

## HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB DURANGO WEEKEND

- Dates:** Orientation Saturday, May 16, 2020. Ride May 17-19. Departure Tuesday, May 20 (Optional/unsupported ride on the 16<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>).
- Leaders:** Denise and Rob Weaver **SAGS:** Melissa Collins, Sue Kolwitz
- Rating:** Intermediate/Advanced, Options for shorter and longer rides each day.
- Riders:** 30 Max plus Leaders and SAGs
- Price:** \$670 (Double occupancy); \$300 at Registration; Remainder due by 2/16/20  
Single Supplement +50% (\$1,005 total).
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy applies](#). Travel insurance is recommended.

### OVERVIEW

We are excited to offer this short and snappy three day tour of Durango in beautiful southwest Colorado. Durango is without a doubt an outdoor town with miles of mountain biking and hiking trails, river rafting, fishing and just about anything else that you can think of to do outside. In May, the average high is 70, and the average low is 40. The tour is rated intermediate/advanced, and each ride has an option to shorten or lengthen the ride. There will be approximately 3500 feet of climbing every day - we are, after all, in the San Juan Mountains!

We will be staying at the brand new SpringHill Suites by Marriott. The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast and is located in the Durango Mall complex. The Allen movie theater is next door. There are several restaurants (Serious Texas BBQ, Zia Taqueria, Mongolian Grill) and an excellent natural foods market (Nature's Oasis) within a mile. Downtown Durango is approximately one mile north of the hotel by car and 2 miles on the bike trail. The Animas River Trail is just outside the front door of the hotel and is the starting point for all rides. Lodging on night of the last tour day, Tuesday, May 19, is included.



Haviland Lake pull-out looking north toward Durango Mountain/Purgatory Ski Area

## ITINERARY

Mileages and climbing are approximate. The order of the rides is subject to change. Rides and the ride order may change depending on weather.

### Saturday, May 16. Arrival.

Orientation meeting at 5:00 pm at the SpringHill Suites.

### Sunday, May 17. North to Purgatory Ski Area. 65 miles, 3,600 feet.

This is the longest ride of the tour, but you'll have fresh legs so you can do it! But if you don't want to ride or don't feel up to riding the whole thing, there are lots of options to shorten the ride. We begin the day riding the Animas River trail and turn on to County Road 250. We highly recommend that you take a short detour to one of our amazing local bakeries, Bread, for a chocolate croissant and coffee. After leaving Bread, continue north on 250. We continue to climb all the way to Purgatory Ski Resort where the base elevation is 8,800 feet. Lunch will be at Haviland Lake. On the way down, we will ride past Trimble Spa and Natural Hot Springs. If you want to end your ride there, we can make arrangements to transport you and your bike back to the hotel.

### Monday, May 18. West to Hesperus Hill/La Plata Canyon. 47 miles, 3,100 feet

This morning we ride the Animas River Trail to Highway 160 where we climb "Hesperus Hill" and ride the road out to La Plata Canyon. This is our shortest ride, and you can easily add 27 miles out and back on a side road when we come back to town. Lunch will be at the end of the pavement in La Plata Canyon. The west side of Durango is considered "the dry side". Notice the difference in plant type and growth between yesterday's ride and today's ride.

### Tuesday, May 19. East to Vallecito Reservoir. 50 miles 3,500 feet

Today we ride the Animas River trail to 15th Street where we follow Florida Road out of town to Vallecito Reservoir. Following the Missionary Ridge fire in 2002, which had a particularly hard impact on the Vallecito Reservoir community, an artist carved 14 wood carvings from the trunks of the dead Ponderosa pines around Vallecito as a tribute to the community and all involved in fighting this devastating fire. You can get a map for the Tour of Carvings from the visitor's center. Lunch will be at the lake, and we will return on Florida Road, but there is a little surprise punch near the end of the ride. This evening will be our farewell group dinner at one of our great local eateries.



Vallecito Reservoir

Wednesday, May 20. Departure on your own/Optional Unsupported ride. If you want to spin your legs before driving a scenic route home, you could take an optional, unsupported (not part of the tour) morning out-and-back ride south from the hotel along La Posta/Hwy 213 (often along the Animas River) for up to 30 miles and 1100 feet of climbing – this is also an optional ride if you arrive early.

**For additional information, contact:**

Denise Weaver at: [dweaver1200@hotmail.com](mailto:dweaver1200@hotmail.com)

Rob Weaver at: [Robert\\_r\\_weaver\\_iii@hotmail.com](mailto:Robert_r_weaver_iii@hotmail.com)



The Durango Bike Trail