
Little Switzerland

CycleTexas.com Cycling Routes

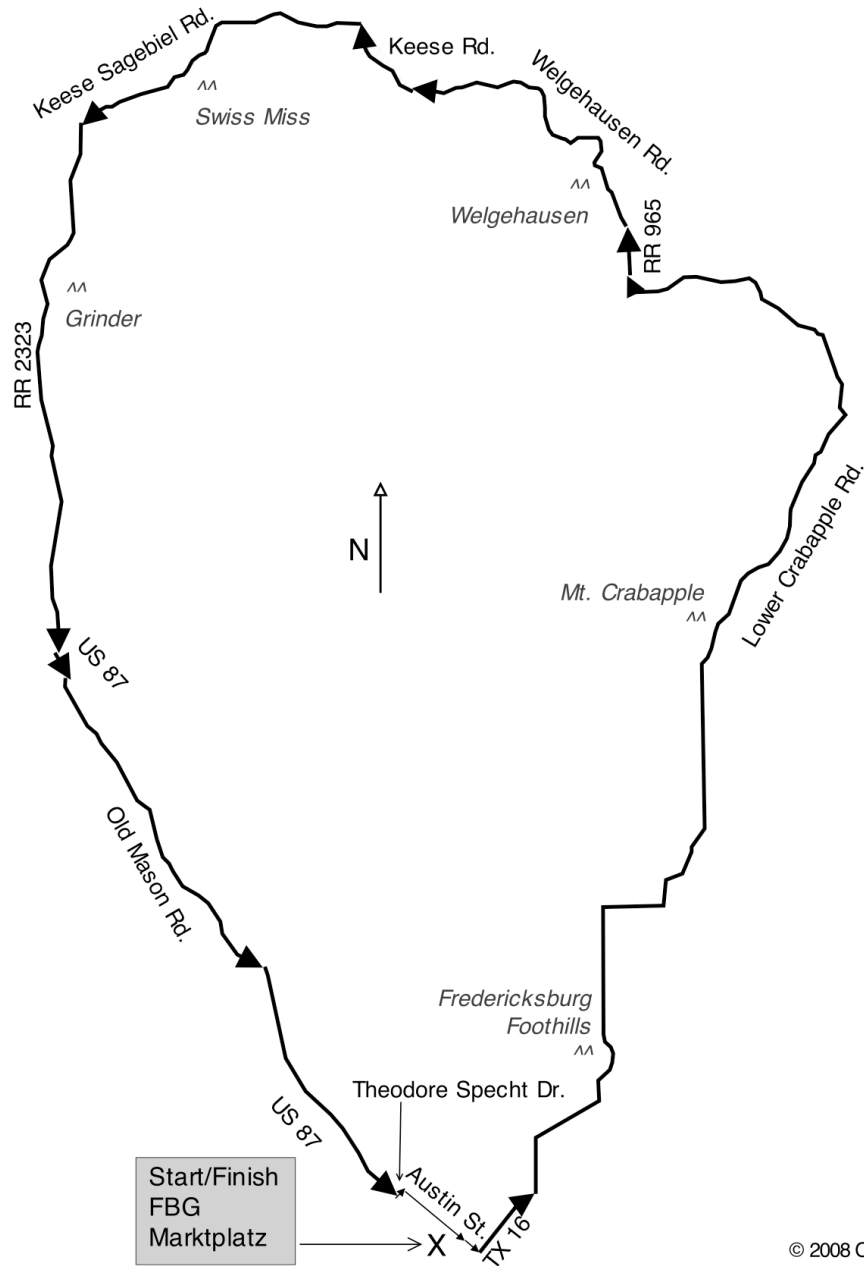
42 miles

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

Catalog: #1010

Author: Gregory L. Kagay

Route: *Little Switzerland*



© 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: *Little Switzerland*

(in) Dist	Turn	(at/on to) Road	Total Dist
	Start	Marktplatz	0.00 mi
	Go straight (ESE)	W Austin St	0.00 mi
0.05 mi	Go straight (SE)	E Austin St	0.05 mi
0.13 mi	Turn left (NE)	SR 16 (N Llano St)	0.18 mi
1.01 mi	Turn left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd	1.19 mi
0.01 mi	Go straight (N)	E Lower Crabapple Rd	1.20 mi
0.18 mi	Go straight (NE)	W Lower Crabapple Rd	1.38 mi
1.34 mi	Bear left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd	2.72 mi
2.41 mi	Turn right (NNE)	Lower Crabapple Rd	5.13 mi
11.15 mi	Turn right (N)	RANCH 965 (N Milam)	16.28 mi
0.81 mi	Turn left (WNW)	Welgehausen Rd	17.09 mi
4.03 mi	Turn right (NW)	Keese Rd	21.12 mi
1.10 mi	Turn left (WSW)	Keese-Sagebiel Rd	22.22 mi
3.88 mi	Turn left (S)	RANCH 2323	26.10 mi
6.60 mi	Bear left (SSE)	US 87	32.70 mi
0.24 mi	Turn right (SE)	Old Mason Rd	32.95 mi
4.37 mi	Turn right (SE)	US 87	37.32 mi
3.09 mi	Turn left (NNE)	Theodore Specht Dr	40.41 mi
0.20 mi	Bear left (SE)	W Austin St	40.61 mi
1.05 mi	Finish	Marktplatz	41.66 mi

Route Summary

This 42 mile loop visits a popular area that local cyclists refer to as "Little Switzerland". Northwest of Fredericksburg, this area features several challenging climbs, as well as quiet roads and terrific Hill Country scenery.

Traveling there, ride via one of Gillespie County's favorite cycling arteries: Crabapple Road. Cyclists appreciate its tranquility and scenic landscapes. It's not all pleasure, however, because along this stretch find the *Fredericksburg Foothills* and *Mt. Crabapple*, both substantial climbing challenges in their own right.

