

NORTH SALT WASH LOOP RIDE

Description: Most of this 17 mile ride is in the Sids Mountain Wilderness Study Area and goes through two narrow canyons with flowing water. This loop ride starts from the Fuller Bottom trail head, winds down the San Rafael River, and then up North Salt Wash. It goes up this wash until you can climb out, and returns to the trail head on a two track motorized route. As you ride down the San Rafael Canyon the surrounding cliffs will get higher. The trail crosses the San Rafael River several times. The cliffs up the North Salt Wash are just as high with a narrow canyon bottom forcing you to ride down the stream bottom in places. Bring your camera as the views from both of these canyons are spectacular. There are numerous pictographs visible on the surrounding cliffs and desert bighorn sheep are frequently sighted. This route can also be used to access several other rides including the Sids Mt Ride and Saddle Horse Canyon.



Directions: Start at the Fuller Bottom Trail Head. From here you cross the river and follow the road to the south and east. You will go through a wire gate and ride up on the bench to the south of the river. Stay on this road until the fence paralleling the road turns to the east. Turn and follow the fence until it goes down a steep hill. After a little search you should find a trail going down the hill. Follow this trail all the way to the river. From here you will follow the trail down river. You will need to cross the river at least 8 times. Use caution when crossing the river and stay on existing trail as there are soft spots in the river.



After following the San Rafael River for 2.25 miles, you will cross a slick rock bench and drop off into a wide wash. This is the mouth of North Salt Wash and here you turn up the wash and ride up canyon. This canyon is narrower and easy to follow. The trail will go through three narrow gaps. Each one will force you to ride in the river. Use caution here as the bottoms can be very soft. Most riders go around all three narrow gaps on trails that climb out of the bottom. Approximately 7 miles from the mouth of North Salt Wash you will go through the second wire fence gate. A short way further up the canyon you will find a trail that goes to the west and climbs out of the wash bottom. At the top of this trail you will go around a long buck and rail fence. Here you turn north and follow the two track motorized route back to the trail head. This route will take you back along the edge of North Salt Wash and there will be places that you can observe the trail you rode up.

