



TT1 Tour of Georgia Gran

Apr 28, 2019 | Helen, GA

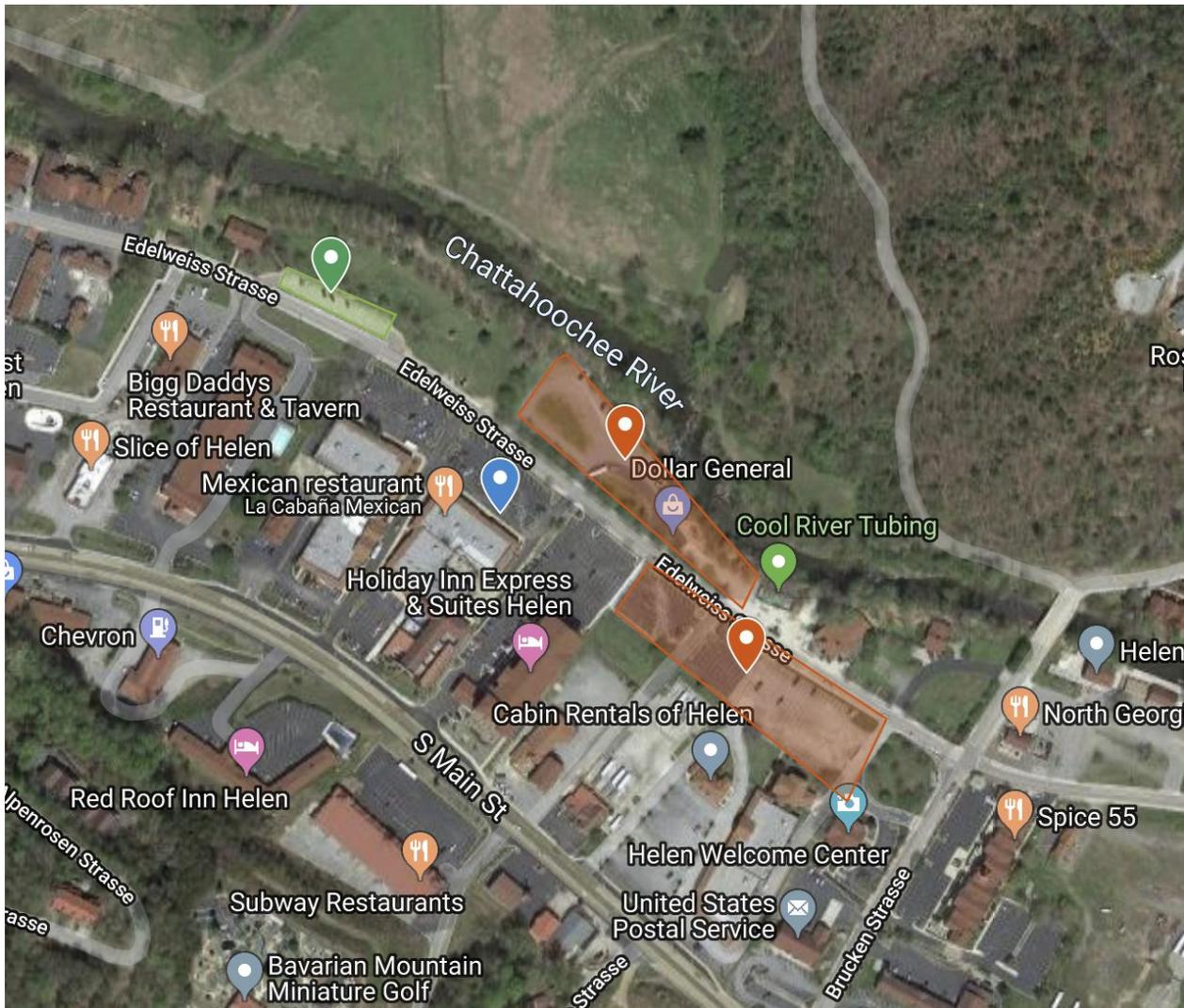
EVENT GUIDE



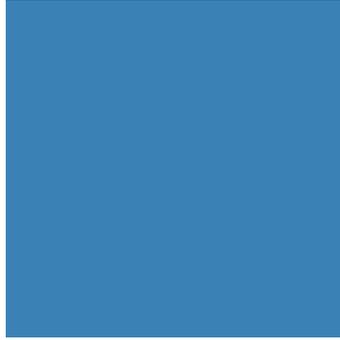
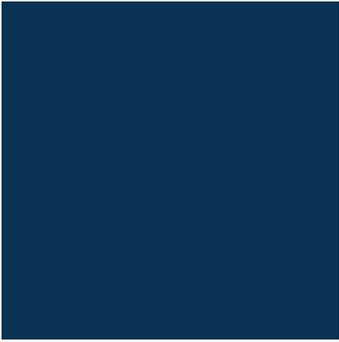
A GFNS event is a supported ride with a competitive element to it. You might want to win the overall, win your age group, beat your buddies, or just beat up on yourself! The time segment format allows you to do that, while also enjoying your ride with old friends and making new ones.

PARKING

Parking for Sunday will be in the lot [here](#).



RULES



EVENT ITINERARY

Saturday, Apr 27, 2019

- **Event Check-in and On-site Registration** - 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM; at La Cabaña Mexican Restaurant [707 Edelweiss Strasse, Helen, GA 30545](https://www.google.com/maps/place/707+Edelweiss+Strasse,+Helen,+GA+30545)

Sunday, Apr 28, 2019

Event Check-in and On-site Registration

- **6:00 AM to 7:15 AM** - Event Check-in and On-site Registration; 807 Edelweiss Strasse Helen, GA 30545
- **7:00 AM** – HC Race Briefing
- **7:15 AM** – HC (103mile) wave starts
- **7:45 AM** - Riders meeting (under start arch)
- **8:00 AM** - Riders Start
- **Post Ride Food:** When you finish, you receive a complimentary post ride meal with your entry
- **1:00 PM** - Piccolo Route awards
- **3:00 PM** - Medio Route awards
- **4:00 PM** – HC and Gran Route awards and raffle – **Directly following** the HC Route awards we will be holding a raffle with lots of great stuff from our sponsors. **Yes, it's worth sticking around for!**

RIDE NOTES



- Route will be marked on pavement with **Orange** chalk/paint, and with **Yellow** plastic signs with **Red** arrows on them.
- Split points for various distances will be indicated on pavement and on signage. Read all event signs and follow the distance indicated to stay on your route distance.
- All Routes will be marked with the same color chalk/paint/signage.
- Cut-off points are established. All riders arriving late to cut-off points will be rerouted to a shorter distance. Cut-off pace is calculated at a 10-mph progression speed, meaning the time you are stopped at rest stops and various points is included in your average speed.
