

# HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB

## GLACIER & WATERTON NATIONAL PARKS, 2020

**Dates:** Arrival/Orientation meeting: Saturday, August 8, 8pm. Ride: Sunday, August 9 – Saturday, August 15. Depart: Sunday, August 16

**Leaders:** Jim Schroeder, Scott MacCormick   **SAGS:** Melissa Collins, Cindy Alvarez

**Rating:** Intermediate to Advanced: 340-390 miles; 23,000-35,500 feet climbing.

**Riders:** 28 maximum plus Leaders and SAGS

**Price:** Total: \$2,100 Double occupancy. \$600 deposit at Registration. Balance due 5/8/20. Single Supplement +55% (\$3,225 total). Single Supplements are welcome.

**Cancellation:** [Standard Cancellation Policy applies](#). Trip insurance is recommended.

### OVERVIEW

The Glacier/Waterton National Park Tour should be on every cyclist's bucket list. With the Going To The Sun Road just begging us all to pedal up it. Heart Cycle last rode this week tour in 2012 and 2013.

The Canadian traffic during those years has led us to change the route a bit, so there will be new sights to see while retaining the most important and awesome sights, albeit from a new direction. New lodging includes West Glacier Cabins, Lake McDonald Motel, St Marys Village, and the Izaak Walton Inn.

Our base camp is in Whitefish, MT staying again at the Pine Lodge, which is about half a mile south of an interesting downtown with ample restaurants. The route takes us in an easterly direction into West Glacier Park and this will be the first time Heart Cycle will be riding the Going to the Sun Road the "official way" of west to east. The tour then takes a big left turn north up to the Canadian cousin Waterton Park where we will then have a day off.



YES, WE ALL NEED OUR PASSPORTS! Our Canadian friends want us to be identifiable at our lodging area, so we'll be wearing our new HeartCycle souvenir hats. We'll have our group dinner there, and then head back to the south riding the southern "underbelly" of Glacier National Park on US Highway 2 back to Essex, and then a post-tour overnight at the Pine Lodge in Whitefish.

Our co-leader, Scott MacCormick, and one of our volunteering (hint, hint) riders will be driving the Sprinter with bicycle transport from and back to Denver for \$100, on a first come / first serve basis, so please pay attention to our trip e-mails.

## **TRAVEL & LODGING**

The Glacier Park International Airport is in nearby Kalispell, Montana (FCA) with limited service by Delta, United, Alaskan, American, and Allegiant. The airport is 11 miles from our host hotel, The Pine Lodge. The hotel does have an unofficial airport shuttle, but you would need to call the front desk for pick-up.

Our lodging during the tour will be somewhat creative, which most bicycle tour operators are now facing. The Pine Lodge in Whitefish, and the Aspen Village in Waterton Park are the same accommodations we've used in the past. Our lodging near Lake McDonald will be at two locations, unfortunately 12 miles apart. Before and after Waterton, St Marys Village will accommodate us in two hotels across the road from each other. The historic Izaak Walton Inn is our lodging during our southern "underbelly" and will be one of the highlight of the tour, especially if you are a railroad fan. Some hotels will not allow bikes in the hotels, but we will make sure all bikes are secure, and we will offer you all the typical hospitality that is expected on our tours.

## **WEATHER**

August is peak season for tourists and is the driest month of the year, one inch per year. The average highs is 80 degrees and the average low is 47 degrees. Be prepared for extreme weather especially on the mountain passes.

## ITINERARY



### **Day Zero: Saturday, August 8; Whitefish - Orientation at 8pm**

There are plenty of things to do in Whitefish and at The Pine Lodge as our lodging costs include your amenity package. Kayaks, Double Kayaks, Paddle Boats, Cruiser Bikes to downtown, Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Indoor/Outdoor Pool, Fire Pits, and a Game Room are all available to us. Our orientation will be at 8pm Saturday, August 8pm.

### **Day One: Sunday, August 9: Eastward to West Glacier or Lake McDonald. 34 to 68 miles, 2150 - 3880 ft climbing**

Today's ride has many options depending on your night's lodging. We go east through your typical national park commercial fringe areas and take a southern out-n-back climb to Hungry Horse Dam for lunch. The climb will prepare you for what is to come on our next day. There is a dangerous 2 mile of Hwy 2 appropriately named Badrock Canyon with minimal shoulder, we will have a shuttle available for this section. Onto West Glacier Cabins or Apgar Visitor Center. If you are staying at Lake McDonald Motel, you will have to wait until 4pm to ride the last 9 miles. During your wait you have an option of riding an out-n-back on Camas Rd with a maximum of 24 miles.



