

## Ride 25 - Up, Down, and Around Bangor

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| <b>Distance:</b> 12 miles                           |
| <b>Terrain:</b> flat to hilly, with two long climbs |

This tour is designed as a short, urban tour to see the highlights of Maine's third largest city. The tour is entirely on urban streets and riders must be skilled in navigating through traffic. Be sure to take time to stop and see the points of interest along the way.

Many thanks to Sandi Duchesne of the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System for suggesting this tour.

**Special features:** Views of Penobscot River; historic homes, schools, and standpipe..

**Road conditions:** Use caution in urban traffic, particularly at intersections.

**Services:** Bike shops off route (Rose Bicycle Shop in Orono, 207-866-3525; Pat's Bike Shop in Brewer, 207-827-54500. For accommodations in Bangor, contact Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce, 519 Main Street, Bangor, ME 04402-1443. Telephone: (207) 947-0307; Bangor Convention & Visitors Bureau, 115 Main St., Bangor, ME 04401. Telephone 800-91-MOOSE.

**Starting point:** Ride originates from One Cumberland Place (across from the Main Post Office) near the corner of Cumberland St. and Harlow St. in downtown Bangor.

**Please note:** The Maine Bicycle Tours are published by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) as an aid to bicyclists. All routes shown on these tours are on regular state and local roads used by automobiles, trucks, buses and other motorized vehicles. The MDOT in no way warrants the safety or suitability of the routes indicated on these tours for shared bicycle/motor vehicle use or for use by young and/or inexperienced riders. Bicyclists assume the risk for their own safety at all times when traveling on the indicated routes.

Although the MDOT has made a reasonable effort to ensure that the information contained in this guide is correct as of the date of publication, the actual conditions riders encounter may vary, and the Department in no way warrants its accuracy. MDOT assumes no liability for personal injuries or property damage suffered by bicyclists.

Mileage readings may vary. We recommend you carry a detailed map of the area with you. All roads on this ride can be found in the Maine Atlas and Gazetteer from DeLorme Mapping Co. ([www.delorme.com](http://www.delorme.com)).

## Directions

1. From One Cumberland Place, turn left out of parking lot and head up Cumberland Street, through the lights at Center Street, to the lights at Broadway.
2. Turn right onto Broadway. You will pass many elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century mansions, a reminder of Bangor's great wealth and prominence during the Maine land speculation and lumber shipping boom. John Bapst Memorial High School, on the right, was built in 1928. Today, this former parochial school is a non-sectarian private academy attended by students from towns as far as 60 miles from Bangor, with excellent academics, arts, and athletics programs. 97% of Bapst graduates go on to college.
3. Follow Broadway through several stoplights down to the Penobscot Bridge. Turn right in the dedicated right-hand-turn lane onto Washington Street, passing through the stoplight at Exchange Street/Penobscot Plaza and over the Kenduskeag Stream. Take a left at the next stoplight onto Broad Street (left lane serves both through and left-hand turning traffic). On your left, the Kenduskeag Stream empties into the Penobscot River, which is tidal and open to ocean-going shipping vessels and pleasure craft. Broad Street turns to Front Street and then to Railroad Street as it passes along the Bangor waterfront, over the railroad tracks and past the Sea Dog Brewery. New development plans will add a convention center, parking garage, hotels, and an outdoor public performance space, as well as multi-use trails and green space, within the next few years. Similar redevelopment is planned for the Brewer waterfront on the opposite bank of the Penobscot. Watch out for construction vehicles and debris and dirt in the roadway.
4. From the stop sign on Railroad Street at Summer Street, you will see two left-turn-only lanes and a right-turn lane at the stoplights from Summer Street onto Main Street (Route 1A/9/202). Traffic sometimes backs up here -- you may have to wait for a cycle or two before you can safely cross onto Summer Street from Railroad Street. Get into the right-hand left-turn lane and turn left onto Main Street. Follow Main Street to a right-hand turn onto Buck Street, just after the Bangor Daily News building on the right. The famous Paul Bunyan statue, Bangor Auditorium, and Bass Park will be on your left as you make the turn. This is the site of the annual Bangor State Fair (one of the oldest in the country at 150+ years, and still going strong) which is held during the last week of July and first week of August.
5. Take Buck Street all the way to its end at Webster Street. Turn right on Webster and follow it to a stop sign at Hammond Street. Depending on tree cover, you may catch sight of the top of the Thomas Hill Standpipe, one of the destinations on this tour.