- SAG support vehicles will be available throughout the day. Please be aware of Rest Stop hours and understand that if you arrive outside these hours, support may not be available.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Nestled in the Bavarian Alpine village of Helen, GA the ride starts in the heart of the North Georgia Mountains. After rolling out of Helen the route hits the first timed segment at mile 2.5, where any riders with intentions of an overall podium finish will need to put their cards on the table from the start. The first time section immediately enters the mountainous area made famous by the 2003-2008 Tour de Georgia. In 2008, Unicoi Gap was the second to last climb on the approach to the race-deciding ascent up Brasstown Bald where Kanstantin Suitsou got the jump on Trent Lowe and Levi Leipheimer to win the event. As riders tackle this timed section they cover over 7 miles and climb 1500ft to the top of Unicoi Gap. The climb is very gradual for several miles, before turning into a real alpine ascent. Enjoy the vistas of the Chattahoochee National Forest on the descent before turning left and climbing up and over Jack's Gap. A left turn on Richard Russell Scenic Hwy will put riders face to face with the 2nd timed section, Hogpen gap. Within 6.5 miles and another 1500ft, riders will reach the highest point on the course at 3469ft with ramps of 12%. The views at the top of the surrounding peaks are breathtaking. Check your speed and be careful on the descent as there are many sharp turns. Enjoy the ride through the forest knowing that the hardest riding is behind you. After tackling the two biggest climbs of the day riders will head east from Helen through Unicoi State Park. The route then hits the 3rd timed section at mile 46, comprised of rolling terrain for a 4-mile section. Riders then get to enjoy a non-timed section of the route for the next 17 miles as the route explore the area round Lake Burton and Seed Lake. Be sure to save a bit of energy for the final time section, it only lasts just over 2 miles but at over 80 miles into the day you'll need to find some go power. The route finishes back into the landmark town of Helen where, in 1969, local business owners collaborated to create what is now called "Bavaria in the Appalachians." Just outside of Helen on the route is the Nacoochee Indian Mound, the center of the ancient Cherokee town of Gauxule, visited by Desoto in his search for gold. Be sure to plan to stick around for beers, food and music served up at the finish line.

