

XXXII

cycle  oregon

*Classic*

# RIDE THE PAINTED HILLS

JOHN DAY - MONUMENT - FOSSIL - MITCHELL - DAYVILLE

**SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2020**

Cycle Oregon laid out an incredible, reimagined event for our 32nd annual bicycle sabbatical we call Classic. Our destination will be Eastern Oregon for a week-long bike adventure through one of the most geographically diverse, awe-inspiring, other-worldly landscapes you'll find anywhere. 2020 is all about choosing your own adventure so we're offering multiple layover days, optional routes each day, non-cycling activities, and more opportunities to get directly involved with the communities who host us. On the bike, you'll ride on quiet roads among scenic rivers, sweeping farmlands, famous fossil beds, dense forests, and soaring spires. Oh yeah, and you'll see first-hand why the Painted Hills has been designated as one of the Seven Wonders of Oregon. This is a ride for the ages. Ride with us.



Ride.

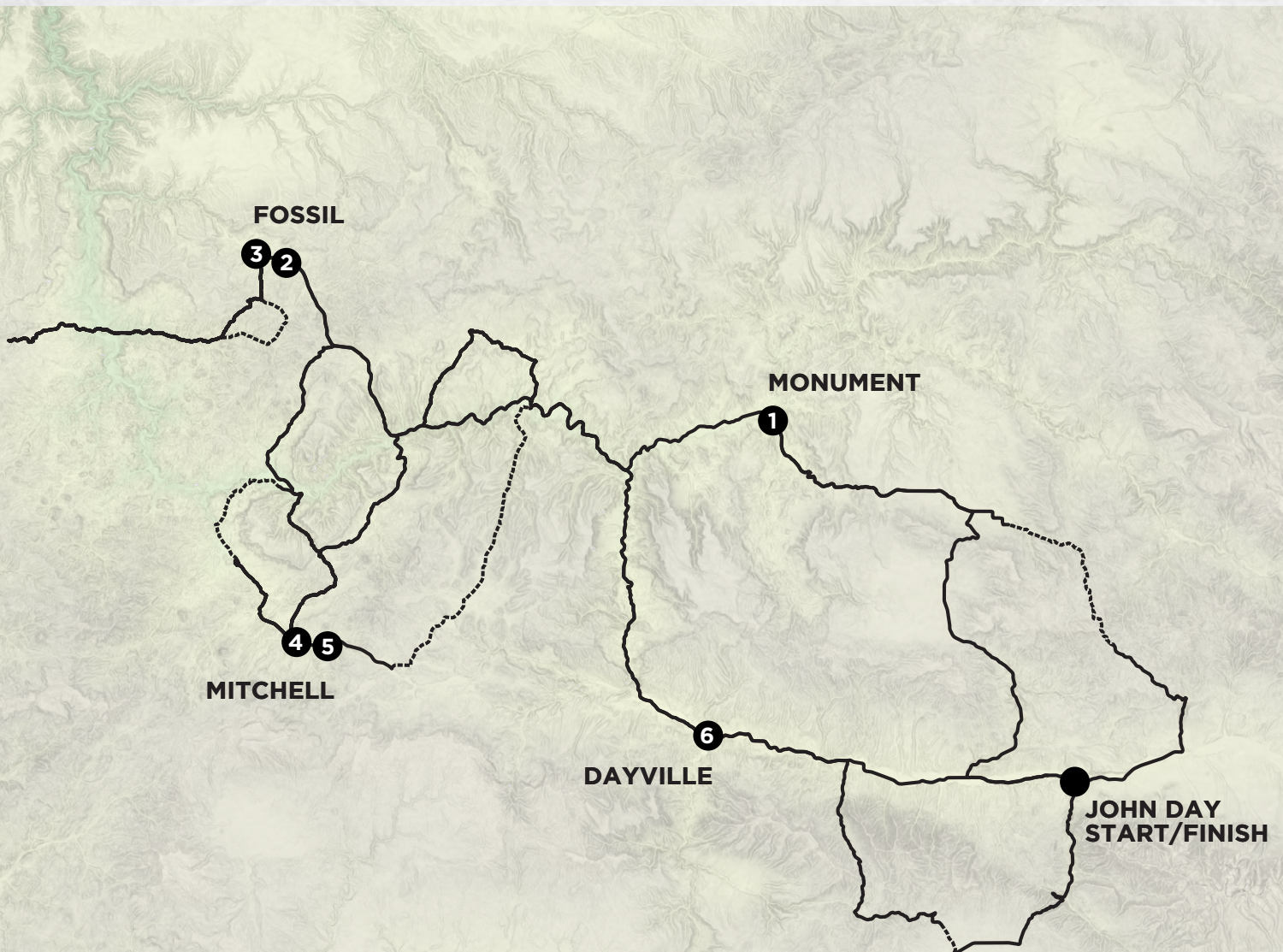
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**#RideCycleOregon**



# NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

This is the true frontier. The rivers, towns, passes, and canyons carry the boldness of those who came before and, in one way or another, managed to leave their mark. For generations, those that called this place home carved out lives amongst these great, colorful mounds of fine sediment banded with reds, yellows, blacks, and tans that sprawl for miles across the landscape. As we pedal through this strange, wonderful land, we begin to understand why. To explore the Painted Hills, the John Day Fossil Beds, the Malheur National Forest, and Twickenham Canyon, by way of some of Oregon's most scenic byways, is an experience that will surely leave a mark on us all.





Day 1: John Day → Monument

## TASTE THE RAINBOW

You've planned, you've trained, you've dreamed – and now it's finally time to ride! A journey of a thousand memories starts with a single pedal stroke and today. is. the. day. Follow the John Day River along broad valleys, into the great Malheur National Forest, and on to Painted Hills country. Find out how rewarding a prime section of Oregon gravel can be. Savor every curve in the road and drink in every vista. These are the experiences that stay with you forever. And this is only Day 1.

### MILES

**PAVED ROUTE: 59.3 MILES**

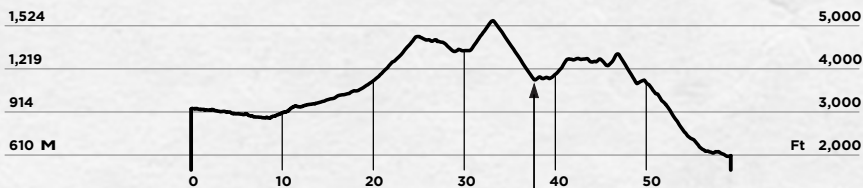
**GRAVEL OPTION: 64.2 MILES**

### ELEVATION

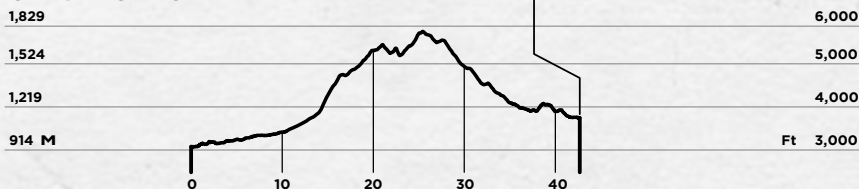
**PAVED ROUTE: 3,756 FEET**

**GRAVEL OPTION: 4,587 FEET,  
13.2 MILES OF GRAVEL**

### MAIN ROUTE



### GRAVEL OPTION





Day 2: Monument → Fossil

# INTRO TO GEOLOGY

The day starts out with an Ansel Adams-worthy-view of cliffs framing the John Day River as it meanders through green farmland – and it only gets better from there. The landscapes we ride through today are as varied as they are jaw-dropping. Great spires of rock complete with soaring raptors gradually transition to ancient cliffs that closely resemble melted candles. There have been forces at work here for millions of years diligently crafting and coloring everything in sight, making this journey through time one you could only ever experience right here.

## MILES

**MAIN ROUTE: 59.6 MILES**

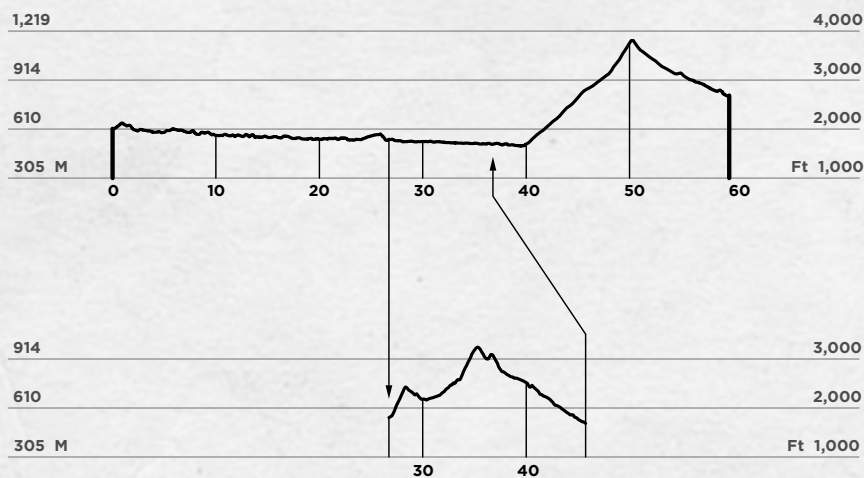
**LONG ROUTE: 68.6 MILES**

## ELEVATION

**MAIN ROUTE: 3,226 FEET**

**LONG ROUTE: 3,226 FEET**

### Main Route



### Long Route





Day 3: Fossil - Layover day: multiple route options | Fossil community project | Hike excursion

