

Ride 8 - Waldo County Ridge Tour

Distance: 22 and 63 mile loops
Terrain: 63-mile loop is very hilly; 22-mile loop has flat to moderate grades

The 63-mile loop for well-conditioned cyclists originates from the coastal corridor and meanders through rural Waldo County - an area that can only be described as a bicyclist's paradise. Light traffic, quiet country roads, and plenty of scenery make Waldo County an area worthy of a single-day ride or a week-long expedition. The route meanders through the Passagassawakeag River Valley to Morrill and then ascends the high ridges between Brooks and Knox. From Knox, the route takes riders to the scenic St. George River Valley with its scattered farms and wonderful old homes. The last major climb ascends Appleton Ridge rewarding riders with breathtaking views from the ridge.

Alternate 1 provides a much shorter and flatter 22 mile loop through the agricultural area west of Belfast.

- Special features:** Breathtaking ridge views; hiking at Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area; scenic village of Liberty; old mill towns; St. George River Valley.
- Road conditions:** Generally fair; broken pavement on ME 220; 1.5 miles of dirt road (Appleton Ridge Road). You may bypass this section by staying on ME 173 and following it to Searsmont.
- Services:** Bike shop on route is Solar Cycles at 64 Anderson St. in Belfast (207-338-6338); off-route bicycle repair is available at Birgfelds Bike Shop on US 1 in Searsport, 800-206-2916; other services available. For accommodation information contact Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 58, Belfast, Maine 04915, 207-338-5900.
- Cautions:** Winding roads with no shoulders.
- Starting point:** Ride originates at municipal parking lot off Washington Street in Belfast. To get there, take US 1 to the ME 3 exit and follow signs to downtown Belfast. This will be Main Street. Parking lot is 0.7 mile east of US 1. Stay straight through the downtown traffic light and look for Washington Street on left between Dudley's Diner and Field and Quimby Real Estate. Turn left on Washington Street and immediately right into the parking lot.
- 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	Turn left on Washington Street and then immediately right at stop sign on Main Street.
!	0.1	Turn right on High Street at traffic light and go 0.7 mile to the City Point Road.
!	0.8	Stay straight at the intersection with ME 7/137 (High Street becomes City Point Road here) and go 1.5 miles. Caution: City Point Road is narrow and winding with no paved shoulder.
!	2.3	Turn left on Head of Tide Road (marked) immediately after crossing small bridge and go 1.0 mile to ME 7.
!	3.3	Bear left (straight) on ME 7 at stop sign (ME 7 turns sharply at this intersection) and go 0.4 mile to ME 137.
!, R	3.7	Go straight at stop sign on the Sheppard Road (marked) for 1.7 miles to Poors Mills Road. Cross ME 137 here. There is an ice-cream stand located at this intersection.
!	5.4	Turn right at stop sign on the Poors Mills Road and go 3.3 miles to Morrill.
!	6.1	Stay right on Poors Mills Road at intersection with the Banks Road and cross the river.

