

Ride 9 - Rockland - Port Clyde Tour

Distance: 19, 32, and 51 mile loops

Terrain: Rolling

In the old days, mid-coast Maine was home to sailors, ship's captains and entrepreneurs who quarried the nearby islands for granite that went into building many of this country's great public buildings. Today, many of the grand old homes have been restored while the rolling countryside offers glimpses of the Camden Hills and Penobscot Bay at almost every turn.

This enjoyable 51-mile ride takes in the best of the region, from the bustling town of Rockland to the tiny, picturesque village of Port Clyde. Be sure to leave plenty of time for exploration. There are several museums, state parks, lighthouses and other sites of great interest along the way. The sidetrip to Ash Point (only 2.2 miles) is well worth the ride. There you will enjoy a memorable view of Spruce Head, the islands and Penobscot Bay. Consider extending your trip with a ferry ride out to one of three islands from the terminal in Rockland (the starting point for the ride) or to Monhegan Island via a ferry ride from Port Clyde.

There are a number of shorter loops available. A 19-mile loop includes Owls Head Light and the Transportation Museum. A 32-mile loop additionally includes some outstanding views of Penobscot Bay. A shorter loop, which is not described here, could also be constructed by parking in St. George and doing a loop of the St. George peninsula.

Special features: Historic Rockland; Owls Head Transportation Museum; Owls Head Light; village of Port Clyde; side trip to Ash Point; views of Vinalhaven and North Haven islands, Penobscot Bay and St. George River; Birch Point Beach State Park; Farnsworth Art Museum; Montpelier State Park and home of General Henry Knox.

Road conditions: Generally fair; broken pavement on ME 73 and 131.

Services: No bike shops on route; off route shops located in Camden and Rockport (Brown Dog Bikes, 53 Chestnut Street, Camden, 236-6664; Maine Sport Outfitters, Rt. 1, Rockport, 800-244-8799); lodging and camping available. For accommodation information, contact Rockland-Thomaston Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 508, Harbor Park, Rockland, Maine 04841, 207-596-0376.

Cautions: No shoulders; heavy traffic in Rockland.

Starting point: Ride originates from Maine state ferry terminal in Rockland on Main Street (US North 1).

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).

!	0.0	From ferry terminal exit, head straight across Main Street to Granite Street.
!	0.1	Turn left at stop sign on Union Street and go 0.4 mile to traffic light and Park Street.
!	0.2	Continue straight at stop sign and cross Limerock Street.
!	0.5	At traffic light, turn left on US 1 (Park Street) and then immediately right at traffic light on ME 73 South (Main Street) and go 1.9 miles to the Shore Road.
!, S	2.4	Turn left on the Shore Road and go 2.6 miles to ME 73 following signs to Owls Head State Park. <i>Views of Rockland, Penobscot Bay and Camden Hills.</i>
!	5.0	Turn left on Main Street (following signs to Owls Head State Park) and go to the Lighthouse Road,
!	5.2	Turn left on Lighthouse Road and go 0.7 mile to Owls Head State Park. The paved road ends at the park.

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.

