

Sign In or Sign Up

Like 178k

Subscribe/Manage Account

Place Ad

LAT Store

Jobs

Cars

Real Estate

Rentals

Classifieds

Custom Publishing

Los Angeles Times | LOCAL

Whenever you want.
Wherever you go.

LOCAL U.S. WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL OPINION DEALS

WEEKLY AD

L.A. NOW POLITICS CRIME EDUCATION O.C. WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOODS ENVIRONMENT OBITUARIES FINDLOCAL

IN THE NEWS: NEW YORK GIANTS | NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS | GABRIELLE GIFFORDS | JOE PATERNO | NEWT GINGRICH

Search

zulily DAILY DEALS FOR MOMS, BABIES AND KIDS
OH, MY! SO MANY DRESSES
UP TO 90% OFF | SEE WHAT'S NEW >

Bicyclists tour Watts on a CicLAvia ride

The cyclists take photos and recordings for a 'crowd-sourced' map of their route from Augustus Hawkins Natural Park in South L.A.'s Central-Alameda neighborhood to the Watts Towers.

Comments 2 Share 69 1 Tweet 29 Recommend 57



Elizabeth Williams, left, owner of Cali Bike Tours in Long Beach, admires a custom bicycle belonging to Cassandra Freeman, right. The two rode to the Watts Towers during a CicLAvia event. (Christina House, For the Times / January 23, 2012)

Related photos »

Recommended on Facebook Like 178k



Bicyclists tour Watts on a CicLAvia ride
Joe Linton and 54 others recommend this.



Stephen Colbert, Herman Cain team up for S.C. campaign rally
Ari Bloomekatz and 509 others recommend this.

advertisement

Sojourn
Bicycle Based Active Vacations - US & Canada
THE GOOD LIFE, BY BIKE™

ALSO



Photos: Cyclists create a crowd-sourcing map



By Jason Song, Los Angeles Times

January 22, 2012 | 10:35 p.m.

CicLAvia, the popular Los Angeles cycling event, took its first spin in Watts on Sunday.

Volunteers have long wanted to hold a ride in Watts similar to CicLAvia events that pass through downtown Los Angeles, known for closing streets to cars so cyclists have free rein. On Sunday, a large group gathered to tour the Watts area on bike, something organizers hope will encourage more civic engagement, even though they had to share the road with drivers.



'Citizen Kane' will be shown at Hearst Castle



Woman skis solo across Antarctica



Giants to face Patriots in Super Bowl | Photos



Joe Paterno dead at 85 | Photos

Gear: Bicycles shift into high-tech mode



Rise in number of bicycle accidents has Burbank concerned



At Mammoth, a five-star idea for seeing the area on two wheels



Fashion designers put their marques on bicycles

"Look around," Tafarai Bayne, one of the event's organizers, told 60 or so cyclists gathered at Augustus Hawkins Natural Park in South L.A.'s Central-Alameda neighborhood. "These are your future comrades in making L.A. a better place."

PHOTOS: Touring South L.A. by bike

In addition to riding from the park to the Watts Towers, cyclists were encouraged to take photos for a "crowd-sourced" map that will feature pictures and recordings cyclists took along the route.

CicLAvia has held similar events in the Leimert Park and Exposition Park neighborhoods and plans to continue holding monthly rides throughout the Los Angeles area.

The group's diversity was obvious before the ride even began. As cyclists milled around the park's courtyard in the morning, some arrived with fancy 21-speeds while one woman rode a bright green bike with a small license plate proclaiming "Ms. Vixen."

Many were armed with iPhones and ear buds, but when an organizer assured the riders that they didn't need a smartphone to participate, one man sighed audibly.

"Ooh, that means I can take pictures, then," said Fred Buggs, who uses a scratched-up Samsung cellphone. "I'm not sure how old it is," admitted Buggs, who lives near the park.

Buggs said he rides about 40 miles a week and was glad to see people visiting the area. He said he hoped they came away with a good impression.

"You have a thousand bad people here, but you also have about 10,000 good people," Buggs said.

The group rode down Holmes Avenue as bystanders waved and honked their horns. Cyclists paused to hold up their phones to take pictures of interesting sights, including a statue of two dolphins in a frontyard and old train cars.

Francois Bar, a USC professor who will help create the final map, kept track of the photos during the ride on his iPad, which he had mounted on his handlebars.

When the group took a break at Watts Towers, a small crowd gathered around Bar's 21-speed bike.

"When someone sends a photo, they like to see it right away," Bar said.

Many said they participated in the ride because they had enjoyed earlier CicLAvia events and wanted to experience more of the city by bike.

Justin Runia brought his wife and 2-year-old daughter on the ride, hoping such events would soon become a regular part of their routine.

"We want to let people know there's a demand," Runia said.

PHOTOS: Touring South L.A. by bike

jason.song@latimes.com

Copyright © 2012, Los Angeles Times



Comments 2

Share 69

1

Tweet 29

Recommend 57



Ads by Google

Luxury Bike Trips

Tuscany, Burgundy, Morocco & more Butterfield & Robinson, since 1966
www.butterfield.com

Sojourn Bicycling Tours

Rated One of World's Best by Frommer's. 2012 Dates. Book Now!
www.GoSojourn.com/Biking-Trips

Top 5 Exercise Bikes

Best Models, Deals & Services Save Big on Exercise Bikes
ShopCompare.net

Tour de France Bike Tours

Exclusive Cycling Tours Join us! See the Race - Ride with a Pro
www.martyjemison.com

LA DEALS



\$49 for 90-min Hypnotherapy Session (reg. \$125)

Most Viewed Most Emailed Latest News

Stocks edge up as Greece negotiates to cut debt
01/23/2012, 7:33 a.m.

EU bans Iranian oil over nuclear program
01/23/2012, 3:54 a.m.

Adventurer skis solo across Antarctica *01/23/2012, 2:46 a.m.*

A simple 'Go to the dance with me?' doesn't cut it anymore *01/23/2012, 12:54 a.m.*

Jailed Megaupload founder seeks bail at New Zealand court hearing *01/23/2012, 12:00 a.m.*

Videos

VIDEO: Legendary Penn State Coach Joe Paterno, 85, Dies - Rick Chambers reports

The football coach will be remembered for his award-winning legacy as much as fo...

Expand

Share Video: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#)

