

Palisade - East Orchard Mesa Loop

This is a really fun ride. It seems to have a little bit of everything: orchards and vineyards, fruit stands and wineries, hills and flats. In the right season you can leave the energy bars at home and power yourself through your ride just on peaches. However, this is Colorado so there is a hill to be aware of: 38 Road Hill (known locally as "Puke Hill") is half a mile long with an average gradient of 14%. Ooof. The route described here takes you up Puke Hill, but if you prefer your hills pointing downward, you'll want to ride this route going counter-clockwise.

Distance: 41 miles

Total Climbing: 731 feet, but with one hill at 14%!

Ride Difficulty: Pretty easy except for that one hill.

Alternative Route: Doing this route counter-clockwise is a bit easier.

Getting to the Start

This route starts from a parking lot adjacent to the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens at 655 Struthers Avenue, Grand Junction.

Exit I-70 at Horizon Drive and turn south (towards downtown Grand Junction). Go straight at the roundabout at 12th Street and continue to the traffic light at 7th Street. Turn left onto 7th Street. Go 2.7 mile on 7th Street, all the way to where the road ends at Struthers Ave. This will take you across several major intersections and even a roundabout at Main Street. Turn left at Struthers Ave. After just 300 feet or so you'll see a paved parking area on the right. Adjacent to the parking lot there is water, restrooms, and even a bicycle repair station!

Between the parking lot and the river is the Riverfront Trail paved bike path. Start your ride by going east (left) on this path. Have a fun ride!

Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

Start / Finish

After 0.25 mile on 29 Road, turn left onto bike path. It's really easy to miss.

Corn Lake State Park
No charge if you're on a bike

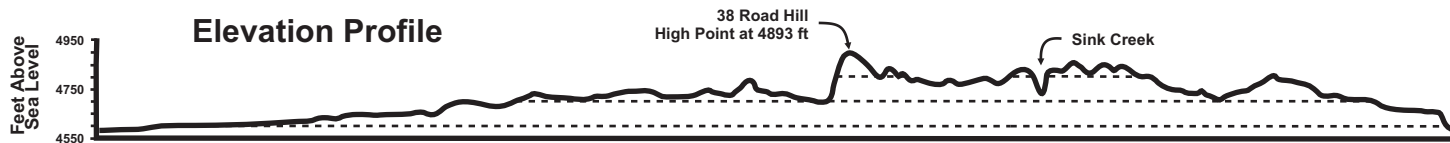
Left turns across a busy road (two locations)

The first mile of this ride is on the Riverfront Trail. The bike path is right next to the parking lot, so just hop on the path and head east (upriver, y'know, left). After about 0.9 mile there's a fork in the trail, be sure to bear left to reach C 1/2 Road. If you find yourself heading over the river, you took the wrong turn.



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Elevation Profile



CAUTION:
Busy road
crossing then
railroad tracks

Really Steep Hill!
Average 14%!!

Just stay on the major road through East Orchard Mesa and you shouldn't get too terribly lost.

Busy Road!!
Be careful
when crossing



Map available in the Avenza PDF Maps app

Downtown Palisade

Railroad crossing!
Tracks are at an angle!

Shortcut:
Shorten ride
by 4.6 miles

- Suggested Route on Road
- Suggested Route on Bike Path
- Bike Path Not On Suggested Route
- Other Roads
- State Highway
- Railroad Tracks