

Tour of the Valley - Section 5

Okay, you've gone about 50 miles, are you ready for some hills? Good! Welcome to the Tour of the Moon, or at least that's what this ride was called when it was the setting for a stage of the Coors Classic back in the '80's. It starts out with about four miles of around 6%, and the climbing doesn't stop there.

A couple important notes about this ride: you need to have \$5 or a National Parks Pass to get in, and you MUST have front and rear lights that will get you seen from 500 feet away in order to ride through the three tunnels. Also, it is illegal to ride side by side unless you are passing someone while riding on Rim Rock Road, and cars are not required to give you three feet. This road gets lots of tourists during the summer so watch out for drivers who are spending more time gawking at the scenery than watching the where they are going.

For any folks who forgot their lights, Parks Pass, or climbing legs, I've noted an alternative route that gets you to Fruita without the big hills.

If you're a stout winter rider, sorry but Rim Rock Road is closed to cyclists from December 1 to February 28, so you'll have to use the alternative route.

