

Ride Route Guide: Creating Routes in Kurviger

Turning the ride-map pictures into downloadable GPX route files

What this guide does

Each ride page on the website shows a picture of the route. This guide turns that picture into a GPX file, a small route file members download and follow with free, spoken, turn-by-turn directions on their phone.

We use **Kurviger**, a route planner built specifically for motorcycles. Its website is free, it favours twisty back-roads over boring highways, and it exports the GPX file we need. You do all of this on a computer; members do the riding part on their phones (covered in the separate *Road Captain's Guide*).

Why this fixes the “tap Continue” problem

With Google Maps, every stop you add forces the rider to pull over and tap “Continue.” Kurviger avoids this because it has **two different kinds of points**, and one of them shapes the route without ever being a stop. Understanding this is the whole trick:

VIA POINTS VS. SHAPING POINTS

- **Via point** = a real **stop**: the meeting spot, a gas station, the lunch place. Use these *only* where the group actually stops.
- **Shaping point** = an invisible point that pulls the route onto the road you want. It shapes the route but is **not** a stop and never interrupts the rider.

So to make the route follow the exact scenic roads in your map picture, you sprinkle **shaping points**, as many as you like, with no penalty to the rider.

Before you start

- A computer (much easier than a phone for clicking carefully). Members will use the finished files on their phones.
- The ride-map pictures open in another window, so you can copy the roads you see.
- Go to kurviger.com. Planning and GPX export are free.
- Optional but recommended: create a **free account** so you can save routes online (the “Kurviger Cloud”) and not lose your work. Look for **Sign up** on the site.

Part 1: Plan the route

Do this on a computer, with your ride-map picture visible for reference.

1. Open kurviger.com and sign in (if you made an account).
2. Set your **starting point**: click the spot on the map (for example, the usual meeting place), or type its name in the search box.
3. Set your **destination** the same way. Kurviger draws a route line between them.
4. Choose how curvy you want it. Look for the **route style / curviness** setting and pick a curvier option if you want the scenic back-roads rather than the fastest way.
5. Turn on **avoid motorways / highways** if the ride is meant to stay on smaller roads.
6. Now shape the route to match your picture. **Click on the route to create a shaping point, then click and drag it** onto the road you want. Kurviger drops a **shaping point** there and bends the route to follow it. Repeat until the line matches the roads in your map picture.
7. Add a **via point** only where the group truly stops (gas, lunch, a lookout). Everywhere else, use shaping points. (You can change the shaping points into via points by right-clicking on them, and back again).

TIP

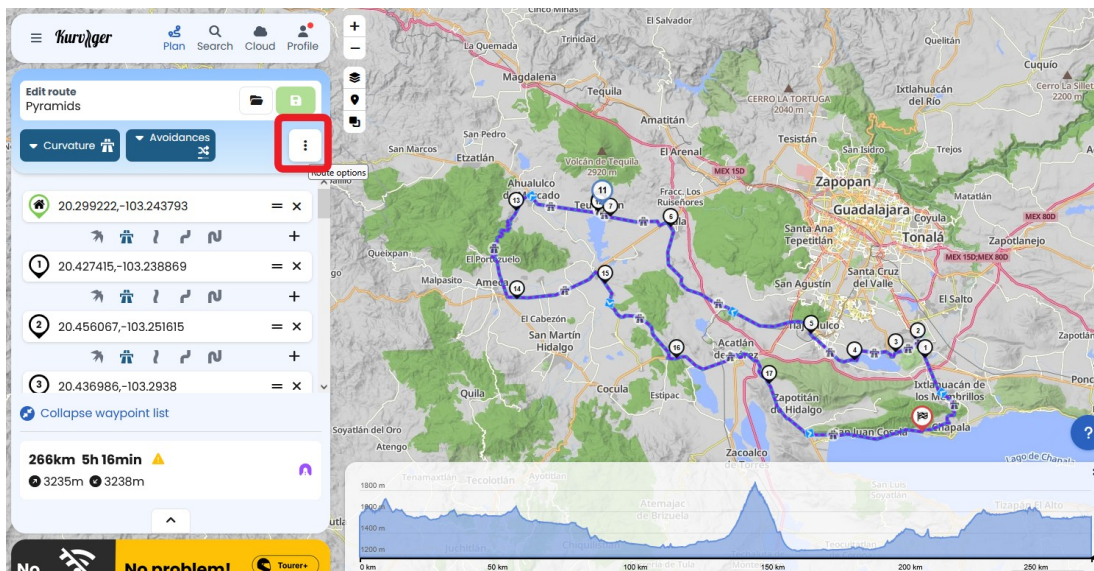
Keep **via points** few and **shaping points** as many as you need. Always drop them right *on* the road (snapped to it), not in a field beside it, so the route calculates cleanly. Zoom into the map to make sure your shaping point is on the road.

Part 2: Match it to the picture

Compare Kurviger's line to your ride-map picture side by side. If Kurviger took a different road, drag the line back onto the correct one (adding another shaping point). Small nudges are normal. Keep going until it looks right.

Part 3: Save and export the GPX file

1. If you have an account, click the green **Save** button first so the route is stored in your Kurviger Cloud. Give it the ride's name.
2. Open the three dots menu and choose **Export**.
3. Select the File Format tab. In the dropdown menu set the file format to **GPX**.
4. Tick all the boxes to include **Track** and **Route**. Including all of them makes the file follow your exact route in other apps.
5. Click **Export Route**. The .gpx file lands in your computer's Downloads folder.
6. Rename the file to match the ride (for example, **tequila-day-ride.gpx**) so it's easy to find later.



WHY TRACK AND ROUTE TOGETHER MATTER

A plain GPX is just a line of dots with no turn information, so other apps have to rebuild the turns themselves. Including the route and waypoints gives those apps enough to **stick to your exact roads** instead of inventing their own path. (The Road Captain's Guide explains the rider side.)

Part 4: Put the file on the website

Send the .gpx file to a Web Editor to upload to the website. Currently Carrie, Ted, or Gary.