

Clyde's Windsor Locks Canal/Newgate Prison Ride

Total Distance: **31.67 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1129 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1129 ft / 31.67 mi = 35.65 ft/mi** Terrain: **Rolling**

Killer Hills: **One serious climb up to Newgate Prison**

Geographical Region: **North Central Connecticut**

City/Town: **Windsor Locks**

Starting Location: **I-91 Exit 42, at the RR platform parking area on S. Main St. (Rt. 159), just south of the I-91 overpass. Alternatively, use the CPL a little farther north on S. Main St. (Rt. 159), just north of the I-91 overpass.**

Ride Description: **This is a mostly flat ride with one seriously hilly section on the way up to Newgate Prison. The ride visits the Windsor Locks Canal Trail, a neat paved bike path between the old canal and the Connecticut River, after which it travels to Old Newgate Prison (suggested lunch/snack stop) with its marvelous western views over a nearby valley to the ridge lines beyond.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
1.0	<i>Start 4.5-mile ride along the paved Windsor Locks Canal Trail, a paved multi-use path. This is a flat, paved trail that takes you along a former tow path with the historic Windsor Locks Canal on one side and the Enfield Rapids and the Connecticut River on the other.</i>
3.3	<i>Interesting aqueduct bridge</i>
5.5	<i>Enfield Locks and Connecticut River rapids (views)</i>
18.7	<i>Start of ~ 1.7-mile (mostly) uphill stretch to Newgate Prison</i>
20.4	<i>Old Newgate Prison; suggested lunch/snack stop (views); bathrooms & water available inside if visitor center is open. Mining operations began at the Old New-Gate location in 1705. However, mining was not profitable, and in 1773 the Colony of Connecticut began to use the abandoned tunnels as a prison. It was used to house prisoners during the American Revolution, and in 1790 became the state prison. Closed as a prison in 1827, Old New-Gate has primarily been used as a tourist attraction since the 1860's.</i>
24.9	<i>New England Air Museum; may be a fee if you decide to use the facilities inside the museum. The Museum is situated in two large display buildings consisting of more than 75,000 square feet of exhibit space. In fair weather, the outside storage yard is available for touring as well. It is recommended that you allow at least 1 1/2 hours for your visit, though hard-core aviation enthusiasts will want to spend several hours viewing not only our aircraft and engine displays, but our many fascinating exhibits on such diverse topics as the History of Sikorsky Aircraft, Early French Aviation, a History of Air Mail, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Flying Mollisons, and many others.</i>
25.3	<i>Bradley International Airport Control Tower on right; Connecticut Fire Academy on left</i>
29.7	<i>Start of last portion of the ride...goes through Windsor Locks (somewhat busy; take care)</i>