NAVIGATION

The primary means of navigation are the arrows that we place on your ground in spray chalk.

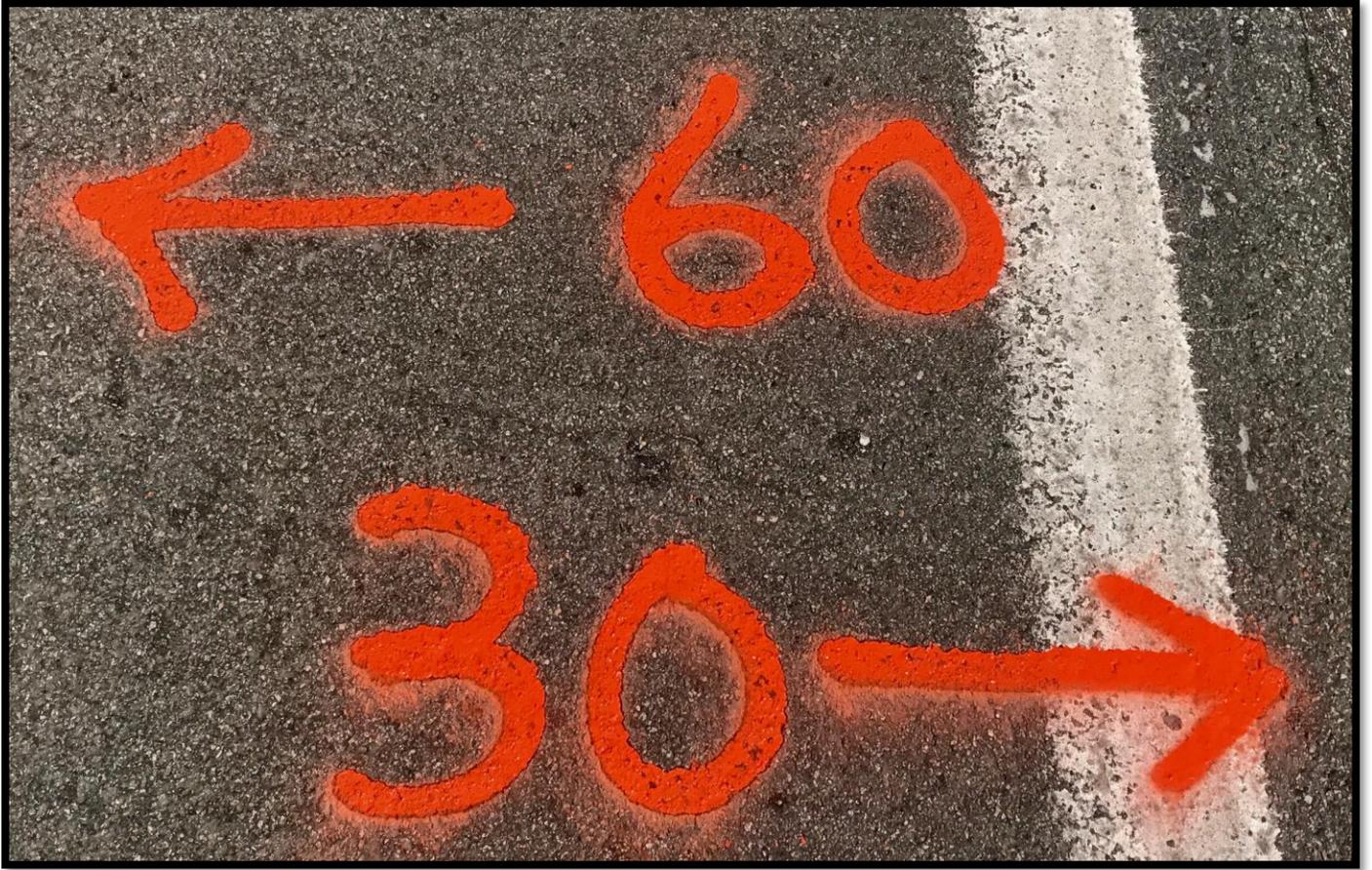
*we use chalk because it washes away quickly.

Hazards, tricky turns, and dangerous intersections will be marked.

We will also place signs at all the turns and some tricky intersections.

