

November – 1Century/mo. Death Valley Century – organized by Planet Ultra.

On Saturday, November 21, I participated in Death Valley Century.

We started the ride as the sun was coming up over mountains. Large portions of the valley were still in deep shadow. The first part of the ride is the half century, it was from Furnace Creek to Badwater and back. As you can see from the picture below, the only option was “FINISH” but this is our starting point.



*1. Rolling out.*

Road to Badwater is undulating gently but somehow you will end up with 1000+ feet of climbing. Sometimes the road is just straight as far as you can see, other times it just curves gently.



*2 Amazing how vast America is and how much open space we have over here.*



A few times crow join us, he was patrolling the road looking for a meal but car driving tourists were not very accommodating, at least not that day.

Death Valley can be eerie quiet. As I was riding, I realized there is no sound, no birds chirping, no sound of vegetation rustling. Only the sound I'm making. There was very little wind. It is a strange feeling there is always the ambient noise of civilization around us.

Back at the starting point. This is where we encountered some head wind. The second part is the challenging one. There is 6.5 miles 2000 feet climb up the Daylight Pass (Mud Canyon) to Hells Gate. The rewards are stunning vistas and descent spectacular descent down Beatty Road. The rest stop just before climb had soda, I guzzled it down in anticipation of the climb. There was another rest stop at the top. Once we were done descending the road back to Furnace Creek was uneventful the excitement of challenging climb and speedy descent used up my adrenaline so I just kept paceline to the finish line.

Here is the link to Strava: <https://www.strava.com/activities/2888261646>



*3 Cyclist resting it is a long climb.*



*4 Camera lies this is still part of the climb. The cyclist in front of me is riding in a “wrong” gear, her cable broke. She crossed the finish line before me.*



*5 View from the top.*



*6 Loooong descent.*



*7. Victory.*

December – 1Century/mo  
Solo Circumnavigation of Salton Sea (Postponed due to knee pain)  
Possible attempt January 20, 2020.