

Wupatki Whirl 128k

Permanent #933

A Permanent Populaire of 128 kms

Time Limit: 8 hours, 32 minutes

Pre-ride Information—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

This brevet is a “permanent populaire.” Being a “permanent populaire” means it is a self-conducted ride with a date and starting time of the rider’s choice. This brevet is sanctioned by Randonneurs USA, and counts toward its Distance Awards for a rider’s kilometer total. In order to participate, you must be a current member of Randonneurs of USA.

Route Description: This is an 80 mile out-and-back in Northern Arizona. The route encompasses many of Arizona’s finest natural features. On route, you will ride through the following, and others:

- [Wupatki National Monument](#)
- [Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument](#)
- [San Francisco Volcanic Field](#)

The route starts and finishes in Flagstaff at an elevation of 7000’. The entire route will be between 4700’-7300’, with over half of it above 7000. This route is best ridden in the spring, summer, and fall months. It’s unlikely that anyone would want to ride it in the winter. Summer rain is typical at these elevations, and riders should expect to get wet. It can also get fairly cold at night, so riders should be prepared for that as well, depending upon one’s start time and riding speed. It is highly advised that riders should take a camera. The views experienced will be unlike anywhere else in the world! The total elevation gained will be about 4500’. There is one very long climb and will feel warm/hot depending on the time of day and the ambient temperatures. That climb from Wupatki NM up to Flagstaff is about 2300’ and increases in slope as the climb progresses. You will find very few pitches above 7% anywhere on the route. Here is a map: <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/159270>

Weather: This ride *can* be done year-round, but winters will be unlikely. Summer will be the best time due to the high elevations, but spring and fall could also be very nice. Summer rains are highly likely due the monsoon weather pattern which abounds. Normally, though, the rains come in the afternoons during the heat of the day and are quite refreshing. If it rains at night, it could be very cold. Riders should expect, and prepare for, rains and possible cold nightly weather. Even in the middle of summer, rains can be accompanied by hail and temperatures can plummet very quickly. A jacket is recommended regardless of forecast.

Start Times: You can start this ride at nearly any time. The official control (Basha’s Supermarket) opens at 6 am, but if an earlier start is sought, accommodations can be made with nearby 24 hour convenience stores.

Services: To buy food and drink along the route, you’ll find services in Flagstaff at short intervals. Once out of Flagstaff, following are the ONLY resources you’ll encounter. Riders should study the route sheet and the map, then determine how much food and water they should carry. This is an important aspect of the route and should not be taken lightly.

Mile 0 – 11 : Lots of stuff for your drinking and eating pleasure.

Mile 13.0 : Last Convenience store outbound.

Mile 20.4 : Sunset Crater Volcano Visitor’s Center. Water and restrooms are available.

Mile 39.8 : Wupatki Visitor’s Center. Water and restrooms are available. Snacks are also available inside the VC if it’s open. Riders should drink until their bellies are full and fill all water bottles here. The ensuing climb is very long and can be hot!

Mile 58.6 : Sunset Crater Volcano Visitor’s Center. Water and restrooms are available.

Mile 66.6 : First convenience store on the return trip.

Start/Finish Location: This brevet begins and ends at the Basha’s Supermarket at 2700 S. Woodlands Village Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ. Their phone number is: (928) 774-3882. You will need receipts from the **start and the finish**; the time imprint on each receipt is your verification or “control” (it is okay to have store receipts which show times a few minutes off from the official start/finish times).

Control Procedures: Stores and establishments at the start/finish will be used to acquire proof of passage. Store receipts will be needed to show the time and date of passage. You can also ask for a store stamp at any control in lieu of a receipt, but if they do not offer one then you are expected to buy something to get a receipt. Have the clerk write the time upon your brevet card and sign it.

Each control has an opening and closing time. To get ride credit you must stay within these times, which are based upon the starting time and date you chose. This route has an optional “post card” control at Wupatki National Monument. If you reach the Visitor’s Center after it closes, you will need to mail a postcard with your

arrival time from their mailbox. The mailbox is located past the visitor's center toward the ranger's housing. There will be a row of mailboxes with one labeled "Outgoing." That is where you will need to mail your postcard with your name and time of arrival written on it. Make sure that you carry a pen or pencil with you so that you may write on the post card.

You can ride this permanent alone or in a group; if you are with a group that stays together the entire way, then only one receipt is need for the group at each control (but everyone should mark their own cards with the time.) If the riders split up, they then need to get their own receipts. Tandem teams obviously only need one receipt for their team, not for each rider.

Be aware that there may also be secret controls during this brevet, so stay on the route. If you should get lost or go looking for food, backtrack to where you got off-course, otherwise you might miss a secret control. Failure to sign in at a secret control means disqualification from the brevet. If there are any secret controls, they will be in plain sight and impossible to miss.

After the brevet, return your brevet card and receipts to the ride organizer. Sign the back of the card and make sure all the times are recorded on the card for each control. Put all the receipts and your card into an envelope and mail it to

Mike Sturgill
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Phoenix, AZ 85050

Regulations: During your ride, all the normal rules of randonneuring apply. Go to the RUSA web site to familiarize yourself with the regulations if this type of cycling is new to you. You **must** begin your ride at the time you selected, and any secret control opening and closing times will be based upon that start time. If you are riding at night, be sure you have all the required lights and safety gear outlined in the regulations; anyone found to be riding at night without them will be automatically disqualified.

If you should fail to start, or end the ride prematurely, please contact the ride organizer as soon as is practical. We have RUSA matters to attend to whether or not you finish the ride successfully. Please be considerate and not endanger your future participation in future permanents by overlooking this essential detail. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Special Note: When riding within the National Parks and National Monuments, riders are expected to pay the entry fee to the parks (including bicycles!). You will need to pay the entry fee to Wupatki National Monument and Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. You may or may not reach those locations during their normal open hours. If the Wupatki Visitor's Center is open when you arrive, you will be expected to pay the entrance fee. If you arrive after they have closed, then no fees are required.

If you have a Yearly National Parks Pass, you are entitled to free entry to all National Parks and Monuments, including those on this route. No additional fees are required. These passes may be used for more than one rider in a group. For more information, please visit the National Park Service at:
http://www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm

Good luck and good riding! ☺