The courses overlap and have deviation points. These will be well marked.





While we take pride in our course marking; we also provide online maps that can be loaded into your GPS device, you can download the RideWithGPS app, or easily print a detailed cue sheet.

<https://www.granfondonationalsseries.com/georgia-maps>

AID STATIONS

The aid stations are fully stocked and we encourage you to use them to eat, drink, and socialize.

Be sure to check out our [online maps](#) in order to familiarize yourself with the aid stations, timed sections, and routes.

While GFNS events are supported rides, we recommend you bring tire changing equipment. We will vector SAG to you as quickly as possible, but why wait?!



TIMED SECTION #1

Unicoi Gap South

3.4 mi at 5.7%



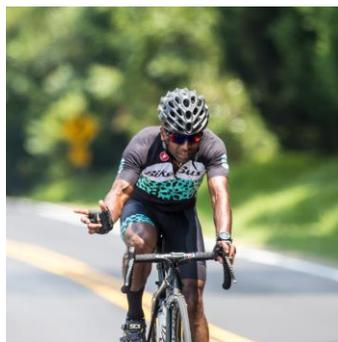
Name: Unicoi Gap South

Distance: 7.2 miles

Climbing: 1489 feet

Description: While this section is a solid climb, there are no steep ramps. Just find a groove and pedal.

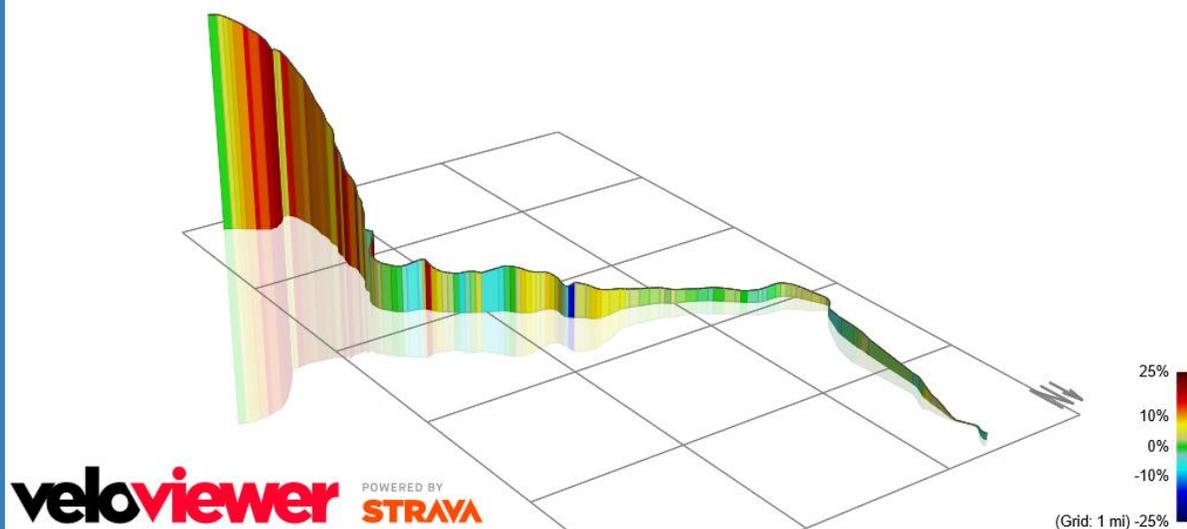
[STRAVA LINK](#)



TIMED SECTION #2

Hogpen North Side Ascent

6.9 mi at 4.1%



Name: Hogpen

Distance: 6.9 miles

Climbing: 1552 feet

Description: This section starts flat but then goes UP. There are some double digit ramps that will hurt, but the view is worth the pain. Enjoy the long descent and stay safe!

