
Hill Country Traditional

CycleTexas.com Cycling Routes

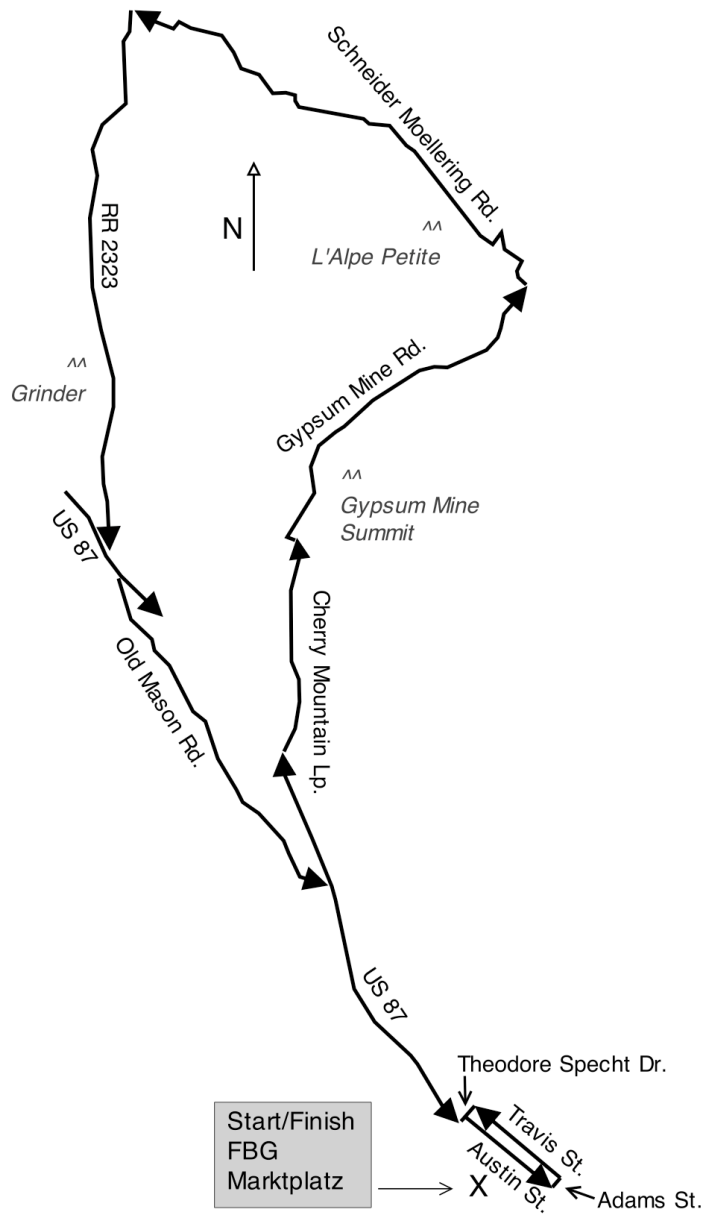
36 miles

Region: *Cycling Capital of Texas* ☆ *Fredericksburg and the Hill Country*

Catalog: #1008

Author: Gregory L. Kagay

Route: *Hill Country Traditional*



© 2008 Oxalis, Inc.

Emergency Numbers:

Police/EMS	803-997-7585
Fire	830-997-8080
Hospital	830-997-4353
FBG Taxi	830-997-8044

Route Instructions: *Hill Country Traditional*

(in) Dist	Turn	(at/on to) Road	Total Dist
	Start	Start/Finish	0.00 mi
	Go straight (ESE)	W Austin St	0.00 mi
0.05 mi	Turn left (NNE)	N Adams St	0.05 mi
0.14 mi	Turn left (NW)	W Travis St	0.19 mi
1.17 mi	Turn left (SW)	Catholic Cemetery Rd.	1.36 mi
0.10 mi	Turn right (NW)	Austin St	1.46 mi
0.05 mi	Turn left (SSW)	Theodore Specht Dr	1.51 mi
0.13 mi	Turn right (NNW)	US 87	1.64 mi
6.02 mi	Bear right (NNE)	Cherry Mountain Loop	7.66 mi
2.42 mi	Bear right (NNW)	Gypsum Mine Rd	10.08 mi
0.07 mi	Turn right (NE)	Gypsum Mine Rd	10.16 mi
4.16 mi	Turn left (WNW)	Schneider-Moellering Rd	14.31 mi
4.07 mi	Turn right (WNW)	Schneider-Moellering Rd	18.38 mi
1.97 mi	Turn left (S)	RANCH 2323	20.35 mi
6.28 mi	Bear left (SSE)	US 87	26.63 mi
0.24 mi	Turn right (SE)	Old Mason Rd	26.88 mi
4.37 mi	Turn right (SE)	US 87	31.25 mi
3.09 mi	Turn left (NNE)	Theodore Specht Dr	34.34 mi
0.13 mi	Turn right (SE)	W Austin St	34.47 mi
1.12 mi	Finish	Marktplatz	35.59 mi

Route Summary

This 36 mile "slice of the Hill Country" features an area of the county we call "Little Switzerland". Flat-landers should not be deterred, however, because of all the routes reaching to this area, this one in particular features relatively little climbing. Relatively!

