

2026 GLOBAL GRAVEL EVENTS

The Complete Rides, Gran Fondos & Participation Calendar

The Gravel Riders | thegravelriders.com

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide covers **participation events** — gran fondos, mass-start rides, and open-entry gravel races where the goal is finishing, experiencing, and suffering on world-class terrain. For the pro racing series (UCI World Series, Life Time Grand Prix, Gravel Earth Series), see the companion guide.

TYPE	WHAT IT MEANS
Gran Fondo	Timed or non-competitive long ride. Multiple distances. Aid stations. Finisher experience.
Mass Participation Race	Bib, start gun, someone wins — but 90% are there to finish, not podium.
UCI Qualifier	Top 25% of age-group finishers earn entry to UCI Gravel World Championships.
Bucket List Event	Plan a trip around this. Usually sells out or requires lottery.

NORTH AMERICA

Bucket List Tier

Unbound Gravel

Late May/Early June | Emporia, Kansas | 25mi / 50mi / 100mi / 200mi / XL 350mi

20th anniversary edition in 2026. The world's marquee gravel event. The 200-mile race on Flint Hills dirt is the benchmark. Sharp flint, rolling exposed terrain, 12+ hours of self-sufficiency. LOTTERY ONLY — opens November 1, closes November 15.

SBT GRVL

August | Steamboat Springs, Colorado | Black 142mi / Blue 100mi / Red 60mi / Green 37mi

Back to normal in 2026 after two years of course disruption. The Black course targets serious racers with 9,000ft of climbing. Prize purse over \$28,000. Best gravel town in America as backdrop.

Gravel Worlds

August | Lincoln, Nebraska | 50k / 75mi / 150mi / 300mi Long Voyage

17th edition. The Pirate Cycling League. Flagship 150-mile course covers 10,000ft through Nebraska farmland. Equal parts race and community celebration.

Rebecca's Private Idaho

September | Sun Valley, Idaho

Created by pro cyclist Rebecca Rusch. High-altitude Idaho mountains, multiple distances, strong women's culture and inclusive community feel.

Mid South

March | Stillwater, Oklahoma | 50mi / 100mi

The spiritual season opener. Oklahoma red clay defines the race — dry means fast and hard-packed; wet means survival mode. 13th edition in 2026.

Valley of Tears

March | Turkey, Texas

\$45,000 total cash payout. Gravel criterium plus a 93-mile race. One of the highest per-rider payouts at any independent gravel event.

Circuit & Series Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	FORMAT / DISTANCE	NOTE
BWR Arizona	February	Cave Creek, AZ	104mi / 6,600ft	Quad-Tripel Crown race 1
BWR California	April	San Diego, CA	TBC	Quad-Tripel Crown race 2
BWR Utah	May	Cedar City, UT	84mi / 9,843ft	Quad-Tripel Crown race 3
BWR Montana	June	Montana	TBC	Quad-Tripel Crown race 4
Sea Otter Classic Gravel	April	Monterey, CA	TBC	Life Time GP event; open field
Appalachian Journey	April	Floyd, Virginia	~100mi+	2-person teams only; Blue Ridge Mtns
Gravel Locos	Spring	Hico, Texas	157mi / 7,884ft	High difficulty, strong field
Almanzo 100	Spring	Spring Valley, MN	100mi / 6,500ft	Classic Midwest gravel
Le Grand du Nord	Summer	Grand Marais, MN	110mi / 5,000ft	Lake Superior North Shore
Oregon Trail Gravel	July 8-12	Bend, Oregon	350mi / 5 stages	Stage race; camp each night
Crystal Bear	Summer	Laona WI - Crystal Falls, WI	190mi / 8,000ft	Point-to-point ultra
RADL GRVL	January	Adelaide, Australia	112km	Tour Down Under week tie-in

EUROPE

Bucket List Tier

The Traka 360

May | Girona, Spain | 100km / 200km / 360km

Europe's marquee gravel event. Catalan terrain based in Girona — the cycling capital of Europe. The 360km route is a genuine pro target and a full day/night effort for most. Livestreamed. SELLS OUT — register early.

Dirty Reiver

April 24-26 | Kielder Forest, England/Scotland border | 65km / 130km / 200km

10th anniversary edition in 2026. UK's biggest gravel event. Named after medieval Border Reivers. Nearly 100% off-road. Strong cultural identity. ALREADY SOLD OUT for 2026 — get on the 2027 list.

