

Old Dale Bike Ramble
10/24/2020
Ride sheet

Ride start: *GOLD Crown OHV, Gold Crown Rd, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277*

If you Googlemap these words you'll get there. Gold Crown Road turns south off of Hwy 62. It is a well-graded and maintained dirt road. A wide flat spot emerges after 50 yards. Park there. We roll at 8:00 am.

The route: The route is on BLM-managed public land. If you ride continuously south you'll cross the northern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park. These are 19th and 20th century mining roads (gold and other minerals including iron ore), now mostly used by high-clearance weekend adventurers. There is a lot of coarse sand, bedrock, loose babyhead rock, and patches of fine sand usually in washes. Climbs are pretty mild except as you come close to mines, where slopes can exceed 15%. There is no water anywhere. There are no toilet facilities anywhere. It is all publicly accessible via high-clearance vehicle.

<https://www.strava.com/routes/2751248188493502866>

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/34437104>

If you are using our phone for navigation, make sure you download the map ahead of time. You will not have cell reception out here.

The riding: We ride at a moderate steady pace with lots of stopping and poking around. For this reason I prefer platform pedals and rubber-soled shoes. Getting off and pushing through sand or up steepes is just part of the fun. If you want to ride fast, fine, but please assure me that you know how not to get lost. If you want to ride slow, fine, just follow our tracks. They'll be the only bicycle tracks out there. Yes, you can get lost, but all you have to do is find your tracks.

Your bike: You don't need suspension, but you definitely need the fattest tires you have, preferably able to run at very low pressures. There are cholla and ocotillo and numerous other tire hazards, so I highly recommend a tubeless setup, using rims and tires made for tubeless. You should be able to comfortably haul a lot of stuff, mostly water, so make sure you have all the cages, racks, and bags you need. Let me know if I can help. You'll need the lowest gearing you can muster.

Your gear: Pack for self-sufficiency. Each rider must bring all the water, calories, first aid, toiletries, medications, tools, and parts they might need. If things really hit the fan, I can always go back and get my truck for \$100. No one will have to walk out, as long as you have \$100. A flashlight might be useful on this ride. I'm going to pack a lunch for myself. Make sure everything straps down tight because the going does get bumpy.