

Cycling in Borrego Springs

Created by Wayne Boring [October 2013]

All rides start and end at Christmas Circle

Short and Easy Rides – Light traffic and/or good shoulder

1. Head North on Borrego Springs Road for approximately 3 miles. Turn right on Henderson Canyon Road & continue for 1.5 miles. Go right on Borrego Valley Road for 3 miles. Turn right on S-22 (Palm Canyon Drive) for 1.5 miles to Christmas Circle. Total Miles: 9

2. Go North on Borrego Springs Road (3 miles), then turn right on Henderson Canyon and continue approximately 4 miles to S-22. Return on Henderson Canyon Road to Borrego Valley Road (2.5 miles). Turn left and go to S-22 (3 miles). Turn right and return 1.5 miles to Christmas Circle. Total miles: 14

3. Extend rides #1 and #2 by going North from Henderson Canyon on DiGiorgio Road and/or Borrego Valley Road. Both are dead-ends.

4. Go Southwest on Sunset Road (to Post Office), .25 miles. Turn left onto Country Club Road. Bear right at the road fork (Country Club Road). At the top of the climb, 2.8 miles from Post Office, turn left onto Wagon Road. Take this 1.3 miles to the end and go right on Tilting T Road. Cross Highway S-3 (Borrego Springs Road). Continue to DiGiorgio Road, 1 mile, and turn left. Go 1.7 miles to stop sign and turn left onto S-22 and return to Christmas Circle, .5 miles. Total miles: 7.5

More difficult rides – Longer, long easy climbs (1-2%), can be windy (usually from the West). Light traffic and/or good shoulder.

5. Go Southwest on Sunset Road, .25 miles. Turn left onto Country Club Road. Stay straight at fork (Broken Arrow) for 1.5 miles. Turn left at Tilting T, then right on Borrego Springs Road. Continue on Borrego Springs Road for 3.8 miles to stop sign. Go straight at the stop sign (La Casa del Zorro is on the corner). Continue uphill to the Texas Dip (short 10% grade at each end) and out to SR-78, 6.2 miles. Return to the stop sign by La Casa del Zorro. Turn right on Rango Way, which becomes Borrego Valley Road, for 2.3 miles. Turn left on Tilting T (entrance to Borrego Springs Resort) for 1.3 miles. Turn right on Di Giorgio Road, left on Palm Canyon Drive and back to Christmas Circle. Total miles: approximately 25

Extend this ride:

Turn left on SR-78 and go 6 miles to Ocotillo Wells. Turn around here or continue an additional 4 miles to the Blu Inn & turn around. Another option is to turn right at Ocotillo Wells on Split Mountain Road & go 6 miles to a dead-end and turn around.

Keep in mind that Ocotillo Wells is in the off road vehicle park and can be very dusty & busy on week-ends and holidays.

Difficult Rides – For strong riders and good bike handlers

6. Go North on Borrego Springs Road, right on Henderson Canyon Road to S-22. Turn left and go 22 miles to the Radio Tower/County Line. Turn around here or continue 4 miles to the drop off of the plateau (the road deteriorates after this). Turn around and return via the same route or stay on S-22 to the Circle. Total miles: 45-55

7. Follow ride #5 to SR-78 via the Texas Dip. Turn right and go 10 miles to Yaqui Pass Road (shoulder disappears but sight lines are generally good; tandem hay trucks travel West, Rvs and large trailers travel East at the beginning of the week-end and travel West at the end). Turn right & pass Tamarisk Grove Campground (water and restrooms). Climb 2 miles to Yaqui Pass (4-10% grade), descend 5 miles to the junction at La Casa del Zorro and return (see ride #5). Total miles: 40

OR

Reverse the loop and climb first to Yaqui Pass (el. 1750 ft, 4.8 miles at 5% average grade).

8. Montezuma Grade.

Go West on Palm Canyon Drive for 1.5 miles. Turn left at the Palm Canyon Resort, which is the start of the climb. Climb 11 miles at an average grade of 6.5% (steepest is 9-10% for short sections). Return the same way. The shoulder varies 1-18", some limited sight lines, good road surface, some rock fall.

Extend this ride to approximately 50 miles:

Continue over the summit past Ranchita (small store @ 2 miles) to the junction of S-2 (cattle guard), approximately 6 miles. Turn left on S-2 (San Filipe Road). Climb for 2 miles at 3-4%, then descend for 10 miles. Turn left at SR-78 & go 7 miles to Yaqui Pass Road (no shoulder, limited sight lines, good surface, downhill). Turn left at Yaqui Pass Road & return to Borrego Springs (see ride #5).

9. Salton Sea loop; clockwise: Go East on S-22 for 30 miles. Turn right on 86-S for 12 miles (6 ft shoulder, smooth surface, heavy truck traffic). Turn right on SR-78. Turn right on Borrego Springs Road and return via the Texas Dip (see ride #5). Can also be done counter-clockwise. Total miles: approximately 75

Additional Rides

There are some very nice rides at a little distance (45 minute drive).

Mesa Grande Road

Palomar Mountain

Earthquake Valley