## AS YOU LIKE IT

Today, we invite you to choose your own adventure - you've earned it! Follow your fancy wherever it leads you. You can take a short out and back ride, go on a 60-mile excursion, head down a spectacular gravel road, go off on a fossil-finding hike, help the local Fossilites with a community project, or just take 'er easy and figure it out as you go. The options are limitless and there's no wrong way to do Day 3.

### MILES

**SHORT TO CLARNO AND BACK: 38.8 MILES**

**LONG PAVED: 55.8 MILES**

**LONG WITH GRAVEL: 59.7 MILES**

### ELEVATION

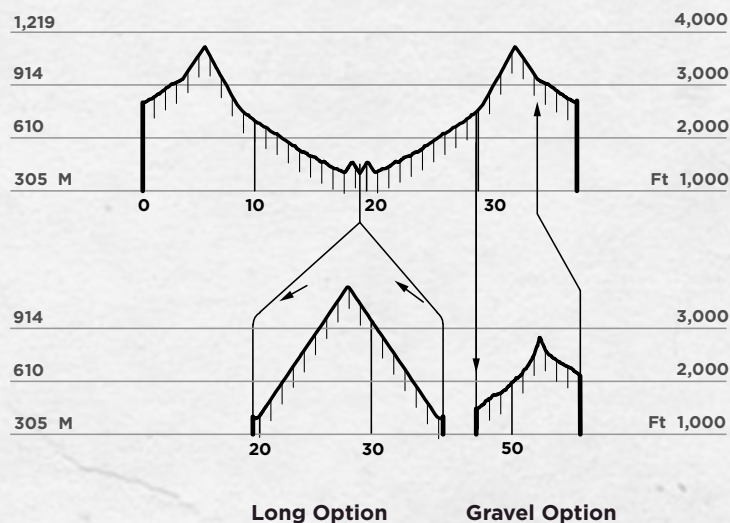
**SHORT TO CLARNO AND BACK: 3,844 FEET**

**LONG PAVED: 6,366 FEET**

**LONG WITH GRAVEL: 6,486 FEET,  
9.3 MILES OF GRAVEL**

### OPTIONAL NO RIDE DAY

#### Main Route





Day 4: Fossil → Mitchell

## ROAD TRIPPIN'

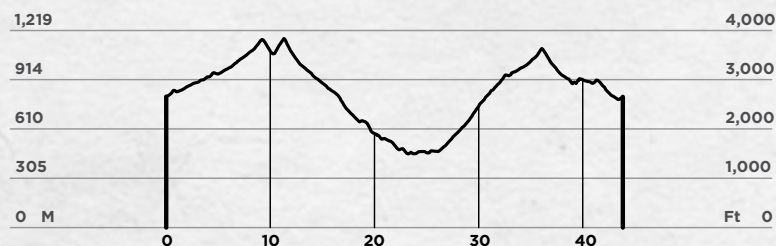
Day 4 plays tricks on your mind, in a good way. We ride through wide-open farmland, rolling hills, pine forest, towering canyons, wide expanses with hills and mountains looming in the distance - and all within 43.9 miles. The Twickenham area is particularly perplexing. A fortress of rock surrounds the valley and plateaus ring the skyline. Where is this place? Colorado? Utah? Arizona? Mars? Nope, it only exists in Oregon. And the hands-down best way to experience it is by bicycle.

**MILES**

**43.9 MILES**

**ELEVATION**

**4,030 FEET**





Day 5: Mitchell - Layover day: multiple route options | Mitchell community project

## FREE FOR ALL

Day 5 is our second option-packed layover day of the week and there are adventures galore! Allow Cycle Oregon to be your activity directors - tell us what sounds fun to you and we'll help you do it. Mitchell is the ideal home base for taking off on an ambitious 69-mile ride, exploring the world-famous Painted Hills, checking out an incredibly choice section of gravel, or pitching in on a community service project with the good people of Mitchell. Or do it all. Or do none of the above! Totally up to you. And that my friends, is the beauty of Day 5.

