



# TEXAS VÉLO

Come and Bike it



Cycling Route

## Nifty Fifty

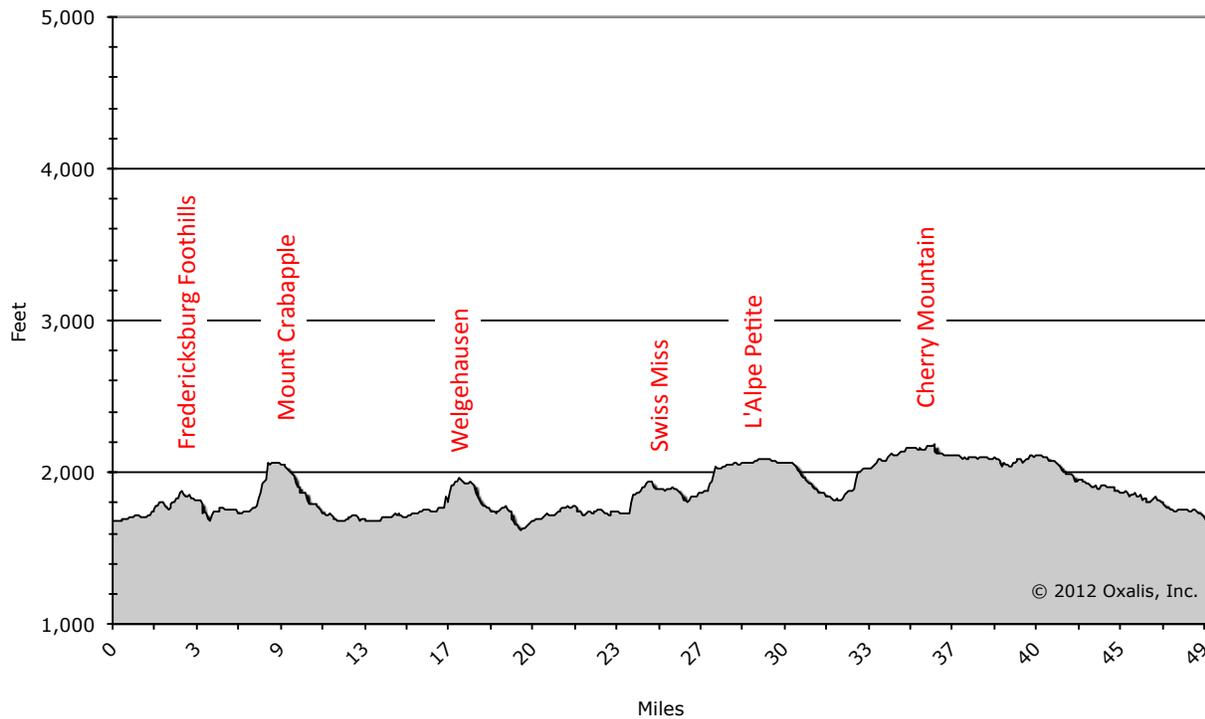
50 miles

Region: Fredericksburg, Texas

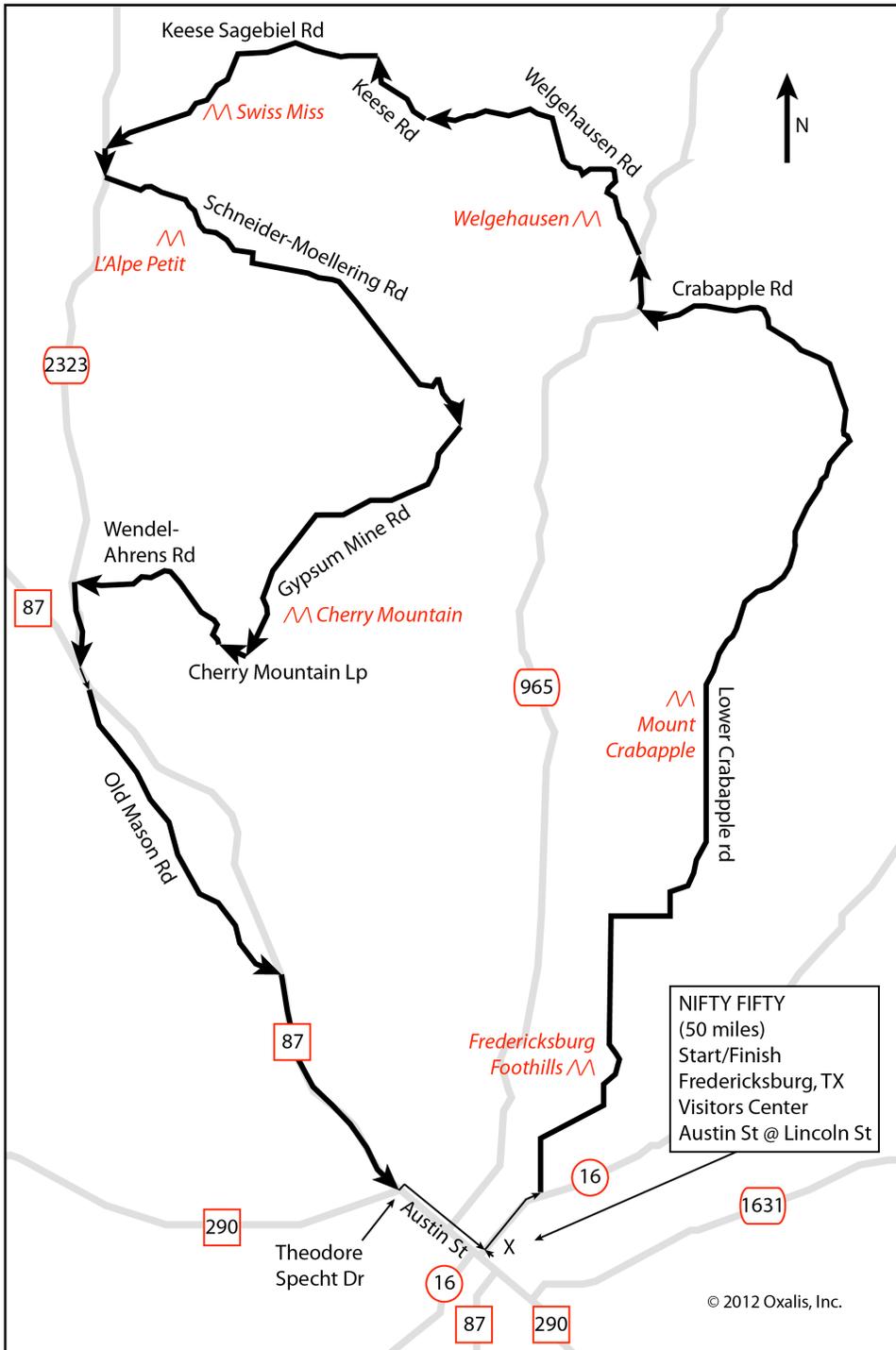
Author: Gregory L. Kagay

Catalog: 1021.1

**Nifty Fifty**  
Route Elevation Profile



## Route Map: Nifty Fifty



## Emergency Numbers

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

**Route Instructions: Nifty Fifty**

<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	Turn Right (NE)	TX 16	1.0 mi
4	1.1 mi	Turn Left (N)	Lower Crabapple Rd	15.1 mi
5	16.3 mi	Turn Right (N)	RR 965	0.6 mi
6	16.9 mi	Turn Left (NW)	Welgehausen Rd	4.1 mi
7	21.0 mi	Turn Right (NW)	Keese Rd	1.1 mi
8	22.0 mi	Turn Left (W)	Keese-Sagebiel Rd	3.9 mi
9	25.9 mi	Turn Left (S)	RR 2323	0.3 mi
10	26.2 mi	Turn Left (E)	Schneider-Moellering Rd	6.1 mi
11	32.3 mi	Turn Right (SW)	Gypsum Mine Rd	4.2 mi
12	36.5 mi	Turn Right (W)	Cherry Mountain Loop	0.4 mi
13	36.8 mi	Turn Right (N)	Wendel-Ahrens Rd	2.4 mi
14	39.3 mi	Turn Left (S)	RR 2323	1.1 mi
15	40.3 mi	Turn Left (SE)	US 87	0.3 mi
16	40.6 mi	Turn Right (SE)	Old Mason Rd	4.4 mi
17	45.0 mi	Turn Right (SE)	US 87	3.1 mi
18	48.1 mi	Turn Left (NE)	Theodore Specht Rd	0.1 mi
19	48.2 mi	Turn Right (SE)	Austin St	1.3 mi
20	49.5 mi	Cross TX 16 (SW)	Austin St	0.1 mi
21	49.6 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 great 50 mile loop visits a popular area dubbed "Little Switzerland" by local cyclists. Located northwest of Fredericksburg, this Gillespie County region features several challenging climbs, quiet roads and terrific Hill Country scenery.

