

# Basic High Adventure Cycling

Death Valley 50-Miler

Death Valley Riders

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sghpk3o\\_AZI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sghpk3o_AZI)

## Cycling Merit Badge



### Requirements

- 1-4 Safety & “know your bike”
- 5 Repair a flat tire
- 6 Describe the traffic laws
- 7A Road Bikes
  - 10-mile ride x2
  - 15-mile ride x2
  - 25-mile ride x2
  - 50-mile ride (< 8 hours)
- 7B Mountain Bikes
  - 2-mile ride x2
  - 5-mile ride x2
  - 8-mile ride x2
  - 22-mile ride (< 6 hours)

## OC High Adventure Award Death Valley Cycling 50-Miler

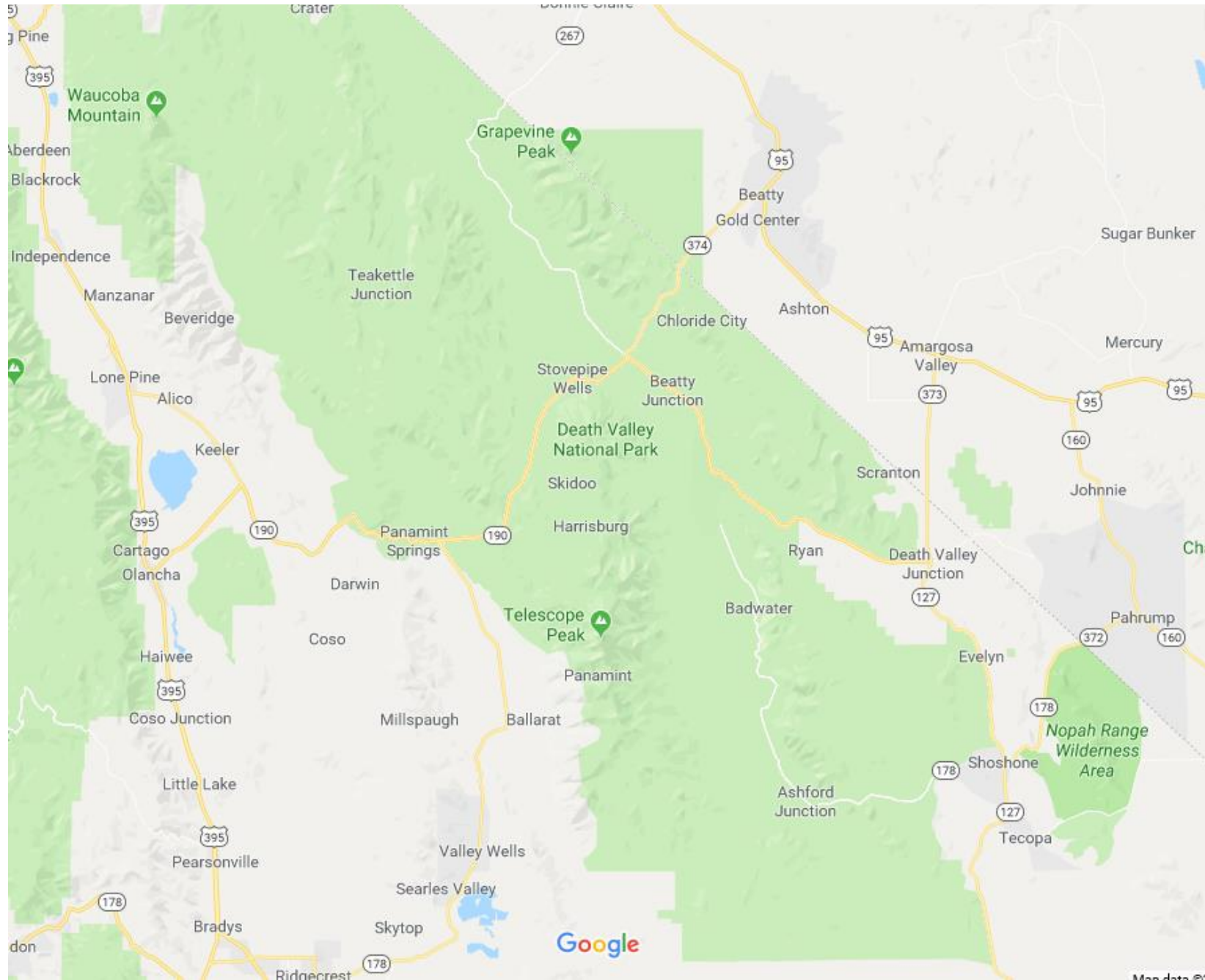


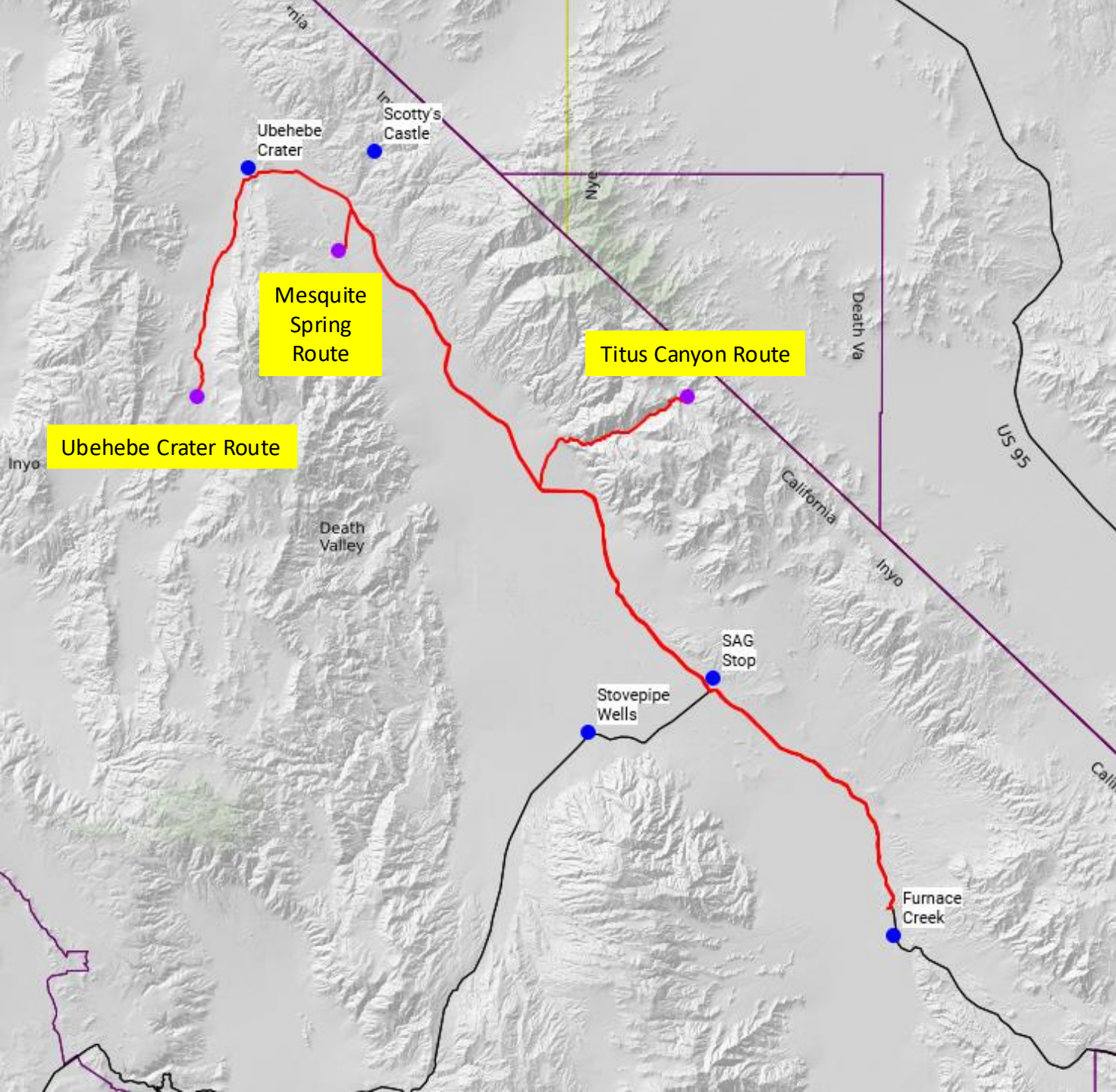
FIG 1-16  
DEATH VALLEY CYCLING 50-MILER  
5" DIA

