



Day 1 - Flavor Country – Baker City to Halfway

MILES: 54.5 (57.3 W/ GRAVEL OPTION) |
ELEVATION: 2,881' (4,742' W/ GRAVEL
OPTION)

The wait is finally over. You're suited up, carbo-loaded, chamois buttered and ready to roll. Your 7 day cycling journey starts right here.

Today we rise and shine with the Baker City sun and navigate through town towards Highway 86 heading east. As you warm up and find your rhythm, take a gander at the wide-open vistas that are the first of many you will ride by this week. These are the same vistas that pioneers on the Oregon Trail saw when they passed through this area around 150 years ago. In fact, around mile 7.5, we'll ride past the road leading to the [Oregon Trail Interpretive Center](#). While not a scheduled stop, this museum sits on a 500-acre site that includes actual preserved ruts from pioneer wagon wheels. The views from the Interpretive Center are great too, but you'll get very similar ones from the seat of your bicycle.



The Powder River is at our side most of the day flowing towards Richland where lunch will be served at the local Grange. If you're more in the mood to sample the local flavors, [The Shorthorn Restaurant](#) and [Annie's Café](#) will both be open and can both be found along the main stretch of town. While relaxing and refueling in Richland, get a load of those beautiful mountains stoically standing in the distance.

The afternoon riding gets right underway with glimpses of lakes and reservoirs as you work your way up in altitude. A steady 7-mile climb puts you at the summit and then it's a mellow

downhill cruise into the picturesque foothills of Halfway.

*Gravel Option: About 23 miles from the start, take a left onto Sparta Lane. This well-kept gravel road takes you up and over, meeting back with the main route at lunch in Richland. The option takes a bit more effort due to a good bit more climbing, but oh boy-those views!

Day 2 - Pan-o-rama – Halfway to Wallowa Lake

MILES: 78 (83.8 W/ GRAVEL OPTION) |
ELEVATION: 6,682' (7,412' W/ GRAVEL OPTION)



Get a good stretch in on those quads, hammies, and calves this morning because we have a lot of miles ahead of us. Don't worry though, every single one of them is worth it!

As we leave Pine Eagle High School (go Spartans!) we find ourselves reunited with our old friend, Highway 86. After a pleasant downhill, we start climbing and don't stop for about 20 miles. But as climbs go, this one is gorgeous. Breathe deep and smell those Ponderosas as the canyon occasionally opens up to reveal views that extend darn near forever.



At mile 10.5 we hang a left onto FSR 39 and at mile 30 keep an eye out for the sign for Hells Canyon Overlook. This optional excursion is a right hand turn that comes on a downhill, so if you're cruising fast and not looking for it, you can blow right by it. We highly recommend checking out the overlook. It's only an extra 5.8 miles round trip, and from up there you can see all the way to Idaho!

Directly after the overlook turnoff is an ear-to-ear grin-inducing winding descent into lunch. This section is so much fun and after this morning's climb, you've definitely earned it. After lunch, you summit a few more hills and are thus rewarded with an extended downhill all the way through Joseph and on into Wallowa Lake State Park. As you're finishing up those final miles, "Oregon's Alps" unfold in front of you leading you to the day's final destination on the shore of one of the state's most picturesque lakes.

Day 2 is a long day, with lots of hills, but if your dreams tonight aren't filled with endless vistas and majestic, snow-capped mountains, then you just weren't paying close enough attention.

For even more inspiration, check out our [video](#) of the 2018 Classic.



Day 3 – Sacred Waters – Wallowa Lake to Elgin

MILES: 60.6 (65 W/ GRAVEL OPTION) |
ELEVATION: 1,859' (2,603' W/ GRAVEL OPTION)

When you roll out of your sleeping bag, rub the sleep out of your eyes and set your gaze upon the serene, majestic lake just steps from your tent flap, you may feel the urge to hang around camp a little while longer today. That's totally understandable, but there's plenty more to see and do today so don't linger too long.

As you pedal away from camp today on Highway 82, you'll get to see Wallowa Lake from the opposite angle from yesterday as you head back towards Joseph. Along this stretch, notice the glacial moraines on the East and West sides of the lake. These moraines are the resulting piles of earth pushed aside and piled up that were created thousands of years ago when glaciers passed through this area. These particular moraines are being protected from development in part with help from \$75,000 in grants from the Cycle Oregon Fund. Without these moraines, Wallowa Lake would never have formed and the view you'll be enjoying would have been a whole lot different.



As you pass through Enterprise and a few other small towns, you'll notice the landscape subtly changing from mountains to pastures. Enjoy the flat, uncrowded roads and please feel free to moo at the cows. When you come to the small community of Lostine, you will see a small shack with an airplane sticking out of the roof. This is [The Blue Banana](#) and they blend up a mighty fine smoothie if you're in need of a little pick-me-up. The scenery changes once again as we enter the Wallowa River Canyon where we stop for a riverside lunch at the historic [Minam Motel](#).

After lunch, you may want to give yourself a little pep talk because we soon will be tackling one of the tougher climbs of the week. These 6 miles seem to go on and on, but the higher you climb, the more amazing the view gets. Once we reach the top, all that's left is to cruise the rollers stair-stepping downhill towards the town of Elgin and a sound night's sleep.

*Gravel Option: Depart the main route in Enterprise for 15 miles of amazing views of the Wallowas and the surrounding countryside.