6. Turn right onto Hammond Street (Route 2/100), then take a left opposite the CITGO gas station onto West Broadway. This is a neighborhood of elegant Victorian houses with ample lawns. The Bangor Historical Society (942-5766) or the Convention and Visitor's Bureau have more information on the architectural details of the homes in this area. Then continue on West Broadway to the stop sign at Union Street.

7. Turn left from West Broadway onto Union Street (Route 222), then take your second right onto Thomas Hill Road.

8. Follow Thomas Hill Road through the stop sign at Highland Avenue to the Thomas Hill Standpipe. Built in 1897 to maintain water pressure in Bangor's higher elevations throughout the city, the Thomas Hill Standpipe is Bangor's most strikingly visible landmark, particularly at night. The lights atop the standpipe are often referred to as the jewels in the Queen City's crown. It is listed on the national historic register for its unique wood-shingled exterior, and is still in use as a water storage facility. Although the stairway to the observation deck was closed after a child suffered a fatal fall in the 1940s, the Bangor Water District opens it up to the public for a single afternoon each season of the year, in February, May, July, and October. The view from the top on a clear day is well worth the climb: Mount Katahdin to the north, the Camden Hills to the southeast, and the White Mountains to the southwest

9. Continue down Thomas Hill Road to Ohio Street and turn right. Follow Ohio Street for almost ½ mile to where Court Street branches off on the left. Turn left onto Court Street and follow it past the Bangor Police Department to the stop sign at Hammond Street. The YMCA will be on your right, and the Penobscot County Courthouse will be on your left.

10. Turn left and head down the hill along Hammond Street (Route 2/100). Take your first left onto Franklin Street, and once again cross over the Kenduskeag Stream. At the stop sign, take a left onto Harlow Street. The Bangor Public Library will be on your right. Although the library was founded in 1883, the present-day building was erected following the Great Fire of 1911 which destroyed much of Bangor's downtown. An extensive renovation and addition were completed in 1997. The Bangor Public Library has the highest circulation per capita of any urban public library in the United States.

11. As you pass by the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building on the left, get into the left-hand lane at the stoplights to continue straight on Harlow Street. You will cross the Kenduskeag Stream yet again and bear right at the fork onto Valley Avenue, following upstream along the Kenduskeag. The 2 1/2 -mile park along the stream is a magnet for hikers, bikers, joggers, dog-walkers, canoe and kayak enthusiasts, and downtown office workers looking for a close-in picnic site on their lunch breaks. The path along the Kenduskeag was one of Henry David Thoreau's favorite places to explore nature when he visited his Bangor cousins in the 1840s and 1850s, although in his day there were numerous working mills dotting the stream so it was not quite the pristine place it is today. The sheer cliff rising on the east bank is associated with a classic Lover's Leap legend; supposedly the teenaged daughter of an Indian chief and her forbidden lover jumped to their deaths at this site. Feel free to believe the legend if you're the romantic type.

12. At the stop sign where Valley Avenue meets Kenduskeag Avenue, take a left and continue along Kenduskeag to the stop sign at Griffin Road.
13. Turn right onto Griffin Road and continue to stoplights at Broadway (Route 15). Exercise caution as this is a high-speed roadway with poor pavement conditions and abrupt changes in shoulder conditions -- it may be best to take the lane and ride to the left of the shoulder stripe, as there is good visibility for overtaking vehicles to pass.
14. If you need a bathroom break, turn right into the Kev-Lan truck stop just before the traffic signal. Otherwise, turn right onto Broadway, then an immediate left into Gifford's for an ice cream break! (The new Cherry Chocolate Chip is superb.) There are picnic tables out back, but alas no bathrooms.
15. Return to the stoplight at the intersection with Griffin Road and Burleigh Road. Take a right onto Burleigh and continue to the end of the road at Essex Street. \16. Turn right onto Essex Street. North Bangor is more rural than urban, and many residents still maintain small working farms and roadside vegetable stands. As you get closer to town along Essex Street, the development becomes denser and more suburban and then urban in character, particularly after crossing over I-95.
16. Turn right at the stoplights at Stillwater Avenue. As you pass by Broadway Park on the left, get into the signalized left-hand turn lane at the intersection with Broadway.
17. Turn left onto Broadway. Note the granite boulder with a large "V" inscribed on it, behind the curb in the park on your right. The old narrow-gauge Veazie Railroad, the second oldest railroad line in the entire United States, began service in 1832 and ran along this route between Bangor and Old Town during the peak years of the lumber industry. Although the last train ran in 1870, the Veazie line markers commemorate the route and its role in Bangor's history.
18. Turn right onto Cumberland Avenue at the stoplights. Pass through the stoplight at Center Street, bear left at the fork, and turn right into the driveway of One Cumberland Place just past the intersection with Market Street.