



Adventure Cycling Association

Short Routes Submissions: Helpful Hints for Ride with GPS Mapping, “Route Description” and “Know Before You Go” Information

Ride With GPS Route Mapping

A Ride With GPS map defining the route line and service locations / Points of Interest (POI's). Here is an example: [Example Map](#)

The following pages should prove very helpful when staging your Ride with GPS work.
Route: [Route Planning 101](#)
Services/Points of Interest (POI): [Adding POIs](#)

Tips for Researching POI's, Services, Accommodations

- camping:
 - [Allstays](#), [FreeCampsites](#), [Recreation.gov](#), GoogleMaps search are good starting points, may require some research
 - Other things to pay attention to :
 - Are sites First come First Serve or reservable?; are reservations required 4-6 months in advance?; are these organized campsites or dispersed camping?; special permits required?; are campsites geared towards RV vs. tenting?; approx price per night;
- Other lodging options:
 - Google search can often find hostels/motels in major-cities. Finding hostels and cabins elsewhere may depend more on local knowledge
 - airbnb, hipcamp can also help find indoor lodging
 - Hiker-hostels, fishing/hunting cabins, forest service cabins do exist - google search, local knowledge, contacting local Forest Service offices can help find them
 - Try to plan inn-to-inn and camping itinerary/options concurrently
 - 1 camping option / 30-45 miles
 - 1 indoor option / 30-45 miles
- Food:
 - restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores
 - We don't need to include EVERY food service within a major city
 - give examples of some recommended ones near route in major cities
- Routing considerations
 - What are the nearest major cities/metro areas?
 - How can someone & their bike get to route
 - Is this route accessible by car; is there overnight parking?
 - Is this route accessible from local public transport?
 - Is this route accessible from regional/national public [transport](#)?
 - Are there parking/transit/bike fees?
 - Any bike limitations on transport?



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- eg) tandems, wheel size, foldable only, must remove wheel, no trikes, no eBikes
- What types of roads
 - Paved, unpaved, bike trail, towpath, bike lane, on-road
- Are transit options/accommodations/services within accessible distance
 - <5 miles from route, preferably closer
- Route review - why did you choose the roads you chose?
 - Are there bike facilities (bike lanes, sharrows, bike paths, etc)
 - How efficient/usable are the facilities? Are they easy to follow/access. Are they well maintained?
 - Cross reference with established routes:
 - [ACRN](#)
 - [USBRS](#)
 - [Rail Trails](#)
 - Cross reference with other data
 - [Strava global heatmap](#)
 - [Ridewithgps heatmap](#)
 - Department of Transportation (DOT) information
 - shoulder width, vehicles/hour, speed limit
 - Will route be “easy to follow”
 - Are turns/roads well marked and easy to spot?
 - Will cyclists have to make left turns across 4 lanes of traffic?
 - Are urban bike paths well-signed and follow-able
 - Are there 6 different unmarked forks that “only a local” would be able to follow?
 - Would a cyclist have to stop for street crossings every .2 miles?
 - Is there a safe/comparable road that will make folks less likely to get confused/frustrated than a bike path?
 - Consider [“google street view -ing” turns](#)

Route Description

-Where is this route going, what are the highlights, what makes it special, why would someone want to ride it/why are you excited to share it, any memorable stories from this route?

-Does it follow any established rail/bike trails, Adventure Cycling Route Network (ACRN) routes, US Bike Route System Routes (USBRS), etc?

-Total mileage and elevation gain

-General terrain and route surface

-[Land acknowledgement \(map\)](#)

Example: Take a four-day weekend to depart from Seattle via ferry and explore the beautiful San Juan Islands. You'll sample everything Western Washington has to offer, from the urban



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density of Seattle to forested islands and beautiful ferry and bridge crossings over a tapestry of waterways. Take in views of the Pacific Ocean and the Olympic Mountains along the way. This road route will carry you along lush coastal scenery. You'll cross the water to your final destination on Lopez Island, a quiet rural getaway where you can unplug and camp at scenic sites where you'll take in the sunset over the sea.

Know Before You Go

- Recommended months/seasons
 - Do campgrounds/parks/roads have seasonal closings?
 - Weather?
- heat/water scarcity or treatment/high elevation/animal alerts
- Are there extra fees?
 - Park entry, trail permits, ferries, parking, etc
- How far in advance do camping/motel reservations need to be made?
 - [Are there "no-turn-away" policies?](#)
- Options to rent gear
 - Bike & outdoor shops, university rentals, co-ops, etc.
- Are there any (well-known) events that will shut down sections of route
 - professional/college sport games (can we route away from these areas)
 - Major, ongoing construction projects (eg bridge rehab)
 - Annual bike races, marathons, parades, etc
- Anything special about this route (festivals, fun facts, as seen in this movie, etc)
- Notes about phone/cell service/wifi

(Example: Weather: Western Washington's climate is wet and chilly, and you'll encounter misty mornings almost any time of year. August and September are most likely to be dry, warm weather.

Places to stay: If you're not in the mood to camp, you'll find plenty of lovely bed 'n breakfasts or vacation rentals in the area that you can book ahead of time. Otherwise, you'll be able to find plenty of hiker-biker sites on the islands.

Plan ahead: Cell phone service is spotty on the islands, and expect to be completely out of service on Lopez Island. The islands are also close enough to Canada that depending on your phone carrier, you may pick up a Canadian cell tower and incur roaming charges if you use it.)