



2010 Southern Utah Self-Supported Bike Tour (Sept 11-18, 2010)

Route summary: This is a 350 mile loop, starting and ending at Green River, UT. The overnight towns are: Green River, Goblin Valley State Park, a wild camp between Hanksville and Lake Powell, Natural Bridges National Monument (2 nights), Blanding, North of Monticello, Moab, and then back to Green River. Here is the link: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/17116856/>

If you have been with me on my previous Southern Utah ride, this one's daily mileages are a little longer, but they do not have the steep grades and mountain passes like the other route. This new route is also more wild and rugged, especially the first half of the trip. Water will be scarce, grocery supplies even scarcer, and we'll have one totally 'wild' camp, where we'll just find a pullout spot along the road for the night. We'll have two more nights directly after that at a campground with water but no showers and no food available. The second half of the trip, in contrast, we'll treat ourselves to a night in a motel, and there will be towns with real stores and restaurants aplenty.

The route *can* be all on pavement, if that's what you need, but it will involve travelling on I-70 if you need all pavement. If you can handle some gravel, there are alternate routes that avoid the freeway.

Here is the itinerary by day. Note that this year I'd like everyone to come to Green River on Friday night so we can organize and be ready to ride early Saturday AM. I have camp sites reserved at Green River State Park. Also, the State Park ranger will store your car for the week for a small fee.

Dates:

9/10 Fri: Drive from homes to the Green River State Park campground.

9/11 Sat: Green River SP to Goblin Valley SP campground (50 miles) (no food)

9/11 Sun: Goblin Valley SP to Hog Springs wild camping (66 miles) (picnic table and pit toilet, but no food, no water)

9/12 Mon: Hog Springs to Natural Bridges campground (67 miles – longest day with most climbing to boot) (has water, but no food, no showers)

9/13 Tue: Rest day at Natural Bridges. Several options for hiking and biking available or you can just sit and recover from yesterday (has water, but no food, no showers)

9/14 Wed: Natural Bridges to Blanding motel (48 miles)

9/15 Thu: Blanding to North of Monticello campground (28 miles)

9/16 Fri: North of Monticello to Moab campground (48 miles)

9/17 Sat: Moab to Green River Melon Days and end (50 miles)

Because of the minimal food and water the first half of our trip, and great distances between services and towns should there be an emergency, I have made special arrangements with Robert Turner to

provide emergency vehicle support and to carry some water and extra food for these days. THIS IS NOT A SAG OR SHUTTLE VEHICLE; THIS IS NOT A PLACE TO STASH YOUR GEAR WHEN YOU GET TIRED; AND THIS IS NOT A BENEFIT TO BE ABUSED! You will be responsible for carrying all of your own gear at all times. Besides the extra water, one bag of spare food per person will be allowed in Robert's vehicle, since little is available in Hanksville or Hite.

Equipment list:

- Touring Bicycle in good working order, with panniers or trailer, also in good working order.
- Tent, sleeping bag and pad
- Spare clothing, including rain gear. Bring clothes for HOT weather, but also for COLD weather, as we do have three nights at 7,000'. Your extra shoes should be sturdy enough for day hiking to various natural bridges, waterfalls, or pictograph panels and ruins.
- Toiletries, including TP, baby wipes for cleaning up when water is not available; first aid supplies.
- Cooking: backpacking stove, fuel, cooking pots, dishes (find someone to share stove/fuel)
- Bike repair tools, spare tubes, patch kit, bike lube
- Food (plan ahead...bring surplus energy snacks, breakfasts and dinners. You will carry lunch/dinner/ breakfast for Goblin Valley on day 1; Extra bag of food for the next 3 days can be carried in the emergency vehicle.
- Cameras, journals, etc. Cell phones won't do you much good in many of these areas.
- Money, to purchase meals and groceries along the route.
- What else?

