

PALOUSE TO CASCADES STATE PARK BIKE

16k = 458k - EVENT Y2964

This BIKE is rated 1B

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Welcome and thank you for your interest in this walk.

This on-line packet contains the following pages of information:

1. This information page.
2. Driving and route directions for the various segments of the trail.
3. A map of the entire trail and maps to the various trailheads.
4. AVA Special Programs

After your bike, be sure to log back into the OSB system to complete your online registration. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date of the event, the distance, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.). Also note that an event registration expires after 30 days, but if your registrations lapses, you may re-register without cost.

Thanks for participating and we hope you enjoy your walk. POC: Jane Holmes 760 496-8610 jensenholmespa@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION:

Designated a National Recreational Trail, this rails-to-trails is enjoyed by hikers, horse riders, and bikers. It highlights a diverse and scenic landscape of forests, dark tunnels, high trestles, rivers, farmland and high desert. **This current sanction covers the trail from its start in North Bend, WA to the Columbia River at Beverly, WA.** You may do as much or as little of the trail as you wish and start at any one of numerous trailheads. The most popular trailheads will be described in this document, but you may also start anywhere and log your own mileage. To complete the entire trail would be a multi-day project.

This is a good blog to see photos and read about one person's experience on the trail.
<https://washingtongravelriding.home.blog/2020/08/15/the-palouse-to-cascades-trail/>

Note: Some sections get heavy snow in the winter. Please check weather conditions. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palouseto-cascadestrail.org/>

AWARD: IVV credit is \$3.00. Free bikers welcome. Donations to support future walks and bikes are appreciated.

WASHINGTON COUNTIES:

The section from North Bend to Snoqualmie Pass is King County. The section from Snoqualmie Pass to Vantage and the Columbia River is Kittitas County.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

See the individual trailhead descriptions for driving directions.

FACILITIES

The trailheads all have well-maintained pit toilets (except the final one at Army East, but there is a state park nearby that one). There are often pit toilets along the route as well at campgrounds, parks, or smaller parking areas.

PRECAUTIONS

The surface of the trail varies from compacted gravel/dirt (easier riding) to asphalt (only a tiny portion of the trail) to deeper gravel (when it has been freshly renewed). It is not recommended for narrow road bike tires. Wider tires with a good tread recommended such as on a touring, commuter, gravel, mountain, or fat tire bike.

E-Bikes are allowed and encouraged so that you can see more of the trail!

EMERGENCIES

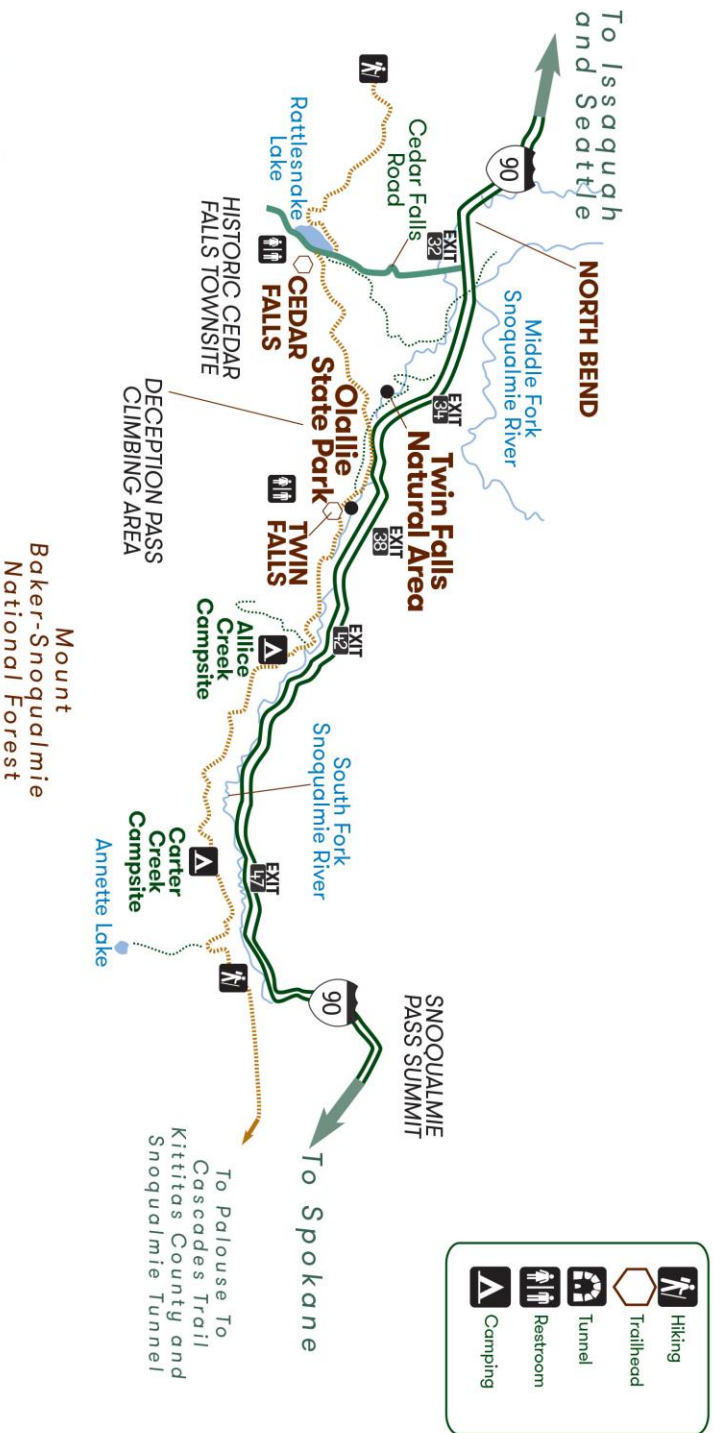
If you run into trouble along the way, dial 911 for emergency assistance.

