



Calais Historic Hamlets about 20 Miles

Terrain and Road Conditions:

This route covers some hilly terrain and requires a reasonable degree of fitness on the part of the cyclist. Most roads are marked. With the exception of a short stretch on County Road, this entire route is unpaved.

Tour Highlights:

The Hamlet Tour offers an exciting visit through Central Vermont's countryside. Along this route you will encounter four compact settlements, each unique, but each reflective of Vermont's past. You will also traverse landscapes of pastoral beauty and wind past several lakes and ponds. There is a tremendous reservoir of history along this ride, so pedal forward and allow your mind and senses to wander back.

Route Description:

■ The most appropriate starting point along this tour is the tiny village of Maple Corner. Here, there exists a post office and general store which can provide both parking and provisions.

Located at the southeast corner of Curtis Pond, Maple Corner owes its existence to this body of water and the mill industries it helped power. In the early 19th century, the village hosted saw and grist mills. Later, in the 1870's, a woolen mill and machine shop which produced horse rakes, appeared. Around 1910, a carriage factory here was converted to a creamery which served nearby farms.

■ From Maple Corner, pedal east out of town along Kent Hill Road. Shortly (0.7 mile) you will arrive at Kent's Corner. This small hamlet has changed very little over the past 150 years or so and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Kent Tavern is owned by the Vermont Historical Society and is occasionally opened to the public.

■ Turn left onto Robinson Cemetery Road at the four corners intersection. Just a short distance up the road you will notice a historic post and beam, hydro-powered sawmill to your left. A bit further up the hill you will pass the cemetery and views of Groton State Forest to the east.

■ At 1.88 miles you will arrive at a grassy triangle. Stay to the right and continue along West County Road for about 1.5 miles at which point you will turn right onto Bayne Comolli Road.

■ Remain on this road for 2.5 hilly miles before arriving at a T intersection with another grassy triangle. Turn right here onto No. 10 Pond Road. Continue on, passing the pond on your left.

■ At the next intersection, a right hand turn onto North Calais Road will enable you to continue the loop. However, a very short side trip into the hamlet of North Calais is recommended. A left hand turn will bring you there. As you poke around the village you will notice a number of decrepit dam walls and stone foundations amid the historic residences. These lay as a record of North Calais's days of saw and grist milling (as early as 1800), and as a



The Lakes Tour 7 Miles

Terrain and Road Conditions:

While this is a short loop, it traverses some hilly terrain. Nearly all of this route is on well-maintained dirt roads.

General Description:

This short loop takes you through the wettest towns in Vermont (Woodbury has 25 lakes and ponds: Calais, 14). So, bring your swimsuit and fishing pole. Water, however, is not this route's only attraction. You will also pass through pastoral countryside and two compact, charismatic villages.

Route Description:

■ Park at the Woodbury Town Clerk's Office located on the east side of Route 14 in South Woodbury. This cluster of Greek Revival structures looks much as it did during its heyday as a milling center in the mid-19th Century.

■ Head straight across Rte 14 and climb Foster Hill Road through the Village of South Woodbury on a paved surface. Above the village, the road veers to the left, pavement ends, and the climb continues as you head south toward Calais.

■ At about 2 miles, you will descend into the tiny Village of North Calais. As you poke around this settlement, notice a number of decrepit dam walls and stone foundations amid the historic residences. These lay as a record of North Calais's days of saw and grist milling (as early as 1800), and as a manufacturing center (later 19th century). Water flowing from Mirror Lake powered the production of wooden clocks, cast bells, carriages, coffins, woolen goods and even wooden fives.

■ Stay to the right at the Y (Calais Road) in the village then make a sharp right onto No. 10 Pond Road (2.4 miles) at the triangle just beyond.

■ Proceed along the shores of No.10 Pond and then Nelson Pond (where the road becomes Nelson Pond Road) . These are beautiful clear, cold water bodies. Both have public access areas.

■ Turn right at the four corners intersection beyond Nelson Pond onto Chartier Hill Road and climb steeply into open pasture land affording views back to the lakes and the hills and forests beyond.

■ Take your first available left onto Tebbets at a grassy triangle (4.7 miles) and continue to climb. At the crest of the hill, you will be rewarded with some excellent views of the countryside and encounter an unusual cultural landscape feature; a large barn with an enclosed ramp which bridges the road.

■ After crossing under the barn you will descend sharply at first, and then more gradually back to the Village of South Woodbury.

■ Turn left onto Foster Hill Road and continue back to Route 14 and the Town Clerk's Office.

manufacturing center (later 19th century). Water flowing from No. 10 Pond powered the production of wooden clocks, cast bells, carriages, coffins, woolen goods and even wooden fifes.

➡ Exit North Calais the same way you entered and continue on North Calais Road (which becomes Pekin Brook Road) for about 4 miles of mostly downhill pedaling. You will pass the Calais Town Hall, which dates from the mid 19th century, along the way.

➡ At a four corners intersection (10.25 miles), turn right onto George Road passing a farmstead on the right. The road will begin to climb steeply and turn more primitive. The road will turn sharply to the left near the top of the climb, straighten out and reach a T intersection at 11.7 miles.

➡ Turn right at the T onto Lightening Ridge Road. (This road earned its name because the wagons that once used it were often forced to lighten their loads in order to make the climb. But don't worry; although you will be climbing again, the steepest part is behind you.)

➡ Proceed on Lightening Ridge Road. Bearing left, it becomes Adamant Road and descends into the village of Adamant at about the 13.5-mile mark. This little hamlet, located on the shore of Sodom Pond was settled in the 1880's when granite was quarried in this locale. It is the site of the first State Chartered Credit Union in Vermont, a cooperative store, a renowned music school (offering summer concerts), and an annual strawberry festival.

➡ Proceeding through the village you will pass the Adamant Methodist Church on your left. Bear to the right at the intersection just beyond this point onto Martin Road.

➡ In 1.13 miles you will reach another T intersection. Turn right onto County Road and travel for about one half mile on a paved stretch before turning right again onto Bliss Pond Road.

➡ Shortly after passing Bliss Pond, bear left at a grassy triangle onto Old West Church Road and continue about 1.5 miles back to Kent's Corner. Along the way you will pass the Old West Church (c.1823), a meeting house which is heated by wood stoves and retains its original pews. In letters above the pulpit, a message written in dried hemlock boughs commands: "Removeth not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set."

➡ At Kent's Corners turn left onto Kent Hill Road and proceed to Maple Corner, concluding your trip.

