



Bicyclists traveling Erie Canal arrive in Valley on July 14

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Albany, N.Y. — Some 500 bicyclists from 35 states and three foreign countries will arrive in the Mohawk Valley on July 14 as participants in the 13th annual Cycling the Erie Canal tour.

The 400-mile bicycle tour started in Buffalo on July 10 and will end in Albany on July 17.

The Mohawk Valley schedule includes an overnight stay on July 14 at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome. On Friday, July 15, bicyclists will ride from Rome to Canajoharie, where they will stay overnight at Canajoharie High School. Friday's schedule also includes a morning rest stop from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Schuyler Town Hall and an afternoon rest stop from 12 to 5 p.m. at Rotary Park in Little Falls.

Once in Canajoharie, riders will be treated to a dinner at the high school and music by George Ward.

The ride includes tours of historic landmarks, lectures and stops at attractions.

Organized by Parks and Trails New York and the state Canal Corporation, Robin Dropkin, executive director of Parks and Trails New York, said the trip is not a race, but a more relaxed tour, with riders — ranging in age from 6 to 89 — traveling at their own pace to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. The ride covers 40 to 60 miles per day, with an additional overnight stay in Scotia.

Called a "rolling summer camp for all ages," organizers said the recreational ride is an "inexpensive and healthy way to explore the Erie Canal and upstate New York" and that "several hundred volunteers in communities along the route are ready to welcome riders and help them discover what makes the Erie Canal and upstate New York unique."

Around two-thirds of the ride takes place along completed portions of the Canalway Trail, which will be a 500-mile stretch across the state when it is completed.

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