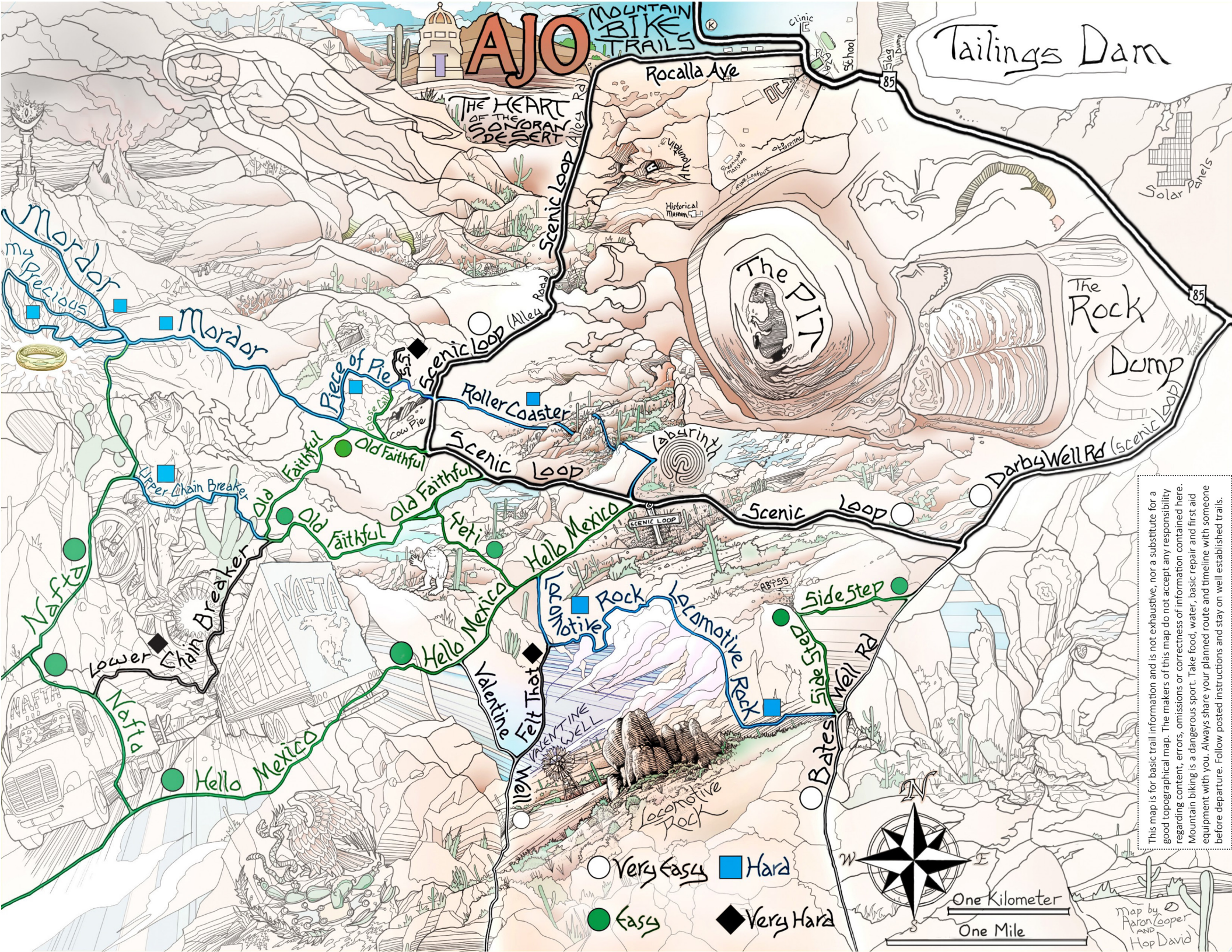
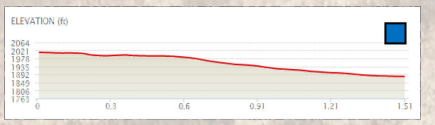


This map is for basic trail information and is not exhaustive, nor a substitute for a good topographical map. The makers of this map do not accept any responsibility regarding content, errors, omissions or correctness of information contained here. Mountain biking is a dangerous sport. Take food, water, basic repair and first aid equipment with you. Always share your planned route and timeline with someone before departure. Follow posted instructions and stay on well established trails.