### MILES

**SHORT TO PAINTED HILLS: 18 MILES**

**MEDIUM WITH GRAVEL: 41.4 MILES**

**LONG PAVED ROUTE: 69 MILES**

### ELEVATION

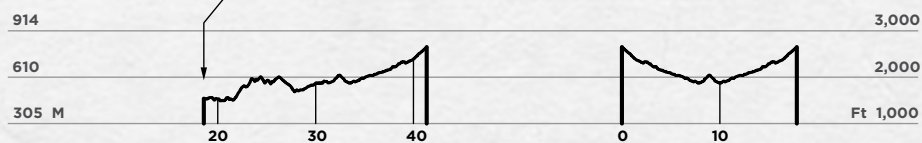
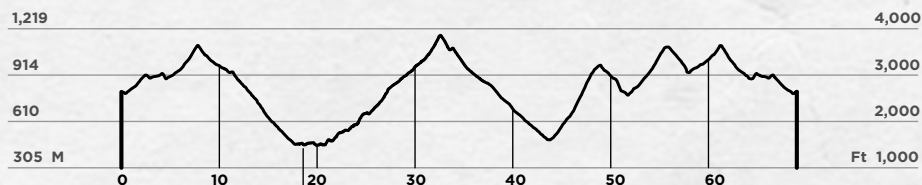
**SHORT TO PAINTED HILLS: 700 FEET,  
2.6 MILES OF CINDER RD**

**MEDIUM WITH GRAVEL: 3,561 FEET,  
12.1 MILES OF GRAVEL**

**LONG PAVED ROUTE: 7,284 FEET**

### OPTIONAL NO RIDE DAY

#### Long Route



Gravel Option

Short Route





Day 6: Mitchell → Dayville

# PANORAMA-RAMA

Day 6 is a study in scale. Everything you will see today is grand, dramatic, and majestic. The mountains loom large in the distance. The vistas stretch on forever. The wide-open expanses of the gravel option cannot be contained by gully nor by barbed wire. And around every corner, the John Day flows on, opposite The Painted Hills, just as it has for ages and ages. The enormity of this landscape can make you feel kind of small in comparison, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. In fact, that's kind of why we're out here on bikes in the first place.

## MILES

**PAVED ROUTE: 77.8 MILES**

**GRAVEL ROUTE: 75.5 MILES**

## ELEVATION

**PAVED ROUTE: 3,520 FEET**

**GRAVEL ROUTE: 3,700 FEET,  
21 MILES OF GRAVEL**

### Main Route



### Gravel Option





Day 7: Dayville → John Day

# ONE LAST HURRAH

Today is the final day of our epic journey. The big adios. One final transcendent day in the saddle with a long route that will undoubtedly land among your all-time best rides. The early jitters are long gone and you're well in the groove. But now that the finish line is in sight, everything becomes a little more memorable. So savor every last climb and drink in every last descent. As you forge ahead, take a minute or two to look back at how far we've come. The friends you've made, the challenges you've met, and the communities you've helped support. All in a week's vacation.