NOTE: These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

The maps in this document are provided by the Washington State Parks department. You can find them online here: <https://parks.state.wa.us/521/Palouse-to-Cascades>



Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail



Welcome. Please remember a Discover Pass is required to visit a state park or other state-managed recreation lands.

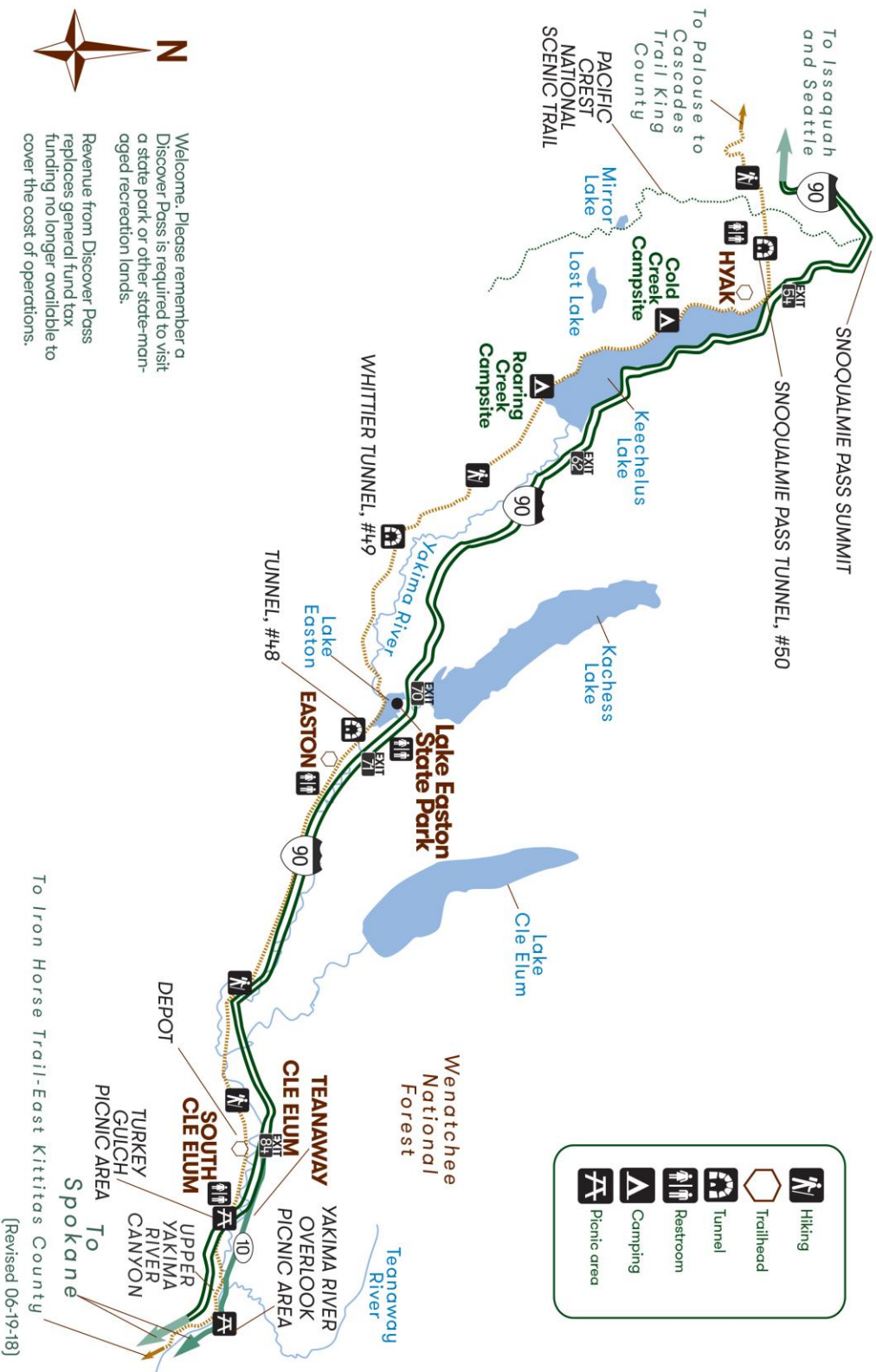
Revenue from Discover Pass replaces general fund tax funding no longer available to cover the cost of operations.

Information Center (360) 902-8844

[Revised 06-19-18]



Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail West Kittitas



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[Revised 06-19-18]



Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail - East Kittitas County

Ponderosa campsite

To Issaquah and Seattle

THORP TUNNELS



To Palouse to Cascades Trail-West Tunnel Kittitas County PICNIC AREA

ELLENSBURG WEST
[trail ends at Water Street]

ELLENSBURG EAST
[trail starts at the Fairgrounds]

Yakima River

THORP TUNNELS

THORP TUNNELS

Olmstead Place State Park

KITTITAS

ARMY WEST

BOYLSTON TUNNEL
(closed)

U.S. ARMY YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER

Wanapum Recreational Area

ARMY EAST

Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park

To Spokane

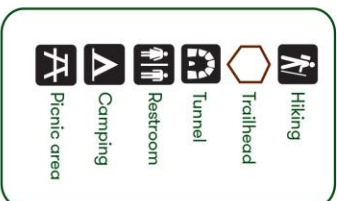
Huntzinger Road

VANTAGE

Wanapum DAM

Columbia River

BEVERLY



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[Revised 06-19-18]

**RECOMMENDED ROUTES AND NOTES
PALOUSE TO CASCADES STATE PARK BIKE**

SECTION 1 – North Bend to Hyak/Snoqualmie Pass (6-20 miles)

TRAILHEAD PARKING – Cedar Falls trailhead in North Bend, Snoqualmie Pass Trailhead. In between (but closer to North Bend) is Homestead Valley Trailhead.

