

## Ride - 3 Katahdin Tour

<b>Distance:</b> 35 and 60 mile loops
<b>Terrain:</b> Extremely hilly, with several major climbs

The north Maine woods and the state's highest peak, Mt. Katahdin, provide the dramatic backdrop for this extremely challenging 60-mile loop. The loop takes cyclists through woods, open farmland, small lumbering communities and over hills that heave the roads from ridge to ridge -- hills that make this ride memorable. The final stretch between Patten, Sherman, and Island Falls lies in the shadow of Mt. Katahdin, and the views of the peak are awe-inspiring. Be sure to stop at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten -- they have an incredible display of lumbering artifacts.

Alternate 1 is a shorter 35-mile loop that's nearly as scenic which includes the southern half of this loop.

- Special features:** Spectacular views of Mt. Katahdin; Lumberman's Museum (Patten); abundant views of wildlife including moose, birds and deer.
- Road Conditions:** Frost heaves and rough pavement on ME 212; intermittent broken pavement on US 2 and ME 11; fat tires or hybrid bike recommended.
- Services:** No bike shops or repairs; basic services only in Island Falls and Patten.
- Starting point:** Take exit 59 off I-95 and turn right on ME 159. Go straight on US 2 until you see the Island Falls Municipal Building on the left. It is conveniently opposite the Thriftway food store.
- Cautions:** Pavement very rough in some areas. Fast moving logging trucks on hilly ME 212 -- give them plenty of passing room! No services between Smyrna Mills and Patten (26 miles), so carry food, water, warm clothes and repair kit.
- 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)).

!, CS <i>OPTION</i>	0.0	<b>From the municipal building, turn left on to US 2 and go 10.5 miles to ME 212 and Smyrna Mills.</b> <i>ALTERNATE 1: For a shorter 35 mile loop, turn right on US 2 and go a short distance to the intersection of ME 159. Follow ME 159 for 10.3 miles to Patten. Turn left on Rt. 11 and rejoin tour at Mile 36.7</i>
I	1.6	Public boat access is on the right.
S	1.8	<i>Scenic view on right of Upper Mattawamkeag Lake.</i>
CS	2.6	May Mountain Variety is on the left.
C	2.9	Birch Point Camping is on the right.
P,S	3.6	<i>Picnic area on the left. Scenic views of Mt. Katahdin on left.</i>
	6.8	Pass Oakfield Road.
I	7.4	The Dyer Brook Church is on the left at the top of the hill.
	8.0	Cross over Interstate 95.
	10.0	Enter village of Smyrna Mills.
!,CS	10.5	<b>Turn left on ME 212 and go 10.4 miles to ME 11.</b> Smyrna Mills Variety is straight on US 2 and is the last convenience store until Patten (26.2 miles).
S	11.6	Climb to top of hill. <i>Views of surrounding hills, potato fields.</i>
!	20.9	<b>Turn left on South ME 11 and go 22.3 miles to Sherman.</b>
I	23.5	Cross over the West Branch of the Mattawamkeag River.
A	25.1	Bear Mountain Lodge with cabins is on the right.
	27.8	Halls Corner, intersection of ME 11 and Boundary Road.
P	28.2	Maine Department of Transportation picnic area on right.
	32.4	Cross the Penobscot County line. There are 2 large hills just past here.
!, CS, A, HX	36.7	Enter village of Patten. <b>Stay south on ME 11.</b> Patten offers all services except bicycle repair. <i>Turn right on ME 159 to reach the Lumberman's Museum.</i>
S	40.5	<i>At crest of hill, there are 360-degree views of Mount Katahdin and the Traveler.</i>

**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.

CS	44.1	Enter village of Sherman Station. The town has a hardware and a variety store.
!	46.6	<b>At junction of ME 158 and ME 11, turn left onto ME 158.</b>
CS	46.7	Irving convenience store on the left.
	46.9	Pass under Interstate 95.
CS, R	47.0	Sherman Mobil and restaurant on left.
	47.7	Enter town of Sherman Mills.
!, CS, S	48.2	<b>Bear left at Golden Ridge Road where the road forks (at gazebo).</b> Sherman has convenience store. <i>There are scenic views to the south and west of Mount Katahdin, the Traveler, and Mount Chase.</i> <b>Go 5.4 miles to US 2.</b>
!	53.6	<b>Bear left on US 2 at yield sign and go 6.7 miles to the Island Falls Municipal Building.</b>
A	57.1	Bear Creek Lodge on the left.
	59.6	Enter Island Falls.
!	60.2	<b>Turn right at stop sign, staying on US 2.</b>
!	60.3	<b>Return to the Island Falls Municipal Building</b> End of the ride.

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