LEGEND. !: Important tour directions. CS: Convenience store. I: Information, tour services.
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!	8.7	Enter Morrill village. Turn right on ME 131 (South Main Street) at stop sign and go 3.0 miles to ME 137. <i>ALTERNATE 1: For a shorter 22-mile loop, turn left at ME 131 and follow it for 3.2 miles to Rt. 3. Make a left on Rt. 3 and then an immediate right on Greers Corner Rd. Follow Greers Corner Rd. for 1.6 miles to the Back Belmont Rd. Turn left here and rejoin tour at Mile 54.3.</i>
OPTION		
CS	8.9	Morrill General Store on right.
!	11.7	Turn left on ME 137 and go 3.5 miles to the Kenny Road.
S, P	12.2	Sanborn Pond on the right.
	13.4	Start long climb.
!, S	15.2	Turn right on the Kenny Road (FR 10) near the top of the hill and go 4.0 miles to ME 139. <i>The Kenny Road is very hilly but traffic is light and the scenery is gorgeous.</i>
S	18.1	<i>360-degree views from the top of the hill.</i>
!	19.2	Turn left on ME 139. <i>Side Trip: Turn right at this intersection and go 2.1 miles to reach Brooks. Brooks has most services except bicycle repair.</i> Go 0.5 mile to the Webb Road.
OPTION		
!	19.7	Turn left on the Webb Road and go 4.1 miles to Knox and ME 137. <i>Start a long, steep climb just after turning the corner. There are nearly continuous views to the west from the ridge for the next 3.5 miles.</i>
S	21.6	<i>Views of mountains in western Maine and New Hampshire.</i>
OPTION	22.5	Old County Road on the left. <i>Side Trip: If you have not had enough climbing, turn left on the Old County Road and go 0.5 mile to the pasture at the top of the hill. The view from the pasture is stunning.</i>
□		
!	23.8	Bear right at stop sign on ME 137 (Caution: This stop sign appears suddenly at the bottom of the very steep descent). Go 1.4 miles uphill to ME 220.
I	24.2	Gold Top Farm on the right.
!, CS, R	25.2	Turn left on ME 220 (Knox Ridge Road) and go 12.7 miles to Liberty. There is a convenience store and restaurant located at this intersection. <i>The views are outstanding from ME 220 as it winds along the top of Knox Ridge.</i>
!	27.2	Bear left at sharp corner staying on ME 220.
I, P	30.0	Entrance to Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area on left. <i>The over 5,000 acres in the Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area offer opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and wildlife viewing. Observant riders may see white-tailed deer, grouse, and ducks in the area.</i>

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HX		<i>The old cemeteries, mill sites, and farms located along ME 220 are worth exploring.</i>
!	36.9	Stay straight on ME 220 at stop sign and cross ME 3. There is a convenience store on ME 3 to the left.
!	37.9	At junction of ME 220 and ME 173, stay straight on ME 173 (ME 220 forks right and crosses a small bridge) and go 4.1 miles to the West Appleton Road. .
I	38.0	Enter Liberty village. <i>Take the time to explore Liberty village. Liberty Tool Company has a huge selection of old and hard-to-find hand tools for sale.</i>
!	38.7	Stay right on ME 173 where it turns sharply to the right. An unmarked road forks left.
P	39.5	Stevens Pond Park and picnic area.
I	40.9	South Montville village and the site of an old mill.
!	42.0	Turn right on the West Appleton Road and go 4.6 miles to Appleton Ridge Road. Cross the St. George River. Note: There is a short section (1.8 miles) of unpaved road on Appleton Ridge. To avoid this section, follow ME 173 to Searsmont and ME 131 (Mile 51.0).
I	45.0	Cross Pettingill Stream. <i>This is an interesting wetland teeming with birds.</i>
	45.5	Start climb up to Appleton Ridge.
!, S	46.6	Turn left on the Appleton Ridge Road and go 3.9 miles to ME 131. <i>Continuous views of the St. George Valley.</i>
	48.5	Pavement ends.
S, P	49.7	Pull-off and small private parking area on the left. <i>Great views of blueberry barrens on both sides of the ridge.</i>
	50.0	Pavement resumes.
!	50.5	Merge left at stop sign with ME 131 (Main Street South) and go 1.4 miles to Searsmont and ME 173.
	51.0	Searsmont village. Intersection with ME 173. Continue on ME 131-N/173-S.
CS	51.2	Convenience store on the left.
!	51.9	Turn right on ME 173 (Lincolnvile Avenue) and go 1.8 miles to the Back Belmont Road.
!	53.7	Head straight on the Back Belmont Road which is unmarked (ME 173 forks sharply to the right at this point) and go 6.7 miles to Belfast and ME 52.
!	54.4	Bear right on the Back Belmont Road at the fork.
!	55.1	Stay straight at stop sign on the Back Belmont Road.
!, CS	60.4	Bear left at stop sign on ME 52 and go 2.0 miles to Belfast. There is a convenience store on the right.
R	61.0	Judy's Egg Roll Korean Restaurant on the right.

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!	61.9	Go straight at traffic light and cross US 1, staying on ME 52.
CS	62.1	Shop and Save Supermarket on left.
!	62.4	Turn right on Main Street at stop sign and go 0.5 mile to Washington Street. Enter Belfast.
!	62.5	Go straight at traffic light.
!	62.9	Turn left on Washington Street and immediately turn right in to the parking lot.
!	63.0	End of the ride at the parking lot.

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