Scenic Loop Trails

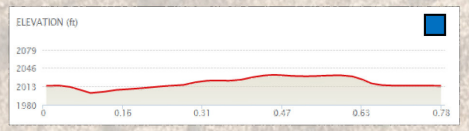
Scenic Loop—10.4 mi.
Cuts from Ajo's historic town center around the back side of the New Cornelia mine and back into Ajo along AZ Route 85. Take Rocalla from Ajo or Darby Well Road from AZ 85.

Roller Coaster
1.5 mi.



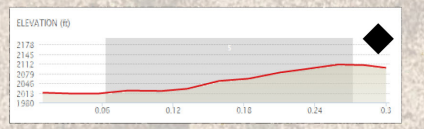
The wide path and good visibility lends itself to fast riding, but watch out for the wash crossings because they can be fairly technical after strong rains. Keep your eyes peeled for the labyrinth of old tin cans just beyond the mine property boundary fence as you turn back toward the Scenic Loop. Best ridden west to east. Marked 8113C from Scenic Loop—West intersection (32.35019,-112.89448); East (34.34272, -112.87853).

Piece of Pie
0.8 mi.



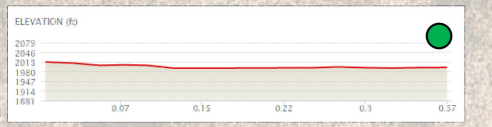
A quick and bumpy trail with plenty of wash crossings to keep you on your toes. Use this as an alternate approach to Old Faithful by hooking north around Cow Pie Rock instead of taking the southern route. Head west from Scenic Loop on trail marked 8113C (32.34978, -112.89454).

Sumpin' Specialized (S.S.)
0.3 mi. (one way)



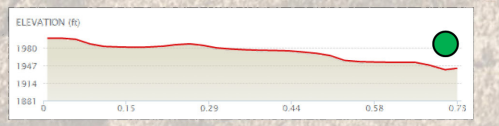
Short and steep with lots of loose scree makes this a challenging ride up and a lot of fun on the way down. The elevation gain at the top gives you a great vantage point over the Scenic Loop. Take a right at the trail intersection about a quarter of a mile in on 'Piece of Pie' (32.35032, -112.89848).

Close Call
0.4 mi.



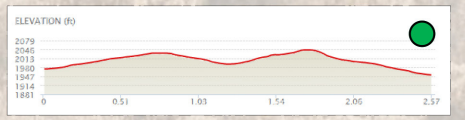
Cut Piece of Pie short and get up close and personal to Cow Pie Rock. You can scramble up Cow Pie and rappel down (there's a top rope anchor) if you've got the gear. Take a left at the trail intersection about a quarter of a mile in on Piece of Pie (32.35034, -112.89853) or take a right off of Old Faithful 0.2 miles in (32.34647, -112.8983).

Yeti Crossing
0.7 mi.



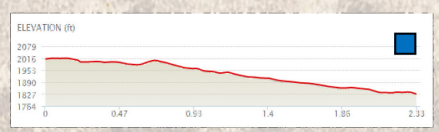
A good little crossover between Old Faithful and Hello Mexico!. Group Old Faithful, Yeti Crossing and Locomotive Rock together for a Scenic Loop bypass. Unmarked entrance from Old Faithful (32.34141, -112.8962). Marked as 8113D from Hello Mexico! (32.33647, -112.88722).

Old Faithful
2.6 mi.



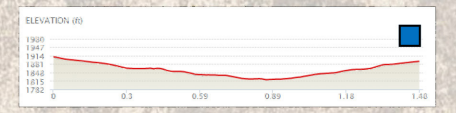
This quick and easy trail returns to the scenic loop less than 1/3 of a mile from where you start. Starting from the western entrance yields a nice payoff with a fast downhill stretch toward the end. A wide path and few technical parts makes this trail well suited for beginners. Watch out for the sandy washes at the apex and end of the loop. West entrance (32.34577, -112.89502) marked as 8113 from Scenic Loop. Keep left at all trail intersections to stay on the loop.

