



# TEXAS VÉLO

*Come and Bike it*



Cycling Route

## Harper Doss Loop

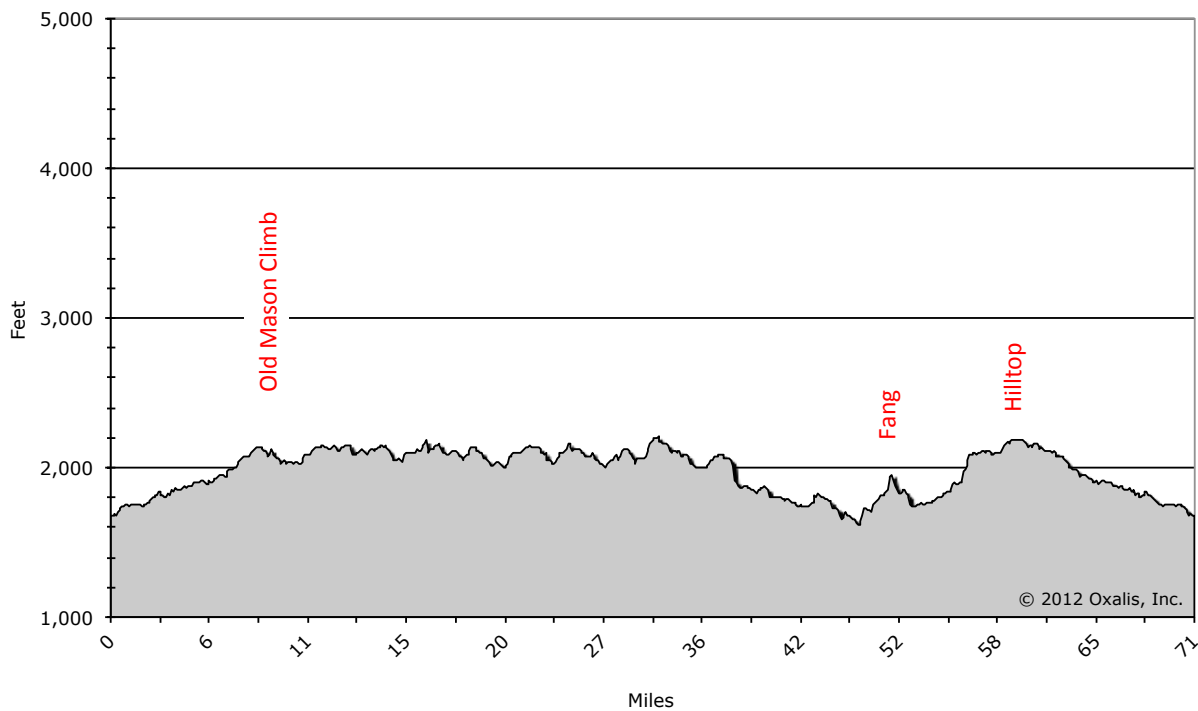
**71** miles

Region: Fredericksburg, Texas

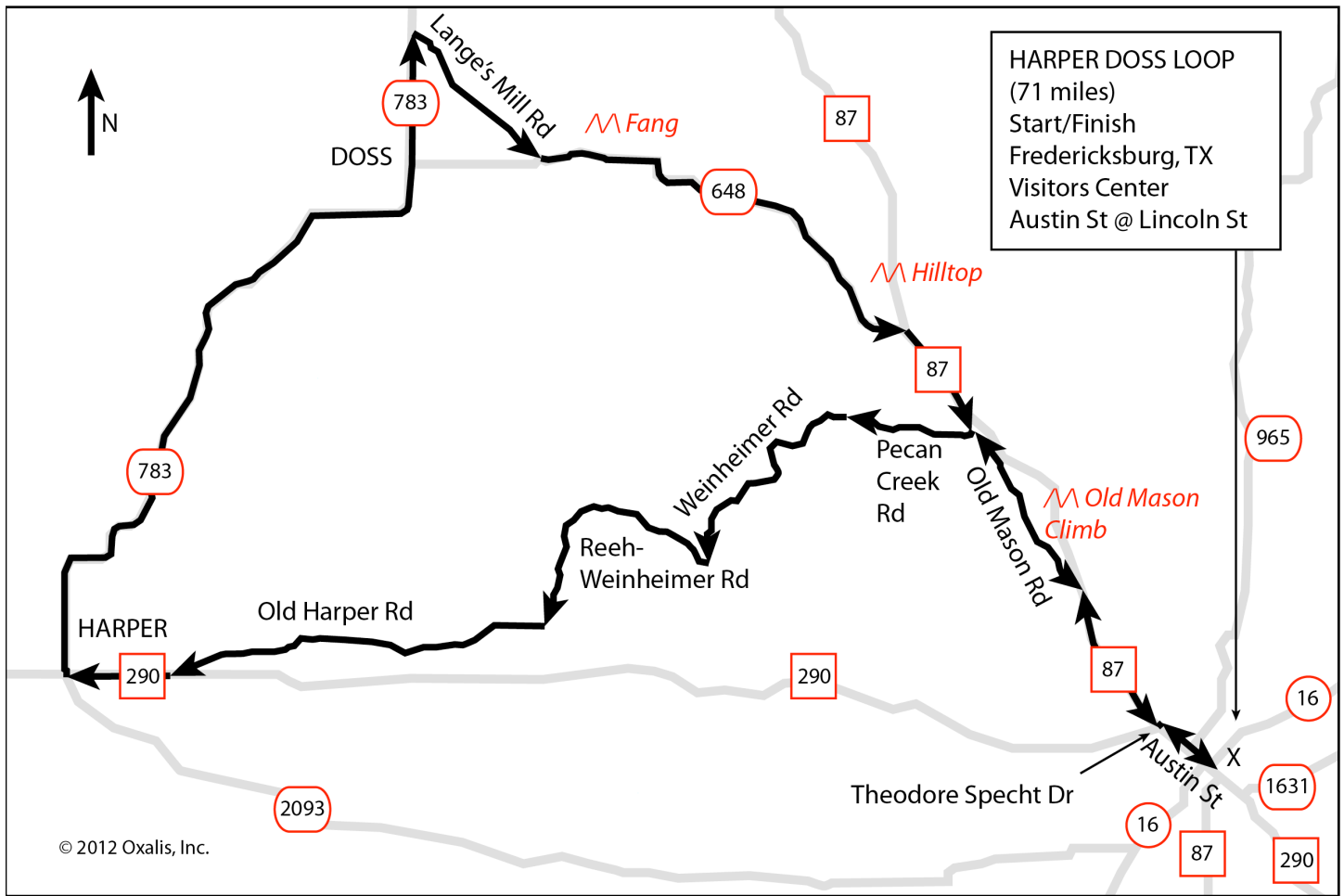
Author: Gregory L. Kagay

Catalog: 1023.1

**Harper Doss Loop**  
Route Elevation Profile



### Route Map: Harper Doss Loop



### Emergency Numbers

Police/EMS: 830-997-7585	Fire: 830-997-8080
FBG Hospital: 830-997-4353	FBG Taxi: 830-997-8044

