



BC GRAVEL SERIES

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Presented By  Bluebird Self Storage



SEPT 20, 2026
RACE BIBLE



EVENT DESCRIPTION



The FORBIDDEN GRAVEL is the ultimate gravel adventure event, held on the gravel roads of MOSAIC FOREST MANAGEMENT.

The event will occur on Sunday Sept 20 and will start at the [Mount Washington Chain Up Parking Lot at Dove Creek Rd.](#) Participants will be given the opportunity to compete in 3 separate Distances. While shorter than the other BC Gravel events, the Forbidden Gravel routes make up for steep gradients, chunky sections, and some additional technical features.

Each rider will be responsible for printing out the map and uploading map files on their GPS. While the course will be marked, the map and GPS will guide the rider to the feed zone/ checkpoints along the route.

The event will also consist of ride ambassadors and feed zone which will be indicated on the course map. Ride Ambassadors will be joining participants to provide ride service, mechanical support, and also assist in emergency response.

NOTE: This is an extremely remote area. Always be aware of the distance to the feed zone and checkpoint, and be prepared to travel that distance with the supplies you carry.

Please be aware... if you break down or become injured, let the nearest rider to you know so that they can relay for help. **A list of phone numbers is provided to contact. Cell coverage is very spotty,** There will be several bicycle medics spread out on the ride in addition to many ride ambassadors who will be available to respond, help, and relay communication.

If you do not feel you are prepared to meet such a challenge, please consider shorter route options by bypassing the route at the centralized Aid Station

Important Phone numbers:

Race Director 250-415-3246

Medix Dispatch 250-893-3418

EVENT DESCRIPTION



EVENT ITINERARY (Please note that this may still be subject to change)

