

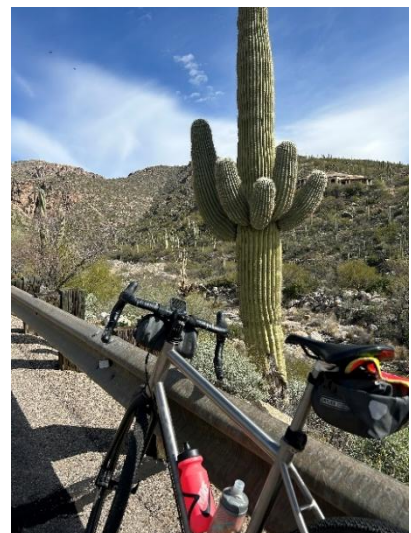
HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club Springtime in Southeastern Arizona— Deserts, Forests, and Grasslands

- Dates:** Orientation meeting Friday, March 12, 2027. Riding Saturday, March 13–Saturday, March 20, with departure on Sunday, March 21; lodging on March 20 is included.
- Leaders:** Patty Menz, Jimmy Schroeder;
SAGs: Mayoma Pendergast, Kathleen Schindler
- Rating:** Intermediate
heartcycle.org/tour-ratings
- Distance/gain:** Approximately 390 miles with up to 18,100 feet of elevation gain
- Riders:** 28 (including leaders)
- Price:** \$3,100 (double occupancy). \$800 is due at registration. Balance due December 12, 2026. Single supplement: +\$1,600.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#)

Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

OVERVIEW

Beat those winter blues and join us for springtime temperatures and scenic cycling in beautiful Southeastern Arizona. Temperatures in Southeastern Arizona in March range from 50 to 75 degrees. This tour will be multi-base (more than 1 night at some lodging) with stays at three different hotels. We will use the extensive Tucson Loop bike paths to avoid city traffic at the beginning and end of each ride. We'll experience several biospheres including the Sonoran Desert, mountain forests, and high grasslands—taking in an assortment of vegetation including the iconic saguaro as well as prickly pear, yucca and barrel cacti. This unique and variable scenery makes for beautiful cycling.





The tour visits the east and west sections of Saguaro National Park, and on the day off, you will have the opportunity to visit the Sonoran Desert Museum, <https://www.desertmuseum.org/>. A private tour of the Titan Missile Museum, <https://titanmissilemuseum.org/>, is included in the tour price.

ITINERARY

Day 0: Friday, March 12, 2027

Arrival in Tucson, AZ. Orientation meeting. We will be staying in Tucson at [The Eddy Hotel](#) for several nights. Our hotel in the Catalina Foothills offers plenty of gathering spaces for mingling both inside and out, a bar, pool and jacuzzi, and a shuffleboard for some fun competition.

Day 1: Saturday, March 13

Oro Valley

47 miles and 1,823 feet of elevation gain

This ride will take us over some rolling hills through neighborhoods with homes of varying architecture combining Spanish, Native American, and Mexican influences. Enjoy views of the western Catalina Mountains. We



will return to our hotel using the Santa Clara River bikeway, one of the bike paths in the extensive system the Tucson area has to offer.



Day 2: Sunday, March 14

Mt Lemmon

51 miles and 3,381 feet of elevation gain



Mount Lemmon, one of the top-rated climbs in North America, is a well-known training area for many professional cyclists. Since our tour is early in the season, our climb will take us to 5,100 feet elevation of the 9,171-foot summit. A

bump in the Sprinter is always available. Ascend through changing landscapes from Sonoran Desert scrub to oak woodland and at higher elevations, pine and ponderosa forest.

Day 3: Monday, March 15
Saguaro National Park West
54 miles and 2,551 feet of elevation



We will use the bike path to cycle west of Tucson today. The route will take us over Gates Pass, at 3,169 feet, along the crest of the Tucson Mountains. Our SAG stop will be at the Saguaro National Park West Visitor Center.

Day 4: Tuesday, March 16
Day off



Enjoy a well-earned rest day. A shuttle will be available to the Sonora Desert Museum. Other options include taking a Lyft to Old Tucson or the Pima Air and Space Museum, hiking in the Catalina Foothills, visiting University of Arizona, or relaxing at the hotel.

Day 5: Wednesday, March 17

Tucson to Sonoita

55 miles and 3,078 feet of elevation

We depart Tucson along bike paths and cycle through Cactus Forest Scenic Drive, a spectacular rolling and winding 8-mile loop in Saguaro National Park East. We continue along the Old Spanish Trail and have lunch at La Posta Quemada Ranch. We



finish the day by shuttle to avoid a busy highway, then spend the next two nights at the Sonoita Inn where we'll take over the entire inn.

Day 6: Thursday, March 18

Parker Canyon Lake (out and back)

58 miles and 4,228 feet of elevation



Today's route will take us on a sparsely traveled road to Parker Canyon Lake. We will ride through high grasslands and continue into Coronado National Forest. Our lunch spot will be at Parker Canyon Lake.

Day 7: Friday, March 19

Sonoita to Green Valley

63 miles and 1,504 feet of elevation



We will ride southwest toward Nogales, near the Mexican border, then head north for lunch at Tumacácori National Historical Park, home to a Spanish mission founded in 1691. After passing by Tubac, an artists' colony, we will finish our ride at **Canoa Ranch Resort** on the south end of Green

Valley where we will enjoy our group dinner at Grill on the Green.

Day 8: Saturday, March 20

Green Valley to Tucson

64 miles and 1,525 feet of elevation

We begin the day with a private guided tour of the Titan Missile Museum. From there, we ride past open-pit copper mines to our lunch stop at Mission San Xavier del Bac, <https://sanxaviermission.org>, a historic Spanish Catholic mission. We then return to Tucson on bike paths.



Day 9: Sunday, March 21

We depart Tucson with early-season miles, memorable experiences, and new or renewed friendships.



SPECIAL NOTES:

- Tires 28-mm or wider are recommended to make your ride more comfortable on rougher roads, though not required.
- Front and rear lights are strongly recommended.
- The Sprinter will be transporting bicycles from Denver for \$150 (roundtrip). A lottery will be conducted if necessary.
- Breakfast included each morning: 7 full breakfasts, 2 continental breakfasts.
- Before registering with an e-bike or tandem, review the FAQ entry, *Are e-bikes and tandems allowed on HeartCycle tours?*

<https://www.heartcycle.org/frequently-asked-questions>

For more information contact:

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