

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club

Willamette Valley, Oregon, Cruise—Wine and Sights

- Dates:** Orientation meeting Sunday, July 11, 2027. Riding Monday, July 12–Friday, July 16. Departure is on Saturday, July 17 (lodging last night included).
- Leaders:** Mike Bresko, Janet Slate;
SAGs: Mayoma Pendergast, Kathleen Schindler
- Rating:** Intermediate (two easy and three intermediate days). There are no extreme grades. heartcycle.org/tour-ratings
- Distance/gain:** Approximately 225 miles and 7,800 feet of elevation gain; hardest day is 53 miles and 2,700 feet of gain while easiest is 37 miles and 1,000 feet.
- Riders:** 30 (not including leaders)
- Price:** \$1,800 (double occupancy). \$500 due at registration. Balance due by April 12, 2027. Single supplement +\$900.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#)

Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

OVERVIEW

The Willamette Valley Cruise is for riders who enjoy daily sightseeing events with moderate distances and flat-to-moderate elevation gain each day. The routes are beginner and tandem friendly. The Willamette Valley is some of Oregon's most beautiful countryside and a cyclist's dream. Riders will enjoy quiet and scenic backroads and paved bike paths that wind through fertile farmland, world-class wine country, river valleys with ferries and covered bridges, and forested hills and waterfalls.

The tour starts and ends in the quaint and historic town of McMinnville with its tree-lined



streets, and locally owned restaurants, cafes, and tasting rooms. Each day's ride features different sights: day 1, Oregon Garden; day 2, Silver Falls State Park; day 3, Covered Bridges; day 4, ferry ride, winery, and nature reserve; day 5, another winery and an aerospace museum featuring the Spruce Goose.

ITINERARY

Day 0: Sunday, July 11, 2027

McMinnville

Orientation meeting.

Day 1: Monday, July 12

McMinnville to Silverton (Oregon Garden)

36 miles and 1,300 feet of elevation gain

After departing McMinnville, we travel pleasant roads to Silverton where we will stay at the **Oregon Garden Resort** located at **The Oregon Garden**, an 80-acre botanical garden showcasing the diversity of the Pacific Northwest through 20 specialty gardens.



Day 2: Tuesday, July 13

Silverton/Oregon Garden to Albany

54 miles and 2,700 feet of elevation gain



Soon after departing Oregon Garden Resort, we'll begin a steady but gentle 8-mile climb of about 1,300 feet as we head to Silver Falls State Park, considered a crown jewel of the Oregon park system. While in the park, we will ride on a quiet bike path through a pine forest and walk behind a waterfall. As we leave the park, we'll enjoy a nice downhill run, then flat country roads to our hotel.

Day 3: Wednesday, July 14

Albany to Corvallis

57 miles and 1,100 feet of elevation gain

Today, we will weave along gently rolling countryside east of Albany. The route features covered bridges, including the 90-foot-long Hoffman Covered Bridge, considered one



of the most photogenic bridges in the Willamette Valley. We'll end the day with a straight shot west into Corvallis. Cyclists who desire an easy day may ride an 11-mile, basically flat, unsupported route between Albany and Corvallis.

Day 4: Thursday, July 15

Corvallis to Salem

47 miles and 1,800 feet of elevation gain



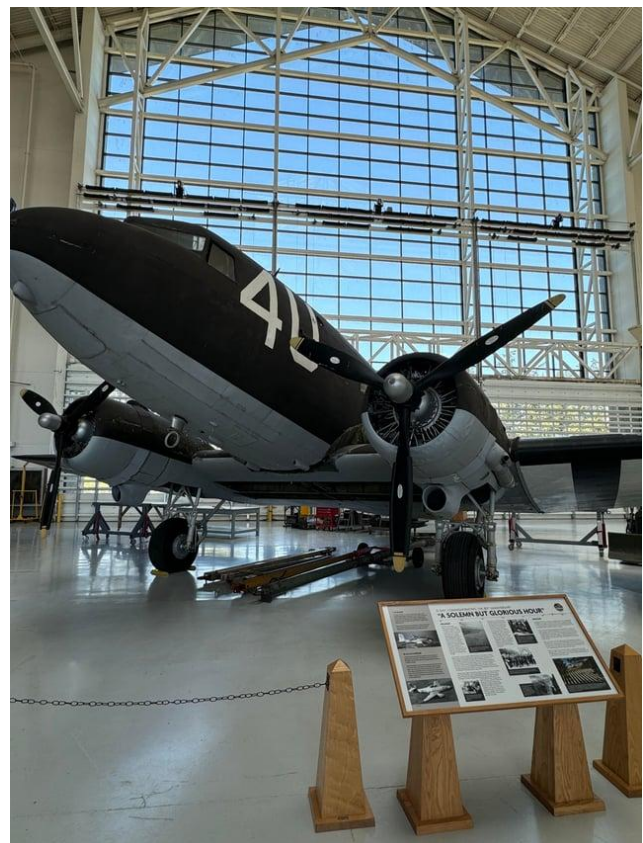
We'll generally follow the Willamette River northward today. We will cross the river via the Buena Vista Ferry, a small, 6-vehicle capacity ferry guided by an overhead cable system. Our route into Salem includes a stop at a winery, an opportunity to stop at a bird reserve, and at River Park in Salem.