### Requirements

Ride approximately 50 miles in Death Valley National Park (+/- 5 miles)

# Death Valley National Park

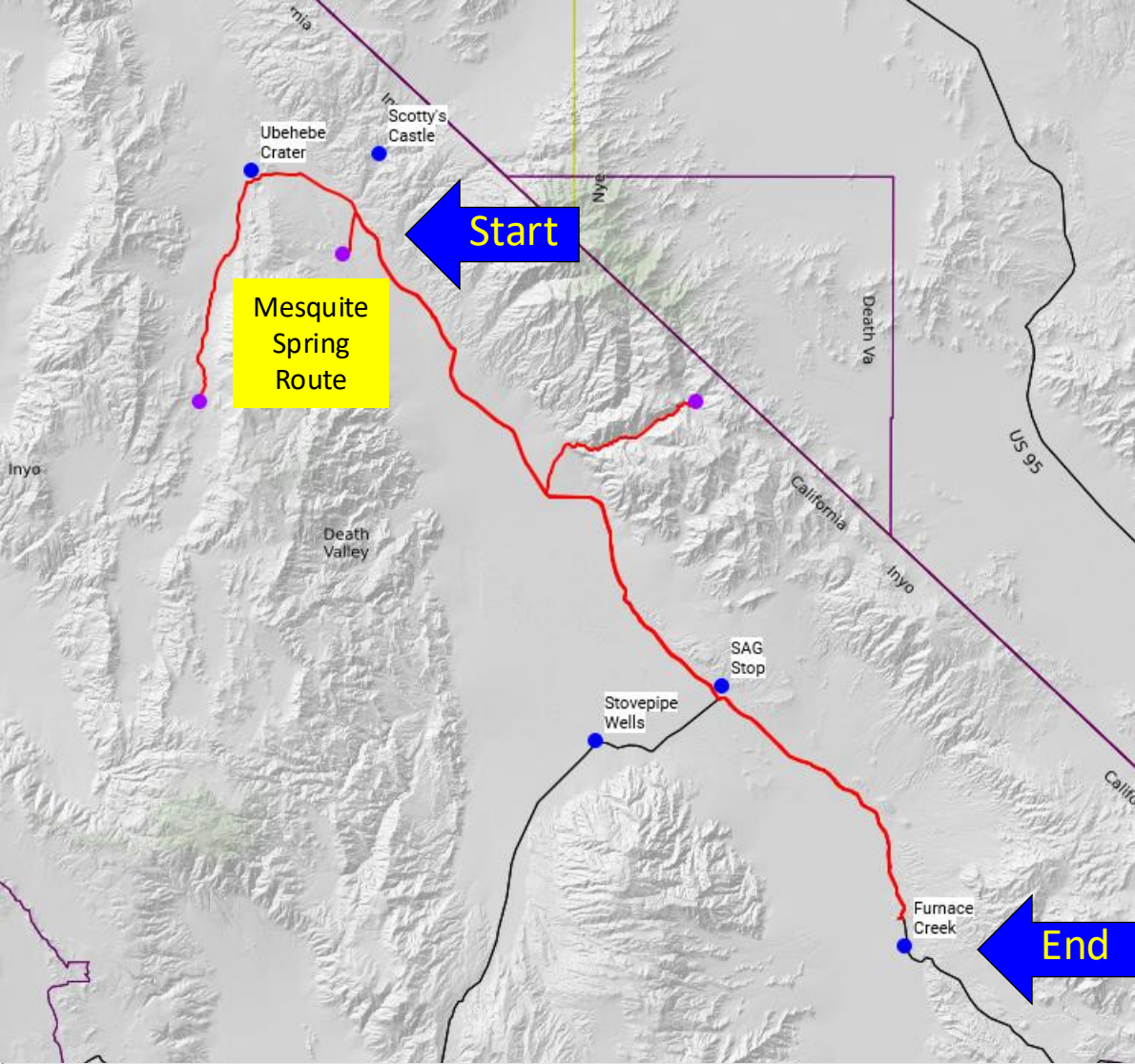




- Several routes of ~50 miles.
- Furnace Creek is the only location where you can reserve a campsite (5 group sites).
- Camping at Mesquite Spring typically requires “advance party” to save sites (first-come-first-serve).
- Some traffic on the 190 from Stovepipe Wells to Furnace Creek.
- Excellent SAG (support) site on Scotty’s Castle Road just northeast of Stovepipe Wells.
- Plan trip sometime between December and early March.
- Plan for early morning temperatures in the 20’s-40’s ... warming to 60’s – 80’s.
- Consider parent support team for “sweeper” vehicles and SAG stops. NOTE: Rangers may frown on cars slowly following cyclists, so plan to leap frog the group and wait in short intervals.