Sunday Sept 20, 2026 - #1 Strathcona Parkway, Mt. Washington, BC, Canada V9N 5N3

7:30am to 9:00 am - Check in and package pick-up

9:15 am Rider's Briefing

9:30 am - Esperto / Intermedio / Impulso Start

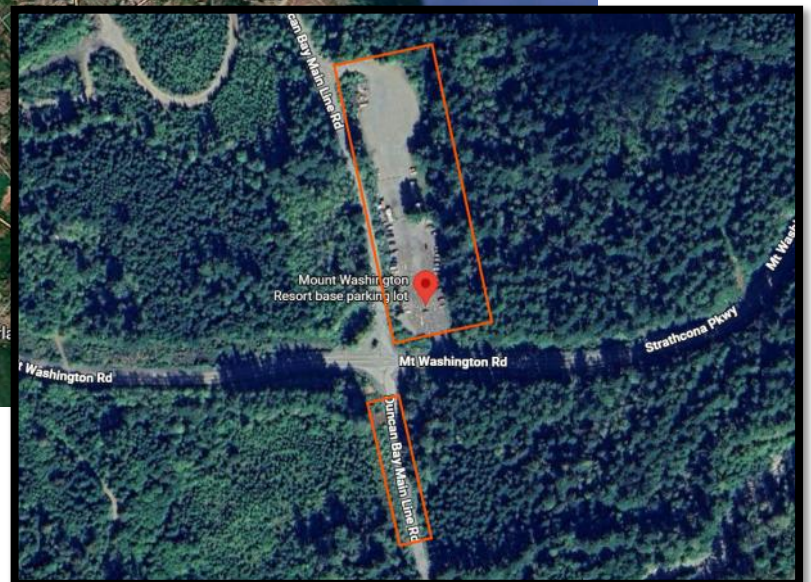
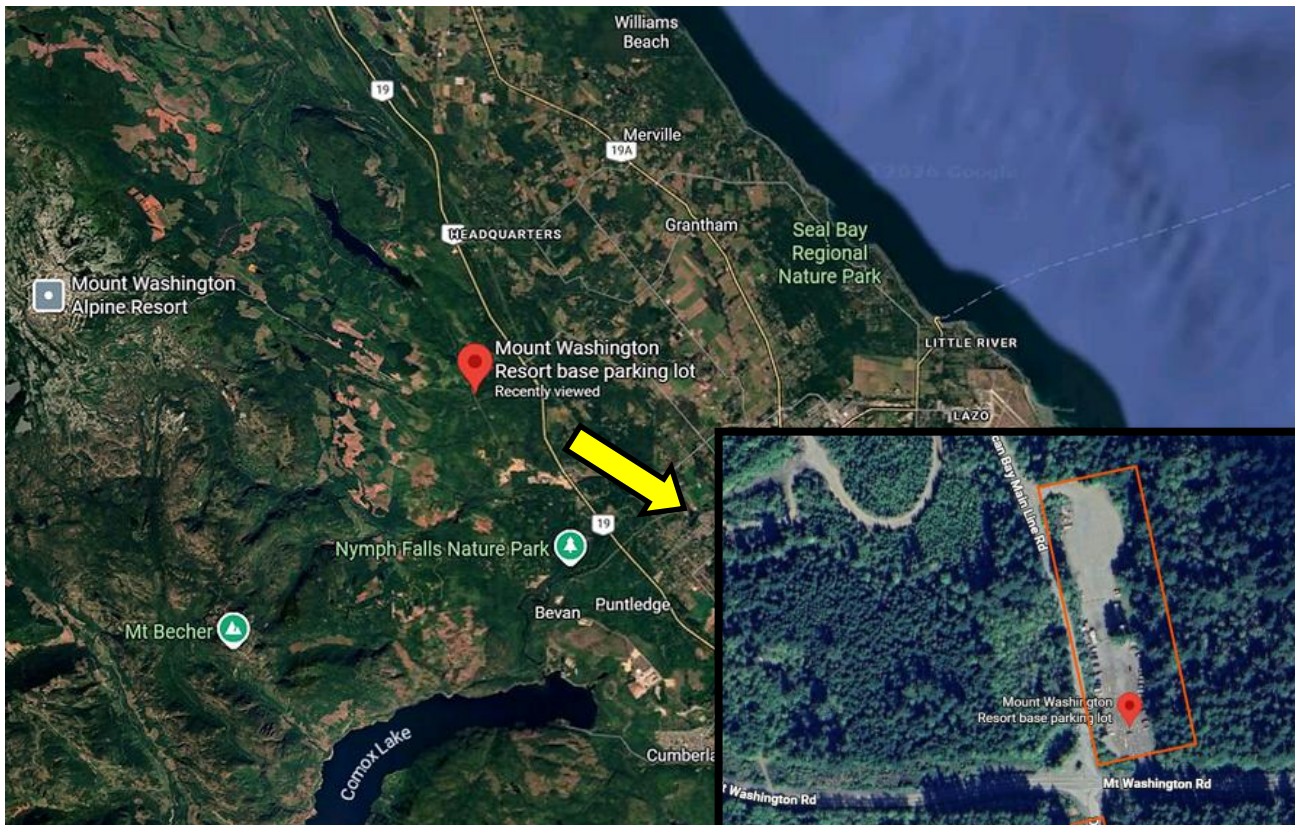
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Food & Drinks

3:00 pm - Awards Presentations

PARKING

We have moved our venue for the 2026 Forbidden Gravel event to the [Mount Washington Base Parking Lot](#) located at [Duncan Bay Main and Mount Washington Road](#).

LOCATION IS THE CHAIN UP PARKING LOT BEFORE YOU DRIVE UP TO MOUNT WASHINGTON. DO NOT DRIVE UP TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN TO THE RESORT!





RACE INFORMATION

WHAT TO BRING

While we have aid stations, sweep riders, medical staff, and the support of your fellow participants, be aware that portions of the course do not have cell phone coverage. In the event of an emergency or inclement weather, you'll need to be self-sufficient. Sweeps and marshals can't bring all riders back, it's for those whom have circumstances where they can no longer progress under their own power. Take care of yourself by bringing the following on the ride:

- Rain cape or wind jacket – please bring both to race, and we'll advise at race start on which is recommended.
- Minimum 2 bottles, even a Camelbak type of drinking setup.
- Seat bag, handlebar bag, to store tools food, try not to have all your gear in your back pockets of your jersey.
- 45 to 50 mm wide Tires are highly recommended in order to avoid pinch flats or punctures. Mountain Bikes are permitted to use for this event!
- Warm layer helmet such as cycling cap to keep your head dry and wind proof.
- Full fingered gloves.
- 2 tubes, 1 patch kit, CO2 and/or pump (a small pump is recommended).
- Bear Spray / Air Horn (We are riding in pristine wilderness and there is always a chance to encounter bears or cougars).
- Multi tool with/and a chain breaker.
- Your preferred race nutrition to supplement between aid stations
- Bicycle GPS with uploaded route, Cell phone / ID
- Arm and leg warmers
- A base underlayer
- A fender or rat-tail.

