



Gravel Grind West – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Gravel Grind West?

It's an off-road cycling adventure through the hidden roads, forest tracks, boreens and gravel trails of South Mayo. It's about exploring, not just racing.

2. When is it?

Sunday, 23rd August 2026.

3. Where does it start and finish?

The Cornmarket, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

4. What route options are available?

- 65km Adventure
- 100km Odyssey

5. Is it a race?

No. While you're free to ride at your own pace, the emphasis is on enjoying the route, scenery and experience rather than racing the clock.

6. What bike should I ride?

A gravel bike is ideal, but a mountain bike, hybrid or cyclocross bike is also suitable.

7. What do I get for my entry fee?

A fully researched and GPS-mapped route, with exclusive access through private land, Coillte forests and Mayo County Council trails and roadways

- ✓ GPX files before the event
- ✓ Event HQ in Ballinrobe
- ✓ Well-stocked food and hydration stops
- ✓ Medical cover throughout the event
- ✓ Mechanical support (where possible)
- ✓ Official Gravel Grind West event tech top
- ✓ Sponsor goodies

- ✓ Event photography
- ✓ Finisher's medal
- ✓ A hot meal at the finish
- ✓ An opportunity to ride with your buddies on normally closed tracks
- ✓ The chance to discover some of Mayo's finest hidden gravel roads, boreens and breathtaking scenery.

8. Is the route signposted?

Yes and No. Riders follow the route using a GPS device or phone with the supplied GPX file. but we will have a number of arrows and sign posts around the route in case you get lost, we do recommend ride with a buddy who has a GPS device.

9. Do I need GPS experience?

Basic GPS navigation is recommended. The GPX file will be emailed before the event. (or ride with a buddy)

10. Are there feed stations?

Yes. Well-stocked food and water stops are provided along the routes.

11. Can I ride an e-bike?

Yes, provided it's a pedal-assist e-bike and you ride responsibly.

12. Is there a time limit?

Yes, but it's generous and designed to allow riders plenty of time to enjoy the day.

13. Is it suitable for beginners?

The 65km route is achievable for anyone with a reasonable level of cycling fitness and some experience riding on gravel.

14. What should I carry?

- Helmet
- Spare tube/plugs
- GPS device
- Pump or CO₂
- Multi-tool
- Rear red light
- Mobile phone
- Food and drink
- Waterproof jacket

15. Will there be mechanical support?

Limited mechanical assistance will be available at the food stops, but riders should be self-sufficient for basic repairs.

16. Can I enter on the day?

Entries close before the event, so it's best to enter online.

17. Are there toilets and parking?

Yes. Parking, toilets and event facilities are available at the start/finish and food stops area.

18. What makes Gravel Grind West different?

The routes take you onto forgotten roads, old greenways, gravel tracks and spectacular viewpoints that most people never discover by car. It's an adventure that lets you experience Mayo in a completely different way.

19. Will I be timed?

No. Finish when you finish. The memories are far more important than the minutes.

20. How do I enter?

Visit www.raceface.ie and secure your place before entries close.

Thanks to sponsors and supports

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