

## Ride 11 - Waterville and China Lakes Tour

<b>Distance:</b>	22, 40, and 49 mile loops
<b>Terrain:</b>	Hilly

Challenging hills and excellent views make this 49-mile loop a pleasure in spring, summer or fall. The ride starts from Waterville, home of Colby College. It then crosses the Kennebec River into the China Lakes region, one of most popular recreational areas in Maine and some of the state's most attractive agricultural lands. Views abound from the hills above China Lake and the villages along the way are charming. The route is very hilly, and low gearing is essential. The hills are generally short but can be quite steep. There are endless possibilities for places to picnic. Plan on a full day, as this ride should not be rushed.

Two shorter loops are provided. A 22-mile loop includes a tour of the China Lake region and a return to Waterville. A 40-mile loop eliminates one of the steep climbs on the eastern end of the loop.

**Special features:** Views of Kennebec River, China Lake and surrounding country; historic Palermo; excellent picnic spots; picturesque small towns and farmland.

**Road conditions:** Generally good; short stretch of well-graded unpaved road (for 0.8 miles on Parmenter Hill Road suitable for wider road bike tires).

**Services:** No bike shops on route; be sure to carry basic tools and spare parts. Bike shop off route (CM Cycle, Waterville, 207-873-5490); other basic services available on route. For camping and other accommodations, contact China Area Business Betterment Association, P.O. Box 189, South China, ME 04358, 207-445-2890.

**Cautions:** Heavy traffic in Waterville, particularly on the bridge, but there is a wide shoulder; traffic and no shoulder on ME 32; moderate traffic on Cross Hill Road; fast-moving traffic, blind hills and no shoulders on secondary and back roads.

**Starting point:** Ride originates from Runnels Field parking area in Waterville. To get there, from I-95 take Exit 33 (Kennedy Memorial Drive) toward downtown Waterville. Turn right on ME 104 and go 0.5-mile. Turn right on Louise Avenue and look for signs to Runnels Field (a baseball field and park) on the left.

**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](http://www.delorme.com)).

!	0.0	<b>From the Runnels Field Parking Area in Waterville turn right on Louise Avenue and go 0.2-mile to the West River Road (ME 104).</b>
!	0.2	<b>Turn right at stop sign on the West River Road (ME 104) and go 0.1 mile to an intersection with an unmarked road.</b>
!	0.3	<b>Turn left on unmarked road following signs to Sidney, China and ME 137. Go 0.3-mile to ME 137.</b>
!	0.6	<b>Turn right on ME 137 and go 1.1 miles, following signs for China/Sidney. Cross over the Kennebec River on the "new" bridge.</b>
! OPTION	1.2	Stay straight at traffic light and intersection with ME 201. <i>Side Trip: Turn left for a side trip to the town of Winslow.</i>
!	1.7	<b>Turn right on ME 32 at the traffic light (this turn will be at the second traffic light after the bridge) and go 3.1 miles to North Vassalboro.</b>
	4.1	Enter North Vassalboro.
CS	4.7	Quick Stop convenience store.
!	4.8	<b>Turn right on Oak Grove Street (Oak Grove Street is the first right after the Kennebec Bean Company) and go 0.2-mile to Cemetery Road.</b>
!	5.0	<b>Turn left on Cemetery Road (Cemetery Road is the second left after crossing small bridge on Oak Grove Road) and go 1.5 miles to the Gray Road.</b>
!	6.5	<b>Turn left at stop sign on the Gray Road and go 0.3-mile to ME 32.</b>