- No cell service on much of these routes ... so plan to use hard copy maps, walkie-talkies, and old-fashioned planning.
- BRING YOUR OWN WATER & FOOD!!!!!!

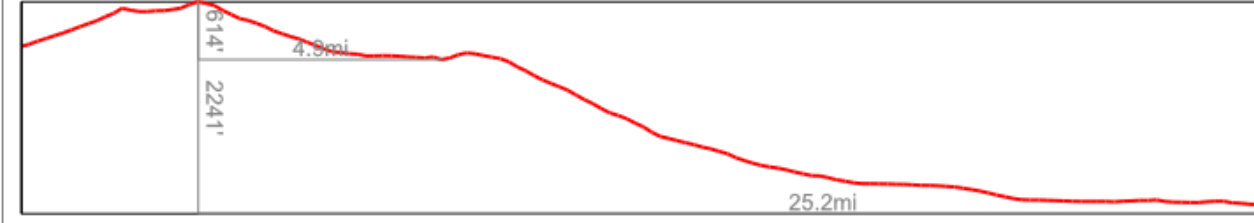
## The "Classic" – Mesquite Spring Route (50 miles, +894', -2662')

- Camp at Mesquite Spring. Great location for goofing off the afternoon before ride.
- Relatively steep uphill for first 2 miles – gets the blood pumping in the early morning cold.
- Gorgeous downhill + flat through SAG stop – highlight of the trek. Very few vehicles during this section.
- Watch for traffic on the 190.
- Gradual uphill at end ... noticeable by tired scouts.
- If some adult drivers are also riding, and everyone is camping at Mesquite Spring, this route typically requires "extra" adults to transport vehicles to end of the ride.
- Short distance to Furnace Creek for ice cream afterwards!