If you have any other questions about what to bring, reach out to us at info@panachecyclingsports.com

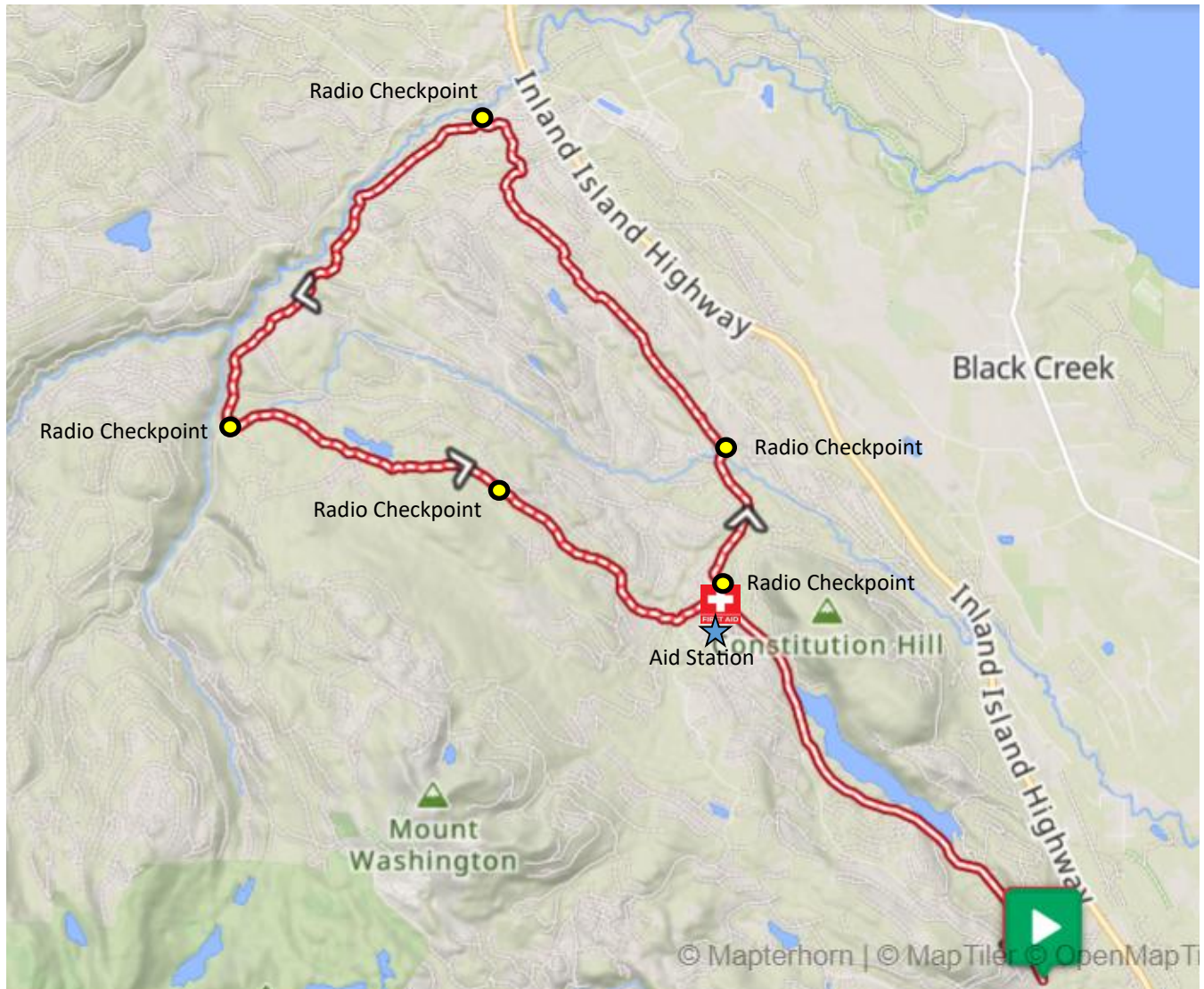


THE ROUTES

- 88.3km distance (2 Laps of the Main Loop)
- 1402m total elevation gain
- 11% max grade

