

The Longest Climb

Description: These are the mountains, there is not much flat, and there is a lot of climbing. I love to climb. I have always embraced the challenge. This is the longest, sustained climb that I could find in the Pass Creek network. During this ride there is a 9.6 mile hill-climb that took me 1 hour 35 minutes to complete. Give it a try. It is great training, and what goes up must come down. The climb ends at the top of the 385 at the CDT. ***Bring the map on this ride. I am only giving directions to the top of the climb.** Once you reach the CDT how you return is up to you. You can continue on the CDT to Bonito Pass and down the 388 to Campo Molino. For a bigger loop stay on the CDT back to East Railroad Pass and then to the PCY. For a long uninterrupted descent, turn around and descend the west side of the 385 to the 384, to the 390, to Campo Molino. For the longest descent retrace the same route you just climbed. There is also the descent on the east side of the 385 that has switchbacks. There are a lot of choices. Use the map.

Total Distance: Variable depending on how you return to the PCY from the top of the climb. It is 17.3 miles to the top of the climb.

Ride Time: Variable depending on how you return to the PCY. At the top of the climb it is 2 hours and 18 minutes.

Difficulty: Advanced

Directions: From the PCY, descend to the PCY gate on the 390.

At 1.0 miles you reach the gate. Turn right up the 390.

At 2.0 miles you reach Campo Molino. Turn left and follow the 390.

At 3.0 miles you will see the 382 on your left. It currently is marked 38, because the 2 is missing. Turn left onto the 382. It starts with a short climb but then turns into a fun 15 minute descent.

At 6.4 miles you reach an intersection where there is a creek crossing. Stay to the left of the creek, and continue north on the 390 towards the 380.

At 7.7 miles you will reach Trail Park where you cross Park Creek. Cross the creek and turn right on the 380. Here is where the longest climb begins. The 380 is an improved dirt road, and you will climb it for 2.8 miles.

At 10.5 miles turn right on the 385. Climb the 385 for 2.1 miles. This climb is steeper and rockier but can be ridden.

At 12.6 miles you reach a V shaped intersection. Turn right on the 384. I remember this as being a somewhat tough 1.8 mile section.

At 14.4 miles turn left on the 385 (this is the west side of the 385). Climb the 385 for 2.5 miles.

At 16.9 miles you will reach the top of the 385. There is a three way intersection. Turn right and take the road up to the top of the ridge.

At 17.3 miles you have reached the CDT and finished the climb. * Now you need to choose your return route to the PCY. Have fun.