PARTICIPANTS 2010:

Cheryl Soshnik
Robert Turner
Randy Burns
Dave Rumbellow
Rob Paull

Chris Winter
Mark Shipman
Don and Angie Vincent
Barb Hanson
Tiffany Mercer

Tricia Lee
Rod Collins
Rob Jones
Gerrish Willis (maybe)

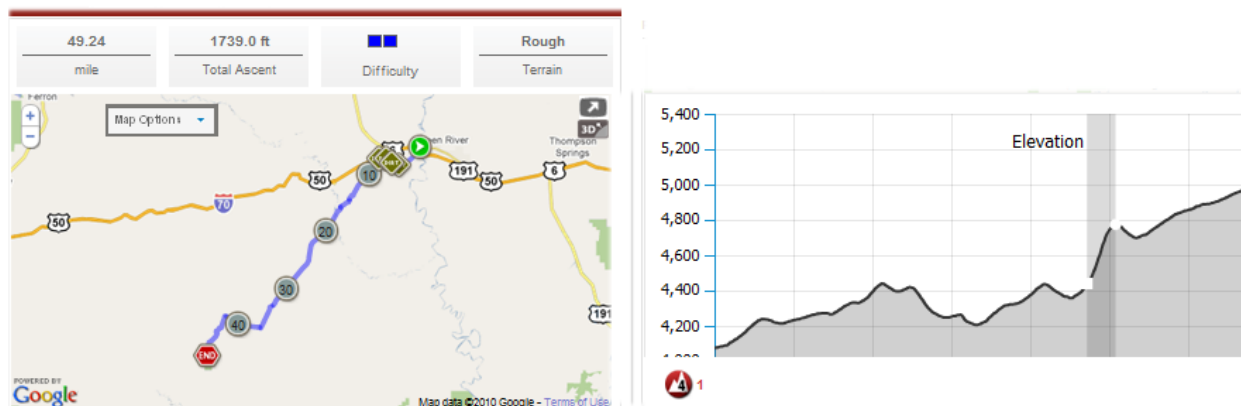
Day 0: Friday, September 10, 2010: Green River State Park (0 miles)

Park Map: <http://static.stateparks.utah.gov/maps/grspCG.pdf>

I would like everyone to gather on Friday night this year, so we are all in one place, can get final organization done, stash our cars, and be ready to ride early Saturday morning. If you know someone in Green River that will keep your car for the week, fine. However, the Ranger at the park told me they will store our cars for the week, for a minimal fee. He said usually they charge \$20 per car, but since we have a group, he'll reduce that rate for us (he didn't say how much...) We'll find a restaurant for a group dinner in Green River, since there will not be many services before we arrive in Blanding on the 5th day. I have camping sites 32 and 34 reserved for us for Friday night. Let's carpool as well, so we have as few vehicles as possible to store for the week.

Goal: Get to Green River by 7pm for group dinner.

Day 1: Saturday, September 11, 2010: Green River to Goblin Valley State Park (50 miles)



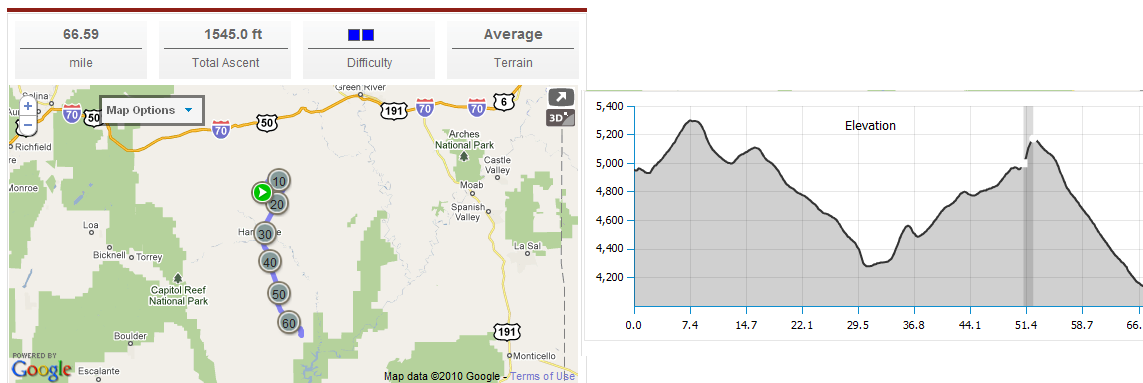
Map using I-70: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19914012/>