ESPERTO

[DOWNLOAD GPX FILE HERE](#)

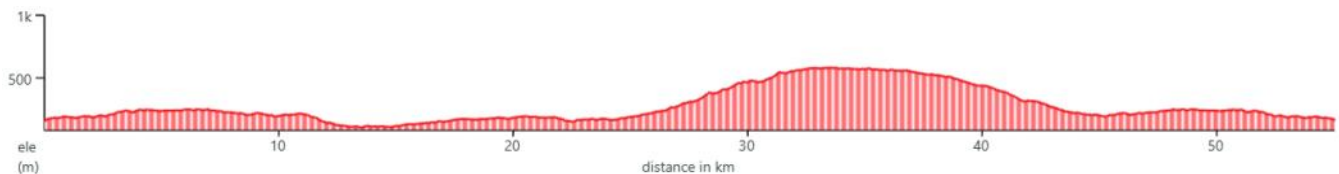
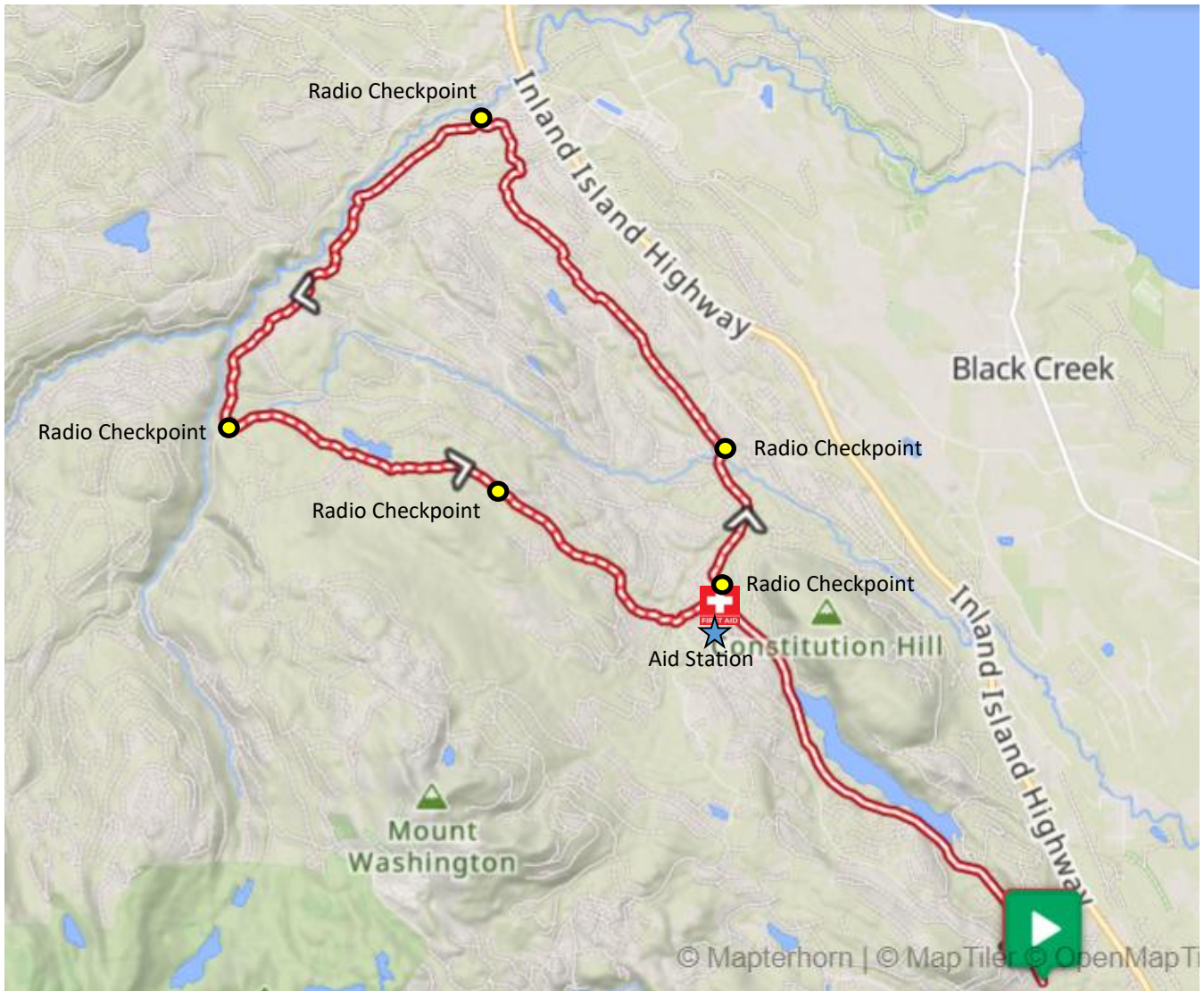


