

Gran Fondo Badlands Course

The Badlands Community Facility is the start/finish (80 Veterans Way, Drumheller) where there is abundant parking. We will start the event at the Largest Dinosaur in the World, which is located about one block west of the community centre.

Ferry Loop

We are starting at the Largest (blue) Dinosaur in the World. There should be little, if any, traffic. The roads are in great shape with smooth pavement all the way around the course. Setting out on this leg to the ferry, there are four things to note:

1. This is a long day so go easy. There will be lots of bike traffic around you until riders start to spread out, so be cautious.
2. There are random rumble strips in four or five spots on this leg only. Generally they are straight and narrow so you can ride on either side of them. Again, there should be little traffic.
3. At 15 kilometers, the first hill of the day appears - about one km of 8% grade.
4. Throughout the ride you will note that we will be climbing up out of the valley 3 times and then going back down to the valley floor. Once you are up the first climb, you ride for a while on top of the valley and then come back down a nice run to the ferry. Speeds could get high so stay in control, hold your line and be aware of people passing you.

The Ferry Aid Station

The first aid station is just before the ferry. We anticipate a wait for the ferry, however the ferry only takes 10 minutes round trip (and can carry a limited number of riders), so relax. While you enjoy the aid station and the scenery. Make sure you are in your small ring prior to boarding the ferry as there is a steep pitch right off the ferry. Thank your friendly operator Paul for the ride across the Red Deer river.

Back to Town

Once off the ferry, in about 1 km hill #2 starts Again only 1 km long, but there are some steeper parts so take your time and spin your way up.

Once at the top turn, stop at the stop sign, and then turn left and head to the next aid station, which is approximately 18 km from that point, or 20 km from the first aid station. It is located just on the other side of Nacmine. There is a long gentle downhill back down into the valley. This hill is not as severe as the previous downhill.

Though Drumheller

Those of you riding 50 km will ride through to the far side of town, turning left at Walmart and back to the Badlands Community Facility. You can either make your way to the lefthand turning lane when it is safe to do so, or stay right and use the light to cross Highway 10. There will be traffic control at this intersection. From there you will follow Riverside Drive along the river, turning right at a stop sign, and following Riverside Drive back to the Badlands Community Facility. If you pass the Big Blue Dinosaur you have gone about a block too far.

To Wayne

For those who want to ride further, continue straight through town approx. 5 km to Rosedale where you will turn right onto highway 10X to Wayne. The route goes across 10 bridges, some of which have a bit of a bump to get on to. There are a couple of wide spots between wooden planks so please pay attention on those surfaces. There is one railway track crossing before you get to Wayne. This is the roughest piece of road you will see during the whole ride so slow down and ride straight across.

The Wayne aid station is located in a little park on the left side of the road on Atlas Street. Once you enjoy that stop, head back to Highway 10X, across all the bridges where you will meet Highway 10 again. If you turn left and head back to town towards the finish, you will be turning right at the Walmart and heading back to the school as set out above, via Riverside Drive. That will give you a 73 km ride for the day. For those who want to ride further, turn right out of Wayne and head south down Highway 10. This is a great road with some lovely scenery along the river and the hoodoos. For those that want to ride 100 km, there will be a 100 km turn around sign approximately 13 km from the Wayne turn. At that time you will turn around when it is safe to do so and head back to town. You will see the last aid station shortly after the turn around. From there it is 14km to home and 100 km day.

To Dorothy

Those continuing on will pass the little town of Dorothy. The Dorothy aid station is located in a park on the left hand side of the road. You will have to cross the road to get to it so do so when safe. There is a short section of hard packed gravel to go over. Ignore the urban myth that gravel will cause your tires to explode. Those stopping at the aid station and returning to the finish will ride 132 kms. If you want to ride 140 km you will venture up hill #3, which is 2 km of about 8% grade, ride for another 1 km or so, and turn around at the 140km sign when clear of traffic. Feel the wind in your hair on the great downhill!. For those wanting to ride the full 162 km, continue on for another 10.5 km from the top of the hill where the turn around is clearly marked. You will see very few cars along this section,.

PLEASE NOTE: The aid station at Dorothy should be visited both going out and coming back if you are doing the long route, especially on a hot or windy day. We are planning on having water and gels at the turn but not much else.

Back to the Finish

From Dorothy it is about 30 kms to the finish. The last aid station is on the right hand side of the road 20 km after Dorothy. Once you arrive here you are about 14 km from the finish. See above as to how to get to the finish line. It will be well marked with arrows and signs.

Once back at the start, refreshments and a post ride lunch will be served. Put your feet up, celebrate your accomplishment and brag to all your friends.