ALL TRAILHEADS REQUIRE A DISCOVER PASS. If you don't have one, day pass options are provided at the trailhead. The fee is \$10/day if you do not have a discover pass. (We recommend getting one. An annual pass is \$35) You can get one here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/> This page also lists the "state park free days" when a pass is not required.

DESCRIPTION: This is arguably the prettiest section of the trail but it's also the most uphill (if you begin at Rattlesnake Lake). However, the grade is consistently low, so you often don't notice you are going uphill. There are several trestles and gorgeous mountain views. You may pass rock climbers practicing on the craggy faces along this trail. Good restrooms at all trailheads and several spots enroute. If you have a shuttle car, you could park at Snoqualmie Pass and ride downhill to North Bend. If you want more of a slow pace and workout, shuttle the other direction. Or park at a trailhead and bike out and back as few or many miles as you want, though we recommend you bike at least a 10K (6 miles) total.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Near Hyak/Snoqualmie Pass there is a long tunnel. You will need a bike headlight or a battery-operated light such as the headband lights you can get for hiking. It's also considerably colder in the tunnel so take a jacket or fleece with you.
- Snoqualmie Pass and even North Bend gets snowy in the winter. Tunnel is closed Nov-approx May This section is recommended for Summer thru Fall. Check the trail conditions before you go. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palouseto-cascadestrail.org/>

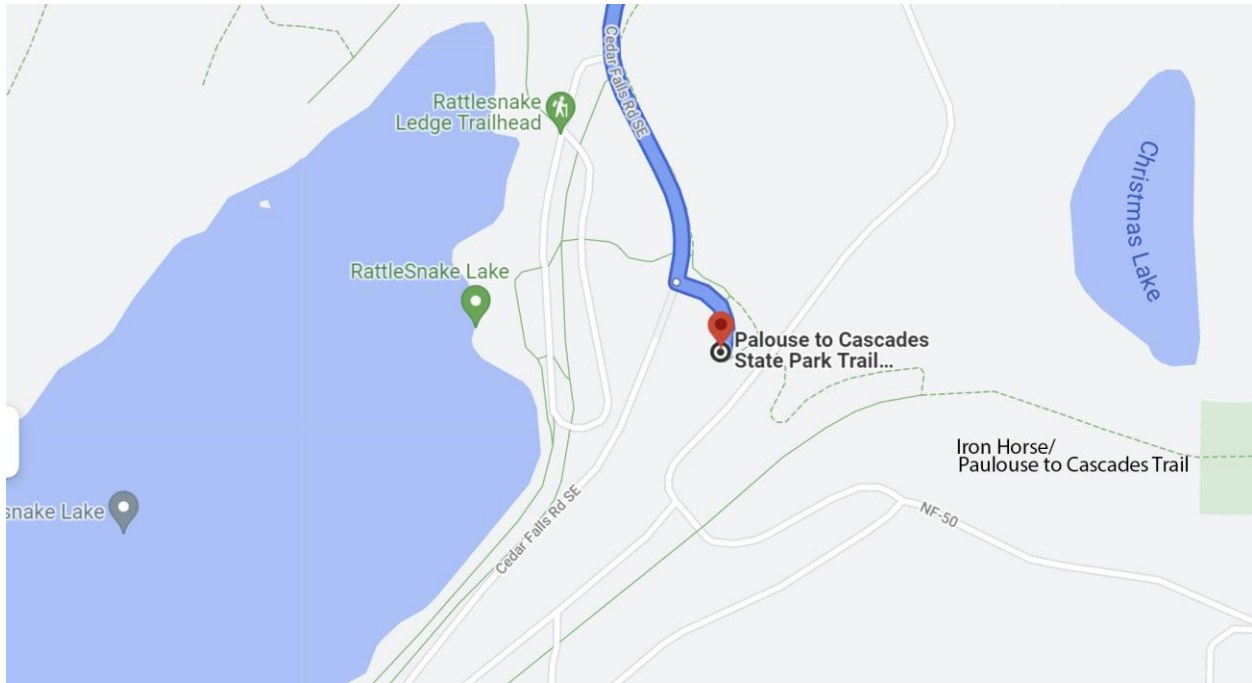
Turnaround options & mileage:

You can turn around anytime. Just record your mileage with your bike odometer or an app. We have marked some mileage turn-around points in the direction heading eastbound from Cedar Falls Trailhead.