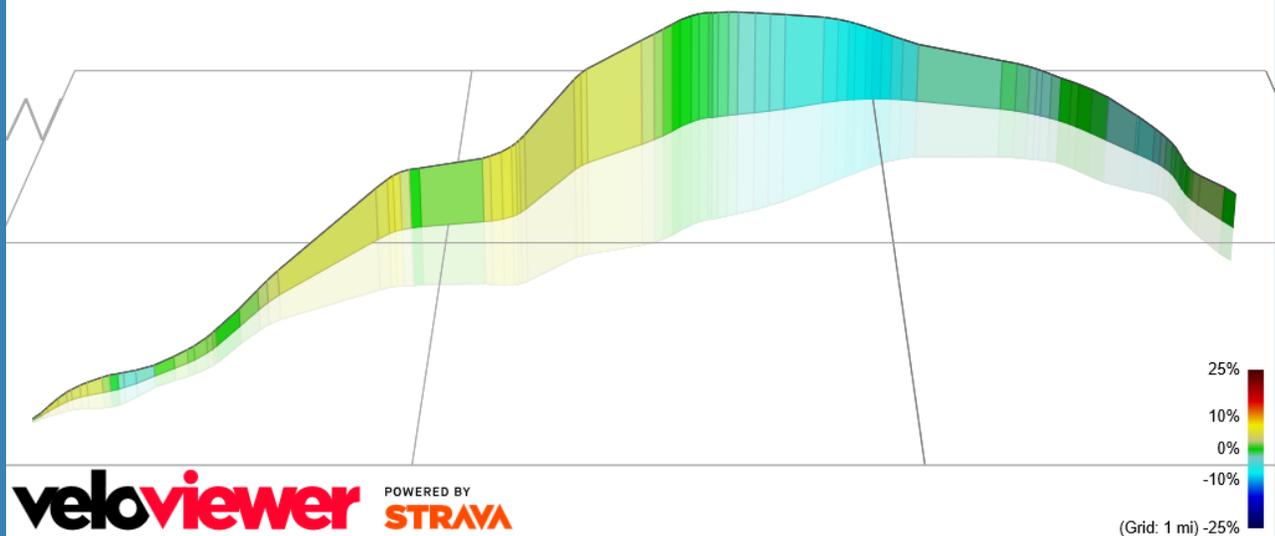
[STRAVA LINK](#)



TIMED SECTION #3

Gran Fondo Georgia Section#3 - Snake Branch

3.7 mi at 0.4%



Name: Snake Branch

Distance: 3.7 miles

Climbing: 293 feet

Description: This section requires a big engine and the ability to push yourself up the ramp in the middle.

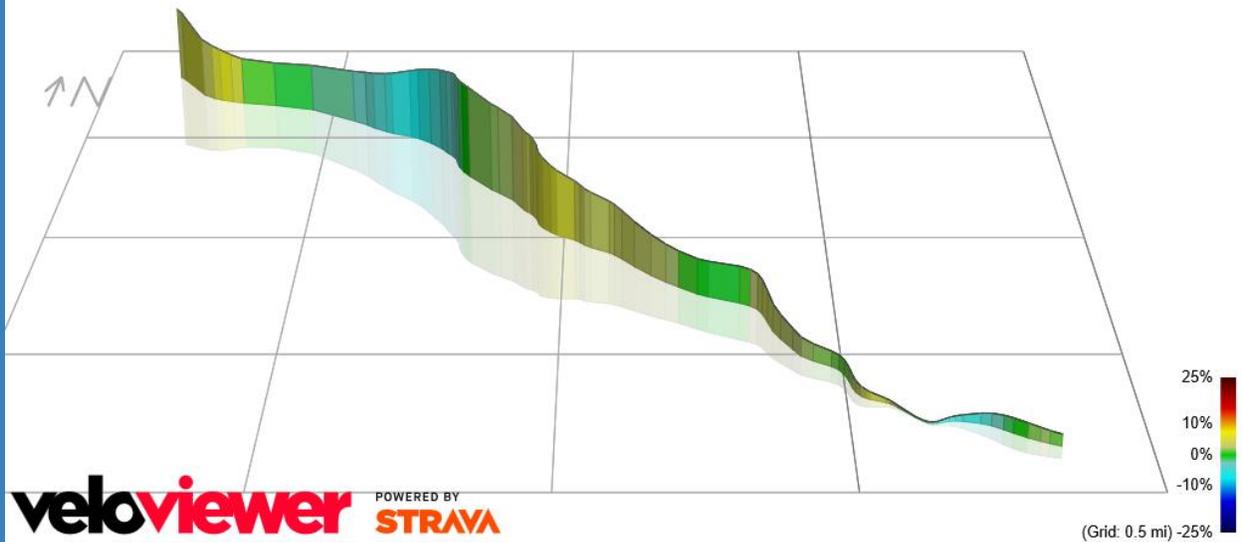
[STRAVA LINK](#)



