

Orchard Mesa - Palisade - East Orchard Mesa Loop

This is a really fun ride. It seems to have a little of everything: orchards and vineyard, fruit stands and wineries. In the right season you can leave the energy bars at home and power yourself through your ride on peaches. Several wineries along the way offer wine tasting, so you might want to bring along a set of panniers for that bottle or two of some famous Palisade wine.

However, this is still a bike ride, and since this is in Colorado there are a couple of hills to be aware of. The steepest is 38 Road hill, a short, sweet little climb with an average gradient of 14%. The route described here takes you up this hill; but if you prefer your hills pointing downward, you can always ride this route counter-clockwise. I promise we won't think less of you for it.

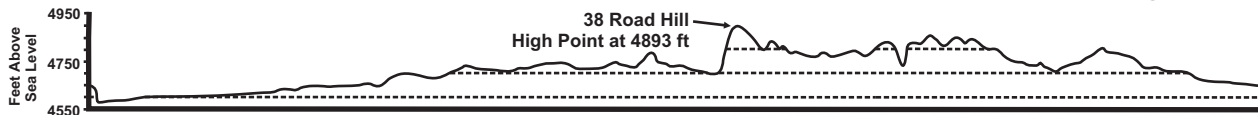
Distance: 38 miles
Total Climbing: 731 feet, but with one hill with a 14% grade!
Ride Difficulty: Pretty easy, except for that one steep hill.
Alternative Route: Doing this route counter-clockwise is a bit easier

To start the ride: take the bike path west out of Eagle Rim Park. The path will switchback to the east, go down a hill and over the bridge crossing the Colorado River. Take the path north to where it curves right and on to C 1/2 Rd. From there just follow the map!



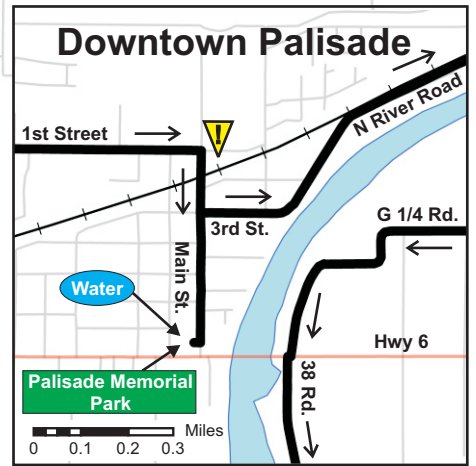
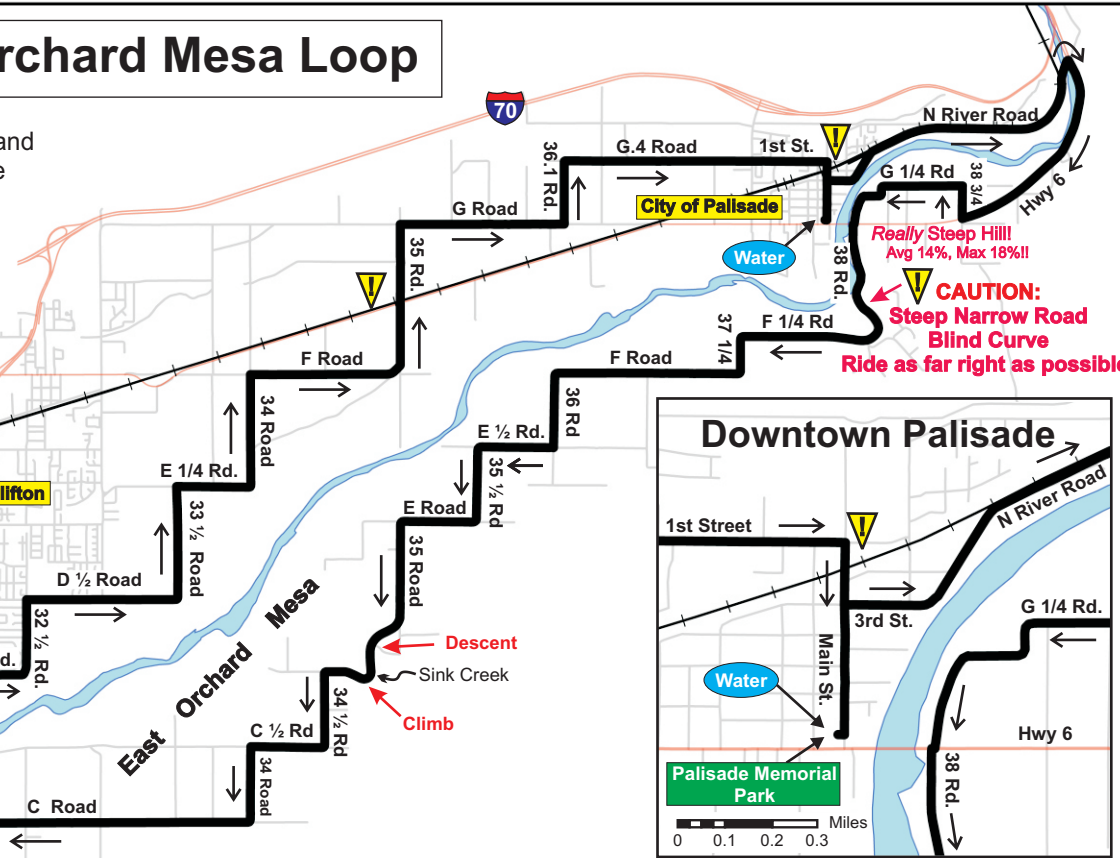
Elevation Profile

Total Climbing: 731 feet



Getting to the Start

Exit I-70 at Horizon Dr. Turn left. Go to the round-about at 12th St., turn left. Take 12th St. 2.5 miles to Ute Ave. Turn right on Ute Ave. Go 0.7 miles to 5th Street, turn left. Go 1.25 miles on 5th (which is also State Hwy 50) to Unaweep Ave., turn left. Go 1.1 miles on Unaweep Ave. to 27 3/8 Rd. (it's the road on the east side of Orchard Mesa Middle School). Turn left on to 27 3/8 Rd. Go 0.25 miles, to where the road ends at Eagle Rim Park. Park in the parking lot. The park facilities include water, rest rooms and nice views, which makes for a great place for a post ride picnic.



Legend

- Suggested Route
- State Highway
- Other Roads
- Train Tracks
- Caution: Dangerous road conditions such as railroad tracks or a busy road crossing

Map, profile and descriptions were created by John Hodge during the long winter of 2009. (Hey, it beats riding the stationary bike.) If you have comments, suggestions, gripes or compliments, send them to me at deinonychi@hotmail.com. Thanks!