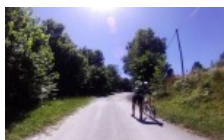


This is what happens when you improvise



There's no mystery to this spot; it's as steep as it looks. Maybe steeper. Col d'Andorre it's called.

Ouch. It was going to be an "easy" day between two pretty tough ones, a loop from Lourdes up the valley to Argeles Gazost, with a little kicker up D102 for fun. Looked like about 800 feet of climbing on that loop. Which would have been fine, except, at the top, there's a tiny little orange sign next to a water faucet (and it's 94 degrees so you've definitely stopped for the water!). Col d'Andorre, 6km. Hmm. How bad can it be?



Gravel... again!



We went just far enough to ensure that it was, in fact, gravel forever.

Pretty darned bad, and without even the satisfaction of completing it, thanks to it turning to gravel after about 4km or so. Steep? Yes, it's Sonora Pass steep. Great views, little traffic, but wow. Did get us KOMs for that piece though, primarily because only one other Strava person has ever dared to try it before.