**LEGEND.** !: Important tour directions. CS: Convenience store. I: Information, tour services.

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!	6.8	<b>Turn left at stop sign on ME 32, cross small bridge, and immediately turn right on Lombard Dam Road. Go 1.0 mile to the Stanley Hill Road.</b>
!	7.8	<b>Go straight at stop sign on Stanley Hill Road for 3.2 miles to the Neck Road.</b> <b>Caution:</b> Dangerous intersection -- check carefully for cars on the left.
!	11.0	<b>Bear left at stop sign on the Neck Road and go 1.7 miles to China Village.</b>
	12.5	Enter China Village.
! OPTION	12.7	<b>Turn right at stop sign on Causeway Road and go 0.4-mile to US 202.</b> <i>ALTERNATE 1: For a short 22-mile loop, continue straight here for 0.3 mile and turn left on ME 137. Follow ME 137 for 7.0 miles to intersection with ME 32. Continue straight at this intersection as you rejoin tour at Mile 47.2.</i>
I	13.0	<i>Visit the information kiosk describing area flora and fauna on the left. There is a boat launch facility on right.</i>
!, CS, R	13.1	<b>Go straight at stop sign</b> (there is a convenience store and a restaurant at this intersection), <b>crossing US 202, on the Pleasant View Ridge Road</b> (may also be called the Danforth Road) <b>for 4.1 miles to the Mann Road.</b> <i>ALTERNATE 2: For an intermediate 40-mile loop, turn right on US 202 and follow it for 6.9 miles to ME 3. Turn right on ME 3 and follow it for 3.2 miles to Stone Rd. Turn right on Stone Rd. and rejoin tour at Mile 33.3. Note that US 202 and ME 3 have considerable traffic but wide paved shoulders.</i>
	13.6	<b>Bear right on Pleasant View Ridge Road. Danforth Road forks left.</b>
	14.0	<b>Bear right staying on Pleasant Ridge Road. Dutton Road forks left.</b> <b>Caution:</b> Sharp turn!
	14.6	<b>Bear left staying on Pleasant Ridge Road. McCaslin Road forks right.</b>
!	17.2	<b>Bear right on the Parmenter Hill Road</b> (Mann Road merges on the left) <b>and go 2.3 miles to Palermo.</b> <b>Caution:</b> Pavement ends-begin steep climb up Parmenter Hill.
!, S	18.0	Pavement resumes. <i>Outstanding views from here!</i>
! OPTION	19.5	<b>Turn right on Old Route 3</b> (the Branch Mills Union Church is on the right) <b>and go 0.5-mile to ME 3.</b> <i>Side Trip: The scenic and historic village of Palermo is 0.1-mile to the left.</i>

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!, CS	20.0	<b>Bear right on ME 3 and go 1.7 miles to the Dirigo Road.</b> Convenience Store (Tobey's) on the left.
CS	21.1	Frontier Village Market on the right.
!	21.7	<b>Turn left at flashing yellow light on the Dirigo Road and go 4.0 miles to Weeks Mills.</b>
	25.4	Enter Weeks Mills.
!	25.7	<b>Turn right at stop sign, cross bridge, and immediately bear left on Tyler Road (Weeks Mill Road forks right). Go 4.7 Miles to Legion Park Road.</b>
	27.7	<b>Go straight at stop sign and cross ME 32 (Ridge Road), continuing on the Tyler Road.</b>
	28.1	Bear right at yield sign (Tyler Road turns into Weeks Mill Road). 20 Rod Road merges on the left.
!	30.4	<b>Turn right on Legion Park Road and go 2.9 miles to US 202-ME 3/9.</b>
!	33.3	<b>Go straight at stop sign on the Stone Road for 1.7 miles to the Cross Hill Road. Cross US 202-ME 3/9.</b> <i>Stone Road is hilly.</i>
!	35.0	<b>Turn right on Cross Hill Road at four-way intersection. Go 4.2 miles to the Taber Hill Road.</b> Hannaford Hill Road is straight ahead. <i>Look for Cross Hill Farm on the right and a cemetery on the left shortly after turning on Cross Hill Road. Cross Hill Road is hilly.</i>
S	35.6	<i>Gorgeous views from the top of Cross Hill.</i>
C	37.1	Green Valley Camping Area on left.
	37.2	Bear left. Crowell Road forks to the right. There is a white church on the right.
!	39.2	<b>Go straight at stop sign on the Taber Hill Road for 2.7 miles to Oak Grove Road.</b>
S	40.0	Pass Brown's Orchard at the top of Taber Hill. <i>There is a spectacular 360-degree view from here.</i>
!	41.9	<b>Turn right at stop sign on Oak Grove Road (unmarked) and go 1.7 miles to North Vassalboro and ME 32.</b>
!	43.6	<b>Turn left at stop sign on ME 32 and go 0.7-mile to the Bassett Road.</b>
!	44.3	<b>Bear right on the Bassett Road and go 2.3 miles to the Dunbar Road.</b>
!	46.6	<b>Turn left on the Dunbar Road and go 0.6-mile to ME 32.</b>
!	47.2	<b>Turn right on ME 32 and take immediate left at traffic light on ME 137. Go 1.1 miles, crossing the Kennebec River, to an unmarked road.</b> Follow signs to ME 104.
!	48.3	<b>Turn left on unmarked road following signs to ME 104, Augusta, and Sidney. Go 0.2-mile to ME 104.</b>

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!	48.5	<b>Turn right at stop sign on ME 104 (West River Road) and go 0.1-mile to Louise Avenue.</b>
!	48.6	<b>Turn left on Louise Avenue.</b> Louise Avenue will be the second left after turning on ME 104 (West River Road).
!	48.9	<b>Turn left in to the Runnels Field parking lot.</b> This is the end of the ride.

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