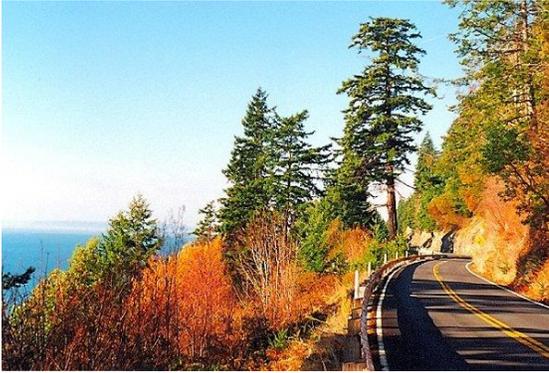


Western Washington Fixed Base Tour

September 9-17, 2017



Total Cost: **\$1345 if 18-24 Paid Participants (includes tour souvenir)**
Total Cost: **\$1200 if 25 or more Paid Participants (includes tour souvenir)**

Single supplement: **\$685** (paid at time of registration)

Deposit: **\$400** (paid at time of registration)

Final Payment: **\$965/\$825 due by June 10, 2017**

Rider limit: **30**

Tour Leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum

Tour Rating: Easy/Intermediate

OVERVIEW:

We have had several requests for a more relaxing week-long tour for those who don't need to climb a major pass or hill each day. Our tour in Western Washington includes a variety of terrain. In addition, by providing this fixed-based tour we eliminate the stress of getting up each morning and packing our bags. It provides one the freedom to just stay in the hotel if not feeling well. Our base will be Mount Vernon - home of tulip farming, not George Washington – located between the foothills of the Cascade Mountains and the waters of Puget Sound. Many of the roads are beautiful and quiet; the terrain will sometimes be hilly and other times dead flat. We will visit freshwater lakes tucked amongst hills and saltwater shores with views across to the Olympics. There will be six days of riding with a day off in the middle. On your day off, you can explore more of the coastal regions, go up to the mountains, or check out the flower industry right in Mount Vernon. Unfortunately, fall is not the blooming season, but it is still possible to visit bulb farms and buy your spring color while in Mount Vernon. The lodging for the last night after the Saturday's ride is included in the tour so we can fully enjoy the last day of riding.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

This tour is rated as Easy/Intermediate. As noted in the route description below, we have days ranging from 43 to 64 mile with 1,200' to 3,100' of elevation gain. Everyone can ride at their own comfortable pace. Again, since this is a fixed base tour, a less strong rider could opt out of a day or discuss a short-cut with the ride leaders.

WEATHER:

Weather in the South Puget Sound valleys should be pleasant in early September, but rain is always a possibility. Riders need to be prepared for all types of weather.

LODGING/MEALS:

Our lodging is the very nice Best Western Plus in Mt. Vernon, WA, with easy access to restaurants by foot or by car. A daily hot breakfast is included. Snacks and lunch will be provided off the sag vehicles. The hotel has an indoor pool and hot tub.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY: (Mileages & Elevation gains are approximate Listed are the 6 loops we plan to complete, but they may not be scheduled in this order depending on weather and other variables.)

Saturday, September 9: Orientation Meeting in Mt. Vernon

We meet the first night in Mt. Vernon at **8:00 PM** and get to know each other during a brief informational meeting. Folks may wish to get together for dinner informally beforehand.

Sunday, September 10: Mount Vernon-La Conner, 44 miles, 1300 feet

Our route goes through the Skagit Flats, with views of north Puget Sound and the famous farmlands that grow flowers and vegetables for western Washington. LaConnor is a quaint little town with great cafes, interesting shops and wineries.

Monday, September 11: Mount Vernon-Concrete, 64 miles, 1200 feet

We follow the Skagit River east to the very toes of the Cascade foot hills, then cross it and follow the Skagit River back. Be alert for bald eagles and osprey along the way.

Tuesday, September 12: Mount Vernon-Deception Pass, 62 miles, 3100 feet

We head to the town of Anacortes, home of the ferry to the San Juan Islands, and Fidalgo Island, which we will circumnavigate with a stop at Deception Pass – a stunning cliff lined water passage between Fidalgo and Whidbey Islands.

Wednesday, September 13: Day-Off

Spend the day exploring Mount Vernon or take the short 28 mile drive to Bellingham which has wonderful shops, cafes, several museums, arboretum and of course Western Washington University.

Thursday, September 14: Mount Vernon-Chuckanut, 50 miles, 1600 feet

Chuckanut Mountain lies northwest of Mount Vernon right along the coast. We will circumnavigate it, going first through farmland and forest and past Lake Samish, then along Chuckanut Drive, with its gorgeous views of Puget Sound and back through the Skagit flats.

Friday, September 15: Camano Island Loop, 43 mile, 2450 feet

Our only remote start, this route is short but possibly the most challenging. The rewards are the views of water on all sides both from on high and up close. The Camano Island Loop is a Seattle favorite.

Saturday, September 16: Mount Vernon–Lake Cavanaugh, 61 miles, 3100 feet

This route goes around one of the numerous glacier dredged lakes in the northwest, passing along a few more on the way. The quiet forest lined roads make this a very pleasant ride. Saturday night's lodging is included in the tour so that you can take it easy and plan to **travel home on Sunday, September 17th**.

For more information, contact Ralph and Carol at: RENussbaum@outlook.com

