



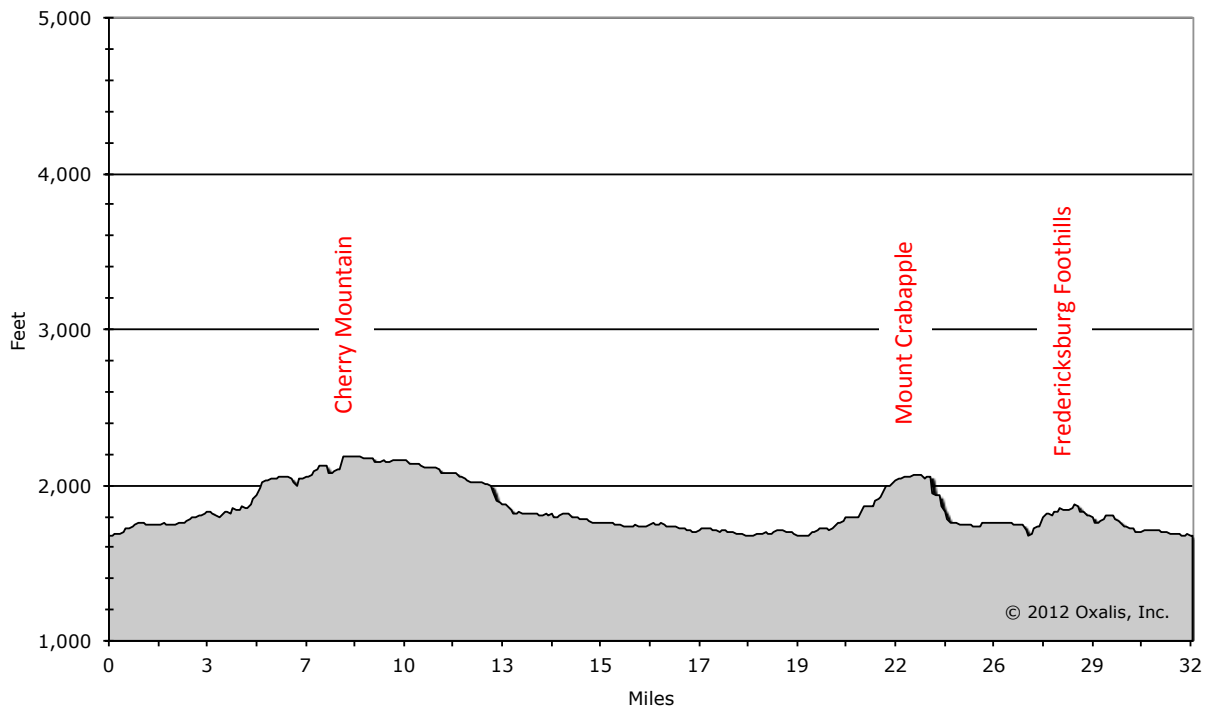
Cycling Route

# Gypsum Mine Loop

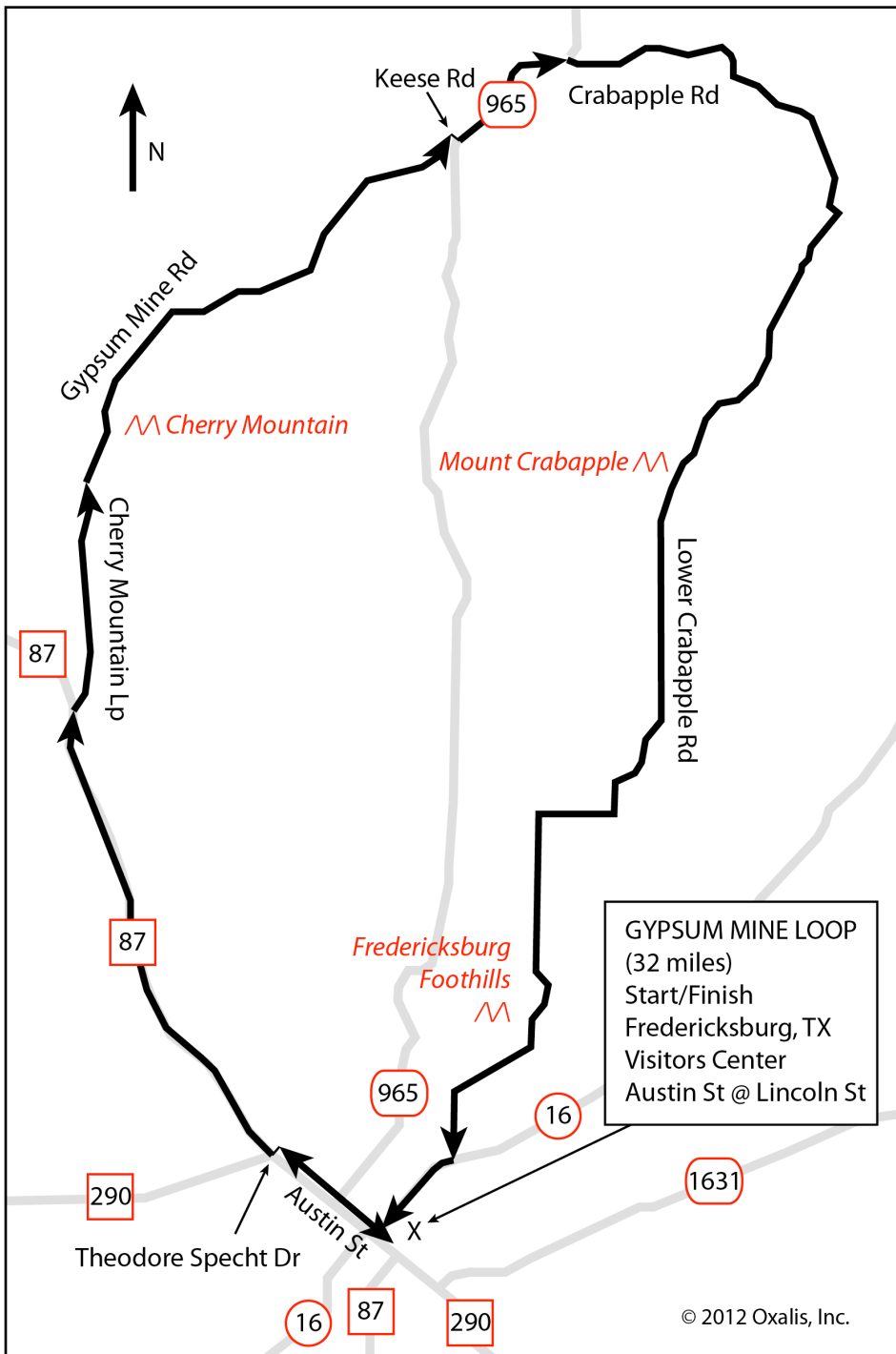
**32 miles**

Region: Fredericksburg, Texas  
Author: Gregory L. Kagay  
Catalog: 1007.2

**Gypsum Mine Loop**  
Route Elevation Profile



## Route Map: Gypsum Mine Loop



## Emergency Numbers

Police/EMS: 830-997-7585	Fire: 830-997-8080
FBG Hospital: 830-997-4353	FBG Taxi: 830-997-8044

**Route Instructions: *Gypsum Mine Loop***

<b>#</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Turn</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>to Next</b>
1	0.0 mi	Start	FBG Visitors Center	0.0 mi
2	0.0 mi	Go Straight (NW)	E Austin St	0.1 mi
3	0.1 mi	Cross TX 16 (NW)	W Austin St	1.3 mi
4	1.5 mi	Turn Left (SW)	Theodore Specht Dr	0.1 mi
5	1.6 mi	Turn Right (NW)	US 87 / Main St	4.6 mi
6	6.1 mi	Turn Right (N)	Cherry Mountain Loop	2.5 mi
7	8.6 mi	Turn Right (N)	Gypsum Mine Rd	5.4 mi
8	14.0 mi	Turn Right (SE)	Keese Rd	0.0 mi
9	14.0 mi	Turn Left (NE)	RR 965	1.5 mi
10	15.5 mi	Turn Right (E)	Crabapple Rd	15.1 mi
11	30.6 mi	Turn Right (SW)	TX HWY 16	1.0 mi
12	31.6 mi	Turn Left (SE)	E Austin St	0.1 mi
13	31.8 mi	Finish	FBG Visitors Center	0.0 mi

## Safety

TexasVelo.com, its sponsors, the author, and Oxalis, Inc. assume no responsibilities to users of the routes described and make no warranties regarding the condition of these roads.

Routes presented utilize public roads open to traffic; ride at your own risk and obey all traffic laws.

Always wear a helmet and utilize properly maintained equipment. Carry ample food and water. Carry tools. Carry a mobile phone in case of emergency.

Climactic conditions may change rapidly. Use common sense. Carefully walk bikes when crossing wet water crossings.

## Ride Summary

This route packs a generous amount of climbing into its 32 miles. Best ridden on days when the wind blows from the north, lest you have a headwind on the two sizable climbs featured in the second half.

Although a substantial amount of vertical gain marks the first third of the distance, the rather steady incline offers a good, sustained burn, as opposed to a short acute sting.

