

Florida Gulf Beaches 1 - 2018 Bike Tour



February 8th – 14th, 2018

Start and end: Safety Harbor, Florida

Water, water, water! Beaches, sun, excellent food and fantastic bike trails! Join us for an intensive and oh, so beautiful tour of Pinellas County, Florida, where cycling is big! You'll bike over bridges (although, not as many as the Florida Keys) to Tampa, along causeways to historic Fort DeSoto County Park, and over a spectacular arch to the dazzling white sand beaches of Clearwater. Better bring a new storage card for your camera!

Over the course of 6 days, and on all paved bike trails, you will basically ride the perimeter of the entire county. Mark and Colleen indulged in a week of scouting (that means testing the waters in advance for all the best cafes in downtown St Pete's - a sample of salted caramel cake on Beach Drive – don't miss!) and we are truly excited to offer this fun-filled tour with you.

Day 1

Meet at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, where we'll gather for our introductory meeting followed by dinner. Plenty of options for shopping and dining surround you, all within easy walking distance of the hotel, where we'll stay for two nights.

Day 2: 29 miles – with options for more or less mileage

From Safety Harbor we'll bike the very scenic Courtney Campbell Trail for an "out-and-back" all the way across Tampa Bay to the Tampa side on. Options exist for more or less mileage, depending on your needs.

Day 3: 24 miles – with options for more or less mileage

Bring the camera! Bike the trail along St Petersburg's Coffeepot Bayou, into the heart of downtown where you're on your own for lunch and exploration. Finish the day cycling the Pinellas and Skyway trails with refreshments at spectacular Ft. DeSoto Park, with its historic ruins, fishing piers and miles of beaches to walk. We will van back to our downtown St Petersburg hotel together. Option: Bike back to downtown for an additional 14 miles.

Day 4: 25 miles – with options for more or less mileage

Bike roughly half of the award-winning Pinellas Trail today, from downtown St

Petersburg to Clearwater, then over the bridge to our Clearwater Beach hotel, right on the water. You'll be able to stroll the sidewalks for dining and shopping, or just walk that stunning beach! Optional extra cycling mileage is all around you on bike paths and dedicated bike lanes.

Day 5: Optional mileage

Spend a play day at Clearwater Beach. Put up the beach umbrella and read a book, take a nap, ride your bike... the day is yours to explore the area. Points of interest include the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Sand Key Park, downtown Clearwater and much more.

Day 6: 25 miles – with options for more or less mileage

Bike back to the Pinellas Trail and ride it north through Dunedin and on to Honeymoon Island State Park. We'll be waiting there with a fine picnic lunch for you. You're free to explore the park and ride the ferry across to Caladesi Island State Park which has its own fine beaches as well as a paved bike path for your enjoyment. Bike back to our Dunedin hotel to spend our last night together. Dinner is on us tonight at a wonderful Dunedin restaurant.

Day 7: 22 miles – with options for more or less mileage

Bike from Dunedin to Tarpon Springs where you'll walk the famous sponge docks. We can point you to our favorite Greek restaurants. You might be up for more miles after lunch, so you can ride the Pinellas Trail on to its terminus at John Chesnut Senior Park. From there we'll load up and van back to our Safety Harbor hotel where we began our adventure. You'll leave with fine memories, new friends, and a keen understanding of Pinellas County, Florida.

Difficulty Level: Intermediate

The trails on this tour are all paved. With the exception of approximately 1.5 miles on the way to Ft DeSoto Park, we are exclusively riding on paved bike paths for the entire tour.

Suggested bicycle: Touring bikes, road bikes, hybrids

Suggested tire size for this tour: 23mm – 37mm (pretty much any size you like!)

Included with tour price:

- approximately 125 miles of cycling (more or less, depending on your needs)
- 6 nights lodging
- 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- sag support
- admission to Ft DeSoto County Park, Honeymoon Island State Park and Caladesi State Park
- airport pickup and return (if needed) to Tampa International Airport

Pricing

- **\$1880** per person (based on double occupancy)
- **\$620** – Single Supplement (extra price to have your own room)
- **\$100** – Bike Rental (helmet and bike bag included)

Your travel plans

Thursday, February 8th, 2018 at 3:30 PM we meet those flying in at the **Tampa International Airport**, and we will shuttle to our hotel, **Safety Harbor Resort & Spa**, 105 N Bayshore Dr, Safety Harbor, FL 34695. Taxi service is available from the airport to our hotel in Safety Harbor, in case you arrive later.

If you are **driving**, you drive to the hotel (Safety Harbor Resort & Spa). **Check-in time is 4:00pm**. You may leave your car there during the trip. Note: there may be a fee for leaving your car. Please notify hotel staff of your parking needs upon arrival.

Your lodging plans

Your night's lodging on **Thursday, February 8 through Tuesday, February 13 is included**. Your night's lodging on the day the trip ends (Wednesday, February 14) is **not** included. That night is at your expense and reservations for that night are your responsibility.

Hotel:

Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, 105 N Bayshore Dr, Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Check-in time: 4:00pm