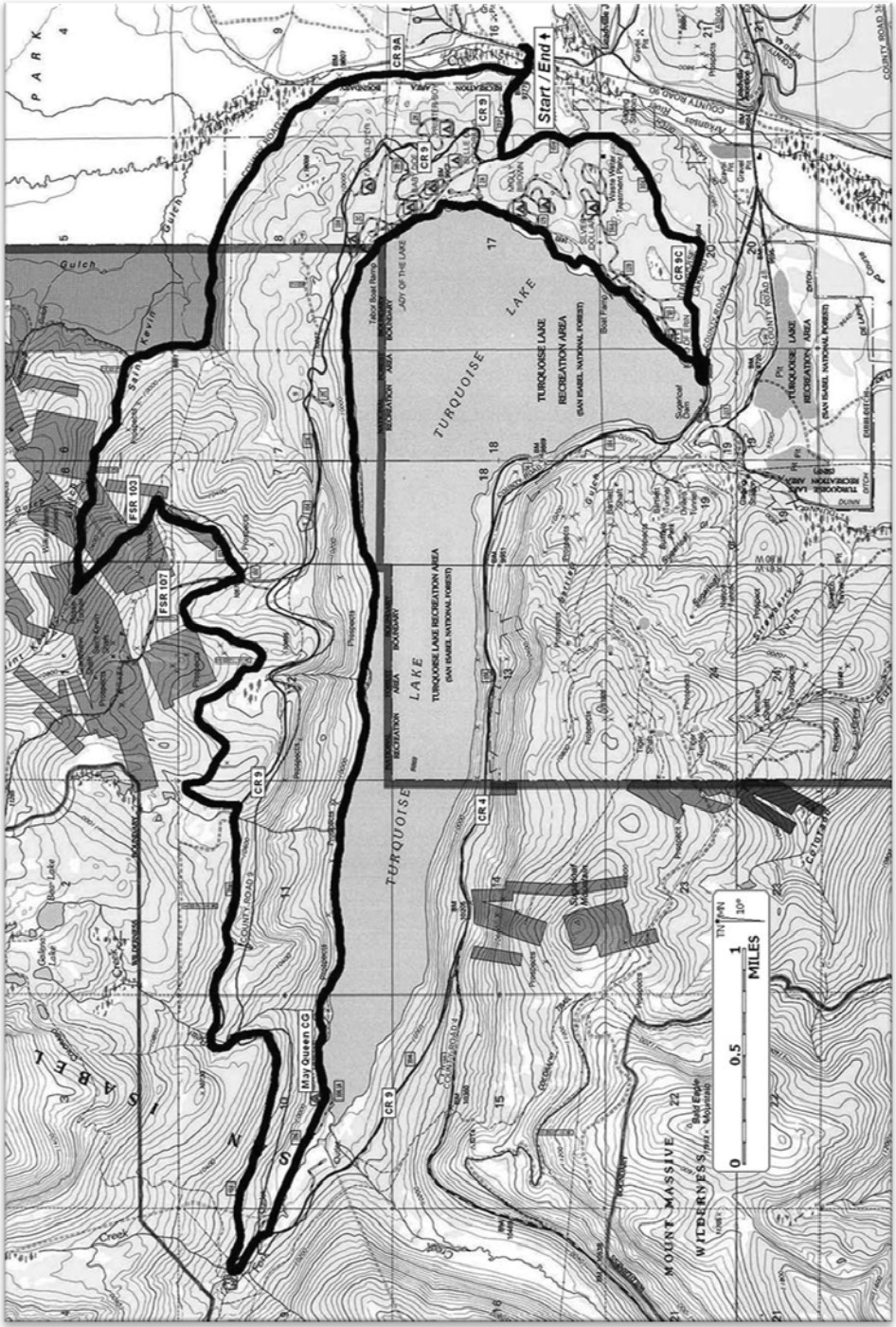


Excerpted with permission from the publisher of *Arkansas Valley Mountain Biking*  
**Ride 3: St. Kevin's-Turquoise Lake Loop**



Map 3: St. Kevin's-Turquoise Lake Loop (© National Geographic)

This route incorporates the climb through St. Kevin's Gulch, the first climb of the Leadville Trail 100 bike race. If you are scouting the course for the race, consider turning around at mile 9.9 and returning to the start from that point. This will give you a feel for both the first climb through St. Kevin's as well as the climb up from Turquoise Lake toward the end of the race.

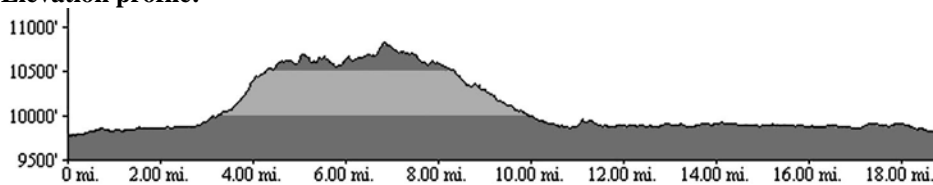
See the route option at the end of the mileage log for starting this ride at the race start from the center of town and returning along the "Boulevard."