Elevation Profile

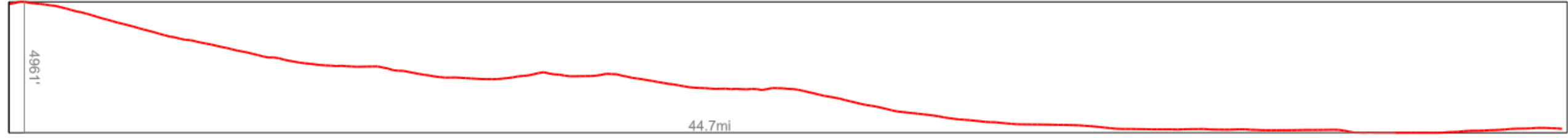
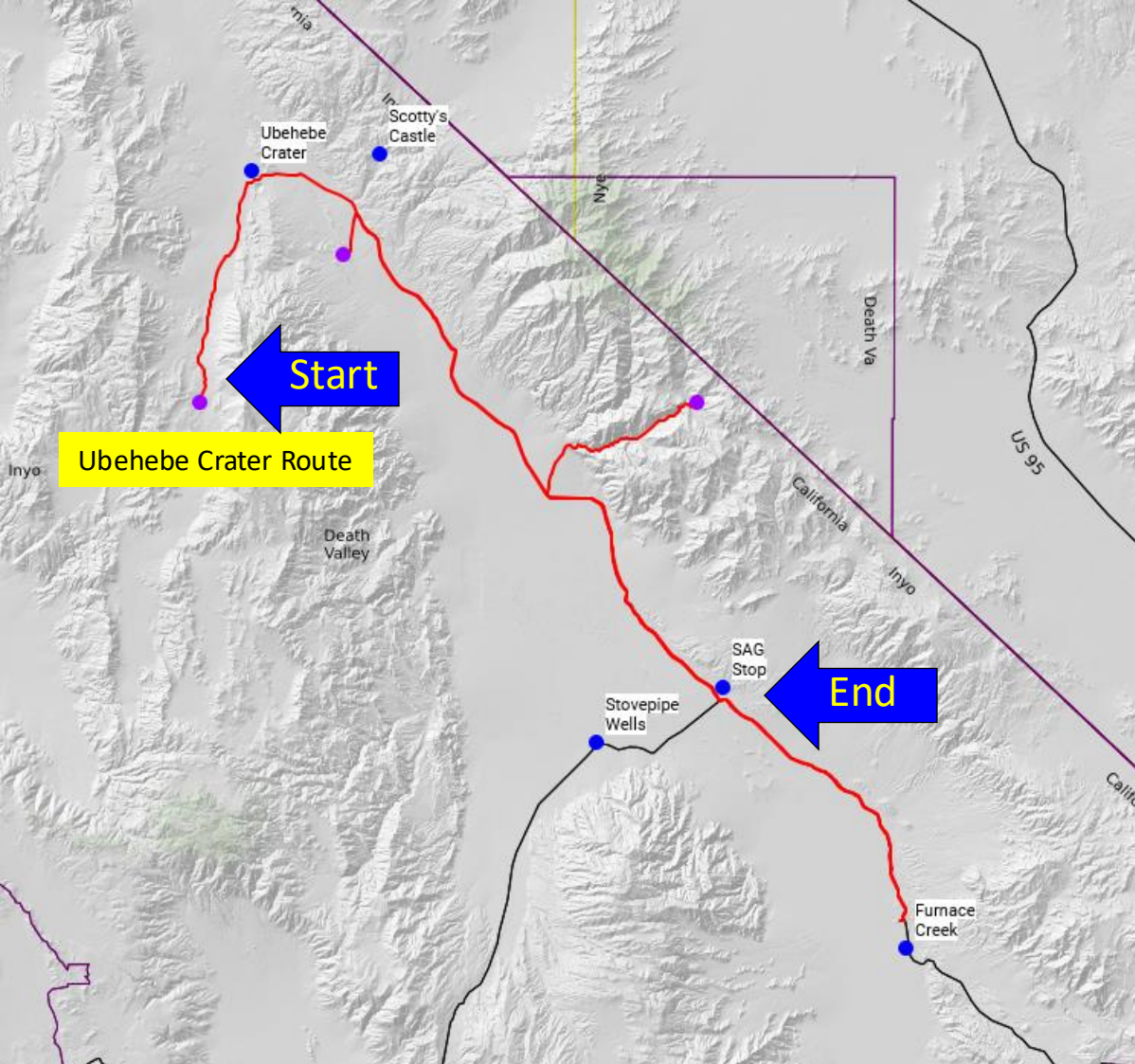
distance: 50.97mi range: 0' to 2241' gross: +894' -2662' sampling interval 897' w/ 10x vertical exaggeration



