

# Titus Canyon

**Distance:** 26.2 mi

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** 2325' ascent; 5570' descent

**Route Elevations:** start 3410' White Pass 5090' Red Pass 5290' finish 165'

**Location:** Grapevine Mtns, Death Valley NP

**Time Of Year:** September through April (year-round if you're heat-training for Badwater!); slight possibility of snow on White & Red Passes after winter storms and could definitely be toasty down low in September and April

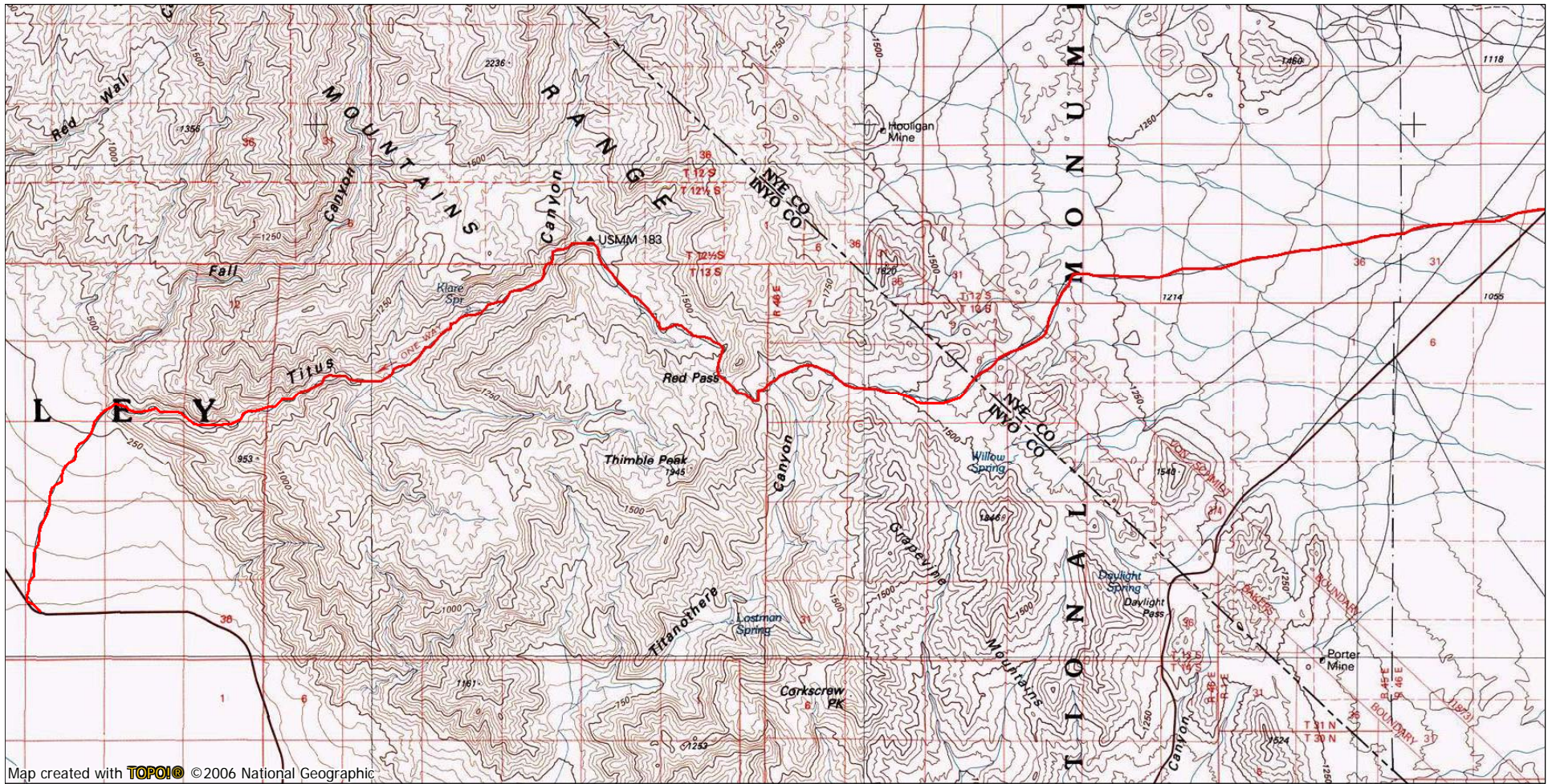
**Directions from Bishop:** 395 south to Lone Pine, CA136 (turns into CA190) east to a left on North Hwy (this is the road heading up northern half of DV to Scotty's Castle, the jcn is just past the sand dunes), turn right (east) on Daylight Pass Rd (turns into NV-374 when you cross state line), look for Titus Canyon sign (dirt road is on the left, you will be out in a broad valley on the east side of the Grapevines)

**Route Description:** This is a net-downhill point-to-point run starting in the northern end of the Amargosa Desert and ending in Death Valley via an east to west traverse of the Grapevine Mtns and descent through Titus Cyn. It is virtually impossible to get off course as you stay on the same road the entire run and there are zero road junctions (at least I certainly don't recall other roads/trails of any consequence). From the starting point off NV-374 the road climbs gradually but steadily up the eastern alluvial fan of the Grapevine Mtns for several miles before topping out at White Pass. After a short but significant descent the road climbs steeply to Red Pass, the high point of the route. From here it is essentially all downhill to the finish. A steep, switch-backing descent off Red Pass gradually mellows out as you pass through the remains of the ghost town of Leadfield (the reason this road was built in the first place). Shortly after passing through Leadfield you enter the head of Titus Canyon. After a few curves through fairly narrow rock walls the terrain opens up into more of a broad valley for several miles. Eventually the canyon narrows into the twisting, turning narrow rock walls Titus is famous for before finally spitting you out onto the eastern alluvial fan of Death Valley. From here it is a bit over 2 miles down to North Hwy (the paved road heading up DV).

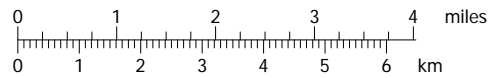
## **Odds & Ends:**

- 1) Obviously, being a point-to-point route, a car-drop, or better yet, a crew driving a support vehicle (the entire route is driveable) is a necessity. Additionally, you can tweak the actual distance run by starting further up the alluvial fan in the Amargosa and/or finishing at the parking area at the mouth of Titus.
- 2) You must carry all water needed (unless you have that aforementioned crew vehicle). Klare Spring is located about 1/3 of the way into Titus Canyon (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way into the run) and may or may not have enough flow to access. I wouldn't bank on it. If it does, it will require a filter or an iron stomach and a drink of faith.
- 3) Mesquite Springs Cpgd at the north end of DV is a great base camp

**Maps:** Tom Harrison's DV NP (shows mileages for major dirt roads/trails)



Map created with **TOPO!** © 2006 National Geographic



TN ↑ MN  
14°  
03/25/08