THE ROUTES

- 55km distance (1 lap of the route)
- 845m total elevation gain
- 11% max grade

INTERMEDIO

[DOWNLOAD GPX FILE HERE](#)

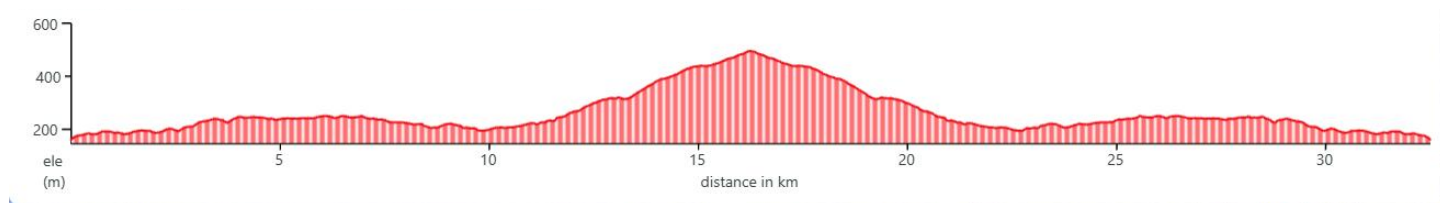
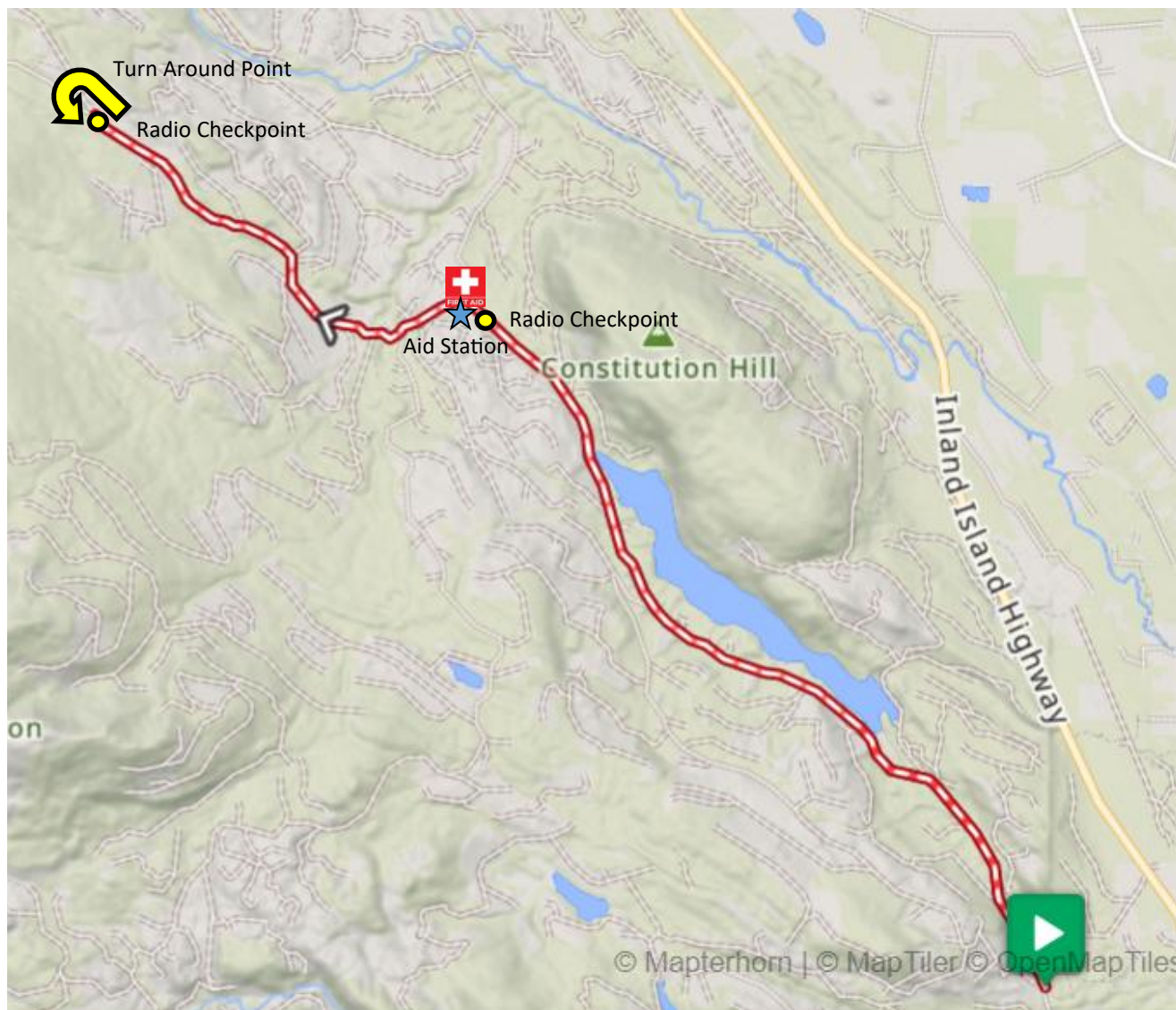