Map avoiding I-70: <http://www.mapmyride.com/route/detail/20000880/>

Two options for the first part of the day. 1) Avoid the freeway by taking the airport road, which turns to gravel for about 3 miles, and then get onto Old Hwy 24, which is overgrown, and has large cracks in the pavement. But it's a quiet rural route. 2) Take the I-70 freeway west to the Hwy 24 exit, then go south. In only a couple miles, you meet the gravel/old pavement route. From this junction, the route is the same: Hwy 24 to the turnoff to Goblin Valley. This road is now 100% pavement, was just completed last year.

We have campsites 12 & 13 reserved. There is one picnic table in a shelter at each campsite, no other shade. This has modern facilities: water, flush toilets, and showers. No food however. You need to carry food for tonight's dinner and tomorrow's breakfast in your panniers/trailer!

Day 2: Sunday, September 12, 2010: Goblin Valley SP – Hanksville – Hog Springs Wild Camp (66 miles)



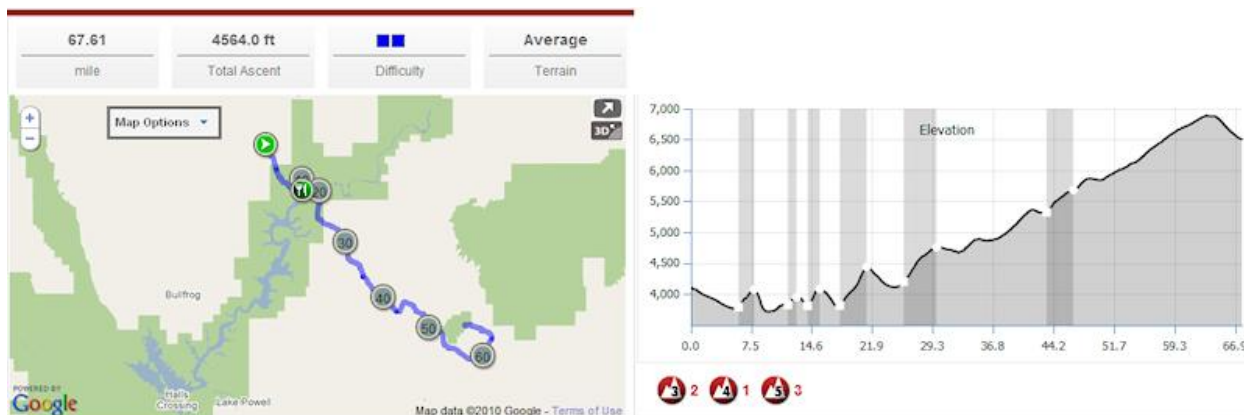
Map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19999246/>

After breakfast, we'll head back out to Hwy 24, and get to Hanksville for lunch. Either eat at the restaurant in town, or grab fast food at the gas station at the junction. You can also stock up on the limited supplies from the general store here, if you didn't bring along enough food in your spare food bag. There will be no stores along the route for the next three nights, save for a limited supply of microwave food and ice cream treats at the Hite store tomorrow.

Once we leave Hanksville, we travel South on Hwy 95, past the junction to Bullfrog, to Hog Springs Picnic Area for the night. There is a picnic table and pit toilet here, but no water. This is not an 'official' comp site, but I talked to the BLM and they said camping is not prohibited. They say to make sure there is room for other folks to park, picnic, and hike; don't 'hog' the whole area. This is where Robert Turner and about 10 gallons of water and some of your food sacks will be necessary.

OPTIONAL: If you get to Hog Springs early enough, and want a little hiking/sightseeing adventure, you will find pictographs and a hiking trail to a waterfall. Here is a link to the area, with the hiking map: <http://www.climb-utah.com/Powell/hogspring.htm>.