The Rift

July | Iceland | 206km

206km across the volcanic continental rift. Brutal wind, cold, and the most visually spectacular terrain in gravel cycling. Standalone event (no longer part of a series). Bucket list defined.

Atlas Mountain Race

Winter/Spring | Morocco

Ultra-distance self-supported bikepacking race through the Atlas Mountains. Not a gran fondo — this is a serious expedition. One of the most adventurous events on the global calendar.

European Circuit Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	DISTANCE	STANDOUT FEATURE
Santa Vall	February	Spain	2-day stage event	GES season opener; livestreamed
Gravel Desert	April 11	Huesca, Spain	TBC	UCI qualifier; livestreamed
The Traka 200	May 1-2	Girona, Spain	200km	GES race; Catalan gravel
The Gralloch	Spring	Scottish Borders	TBC	3rd edition; comparable to Dirty Reiver
Wörthersee Gravel Race	April 12	Velden, Austria	TBC	UCI qualifier; Carinthian lake district
Turnhout Gravel	Spring	Belgium	TBC	UCI qualifier during Classics season
Dalby Grit	June 19-21	Dalby Forest, UK	110km	England's only race of this distance
Smugglers Path	May 30	Hamont-Achel, Belgium	TBC	Historic smuggling routes; festival feel
Giro Sardegna Gravel	Spring	Siniscola, Sardinia	81mi / 8,530ft	Mediterranean island gravel
Tre Cime di Lavaredo	Summer	Dolomites, Italy	133km	UCI qualifier; Dolomites scenery
Gravel Rallye Rhine Valley	May	Kaiserstuhl, Germany	TBC	Black Forest/Vosges border terrain
Grinduro Germany	Summer	Hellenthal, Eifel	62mi / 6,562ft	Timed segments within a ride
Hansens Cykelløb	Summer	Jægerspris, Denmark	152km	Fjords, forests, oldest Danish event
Gravel Blinduro	Sept 5-6	Czech Canada (Bohemia)	TBC	All welcome; Czech backcountry
Falling Leaves Lahti	Autumn	Lahti, Finland	TBC	UCI qualifier; Nordic Gravel Series
Gravel Grit'n Grind	Summer	Sweden	TBC	UCI qualifier; Nordic Gravel Series
The River by The Traka	Autumn	Bouillon, Belgium	160km	GES series finale; mandatory for GES
Monaco-Peille	April 19	Monaco	TBC	UCI World Series qualifier

OCEANIA, AFRICA & BEYOND

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	FORMAT	HIGHLIGHT
RADL GRVL	January	Adelaide, Australia	112km	Tour Down Under week; U.S.-style gravel
UCI Gravel World Champs	Oct 10-11	Nannup, W. Australia	Elite + age groups	First worlds outside Europe
Gravel and Tar Classic	Spring	Manawatū, New Zealand	99mi / 6,562ft	Top NZ gravel event
Cape Epic	March	South Africa	700km / 8 days / 2-rider teams	Gravel/MTB crossover classic
Gravel Burn	October	South Africa	800km / 7 days	2nd edition; ultra stage race

The Ceder	January	South Africa	TBC	UCI World Series season opener
FNLD GRVL	Summer	Finland	TBC	Nordic standalone prize event

REGISTRATION QUICK REFERENCE

EVENT	ENTRY TYPE	KEY DATE / NOTE
Unbound Gravel 200	Lottery	Lottery opens Nov 1, closes Nov 15
Dirty Reiver 2026	SOLD OUT	Get on 2027 waitlist now
The Traka 360	First-come / sells out	Register months ahead
SBT GRVL Black	Open registration	Fills up — check SBT GRVL site
Dalby Grit	Open registration	Strong demand — early entry advised
Wörthersee Gravel Race	UCI qualifier open entry	Check UCI World Series site
Cape Epic	Team registration (2 riders)	Separate MTB-focused entry process
UCI Gravel World Champs	Qualify via UCI World Series	Top 25% at any UCI Series qualifier

For pro gravel racing series (UCI World Series standings, Life Time Grand Prix, Gravel Earth Series), see the companion guide: **2026 Pro Gravel Racing Season Guide** at thegravelriders.com

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