



Montpelier East Montpelier 16.5 (9.2 mile option)

Terrain and Road Conditions:

These loops are not terribly long, but it's quite hilly - particularly on the way out of and into Montpelier. With the exception of one short segment over very rough surfaces, the roads upon which you will ride are well maintained and fairly wide dirt or asphalt surface. Most road names are posted.

Tour Highlights:

Atop the golden dome of the Statehouse in the City of Montpelier stands a statue of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture. This tour takes you from her home in Vermont's charming capital city out to the beautiful and productive farmlands she symbolizes - and back again.

Montpelier is the smallest state capital in the U.S. at a population of 8,000. It's thriving downtown hosts several impressive government buildings and an array of historically and architecturally significant commercial buildings. The latter host a variety of unique businesses and restaurants.

Montpelier is a compact city. Only minutes out of town, on the back roads of East Montpelier, stone walls, majestic sugar maples, historic barns, churches and farmsteads, and mountain views across verdant pastures grace the landscape.

Note: For those wishing to both shorten the ride and avoid the climb out of Montpelier, park at the Old Meeting House (see below) and begin your ride there.

Route Description:

➡ Park in the City of Montpelier (public parking can be found in several lots and on the street, but it's not always easy, especially when the legislature is in session). After seeing the various points of interest downtown, proceed north on Main Street bearing right at the roundabout across from the former Masonic Temple which now houses a medical clinic.

➡ Climb steadily out of town on Upper Main Street (on the way you will pass the New England Culinary Institute on the left - the school operates several fine restaurants in the city which are well worth visiting!). After a sharp left hand turn, Main Street becomes County Road, flattens out a bit and becomes a bit more rural in character. About a mile and a half out of town you will pass the Morse Farm stand on the right where a variety of local agricultural products, crafts and gifts may be purchased.

➡ Continue on the County Road until its intersection with Barnes Road on the right (3.2 miles). Barnes Road (unpaved) will lead you through a residential area to the historic settlement of East Montpelier Center.

➡ Turn left onto Center Road (4 miles). Shortly you will pass the Old Meeting House (c. 1823), a National Register Historic Site and community landmark, on the right. Take a moment to admire this fine example of "Federal Vermont" architecture.

➡ Continue up scenic and historic Center Road pedaling on dirt surfaces past tidy farmsteads and beneath the canopy of majestic roadside sugar maples. Center Road appears in State records as

➡ At about 6.6 miles, turn right onto Sibley Road. Notice the old farmhouse which soon appears on your left - it was built in 1795 and is reputed to have been involved in the embargo of the War of 1812 and the Underground Railroad. Further down the road on your left, you will pass an impressive complex of agricultural buildings known as the Sibley Farm. The Groton Mountains to the east provide a splendid backdrop for this arresting scene.

➡ Shortly after the Sibley Farm, the road branches in a "Y" at a grassy triangle. Take the left fork and continue for one-half mile before turning left onto a rugged jeep trail which runs uphill through a pasture within sight of the farmhouse at the end of Foster Road. Stay on this trail as it winds through the woods for about .6 mile. Turn right onto Chickering Road at the end of the trail.

➡ In just over one-half mile you will come to a "T" intersection. Turn right onto Guyette Road. One mile later turn right at another "T" onto Snow Hill Road. The views from the height of land on this road are inspiring. Farms, fields, woods and mountains form a patchwork landscape.

➡ Continue straight over pleasant, rolling terrain for almost three miles. (Snow Hill Road will change to Dodge Road at a four-way intersection.)

➡ At the end of Dodge Road (12.8 miles) turn left back onto Center Road, through the hamlet of East Montpelier Center, past the Old Meeting House and back onto pavement. Continue on Center Road for about a mile and a half to its intersection with the County Road. As you approach this junction, great long-range views open up to the south and west over the City of Montpelier.

➡ Turn left onto the County Road and retrace your steps back down Main Street to downtown Montpelier. Use caution on this steep descent.

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