

Ride 14 - Evans Notch Tour

Distance: 21 and 73 mile loops
Terrain: Hilly to mountainous with 2 long climbs

This is truly a classic Northern New England ride, great during spring, summer or fall -- when the leaves turn color. Plan to spend two days on this splendid and challenging ride. The loop starts from the pretty, four-season resort town of Bethel, and heads south through the foothills of the White Mountains. Along the way you will enjoy views of three mountain ranges and scenic Evans Notch, part of the White Mountain National Forest. The final leg follows the North Road that winds its way to Bethel hugging the Androscoggin River. Bicyclists are rewarded with more views of the White Mountains and area rivers and lakes. Conveniently there is a brewery, the Sunday River Brewing Company, located near the end of the ride. A visit here is a great way to finish the trip.

Alternate 1 provides a much shorter and flatter 21-mile loop through a forested area south of Bethel. Although ME 35 and ME 5 have no paved shoulders, the traffic volumes are light and this is a good introduction to road cycling.

Special features: Memorable mountain views, including the Baldface and Carter-Moriah mountain ranges and the White Mountains and Evans Notch; Androscoggin River views; hiking trails.

Road conditions: Several stretches of broken pavement; narrow roads with no shoulder except for US 2. *Wider road bike tires recommended.*

Services: Bike shop off-route (Locke Mills, Mahoosuc Mountain Sports, 207-875-3786); other basic services along route. For camping and other accommodation information contact: Evans Notch Visitors Center, 18 Mayville Road, Bethel, ME 04217, 207-824-2134; or Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 439, Bethel, Maine 04217, 800-442-5826.

Cautions: Narrow road at Evans Notch and rough pavement along route; heavy traffic around Bethel.

Starting point: The ride originates at the Maine Department of Transportation picnic area, 2.9 miles north of Bethel, on US 2. *Please park out of the way of picnickers and remove all valuables from your car.*

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).

P	0.0	Turn left on US 2 West and go 2.9 miles to Bethel.
!, I	2.9	Turn left on Parkway and go 0.3 mile to ME 26. You are now in Bethel. Bethel offers all conveniences. Continue straight on US 2 for 0.1 mile for National Forest and tourist information.
!	3.2	Turn right at stop sign on ME 26 and go 0.5 mile to ME 35.
!	3.7	Turn left on South ME 35 (Vernon St.) and go 7 miles to Hunts Corner Road and Albany.
S		<i>Mountain views.</i>
OPTION !	10.7	Turn left on Hunts Corner Road (unmarked -- the turn is just past Albany Town Hall -- look for it where ME 35 turns sharply to the right before joining ME 5) and go 6.6 miles to Bisbee Town Road. <i>ALTERNATE 1: For a 21-mile loop, stay on ME 35 and then turn right immediately on ME 5 and follow it back to Bethel and the picnic area where the Tour starts. You will pass Songo Pond on your right. It is 7.3 miles back to Bethel and another 3 miles to the picnic area.</i>
	10.8	<i>Start long climb up hill.</i>
S	12.8	End of climb. <i>Be sure to look back for views of the Baldface Range.</i>
!, C	17.3	Turn right on Bisbee Town Road and go 3.3 to Sawin Hill Road. Continue straight 1 mile to Papoose Pond Campground.
!	20.0	Stay right on Bisbee Town Road. Forgotten Drive forks to the left.

LEGEND. !: Important tour directions. CS: Convenience store. I: Information, tour services.
A: Accommodations, non-camping. C: Camping location. R: Restaurant. S: Scenery.
ATM: Automatic teller machine location. HX: Historic interest site. H: Hiking trailhead/crossing.
P: Picnic site. BS: Bicycle Shop. *OPTION*: Optional side trip.

!, CS	20.6	Bear left at yield sign on Sawin Hill Road, cross bridge and turn right on ME 35 at stop sign. Go 0.9 mile on North ME 35 to ME 5. Turn left on ME 35 to reach two convenience stores. Tut's General Store is 0.2 mile on South ME 35 in North Waterford; it has a lunch counter and tables.
!, I	21.5	Head straight on South ME 5 and go 11.0 miles to Hatches Hill Road in Lovell. ME 35 turns to the right. <i>The famous "International" sign is located at this intersection.</i> Caution: ME 5 narrows and winds for about 1 mile after East Stoneham Village. Stay as far to the right as possible through this section.
P	23.9	Keewaydin Recreational Area is on your right and offers a picnic area.
	26.5	Enter North Lovell village.
HX	31.0	Lovell Center village. <i>The Lovell Town House, built in 1789, is on the left.</i>
A	31.4	Center Lovell Inn is on the left.
S	31.6	<i>Views of the Baldface Range are on the right.</i>
CS	31.9	A convenience store (Center Lovell Market) is on the left.
!	32.5	Bear right on Hatches Hill Road (unmarked). Hatches Hill Road leaves ME 5 just after the Lovell fire station.
S	32.9	<i>Spectacular views to the west.</i>
!	33.1	Turn right at stop sign and then immediately left on Christian Hill Road.
!, S	33.9	Turn right at stop sign on unmarked road and immediately bear left at fort on Swamp Road. <i>Gorgeous views from this intersection.</i>
S	35.2	<i>Views of Carter-Moriah Range and White Mountains.</i>
!	35.5	Take sharp right at stop sign on Harbor Road (unmarked).
I	36.3	<i>Fryeburg Harbor - This is the old course of the Saco River.</i>
!	37.1	Stay left at intersection with the Union Hill Road continuing on Harbor Road.
!	32.8	Bear right at intersection with River Road continuing on Harbor Road.
!	39.0	Turn right at stop sign on ME 113 in North Fryeburg and go 21.5 miles.
CS	41.9	Stow Corner Convenience Store and Bakery is on the left.
HX	42.7	Stow Town Hall, built in 1842, on the left.
I	45.0	New Hampshire state line.
S	47.4	<i>Views of the Baldface Range.</i>
A	47.5	AMC Cold River Camp on the right.
H	47.7	Baldface Circle hiking trail trailhead on the right.
C, P	49.8	US Forest Service Cold River Campground and Basin Campground. For information and reservations, contact the United States Forest Service Evans Notch District Headquarters in Bethel.

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I	49.9	Cross the Maine state line.
I	51.1	Brickett Place on right. Seasonal information center is run by the Chatham Trails Association. Start long climb to Evans Notch.
S	52.0	Cold River overlook on right.
S	52.4	Reach top of Evans Notch.
H	53.0	East Royce hiking trail trailhead on left.
H	56.5	Caribou Mountain hiking trail trailhead on right (toilet).
C	57.2	Hastings Campground on right. For information and reservations, contact the United States Forest Service Evans Notch District Headquarters in Bethel.
!, A	60.5	Turn right at stop sign on US 2 (Evans Notch Motel is located at this intersection) and go 0.3 mile to the unmarked road in the village of Gilead. Use extreme caution on this short section of US 2 which has high traffic and no paved shoulder.
CS	60.6	Convenience store on left.
!	60.8	Turn left on unmarked road (look for sign directing you to public boat access) and go 0.4 mile to green bridge.
!	61.2	Bear right immediately after crossing bridge over the Androscoggin River and go 10.4 miles to US 2.
A	66.4	Crocker Pond House is on the left. <i>Views of mountains and Androscoggin River.</i>
!	70.9	Turn left at stop sign on US 2 and go 2.5 miles to the picnic area and starting point of the ride.
CS	71.3	Irving Convenience Store is on the right.
R	73.1	Sunday River Brewing Company is on the left.
!	73.4	Picnic area - end of ride.

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