TIMED SECTION #4

Gran Fondo Georgia Section #4 - Oakey Mountain

2.5 mi at 1.1%



Name: Oakey Mountain Road

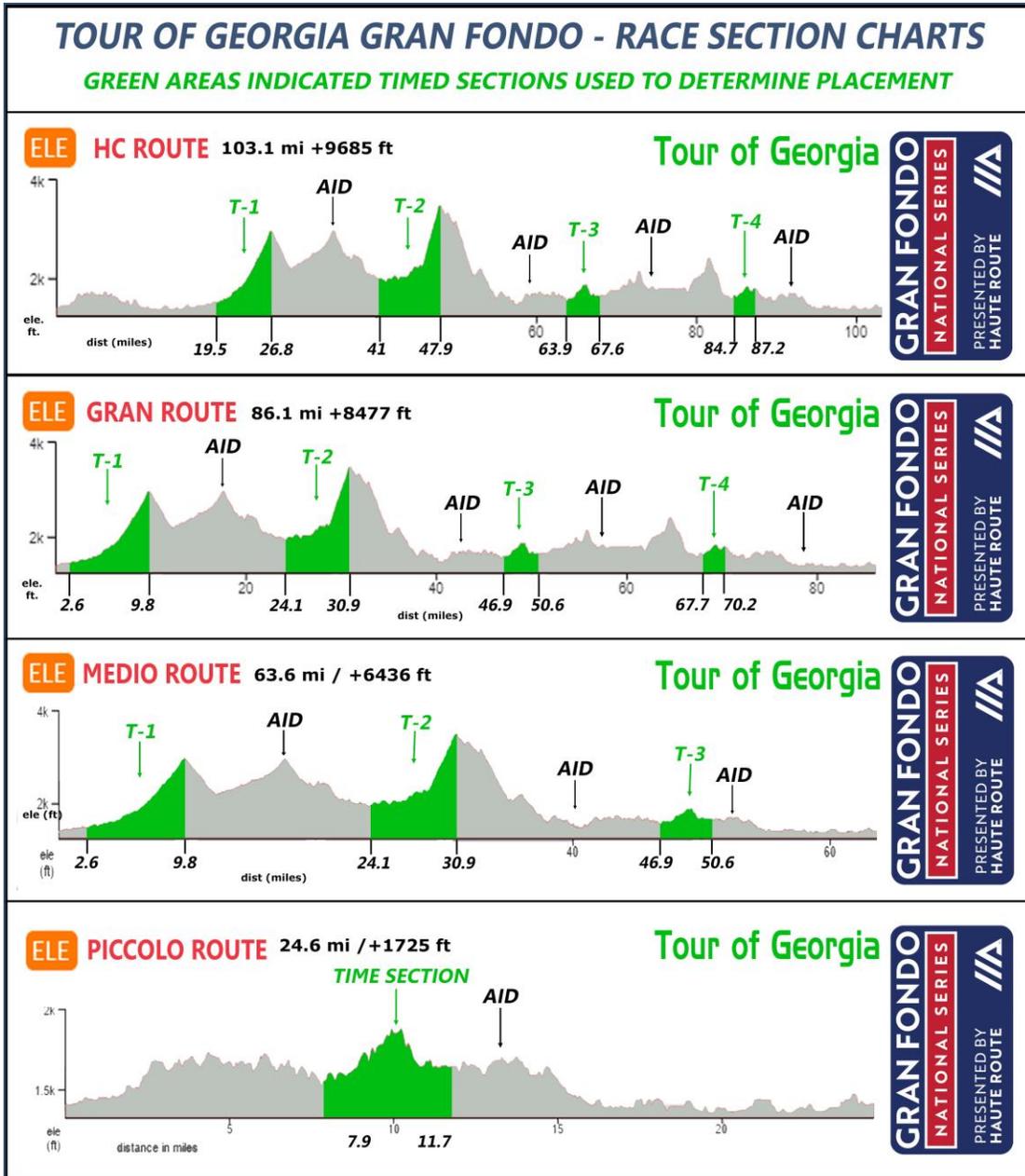
Distance: 2.5 miles

Climbing: 205 feet

Description: While this is not a brutal section, the final push to the finish on tired legs will HURT.

