

THE BIKE FLYER - A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PEGASUS BIKE TOURS



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Initial International Tour Registration Closes Sunday, September 1

International Tour registration is still open for a couple more days. **Currently both tours are nearly full but everyone has an equal shot if you register by September 1st!** If you haven't already, check out the two international tours we are offering next year. The first is a fixed-based tour out of Ronda in the Andalusian hills in the southeast corner of Spain along the Mediterranean Sea from June 1st to June 10th. This 10 day tour includes a bus trip to Granada and then ends along the Mediterranean in Malaga. See all the details at [Andalusia](#).

Our second 2020 tour is in Italy and runs from June 20-July 4. We are calling this a hybrid tour as it starts as a classic point to point riding tour for the first week. We start our tour in the hills above Bolzano at the top of the Resia (Reschen) Pass at 4800'. From there we make our way to Mantua. It then becomes a bike and barge tour, as we follow the Mincio and Po Rivers and canals to Venice. This will undoubtedly be the tour of a lifetime. Check it out at [Venice](#). Both tours will be limited to 20 participants so you don't want to miss this initial registration period.

Remember, you need to register by September 1st if you want in on the lottery that will be held after September 1.

2020 Willamette Valley Tour Description Now Available

We are returning to the Willamette Valley in 2020 with a fixed base tour to take some relaxed rides to some of our favorite places along quiet roads and green scenery. Check it all out [here](#).

Belgian Ardennes Tour from Valkenburg, NL to Luxemburg by Carol

We couldn't get anyone on this tour to volunteer to write an article for our newsletter. It's not that they weren't helpful. Alexy carried other people's bags up steep stairs numerous times. Bill helped Diane conquer Ride With GPS on her phone. Scott helped fix my bike. Steve could be counted on to find the best bakery in town. Lots of guys helped load luggage into the van on moving days. Diane collected the tips. Someone (I'm sorry I don't remember who) bought really nice thank you cards. It seemed like everyone pitched in to keep things running smoothly.



But we needed an article, so at the farewell banquet, I passed out paper and asked each person to write a sentence or two about the tour. They didn't actually follow directions, many of them writing much more and demanding that we print them all in the newsletter. So here they are in no particular order:

1. Another day, another goat path. We saw the road less traveled away from the hustle and bustle busy world. Time to make good friends; sticking together to see some of the most special and often steepest (Yikes, we can do it!) parts of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Some of us learned a lot about technology – thanks, Bill. And group meals that were scrumptious. Yummy!
2. A delightful tour of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. We ate our way through them, stopping at bakeries, eating delicious pastries, and enjoying the coffee. The scenery was really fantastic. Loved the old buildings and especially the other people on the tour.
3. The best part is meeting the other riders. I knew no one and now I have 18 new friends.
4. The most adventurous “Adventure in Cycling” I could imagine. Every road surface one could think of. Steep climbs offset by thrilling descents. Beautiful sights, from quaint villages to quaint farmlands. I would definitely do it again.
5. Good times, good people, good rides, good weather, good laughs, good conversation, good coffee, good routes, good fun, and one hell of a great bike vacation.



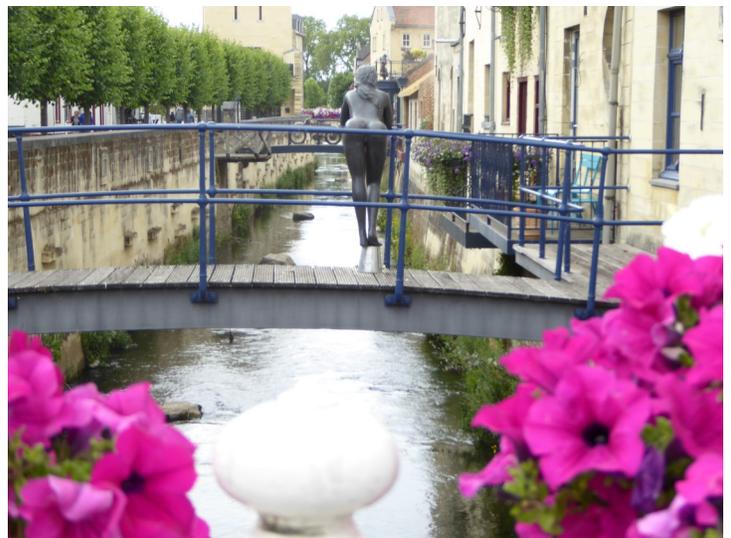
6. The tour was very well organized to visit many of the historical sites in the area, including the American Cemetery in the Netherlands and the Bastogne War Museum. While I have spent a lot of time here in Europe, these were areas that I have never been to. Plus, Luxembourg which was a bonus and a wonderful place to cycle.