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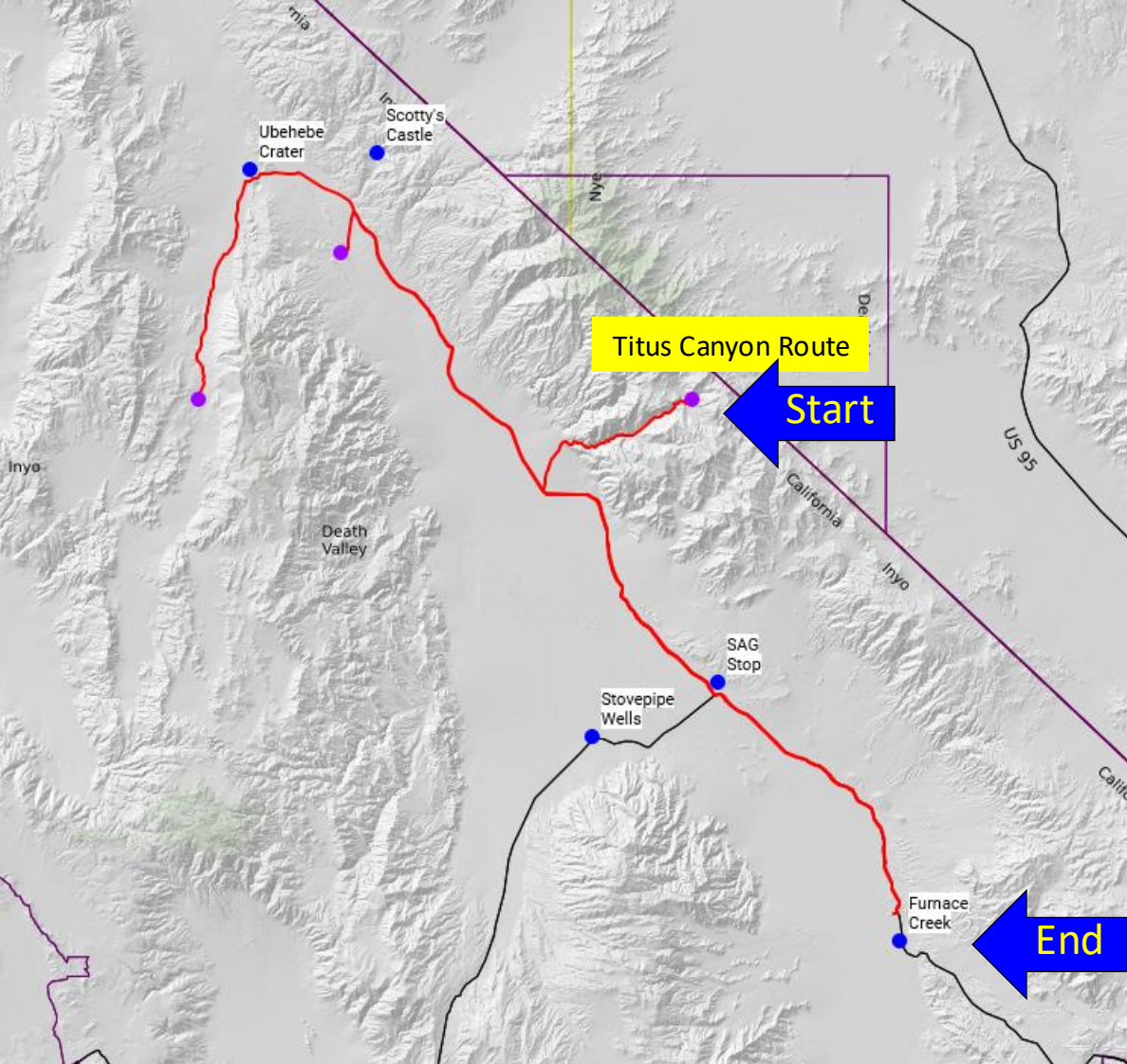
## Ubehebe Crater Route (50 miles, +838', -5565')

- Camp at Mesquite Spring. Shuttle bikes and riders approximately 18 miles on dirt road past Ubehebe Crater. Stop at road saddle ... or shuttle in further for a greater challenge.
- Will require 4x4 high clearance vehicle for bike shuttle.
- Must use mountain bikes until Mesquite Spring Campground – which most scouts typically ride anyway. Paved road from Mesquite Spring to SAG stop.
- Gorgeous downhill + flat through SAG stop – highlight of the trek. Very few vehicles.
- If some adult drivers are also riding, and everyone is camping at Mesquite Spring, this route typically requires “extra” adults to transport vehicles to end of the ride.
- Stop at the SAG site just before the 190.