Mordor
2.3 mi. (one way)



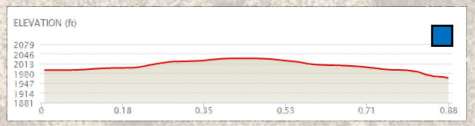
Take a detour from Old Faithful for a trip through Mordor. Ride from the heights of jagged ridges down to the depths of sandy washes, all under the shadowy gaze of North Ajo Peak. Follow the trail marked 8113G for an out-and-back to the boundary with Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Marked as 8113 from intersection with Old Faithful (32.34758, -112.90202).

My Precious
1.5 mi.



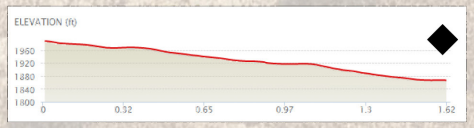
Want to test your mettle against the Ring of Power? The apex of the loop drops into a wash that just peeks into Cabeza Prieta before turning back. Clockwise loop turns up the ridge 100 ft. past boundary sign. Counterclockwise, follow the big wash left when you hit it. Intersects Mordor at (32.35409, -112.9226) — marked 8113H and (32.35518, -112.92446) — unmarked.

Upper Chainbreaker
0.9 mi.



From the Old Faithful intersection, Upper Chainbreaker starts off deceptively wide and smooth around a water tank, but don't worry, the second half of the ride lives up to the name as you traverse numerous rocky wash crossings. It's an out-and-back or a way to connect up with NAFTA. Unmarked at intersection with Old Faithful (32.3399, -112.90892). Marked 8113D at NAFTA (32.34438, -112.92096).

Lower Chainbreaker
1.6 mi.

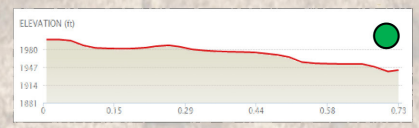


Low speed, low tire pressure and low self esteem are all par for the course on this route. Fortunately, when you do finally emerge from the deep sands, there is a good chance to see some wildlife at a rain catchment. Loop Upper and Lower Chainbreaker together for a healthy (if slightly masochistic) mix of work and play. Marked as 8113C at Old Faithful (32.3399, -112.90892) and NAFTA (32.32821, -112.92233).

NAFTA
3 mi.

A wide open road with lots of scree, NAFTA connects the vistas of Hello Mexico! to the treachery of Mordor. Marked as 8113F (32.35308, -112.92256) from Mordor; (32.32098, -112.91958) from Hello Mexico!

Hello Mexico!
2.2 mi. (one way)



This out-and-back leads up to a low pass yielding a wide open view over public lands all the way into Mexico. Beyond the lookout, the road continues west into Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Entrance (32.34225, -112.87735) marked as 8113B from Scenic Loop.

Valentine Well or Felt That—0.8 or 0.85 mi. (one way)

In life there is often an easy way and a hard way...the path to Valentine Well is no exception. Easy way: Follow the road marked 8114 from Hello Mexico! (32.33123, -112.89215). Hard way: Head straight into the wash past the turnoff for Locomotive Rock (33.33258, -112.88502).

Locomotive Rock
2.5 mi.

Fantastic views and a chance to explore the interesting Locomotive Rock formation make this route worth dedicating some extra time to. Out-and-back (or head back to Scenic Loop via Bates Well Road). Entrance (32.33721, -112.88566) marked as 8113A from Hello Mexico! Intersects several alternate routes back to Scenic Loop and Hello Mexico!, so follow signs for 8113A to stay the course.

Side Step
1.2 mi.

An alternative to Bates Well Road going from Locomotive Rock to the Scenic Loop. Take the unmarked turnoff just before Bates Well/Locomotive intersection. Watch for the sharp turn heading east at the trail apex. If you find yourself floundering in the Abyss, you'll know you missed it. Southern intersection with Bates Well Rd. (32.32766, -112.85986); Northern intersection with Bates Well Rd. (32.33552, -112.85421).

Bates Well Rd. connects the Scenic Loop to Locomotive Rock. Continues south into Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and on to El Camino del Diablo.

Mountain Bike Ajo—Where Everywhere's a Trailhead
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Printing made possible by the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program