

Welcome to LBNL's Bike Shuttle Express FAQ

What is the Bike Shuttle Express?

The LBNL Bike Shuttle Express is a dedicated van with a custom 12-bike trailer and a 2-bike front rack which is able to carry 14 cyclists. This service was envisioned and developed by the on-site bicycle coalition, the Vehicle Access and Alternative Transportation Advisory Group ([VAATAG](#)) and the Operations Division staff with a goal to make commuting by bike to the main site safer, faster, and more convenient.

Why does the Express only pick up at UC Berkeley and only drop off near Grizzly Gate?

The pickup and dropoff locations must be able to accommodate the extra length of the trailer and must be away from heavy traffic to allow safer loading and unloading. Also, a single stop at an uphill location is much more efficient, allowing for an express service.

- The **pickup location** is a marked stop on the [Crescent \(Center St\)](#) just inside UC Berkeley campus, a few blocks from the downtown Berkeley BART station.
- The **drop off location** is at [Building 69 near the Grizzly gate entrance](#), just off Centennial drive. One of the highest points in the LBNL site, most lab destinations are a quick downhill bike ride from this location.

When does the Bike Shuttle Express operate?

There are four Bike Shuttle Express runs every weekday morning on the hour and half hour, leaving the UC Berkeley downhill stop at 8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 9:30 a.m. It arrives at the downhill stop about 5 minutes before departure to allow time for safe and stress-free loading.

Why does LBNL need a dedicated Bike Shuttle Express?

Currently the bike racks on shuttle buses often fill up during peak commute hours. The Bike Shuttle Express provides extra capacity to relieve congestion at the regular shuttle stops. It's also easier and faster to load bikes onto the trailer than onto the rear shuttle racks. We hope the additional capacity and increased efficiency encourage more people to cycle commute to LBNL!

Will regular shuttles still carry bikes?

Yes! The racks and policies for transporting bikes on the regular shuttles will not change.

Why doesn't the Bike Shuttle Express use the downtown Berkeley shuttle stop?

The van and trailer together are longer than a regular shuttle and extra room is needed to pull into a bus stop. Also, because bikes are loaded from the sides, extra space is needed for riders to safely load their bikes. The pickup location has more room and less traffic, allowing riders to load their bikes safely onto the trailer without the time pressures riders often experience at the more congested downtown Berkeley stops. Riding the few blocks between the BART station and the pickup location at the Berkeley Crescent only takes a few minutes.

The Bike Shuttle Express goes right by other shuttle stops -- why can't I catch it there?

The van plus bike trailer is too long to safely stop and load bikes at most of the other shuttle stops. Bikes are the most efficient urban transportation vehicles around; it's easier and faster for you to ride to the shuttle pickup than it would be for the shuttle to pick up at multiple stops.

Why does the Bike Shuttle Express drop off in such an out-of-the-way spot?

The Grizzly gate drop off is one of the highest elevation spots at the lab, so the ride to your office will be mostly downhill.

Are there bike-friendly routes to the Bike Shuttle Express pickup?

Yes! Route planning resources are available at commute.lbl.gov/bike, or contact the [LBL bike commuters google group](#) for advice.

What are my options for getting to my work location from the Bike Shuttle Express drop off?

The Grizzly Gate drop off is at one of the highest elevations on-site, so riding anywhere will be mostly downhill. For safety tips on riding down steep inclines with multiple stop signs, see http://roadsafety.lbl.gov/bicycle_safety.html. Alternatively, you can transfer your bike to the regular shuttle at the Building 69 shuttle stop and ride the shuttle to a stop closer to your destination.

Why is there no Bike Shuttle Express for the evening commute?

Cyclists who prefer to take the shuttle down the hill can generally find rack space, since most cycle commuters prefer to ride down the hill in the evening.

How many bikes and passengers can the Bike Shuttle Express carry?

The bike trailer capacity is 12 bikes, and the van's front rack can carry an additional 2 bikes, for a total of 14 bikes. The bike van can carry a maximum of 14 passengers.

How do I secure my bike onto the trailer?

The bike tires fit in a channel and the front wheel is held by a spring-loaded bar, similar to the front racks on the shuttle buses. The bike trailer loads from the side, as shown in the detailed instructional video at commute.lbl.gov/bike or [here](#). Load your bike by rolling it backwards in the channel, so the handlebars face out.

Where should I put my bike on the Bike Shuttle Express?

Bikes should be loaded on the trailer first, and on the front shuttle rack only after the trailer is full. Load from the back of the trailer, starting on the right (curb) side, then the left (street). Bikes can be unloaded in any order. Be especially careful loading and unloading from the street side, as you and your bike could be near traffic.

What kinds of bikes will fit on the trailer?

The bike trailer design accommodates most adult size bikes, including mountain bikes with wide tires and bikes with fenders.

Are there any safety concerns using the Bike Shuttle Express?

LBL requires a helmet to ride your bike on site, so you must have a helmet to load your bike on the shuttle. You should be sure your bike is in good condition and safe to ride. If you plan to ride down from the building 69 drop-off your brakes should be in excellent working order, and you should be comfortable riding down steep hills. For more information please see http://roadsafety.lbl.gov/bicycle_safety.html.

Also, for safety reasons, once the shuttle has started to depart the bus stop, the driver will be unable to stop and accept any more passengers. If you're a bit late and just miss the shuttle, you can always bike downhill 2 blocks to the Downtown Berkeley Shuttle Stop on Shattuck Avenue.

I don't commute by bike - can I still ride the Bike Shuttle Express?

The only way to ride the Bike Shuttle Express is with a bike, so if you don't already use one in your commute, you're invited to check out the many LBNL resources that can support your new - or revived - bike commute:

[LBNL Resources for Bicyclists: http://commute.lbl.gov/bike/](http://commute.lbl.gov/bike/)