## Titus Canyon Route (~45 miles, +337', -4270')

- Camp at Furnace Creek. Shuttle bikes and riders approximately 11 miles on dirt road up Titus Canyon Road to Leadfield Ghost Town.
- Will require 4x4 high clearance vehicle for bike shuttle.
- Must use mountain bikes for Titus Canyon – which most scouts typically ride anyway. Paved road from Scotty's Castle Road to end at Furnace Creek.
- High speed canyon downhill + flat through SAG stop – highlight of the trek. Very few vehicles.
- Stop at the SAG site just before the 190.
- Watch for traffic on the 190.
- Video link of Titus Canyon:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCjUNQpoUv8>

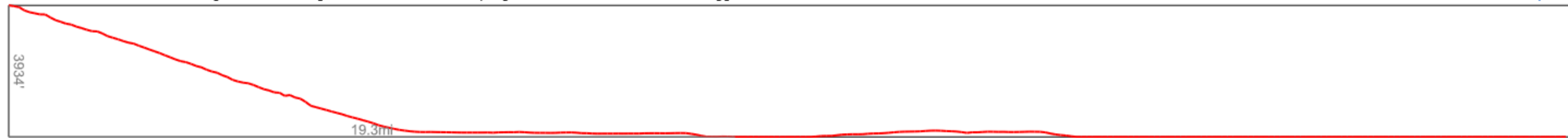


Elevation Profile

cursor: 0' at 41.53mi range: 0' to 3933' gross: +337' -4270' sampling interval 731' w/ 4.7x vertical exaggeration



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## Dante's View Route (50 miles, +0', -5436')



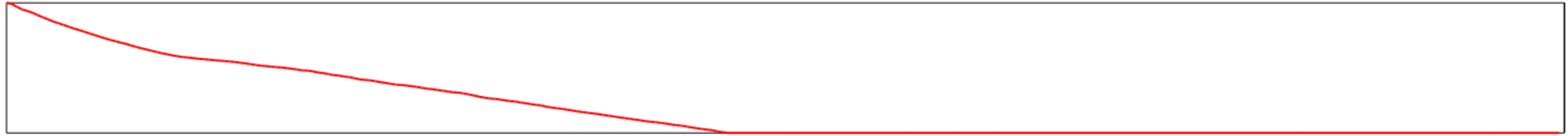
- Camp at Mesquite Spring. Shuttle bikes and riders to Dante's View in early morning. Follow riders through the route for SAG support.
- Route is entirely paved.
- Traffic light coming down from Dante's View early in morning, but gradually picks up through the day. Can be heavy on route south of Furnace Creek to Badwater.
- Downhill + flat through.
- Simplest route to support, as Furnace Creek group sites can be reserved, paved roads, and SAG support "relatively" close to Furnace Creek.

Elevation Profile

cursor: 0' at 51.42mi range: 0' to 5436' gross: +0' -5436' sampling interval 905' w/ 4.2x vertical exaggeration

✕

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## Death Valley National Park Biking Rules

- Bicycles can be used on all park roads open to public vehicular traffic.
- Bicycles are not allowed on closed roads, service roads, off roadways, in the wilderness, or on any trails.
- Riding a bicycle abreast of another bicycle on the park's narrow roads is dangerous and is also prohibited.
- Death Valley has more than 785 miles of roads, including hundreds of miles suitable for mountain biking.
- Link to list of suggested routes within the park:  
<https://www.nps.gov/deva/planyourvisit/bikingandmtbiking.htm>