7. I met my first “birthday twin”, born on Oct. 6, 1948. What a great year. We both retired approximately 11 years ago, and I bet between the two of us, there's over 100,000 miles logged. Great trip, Ralph!
8. We can call this tour a crash course in using Garmin. It took us a while to not start panicking on seeing “off course” on the screen. After a couple of days of getting continuously “lost”, we realized our Garmin will eventually take us to our hotel. We also realized that our Garmin would want to take us up any “unpaved road” on our way that was in most cases a shortcut, and so we eventually learned to ignore it sometimes and use our common sense. All in all, it was a lesson in navigation. Loved the Second World War Museum in Bastogne and Belgian pastries.

9. It was a steep learning curve to ride with a Garmin. It has some peculiarities like: a) underestimate the distance to a turn: and b) show right turn on intersections when we should go straight (at traffic circles). One occasion was spectacular: we had to go downhill on a major highway, when Garmin turned us right on a gravel trail going steeply uphill with a huge white dog lying in the middle of it. Obviously, no one used this path that day!

10. Riding through the peaceful countryside was some of the best riding ever. The occasional 15% + grade kept it interesting. Reminders of the suffering contrasted with the beauty and kept us humble.
11. What a wonderful adventure. The thought of nine days of challenging rides was initially daunting, but in a blink of an eye, it was over. The scenery and new friends made all the rides fun. Traded phone numbers and contact information with new friends.
12. Luxemburg has the smoothest pavement in the world, and it wanders up and down and around through spreading fields of wheat and corn and oats. Lovely riding (especially after the pavement of Belgium!)
13. Every day we had a chance to stop at one of the wonderful bakeries that are abundant in the Ardennes.



14. Never met a hill I didn't like – thx for the great tour through the Ardennes. Wow!
15. The riding experience in the European countryside was non-pareil, with endless gorgeous vistas of farm fields and animals punctuated by wonderful coffee and pastry stops. At times the turns were perplexing, but with the help of camaraderie and esprit de corps, the way was found. My first riding experience in Europe was a unique and memorable time I will certainly savor and cherish.
16. Hospital, shoes, and passports – Chouffe happens!

All in all, these give a pretty good impression of the tour. Only one thing is missing: that's a great big thanks to Francien, who planned the tour to fit our suggestions. And who worked every night to get rid of goat tracks and always looked for the best town to stop in for lunch and then the best way to get into that town and back out again. We could never have done it without her!



When Chouffe happens, it's Francien to the rescue!

2020 PEGASUS BIKE TOURS SCHEDULE				
DATES	TOUR	LOCATION	LEVEL	STATUS
March 21-March 19	<u>Discover San Diego</u>	San Diego, CA	Intermediate	Opens in Oct
April 30-May 4	<u>4-Day Omak Hill Country</u>	Omak, WA	Intermediate/Adv	Opens in Oct
May 14-May 18	<u>4-Day Eastern Washington</u>	Chelan, WA	Intermediate/Adv	Opens in Oct
June 1–June 10	<u>Andalusia, Spain - Fixed Base</u>	Ronda, Spain	Easy/Intermediate	Open Now
June 29-July 6	<u>Bolzano-Venice, Italy Hybrid Tour</u>	Bolzano, Italy	Easy/Intermediate	Open Now
July 6-July 17	<u>Willamette Valley Tour</u>	Salem, OR	Intermediate	Opens in Oct
August 17-25	<u>Idaho Panhandle Tour</u>	Spokane, WA	Intermediate	Opens in Oct



Some very odd bicycles for your viewing pleasure!