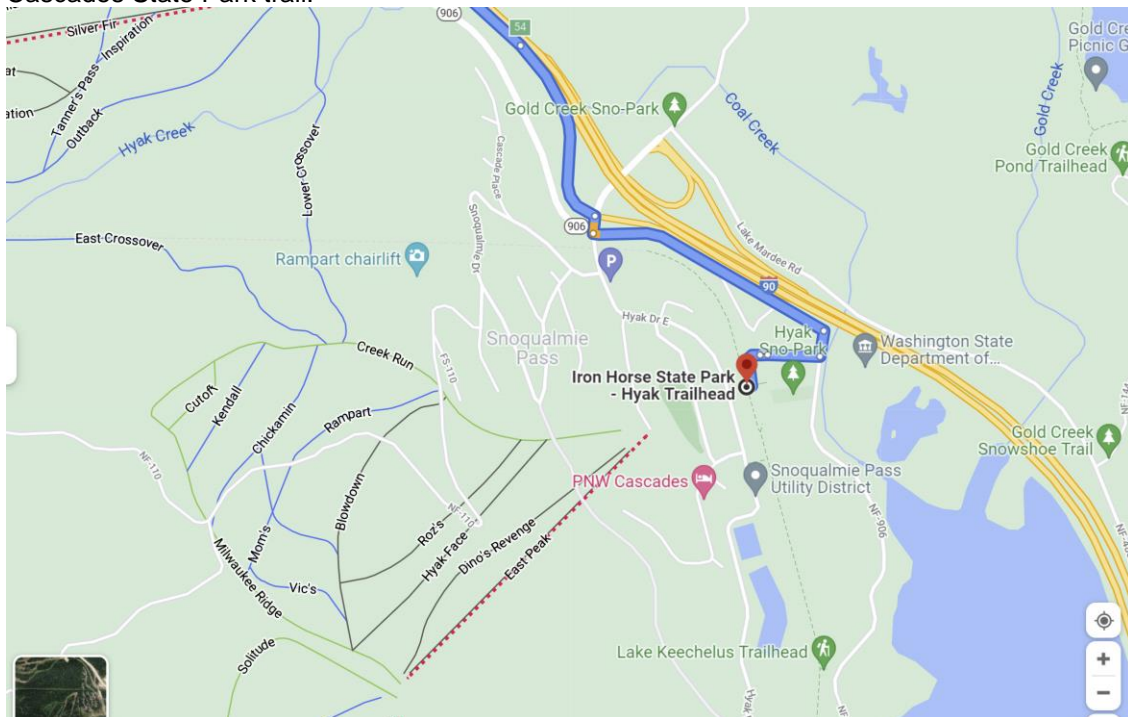
- a. To Twin Falls – 4.5 miles
- b. To Homestead Valley Trailhead is 5 miles
- c. To McClellan Butte Trail intersection – 9.5 miles
- d. To Hyak trailhead -- 20 miles

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail - Cedar Falls Trailhead, North Bend, Wa 98045 (47.43310, -121.76405): Take I-90 to North Bend, WA. Take exit 32 for 436th Ave SE. Go Right if you were eastbound on I-90, left if westbound. (Follow signs for Rattlesnake Lake/Cedar Falls.) Continue on this road, which dead ends at Rattlesnake Lake. Pass by the first parking areas for the lake, continuing to the parking lot at the end of the road.

TO GET ON THE BIKE TRAIL FROM THE PARKING LOT – Follow the signs for the Iron Horse / Palouse to Cascades trail. You will need to bike or walk your bike for a short distance (about ¼ mile) to get onto the trail. There is a steeper section where you may want to walk your bike, but once you are on the Iron Horse / Palouse to Cascades trail is a wide, gravel rails-to-trails.



DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Hyak - Iron Horse State Park Trailhead, Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98065 (47.39162,-121.39227): Take I-90 toward Snoqualmie Pass, WA. Take exit 54 toward Hyak. Follow signs for Hyak Sno Park and Iron Horse State Park / Hyak Trailhead. There is a large parking area and it is right on the trail. Restrooms here. Note that “Iron Horse State Park” was the original name for the Palouse to Cascades State Park trail.



SECTION 2 – Hyak/Snoqualmie Pass to Easton (20 miles)

TRAILHEAD PARKING – Snoqualmie Pass Trailhead or Easton Trailhead.

ALL TRAILHEADS REQUIRE A DISCOVER PASS. If you don't have one, day pass options are provided at the trailhead. The fee is \$10/day if you do not have a discover pass. (We recommend getting one. An annual pass is \$35) You can get one here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/> This page also lists the "state park free days" when a pass is not required.

DESCRIPTION: Muddy in May; dry and dusty in August. Ride along Keechelus Lake. Pass cabins then thru Whittier Tunnel. Cross Cabin Creek bridge. Basalt cliffs as you get close to Easton. Slow down and enjoy them. Near Easton the trail splits in 2. Go Left for Lake Easton SP and right for the parking/trailhead. You'll pass thru another tunnel. Pass through town of Easton, pick up trail at the Fire Station, then reach the trailhead.

Good restrooms at all trailheads and several spots enroute. If you have a shuttle car, you could park at Snoqualmie Pass and ride downhill to Easton. If you want more of a slow pace and workout, shuttle the other direction. Or park at either end and bike out and back as few or many miles as you want, though we recommend you bike at least a 10K (6 miles) total.

PRECAUTIONS:

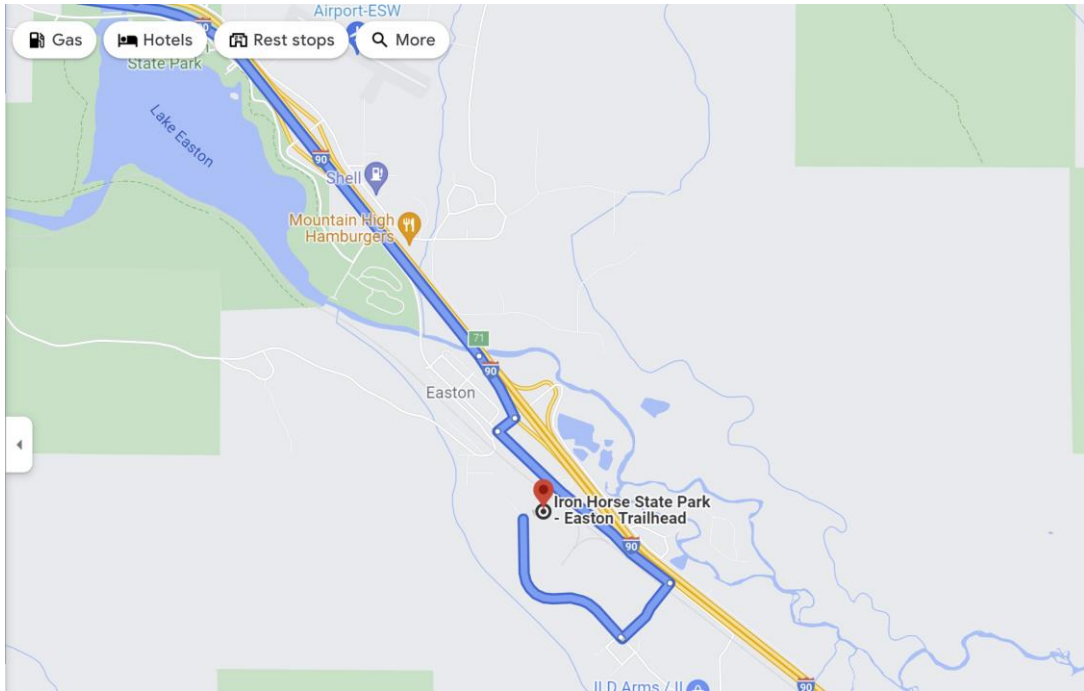
- Snoqualmie Pass and surrounding area gets snowy in the winter. This section is recommended for Spring through Fall. Check the trail conditions before you go. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palouseto.cascadestail.org/>

