

The Colorado National Monument Loop

Welcome to the crown jewel of road riding in the Grand Valley. If you're going to do one ride in the area, this is it. This ride was the "Tour of the Moon" stage of the Coors Classic bicycle race back in the 1980s (they did two laps). It also featured in the otherwise forgettable bicycle racing movie "American Flyers" (with Kevin Costner). Do the ride, watch the movie, you'll end up enjoying the ride much more.
For a more gradual, but longer, climb try this route going counterclockwise.

Important: You need to bring with you front and rear lights that can be seen from 500ft away (little LED ones work great), and you'll need \$5 or a National Parks Pass to get into Colorado National Monument.

Distance: 38.2 miles
Total Climbing: 2750 feet
Ride Difficulty: Moderate to difficult

WARNING: Tunnels Be Carefull!!

WARNING: There are three tunnels on Rim Rock Drive: one on the east side and two on the west side. Colorado National Monument requires lights when riding through these tunnels.

Special Notes:
Special traffic laws apply in the Monument, including, but not limited to: Lights front and rear are required while riding through the tunnels; and bicyclists are NOT allowed to ride side by side at any time (except while passing). Failure to follow these laws or any other traffic law (such as speed limits), can result in an expensive federal traffic citation. Monument staff has indicated that they will be strictly enforcing all bicycle related traffic laws.

WARNING: Tunnel Be Carefull!!

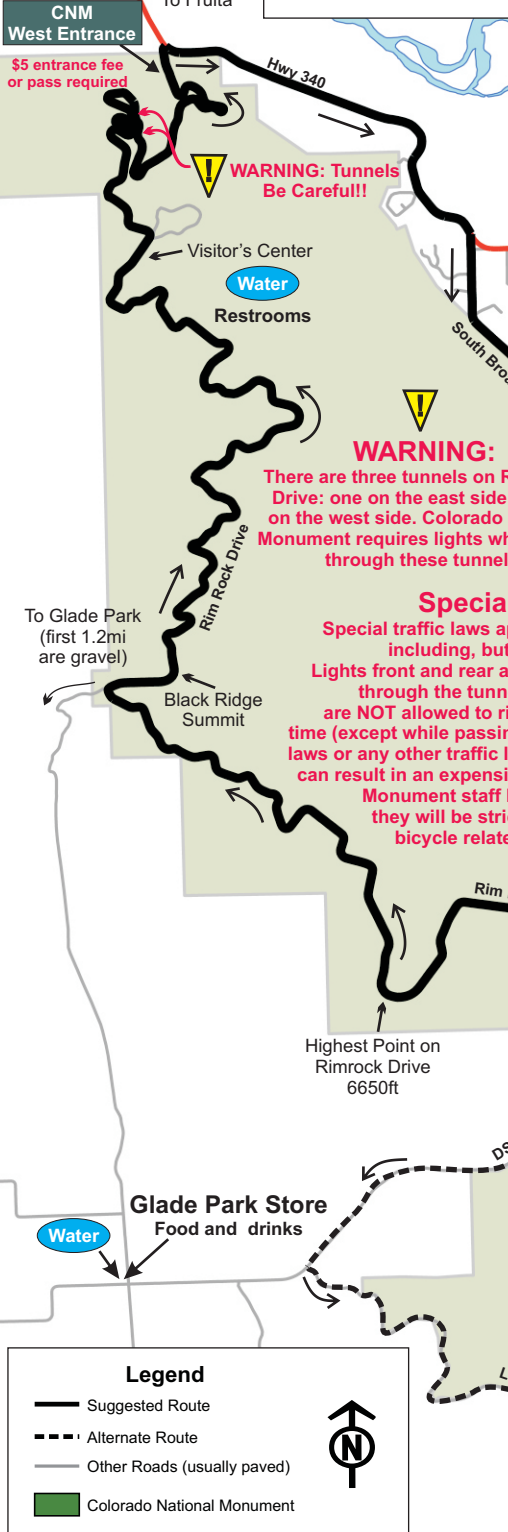
Alternative Route
Return to Grand Junction via DS Road and Little Park Road:
Go 4.5 miles up DS Rd., Turn left on Little Park Rd. 12.5 miles on Little Park Rd. and you're back in Grand Junction

Getting to the Start

These directions start from the Albertsons at 2512 Broadway. To get there, Exit I-70 at Horizon Dr., turn south. Take Horizon Dr. to 7th St., turn left. Go 1.75 miles to Grand Ave., turn right. Go straight at the light at 1st St. The road is now named Broadway. Go another 0.9 miles on Broadway (you'll cross the railroad and the river), Albertsons is on the right.

After hopping on your bike, head out the east entrance of the parking lot and turn right. Go straight through the traffic light and start up Monument Road. From there on, just follow the arrows on this map.

Map, profile, and directions were created by John Hodge.
If you have any comments or suggestions please let me know at deinonychih@hotmail.com.
Find more free cycling maps at: <http://www.tomorrowhillfarm.com>.



Legend

- Suggested Route
- - - Alternate Route
- Other Roads (usually paved)
- Colorado National Monument

North arrow pointing up.

