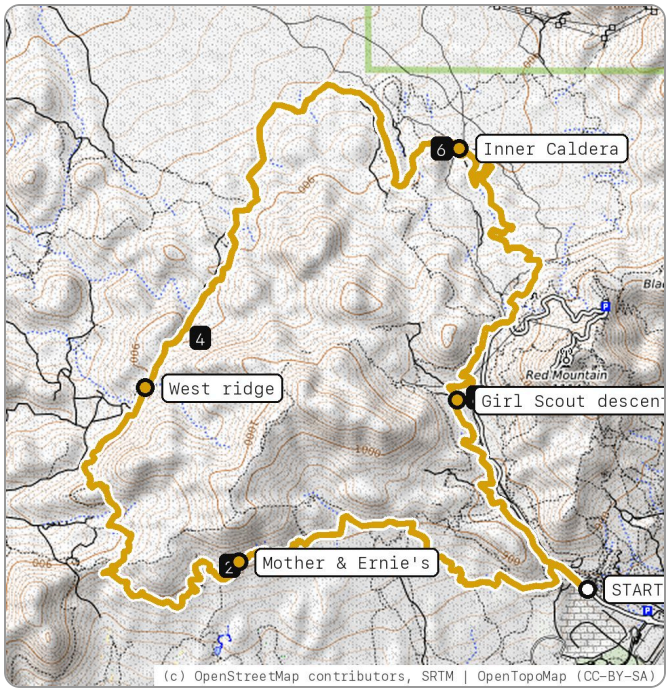
RIDE 36 · BOULDER CITY / BOOTLEG CANYON · ADVANCED ·

Tough Love

Six rough miles of Mother and Ernie's, a lap of Inner Caldera, and the Girl Scout bomb back to the car.

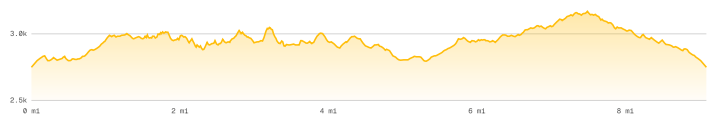
Good to ride today. High 64°F, dry trail.

⚠ **Not yet ridden by us.** This line was routed from OpenStreetMap trail data and hasn't been ridden end to end yet. Trail access and direction can change: check posted signs and the land manager before you ride.



9.9	1,654	3,169
MILES	FT CLIMB	FT HIGH POINT
1:35	**Low**	
EST. MOVING	CHUNK (0%)	

singletrack 96% · dirt road 4% · pavement 0%



Get the GPS file

Scan with a friend's phone, or tap below. Then open it in your ride app.

https://bsqrd-designs.com/dirt/tough-love/

GETTING THERE

Park at Bootleg Canyon Park trailhead

Bootleg Canyon Rd, Boulder City, NV 89005

- Free city lot at the foot of the bike park; take Yucca St north off Nevada Way and follow the Bootleg Canyon signs. No water on the trails.
- Start and finish are the same spot. Follow the cue sheet and the arrows on the map.

CUE SHEET

0.0	Bootleg Canyon Road DIRT ROAD	0.2 mi
0.2	IMBA (Easy) SINGLETRACK	0.9 mi
1.1	Mother & Ernie's Epic (Difficult) SINGLETRACK via Mother & Ernie's · West ridge	5.0 mi
6.1	Caldera (Easy) SINGLETRACK	0.5 mi
6.5	Inner Caldera SINGLETRACK	1.7 mi
8.2	Girl Scout (Easy) SINGLETRACK via Girl Scout descent	1.5 mi
9.7	Bootleg Canyon Road DIRT ROAD	0.2 mi
9.9	Back at Bootleg Canyon Park trailhead	

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Mother is rough, rocky and exposed with steep punchy climbs. Plan on walking a few moves unless you ride chunk for fun.
- IMBA, Mother & Ernie's, Coyote Canyon and Ernie's Extra are tagged one-way in OpenStreetMap; this route runs them in that direction.
- Once you are on Mother there is no quick bailout; it is several miles to the next junction.
- Inner Caldera is rated difficult. Girl Scout at the end is the smoothest mile of the day.
- Heads up: some trail maps show IMBA ridden uphill and others (checked Oct 8, 2026) list it as downhill-primary. Climb it alert for riders coming down.

RIDE SMART

- **Water:** plan on about 1.5 L for this ride. There's none on the trail.
- **Signal is spotty.** Tell someone your route and your time back.
- **Emergency:** call 911 and say "Tough Love ride, parked at Bootleg Canyon Park trailhead, Boulder City / Bootleg Canyon", plus the coordinates from Locate me.
- **Wildlife:** give horses, burros and anything with horns room, and never feed them.
- **Stay on trail.** Desert crust and mountain soil take decades to heal.