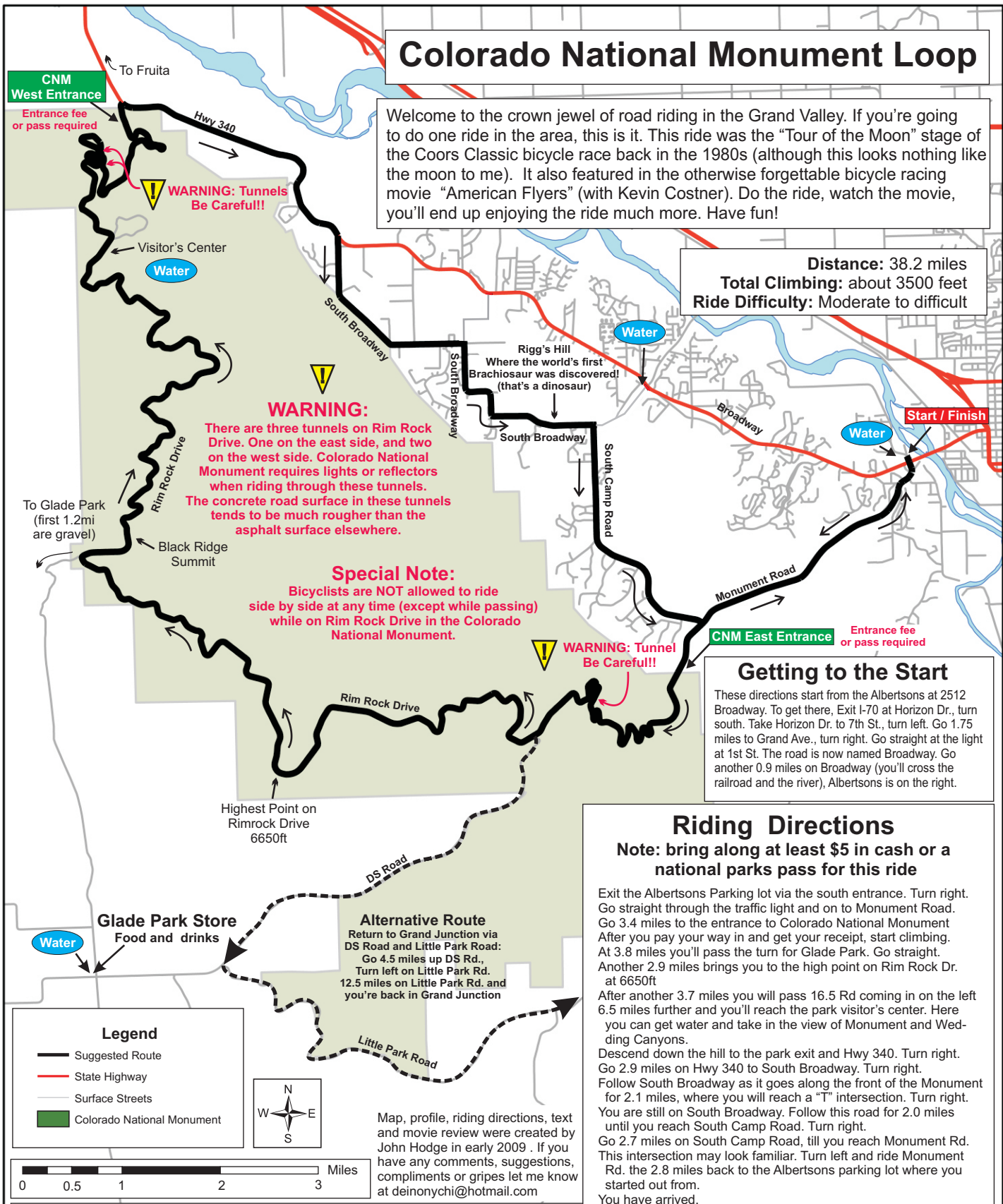


Colorado National Monument Loop

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 (although this looks nothing like the moon to me). 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. Have fun!

Distance: 38.2 miles
Total Climbing: about 3500 feet
Ride Difficulty: Moderate to difficult



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.

Riding Directions

Note: bring along at least \$5 in cash or a national parks pass for this ride

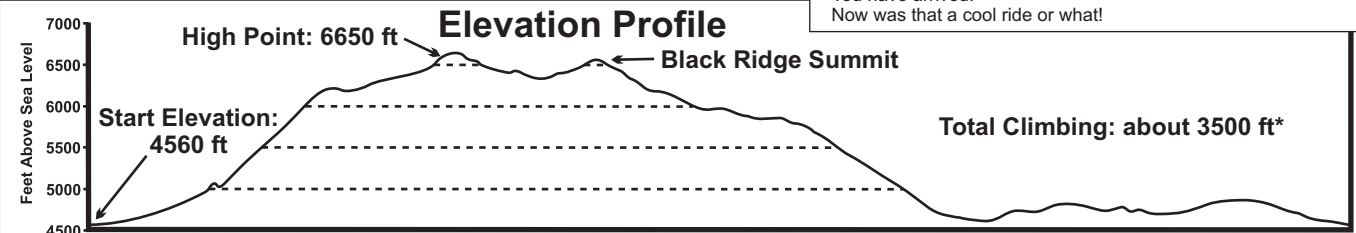
Exit the Albertsons Parking lot via the south entrance. Turn right. Go straight through the traffic light and on to Monument Road. Go 3.4 miles to the entrance to Colorado National Monument. After you pay your way in and get your receipt, start climbing. At 3.8 miles you'll pass the turn for Glade Park. Go straight. Another 2.9 miles brings you to the high point on Rim Rock Dr. at 6650ft. After another 3.7 miles you will pass 16.5 Rd coming in on the left 6.5 miles further and you'll reach the park visitor's center. Here you can get water and take in the view of Monument and Wedding Canyons. Descend down the hill to the park exit and Hwy 340. Turn right. Go 2.9 miles on Hwy 340 to South Broadway. Turn right. Follow South Broadway as it goes along the front of the Monument for 2.1 miles, where you will reach a "T" intersection. Turn right. You are still on South Broadway. Follow this road for 2.0 miles until you reach South Camp Road. Turn right. Go 2.7 miles on South Camp Road, till you reach Monument Rd. This intersection may look familiar. Turn left and ride Monument Rd. the 2.8 miles back to the Albertsons parking lot where you started out from. You have arrived. Now was that a cool ride or what!

Legend

- Suggested Route
- State Highway
- Surface Streets
- Colorado National Monument



Map, profile, riding directions, text and movie review were created by John Hodge in early 2009. If you have any comments, suggestions, compliments or gripes let me know at deinonych@hotmail.com



* Total climbing value is approximate since my software got confused by this route.