



The Ride

Held annually the Saturday before Thanksgiving, El Tour is a fun adventure ride attracting over 9,000 cyclists of all ages and abilities from throughout the United States and worldwide, consisting of novice, intermediate, advanced, and professional riders.

Tucson #1 – *Outside's* “Top 10 Best Bike Towns” – May 2012

Tucson #1 – *Atlantic*, overall city with the “Most Bikeable Neighborhoods” – May 2013

Tucson #6 – *Travel Channel* “Top 10 Best Bike Cities” – May 2013

Tucson #8 – *Bikescore* “Most Bikeable Large U.S. Cities” – May 2013

The Participants

Cyclists enjoy El Tour and its festivities out of a passion for cycling, while others choose the event to benchmark their fitness as part of a healthy lifestyle change or as a wellness program goal as a survivor of cancer or other life-threatening illness. Many are attracted to El Tour's fundraising programs and its many charitable agencies for which the event raised over \$1,627,210 in 2010. All El Tour riders share a desire to ride, meet great people, raise contributions and have a fun time doing it!

The Routes

Participants cycle main event distances of 111, 85, 60 or 42 miles, or choose the Fun Ride 10, 5, or 1/4 miles. Main event routes show off Tucson's beautiful vistas of its local mountain ranges – three rising over 9,000 feet- complete with the backdrop of the majestic Saguaro cactus, icon of the Sonoran Desert. Course profiles range from flat to rolling or moderately hilly. The 42-mile route is basically flat and has

become a great family affair or a perfect first event for beginners. Two often dry but sandy river crossings will greet 111-mile riders, while 85-milers experience just one. No crossings for 60 or 42-mile participants. All routes offer aid stations with water and snacks spaced about 7-10 miles apart, full police support at intersections and plenty of morale-boosting volunteers and spectators. The Fun Ride offers easy and scenic routes along the Santa Cruz River multi-use path.

The Finish

The 111-mile start line (and finish line for all events) is located at Armory Park across the street from *Children's Museum Tucson* on South 6th Avenue at 13th Street. Crossing the finish line ushers the riders into the next event- *HSL Properties El Tour Downtown Fiesta*. First order of business for cyclists after meeting friends & family is to collect a special finisher's medallion based on their finish time. Next, celebrate at the Fiesta complete with non-stop music, the *Michelob Ultra* Garden, food vendors, El Tour Perimeter Store merchandise booth, kids activities, the Grand Cycling Awards Ceremony, and more!

The Alternative

If you can't be in Tucson on Ride Day, or simply prefer to stay off the streets, **Indoor El Tour** is the answer. It is a stationary cycling event – no traffic, no safety hazards, no headwinds, but still loads of fun. Ride for minutes instead of miles while supporting Perimeter Bicycling charities and receive a special medallion. Indoor El Tour begins one week prior to the main event and may be ridden anywhere on the planet on any stationary bike or on Ride Day at the Finish Line.