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# Willow City Loop

CycleTexas.com Cycling Routes

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**55** miles

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

Catalog: #1014

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### Route: Willow City Loop



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#### Emergency Numbers:

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

**Route Instructions: *Willow City Loop***

(in) Dist	Turn	(at/on to) Road	Total Dist
	Start	Marktplatz	0.00 mi
	Go straight (ESE)	W Austin St	0.00 mi
0.01 mi	Go straight (SE)	E Austin St	0.01 mi
0.13 mi	Turn left (NE)	SR 16 (N Llano St)	0.14 mi
0.99 mi	Turn left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd	1.13 mi
0.02 mi	Turn left (N)	E Lower Crabapple Rd	1.15 mi
0.18 mi	Go straight (NE)	W Lower Crabapple Rd	1.34 mi
1.33 mi	Bear left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd	2.66 mi
2.41 mi	Turn right (NNE)	Lower Crabapple Rd	5.07 mi
7.97 mi	Turn right (E)	Eckert Rd	13.05 mi
4.79 mi	Turn left (NNE)	SR 16	17.83 mi
5.62 mi	Turn right (S)	Willow City Loop	23.45 mi
12.68 mi	Go straight (S)	F-M 1323	36.13 mi
0.21 mi	Turn left (ESE)	F-M 1323	36.33 mi
1.12 mi	Turn right (SSE)	Herber-schaefer Rd	37.45 mi
2.70 mi	Bear right (SW)	RANCH 1631	40.16 mi
13.76 mi	Turn right (WNW)	US 290 (E Main St)	53.91 mi
0.40 mi	Turn right (NNE)	N Elk St	54.31 mi
0.11 mi	Turn left (WNW)	E Austin St	54.42 mi
0.52 mi	Finish	Marktplatz	54.94 mi

## Ride Summary

The queen cycling attraction in Gillespie County. Pretty at all times, the spectacle of the *Willow City Loop* peaks during wildflower season in mid/late spring when it glows in a blaze of natural glory.

Its storied beauty, however, breeds popularity. During wildflower season especially, motorized tourists litter "The Loop" on weekends with cars and trucks. Also, landowners along the route appear less than thrilled that their land doubles as a tourist attraction. Most do not appreciate trespassing of any kind, and they will let you know it. That said, stick to the roads, be mindful of motorists, and you should have a great visit.

One more thing, be aware of one certain glitch on your ride: *The Willow City Ledge*. This climb at the end of the loop starts out steeply at first, then stretches out longer than most ascents in the immediate area. Although cyclists presumably travel to the Hill Country to ride up and down hills, those with questionable climbing capabilities should bring liberal gearing for this one.

## 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

### Crabapple Rd. and Eckert Rd.

Excellent for cycling in their own right, these roads offer a visual and physical warm-up to the Willow City Loop

### Willow City Loop

“The Loop” offers great winding roads, superior scenery, and, in the spring, an abundance of wildflowers. Just when you fall into a smooth rhythm, a vicious climb obscures the horizon.

### Willow City

This gateway to the Willow City Loop features an interesting old rural school (now closed) and the general store makes a good place to stop and refuel.

## Hills of Interest

### Fredericksburg Foothills

(Cat. 3)—The ride starts with a sharp, steady climb at the outskirts of town; a great way to warm up.

### Mt. Crabapple

(Cat. 1)—A fiendish climb but the prevailing southeast wind in the spring and summer helps. At the top, be sure to look back at the picturesque view of Gillespie County and the Pedernales River valley.

### Eckert Hill.

(Cat. 3)—Not terribly difficult but an uphill slog nonetheless when traveling in this direction

### Willow City Ledge

(Cat. HC)—A monster of a climb, it starts out hard, then mellows, and finally rocks and rolls for several miles into Wil-

low City. Oxygen deprivation tends to diminish the otherwise enjoyable views offered by this climb

### Sawtooth 1631

(Cat. 4)—RR1631 includes a series of rolling hills that can challenge at this stage of the ride

## Resources

We strongly advise that you fuel up before departure with a liberal supply of food and water. Also, carry more than sufficient resources with you. During hot weather, we recommend carrying hydration packs.

Willow City features a general store located on RR1323 near the fire station. Also, find a store on RR1323 just east of TX16 (off the explicit Route). These are not open 24/7, so do not rely on them for critical sustenance.

## 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 hy-

dration resources can be vast. We strongly advise that riders fuel up before departure and carry a liberal sustenance inventory.

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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.

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