

Capital Bike Presents:

View Royal / Esquimalt Discovery Ride

Go By Bike Week



Photo by John Holland

www.gobybikebc.ca/greater-victoria

About this

May 31 - June 6 2021



Welcome Discovery Riders!

Planning on logging those kms during Go By Bike Week but not sure where to go? We've got you covered!

Without our usual Celebration Stations to visit, Capital Bike has restarted our popular Neighbourhood Rides program with a few special rides released during Go By Bike Week 2021. To complete this Ride, visit the points below, taking pictures at your favourite stops/points of interest, then share them on social media with the hashtag "#GoByBikeWeek2021" to be entered to win prizes. Otherwise, you can send in photo submissions to james@biketowork.ca.

Log This Ride!

Log rides at www.GoByBikeBC.ca ! It's easy! You can even link your Strava account to make tracking kms even easier.

How the rides work:

For each Discovery Ride and Scavenger Hunt we provide both an information sheet including clues and points of interest, as well as a custom Google Map to help make finding the route easier. Find this ride's google map here:

<http://ow.ly/As2050EW2H5>

This Ride Sponsored By:



Please follow the COVID-19 Provincial Health Officer guidelines and protocols, as well as any local municipal guidelines in your community, while participating in Go By Bike activities.

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

Enjoy a ride along the E&N trail seeing the sights of Vic West, Esquimalt, and View Royal.

Background:

1. Built in 1903 by the Canadian National Railway, the Selkirk Trestle is a 300-metre long fir and hemlock trestle that spans the Selkirk Waters, a narrow saltwater inlet. When the Selkirk Trestle opened to pedestrians and cyclists in 1996, an important milestone was achieved in the history of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail: a continuous multi-use trail now linking the communities of Victoria West and Saanich. In 1995, the trestle was severely damaged in a fire and rebuilt with a draw bridge function in its center to allow boats with tall masts to navigate the inner waters.



Action item

Ride across this old trestle and take a photo of it from either end on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. Be sure to pull off the trail completely when stopped to allow others to pass you safely.

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

2. **Background:**
- Hidden away along the E&N Rail Trail are a series of different, colourful, and sometimes political, graffiti murals painted on the backs of buildings located between Fairview Rd and Hereward Rd. Over the years, these walls have become canvases for many local graffiti artists in the community.



Photo of murals on E&N Trail by John Holland.

Action Item: Ride over to these murals and take a photo of your favourite design.

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

3. **Background:**
- Navigating the windy intersection at Admirals Road can be confusing and for cars and cyclists alike due to the intersection of trails, streets, and train tracks, which are a major hazard for cyclists. As you can see, the bike lanes throughout Esquimalt are designed to pass train tracks at a 90 degree angle to avoid crashes.

If we roll back in time, this intersection becomes a living artifact of transportation history in the Esquimalt area.



Action item

Continue riding along the E&N Rail Trail to the intersection at Admirals and Colville Road. Once arriving, take a look at the old train station shelter on the corner of Colville Road and discover something new about this place. Be careful when crossing the railroad tracks at this intersection.

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

4.

Background:

“The Songhees Wellness Centre is a LEED Silver rated building with geothermal heating and cooling and a rooftop solar array for hot water. The Ləkʷəŋən Recreation Centre Committee envisioned this building to symbolize the Nation’s pride of place, serve as an economic generator, welcome visitors, and consolidate programs and services for members” (Songhees Nation website). This building is situated on the unceded ancestral lands of the Ləkʷəŋən Nations.



Action item:

Ride over to this building, just slightly off the E&N Rail Trail, and take a moment to observe and listen to the sounds in this place. What sounds can you hear here?

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

5. **Background:**
“The Kosampson people, whose descendants are part of the Esquimalt Nation, lived in a village on the east bank of the Gorge, near Portage Inlet. Shell middens near Gorge Bridge confirm the area has been used for over 4,000 years. Portage Inlet and the Gorge Waterway continue to be culturally significant areas for the Esquimalt and Songhees peoples” (History of Portage Inlet, CRD Website).



Action Item: Ride over to Portage Park and visit the Historic Craigflower Schoolhouse and Manor, which was built on the former Kosampson village site in 1854. Can you see bits of white shell remnants in the sands along the shoreline here?

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

6.

Background:

These two murals on the side of the View Royal Elementary School, located off of the E&N Rail Trail, are unique in their design and style. The lower mural was designed by Misha Smart, who also designed the James Bay Community School mural.



Action Item: Ride over to these murals and check out all the natural features woven within each of these paintings.

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

7. Background:

Situated between View Royal Elementary School and Adam's Storage is the historic Fort Victoria RV Park located along the E&N Rail Trail. Can you spot this old Fort Bastion replica along the trail? This replica was built in the early 1960's by the family who established the Fort RV Park & Campground.



Action Item: Find this old Fort Victoria Bastion replica and take a photo of it. From how many metres away (approximately) can you spot this building along the Galloping Goose Trail?

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

8. Background:

The Nest Café is the Go-to café for cyclists and Galloping Goose Commuters. This café is nestled on a hill along Watkiss Way and offers a rest stop on route to Thetis Lake. This café even has a bike maintenance station, including a wide variety of tools and air pumps.



Action Item: This café offers a wonderful seating space. What tree species can you identify here? For help identifying plant species, download the free iNaturalist app on your phone, take a photo of the plant, and upload it for identifying.

View Royal/Esquimalt

Points of Interest

9

Background:

- A community mural project by Morgan MacCaulay and the Children of Chico and Atkins in August 2007, lines the Atkins Chilco Pedestrian Pathway under the Via Rail track in View Royal. Decorated with elaborate painted flowers and nature images, this 1916 tunnel connects Atkins Road with Chilco Road near Thetis Vale Green Space. The Via Rail, which once traveled above this pathway, began operating a Victoria– Courtney passenger train in 1979. This train service was suspended indefinitely in March 2011, due to track replacement work and subsequent lack of funds.



Action Item: Ride over to this tunnel and take a peek at this beautiful colourful mural!

Congratulations! You have now come to the end of your Discovery Ride. We hope you enjoyed your ride through Esquimalt and View Royal and learned a fun fact or two about the local area. Don't forget to log your bike ride on GoByBikeBC.ca and submit photos using either #GoByBikeWeek2021 on social media or emailing to james@bikektowork.ca