Day 5: Friday, July 16

Salem to McMinnville

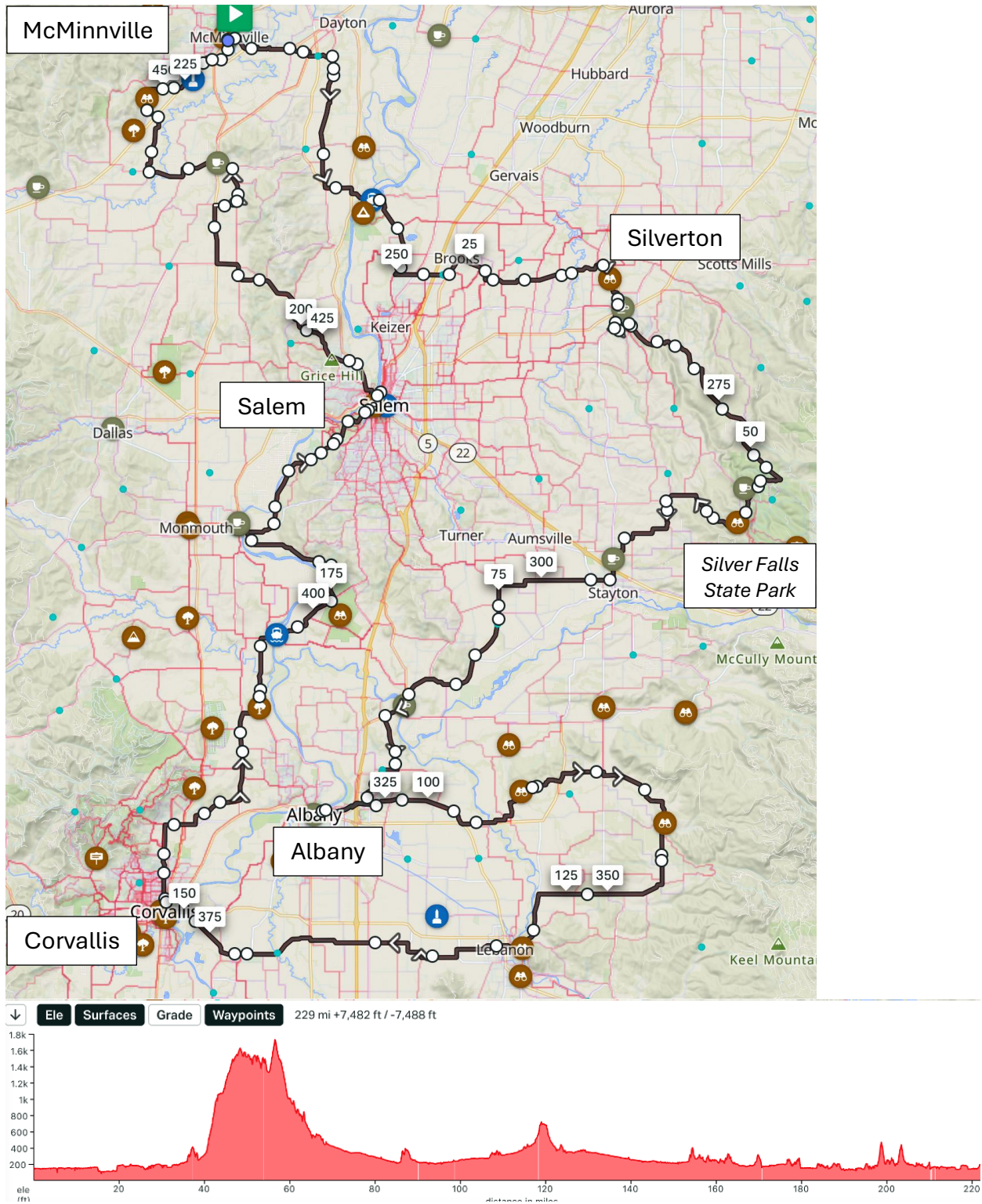
37 miles and 1,000 feet of elevation gain

We will enjoy an easy last day of cycling as we make our way back to McMinnville. Our route will include stops at a winery and the North American Aerospace Museum, one of the premier aviation museums in the country, home of the huge Spruce Goose, and over 150 aircraft and spacecraft exhibits (included in tour fee). Lodging is included and we will have a chance to enjoy the quaint tree-lined streets and locally owned shops in McMinnville.



Day 6: Saturday, July 17

Depart for your next adventure.





SPECIAL NOTES:

- For those traveling from the Denver metro area, the Sprinter will be available to transport bicycles (\$150 roundtrip). A lottery may be needed if demand exceeds available space.
- Electric bicycles and tandems, please read the answer to the FAQ: *Are e-bikes and tandems allowed on HeartCycle tours?*
<https://www.heartcycle.org/frequently-asked-questions>

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