Turnaround options & mileage:

We have not marked mileage waypoints along this section. You can turn around anytime. Just record your mileage with your bike odometer or an app.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Hyak (Iron Horse State Park) Trailhead: See previous page

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Easton- Iron Horse State Park Trailhead, Easton, Wa 98925 (47.23251,-121.16463): Take I-90 to exit 71, Easton. Take exit 71 and turn on Tree Farm Rd (right if travelling eastbound on I-90 and left if travelling westbound on I-90). Turn left on Railroad Street. Turn right on Red Fir Ln. Turn right on Iron Horse Road to the Iron Horse State Park Trailhead. There is a large parking area, and it is right on the trail. Restrooms here. Note that "Iron Horse State Park" was the original name for the Palouse to Cascades State Park trail.



SECTION 3 – Easton to Cle Elum (11.5 miles)

TRAILHEAD PARKING –Easton Trailhead or Cle Elum Trailhead at the train depot.

ALL TRAILHEADS REQUIRE A DISCOVER PASS. If you don't have one, day pass options are provided at the trailhead. The fee is \$10/day if you do not have a discover pass. (We recommend getting one. An annual pass is \$35) You can get one here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/> This page also lists the "state park free days" when a pass is not required.

DESCRIPTION: The terrain begins to change in this section, from mountainous to dryer (and hotter) lowland. You will pass over several pretty trestle bridges and Cle Elum is a quaint little town to spend the night or grab a meal. If you have a shuttle car, you could park at either end and do the whole thing. It is slightly downhill heading toward Cle Elum from Easton, but with a very low grade (downhill eastbound from Easton to Cle Elum – approx 250 feet). Or bike out and back as few or many miles as you want, though we recommend you bike at least a 10K (6 miles) total.

PRECAUTIONS:

- This area can get snowy in the winter. This section is recommended for Spring through Fall. Check the trail conditions before you go. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palousetocascadetrail.org/>

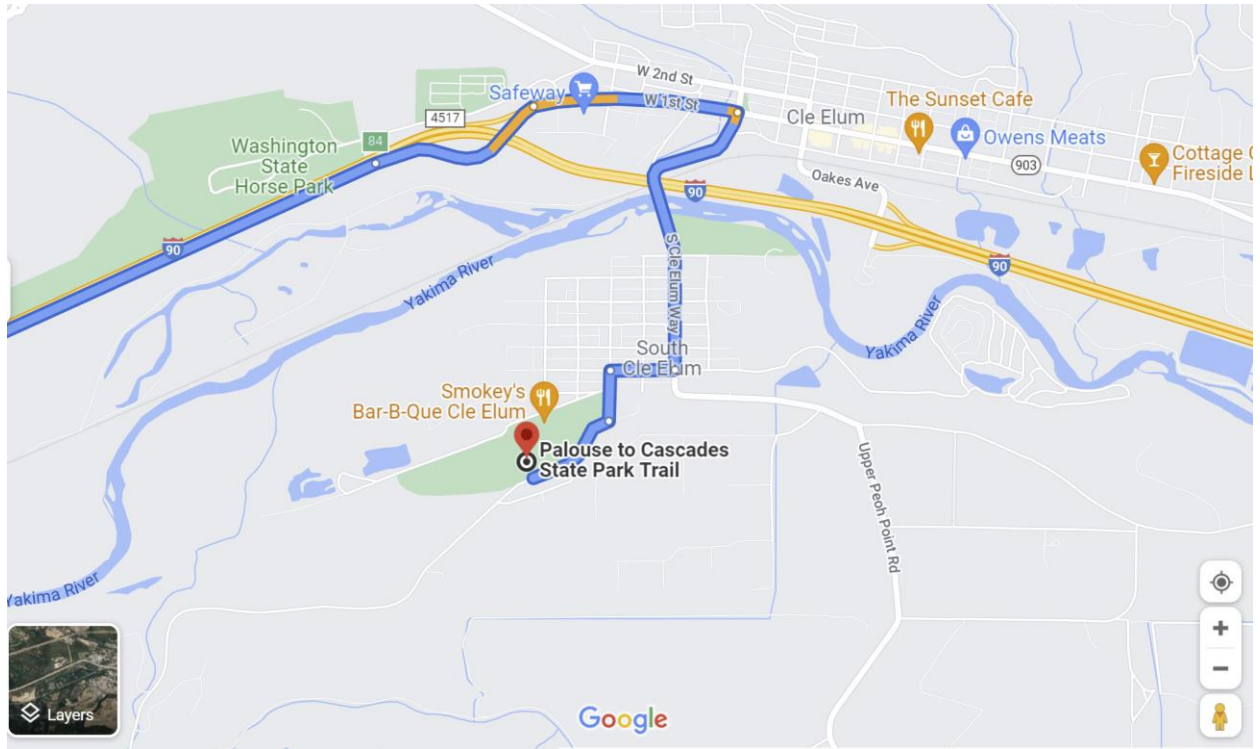
Turnaround options & mileage:

