

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club

Tucson Town and Country 2019

- Dates:** Arrive Saturday in Tucson, March 2; Ride March 3-9; Depart Sunday March 10
- Orientation:** Saturday, March 2 at 5:00 PM
- Leaders:** Tina Vessels and Rich Crocker; SAGs Carol Nies and Kathleen Schindler
- Rating:** Intermediate (with extra climbing options)
- Riders:** 30 max (plus 2 leaders and 2 SAGs)
- Price:** \$1470.00 (double occupancy), \$400 at registration, balance due Jan 2, 2019.
Single supplement fee is \$735.00.

Travel Insurance is strongly recommended.

Explore the Sonoran Desert and historic sites in southeast Arizona during this warm, early season tour. The weather at this time of year is sunny with an average low of 50 degrees and an average high of 75 degrees. Join Tina, Rich, Carol and Kathleen for a relaxed opportunity for early season riding, good food, and fun. The first three days of riding will be based in Tucson and use the Loop bike path to go north to Oro Valley, west to Saguaro NP west, and east to Mt. Lemmon. We then head south through Saguaro National Park East to Sonoita for two nights. After an out and back ride to Parker Canyon Lake, we head south towards Nogales and pick up the historic De Anza Trail at Rio Rico and ride through Tubac to Green Valley. The final day we will visit the Titan II Missile Museum, then head to the Mission San Xavier del Boc and our return to Tucson.

A limited number of bicycles may be transported from Denver and back for a \$100.00 fee.

Saturday March 2 Arrival and orientation meeting at 5:00 PM

Sunday March 3 - Tuesday March 5

Oro Valley: 48 miles/1600 feet A little bit of everything on this loop ride as we ride through rural neighborhoods into suburban Oro Valley with great views of the western Catalina Mountains. Oro Valley is a bike friendly town with excellent bike paths and wide lanes. We finish along the Santa Clara River bike way.

Mount Lemmon: 51 miles/3181 feet This out and back ride heads east toward Mt. Lemmon along the Loop path, then begins a gentle slope up Catalina Highway to the base of the mountain. This is one of the top rated climbs in North America, but we'll only be going up 9 miles to 5100 feet elevation. We will see three different ecosystems and have great views in all directions. Options for both more or less climbing are possible.

Saguaro NP West: 45 mile/2005 feet This loop ride takes us over Gates Pass through Tucson Mountain Park into the desert past the Old Tucson movie park and the Arizona - Sonoran Desert Museum. We ride along the edge of Saguaro National Park West and return on rural roads and the Santa Clara bike way.

Wednesday, March 6 - 55 miles/3150 feet We depart Tucson to do the eight mile loop in Saguaro National Park East (www.nps.gov/sagu) and continue along the Old Spanish Trail to lunch at La Posta Quemada Ranch. There will be a short shuttle to Sonoita at the end of the ride.

Thursday, Mar 7 - 57 miles/4250 feet This is an out and back to Parker Canyon Lake. A rolling ride through Sonoran foothills on good pavement and very little traffic. For extra miles and climbing there is an option to ride Canelo Road to the west gate of Fort Hauchuca.

Friday, March 8 - 70 miles/450 feet From Sonoita we start southwest through Patagonia towards Nogales, and then turn north to the Tumacacori National Historic Park (www.nps.gov/tima) where we will visit a Spanish mission site that began in 1691. We will ride a short distance on Interstate 19 which has wide, safe shoulders to pass through the Border Patrol control point. Before we finish the day in Green Valley, we visit Tubac, an artist colony and site of the Tubac Presido State Historic Park (www.tubacaz.com). An advanced option for additional mileage and climbing will be to ride up Madera Canyon at the conclusion of the day's scheduled ride.

Saturday, March 9 - 48 miles/1200' vertical Our last day of riding starts in Green Valley, where we have an early morning opportunity to tour the Titan II Missile Museum (www.titanmissilemuseum.org) before riding through the San Xavier Indian Reservation to the San Xavier Mission Church (www.sanxaviermission.org). After lunch at the mission, we ride back to our hotel and will enjoy a farewell group dinner in Tucson. An advanced option for additional mileage and climbing will be to start the day with a ride up Madera Canyon.

Sunday, March 10 We say our good-byes and depart Tucson.

For more information please contact Tina Vessels at tina.vessels@gmail.com or Rich Crocker at richcrocker@hotmail.com.