[STRAVA LINK](#)

ELEVATION CHARTS



HC ROUTE



RIDEWITHGPS MAP

Tour of Georgia Gran Fondo- HC Route

105.5 mi at 0.0%



veloviewer POWERED BY STRAVA

(Grid: 1 mi) -25%

GRAN ROUTE



RIDEWITHGPS MAP

Tour of Georgia Gran Fondo - Gran Route

86.0 mi at 0%



veloviewer POWERED BY STRAVA

(Grid: 1 mi) -25%

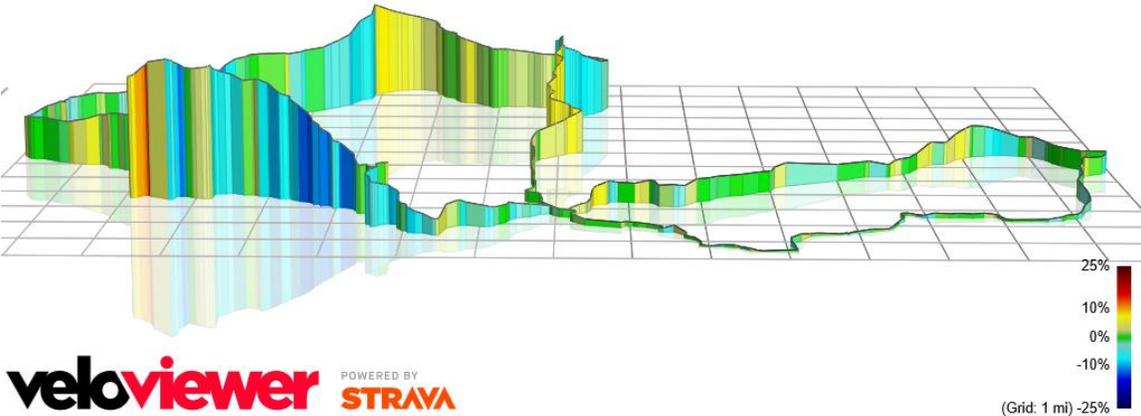
MEDIO ROUTE



RIDEWITHGPS MAP

Tour of Georgia Gran Fondo - Medio Route

63.5 mi at 0%



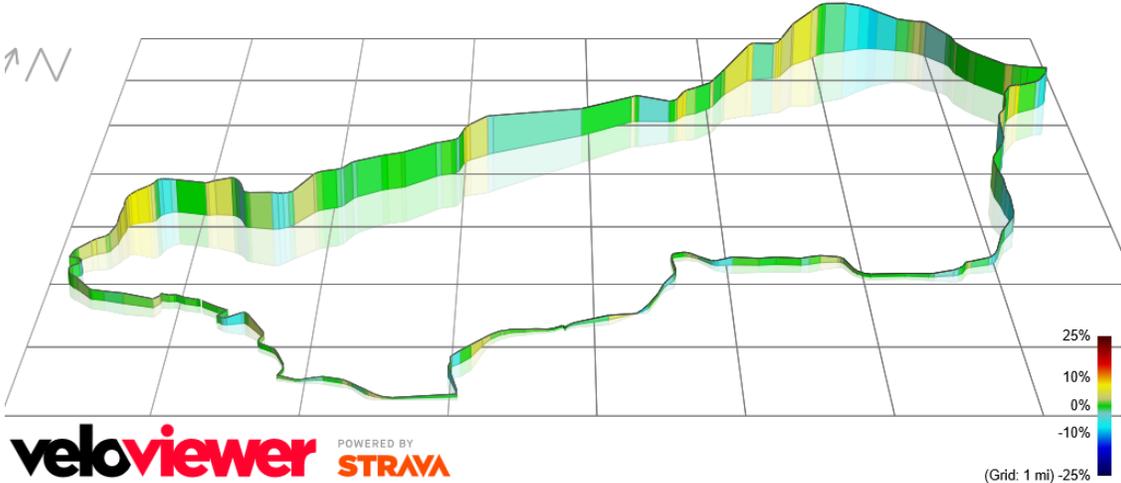
PICCOLO ROUTE



RIDEWITHGPS MAP

Tour of Georgia Gran Fondo - Piccolo Route

24.6 mi at 0%





SERIES SPONSORS

Thanks to all of our great sponsors: [Garda Bike Hotel](#), [Swiftwick](#), [Haute Route](#), [Hammer Nutrition](#), [Shimano](#), [Industry Nine](#), [Jittery Joe's Coffee](#), [BikeFlights](#), [HUB Labels](#), [CrotchGuard](#), [Cane Creek](#), [Shott Performance Coaching](#), [DNA Cycling](#), [Wahoo](#), [Structural Elements](#), and [Bonkbreaker](#).