Route Instructions: *Harper Doss Loop*

<b>#</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Turn</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>to Next</b>
1	0.0 mi	Start	FBG Visitors Center	0.0 mi
2	0.0 mi	Go Straight (NW)	E Austin St	1.5 mi
3	1.5 mi	Turn Left (SW)	Theodore Specht Dr	0.1 mi
4	1.5 mi	Turn Right (NW)	US HWY 87	3.1 mi
5	4.6 mi	Turn Left (NW)	Old Mason Rd	3.9 mi
6	8.5 mi	Turn Left (W)	Pecan Creek Rd	2.7 mi
7	11.2 mi	Turn Left (W)	Weinheimer Rd	5.0 mi
8	16.2 mi	Turn Right (W)	Reeh-Weinheimer Rd	3.3 mi
9	19.6 mi	Turn Left (S)	Reeh Rd	2.2 mi
10	21.8 mi	Turn Right (W)	Old Harper Rd	7.6 mi
11	29.4 mi	Merge Right (W)	US HWY 290	2.0 mi
12	31.4 mi	Turn Right (N)	RR 783 (Harper, TX)	14.1 mi
13	45.4 mi	Go Straight (N)	RR 783 (Doss, TX)	2.5 mi
14	48.0 mi	Turn Right (E)	Lange's Mill Rd	3.6 mi
15	51.5 mi	Turn Left (E)	RR 648	8.9 mi
16	60.4 mi	Turn Right (SE)	US HWY 87	1.9 mi
17	62.4 mi	Turn Right (S)	Old Mason Rd	4.4 mi
18	66.8 mi	Turn Right (SE)	US HWY 87	3.1 mi
19	69.9 mi	Turn Left (NE)	Theodore Specht Dr	0.1 mi
20	70.0 mi	Turn Right (SE)	W Austin St	1.5 mi
21	71.4 mi	Finish	FBG Visitors Center	0.0 mi

## Safety

TexasVelo.com, its sponsors, the author, and Oxalis, Inc. assume no responsibilities to users of the routes described and make no warranties regarding the condition of these roads.

Routes presented utilize public roads open to traffic; ride at your own risk and obey all traffic laws.

Always wear a helmet and utilize properly maintained equipment. Carry ample food and water. Carry tools. Carry a mobile phone in case of emergency.

Climactic conditions may change rapidly. Use common sense. Carefully walk bikes when crossing wet water crossings.

## Ride Summary

*Harper Doss Loop* features Gillespie County's scenic and cycling-friendly western plateau. It also incorporates two small eponymous towns, each offering hydration and sustenance resources.

This large loop begins by climbing out of Fredericksburg. After a few miles of highway shoulder, the route utilizes terrific rural country roads that meander up the sustained but mild *Old Mason Climb*. This climb leads to a plateau that underpins Harper, Texas and its surrounding area.

Once on the plateau the early intermediate stages of the route present mostly gentle rolling hills and typical Hill Country scenery. These roads take riders into the town of Harper. With US HWY 87 as its primary throughway, Harper is surprisingly resonant for a small town. It contrasts quiet and calm Doss, located further along this route.

Past Harper, the route rolls down a long slope—and off the aforementioned plateau—for a sustained stretch. This section requires little navigation and the friendly terrain makes for fun cycling leading to Doss.

Doss provides this route's best opportunity for refueling at the friendly and usually quiet convenience store, located just north of the intersection of RR 783 and RR 648.

Departing Doss, the route heads north and soon turns east for a quick dash past Lange's Mill. Riders then enjoy a long mild rise leading toward the left turn on RR 648 and the challenge of *Fang*, a biting climb.

After vanquishing *Fang*, riders find brief relief along another friendly section. This respite precedes another challenge up the early steeper slopes of the *Hilltop* climb.

At *Hilltop's* peak lies the Hilltop Cafe, a quirky Hill Country restaurant. This landmark signals a short section of wide shoulder riding on US HWY 87 back to the country road ramble down Old Mason Road. At that road's terminus, the route turns right and leads directly back into Fredericksburg, again utilizing the wide highway shoulder.

## Points of Interest

### Harper, Texas

Large enough for its own high school, this traditional Hill Country hamlet thrives in the shadow of its big brother, Fredericksburg. Harper offers more Hill Country feeling by offering less overall.

### Doss, Texas

Not much here beyond the town church and a great bicycle-friendly convenience store. Cyclists know it best for the store—and its sprint-inspiring city limits signs.

### Lange's Mill

Soon after turning east on Lange's Mill Road, encounter the actual relic of the old mill. It lies at the base of sharp descent into a hard left turn, which is fun to negotiate. Consider turning back to observe the interesting old structure.

