

# Whitewater to Gateway Through Unaweep Canyon . . . And Back

**Distance:** 86 miles from Whitewater to Gateway and back.  
**Total Climbing:** at least 4900 ft, but this is another one that confused my software. Let me know if you get a good number on this.  
**Ride Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult, depending on how fast you try all that climbing.  
**Alternative Route:** Going just to Unaweep Divide and back makes for a 39 mile ride with about 2400 ft of climbing.

This ride is so gorgeous you'll forget how bad it hurts. Maybe. It's a simple "out and back" route so it's hard to get too lost. Towering canyon walls will surround you as you climb and descend your way from Whitewater to your turn around point in Gateway, at which time you get to climb up that hill you just went down. The Gateway Canyons Resort in Gateway has water, food, drinks and a grille that serves a really good burger, but you might want to save that for after the ride.

This ride can be made shorter and easier...okay, not as hard...by riding just up to Unaweep Divide and back. You'll know when you're at the divide by a big sign that says, unimaginatively, "Unaweep Divide".

Other than at the turn around point in Gateway, there is no readily available water along this route.

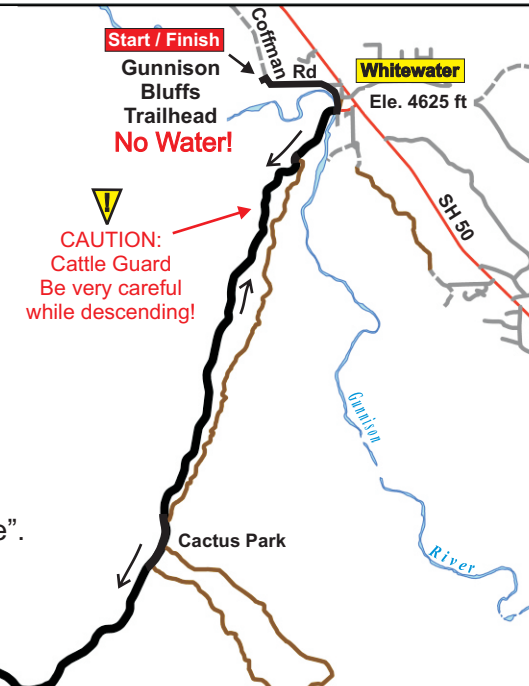
**WARNING:** The shoulder is very narrow and there isn't any bike lane for pretty much this entire ride, so if you prefer rides with bike lanes, this route may not be for you.

## Getting to the Start

This ride starts at the Gunnison Bluffs Trailhead in Whitewater. Exit I-70 at Hwy I-70B in Clifton. Head south on I-70B, through Clifton, and turn left at 32 Road to go on St Hwy 141. Continue south, across the Colorado River, across East Orchard Mesa to State Highway 50. Turn left on to Hwy 50. Go 2.2 miles to 1st Street in Whitewater, turn right (it's a very small road and easy to miss; if you reach Hwy 141 you've gone too far). Go 1/4 mile to Coffman Road, bear right. Go another mile, and just after the road turns right the trailhead will be on the left.

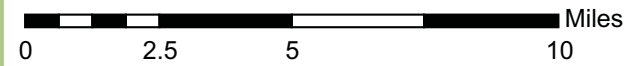
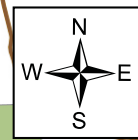
Once you get on your bike, head back down Coffman, but don't turn on to 1st Street. Instead, just stay on Coffman another 1/4 mile or so and you'll come out on Highway 141. Turn right and head to Gateway.

Map, profile and descriptions were created by John Hodge. If you have comments, suggestions, gripes or compliments, send them to me at [deinonychi@hotmail.com](mailto:deinonychi@hotmail.com). Find this map and many more at [www.tomorrowhillfarm.com](http://www.tomorrowhillfarm.com)



### Legend

- Suggested Route
- State Highway
- Paved Roads
- Gravel Roads
- Dirt Roads
- Uncompahgre National Forest



© 2011 James Hodge