## MILES

**SHORT ROUTE: 32 MILES**

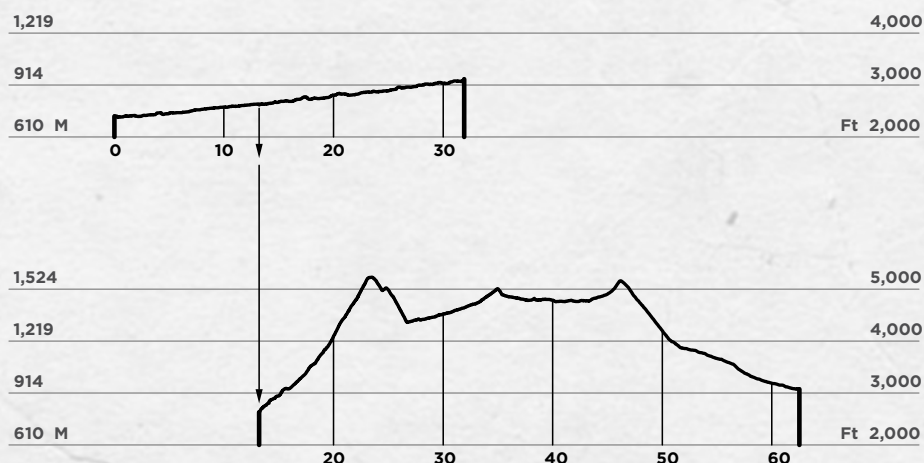
**MAIN ROUTE: 62.5 MILES**

## ELEVATION

**SHORT ROUTE: 750 FEET**

**MAIN ROUTE: 4,100 FEET,  
2.7 MILES OF GRAVEL - GOOD SHAPE!**

### Short Route



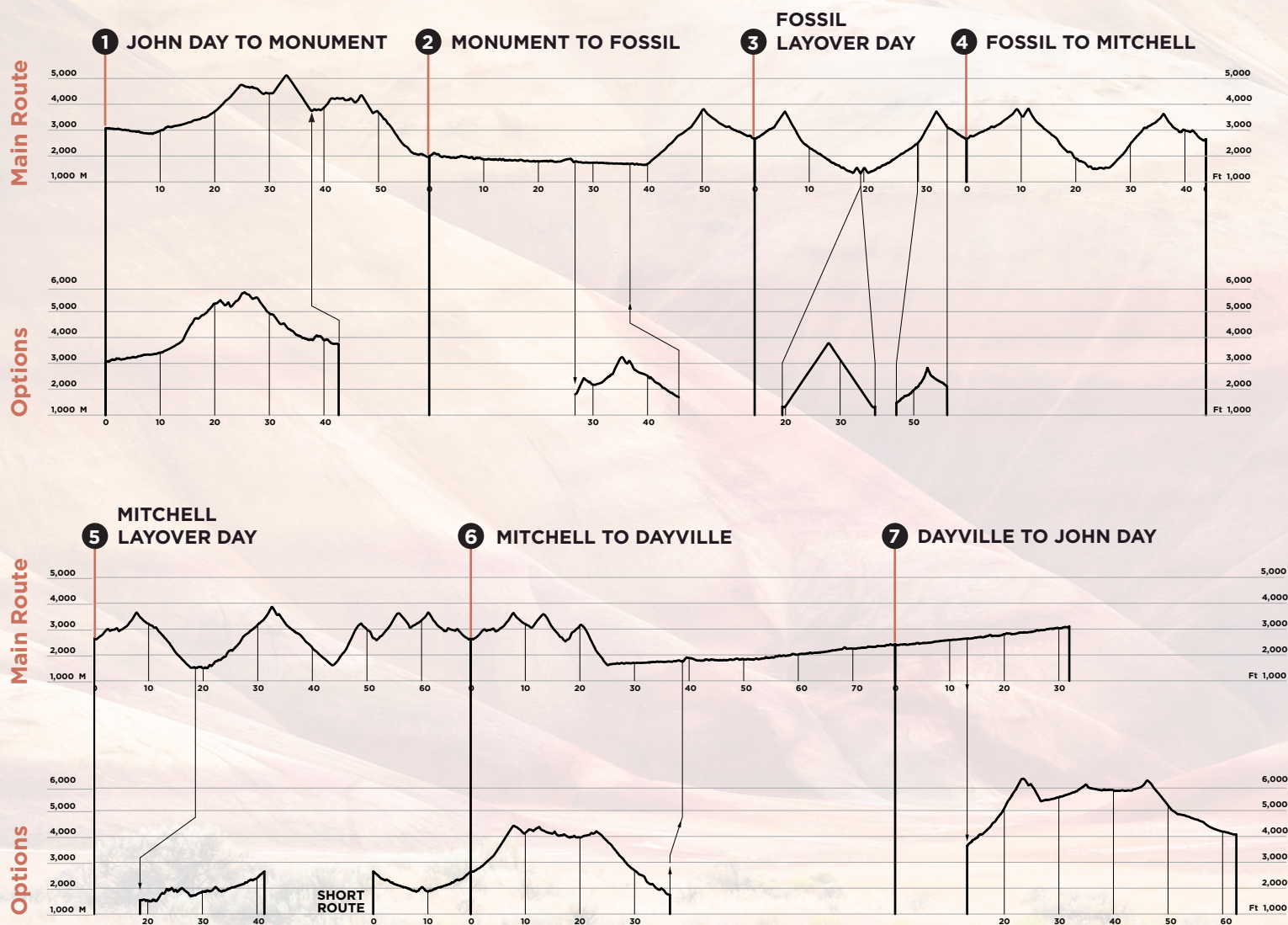
### Main Route





# ELEVATION + TOTAL MILES

- SHORT WITH NO OPTIONS (NO RIDE DAY OPTIONS): 272 MILES / 15,282 FEET
- PAVED ROUTES: 353 MILES / 22,687 FEET (AVERAGE 32 YEARS - 418 MI, 20,540 FEET)
- OPTIONS ROUTES AND GRAVEL: 443 MILES / 35,245 FEET (AVERAGE 32 YEARS - 494 MI, 24,360 FEET)
- TOTAL GRAVEL: 58.3 MILES



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Ride.