The first climb of the Route (also the longest), *Gypsum Mine Summit* leads you to an actual Gypsum Mine, which provides some visual interest, if not beauty. You then drop rapidly into the hills and dales of Little Switzerland. One climb of note, *L'Alpe Petite*, lies in wait in this region. Aside from that challenge you enjoy terrific rural scenery. Then, a fun and twisting descent drops you down to a road that aims you back toward town and features *Grinder*, your last substantial climb of the Route.

The ride back to Fredericksburg utilizes Old Mason Rd., a favorite cycling byway connecting Fredericksburg to many popular cycling areas. And, traveling in this direction, it goes downhill for virtually its entire distance.

Although this route would most favor a north wind, particularly northwest, the downhill run back into town makes it attractive even on a day with a prevailing southeast wind.

Safety

CycleTexas.com, its sponsors, the author, and Oxalis, Inc. assume no responsibilities to users of the routes described and make no warranties regarding the condition of these roads.

Routes presented utilize public roads open to traffic; ride at your own risk and obey all traffic laws.

Climactic conditions may change rapidly. Always wear a helmet and utilize properly maintained equipment. Carry tools. Carry a cell phone in case of emergency.

Start/Finish



This route begins at the Marktplatz in downtown Fredericksburg, Texas. Find this main town square located on the North side of Main Street (also HWY 290/ HWY 87) at the intersection of S. TX16. (North of this intersection, S. TX16 becomes N. Adams St.)

When groups meet here, generally they form up at the facility's northeast corner, where W. Austin St. intersects N. Adams St., which is not too far from the **restrooms** and off busy Main St. (Infrequently these restrooms may be closed for festival setup; find alternatives two blocks southeast at Fredericksburg's Visitor's Center).

Points of Interest

Gypsum Mine

Maybe not much to look at, but certainly a novelty; the gypsum mine signals a break in the long climb to that point. Anticipate the descent that follows shortly thereafter.

Little Switzerland

This route visits a scenic, hilly and rural area that we believe resembles the lands of the mountainous Swiss Federation (if you squint)

Old Mason Rd.

The old road to Mason makes a favorable alternate to US87. Quiet, little traveled, pretty and, in this direction, almost entirely downhill.

Hills of Interest

Gypsum Mine Summit

(Cat 2)—not a hard climb, just a very long one. It starts on US87, which has a wide shoulder. (Except where the shoulder is a climbing lane--beware of traffic coming from behind and stay right.)

L'Alpe Petite

(Cat 3)—some may wish for a Swiss funicular railroad on this grade, although the name suggests accurately that this route avoids the larger climbs in the area.

Grinder

(Cat 2)—this long, mostly steady grade favors those riders preferring to set a tempo and stick to it. Because it mellows

at the top, watch your back for late-climb bursts from your pack mates.

Resources

This route offers virtually no commercial sustenance outside of the city of Fredericksburg. We strongly advise that you fuel up before departing and carry a liberal supply of food and water resources. During hot weather, we recommend hydration packs.

Responsibility

Ride Friendly, we are cycling ambassadors. Please share the road with motorists. Cyclists and motorists utilize our Hill Country Roads rightfully. Courtesy prevents angry motorists. Ride single file when cars approach from the rear. Large groups should be extra vigilant to "single up" in order to facilitate passing cars. Please politely "educate" rude cycling citizens.

Obstacles

Many obstacles, familiar and otherwise, dot the roads of the Hill Country. Such features include water crossings, cattle guards, deer, cows, cars, trucks and more. See the "Obstacles" section at CycleTexas.com for strategies related to negotiating some of the unique features of these roads. Also, distances on these roads between commercial food and hydration resources can be vast. We strongly advise that riders fuel up before departure and carry a liberal sustenance inventory.

Related Information: <http://www.cycletexas.com>

CycleTexas.com. Come and Ride It.

We assist cyclists creating self-guided cycling trips in Texas. Visit our website for free, detailed routes, as well as information on lodging, dining, and more.

We also link you to companion road maps developed by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Print these PDF maps along with our routes to reference on your ride.
