

Tour die Kapellen Bike Tour Q & A

May I register on the day of the ride?

Event organizers strongly prefer to limit day-of registrations because there is a capacity limit for the event, and we want to ensure there is enough food and supplies for all registered participants. [Registering early](#) helps organizers better estimate how many participants will be attending.

What is included in my registration fee?

Your [registration](#) includes a T-shirt, swag bag, snacks along the route, entertainment, and history at each venue. At the end of the ride, participants are treated to an authentic German meal and two adult beverages, if desired.

What is the refund policy?

Since this is a benefit ride for the Hays Symphony and Ellis County historic churches, registrations are nonrefundable. However, any entry may be transferred to [another](#) participant at no cost.

Where are the best places to stay in Hays?

Please check with the [Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau](#). There are accommodations at all levels, including camping and hotel lodging.

Where is parking on the day of the event?

Parking is available along Main Street, as well as in the parking lots across from Municipal Park. Additional parking is available in the grassy field south of the NCK Tech building on Main Street and in the asphalt parking lot north of the NCK Tech building. Please see the attached event map for parking locations.

Is TdK a bike race?

No. [Tour die Kapellen](#) is not a competitive race. It is a unique and comprehensive ride experience where riders follow scenic routes through agricultural lands, small villages, and historic landmarks. Participants will meet residents from surrounding “dorfs” in the Ellis County area.

What kind of bike can be used for the ride?

All bikes, including road bikes, gravel bikes, cross bikes, electric bikes, and trikes, are acceptable. However, motorized cycles, scooters, and hoverboards are not allowed.

Do I need to wear a helmet?

Yes. Helmets are mandatory, and cyclists will not be allowed to participate without one.

Will there be bibs?

Yes. You will have the option to pin the bib to the front of your jersey, OR grab some pipe cleaners at registration and place it on the front of your bike.

Will the route/course be marked?

Yes. All road routes, as well as the gravel route, will be marked with large signs. We also recommend using a cycling computer or an app on your phone for additional navigation in the event course markings are accidentally moved or blown away.

Is there a GPX file of the route that I can download onto my phone, smartwatch, or computer?

Yes. You may [download GPS files](#) for all routes except the 15-mile route. There are route descriptions on each link.

Will there be aid stations and bathrooms along the route?

Yes. Every SAG — support and gear — stop will have local snacks, water, and restroom facilities. They will also have a bike pump and bike tools. There will be extra porta-potties in Victoria and Catharine, in addition to bathrooms in the churches.

What are the weather conditions, and how should I dress for the ride?

Western Kansas is typically hot and windy in July. Current weather predictions are calling for temperatures over 90 degrees and winds of 10 to 20 mph. Riders should wear breathable biking clothes and carry a refillable water bottle or hydration pack on their bike. SAG stops are approximately 10 to 11 miles apart.

Is there an alternate plan in the event of threatening weather?

You must [download the RaceJoy app](#) on your phone and set it up to receive notifications. See instructions on “How to be Tracked” on the [RaceJoy](#) website. In the event of lightning or storm conditions, we will notify all riders as soon as possible. If needed, the meal will be served in the old Kennedy Junior High School, located behind St. Joseph’s Church at 13th and Fort Street.

In the event of an emergency, who do I contact?

Participants will be given a wristband to wear for the duration of the event. This wristband gives you access to the SAG stops, the German meal, and all extra bonuses at the park.

Most importantly, the wristband includes a phone number that will connect you with our EMT on duty.

For serious emergencies, please dial **911** immediately.

Most Important Information This Year

How can I be notified of emergencies, alerts, or last-minute changes?

You must [download the RaceJoy app](#) to receive notifications, and of course. . . carry your phone with you!

Although we cannot force you to use this extra safety feature, and you ride at your own risk, we strongly encourage you to include it as part of your Tour die Kapellen experience.

When can I pick up my registration packet?

[The Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) has graciously agreed to accommodate all participants on Friday, July 10, before the event. HCVB is located at the corner of Vine Street and 27th Street. They will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for all registrants to pick up their Tour die Kapellen information.

They will also be available to answer questions about things to do, places to see, and where to eat in Hays and the surrounding areas.

[The full schedule and information](#) can be found on the website. However, when you pick up your T-shirt and swag, you will also receive a full schedule, the musician performance schedule, and the SAG schedule in your packet.

Where is Municipal Park located?

[Municipal Park](#) is located at 100 Main Street in Hays, Kansas. Please see the attached map.

How safe will I feel biking through Hays and on county roads?

We are fortunate to have both the Ellis County Sheriff's Department and the Hays Police Department helping block roads as cyclists depart town. Once you are on county roads, there will be digital signs alerting vehicle traffic of the cycling event.

All routes are clearly marked. Additionally, each route has a sweeper who will follow cyclists and periodically check the route to make sure there are no health concerns or bike maintenance issues.

Since the ride is on a Saturday morning, traffic is typically light. However, there will still be some vehicle traffic, so please follow [the rules of the road](#). Drivers should be friendly and aware of the event.

As an added safety feature, we recommend wearing bright-colored clothing and using a small red bike light on your seat or helmet.

Do I need to follow a group, or may I ride at my own pace?

You may ride at your own pace. However, we strongly encourage 75- to 100-mile cyclists to depart before the 7:00 a.m. group start. These longer routes can be a grueling journey, even for experienced cyclists.

Please stay hydrated, use a hydration pack if possible, and refill at every SAG stop. Long-distance cyclists also have the option to stop at the park after 62 miles to refuel before continuing on the 75- or 100-mile route.

What kind of events can I expect at Municipal Park?

In the morning, the St. Joseph's Church ladies will offer breakfast burritos, fruit, and coffee for a free-will donation. Breakfast will begin at 6:00 a.m.

When you return from your route, you will be greeted with a cold, wet washcloth to help cool down. Free massages will be offered [by Ceena's Massage Education & Retail](#). You will also enjoy a full German meal, cold beverages, and music from a polka band.

The polka band will finish playing at 2:00 p.m., and meal service will end at 2:30 p.m. For riders who have not completed their route by that time, meals will be boxed up.

What do I need to know about the ankle strap?

Every cyclist will be assigned an ankle strap which is coordinated with your bib number. This band will be included in your registration packet. **Please do not forget to put it on before you commence your ride in the morning.**

Our timer has asked that you **wear the strap, walk your bike across the timing mat** as you leave the park, and *then* mount your bike. When you return, please dismount before the timing mat, walk your bike across the mat, and then remove your ankle strap and return it to the designated bin. Although these straps are designed to chart your begin and end time- - more frequently worn for races- -*our primary concern is to make certain that all of our riders are accounted for at the end of the ride.*

May I bring my own sweeper, spouse, driver, friend to follow me with a vehicle?

THIS IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED for the sake of our cyclists. If you have a family member that is not a cyclist, but would like to participate, there are still a few seats on the bus! We have amazing sweepers that follow every route, and we **STRONGLY** discourage any additional traffic than what is necessary with 300 cyclists on the road.

