

---

# 38 Special

CycleTexas.com Cycling Routes

---

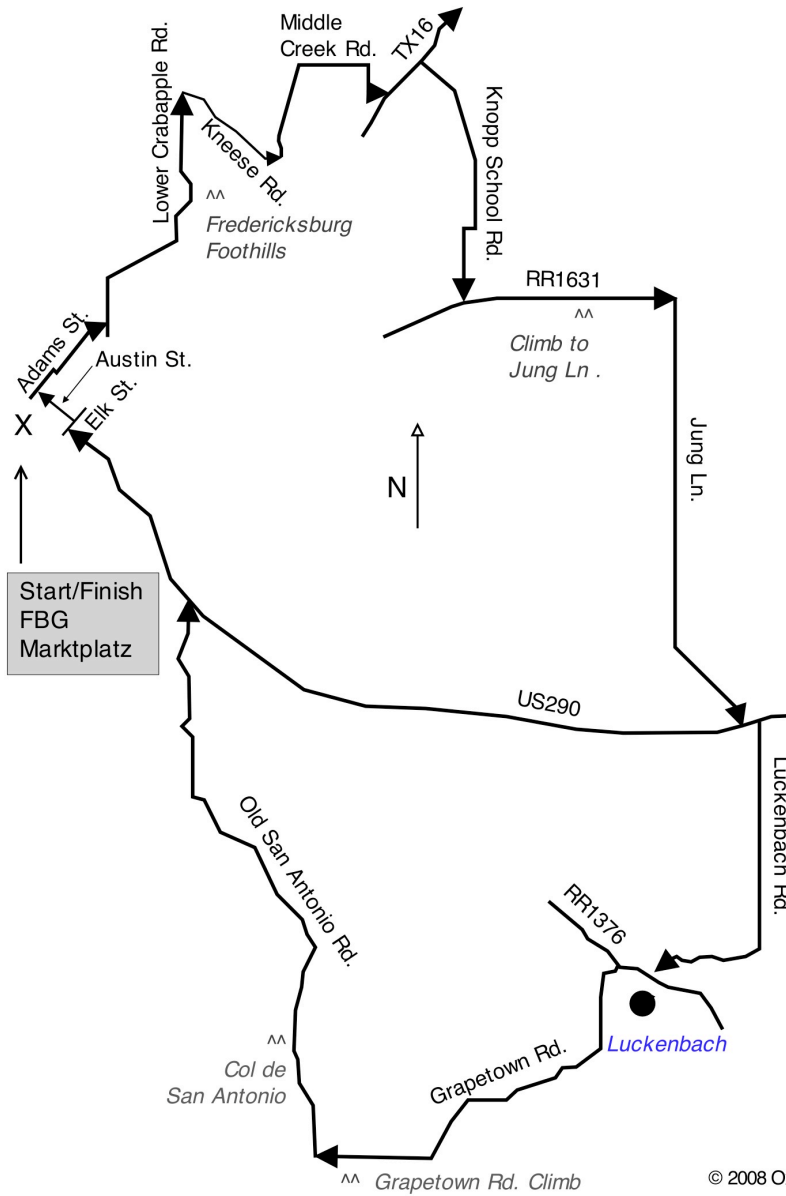
**38** miles

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

Catalog: #1009

Author: Gregory L. Kagay

### Route: 38 Special



#### Emergency Numbers:

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

**Route Instructions: 38 Special**

<b>(in) Dist (miles)</b>	<b>Turn</b>	<b>(at/on to) Road</b>	<b>Total Dist (miles)</b>
-	Start	Marktplatz	-
-	Go Straight (NE)	Adams St.	-
0.3	Turn Right (SE)	College St.	0.0
0.0	Turn Left (NE)	Adams St.	0.1
0.8	Turn Left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd.	0.9
3.0	Turn Right (E)	Kneese Rd.	3.9
1.4	Turn Left (N)	Middle Creek Rd.	5.3
2.3	Turn Left (NE)	TX 16	7.6
0.5	Turn Left (SE)	Knopp School Rd.	8.1
3.0	Turn Left (E)	RR 1631	11.1
2.3	Bear Straight	RR 2721	13.4
-	Turn Right (S)	Jung Ln.	13.4
5.1	Turn Left (E)	US 290	18.4
0.2	Turn Right (S)	Luckenbach Rd.	18.6
3.9	Turn Right (NW)	RR 1376	22.5
0.5	Turn Left (S)	Grapetown Rd.	23.0
4.7	Turn Right (N)	Old San Antonio Rd.	27.7
6.9	Turn Left (NW)	US 290	34.6
2.5	Turn Right (NE)	Elk St.	37.1
0.1	Turn Left (NW)	Austin St.	37.2
0.5	Finish	Marketplatz	37.7

## Ride Summary

This 38-mile route features appealing Hill Country scenery and mild climbing. It achieves all of this without venturing too far from Fredericksburg itself.

The route begins with a notable climb just beyond the city limits, over the *Fredericksburg Foothills*. It then visits sublime suburban roads that generally carry little motorized traffic.

The route then joins a course that local cyclists normally ride on Tuesday nights (from the bike shop), which just touches *Luckenbach, Texas*. After that you face a few miles of slight upward gradient, almost nothing worth mentioning really, and then the notable climbs up the *Grapetown Road Climb* and, finally, to the top of the *Col de San Antonio*.

All of this climbing pays off with a long descent down Old San Antonio Rd. As you descend enjoy a fabulous view of Fredericksburg.

For those preferring a tailwind on their return leg, the regionally prevailing south-east wind suits this route well.

## 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

### Suburban Fredericksburg

Although covering only 38.3 miles, this route shows off many exceptional rural

vistas and landscapes, many just on the outskirts of town.

### Luckenbach, TX

Made famous by the song, it is just a short (very) diversion off of this Route. Well worth the stop, especially if one has never visited before.

### South Grape Creek

The route winds along (up) the creek's drainage for several miles. A nice Hill Country stream, South Grape Creek makes for good scenery before the *Grapetown Rd. Climb*.

### Old San Antonio Rd - Vista

After climbing the *Col de San Antonio*, this road features a truly exceptional vista and long descent as the route drops back towards US HWY 290 and Fredericksburg

## 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.

### Climb to Jung Lane

(Cat 3)—beginning at just over 12 miles into this Route, this climb eases off towards the top and then bites again in the final meters.

### Grapetown Rd. Climb

(Cat 1)—the longest and most abrupt climb of the ride. Bragging rights start here, but they must be defended on the climb that follows.

### Col de San Antonio

(Cat 2)—basically an extension of the *Grapetown Rd. Climb*; after turning on to Old San Antonio Rd. ride the false flat and then tackle this rise that kicks hardest near the top. This one might be a Cat. 3 but for its position after the *Grapetown Rd. Climb*.

## Resources

This route offers little 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.

*Luckenbach* offers restrooms and sells bottled water at the bar. As of this writing: Bar open 10am-12am Sunday-Friday, and 10am-1am Saturdays. March through October, Feedlot open 11am-8pm, Wednesday-Sunday. November to February, Feedlot open 11am-7pm Friday-Sunday.

## 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.

---