

International Study Tour North America

Frequently Asked Questions

Our transport study tour looks at the American transport context, and with the impact of technology on the way we travel, we will explore and try to answer some questions including who is choosing how we move, government, consumers or big business!

Why North America?

The West Coast of America has justifiably recognised for leadership in both technology and looking at the way it gets both America and the world moving. Steady investments in bicycling and transit, combined with the influence of technology, has enabled cities to realise multiple benefits beyond just personal mobility, such as strengthening local economies and supporting vibrant public spaces, preserving roadway capacity and reducing maintenance costs, and improving public health.

In the cities we are visiting, over 10% of daily trips are by bike, but it is also the investment in public and shared transport solutions that attract us to look to them for leadership. This is showing us what a mixed mobility solution can really look like.



Australia's leading cities, practitioners and policymakers are currently “translating” and adapting best practices inspired by the American West Coast cities for use on unique Australian streets. Visiting these cities offers Australian leaders a chance to experience a fully realised, mature transportation network in action — something not yet possible in Australia. But it's not just about active transport. The American West Coast offers a vision for people-focused places and neighbourhoods, economic vitality, and high-performing cities that attract talented residents and innovative employers.

Professionally guided hands-on site visits, exchanges with transportation, technology and city life experts, and comparing notes with fellow Australian leaders offer

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participants an insider's perspective on the rapidly evolving field of bicycle transportation.

Delegates return home inspired to lead with fresh ideas for improving the safety, convenience and comfort of bicycling — and overall quality of living — in their cities.

We also know that conversations about alternatives to personal motorised vehicles is easy in America, but this study tour demonstrates the solutions and possibilities when these challenges are overcome, similar to contemporary Australian cities in transforming their streets. American cities struggle with competing funding and design priorities, building public support and balancing interests for limited public space just as Australian cities do. Extracting practical, relevant lessons for Australian cities is the core mission of the study tour.

Who should attend?

The ideal delegation mix will vary from trip to trip, but delegations will include key influential individuals from all levels of government and non-government sectors . The most effective delegations are not only comprised of people whose day-to-day emphasis is on transport, but also those who focus on neighbourhood or economic development, project delivery, general transportation or broader city management.

Delegates do not need to be bike riders or outspoken advocates for cycling, but should be open to new ideas, engaged in transport and/or urban liveability issues and have a strong desire to be proactive about making their city a better place.



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What to expect



The American West Coast is well known for its demonstration of what can be achieved when innovation meets tradition in a transport sense. We will experience all elements of transport, scooters, bikes, taxis, buses, trains and planes. It is about moving and choosing the most convenient methods of getting around, whether that is bike, train, bus or walking.

We'll be providing you with some simple ideas of what you might need to pack and what to expect. We expect our days to be fully committed during the study tour, with a chance to sit down together at the end of each day to review and discuss what we've seen.

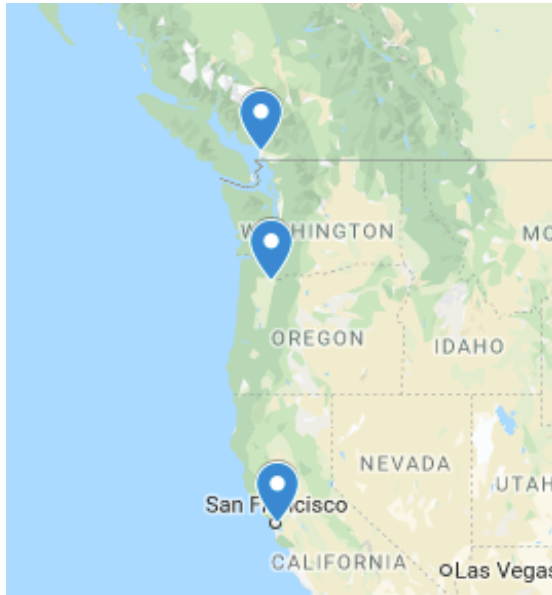
What will a typical day be like?

Busy! Each day will include between 70-80% presentation/meeting/discussion with the remaining time for experiencing. Typically, the days will involve meetings or discussions with key thought leaders, transportation professionals, elected officials or staff combined with a hands-on bicycle tour of the host city. There will be time for discussion with locals about how the projects are planned, designed, funded and implemented. The trip will function as a rolling meeting; regular debrief sessions will help the group capture good ideas and strategise about adapting lessons learned to projects and policies in Australia. Delegates should expect to be fully committed during the study tour, active from 7 AM to 10 PM daily.

With two flights during the week, please also understand these will be late nights to ensure we do not cut the day program short.

- Agendas from previous years' study tours are available on the [Events page](#).

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What places will the trips visit?

The 2019 delegation will spend;

- 1 day - Vancouver
- 2 days - Portland
- 2 days - San Francisco

What if I'm injured or not used to riding a bicycle or scooter?

All walking, riding and scooting we engage in will be to experience transport modes and infrastructure design. All activities will be done at a low speed and if there is any concern, we will work with you to overcome any issues. A combination of infrastructure, policy and culture make riding a bike a very comfortable, low-stress experience. The ability and willingness to ride is a prerequisite for participation. Fundamental riding skills such as starting, stopping, signalling, turning and moving in a straight line are essential for safety. If you haven't ridden a bicycle recently, don't worry. Practice rides at home to brush up on your skills and fitness in the weeks leading up to the trip will prepare you.

The Americans do travel on the opposite side of the road to Australia, so we will take a little time to make sure everyone is comfortable.

We will be using a combination of share bikes, high quality private hire upright bikes and scooters to get around in cities (just like the locals do) each day in all weather conditions, travelling up to 25 kms a day. If you have concerns, please contact us.

Images and video

There will be several photos and videos taken over the course of the study tour. These images and videos will be made available to all participants and be used by the WRA for promotional activities and reports.

We will of course respect individual wishes for inclusion in all outputs during the study tour.

If you have concerns regarding the use of images, including images without helmets – please discuss with WRA.

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Will I have to wear a helmet?

It is not a legal requirement to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle in the America. If you wish to have a helmet provided please notify the WRA to make arrangements.

Access to presentations

All presentations delivered throughout the study tour will be made available to participants. These are collected by the tour leader and provided with the images and videos.

Sharing of images and other resources

The CPF will set up a specific dropbox folder for the sharing of images, videos and presentations. These resources will be loaded to dropbox throughout the course of the week. Please ensure your IT system allows access to dropbox.

Can I extend my trip with personal travel?

Yes! In fact, it's encouraged. The study tour will be a rigorous and intense program with very limited time for personal exploration. Taking a few days to travel on your own before or after the trip is highly recommended.

Accommodation will be provided in high-quality, centrally-located hotels in each city. Details will be provided shortly.

How will we get around?

Group travel will take advantage of the rich intermodality of the transportation system, combining regional rail and buses for inter-city travel with bicycles, walking and light rail/subway/streetcars for local site visits.

What to wear?

No special clothing is required for the study tour. We recommend informal but chic and cosmopolitan. Nice jeans, slacks and comfortable shoes along with fitted shirts, blouses and a weather-resistant jacket is a good choice most days. A rain jacket, gloves and a packable umbrella are a must. A scarf or hat is also a good idea for cooler days. Daily wear should emphasize comfort for moving around and layers for variable conditions.

Lycra?

Lycra is not required and is discouraged, you will be experiencing riding primarily for transport over short distances and not for exercise.

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What about weather?

The maritime climates in America are generally mild, with spring and fall day temperatures typically reaching the high teens at night and dropping to single figures at night. Clouds are likely, and showers are a possibility on any day at any time of year. We will ride bikes each day regardless of weather, and the locals' technique of riding with an open umbrella is surprisingly easy to master.

VANCOUVER 2018 TEMPERATURE GUIDE

SUN 8/26 Actual Temp 17°/12° Hist. Avg. 19°/11°	MON 8/27 Actual Temp 23°/11° Hist. Avg. 19°/11°	TUE 8/28 Actual Temp 23°/13° Hist. Avg. 19°/11°	WED 8/29 Actual Temp 20°/15° Hist. Avg. 19°/11°	THU 8/30 Actual Temp 22°/14° Hist. Avg. 19°/11°	FRI 8/31 Actual Temp 22°/13° Hist. Avg. 19°/10°	SAT 9/1 Actual Temp 21°/13° Hist. Avg. 19°/10°
SUN 9/2 Actual Temp 22°/11° Hist. Avg. 19°/10°	MON 9/3 Actual Temp 21°/13° Hist. Avg. 19°/10°	TUE 9/4 Actual Temp 25°/12° Hist. Avg. 18°/10°	WED 9/5 Actual Temp 26°/14° Hist. Avg. 18°/10°	THU 9/6 Actual Temp 28°/16° Hist. Avg. 18°/10°	FRI 9/7 Actual Temp 21°/14° Hist. Avg. 18°/10°	SAT 9/8 Actual Temp 20°/13° Hist. Avg. 18°/10°
SUN 9/9 Actual Temp 15°/12° Hist. Avg. 18°/9°	MON 9/10 Actual Temp 16°/10° Hist. Avg. 18°/9°	TUE 9/11 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 18°/9°	WED 9/12 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 18°/9°	THU 9/13 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 17°/9°	FRI 9/14 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 17°/9°	SAT 9/15 Actual Temp 16°/11° Hist. Avg. 17°/9°
SUN 9/16 Actual Temp 14°/11° Hist. Avg. 17°/9°	MON 9/17 Actual Temp 17°/10° Hist. Avg. 17°/9°	TUE 9/18 Actual Temp 17°/8° Hist. Avg. 17°/9°	WED 9/19 Actual Temp 19°/9° Hist. Avg. 17°/8°	THU 9/20 Actual Temp 14°/10° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°	FRI 9/21 Actual Temp 15°/10° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°	SAT 9/22 Actual Temp 16°/12° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°
SUN 9/23 Actual Temp 13°/9° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°	MON 9/24 Actual Temp 17°/8° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°	TUE 9/25 Actual Temp 18°/9° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°	WED 9/26 Actual Temp 18°/10° Hist. Avg. 16°/8°	THU 9/27 Actual Temp 20°/11° Hist. Avg. 15°/8°	FRI 9/28 Actual Temp 24°/13° Hist. Avg. 15°/8°	SAT 9/29 Actual Temp 19°/12° Hist. Avg. 15°/7°
SUN 9/30 Actual Temp 15°/11° Hist. Avg. 15°/7°	MON 10/1 Actual Temp 17°/11° Hist. Avg. 15°/7°	TUE 10/2 Actual Temp 14°/5° Hist. Avg. 15°/7°	WED 10/3 Actual Temp 10°/4° Hist. Avg. 14°/7°	THU 10/4 Actual Temp 13°/4° Hist. Avg. 14°/7°	FRI 10/5 Actual Temp 14°/7° Hist. Avg. 14°/7°	SAT 10/6 Actual Temp 13°/6° Hist. Avg. 14°/7°

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PORTLAND 2018 TEMPERATURE GUIDE

SUN AUG 26 Actual Temp 19°/16° Hist. Avg. 26°/11°	MON AUG 27 Actual Temp 26°/14° Hist. Avg. 26°/11°	TUE AUG 28 Actual Temp 31°/11° Hist. Avg. 26°/11°	WED AUG 29 Actual Temp 29°/12° Hist. Avg. 26°/11°	THU AUG 30 Actual Temp 24°/14° Hist. Avg. 26°/10°	FRI AUG 31 Actual Temp 24°/15° Hist. Avg. 26°/10°	SAT SEP 1 Actual Temp 24°/10° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°
SUN SEP 2 Actual Temp 27°/9° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	MON SEP 3 Actual Temp 26°/13° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	TUE SEP 4 Actual Temp 28°/10° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	WED SEP 5 Actual Temp 33°/11° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	THU SEP 6 Actual Temp 31°/12° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	FRI SEP 7 Actual Temp 29°/11° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	SAT SEP 8 Actual Temp 24°/16° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°
SUN SEP 9 Actual Temp 26°/13° Hist. Avg. 25°/10°	MON SEP 10 Actual Temp 22°/13° Hist. Avg. 25°/9°	TUE SEP 11 Actual Temp 20°/12° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°	WED SEP 12 Actual Temp 21°/11° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°	THU SEP 13 Actual Temp 21°/11° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°	FRI SEP 14 Actual Temp 22°/12° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°	SAT SEP 15 Actual Temp 19°/11° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°
SUN SEP 16 Actual Temp 21°/11° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°	MON SEP 17 Actual Temp 21°/8° Hist. Avg. 24°/9°	TUE SEP 18 Actual Temp 22°/7° Hist. Avg. 23°/8°	WED SEP 19 Actual Temp 22°/7° Hist. Avg. 23°/8°	THU SEP 20 Actual Temp 22°/9° Hist. Avg. 23°/8°	FRI SEP 21 Actual Temp 24°/9° Hist. Avg. 23°/8°	SAT SEP 22 Actual Temp 22°/9° Hist. Avg. 23°/8°
SUN SEP 23 Actual Temp 20°/9° Hist. Avg. 23°/8°	MON SEP 24 Actual Temp 23°/6° Hist. Avg. 22°/8°	TUE SEP 25 Actual Temp 27°/7° Hist. Avg. 22°/8°	WED SEP 26 Actual Temp 28°/9° Hist. Avg. 22°/7°	THU SEP 27 Actual Temp 29°/10° Hist. Avg. 22°/7°	FRI SEP 28 Actual Temp 30°/10° Hist. Avg. 22°/7°	SAT SEP 29 Actual Temp 19°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/7°
SUN SEP 30 Actual Temp 21°/11° Hist. Avg. 21°/7°	MON OCT 1 Actual Temp 22°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/7°	TUE OCT 2 Actual Temp 22°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/7°	WED OCT 3 Actual Temp 19°/4° Hist. Avg. 20°/6°	THU OCT 4 Actual Temp 18°/7° Hist. Avg. 20°/6°	FRI OCT 5 Actual Temp 12°/6° Hist. Avg. 20°/6°	SAT OCT 6 Actual Temp 17°/7° Hist. Avg. 20°/6°

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SAN FRANCISCO 2018 TEMPERATURE GUIDE

SUN AUG 26 Actual Temp 19°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	MON AUG 27 Actual Temp 20°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	TUE AUG 28 Actual Temp 20°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	WED AUG 29 Actual Temp 22°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	THU AUG 30 Actual Temp 20°/17° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	FRI AUG 31 Actual Temp 19°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	SAT SEP 1 Actual Temp 18°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°
SUN SEP 2 Actual Temp 18°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	MON SEP 3 Actual Temp 18°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	TUE SEP 4 Actual Temp 19°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	WED SEP 5 Actual Temp 17°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	THU SEP 6 Actual Temp 16°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	FRI SEP 7 Actual Temp 19°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	SAT SEP 8 Actual Temp 21°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°
SUN SEP 9 Actual Temp 21°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	MON SEP 10 Actual Temp 23°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	TUE SEP 11 Actual Temp 21°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	WED SEP 12 Actual Temp 17°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	THU SEP 13 Actual Temp 18°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	FRI SEP 14 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	SAT SEP 15 Actual Temp 17°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°
SUN SEP 16 Actual Temp 19°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	MON SEP 17 Actual Temp 17°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	TUE SEP 18 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	WED SEP 19 Actual Temp 20°/11° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	THU SEP 20 Actual Temp 28°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	FRI SEP 21 Actual Temp 18°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	SAT SEP 22 Actual Temp 16°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°
SUN SEP 23 Actual Temp 19°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	MON SEP 24 Actual Temp 19°/10° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	TUE SEP 25 Actual Temp 18°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	WED SEP 26 Actual Temp 23°/12° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	THU SEP 27 Actual Temp 16°/11° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	FRI SEP 28 Actual Temp 18°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	SAT SEP 29 Actual Temp 21°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°
SUN SEP 30 Actual Temp 21°/16° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	MON OCT 1 Actual Temp 22°/15° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	TUE OCT 2 Actual Temp 26°/16° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	WED OCT 3 Actual Temp 22°/17° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	THU OCT 4 Actual Temp 20°/16° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	FRI OCT 5 Actual Temp 19°/13° Hist. Avg. 21°/13°	SAT OCT 6 Actual Temp 21°/14° Hist. Avg. 21°/12°