Day 3 - Monday, September 13, 2010: Hog Springs – Hite – Natural Bridges (67 miles)



Route map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/20095346/>

This will be our longest and most climbing day of the week. Start by biking down to Lake Powell at Hite. If you need more food or water, stop at Hite store. The store has minimal food – microwavable stuff, ice cream, snacks. Then, begin the very scenic climb up to the higher plateaus. It's a long climb, but nothing steep. 5% is the steepest grade, with 3% being the average. Piece of cake! We'll bike with the White River to our left, pass over Fry Canyon, and eventually end up at Natural Bridges National Monument. I couldn't reserve campsites ahead of time here, it's first come first served. Maybe we'll send Robert ahead to secure us a couple campsites. If they are full, we can get water here, and there is plenty of overflow camping outside the monument. There is water and toilets in the Monument, but no showers, and no food concessions. We'll be using our spare food for the next two days. There is a \$3 per bicycle and \$ per vehicle entrance fee. We will be staying here 2 nights, as tomorrow is a rest day.

Natural Bridges Visitor's Guide: <http://www.nps.gov/nabr/planyourvisit/upload/VisitorGuide.pdf>

Day 4 – Tuesday, September 14, 2010: Natural Bridges layover day

Several options today:

1) Bike and hike within Natural Bridges. There is a 9-mile loop beginning from near the campground that takes in all 3 Natural Bridges. You can hike to each one. There is other hiking in the area, check the visitor guide. Map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19989694/>

2) Bike to the Kane Wash Ranger Station and then hike down towards Grand Gulch on a day hike. If you are strong and fast, you can make it to the junction of Kane Wash and Grand Gulch, where there is a nice anasazi ruins. Or just hike down for a while and turn around. Check in at the Kane Wash Ranger Station before you start hiking. Here is a good link to this hike: <http://www.hikearizona.com/decoder.php?ZTN=1493>

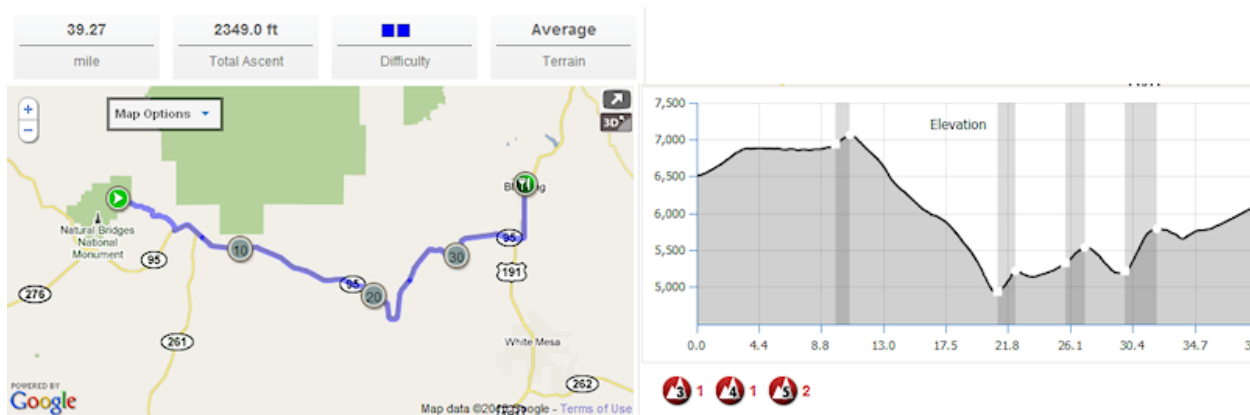
3) Bike to the top of the Moki Dugway and back along Highway 261 (60 miles)

Map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19989166/>

Pictures of Moki Dugway: <http://www.midwestroads.com/otherstates/mokidugway/>

4) Or, you can just sit. It *IS* a layover day. At any rate, we'll be using our cached food all day today, for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 5 – Wednesday, September 15, 2010: Natural Bridges – Hanksville Motel (40)