### Hilltop Cafe

Located in an old gas station, this thriving restaurant often features live music. The curious

menu offers traditional Hill Country items mixed with Cajun cuisine.

## Hills of Interest

### Old Mason Climb

(Cat. 4) — not a very hard climb, but an extended one. The early miles of Old Mason Road challenge very little. On the outward leg, crossing a scenic creek and then a cattle guard signals the beginning of the steepest grade.

### Fang

(Cat. 1) — a short hill, but it bites hard. Named for its fang-like profile. Anticipate it just as you turn east off of Lange’s Mill Road on to RR 648.

### Hilltop

(Cat. 3) — the top stretch of Hilltop is no great incline, but leading to that point find a longish and steepish grade that takes you over the ridge framing the western flank of Fredericksburg.



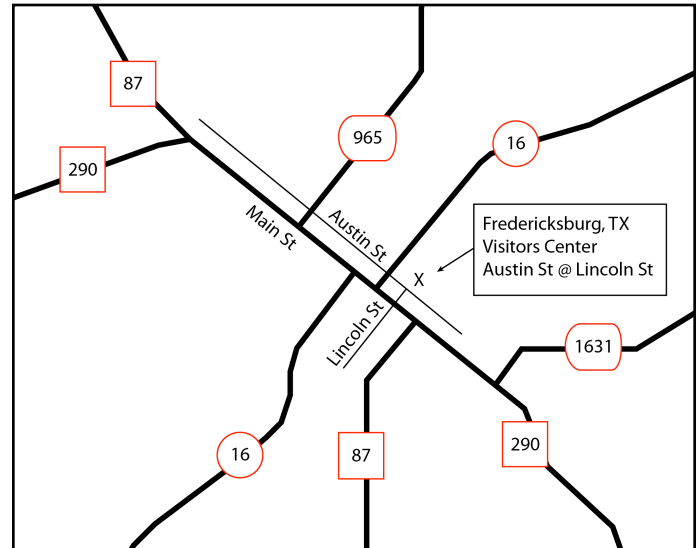
Find more great cycling routes at [www.TexasVelo.com](http://www.TexasVelo.com)

## Ride Friendly

We are all cycling ambassadors. Cyclists and motorists utilize our roads rightfully. Courtesy mitigates anger. Ride single file when vehicles approach from behind. Large groups should be extra vigilant to accommodate passing vehicles. Please educate inconsiderate cyclists—share the road.

## Start/Finish

This route begins and ends at the Fredericksburg, Texas Visitor Center. Find it at the corner of Austin Street and Lincoln Street, one block north of Main Street.



Fredericksburg Visitors Center location map

This departure location favors groups of gathering cyclists because it features off-street parking. When forming a group ride here, we recommend cyclists gather in the large parking lot located behind (north of) the Visitor Center (and Chamber of Commerce) office buildings. To minimize exposure to traffic, we discourage gathering in front of the facility on busy Austin Street.

The restrooms here usually open at 8 A.M. For more information visit the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.fredericksburg-texas.com/>.

## Road Maps

Print road maps corresponding to this route here:

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/371.pdf>

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/370.pdf>

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/countymapbook2006/Pages/342.pdf>

## **Eat & Drink**

Fuel up before departing and carry ample hydration and energy resources. Distances between commercial establishments offering such may be vast. When cycling on hot days we recommend hydration packs for longer routes.

Find commercial sustenance in Harper, Texas at various convenience stores and restaurants.

Doss provides this route's best opportunity for refueling at the friendly and usually quiet **convenience store**, located just north of the intersection of RR 783 and RR 648.

Finally, the **Hilltop Cafe** (RR 648 @ US HWY 87) provides table service and doubtless would allow cyclists to fill water bottles. Food items may be limited to whatever is on the menu (which might include pie).

## **Obstacles**

Many obstacles—familiar and otherwise—dot Texas roads. Potential dangers include cars, cattle, cattle guards, deer, trucks, water crossings, and more. Stay vigilant and slow down.