

HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB

LAS VEGAS & DEATH VALLEY SPRING TRAINING 2020

- Dates:** Arrival/Orientation meeting: Wednesday, March 11. Ride: Thursday, March 12 – Thursday, March 19. Depart: Friday, March 20
- Leaders:** Jim Schroeder, Richard Williamson **SAGS:** Mayoma Pendergast, Kathleen Schindler
- Rating:** Advanced (Intermediate if you have been riding 60 mile routes throughout winter). Approximately 450 miles with 25,000 ft of climbing.
- Riders:** 28 riders plus Leaders and SAGs
- Price:** \$1,790 double occupancy. \$600 deposit at registration. Balance due by December 11, 2019. Single Supplement +50% (\$2,685 total), with limited openings.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy applies](#). Trip insurance is recommended.

OVERVIEW

While the baseball players are training in Florida and Arizona, we'll be training in Nevada! We will be in Vegas (Comm Expo) and Death Valley (wildflowers) in peak seasons. We will have extended stays in Las Vegas and in Furnace Creek so there will be options for more days off. Routes start at 50-60 Miles, but end up at 70-80 miles. All days except one are considered climbing rides (at least 50 feet per mile average). The first two days and last day will involve some city riding.

We are planning to have the Sprinter transport bicycles from and back to Denver, on a first come / first serve basis, so please pay attention to our trip e-mails. Park entrance fees are not included –bring your NPS card, which is good for Red Rocks and Death Valley!

TRAVEL & LODGING

You may drive to Las Vegas, but why not fly with the cheap rates (they don't know that we'll only be gambling with our calves and thighs!). As this is during "comm expo", fair pricing was hard to find, but I found a Baymont Inn near the airport and on the south side of the strip. No free shuttle from the airport, but they do have a standard complimentary breakfast. Our two day Death Valley sojourn's overnight will be a Holiday Inn Express in Pahrump, NV and then we reach our oasis at the Ranch at Death Valley in Furnace Creek. We leave Furnace Creek and take over the entire Shoshone Inn. This is just a mom & pop hotel, so don't expect much, however, they do have a hot mineral springs pool. We return back to the Baymont in Las Vegas for an overnight so you can hit the strip and win it big.

WEATHER

It's the desert! Average precipitation is 0.3 inches in March. The average low is 55 degrees F, while the average high is 82 degrees F. Sounds like perfect riding for me!

Day Zero: Wednesday, March 11 – arrive in Las Vegas and Orientation at 8pm

There's plenty to do in Vegas as we are on the south end of "the strip". Hoover Dam is an uber away if you want to go on the dam tour.

Day 1: Thursday, March 12 Red Rock Canyon Loop. 58 miles, 3304 feet climbing

We will start the tour cruising along the entire Las Vegas Strip. The traffic at 7am won't be a problem! We are heading out to Red Rock Canyon, a favorite riding route located west of Vegas. Inside the park will be a 12 mile loop with many observation points. We return back to the hotel on NV-159 and NV-160, both with comfortable shoulders.

Day 2: Friday, March 13 Lake Meade Loop. 64 miles, 3142 feet climbing

We head out east on city parkways and trails out to Lake Meade and back to the Baymont.



Day 3: Saturday, March 14 Las Vegas to Pahrump. 54 miles, 3460 feet climbing

We head northwest to Pahrump on NV-160. From the highway there will be many sites. Try to spot the desert big horn sheep along the way.



DAY 4: Sunday, March 15 Pahrump, NV to Furnace Creek, CA. 60 miles 1466 feet climbing

We will be dropping down to Death Valley, the only place in the US below sea level. Before Death Valley, stop and check out the Amargosa Opera House and maybe meet Marta. If this not enough of a ride for you, turn left and challenge yourself with an out n back of 26 miles/3400 ft of climbing to Dante's View. You can always turn around anytime. I did in 2008! The day finishes with scenic Zabriskie Point just before our oasis of The Ranch at Death Valley.



DAY 5: Monday, March 16. Day Off

No official rides today, but there will be an optional, no sag, 22 mile 2200 feet of climbing out n back of Artists Drive. Relax at the Ranch or check out Furnace Creek. Shuttle to The Inn at Death Valley for our group dinner at 6pm



Day 6: Tuesday, March 17 Death Valley Cruise. 61 miles 3277 feet climbing

We venture westward and a first stop could be the Visitor Center. Then there's the Harmony Borax Interpretive Trail, Devil's Cornfield, and the Mesquite Sand Dunes all before our morning food stop at Stovepipe Wells. You may have a 11 mile shortcut without some climbing by proceeding on CA-190 and not turning left on Scotty's Castle Road.



Day 7: Wednesday, March 18 Furnace Creek to Shoshone. 72 miles 5123 feet climbing.

If you desire more miles there is Artists Drive close to the beginning: 12.6 more miles and 1721 ft more climbing. Meanwhile, the rest of us will get a jump descending down to 282 feet below sea level! Unfortunately, the only way is up, up 3,000 feet in 20 miles to Jubilee Pass! We arrive in Shoshone with a hot springs pool to soothe us.



Day 8: Thursday, March 19 Shoshone to Las Vegas. 83 miles 5963 feet climbing.

We first head south to reach the Old Spanish Trail. It's not a mirage, there really are two breweries before we hit the OST at mile 10! We now climb 1500 feet for about 10 miles. In addition to a good view of Mt Charleston, there is the St Therese Mission at Charleston view, where we can pray before our last climb of the tour, 30 miles with 2000 feet of climbing in Nevada. Yippee, 20 miles down into Las Vegas!



For additional information, contact:

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