S, I, P	5.9	Entrance to Owls Head State Park. Picnic area, pit toilets, etc. <i>Follow signs to the beach - it is a gorgeous spot for a picnic. Walk in to see the lighthouse and spectacular views of Penobscot Bay.</i>
!		Retrace route to Shore Road.
!	6.9	Turn left on Shore Road and go 2.5 miles to the Ash Point Road.
!	9.4	Bear left at a stop sign on Ash Point Road (Knox County Regional Airport is at this intersection) and go 1.7 miles to end.
!,S, P	11.1	Ash Point. <i>This area is very scenic with views of Vinalhaven, North Haven, and Spruce Head. Good picnic spot!</i> Retrace route 1.1 miles to the Dublin Road.
!	12.2	Turn left on the Dublin Road (unmarked - Dublin Road is the road on the left just before the fence that surrounds the airport runway) and go 2.2 miles to South Thomaston.
I, S	13.0	Turn left to reach Birch Point Beach State Park. The side trip is 1.4 miles each way, 2.8 miles out-and-back.
!	13.8	Bear right at sharp turn. (Left will take you to Brown's Point Road).
P, CS OPTION	14.4	Continue straight at stop sign on ME 73S in South Thomaston. There is a boat landing with picnic area on the left and a convenience store on the right. Go 1.9 miles to Waterman Beach Road. ALTERNATE 1: For a short 19-mile loop, turn right here on ME 73 to return to Rockland and rejoin tour at Mile 46.7.
!	16.3	Turn left on Waterman Beach Road and go 1.9 miles to the end.
C	17.6	Lobster Buoy Campground is on the left.
S	18.0	<i>Views of Muscle Ridge Channel.</i>
!	18.2	Turn left at stop sign on ME 73 and go 4.1 miles to ME 131.
! OPTION S,P,R	18.8	Bear right at sharp corner. <i>Side Trip to Spruce Head: Turn left on Village Street and go 4.0 miles to the end. At 0.4- mile Village Street merges with Island Road. Continue on Island Road for 3.6 miles. There are pretty views, numerous picnic spots, and a restaurant. It is a worthwhile side trip if you have the time.</i>
!	22.3	Turn left at stop sign on ME 131 (St. George Road) and go 9.0 miles to the end. Caution: Narrow or no shoulder and heavy traffic on ME 131. ALTERNATE 2: For an intermediate 32-mile loop, turn right here on ME 131 and rejoin tour at Mile 41.1. The shoulders on Rt. 131 have been paved from this point north.
S	25.9	<i>Views of Long Cove.</i>

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!,CS,R	26.2	Enter village of Tenants Harbor. Convenience stores, bakery, restaurant. <i>Be sure to bear left on ME 131 at the top of the hill as you leave the village.</i>
A	29.0	Bed and breakfast on left.
A,S,	31.0	Enter Port Clyde. <i>Inns, galleries, and the ferry to Monhegan Island, are found in Port Clyde.</i>
R,P, CS	31.3	Port Clyde General Store and Dock, Dip Net Restaurant. <i>This is a good place to refuel!</i> Retrace route 0.2- mile to Glenmere Road.
!	31.5	Turn left on Glenmere Road (Glenmere is the road on the left just past the Port Clyde Baptist Church) and go 2.3 miles to the Turkey Cove Road.
!, S	33.8	Turn left at stop sign on Turkey Cove Road and go 2.2 miles to Wallaston Road. <i>Rolling hills, periodic ocean views.</i>
!, S	36.0	Take sharp left on Wallaston Road and go 2.4 miles to ME 131.
S	37.9	<i>View of Watts Cove.</i>
!	38.4	Bear left on ME 131 and go 6.3 miles to Westbrook Street.
S	41.1	Stay straight at intersection with ME 73 in St. George. <i>Views of St. George River.</i>
! OPTION	44.7	Turn right on Westbrook Street and go 2.1 miles to ME 73. Caution: Winding, hilly road. <i>Optional trip to Montpelier State Park: Continue straight instead of turning onto Westbrook Street. Montpelier is a restored mansion and the home of General Henry Knox.</i>
!	46.7	Turn left on ME 73, cross bridge, and bear left staying on ME 73. Go 4.1 miles to US 1.
A	46.8	Weskeag Bed and Breakfast is on the left.
I, H	48.1	Turn right to reach the Owls Head Transportation Museum. <i>Displays of planes, cars, and engines.</i>
!	48.9	Stay straight on ME 73 at the intersection with the Shore Road.
	49.9	Enter Rockland.
!	50.8	Continue straight at traffic light on North US 1 and go 0.4 mile to Ferry Terminal.
!	51.2	Turn right into Ferry Terminal. This is the end of ride.

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