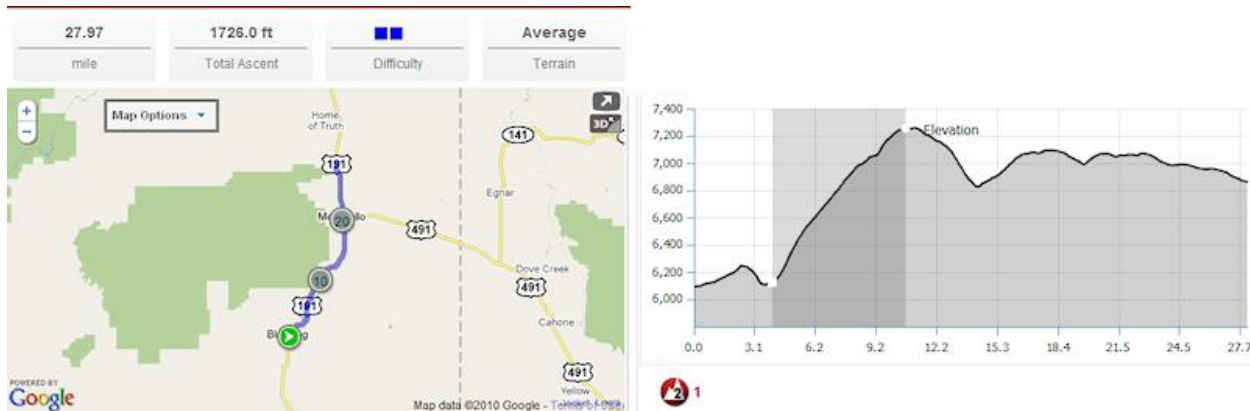


Map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19992180/>

After breakfast, make sure you have plenty of water and snacks to get to Blanding, there is nothing until we get 3 miles outside of town. A little more climbing today, but it's also a shorter day. The steepest climb is one mile of 7% grade. Plus, there is a wonderful downhill run of about 10 miles!

When you get to the junction of 191, there will be a gas station/store. This is your ONLY spot to stock up on beer for Blanding, as Blanding is a Dry town. Follow the main road through town, and STOP when you get to the 4-Corners Inn (121 Center Street). We have a 3 queen suite and a 3 queen apartment reserved. SHOWERS. Enjoy a real meal at a real restaurant tonight, you are BACK in civilization.

Day 6 – Thursday, September 16, 2010: Hanksville – 8 mi N of Monticello Campground (28)



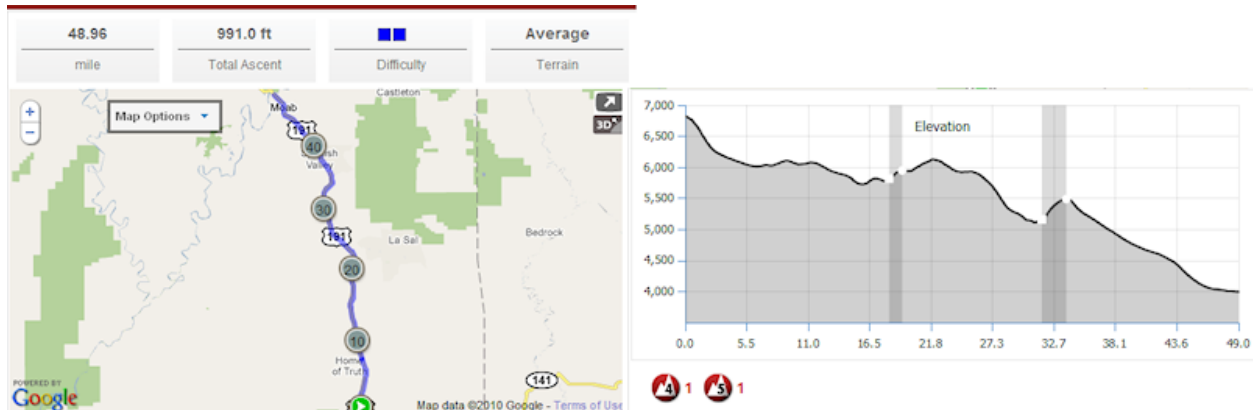
Map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19993856/>