THE ROUTES

- 32.5km distance
- 556m total elevation gain
- 9% max grade

IMPULSO

[DOWNLOAD GPX FILE HERE](#)



THE RULES



This is an **OPEN TO TRAFFIC / NOT A CLOSED COURSE** event. Roads are open to motor vehicles and there is no traffic control. Riders must yield at intersections and follow all BC traffic laws. Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers.

- Obey all traffic signs, signals, and laws.
- Ride predictably and as far right as practicable (except when turning or avoiding hazards).
- Use hand signals and verbal calls for turns, stops, slowing, or hazards (e.g., “Car back!”, “Gravel!”, “Hole!”).
- Ride single file or staggered when traffic is present.
- Helmet is required at all times.
- No earbuds or headphones that block traffic sounds.
- Be visible: wear bright clothing and use lights (front white, rear red) if needed.
- Yield to pedestrians, horses, and other road users.
- Maintain a safe distance from the rider ahead, especially on loose gravel.

Industrial Traffic

Some roads may be used by logging, industrial, or resource vehicles, which may be large, fast-moving, dusty, and unable to stop quickly. Please remain alert and yield as needed.

Gravel-Specific Guidelines

- Expect well-graded gravel and dirt roads with possible loose sections, corners, washboard, or potholes. Ride within your skill level and slow for corners.
- Watch for wildlife, loose animals, farm equipment, dust, and wind — common in the Comox Valley wilderness.

Bike & Equipment

- Gravel, adventure, or mountain bike with suitable tires (minimum 40mm recommended).
- Helmet (properly fitted).
- Functioning brakes and gears.
- Bring: spare tube(s), patch kit, pump/CO₂, multi-tool, phone, ID, food, and water for the full ride plus extra.
- Dress in layers for variable spring weather.

Ride Conduct

- Be courteous and inclusive. Help others with mechanical issues if possible.
- Pack out all trash — leave no trace.
- Respect private property and the grassland ecosystem.
- Let a ride leader know if you need to leave early.

Emergency / Medical Information

Any first aid assistance is provided by onsite medical services. If you are certified in first aid, let us know in advance so we know who can provide assistance to onsite medical services. Call 911 in case of emergency if cell phone coverage is available.

