

Bucolic Bethlehem (with extension)

Total Distance: **30.8 miles (with options for 13.6 and 17.4 miles)**

Elevation Gain: **1886 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1886 ft / 30.8 mi = 61.23 ft/mi** Terrain: **Hilly**

Killer Hills: **Several short, steep hills and one long, uphill stretch**

Geographical Region: **Northwestern Connecticut**

City/Town: **Bethlehem**

Starting Location: **Behind the Bethlehem Public Library, 32 Main Street South (Rt. 61) in Bethlehem, Connecticut.**

Ride Description: **At times hilly ride by orchards, farms, fields, and forests. Ride through White Memorial Foundation and along Bantam Lake.**

Note: **The route forms a rough figure 8. Doing only the first half of the 8 is a ride of 13.6 miles. Doing only the second half of the 8 is a ride of 17.4 miles. To ride only the second half, turn left from the library onto Route 61 north, continue on Route 61 through the 4-way stop sign and blinker and pick up the cues at mile 14.2.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.0 - 0.5	Bethlehem: Various facilities
2.8	<p><i>Flanders Nature Center on left:</i> The Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust was founded in 1963 by Natalie Van Vleck, an artist, sculptor and farmer who raised sheep and turkeys on the 200 acres along Flanders Road in Woodbury, Connecticut, that are now the heart of Flanders.</p> <p>The mission of Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust is to promote the understanding and appreciation of nature, and support the conservation, preservation, and management of our natural resources.</p> <p>Over the years, Flanders' land holdings have grown from the original 200 acres to more than 1600 acres in the four neighboring towns of Woodbury, Bethlehem, Middlebury, and Southbury.</p> <p>A small professional staff and hundreds of volunteers offer a wide variety of programs open to all members of the community. The programs offer members and participants a wide variety of opportunities to celebrate the four seasons at Flanders!</p>
16.9	Morris: market, deli, ice cream
21.3	<p><i>White Memorial Conservation Center:</i> The White Memorial Conservation Center, an Environmental Education Center and Nature Museum, is located in the heart of the 4000-acre White Memorial Foundation in the hills of northwestern Connecticut.</p> <p>In 1964 the Center was established in the former home of Alain White and his sister, May. Their vision and generosity led to the formation of the White Memorial Foundation in 1913. A non-profit tax exempt organization, the Center was incorporated to add the goal of Education to the Conservation, Research, and Recreation purposes for which the foundation was formed.</p> <p>The Conservation Center operates a Nature Museum with exhibits focusing on the interpretation of local natural history, conservation, and ecology, as well as a Museum Nature Store. Dormitory and Classroom Facilities on the property extend the opportunities for visitors to interact with the natural world.</p> <p>The outdoor arena includes the wildlife sanctuary maintained by the White Memorial Foundation. The Foundation today comprises 4000 acres of fields, water, and woodlands, trails, campgrounds, boating facilities, and special areas for large outdoor educational and recreational gatherings.</p>