
Fifty Miler

CycleTexas.com Cycling Routes

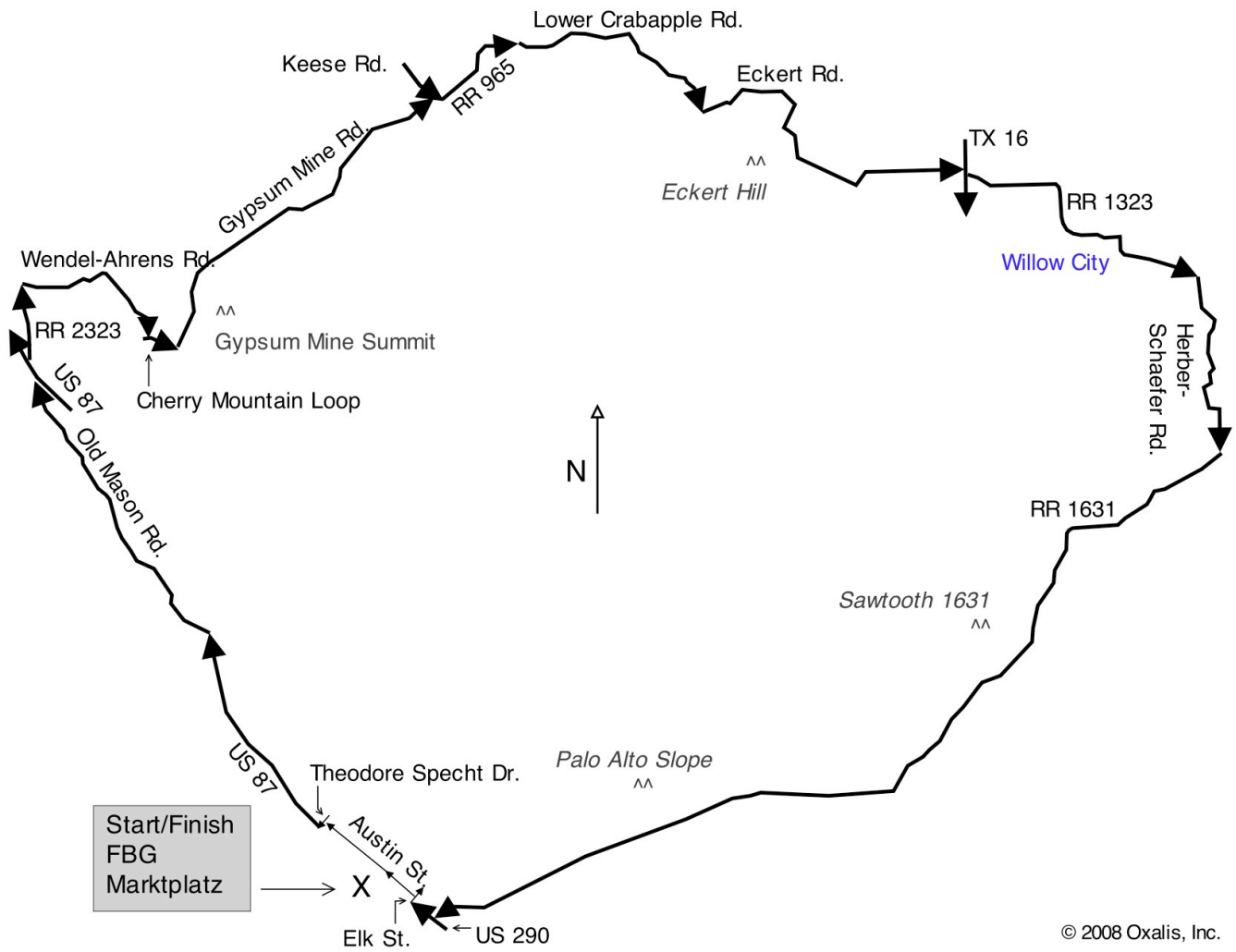
50 miles

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

Catalog: #1011

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Route: *Fifty Miler*



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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: *Fifty Miler*