Today is intentionally a short day, so that we can visit the Edge of the Cedars State Park, which is right in Blanding. This is an ancestral pueblo site and museum, where you can climb down into a kiva. Entrance fee is \$5 per person (2.50 for Utah Seniors). Website: <http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/edge-of-the-cedars>

After visiting the museum, it's only a 20 mile ride to Monticello for lunch. But there is a 1,000' climb over 8 miles to get out of Blanding, with mostly 3-4% grade, and one little section of 6%. Find lunch at a

Monticello restaurant or grocery store, it's up to you. You might want to buy groceries for tonight's dinner, if you don't eat at the steak house that is located with our campground. The Roughlock Inn and Campground is 8 miles up the road, so stock up on supplies for tonight while you are in Monticello. We have tent sites (on gravel, no grass) at Roughlock. Eat at the Steakhouse, or cook your own dinner. Buy wine and carry it with you from Monticello, or if you eat in the restaurant, they do sell beer with dinner. The Roughlock website: <http://canyonlandsbestkeptsecret.com/>

Day 7 – Friday, September 17, 2010: Monticello to Moab Campground (49)



Map: <http://beta.mapmyride.com/route/detail/19994566/>

Finally a day that's basically downhill! We leave our campsite and bike to Moab today. Start the day close to 7,000', end it at 4,000'. Take food and water for the day. We are staying in the only tents-only campground, right in the heart of Moab. Plenty of options for dinner and breakfast in Moab, from grocery stores to Restaurants.

Up The Creek Campground: <http://www.moabupthecreek.com/index.html>

Day 8 – Saturday, September 18, 2010: Moab to Green River Melon Days (52 or 49)



Map – Takes I-70: <http://www.mapmyride.com/route/detail/20125132/>



Map – Avoids I-70 (but has gravel): <http://www.mapmyride.com/route/detail/20125764/>

Two options to get from Moab to Green River today...ride a few miles on I-70, or avoid the freeway and eat 10 miles of dirt. Your choice. Make your decision at the Moab airport, or there is actually another dirt road shown above. If you turn L at the airport, you will take Blue Hills Road to a L at Power Line Road to R on Ruby Ranch Road. The freeway route keeps straight on Hwy 191 to Crescent Jct. Get on I-70, and 5 miles later, at the next exit, get off the freeway.

Both routes are the same from here to Green River..on an old paved road. Watch for rough spots, cracks, and gravel over the road for the next 8 miles. Eventually you'll merge onto the main road just before Green River. Oh look, it is Green River Melon Days...stop to enjoy the festivities and eat Green River melons as you make your way back to your parked cars.

Drive carefully on your way home, and congratulations, you have completed the 2010 Southern Utah Parks Tour!

2010 Southern Utah Parks Ride Summary Information					
Date / Day	Start	End	Elevation	Miles	Ascent
9/10 Fri	Your Home	Green River SP Campground	4100'	0	
9/11 Sat	Green River SP	Goblin Valley SP Campground	5000'	50	1700
9/12 Sun	Goblin Valley SP	Hog Springs Dry Camp	4100'	66	1500
9/13 Mon	Hog Springs	Natural Bridges NM Campground	6550'	67	4500
9/14 Tue	Natural Bridges	Natural Bridges NM Campground	6550'	0	Varies
9/15 Wed	Natural Bridges	Blanding Motel	6100'	40	2800
9/16 Thu	Blanding	N of Monticello Campground	6850'	28	1700
9/17 Fri	N of Monticello	Moab Campground	4050'	49	1000
9/18 Sat	Moab	Green River SP	4100'	50	1300
TOTAL MILES				350	