**Ride length:** 18.6 miles  
**Ride type:** loop (counter-clockwise)  
**Riding time:** 2-3 hours  
**Surface:** jeep road (7.0 miles);  
paved road (6.1 miles);  
single-track (5.5 miles)  
**Elevations:** start/end 9,790'; max  
10,820'; min 9,770'

**Total climbing:** gain/loss 1,590'  
**Aerobic level:** moderate (climbing)  
**Technical level:** 3 (some rock gardens  
on level terrain are more difficult, but  
the escape is easy)  
**Season:** June through September  
**USGS Quadrangle:** Leadville North,  
Homestake Reservoir

**Trailhead GPS coordinates:** 39° 15.882' N; 106° 20.365' W

#### Elevation profile:



**Getting there:** from the stoplight at 6th St. and Harrison Ave. (US 24) in downtown Leadville, drive 0.8 miles north on US 24 to the traffic light at Mountainview Dr. (at the Safeway). Turn left and drive 2.7 miles west on Mountainview Dr. Turn right at the intersection with CR 9 and continue for roughly 0.5 miles to the large parking area on your right. The ride starts at the southern edge of the parking lot.

**Trailhead/trail amenities:** pit toilet at trailhead, mile 10.4, and at the campgrounds along the lake; water spigot at mile 10.4.

#### The ride:

- 0.0** Ride out of the south entrance of the parking area, past the pit toilets. Cross the road and train tracks and ride west on CR 9.
- 0.2** Turn right onto CR 9A.
- 1.0** Stay on the main road past intersections with some jeep spurs.
- 1.9** Pass through a gate and over a cattle guard. Stay on the road through all private property.
- 2.8** Cross another cattle guard and start the climb.
- 3.0** Bear left at the fork to climb on FSR 103.
- 3.1** Pass an old mine site on the right.
- 3.5** Bear left at the fork and continue climbing.
- 4.1** Take a hard left at the switchback.
- 4.6** Stay left at the fork. Orange tree blazes help guide you through here.
- 4.9** Continue on the main road as you pass several campsites.
- 5.2** Approach a "T" intersection where FSR 103 meets FSR 107. Look 45 degrees right for the gate just beyond FSR 107. Ride around the gate and continue on a double-track.
- 7.0** Pass through a gate as the road widens. Continue to the intersection with paved CR 9 then turn right. Descend on CR 9 until you reach the May Queen Campground in 2.9 miles.
- 9.9** Turn left into the May Queen Campground. If you are scouting the racecourse, turn around and return to the start from this point.
- 10.4** Bear left at the pay station fork. Pit toilets are on the left if you need them. It's also possible to refill water bottles at the spigot.

- 10.5** Pass another water spigot on the left.
- 10.6** Last call for pit toilets. Enter the small loop and proceed to the Turquoise Lake Trail entrance. The single-track starts here. Finally!
- 14.2** Cross the paved boat ramp and continue riding the trail. Stay on the Turquoise Lake Trail as it skirts the lake. You will soon pass the Baby Doe and Father Dyer Campgrounds, and many access points to the lake.
- 15.4** Stay right at the fork then enter a large, paved parking area. Cross the parking area and boat launch then continue skirting the lake on the right fork of the single-track.
- 15.6** Continue past the Molly Brown Campground on your left. Stay on the trail.
- 16.0** Bear right at the fork and continue on the single-track as you approach the dam.
- 16.1** Arrive at the dam and CR 4. Turn left onto CR 4.
- 16.2** Turn left onto CR 9C. Climb.
- 16.5** Continue straight past the entrance to the Silver Dollar Campground and Matchless Boat Launch.
- 17.7** Bear right past the access road to the Molly Brown Campground and the Turquoise Lake Nature Trail.
- 18.1** Turn right at the intersection with CR 9. (CR 9C continues straight to the Baby Doe Campground.)
- 18.5** Pass CR 9A on your left. Cross the tracks and the road. Find your car and get a burger and brew in Leadville.

**Options:** If you are scouting the LT 100 racecourse, consider starting this ride at the traffic light at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Harrison Avenue in downtown Leadville. From this intersection, ride 0.8 miles west on W. 6th St. Turn right at the intersection with CR 4 (Mc Wethy Drive), following the signs to Turquoise Lake. Ride about 0.9 miles west on CR 4 to the intersection with CR 9. Turn right on CR 9 and ride approximately 1.5 miles on CR 9 to the parking area that begins the mileage log above. From this point turn left to cross the railroad tracks then turn right on CR 9A /FSR 103 (this point is mile 0.2 in the mileage log).

To ride the Boulevard back to the center of town: ride east on CR 9 from the intersection with CR 9A (FSR 103) (this is mile 18.5 in the mileage log). Cross the railroad tracks and turn right on CR 9. Ride about 0.4 miles to Leadville Junction then bear right and ride on the unpaved road next to the railroad tracks (CR 9D). Follow this road for just under 1.5 miles, then turn left and ride approximately 2.3 miles to the intersection with paved Mc Wethy Drive. Turn left, ride for about 0.2 miles then turn right to return to town along W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.