

Circling Maine's "Golden Pond"

Ride Description

This route heads north from Winthrop Center along Maranacook Lake passing traditional camps along the way before riding through rural Readfield on quiet country roads. Our first rest stop is in Belgrade. We travel through the famous Belgrade Lakes region (the inspiration for "On Golden Pond") and around Messalonskee Lake into Oakland, before stopping for lunch at the New England Music Camp. We then head due east until reaching the River Road and then travel downriver into Maine's capital city, Augusta, where we pick up the Kennebec River Rail Trail. The trail will provide a gentle way to end the day, allowing us to pass through quaint Hallowell before bringing us to our day's destination: Gardiner's Waterfront Park.

Ride Turn-by-turn*

| Leave YMCA Camp | 0 |
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| Turn left onto Winthrop Center Rd/ME-135W | 0.4 |
| Turn right onto Narrows Pond Rd | 1.0 |
| Bear right at yield sign onto Highland Ave | 2.9 |
| Cross US-202 at stop sign | 3.2 |
| Turn left onto Main St | 3.4 |
| Turn sharp right onto Bowdoin St | 3.7 |
| Turn left onto Beaver Dam Rd, becomes South Rd | 7.8 |
| Turn left onto Main St/ME-17N in Readfield Depot | 10.1 |
| Turn right onto North Rd | 10.4 |
| Turn right onto Wings Mills Rd | 12.1 |
| Turn right onto Cottle Hill Rd | 14.3 |
| Turn left onto ME-135N | 17.5 |
| Turn right onto Minot Hill Rd | 18.8 |
| Turn left onto Depot Rd | 19.8 |
| Rest Stop, Belgrade Central School | 20.3 |
| Cross ME-27 proceeding onto ME-8/11N | 21.0 |
| Bear right onto ME-11N | 24.2 |
| Turn right at stop, onto Belgrade Rd/ME-23S | 29.1 |
| Bear right staying on ME-23S/Snow Pond Rd | 29.7 |
| Lunch Stop, New England Music Camp, Sidney | 33.2 |

*Mileage may vary from your odometer. Verify turns by checking route markings, street names, and odometer.

| Turn left onto Goodhue Rd | 33.5 |
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| After stop sign, continue straight onto Drummond Rd | 35.5 |
| Turn right onto ME-104S | 37.4 |
| Go directly across ME-3 at the traffic signal | 47.8 |
| Continue onto Water St, where ME-104S turns right | 49.8 |
| Turn right onto Commercial St | 50.0 |
| Turn left onto Winthrop St | 50.2 |
| Turn right onto Water St | 50.3 |
| Turn left into parking lot toward Kennebec River Rail Trail | 50.5 |
| Kennebec River Rail Trail begins | 50.7 |
| Turn left onto Water St through Hallowell to return to river trail | 52.2 |
| Turn right to return to Kennebec River Rail Trail | 53.0 |
| Exit Kennebec River Rail Trail into Hannaford Parking Lot | 56.7 |
| Turn right onto Maine Ave | 56.8 |
| Turn left into Gardiner Waterfront Park and BikeMaine Village | 57.0 |

Ride Extension Turn-by-turn*

| Exit Gardiner Waterfront Park | 0 |
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| Turn left onto Water St, ME-24S | 0.1 |
| Turn right onto Oaklands Farm Rd to see castle grounds | 1.2 |
| Turn right onto Beedle Rd | 6.7 |
| Turn right onto Marston Rd | 9.2 |
| Turn right onto Capen Rd | 12.5 |
| Turn left onto ME-24N | 14.3 |
| Turn right onto Maine Ave in downtown Gardiner | 17.5 |
| Turn right into Gardiner Waterfront Park and BikeMaine Village | 17.6 |

The Importance of Maine's Wetlands

Wetlands are complex and dynamic ecosystems that contribute to the social, economic, and environmental health of Maine. In addition to providing essential breeding and migratory habitats for fish and wildlife in Maine, wetlands help to protect water quality by filtering pollutants, nutrients, and sediments from watersheds. They also reduce flood damage by acting as a sponge and storing runoff from heavy rain and snowmelt. Wetlands also protect Maine's shorelines from erosion. Because water is Maine's most essential resource, The Nature Conservancy is working to protect wetlands and water quality in Maine. The Nature Conservancy is currently working on passing a Clean Water & Safe Communities Bond that will help restore natural wetlands and increase the amount of aquatic habitat that is connected throughout the state. When we protect and restore crucial wetland habitats, we are ensuring that clean water will remain a part of Maine's future.

