
Gypsum Mine Loop

CycleTexas.com Cycling Routes

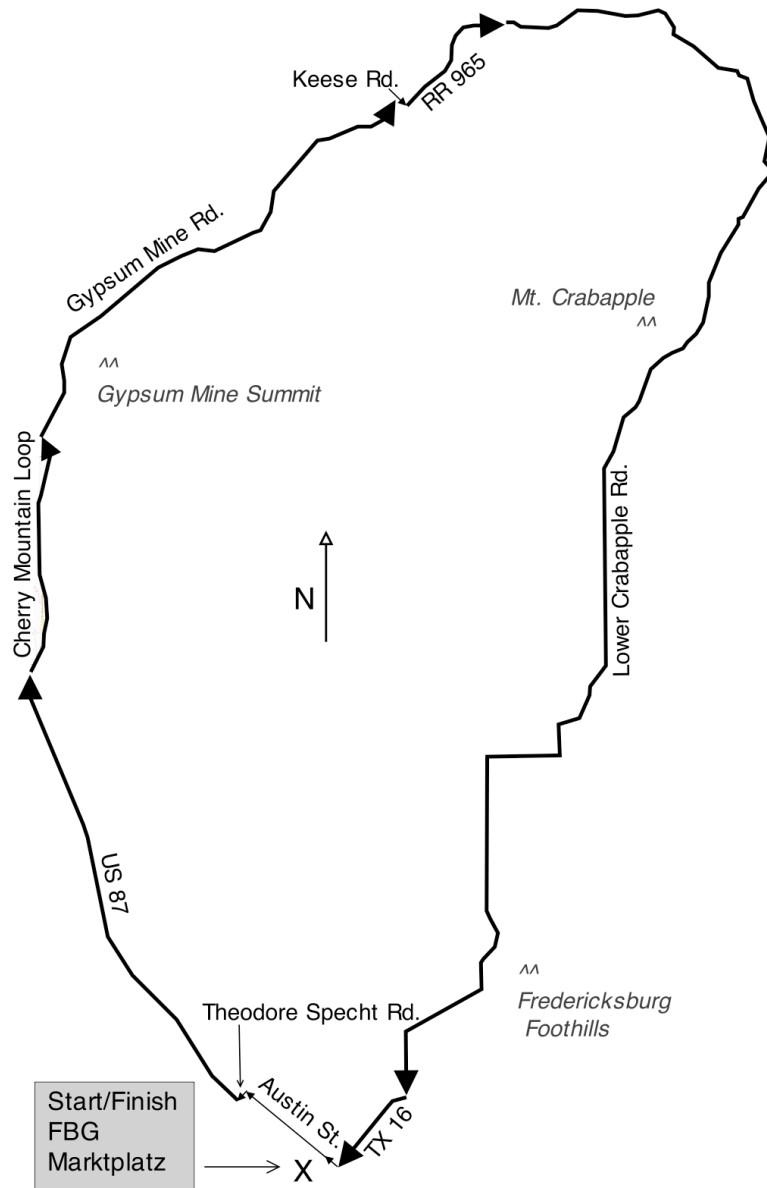
32 miles

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

Catalog: #1007

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Route: *Gypsum Mine 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: *Gypsum Mine Loop*

(in) Dist (miles)	Turn	(at/on to) Road	Total Dist (miles)
-	Start	Marktplatz	-
-	Go Straight (WNW)	W. Austin St.	-
1.2	Turn Left (SW)	Theodore Specht Dr.	1.2
0.1	Turn Right (WNW)	US 87	1.3
4.8	Turn Right (N)	Cherry Mountain Loop	6.1
2.4	Turn Right (NNE)	Gypsum Mine Rd.	8.5
5.3	Turn Right (E)	Keese Rd.	13.8
0.0	Turn Left (NE)	RR 965	13.9
1.5	Turn Right (E)	Crabapple Rd.	15.4
15.0	Turn Right (WSW)	TX 16	30.4
1.0	Turn Right (WNW)	Austin St.	31.4
0.1	Finish	Marktplatz	31.5

Ride Summary

Featuring just over 30 miles of scenic rural cycling, find the Gypsum Mine Loop especially appealing on a north wind day.

Though a substantial amount of vertical gain marks the first third of the route, the rather steady incline offers a good, sustained burn, as opposed to a short acute sting.

The middle third of this route features *Mt. Crabapple*, the most challenging climb on the route. Having vanquished the abrupt climb, take time to recover and enjoy the scenic descent into the final winding and quaint third of the route.

End the ride by surmounting the smaller *Fredericksburg Foothills* climb, which signals the final miles meandering back into Fredericksburg.

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.

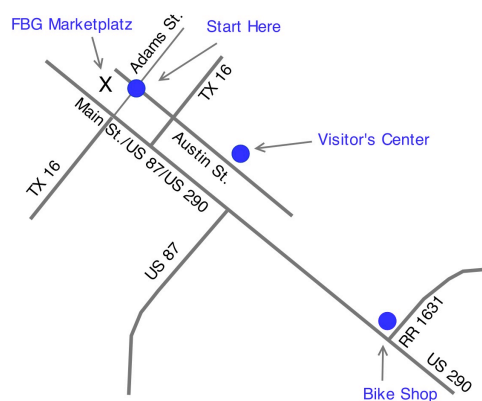
Climactic conditions may change rapidly. Always wear a helmet and utilize properly maintained equipment. Carry tools. Carry a cell phone in case of emergency.

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.

Scenery

The very scenic middle third of this route (particularly on RR965 and on the northern-most reaches of Lower Crabapple Rd. where you find the Crabapple church

and the community center) makes for a scenic stop to stretch the legs.

More Scenery

Be sure to take in the spectacular view of the Pedernales River valley from the summit of *Mt. Crabapple*, just before the route descends dramatically (again). The *Fredericksburg Foothills* feature a notable scenic view as well.

Hills of Interest

Gypsum Mine Summit

(Cat. 3)—Not a hard climb, just a very long one. After leaving town, it climbs for almost 9 miles. It starts on HWY87, which features a wide shoulder, except where the shoulder is a climbing lane. On this short section especially, beware of traffic coming from behind and stay right.

Mt. Crabapple

(Cat. 1)—One of the more infamous climbs in the county, it starts at about 21 miles into the route with a stinging convex profile that will challenge any strength-to-weight ratio. Beyond that, the climb mellows but continues for about two miles. A superior view before a mighty descent rewards for the effort to that point.

Fredericksburg Foothills

(Cat. 3)—Returning to town, beginning at about the 28 mile mark, the route ascends up and over a promontory protecting the city from the North. This notable rise offers great views of suburban Fredericksburg.

Resources

This route offers virtually no commercial sustenance outside of the city of Fredericksburg. You are strongly advised to fuel up before departure with a liberal supply of food and water. Public restrooms and water are available at the Marktplatz. During hot weather, we recommend carrying 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>

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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.