You can turn around anytime. Just record your mileage with your bike odometer or an app. We have marked the following turn-around points in the direction from Cle Elum westbound toward Easton:

- At 4.5 miles you reach a rusted metal bridge signed "Yakima River". Turn around here for 15K
- At 8 Miles you reach a small bridge signed "Big Creek". Turn around here for 26K
- At 9.25 miles you cross a road. Turn around here for 30K
- 10 miles there's an AT&T sign post "524". Turn around here for 32K
- At 11.5 miles you reach The Iron Horse State Park Easton trailhead. AT&T sign post "536". Turn around here for 37K

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Easton Horse State Park) Trailhead: See previous page

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Cle Elum Trailhead – 801 Milwaukee Ave, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (47.18358,-120.95553): Take I-90 to exit 84, Cle Elum. Follow road past Safeway (it becomes W 1st St). Turn right on S. Cle Elum Way/Hartwig. Cross over river. Go Right on Madison Ave. Left on 6th St. Right on Milwaukee. Trailhead parking is on the left. There's a porta potty at the trailhead. Discovery Pass required. You can buy a day pass at parking.



SECTION 4 – Cle Elum to Thorp (18.8 miles)

TRAILHEAD PARKING –Cle Elum Trailhead or Thorp Trailhead

ALL TRAILHEADS REQUIRE A DISCOVER PASS. If you don't have one, day pass options are provided at the trailhead. The fee is \$10/day if you do not have a discover pass. (We recommend getting one. An annual pass is \$35) You can get one here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/> This page also lists the "state park free days" when a pass is not required.

DESCRIPTION: This section is particularly lovely in the Spring as you're getting into more deserty terrain. Five miles or so from Cle Elum the trail enters the Upper Yakima Canyon. The trail meanders along the river past picnic sites. Eventually get to basalt cliffs as it winds deeper into the canyon. There are two tunnel, so take a headlamp.

If you have a shuttle car, you could park at either end and do the whole thing. Or bike out and back as few or many miles as you want from either trailhead, though we recommend you bike at least a 10K (6 miles) total.

PRECAUTIONS:

- This section is recommended for Spring through Fall but may be bikeable on a clear winter day if there is no snow. Check the trail conditions before you go. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palouseto.cascadetrail.org/>

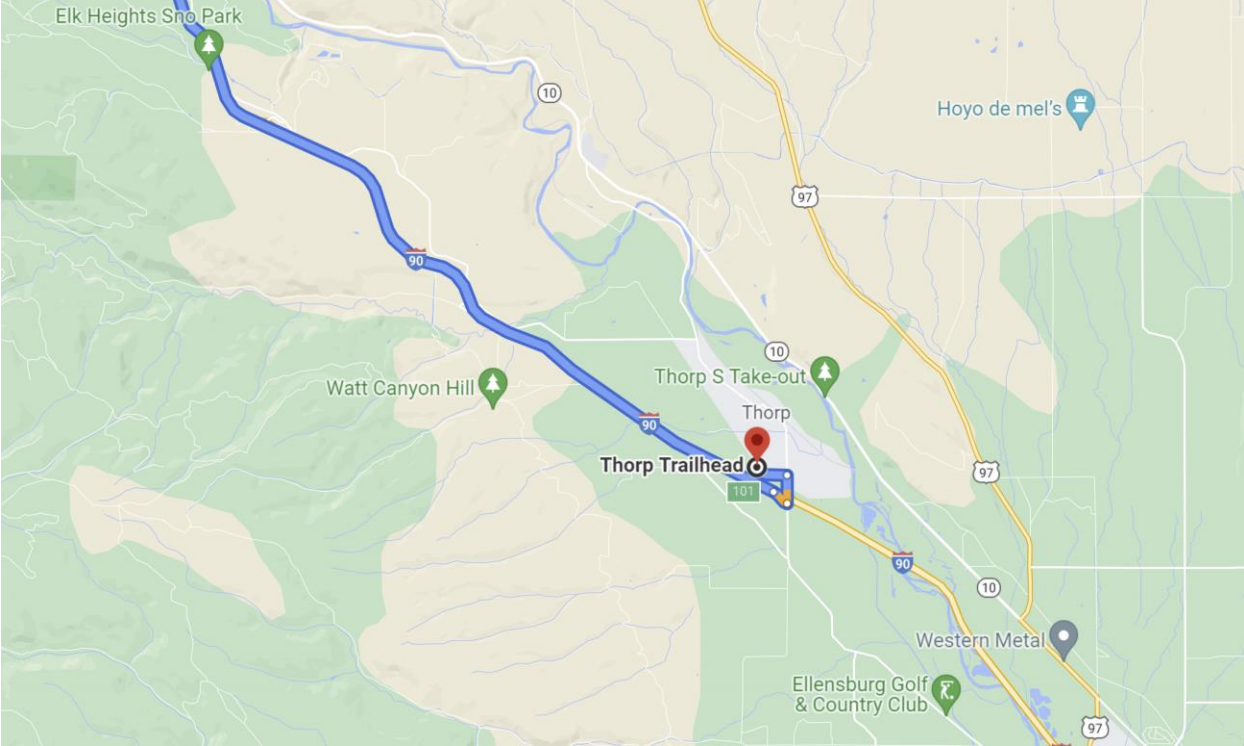
Turnaround options & mileage:

You can turn around anytime. Just record your mileage with your bike odometer or an app. We have marked the following turn-around points in the direction from Cle Elum eastbound toward Thorp:

- At 3 miles 2 overpasses overhead. Turn around here for 10K
- At 4.5 miles a bridge at post "EE 430". Note Sasquatch on your left! Turn here for 15K
- At 5.5 miles a river overlook and picnic table. Turn here for 18K
- At 7.5 miles "Ponderosa" picnic area with pit toilet. Turn here for 24K
- Just after this there's a gate- open and go thru. You'll pass another gate up ahead.
- At 10 miles white windmills come into view ahead and white post on right (semi hidden in foliage) – "EE 1761A". Turn here for 32K.
- Continue on toward Thorp to see the basalt cliffs and tunnels. Reach Thorp trailhead at 18.8 miles.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Cle Elum Iron Horse State Park Trailhead: See previous page

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Thorp Trailhead – Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, Thorp, WA 98946 (47.06437, -120.66208): Take I-90 to exit 101, Thorp. Turn left on Thorp Hwy N if eastbound on I-90 or right if westbound. Pass the Thorp Fruit Market and take a left onto Thorp Depot Rd. Trailhead parking will be on your right. The parking is right on the trail. Discovery Pass required. You can buy a day pass at parking. Porta Potty here.



SECTION 5 – Thorp to Ellensburg (8.2 miles)

TRAILHEAD PARKING – Thorp Trailhead or Ellensburg Trailhead

ALL TRAILHEADS REQUIRE A DISCOVER PASS. If you don't have one, day pass options are provided at the trailhead. The fee is \$10/day if you do not have a discover pass. (We recommend getting one. An annual pass is \$35) You can get one here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/> This page also lists the "state park free days" when a pass is not required.

DESCRIPTION: This is a short section, but we left it for those who want a shorter distance to bike and to keep any of our segments from going over 20 miles. This is also the only section that has a little bit of street riding. You can easily bike this out and back in a day, or add it onto part of the Thorp segment heading toward Cle Elum. The trail is flat and open from Thorp to Ellensburg.

This is an easy out and back – or bike as few or many miles as you want from either trailhead, though we recommend you bike at least a 10K (6 miles) total.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Check the trail conditions before you go. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palouseto-cascadetrail.org/>

Street Directions – coming from the Easton Trailhead BY BIKE:

- Take the bike trail from the Thorp trailhead into Ellensburg. The dedicated bike path ends at Water St. Go right on Water St and immediately left on N Main St.
- Turn left on E 14th Ave.
- Turn right on N Alder. After you pass E. 10th, you will come to the Ellensburg trailhead on your left. The bike path picks back up here heading east. Continue on the bike path for as long as you like or stop here and turn around.

Street Directions – starting at the Ellensburg Trailhead heading west (toward Easton) BY BIKE:

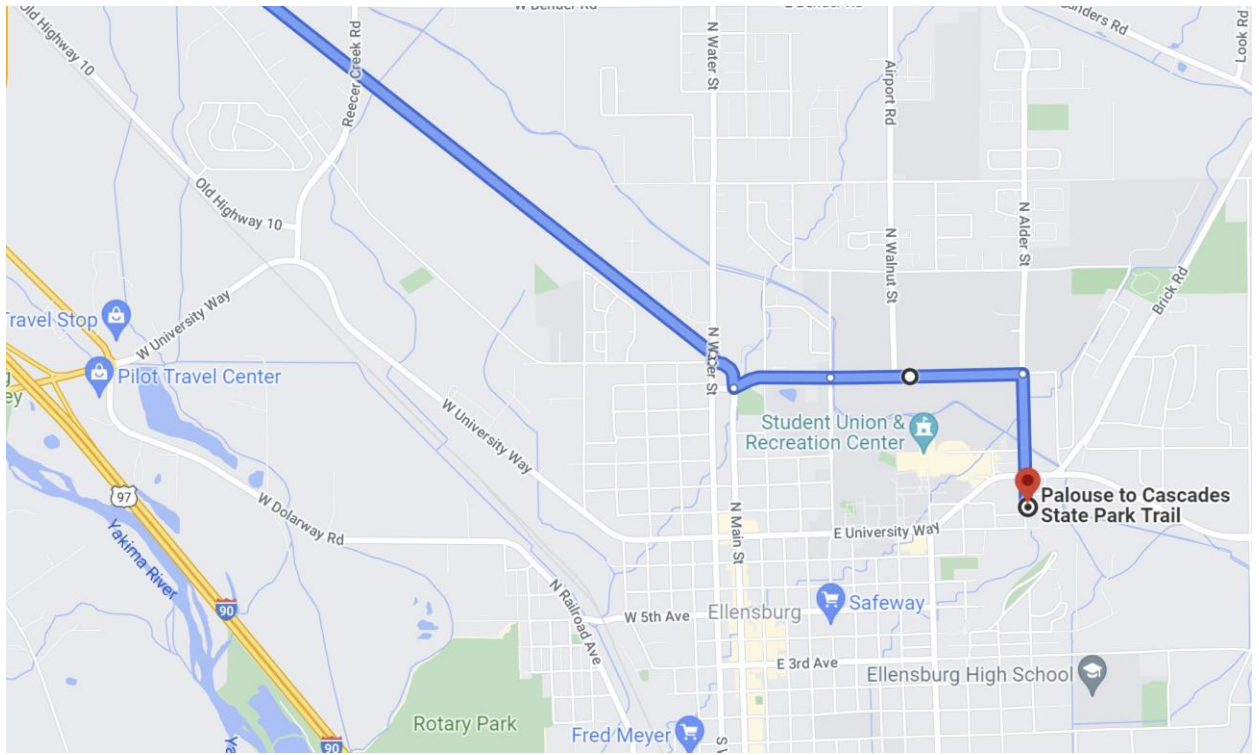
- From the Ellensburg trailhead parking, go right on N Alder St.
- Turn left on E 14th Ave.
- Turn right on N Main St.
- Turn right on Water St and you will see the bike path on your left in a few yards. Turn onto the bike path to head toward Thorp.

