

## HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club

### Northern New Mexico – Los Alamos and Santa Fe

- Dates:** Orientation meeting Friday, June 26, 2026. Riding Saturday, June 27–29 (Los Alamos), June 30–July 1 (Santa Fe), with departure on Thursday, July 2 (lodging last night included).
- Leaders:** Alan Church and Clare Bena; **SAGs:** Mayoma Pendergast and Kathleen Schindler
- Miles:** 155–175 miles and 11,470–14,032 feet of elevation gain. Daily mileage 35–50 miles, 2500–3600 feet daily elevation
- Rating:** Intermediate  
<https://www.heartcycle.org/tour-ratings>
- Riders:** 28
- Price:** \$1,600 (double occupancy). \$400 due at registration. Balance due by March 28, 2026. Single supplement \$2,400.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#)

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

#### OVERVIEW

Join us for 5 days of cycling in and around the historic and cultural cities of Los Alamos and Santa Fe, New Mexico. This semi-fixed based tour will begin in Los Alamos and after a few days of riding, transfer to Santa Fe for the remainder of the tour.



Los Alamos is home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the historic Manhattan Project where J. Robert Oppenheimer and his team of scientists created the first atomic bomb. You'll not only experience the history of this site but also the scenic beauty that makes Los Alamos so attractive for today's top scientists.

Of course, no tour in Northern New Mexico would be complete without a visit to the nation's oldest and highest (altitude-wise) state capital, Santa Fe. We'll

spend three nights just a stone's throw from the historic Santa Fe Plaza with shopping and dining experiences that are second to none.

This tour is designed to give you a taste of cycling in Northern New Mexico while still allowing you plenty of time to tour, visit museums, and take in the sites and culture.

Please note that despite popular belief, New Mexico is not all desert. This entire tour takes place at altitudes between 6500 and 9000 feet. Cool crisp mornings and warmer afternoons are typical for this time of year.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Day 0: Friday, June 26, 2026**

Check in to the Holiday Inn Express in Los Alamos. The orientation meeting will be at 5:00 PM in the breakfast area near the hotel lobby.

### **Day 1: Saturday, June 27**

#### **Jemez Mountains/Valles Caldera**

*34 miles and 3588 feet of elevation gain*

This out-and-back ride will take us up into the scenic Jemez Mountains above Los Alamos. There's no real destination—just a pretty ride through pine forests, aspen-covered meadows, and views of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (<https://www.nps.gov/vall/index.htm>). A quick descent back into town will allow you the opportunity to tour Los Alamos, visit the Bradbury Science Museum (<https://www.lanl.gov/engage/bradbury>), and/or the Los Alamos History Museum (<https://losalamoshistory.org/>), both of which will leave you with a lasting impression of what life was like during the Manhattan Project.

### **Day 2: Sunday, June 28**

#### **Lab Loop**

*40 miles and 2894 feet of elevation gain*

Today's ride is a loop around the Los Alamos National Laboratory, a local favorite. You'll get a feel for the secluded nature of the Laboratory as we pass by multiple Technical Areas (TAs) where much of the work that takes place today is classified. We'll descend into and out of multiple canyons and across the Pajarito Plateau as we make our way to our lunch stop at Overlook Park in White Rock. Take in the views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Rio

Grande Valley before a short climb leads us back into Los Alamos where we'll have a private group dinner at a local restaurant.

### **Day 3: Monday, June 29 – Transfer to Santa Fe**

Today, we have three options as we relocate to Santa Fe.

#### **Option #1 – Pajarito Mountain Climb**

*20 miles and 2562 feet of elevation gain*

This ride is what we call a “quality” vs. “quantity” ride. It’s a short out-and-back ride, but the climb will definitely get you out of the saddle. The rewards are spectacular vistas of the entire Rio Grande Valley stretching from the Colorado border all the way to Albuquerque, stunning views of the Jemez Mountains surrounding Los Alamos, and of course, an absolutely screaming descent!

#### **Option #2 – Group hike through Canada Bonita/Pajarito Mountain**

As the name implies, this 4-mile hike takes us out to a “pretty glen.” This hike is out and back from the base of Pajarito Mountain Ski Area (elevation 9,200 ft). Since we will drive to the trailhead up the same road as those who choose to ride, you will also get to experience the same spectacular views just without all of the heavy breathing!



#### **Option #3 – Rest day/tour day**



Take a day to further look around Los Alamos or head over to Bandelier National Monument

(<https://www.nps.gov/band/index.htm>).

Explore the park’s visitor center, view the historic sites, and have a snack next to a peaceful stream. This is an absolutely gorgeous area with stunning canyon walls and wildlife around every corner.

Of course, you can always hike on your own or perhaps head down to Santa Fe to get a jump on your shopping. Santa Fe is a short 45-minute drive from Los Alamos. Check-in time at our Santa Fe hotel will not be until 4:00PM, so take your time and enjoy the area.

#### **Day 4: Tuesday, June 30**

##### **Las Campanas Loop**

*35 miles and 2535 feet of elevation gain*

Today's ride is intended to give you a flavor for Santa Fe by touring around the outskirts of town over piñon-covered hills with grand views in all directions. We'll head north out of town and descend into the Village of Tesuque. A short climb takes us west through the exclusive area of Las Campanas. Lunch will be at a local park leaving the afternoon open for you to explore the town, tour museums, or shop for that elusive piece of Native American jewelry.

#### **Day 5: Wednesday, July 1**

##### **Bonanza Creek/La Cienega Loop**

*46 miles and 2453 feet of elevation gain*

Today, we head south on the Old Pecos Trail and work our way out to Bonanza Creek. This area has been used to film many western movies over the years and is a favorite loop ride for local cyclists. We extend the loop and enter the Village of La Cienega where we'll pause at El Rancho de Las Golondrinas. This outdoor living history museum is dedicated to preserving the cultural traditions of New Mexico with exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences. We finish the ride with an urban jaunt back into town where the last night at our hotel is included in the price of the tour.





## **Day 6: Thursday, July 2**

Departure day. Safe travels!

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

- The nearest airport to Los Alamos is Santa Fe Regional Airport. Should you choose to fly, you will be responsible for your transportation to the start of the tour in Los Alamos. HeartCycle will provide the return transportation back to Santa Fe.
- For those driving to the tour, Los Alamos is approximately 6 hours from Denver. You will be responsible for shuttling your vehicle and bike to Santa Fe on our transfer day.
- If you choose to arrive in Los Alamos prior to the start of the tour, please be aware that dining options are limited, especially on weekend nights.
- Santa Fe is approximately a 45-minute drive from Los Alamos.
- Photography and/or video recording of any kind is NOT PERMITTED on the Los Alamos National Laboratory property.

### **For more information contact:**

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