Traveling there, ride via one of Gillespie County's most popular cycling arteries: Crabapple Road. Cyclists appreciate its tranquility and scenic landscapes. The ride is not all pleasure along this stretch, however, because the *Fredericksburg Foothills* and *Mount Crabapple* lie in wait. The latter of these is an especially substantial climbing challenge.

The Little Switzerland region features gently rolling hills and several climbs—*Welgehausen*, *Swiss Miss* and *L'Alpe Petite*. These remote roads provide abundant rural tranquility, often keenly appreciated by city-based visitors.

Leaving Little Switzerland, the route turns abruptly upward in the first mile of Gypsum Mine Road. Continue climbing for four miles to the top

of *Cherry Mountain* (it does not look like a peak, but the summit lies just before the route turns right on Cherry Mountain Loop).

From here drop down a bit and then enjoy small rolling hills on a sustained plateau along Wendel-Ahrens Road. Then begin the long net descent back to Fredericksburg (unfortunately, often against a prevailing southeasterly headwind).

## Points of Interest

### Crabapple Road

One of the best cycling roads in the county; the church and community center complex at its northern end makes a good place to pause for a break.

### Little Switzerland

A scenic, hilly and remote area that we believe resembles the lands of the mountainous Swiss Federation (well, if you squint).

### Gypsum Mine

Not much to look at, perhaps, but certainly a novelty. Cycling in this direction (southwest), the mine entrance lies at a point of mild gradient; riders still have a bit of easy climbing ahead.

### Old Mason Road

The old road to Mason makes a favorable alternate to US HWY 87. Quiet, little traveled, pretty and, in this direction, almost entirely downhill.

## Hills of Interest

### Fredericksburg Foothills

(Cat. 3)—the ride starts with a sharp, steady climb at the outskirts of town; a great warmup.

### Mt. Crabapple

(Cat 1)—a fiendish climb but the prevailing southeast wind should aid in the spring and summer. At the top, be sure to look back at the picturesque view of Gillespie County and the Pedernales River valley.

### Welgehausen

(Cat 1)—this hill demarcates your entrance to “Little Switzerland”; ride it to see why. Have fun but be careful on the subsequent fast and twisting descent.

### Swiss Miss

(Cat HC)—Flirt with her at your displeasure. She starts steep and, although the grade softens as you go, the crest eludes for a great distance.

### L’Alpe Petite

(Cat 2)—This sustained climb presents little in the way of steep gradients. But its location in the ride—lurking after other climbing challenges—and its overall length both contribute to its notoriety.

### Cherry Mountain

(Cat HC)—A very steep, straight grade greets cyclists as they begin riding along Gypsum Mine Road. The angle of attack then declines to a most-manageable degree, but know that the elevation continues to increase for several miles.



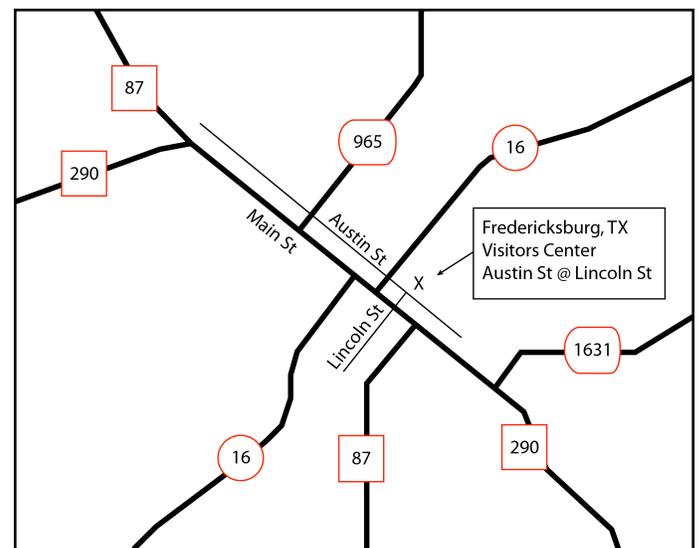
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## Eat & Drink

This route offers virtually no commercial sustenance outside of 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.

## 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/>.

## **Road Maps**

Print road maps corresponding to this route here:

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

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/370.pdf>

## **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.

## **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.