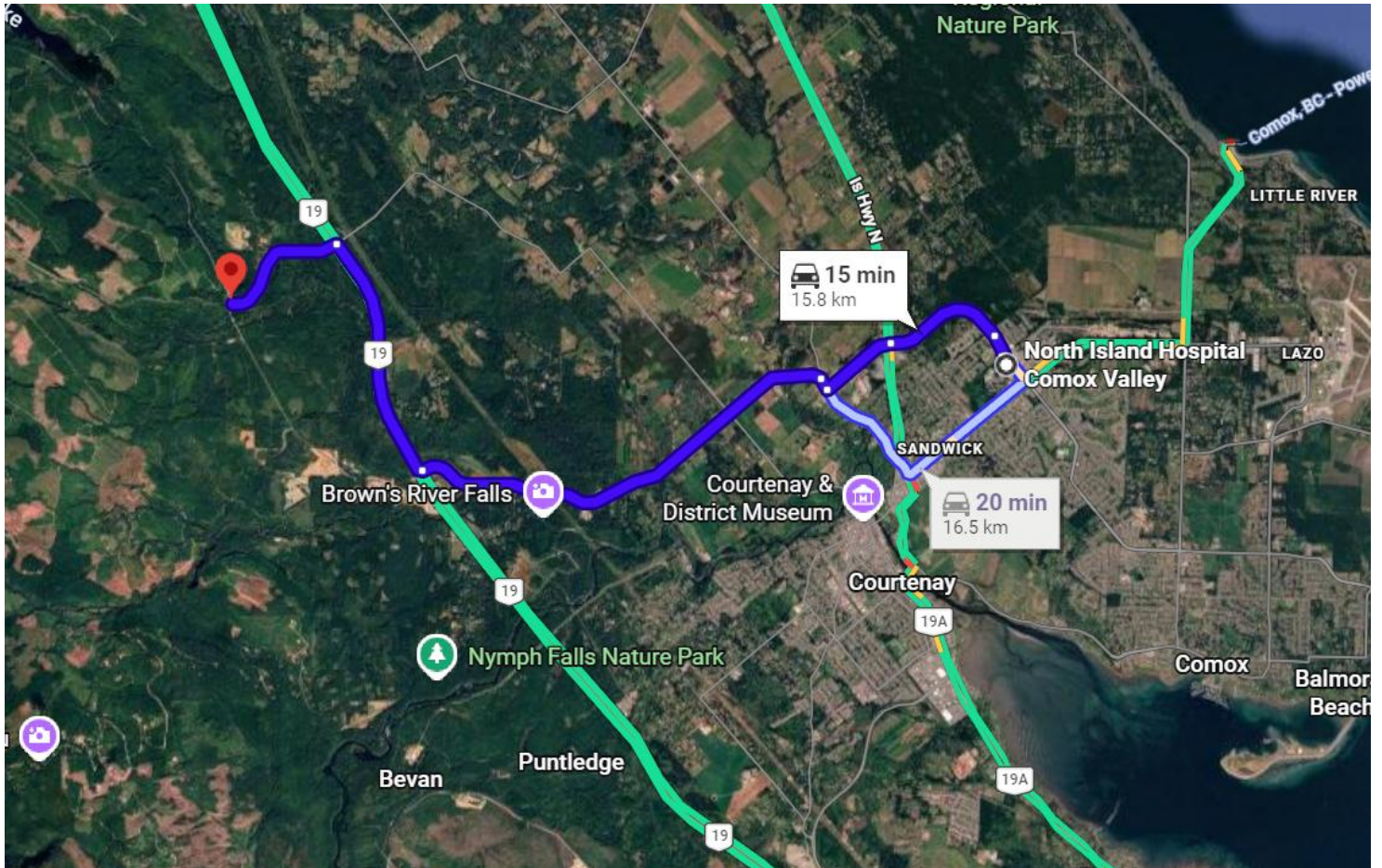
Final Reminders

Arrive with your bike in good working order.



MEDICAL EMERGENCY

AREA HOSPITAL



It is, of course, our hope that no one will need this information.

In the unfortunate chance that you do, print this off and keep it with you and share with family/friends.

North Island Hospital Comox Valley
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<https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-locations/hospitals-health-centre-locations/north-island-hospital-comox-valley>



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