

**Bif Naked** The singer's dream BMX

**Technique** Don't ride gravel like a roadie

# CANADIAN **Cycling** MAGAZINE

ARE THE  
PROS  
CHANGING  
**GRAVEL  
EVENTS**  
for the Rest of Us?

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Saved My Life  
**Six Inspiring Tales**

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**Big  
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Adventure

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Does Your  
Gravel Bike Need a  
Dropper Post?

8 Top Wheels for  
Rough Surfaces  
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THE CANADIAN CYCLING MAGAZINE

# BIG GUIDE

TO

# Gravel Events

Racing on rough routes is tough. Start planning for your bucket-list rides. We have all you need to know for **15 top races in North America**

by **Molly Hurford**

**N**ow's the time to put a destination gravel race on your to-do list for 2023. Travel is starting to look more and more like what we were used to in 2019 (and let's hope that trend continues). If you've spent the past two and a half years scrolling Instagram and Strava, longingly staring at far-flung gravel races, you should probably start planning for the upcoming year.

But how do you pick the race you want to target? There are so damn many gravel races that it can start to feel overwhelming. If you're not careful, you can easily overcommit on your race calendar. So, narrow it down: choose from the top events below or choose your dream destination and find a local race. Honestly, while big races are great, there's something about a small local gravel event that can be so magical, especially if you're from out of town. If you've always wanted to go to Dallas, Texas, for example, consider planning a trip around GravelLocos, a race that's still small enough for easy registration, but big enough that the pro field is starting to be seriously stacked.

**This article features races that are on the *Canadian Cycling Magazine* bucket lists**—and on yours, too, according to audience surveys. Combined with insights from race directors, photographers and racers who've ridden these courses, you'll have all the pre-race intel you'll need to have a great ride.



Photo: Chris Stenberg



## TheBluMoose Gravel

**Why:** Taking gravel seriously? Speed meets scenery with TheBluMoose's focus on a high level of gravel cycling within a region of outstanding natural beauty. It's a challenging, breathtaking traverse through the iconic mountain ranges of the Purcell Mountains and the Rocky Mountains.

**WHERE:** GOLDEN, B.C.

**WHEN:** MID-JUNE

**DISTANCES:** 300 km, 200 km, 100 km

**Best Tech Tip:** Download the route file(s) from the race website to both your phone (Trailforks App) and bike computer (.gpx file). Remember, you are in British Columbia, the province with more than 620,000 km of gravel roads.

**Key Feature:** The descent down the meandering gravel road to the last aid station perfectly perched on the banks of the Columbia River. At the aid station, there's food, a bike mechanic, a campfire, music and panoramic view of the Columbia Valley. You can refuel and relax ahead of the final ascent through Kingsclere back to Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, where the after-party awaits.

**Local Beta:** For bike repair, head to Selkirk Ski and Bike, located in the plaza at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort right next to the start/finish line. For coffee, hit up Double Black Cafe in the plaza. Craving a margarita? Reposados Tacos in Golden. It gets busy but is well worth the wait. (They do not take reservations.) For beer, try the Session Ale at Whitetooth Brewing Co. You can even order food from local restaurants to be delivered to the brewery.

[theblumoose.com](http://theblumoose.com)

ABOVE  
TheBluMoose