

Ride 13 - Franklin Heritage Tour

Distance:	24, 53, and 110 mile loops
Terrain:	Very hilly with several long, steep climbs

This 110-mile loop makes a superb multi-day exploration of the lakes and mountains of Franklin County. Earmuffs, Stanley Steamers, the Narrow Gauge Railway, lumber, mountains and moose all contribute to the diverse and colorful heritage of this wonderful county. How they all relate to Franklin County is explained at the many museum and historical societies along the route. This rich heritage combined with world-class scenery make this an unforgettable ride.

This tour has two shorter options for a single-day ride. Option 1 is a 24-mile relatively flat loop along the Sandy River valley. Option 2, a 53-mile loop, is also mainly in the Sandy River Valley but has a few moderate climbs.

Special features: Beautiful scenery; historic Franklin County; college town of Farmington; historic towns of Strong and Kingfield; Rangeley Lakes State Park; Wilhelm Reich Museum; views of the Bigelow Range; Sugarloaf /USA.

Road conditions: Generally fair.

Services: Bike shop on route (Northern Lights Hearth and Sports, Farmington, 207-778-6566). Rangeley, Stratton, and Kingfield, offer a wide range of accommodations and make great end points after a day of cycling. For accommodation information, contact Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 317, Rangeley, Maine 04970, 800-685-2537 or Sugarloaf Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 2151, RR#1, Kingfield, ME 04947, 207- 235-2100.

Cautions: Heavy traffic in Farmington; narrow roads with no shoulders; logging trucks on ME 4 and 27; winding road and blind hills on ME 145 and ME 149; watch for moose and deer on ME 145. There are long stretches without services, so carry spare parts and plenty of food, water and warm clothes for changeable weather.

Starting point: Ride originates from Maine Department of Transportation park and ride lot at the intersection of ME 4 and US 2 in Farmington. Eleven spaces are designated for overnight parking.

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

!, CS <i>OPTION</i>	19.6	Turn left on unmarked road (the Maine Atlas and Gazetteer shows this as still Route 149) which connects to ME 4 and go 0.1-mile. <i>ALTERNATE 2: For an intermediate 53-mile loop, turn right here on ME 142 and follow it for 11.8 miles to ME 145. Turn right on ME 145 and rejoin tour at Mile 87.9.</i> At stop sign, turn right on ME 4 and go 22.2 miles to Rangeley and ME 16. Turn left on ME 4 to reach a convenience store.
S	22.9	<i>Views of Saddleback Mountain.</i>
CS	25.0	<i>Convenience store on the right.</i>
I, P	29.2	Small's Falls picnic area on the left. <i>There are very scenic cascades at Small's Falls. Start long (3-mile) climb.</i>
I, H	32.0	Appalachian Trail crosses here. <i>There is a parking lot and picnic area at the trailhead.</i>
S	35.6	Long Pond on the left.
C, H, P	38.3	Option for camping: <i>Turn left on South Shore Drive and go 6.7 miles to Rangeley Lake State Park campground.</i>
All	41.0	Enter town of Rangeley. All services are available here except bicycle repair. <i>There are many options for accommodations in Rangeley. Contact the Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce for assistance and information at (207) 864-5571.</i> <i>While in Rangeley, visit the Wilhelm Reich Museum, a historic site and science museum with paintings, exhibits, Discovery Room, nature trails, and recreational/educational programs and conferences. Open July and August, Tues.—Sun. 1-5 p.m.; in September, Sundays only 1-5 p.m.</i>
P, S	41.8	Lakeside Park on the left. <i>There are beautiful views of Rangeley Lake from the park, which also has picnic tables and toilets.</i>
!	41.8	Turn right on ME 16 and go 18.9 miles to Stratton.
HX	43.1	Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum on the right.
S	47.5-50.0	<i>Views of East Kennebago Mountain to the northwest.</i>
S	58.2	<i>Views of Sugarloaf Mountain to the south.</i>
!, CS, R, A, I	60.7	Turn right at stop sign on ME 27 and go 23.5 miles to Kingfield. Caution: Watch for log trucks on ME 27. This is the village of Stratton. The Dead River Historical Society is on the left. All services except bicycle repair are available here. For information on accommodations in the area, contact the Sugarloaf Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 2151, RR#1, Kingfield, ME 04947. Telephone: (207) 235-2100.

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.

C	61.1	Turn left on School Street to reach the Bigelow Preserve. <i>The Bigelow Preserve has a couple of wonderful campsites (primitive) on the shore of Flagstaff Lake. There is an information board on the left just as you enter the preserve.</i>
S	64.3	<i>Views of the Bigelow Range on the left.</i>
	65.6	Start long climb. Warning: Watch for moose crossing the road.
I, H	66.0	Appalachian trail crosses here.
S	68.2	<i>Views of Sugarloaf Mountain to the right.</i>
I, H	68.5	Carrabassett Trail leaves to the left. <i>The Carrabassett Trail is a state recreational trail that hugs the edge of the Carrabassett River along an old railroad bed. This route is popular with mountain bikers. This trail will be improved by the summer of 2003. Once completed, the trail will bypass the section of ME 27 between Sugarloaf and the village of Carrabassett Valley.</i>
R, BS, A	68.8	Sugarloaf USA access road. All services are available at Sugarloaf Mountain. <i>Sugarloaf opens its ski trails to mountain biking in the summer.</i>
CS	68.9	Convenience store on the right.
R, A	74.0	Mayor's Place Lodge, Restaurant, and Lounge, on the left.
A	74.1	Judson's Motel on the right.
CS	74.3	Carrabassett Tourist Information Center on the left. Convenience store on the right.
R	74.9	Trifulio's Restaurant on the left.
P	77.2	Maine Department of Transportation picnic area on the left (chemical toilets).
C	82.9	Option for campsite: Turn right here to go to Deer Farms Camps and Campground (2.5 miles).
CS, A, R, ATM	83.1	Enter village of Kingfield. All services except bicycle repair are available here. <i>While in Kingfield, visit the Kingfield Historical Society, Church St., (207) 265-4871. The museum features memorabilia of the town including the Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Stanley Family and Maine's Governor, William King. Country store, schoolhouse. National Register of Historic Places.</i>
!	84.2	Turn right on ME 142 (Depot Street) and go 3.7 miles to ME 145.
S	85.4	<i>Views of Sugarloaf and the Bigelow Range on the right (north).</i>
!	87.9	Turn left on ME 145 and go 10.1 miles to Strong. Warning: ME 145 is a winding, hilly road. Watch for moose and deer!
	96.7	Enter Strong village.
CS	97.0	EJ's Strong Market on the left.
CS	97.4	Beal's General Store on the right.

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OPTION	97.6	Go straight on ME 145 and cross ME 149. <i>Return option: Stay on ME 149 for the return to Farmington, backtracking the way you came north out of Farmington.</i>
!	98.0	Merge left at stop sign on ME 4, and go 11.2 miles to Farmington.
!,R	109.2	Turn right at the first traffic light in downtown Farmington, and immediately turn left at stop sign on Front Street. Go 0.5-mile to ME 4. Granary Brew Pub and Restaurant is here.
!	109.7	Turn right on ME 4 at stop sign and go 0.1-mile to park and ride lot at the intersection of ME 4 and US 2.
!	109.8	Turn right at park and ride lot. This is the end of the ride.

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