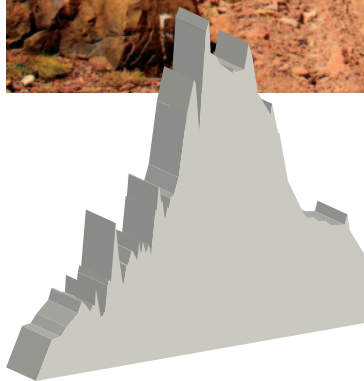




OPPOSITE TOP
Khunjerab Pass
marker (elevation
4,693 m), at the
border of Pakistan
with China

OPPOSITE
The Ticlio
Pass, Peru

TOP AND ABOVE
The Paso Alto
de Agua Negra



Paso Alto de Agua Negra, Chile/Argentina

Length 383 km

Altitude gain 4,775 m

Average gradient 3.3 per cent

There are a number of very high paved road passes crossing the Andean border between Chile and Argentina, but most are really not much fun to ride because of heavy traffic. One that is a treat for cyclists is the Paso Alto de Agua Negra, although it is mostly unpaved.

Running between La Serena (at sea level) in Chile and San José de Jáchalat (1,175 m) in Argentina is the 383-km route that passes over the 4,775-m-high pass. On the Chilean side, Route 41 takes you to the pass and National Route 150 in Argentina takes you the rest of the way to San José de Jáchalat.

It's a gentle and very scenic climb for the whole way. Because of the unpaved sections, this is gravel-grinder, touring- or cyclocross-bike territory. The trek lends itself well to fully loaded pannier types. Paso Alto de Agua Negra is only open from November to late May due to snow. 📍