The region known as *Little Switzerland* features gently rolling hills and two stingy climbs -- *Welgehausen* and *Swiss Miss*. This remote section provides abundant rural tranquility, often appreciated especially by city-based visitors.

Heading back to Fredericksburg, surmount the last major climb, *Grinder*, and then enjoy the mostly downhill run back to town on Old Mason Rd.

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.

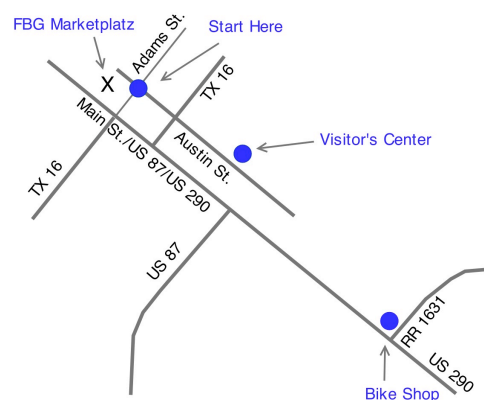
Safety

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. (See map on following page.) 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.

One of the best cycling roads in the county; the church and community center complex at its northern end makes a good place to pause for a break.

Little Switzerland

A scenic, hilly and remote area that we believe resembles the lands of the mountainous Swiss Federation (well, 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

Fredericksburg Foothills

(Cat 3)—this ride starts with a steady climb at the outskirts of town; providing a favorable warm-up for bigger challenges ahead.

Mt. Crabapple

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

Welgehausen

(Cat 1)—this hill demarcates your entrance to "Little Switzerland"; ride it to see why. Be careful on the subsequent fast and twisting descent.

Swiss Miss

(Cat HC)—Flirt with her at your displeasure. She starts steep and, although the grade softens as you go, the crest eludes for a great distance.

Grinder

(Cat 2)—this sustained, mostly steady grade favors those that prefer to set a tempo and stick to it. Watch your back for late-climb attacks from your pack adversaries.

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.
