY**

*73 miles and 4,000 ft of elevation gain*

An optional 5-mile extension enables you to tour historic Fort Donelson. We stay at the Barley Lake Resort, an event center in the state park on the lakeshore. Numerous activities are available for those with extra energy. Located in the “land between the lakes,” this is a very scenic section of the tour.



## **Day 5: Thursday, May 15**

### **Barkley Lake KY to Paducah KY**

*64 miles and 3,027 ft of elevation gain*

We ride through the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area and head back to the Ohio River at Paducah.



## **Day 6: Friday, May 16**

### **Rest Day in Paducah KY**

A UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art and on the National Register of Historic Places for its historic architecture and emblems, Paducah is an artsy town on the river, full of Southern charm. The compact downtown makes seeing the sites a breeze. Have lunch, pick up some handcrafted goodies from a diverse collection of art collectives and galleries, plus see the National Quilt Museum.

## **Day 7: Saturday, May 17**

### **Paducah KY to Cave in the Rock Park IL**





*67 miles and 2,310 ft of elevation gain*

A cool ferry takes riders across the Ohio River to Illinois to stay at the Cave in the Rock State Park. Bungalows overlook the Ohio River where an episode of the old Daniel Boone TV show was filmed.

**Day 8: Sunday, May 18**

**Cave in the Rock Park IL to Henderson KY**

*67 miles and 3,001 ft of elevation gain*

A return ferry and country roads take us upriver to Henderson KY. We will organize shuttles to the nearby Audubon Museum and nature center.



**Day 9: Monday, May 19**

**Henderson KY to Tell City IN**

*74 miles and 1,368 ft of elevation gain*

A relatively flat day rolling up the Ohio River Valley, we cross the river to stay at Tell City (heads up).



**Day 10: Tuesday, May 20**

**Tell City IN to Brandenburg KY**

*57 miles and 3,219 ft of elevation gain*

We spend another day rolling up the Ohio River Valley. Recommend dinner down by the river at the Jailhouse Pizza.



**Day 11: Wednesday, May 21**

**Brandenburg KY to Louisville KY**

*51 miles and 2,288 ft of elevation gain*

We ride north to Corydon IN, just as Confederate General Morgan did in the Civil War at Indiana's first capitol.



**Day 12: Thursday, May 22**

**Rest Day in Louisville KY**

We will be staying in downtown Louisville, just right for enjoying a day off in a city voted one of the Best Places to Travel in 2024.

**Day 13: Friday, May 23**

**Louisville Ky to Madison IN**

*73 miles and 3,053 ft of elevation gain*

Back to rustic Indiana with a lunch stop at once-abolitionist Eleutherian College. They will be open especially for us.

Then a well-deserved descent brings the tour into the picturesque river town of Madison IN. We will be staying at a hotel that is a restored cotton mill located in the old downtown on the river, where the views are amazing.



**Day 14: Saturday, May 24**

**Madison IN to Lawrenceburg IN**

*52 miles and 2,408 ft of elevation gain*

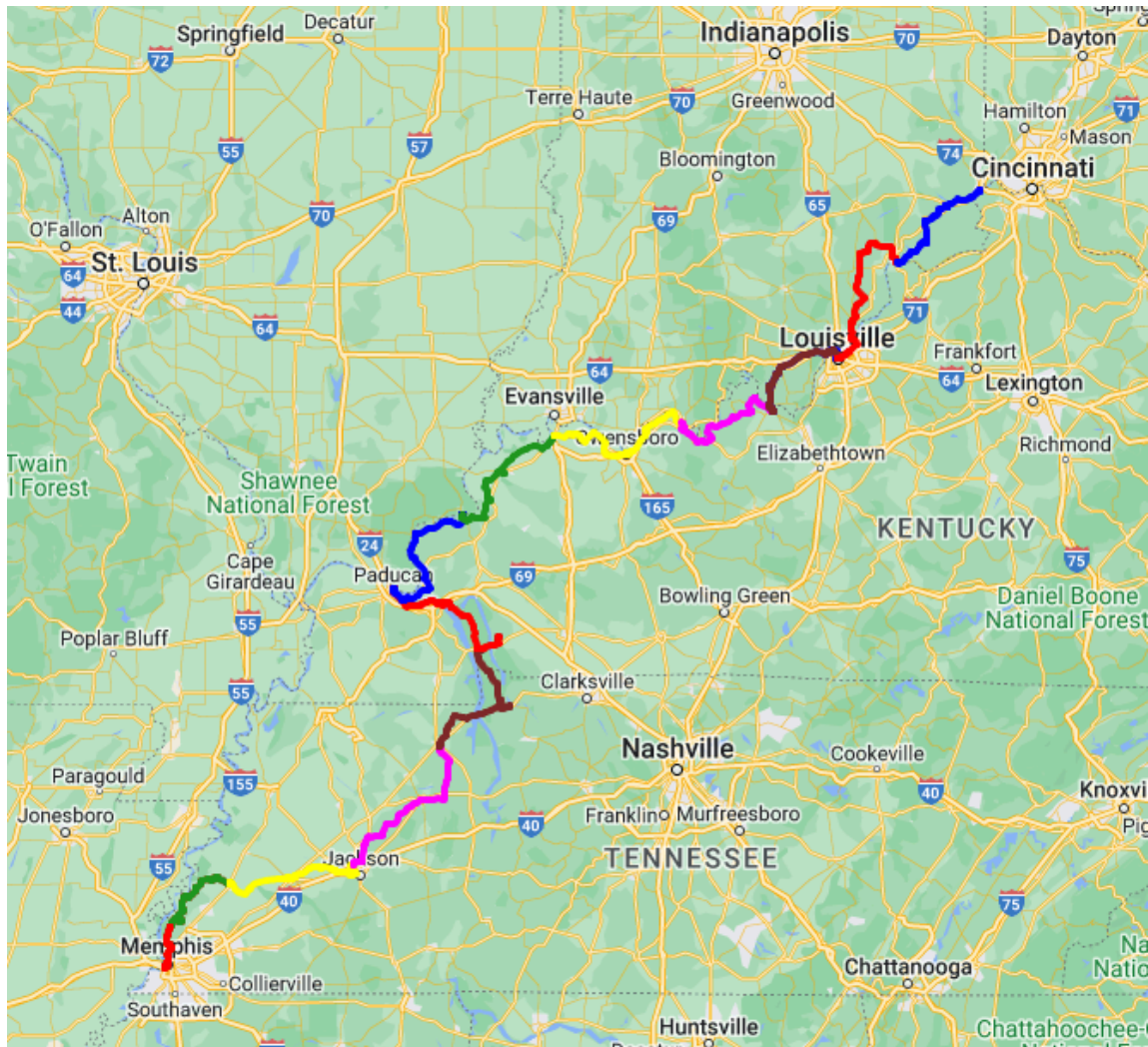
A final ride up the river to the resort town of Lawrenceburg IN. We have the final night on tour next to the river in this charming casino town.



**Day 15: Sunday, May 25**

Departure Day: Located in the Cincinnati tri-state area, Lawrenceburg is a 20-minute drive across the river to the Cincinnati airport in Northern Kentucky

**Year 2 of the Underground Railroad tour - Memphis to Cincinnati**



**For more information contact:**

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