

Tour #10 Kennebec River Valley

This hilly and scenic 68-mile gem, winds through the historically important Kennebec River Valley and over a mix of agricultural land and rugged mountainous terrain. Long used by Indians as a thoroughfare between the St. Lawrence River Valley and the sea, the Kennebec River Valley was later settled by Europeans who attempted to scrape out a living from the rocky soil. Farmers carrying their produce to market once traversed the same roads over which bicyclists now travel. From there, it would be shipped over the railroad to large cities such as Boston and New York.

Benedict Arnold also followed this route north to Canada during the Revolutionary War. Little remains of farming villages like Mayfield that once dotted the landscape. A few cellar holes, stone fences and the names of long-gone towns remind travelers that at one time this area was vibrant. The route is very hilly, particularly the section between Athens and Bingham. Low gearing is essential. Much of the route passes through hardwood forest, so autumn is an especially beautiful time to ride this loop.

Three different shorter options are provided for this tour. Alternate #1 provides a relatively flat 30 mile loop through the agricultural areas of Cornville and Madison.



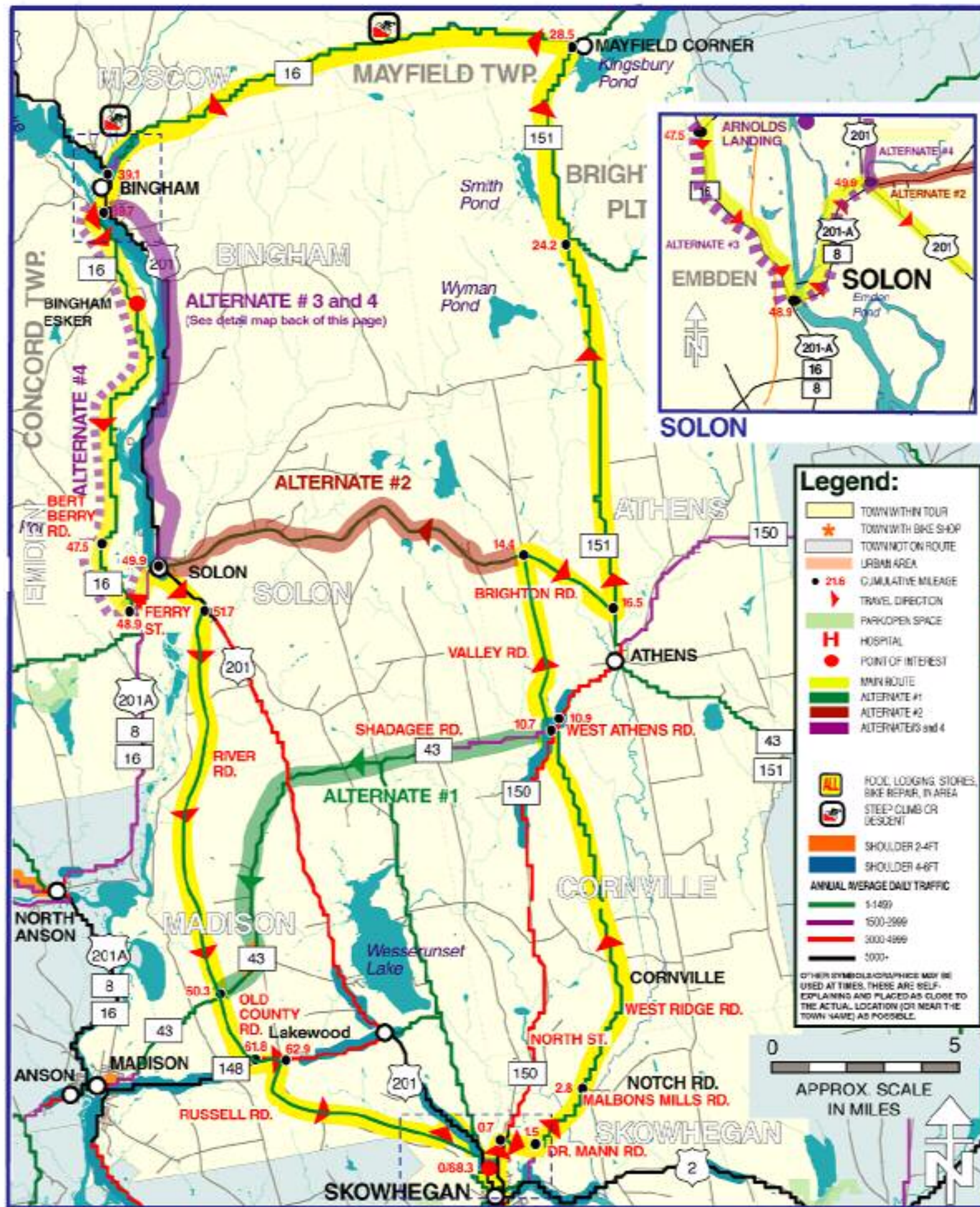
BINGHAM



SKOWHEGAN



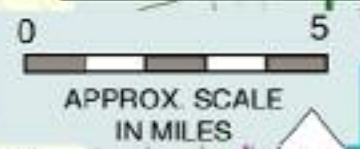
Above: The town of Bingham with Wyman dam in the background.



Legend:

- TOWN WITHIN TOUR
- TOWN WITH BIKE SHOP
- TOWN NOT ON ROUTE
- URBAN AREA
- 21.6 CUMULATIVE MILEAGE
- TRAVEL DIRECTION
- PARK/OPEN SPACE
- HOSPITAL
- POINT OF INTEREST
- MAIN ROUTE
- ALTERNATE #1
- ALTERNATE #2
- ALTERNATES #3 and 4
- FOOD, LODGING, STORES, BIKE REPAIR, IN AREA
- STEEP CLIMB OR DESCENT
- SHOULDER 2-4FT
- SHOULDER 4-6FT
- ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC
- 1-1499
- 1500-2999
- 3000-4999
- 5000+

OTHER SYMBOLS/ABBREVIATIONS MAY BE USED AT TIMES, THESE ARE SELF-EXPLAINING AND PLACED AS CLOSE TO THE ACTUAL LOCATION (OR NEAR THE TOWN NAME) AS POSSIBLE.



DISTANCE: 17, 30, 41 and 68 Mile loops
 TERRAIN: 68 mile loop is very hilly; shorter loops are flat to moderate.

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Note: See Page 2 for Disclaimer