Turnaround options & mileage:

You can turn around anytime. Just record your mileage with your bike odometer or an app. We have not marked turn-around points for this segment.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Thorp Iron Horse State Park Trailhead: See previous page

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Ellensburg Trailhead - 1099-1001 E 8th Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926 (47.00089, -120.53178): Take I-90 to exit 106 for US-97 Ellensburg/Wenatchee. At the traffic signal, take second exit (W University Way). Continue on W University Way into town. Turn right on N Alder Street. The Palouse to Cascades State Park Trailhead will be on your left. Porta Potty here.



SECTION 6 – Ellensburg to the Columbia River (32.5 miles)

TRAILHEAD PARKING –Ellensburg Trailhead or Army East Palouse to Cascades Trailhead in Beverly

ALL TRAILHEADS REQUIRE A DISCOVER PASS. If you don't have one, day pass options are provided at the trailhead. The fee is \$10/day if you do not have a discover pass. (We recommend getting one. An annual pass is \$35) You can get one here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/> This page also lists the “state park free days” when a pass is not required.

DESCRIPTION: The area thru the Yakima Training Center is desolate, dry, hot and no water or services for 22 miles to the Columbia River. Take plenty of water and go when it's not hot. “Washboard” trail requires at least a 48” tire. Sagebrush and golden hills are lovely in the spring. Past Boylston Tunnel, it's 18 miles of “glorious downhill”. Tunnel is dodgy, but you can bike around on army-provided detour (also rough). Once past this, though, it's gorgeous with basalt formations and downhill to the river. The Beverly Bridge is the end of the sanctioned trail (for now). There is camping just up Huntzinger Road at Wanapum State Park. The campground has water and all of the other amenities you'd expect from a state park.

This is a challenging section of the trail and we recommend you tackle others first and get a feel for the trail before tackling this section.

PRECAUTIONS:

- This area is very exposed and can be too hot to ride comfortably in the summer months. Take lots of water and avoid hot days and/or ride in the early morning. Check the trail conditions before you go. Trail conditions and info can be found at: <https://palouseto cascadestail.org/>

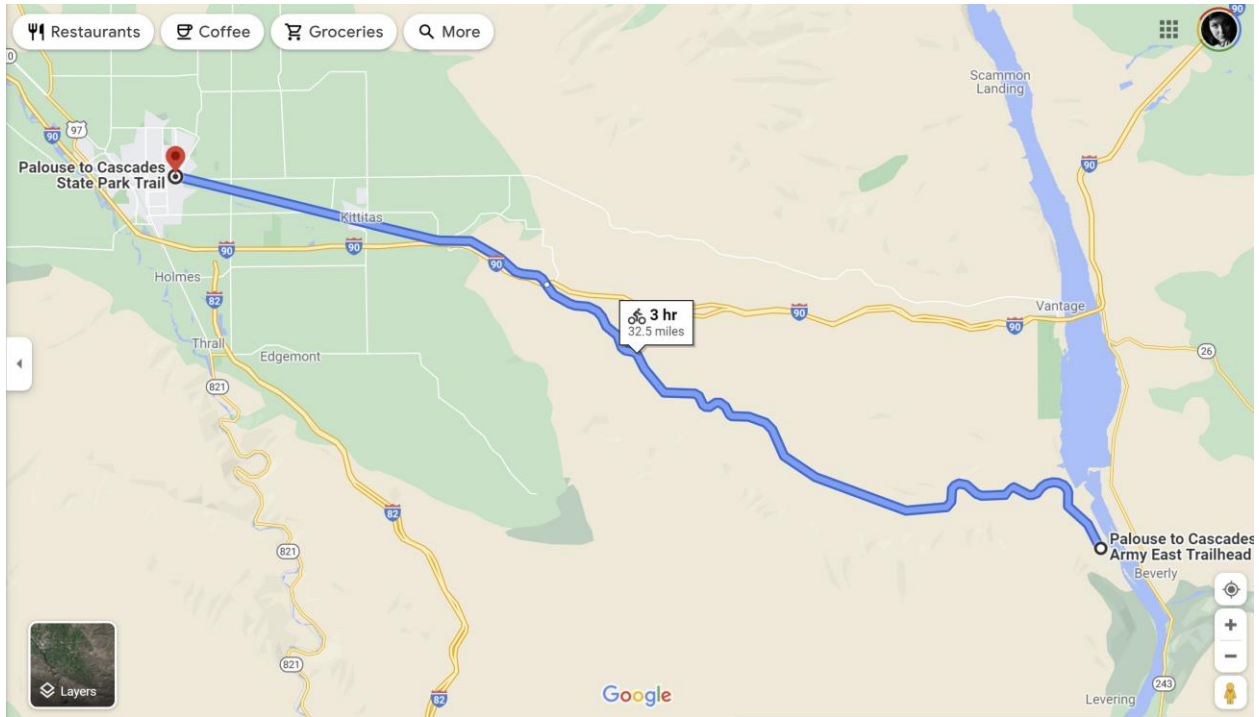
Turnaround options & mileage:

You can turn around anytime. Just record your mileage with your bike odometer or an app. We have not marked turn-around points for this segment. You can start at each trailhead on different days and ride towards the other as far as you can. Or use a shuttle car to bike the entire route one way.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Ellensburg Palouse to Cascades State Park Trailhead: See previous page

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – Army East - Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, Beverly, WA 99321 (46.86706, -119.84924): Take I-90 to exit 136 for Vantage/Huntzinger Rd. Turn right if eastbound on I-90 and left if westbound. The Columbia river will be on your left. Continue onto Huntzinger Rd. The trailhead will be on your right. It may be signed “John Wayne Trali”. This is a primitive parking area with room for a few cars and no facilities but you can stop at nearby Wanapum State Park for restrooms and water.

BIKING MAP:



Driving Map:

