

*This 100 km (61 miles) round trip tour from Rio Vista starts with a ferry ride and takes you on quiet levee roads through classic Delta landscapes to the town of Clarksburg, home to 400 people and no less than ten wineries.*

Start your tour from 2nd and Main Streets in Rio Vista. Heading east toward the river, turn left on Front Street and continue under the bridge approach to River Road (Hwy. 84) where you turn right. Look for signs here that tell you if the ferries are running. Continue along the bank of the Sacramento River, past several industrial sites including Dutra Dredging, to the Real McCoy II Ferry (2.8 miles from start). This ferry runs every 20 minutes and is one of only 2 ferries operated by Caltrans. There is no charge to take it across Cache Slough to Ryer Island. The other ferry, the J Mack, was not operating at the time this article was written, but is scheduled to be back in service at the end of June 2015 and goes from Ryer Island to Grand Island.

From the Real McCoy II Landing on Ryer Island, turn left heading north on Ryer Road, which is narrow and winding, but very lightly traveled. At mile 7.7, Route 220 goes off to the right and takes you across Ryer Island to the J Mack Ferry. Our route, however, continues north on the levee road (still designated as Hwy. 84). This is quintessential Delta scenery, with the slough and scenic islands on your left and rich bottomland on your right, where the current trend toward converting cropland and orchards to vineyards is evident. At mile 10 is a large grain processing and loading complex, no longer functioning but testament to the region's agricultural past.

At mile 12.6, stay on Hwy. 84 as it turns left across the Miner's Slough Bridge onto Prospect Island. You can take a .9 mile diversion here by staying left and departing Hwy. 84 for a short jaunt to Arrowhead Harbor, a boat launch and small marina that has porta-potties, water and picnic tables. Upon returning to Hwy. 84, continue north (left) off of the levee and onto bottomland and a straightaway that turns right onto Courtland Road. At mile 20.5, turn left onto Jefferson Blvd. and continue 2 miles then turn right onto Netherlands Road. Enjoy a very scenic ride through a shady lane with a canal, passing Heringer Estates Winery at mile 26.2 and into the town of Clarksburg.

Pass the Delta High School (mile 27.8) and continue through the small town until the road rises to meet another levee road, S. River Road. You are now on the west bank of the main channel of the Sacramento River.

At this junction (mile 28) is a building marked on the side, Husick's Hardware and General Store, in existence since 1890 and originally built as a shipping center for local produce of all kinds. It now houses a BBQ and tap house with 14 handles of draft beer, including local microbrews, and local wines plus barbeque selections served Thursday through Monday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. They gladly prepare a take-out lunch to enjoy at one of the local wineries. Katherine Van Diest, the proprietor, has a wealth of information about the amazing little town that still houses the oldest Boy Scout lodge in the West. She reports that Clarksburg expects to have a bike shop opening in June, 2015.

A short jaunt to the south of town takes you to Bogle Vineyards, the 11th largest wine producer in the U.S. Head south on S. River Road for .8 miles, turn right onto Road 141, then left onto Road 144 along Elk Slough to the winery (mile 31). The tasting room here pours samples without charge, and the grounds have picnic tables and chairs under large trees.

The safest return route is to backtrack. There are many lightly traveled roads that can eventually get you back to Rio Vista, but avoid Hwy. 160 as it is heavily traveled.

