



Cycling in Tucson, Arizona

Presented by Sharon Reed

What makes Tucson special for cycling?

- Tucson is named one of the top bike friendly cities in US by the League of American Cyclists. They even have a phone app with maps of all bicycle routes/paths/lanes.
- Widely considered the top road cycling tourist destination in America with Tucson/Marana/Oro Valley area considered the top US cycling retirement destination.
- Great scenery of mountains, Saguaro Cactus forests, National Parks/Forest.
- Beautiful city with many historical, cultural, dining, natural and art elements
- All of the amenities of a city - easy in/out airport. Population 542,629. Distance from Phoenix 112 miles for direct flights/additional destination.

What makes Tucson special for cycling?

- Routes available that are for beginners to expert cyclists. Something for everyone. Make it a 4-day trip on the way to Palm Springs/San Diego or a 10-day stand alone trip or anything in between!
- Best time to go - - Early to mid- March. Book your hotel early though as it is also the most popular time and best hotel rooms/AirBnBs can reserve out a year in advance. Hilton Homewood Suites is particularly nice as it is centrally located on the north side in the Catalina foothills and adjacent to the bike loop (Intersection of Campbell/River).

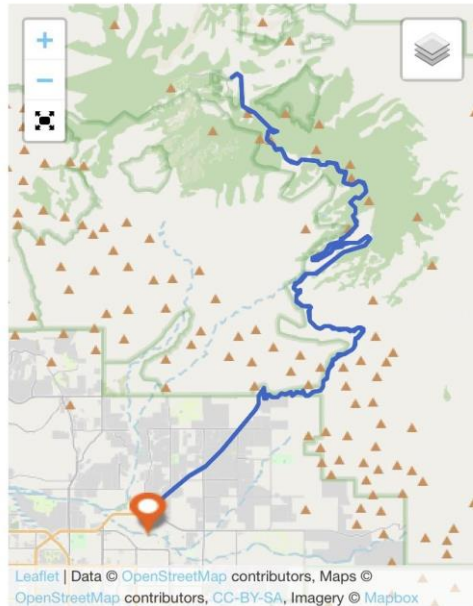
What is “The Loop”

Also known as a bicycling super highway

It's a 131-mile paved 12-foot bike trail and shared pathways system with on and off ramps and a hub and spoke type design, complete with “roadside parks,” parking, signage and art installations.



Routes of Interest - Mt. Lemmon



Total distance: **59 mi**
Max elevation: **8159 ft**
Min elevation: **2560 ft**
Total climbing: **6958 ft**
Total descent: **-6955 ft**



Mt. Lemmon. Depending on start location, about 59 miles with up to 6958 elevation gain. At mile 12 up the climb you will feel like you are in Colorado

Routes of Interest - The 55-Mile Core Loop

Easy, very little elevation gain. Out and back rides allow you to go on shorter rides. Familiarize yourself with the loop map before planning a ride. In many places, there are two paths - one on each side of the river, but not all places.



Routes of Interest - Catalina State Park



From Campbell/River - approximately 35-40 miles, with 600 feet of elevation gain.

Routes of Interest - East and West Saguaro National Parks



East - approximately 40 miles, 800 elevation gain (longer and more climb with 8-mile park loop added). West - about 55 miles, 1850 elevation gain. National Park Fee areas.



Routes of Interest - Agua Caliente Park



Approximately 36 miles with 600 feet of elevation gain.

Routes of Interest - Sabino Canyon



Approximately 36 miles and 2200 feet of climb when combined with added Tohono Chul and Park Road. Much less without. National Park Fee Area. Restrictions - have to be off park road by 9 a.m. Bikes not permitted on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

**As the sun sets from view at Mt. Lemmon,
you end a perfect Tucson trip...**



Photographs by Sharon Reed