



HEATHER ROOKSTOOL PHOTO

RIDES

Grant County's winding highways, scenic views and back roads offer a treasure trove of riding experiences for motorcyclists.

The scenery features starkly beautiful rock formations at Picture Gorge, west of Dayville on Highway 26, and Cathedral Rock and the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument area on Highway 19, south of Kimberly. The route between Monument and Long Creek features Sunken Mountain and brightly colored rocky outcroppings. Highway 26 takes riders along open fields, flanked by mountains, and through the towns of Mt. Vernon, John Day and Prairie City, and over the lush, forested Dixie Butte to Austin. Highway 395 winds past Canyon Mountain and south to Seneca. Whatever route you choose, expect light traffic, curving roads and fresh air – all amid the beauty of Grant County.

Local riders love the curves and scenery in Grant County and think you can't get this experience anywhere else. Locals' favorite rides include the Monument Loop from John Day and through Kimberly, Monument and Long Creek; the Logan Valley Loop from Canyon City to Seneca, on a forest road to Logan Valley, and on to the Trout Farm and Prairie City; and a longer ride that goes from John Day to Unity and to Baker City.

Here is a selection of five one-day rides, short or longer trips, beginning and ending in John Day, or you choose your starting point. Keep the Shiny Side Up!

RIDE 1 65 miles

Leave John Day headed west on Hwy. 26 approx. 18 miles to Forest Service Road 21. Sign reads Fields Creek, Murderers Creek. Go south on FS Road 21 being sure to turn left where road T's at Murderers Creek as the right fork becomes gravel after a few miles. Stay on FS Road 21 to Paulina/Izee Hwy (Grant Co. Road 63) and turn left going approx. 4 miles to Hwy. 395. Turn left and go approx. 17 miles to Canyon City and John Day.

RIDE 2 84 miles

Leave John Day headed east on Hwy. 26, 13 miles to Prairie City. Turn right on Main Street and left on Logan Valley Road (County Road 62). approx. 55 miles until you reach Seneca. Turn right on Hwy. 395 and travel north approx. 26 miles back to John Day.

RIDE 3 108 miles

Leave John Day headed west on Hwy. 26 to Mt. Vernon. Turn right at intersection and go north through Long Creek on Hwy. 395. Turn right on County Road 20, ride approx. 34 miles to Hwy. 7. Turn right on Hwy. 7 and go 1-1.5 miles to the intersection with Hwy. 26 at Austin Junction. Turn right and ride over Dixie Summit and into Prairie City, go 13 miles and you're back in John Day.

RIDE 4 125 miles

Leave John Day headed west on Hwy. 26 through Mt. Vernon and Dayville. In Picture Gorge approx. 7 miles west of Dayville, go north on Hwy. 19. You will pass the John Day Fossil Beds Visitors Center. At the Kimberly Store you turn right to go through Monument to Long Creek. In Long Creek turn right on Hwy. 395 and drive south to Mt. Vernon. Turn left on Hwy. 26 and go east and you're back in John Day.

RIDE 5 197 miles

Leave John Day headed east on Hwy. 26 through Prairie City. At Austin Junction turn left on Hwy. 7 approx. 25 miles and after you cross the railroad tracks watch for the sign for Sumpter. Turn left and it's about 2-3 miles into Sumpter. From Sumpter go north on the same road approx. 19 miles to Granite. Continue on the same road to Ukiah. 18 miles east of Ukiah is Lehman Hot Springs on Hwy. 244. Returning to Ukiah, go west on Hwy. 244 to Hwy. 395. Turn left again and take 395 south to Mt. Vernon and Hwy. 26, turn left and head back to John Day, approx. 8 miles.



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