(in) Dist	(at/on to) Turn	Road	Total Dist
	Start	Start	0.00 mi
	Go straight (NW)	W Austin St	0.00 mi
1.03 mi	Turn left (SSW)	Theodore Specht Dr.	1.03 mi
0.10 mi	Turn right (NW)	US 87 (US 290 (W Main St))	1.13 mi
3.25 mi	Turn left (NW)	Old Mason Rd	4.37 mi
4.37 mi	Turn left (NNW)	US 87	8.75 mi
0.24 mi	Bear right (N)	RANCH 2323	8.99 mi
1.12 mi	Turn right (ESE)	Wendel-ahrens Rd	10.11 mi
2.42 mi	Turn left (ESE)	Cherry Mountain Loop	12.52 mi
0.44 mi	Turn left (NNW)	Gypsum Mine Rd	12.96 mi
0.07 mi	Turn right (NE)	Gypsum Mine Rd	13.03 mi
5.35 mi	Turn right (ESE)	Keese Rd	18.39 mi
0.06 mi	Turn left (NE)	RANCH 965 (N Milam)	18.45 mi
1.50 mi	Turn right (E)	Lower Crabapple Rd	19.96 mi
2.77 mi	Bear right (SSE)	Lower Crabapple Rd.	22.72 mi
0.11 mi	Bear right (SSE)	Lower Crabapple Rd	22.83 mi
0.30 mi	Turn left (E)	Eckert Rd	23.13 mi
4.79 mi	Turn right (S)	SR 16	27.92 mi
0.08 mi	Turn left (ESE)	RR 1323	28.00 mi
2.74 mi	Turn right (S)	RR 1323	30.74 mi
0.20 mi	Turn left (ESE)	RR 1323	30.94 mi
1.12 mi	Turn right (SSE)	Herber-Schaefer Rd	32.06 mi
2.73 mi	Bear right (SW)	RANCH 1631	34.79 mi
13.83 mi	Turn right (WNW)	US 290 (E Main St)	48.61 mi
0.41 mi	Turn right (NNE)	N Elk St	49.02 mi
0.11 mi	Turn left (WNW)	E Austin St	49.13 mi
0.51 mi	Finish	Finish	49.64 mi

Ride Summary

A perfect medium-distance route for days when the wind blows from the north or east, *Fifty Miler* distinguishes itself by avoiding several notable climbs in the region despite covering -- you guessed it -- 50 miles.

The first quarter distance of this route climbs steadily for almost 15 miles, but the substantially benign grade should cause only slight burning, not a retching fatigue.

With the exception of one recognizable climb, the route then drops for most of the distance to *Willow City*. The route then continues through the northeastern part of the county along typical rolling and scenic Hill Country roads.

Turning back toward town, the route traverses several rolling hills; although none challenges terribly in its own right, together they add up to a cumulative challenge. The final stretch, after crossing Palo Alto Creek, presents one last sustained rise before dropping back into town.

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

A novelty here in Gillespie County, the gypsum mine on Gypsum Mine Rd. signals a steep, invigorating descent, which follows shortly afterward.

Scenery

The middle third of this route features great scenery, particularly on RR965 and on the northern-most reaches of Lower Crabapple Rd. Eckert Road offers great scenery too, come to think of it.

Willow City

Gateway to the renowned *Willow City Loop*; check out the old rural schoolhouse when there, and re-fuel at the general store.

Hills of Interest

Gypsum Mine Summit

(Cat. 3)—approximately the first 13 miles of this route travel upward, covering over 500 ft of gradual climbing. None of this climbing is too severe, however, and it pays off with much descending mid-route.

Eckert Hill

(Cat. 2)—this road starts out casually enough, but over about 3.5 miles it climbs for a net gain of about 150 feet.

Sawtooth 1631

(Cat. 3)—beginning at about the 35 mile mark (after turning on to RR1631 off of Herber-Schaefer Rd.) a long series of small but noticeable climbs defines a mildly challenging saw-tooth profile.

Palo Alto Slope

(Cat. 4) — the ride from Palo Alto Creek to the outskirts of Fredericksburg offers a long, steady, not-too-steep climb; it may sting at the end of a long ride, although typically a quartering tailwind will ease your effort.

Resources

We strongly advise that you fuel up before departing and carry a liberal supply of food and water resources. We recommend hydration packs during hot weather.

Two commercial sources of food/drink mark points along this route. The first lies at the intersection of TX16 and FM1323. The convenience store located near here (on 1323, east of TX16), typically does not open before about 10 A.M.

Or, refuel at the very limited general store in Willow City; no public restrooms here, however, due to the lack of a commercially-sized septic system.

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>

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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.