Day 4 – Over The Hump Day - Elgin to Pendleton

MILES: 75.3 | ELEVATION: 5,220'

Today is long on miles but also big on scenery. Check the tires, clean the bugs off your sunglasses and we're off! We ride out from Elgin High School (go Huskies!) and work our way

over to Highway 204 heading for the Umatilla National Forest and the Blue Mountains.



The first bit of today's ride is a lengthy climb with a fairly mellow grade. After riding up out of Minam yesterday this hill should feel like Kansas. The increasing number of snowmobiles you'll see in yards is a good indication that we are passing through an area popular for its winter activities. There are several Sno-Parks, campgrounds and even a ski hill ([Spout Springs Ski Area](#)) along this stretch. At the summit, it gets a little chilly, so be sure to have an extra layer handy for the downhill. And speaking of downhills...this descent is your reward for all the hard work of getting here. It's fast, but not screamingly-fast, the road

surface is brand spankin' new and the views are fantastic.

Lunch is in Weston at a tidy little community park. After a little H&R (hydration and relaxation) in Weston, we start our traditional post-lunch climb. This short climb delivers us to crop fields as far as the eye can see – nothing but rollers and peas for miles. From here, we begin the Thorn Hollow descent, a speedy little section with a couple of fun switchbacks just to make things interesting. After that, the road turns into a rolling ribbon of highway that leads us through the Umatilla Indian Reservation on our way into Pendleton. Once in town, we wind our way through backstreets past an eclectic mix of well cared for historic homes to Pendleton High School and a much deserved layover day.





Day 5 - Round-Up and Roundabout - Pendleton Layover Loop

MILES: 54.7
ELEVATION: 2,300'

Today is a layover day and you have several amazing options to consider.

Option A: Take a nice 55-mile ride that loops through rolling farmland, lunches in Echo and then follows the Umatilla River through weather-beaten cliffs back to Pendleton.

Option B: Let 'er Buck! The world famous Pendleton Round-Up will be in full swing and Cycle Oregon riders are welcome to take it all in. Explore the rowdy history of the town, experience the Happy Canyon Pageant, or just belly up to the longest continuous bar in the country and people watch from the legendary Let'er Buck Room.

And finally, there's Option C: do all of the above!

If you choose, Options A or C, your ride will look like this:

As you mount your trusty two wheeled steed and climb out of Pendleton behind the high school, you'll see the landscape immediately open up into vast fields with miles of road rolling in front of you. The 1st left out of town puts you on some of the nicest surface you've ever ridden on. Watch the sparrows chasing hawks and keep your eyes peeled for the occasional blue heron. While you're at it, keep your nose peeled too as you ride through a bouquet of different crops and smells. The mint is especially nice if our timing is right. Lunch is in Echo at the High School after passing through the heart of town. Check out the eagle nests in the lights at the far end of the football field. Once you reach Reith Road, it's time for a little excitement. This swoopy road features a fun banked turn at the bottom of the first hill. The Umatilla River rolls by on your right and cliffs and canyons are on your left. This dry, rocky, weather beaten land might make you think that you're not still in Oregon, but you are. As you pedal along, take note of the numerous Century Farms along old Hwy 30 and the Oregon Trail tracks at Coral Springs Oregon Trail Site.



Once you get back to Pendleton, get out of your cycling duds, grab some chow and take in all that Pendleton and the world-famous Round-Up have to offer.

For even more inspiration, check out our **TV COMMERCIAL** for The 2018 Classic.

Day 6 - Slow and Steady – Pendleton to La Grande

MILES : 56.5
ELEVATION : 4,720

Welp buckaroos, Pendleton's been a real hoot but it's back in the saddle today for another epic ride. And depending on how hard you hit the

Round-Up, you'll be rested and ready to ride. We leave Pendleton the same way we came in on Wednesday—down Mission Road and through the Umatilla Reservation. Looming in the distance sits our biggest challenge of the day. It goes by two names – on a map it's called the Blue Mountains, but to locals it's Cabbage Hill. Just before the road starts going up, you will see St Andrew's Mission to your left.



Emigrant Road, or old Highway 30, snakes its way up this hill (or mountain) revealing one breathtaking vista after another. At several points during the climb, you can look back down the hill and see the winding ribbons of road that you just rode up. Shortly after you reach the summit, there's a shady and informative rest stop at the ominously named Dead Man's Pass. From here there are joyful miles of riding through forests of pine, spruce and fir on our way to lunch on the banks of the Grande Ronde River. After lunch it's back onto the wide shoulder of Highway 84 to cruise all the way into La Grande and our bittersweet last night with friends around the main stage and beer garden.



Day 7 – The Last Go Round – La Grande to Baker City

MILES : 58.4
ELEVATION : 1,800

It's Day 7 and every mile of pavement today gets you a little closer to achieving something

worth shamelessly working into conversations for years to come.

For example: "Pardon me, do you have the time?"

"I just rode 451 miles on a bike."

It works into nearly any situation.

After leaving La Grande on Highway 203, we ride through great stretches of farmland past the recently reborn town of Hot Lake Springs on our way to the quaint, historic town of Union. Thankfully, our days of crushing mighty hills are behind us and the majority of the route today is flat or pretty mellow on the uphill. Consider today our victory lap. At Union, we hop onto Highway 237 and ride towards North Powder. From North Powder, it's more sprawling farmland and the rhythmic *tic tic tic* of sprinklers



all the way to the finish as we set our sights on Baker City. As we traverse the Anthony Lakes Highway in the closing miles of our incredible journey, majestic views of the Elkhorn Range beckon us from the distance – a fitting final mountain image to frame our unforgettable experience in Eastern Oregon.

