



Bike the Sites News

Volume 2: June 2004

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*Professionally Guided
Bicycle Tours and Rentals*

Summer is almost here and the ridin' is easy at Bike the Sites! After a very busy cherry blossom season and Memorial Day weekend, we are heading into those lazy summer days with lots to offer our customers. The new World War II Memorial is now open and is one of the highlights of our Monuments and Sites @ Nite tours. Speciality tours will be offered on select Saturdays during the summer. And together with the Washington Intern Network, Bike the Sites presents Seek DC - the first annual bike scavenger hunt on June 19.

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OUTDOOR SCULPTURE GARDEN & HILLWOOD MUSEUM TOUR

Experience Washington's hidden art treasures on our Outdoor Sculpture Garden & Hillwood Museum tour. This 5 hour tour highlights the sculpture gardens at the National Gallery of Art and Hirshhorn museums, and travels through beautiful Rock Creek Park to visit the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Lasting 5 hours and of moderate difficulty, the tour will be offered June 5 and 26, and July 17 and 31, beginning at 9 am. Call 202-842-BIKE to make reservations.

[More information about Hillwood Museum and Gardens](#)

BRIDGES OF WASHINGTON TOUR

Travel over and under the historic bridges of Washington, DC and explore their architecture, history, and beauty on our Bridges of Washington Tour. This tour also explores some of DC's neighborhoods that bridges helped to create. The tour will follow Rock Creek, the C&O canal, and the Potomac on paths and some residential streets. Some street riding is required. Offered June 12 and July 17, beginning at 9 am. Advanced reservations only.

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SEEK DC

Join us on Saturday, June 19th to for this bike scavenger hunt - designed to challenge and entertain the tourist and stump even the most knowledgeable local. We provide bikes, helmets, rules, and a set of challenging clues; you provide brain and pedal power. Riders can pre-register in groups of 3 or 4; event staff will also assist in compiling teams. Points will be awarded based on the number of correct answers documented and the relative difficulty. Prizes include: flexcar membership, mountain bike, and Ben & Jerry's.

For more information, see [WIN's website](#)

CITY SCOOTER TOURS

Bike the Sites has joined forces with ScootAround, the leader in mobility vehicles, for the first-ever scooter tour of the National Mall and Monuments. Our scooter tours make the sites of the nation's capital accessible and fun for everyone. Scooters are also available for rent; call ScootAround at 1-888-441-7575.

[Click here](#) for more information

GUIDE VOICE

by Erika Franz

When visitors come to our nation's Capital they tend to come in groups. We have seen family reunions, protesters, eighth graders, veterans and lots of cicadas on our tours already this season! From middle school Texans braving the colder, hilly "north" to veterans in for Memorial Day to protestors taking a stand to Brood X waking up after a 17 year gestation—ok, granted, the cicadas are getting a somewhat mixed review—all have taken a spin with us this year.

Memorial Day Weekend in particular has been a busy and incredible time. The new World War II monument was dedicated on Saturday and the WWII Reunion filled the National Mall to standing room only. We rode with Rolling Thunder on Sunday as they drove through the streets with people waving at them (ok, so our bikes aren't quite that big or loud, but the guides have really nifty bells on our handlebars!). I saw a WWII Codetalker after the opening ceremonies on Saturday, and had Vietnam vets stop by and greet me on the Sites @ Nite tour. It was a moving weekend for all.

As for those pesky cicadas . . . With their beady red eyes and long clear wings they really look more like toys purchased in mass from the gift shop at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum and sprinkled by young boys . . . well, everywhere! Although we almost debated carrying tennis rackets on tour, in the end we opted out of that idea. They're perfectly harmless except to themselves—they can't roll off their backs. For our tourists we just recommend biking with your mouth closed unless you've got a question!

TRIVIA CONTEST

When and for what event was The Awakening placed at Hains Point?

E-mail your answer to kelly@bikethesites.com - first 5 correct responses will receive a free tour or day rental.

EXTENDED SUMMER RENTAL HOURS

Take advantage of the longer days of summer! We are open for bike and stroller rentals from 9 am to 7 pm Sunday through Thursday, and 9 am to 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

BEFORE YOUR SITES @ NITE TOUR...

What to do in the evening in DC? Here are just a few of the extended hours and special evening events this summer in the nation's capital (and you'll still have time to make our 7:30 Sites @ Nite tour!):

National Museum of American History - open until 6:30 pm until Sept. 6

National Museum of Natural History - open until 7:30 until Sept 6

Art Night on the Mall - until 8 pm, select Thursdays; Sackler, Freer and Hirshhorn Museums

Jazz in the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden - Fridays 5 to 8 pm, June through Sept

National Zoo - grounds open 6 am to 8 pm; buildings open 10 am to 6 pm.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

We hope to show you and/or your group the best way to see Washington this season. Reserve on-line at www.bikethesites.com or by calling 202-842-BIKE.

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