

Bicycle Adventure Club What is BAC and How Does it Work?

1. The Club and Membership

The Bicycle Adventure Club (BAC) is a non-profit, bicycle touring club for serious cyclists, run by its 1,900 volunteer members. Members create for each other a variety of bicycle tours, both domestic and foreign. Our heritage goes back over 30 years; the club as it currently exists was formed in 1983. We have a large number of members who have been with the club for many years. We enjoy the camaraderie of exploring the world with our cycling friends on tours developed by club members for other members.

Membership in BAC is open to experienced touring cyclists over 18 years old. The annual membership fee (for either a single person or couple at the same address) is \$50 for the first year and \$25 per year thereafter. The fee covers the period from January 1 to December 31. The initial membership period for people who join on October 1 or thereafter in the current year extends to the end of the following year. Only BAC members can sign up for and participate in rides. New BAC members are required to have email access in order to receive club communications and to apply for club rides.

2. Rides

BAC rides are usually developed and led by volunteer club members (“Ride Directors”). On some overseas rides the volunteer member (called a “Ride Coordinator” in this case) will plan the tour in conjunction with a commercial tour operator and the commercial operator will handle local tour logistics.

The volunteer Ride Director or Ride Coordinator makes all decisions concerning the features of the ride and the qualifications of the participants. Rides vary widely in difficulty. **View our Ride Rating System** on the BAC web site.¹

Rides are posted on the BAC web site. BAC members have access to a detailed description of each ride, including difficulty, cost estimates and other pertinent information. Club members apply to join rides through the club website.

Lodging is pre-arranged in motels/hotels, two to a room with private bathrooms when available. Lodging and meals vary from modest to deluxe and trip costs vary accordingly.

Ride costs include a fee to the club (currently \$50 per rider), lodging as specified, any planned group meals, daily social hours, luggage van rental and other group expenses. Ride costs may also include expense reimbursement to the Ride Director, and, if

¹ www.bicyleadventureclub.org

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applicable, expense reimbursement for a van driver. Any funds remaining after the end of the ride are returned to the participants.

Normally, the group rents a van to carry luggage from one town to the next so that riders do not have to carry anything on their bikes except their needs for the day. On some rides each rider is expected to share the van driving; on others a van driver may be hired.

3. Leading Rides

The club relies upon its volunteer members to create and lead its rides. Our volunteer leaders are the life blood of the club, and it is critical that a certain percentage of new members take the initiative to become ride leaders.

You can begin this process by talking with any experienced ride leader. Our Ride Mentors (find a list on the MORE page of this website) would be delighted to help you to organize and conduct a ride. There are several other documents on the MORE page that will help you with this process, including the Ride Directors and Ride Coordinators Guidelines. A physical library of past rides is also available at the BAC Office to assist in organizing a tour.