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OAK BAY / UVIC / TEN MILE POINT

What you see as you ride through three of Victoria's most select neighbourhoods belies what is a rather beguiling history. The municipality of Oak Bay was, at the turn of the 1900s, essentially a weekend seaside resort, with a large hotel and a few summer cottages surrounded by farmland. Roughly where this ride begins is where the hotel was situated. (Actually at the corner of Windsor Road and Beach Drive.) Named Mount Baker Hotel, it was successful from its opening in 1883 and early on was able to boast visits by British royalty and the English writer Rudyard Kipling.

It wasn't long however, before developers saw the potential of the location and began buying parcels of the farmland. To attract "a good class of residents" they kept land prices high and initially it was only Victoria's wealthy that were able to buy land and build

large houses. Francis Rattenbury, the eccentric architect who had designed many of Victoria's landmarks such as the parliament buildings and the Empress Hotel, built a substantial house on Beach Drive. He called the place "Iechineel" meaning in the local First Nation's tongue "a place where good things happened." It's now a private school and you'll pass it on your return route.

Ten Mile Point (so named because it is ten nautical miles from Esquimalt Harbour) had, on its north-east side below Minnie Mountain, a dynamite manufactory plant. Built at Telegraph Cove in 1895 by the Giant Powder Company, the plant serviced the mining and road construction industries of the mainland. There are no traces of the site left although you'll ride close by on Telegraph Bay Road.

The opulent Uplands neighbourhood was once a large

180-hectare farm owned by the Hudson's Bay Company. It was the Uplands Farm which the Company sold in 1907. The land eventually landed in the hands of the *Companie Franco-Canadienne* which, in 1911, developed it into an exclusive suburb called simply Uplands. Divided into roughly half-hectare lots, houses were to have a minimum price of \$5,000.00 and no multi-family or commercial buildings were allowed. The wide, curving roadways, the grand houses and gardens and the underground wiring and



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Enjoying the ride.

ornate street lights are the legacy that we can appreciate as we ride our modern bikes through a slice of history.

General description This ride will take you through some of the area's most pleasant neighbourhoods. You'll see part of the university, ride to the top of Ten Mile Point's Minnie Mountain and get a good look at Oak Bay and the Uplands.

Location Oak Bay's shoreline and the southern reaches of Saanich municipality.

Length 24 kilometres.

Level Moderate.

Start Oak Bay Marina's carpark.

Highlights Oak Bay Village; University of Victoria; Ten Mile Point and its Phyllis Park lookout; Queenswood Drive; Cadboro Bay Village and the Uplands.

How to get there From the intersection of Blanshard and Fort Streets turn onto the one-way Fort Street going east. After two kilometres turn **R** onto Oak Bay Avenue. Continue on this road past Oak Bay Village bearing right onto Newport Avenue. At the first intersection (intermittent light) turn **L** onto Windsor Road and then immediately **R** onto Beach Drive. Turn **L** into the Oak Bay Marina carpark after 100 metres.



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Spring is in the air. Riding through UVic.

THE RIDE

- ① From the marina's carpark turn **R** onto Beach Drive. After 100 metres turn **L** onto Windsor Road.
- ② (1.3 km) Turn **R** onto Hampshire Road. At the village turn **R** onto Oak Bay Avenue then immediately **L** to continue along Hampshire. Cross Cranmore and Bowker after which the road becomes Musgrave Street.
- ③ (3.2 km) At a three-way junction in Estevan Village turn **L** onto Thompson Avenue.
- ④ (3.7 km) Turn **R** at the stop sign onto Cadboro Bay Road.
- ⑤ (4.2 km) Turn **L** at the traffic light onto Lansdowne Road turning **R** 500 metres later onto Henderson Road. After a few hundred metres you yield as Foul Bay

- Road joins Henderson from the **L**. You then cross Cedar Hill Cross Road and enter the University of Victoria campus. Follow the ring road to Finnerty Road (The Student Union Building is on the corner.)
- ⑥ (7.4 km) Turn **R** onto Finnerty then, at the traffic light, turn **R** again onto Sinclair Road.
 - ⑦ (8.7 km) At the bottom of the steep downhill turn **L** onto Cadboro Bay Road at the village. Continue on Cadboro Bay Road for another kilometre.
 - ⑧ (9.7 km) Turn **R** into Ten Mile Point on Seaview Road. Keeping **R**, following Seaview until it joins Tudor Avenue.
 - ⑨ (11.4 km) Turn **R** onto Tudor Avenue.
 - ⑩ (11.6 km) Turn **R** onto McAnally Road which curves at a beach access to become Smuggler's Cove Road. At its end turn **L** onto Baynes Road.
 - ⑪ (12.6 km) Turn **R** back onto Tudor then swing **L** onto the steep uphill of Phyllis Street. At the top of Phyllis pass around the fire gate onto Arbutus Road. You are now on top of Minnie Mountain. Turn **R** here following the circular road past Phyllis Park (on your **R**) down to meet Arbutus (again) turning **R** down the steep hill to Telegraph Bay Road.
 - ⑫ (14.4 km) Turn **R** onto Telegraph Bay Road then **L** 300 metres later onto Queenswood Drive.
 - ⑬ (16.6 km) Leave Queenswood and cross Arbutus Road onto Hobbs Street. Follow Hobbs for 400 metres turning **L** onto Penryhn Street.
 - ⑭ (17.1 km) Turn **R** onto Cadboro Bay Road. (You're now back in the village.) After a short climb out of the village turn **L** at the Upland's gate onto Beach Drive. You soon bear **R** to take Midland Road.
 - ⑮ (18.8 km) At a roundabout turn **L** onto Ripon Road. Turn **L** again onto Lansdowne Road.
 - ⑯ (19.5 km) Turn **R** onto Beach Drive riding the four kilometres back to the Oak Bay Marine (passing on the way Uplands Park, Cattle Point, Willows Beach and Glenlyon/Norfolk School, one of Francis Rattenbury's homes — all on your **L**).