Find the most challenging climb—*Mount Crabapple*—at about 3/4 distance. It starts steep but fades toward the top. Once there, enjoy the scenic view looking south to Fredericksburg before rolling down the fast descent.

Finally, surmount the smaller but still challenging *Fredericksburg Foothills* climb, which signals the final miles meandering back into Fredericksburg. Only one small un-named grade to get over after this climb and the road is all down and/or flat from there.

## Points of Interest

### Gypsum Mine

Not much to look at, perhaps, but certainly a novelty; the gypsum mine signals a break from climbing for awhile. Anticipate the sharp descent that follows a few miles thereafter.

### Scenery

Find great scenery on the middle part of this route, beginning after the aforementioned descent and continuing on RR 965 and on the northernmost reaches of Crabapple Road. The Crabapple church and Community Center offers a bucolic setting to stop and regroup.

### More Scenery

The summit of *Mount Crabapple* presents a spectacular view of the Pedernales River valley, just before the route descends dramatically (again). The *Fredericksburg Foothills* feature notable Hill Country scenery as well.

## Hills of Interest

### Cherry Mountain

(Cat. 3)—Not a hard climb, but a very long one. It climbs for almost nine miles. (It doesn't always rise, and most all of the grade is mild.) Just after you leave town, it starts on US HWY 87, which features a wide shoulder, except where the shoulder is a climbing lane (on this short section especially beware of traffic coming from behind and stay right).

### Mt. Crabapple

(Cat. 1)—One of the more infamous climbs in the county, it starts at about 21 miles into the route with a stinging convex profile that will challenge any strength-to-weight ratio. Beyond that, the climb mellows into a series of alternating soft grades and false flats, but continues for about two miles.

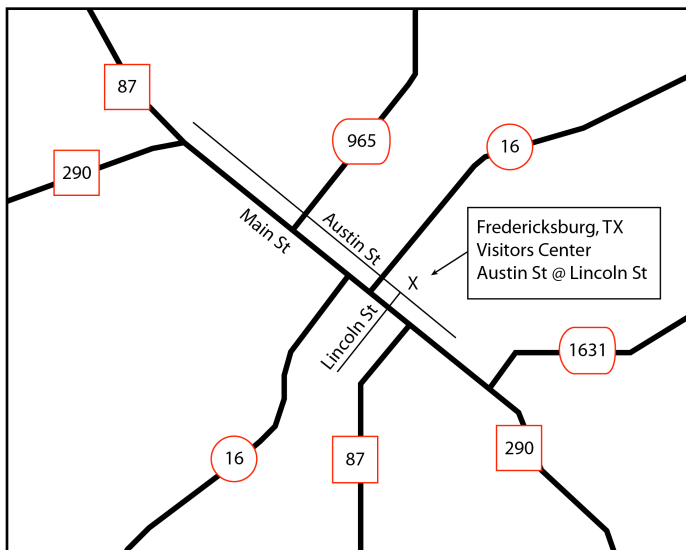
### Fredericksburg Foothills

(Cat. 3)—Beginning at about the 28 mile mark, returning to town, the route ascends up and over this promontory situated north of the city. The

notable and potentially challenging rise offers great views of suburban Fredericksburg.

## Start/Finish

This route begins and ends at the Fredericksburg, Texas Visitor Center. Find it at the corner of Austin Street and Lincoln Street, one block north of Main Street.



Fredericksburg Visitors Center location map

This departure location favors groups of gathering cyclists because it features off-street parking. When forming a group ride here, we recommend cyclists gather in the large parking lot located behind (north of) the Visitor Center (and Chamber of Commerce) office buildings. To minimize exposure to traffic, we discourage gathering in front of the facility on busy Austin Street.

The restrooms here usually open at 8 A.M. For more information visit the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com/>.

## Obstacles

Many obstacles—familiar and otherwise—dot Texas roads. Potential dangers include cars, cattle, cattle guards, deer, trucks, water crossings, and more. Stay vigilant and slow down.

## Road Map

Print a road map corresponding to this route here:

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/371.pdf>



Find more great cycling routes at [www.TexasVelo.com](http://www.TexasVelo.com)

## Eat and Drink

This route offers NO commercial sustenance outside the city of Fredericksburg. Fuel up before departing and carry ample hydration and energy resources. Distances between commercial establishments offering such may be vast. When cycling on hot days we recommend hydration packs for longer routes.

## Ride Friendly

We are all cycling ambassadors. Cyclists and motorists utilize our roads rightfully. Courtesy mitigates anger. Ride single file when vehicles approach from behind. Large groups should be extra vigilant to accommodate passing vehicles. Please educate inconsiderate cyclists—share the road.