### **Day Two: Monday, August 10: Going to the Sun 39 to 50 miles, 3883 to 4100 ft climbing**

This is the trophy ride that you've been waiting all summer for. We will be leaving early, especially the riders leaving West Glacier Cabins. Be very careful with the vehicular traffic riding up to the top. We must reach the top by 11am. Be careful going down to St Mary Village, too!



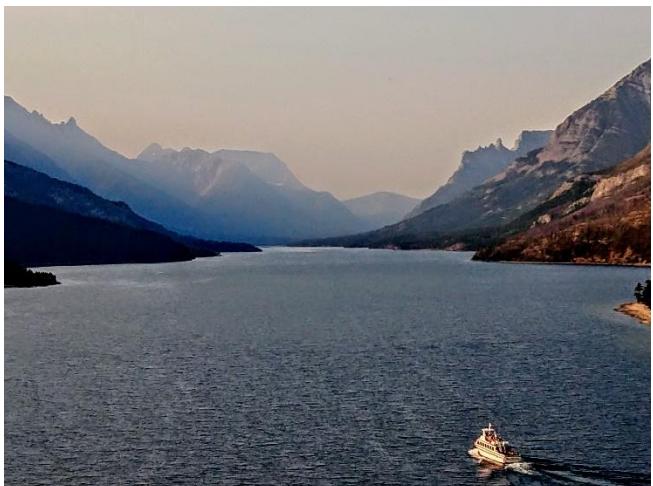
### **Day Three: Tuesday, August 11: St Mary Village to Canada and Waterton, 47 miles, 4094 ft climbing**

Today will be the queen stage of the tour. We ride north and take a right for an out-n-back to the beautiful Many Glaciers area for a morning stop. We cross into Canada and have a lunch at a secluded turnoff. We'll have an afternoon stop on our way to Waterton. As we enter Waterton National Park, check out the Prince of Whales Hotel if you'd like. You can also do that on your day off.



### **Day Four: Wednesday, August 12: Day off in Waterton**

There may be an optional 20 mile out-n-back route to Cameron Lake. Due to the 2017 fire, The road may be closed to all traffic or just motorized traffic in 2020. If it is completely closed, another option is to ride to Red Rock Canyon, a 22 mile out-n-back on the day off instead of riding it as planned on the next day's depart from Waterton. There are also many hiking opportunities, a wonderful boat ride on Waterton Lake, and plenty of shops and restaurants to frequent in this village. Take a stroll along the beach, or visit the Prince of Whales Hotel for high tea.



### **Day 5: Thursday, August 13: Red Rock Canyon, Waterton to St Mary Village 65 miles, 5477 ft climbing**

The scenery is completely different going the other direction. If you didn't ride Red Rock Canyon on the day off, then do it this morning. The morning stop will be after returning from there. Lunch again will be at the USA side of the border crossing with the afternoon stop at the Babb Volunteer Fire Department. Check out the iron artwork in front of the adjacent grade school.



**Day 6: Friday, August 14: St Mary Village to Essex (Izaak Walton Inn) 60 miles, 5206 ft climbing.**

This is a completely new stretch for Heart Cycle and I guarantee satisfaction. We head south on US-89 to Kiowa for a morning stop, and then the next stretch will be an epic ride on MT-49. There's some climbs, a little traffic, views of Medicine Lake and distant vistas of the park. Lunch will be at East Glacier Park on US Hwy 2. When we scouted US-2 in 2019, there was some road reconstruction, so we may shuttle some sections. The afternoon stop will be a little early, but historical Marias Pass has restrooms. There is a grocery store 7 miles later.



**Day 7: Saturday, August 15: Izaak Walton Inn to Whitefish 55 miles, 2015 ft climbing.**

This is our last day of riding! We'll be riding Hwy 2 into West Glacier. Again we'll pass through Badrock Canyon with a short required shuttle for safety. We then enter Columbia Falls and continue into Whitefish.



**For additional information, contact:**

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