Every year, thousands of people head out on bike tours. Hundreds of you use our maps each year to help guide you on your adventures. We update our print maps every five years or so, but we keep an online map updates and corrections catalog with all the road closures, construction, packs of wild dogs (if you’ve ridden the TransAm lately, you know what I mean), and changes to services like restaurants, new bike-only camping, and more. While we wish we were able to dedicate all our time to re-riding each of our routes to make sure we have the best and most up-to-date information, this intel really comes from you, our members, who call us or fill out our handy routes feedback form to let us know about changes in route conditions. We truly can’t do this work without you.

This is no small feat: between 750 and 1,000 people inform us about changes in route conditions annually, the majority of which come from members. In our interview with Director of Routes Emerita Carla Majernik for her profile in the March/April issue of Adventure Cyclist, she told us that many people who report changes and suggest reroutes are fellow cartographers who are truly dedicated to the cause of maintaining accurate maps and routes. But you don’t need to be a cartographer to help us keep our routes up to date. You just need to be a rider!

A good portion of these reports end up on the Atlantic Coast, because it has the most human infrastructure interface. This means there is more traffic, more road wear, and more cars and businesses. While there is more opportunity for construction, there are also more possibilities for rerouting and more people invested in making sure sections of the route remain safe and accessible, whether they ride the route regularly or live near it and are familiar with its conditions. The Pacific Coast is another heavily modified route. It’s our most popular route for section riders and thru-riders alike, meaning there are more people experiencing the route and able to give us real-time conditions for us to update. Finally, our legacy TransAmerica route is our longest route. Also incredibly popular, this route goes through areas both remote and congested, with stores constantly opening and closing, and populations of towns changing with industry. This can create some interesting community interfacing, from the wild dogs mentioned above to reroutes to accommodate large machines for oil extraction, construction, or other large-scale projects that may conflict with a cyclist’s safety.

You can also help us update beyond our major routes. The U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRBS) can also be updated through our forms. The USBRS is a developing national network of bicycle routes connecting urban and rural communities via signed roads and trails. Created with public input, these routes direct bicyclists through a city, county, or state, creating opportunities for people everywhere to bicycle for travel, transportation, and recreation. Please note these are not necessarily the same as a community’s wayfinding signage you may see while riding around. For more information on those signs and how to read them, visit the National Association of City Transportation Officials page on bike-way signs: advcy.link/wayfind.

Before you head out on your next tour, whether utilizing our maps or following along your local USBRS, in addition to checking out our updated online maps be sure to check our routes forums. On our website, scroll to the bottom to find the link for forums (or visit the link below). From there, you will see the fourth link down is “Temporary ACA Route Road Closures,” where people ask questions and post updates on routes.

And this summer, as you’re actively touring and thinking about how to make routes better, consider fundraising for Adventure Cycling. Raise dollars with every mile you cycle to ensure that our routes continue to be the most trusted and accurate in the country. Join the journey to bring happy tailwinds to all and consider starting a fundraiser today.

To quickly and easily submit an update to a route, visit our feedback form on this site:

adventurecycling.org/routes/corrections

To start a fundraiser:

adventurecycling.org/belong/give/fundraise

To visit our forums for route updates or to submit your own:

forums.adventurecycling.org

Geared Up
We tested more than camera gear this spring, and you can find our favorites here.

adventurecycling.org/summer-picks

How to Photograph Your Tour
A few key guidelines that are guaranteed to improve your bicycle touring photography.

adventurecycling.org/blog/how-to-photograph-your-tour

Dispersed Camping Guide
Your guide to a peaceful, free night under the stars on U.S. public lands.

adventurecycling.org/blog/dispersed-camping-for-cyclists

From Selfie to Self Portrait
Elevate your bicycle travel photos from snapshots to wall-worthy images.

adventurecycling.org/blog/from-selfie-to-self-portrait