

Essex Loop via Joshuatown Road

Total Distance: **29.6 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1961 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1961 ft / 29.6 mi = 66.25 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Very hilly**

Killer Hills: **Joshuatown Road**

Geographical Region: **South Central Connecticut**

City/Town: **Essex**

Starting Location: **Essex Town Hall parking lot near the tennis courts; from the intersection of Rtes. 153 & 154 in the Centerbrook section of Essex (Rt 9 Exit 3), take West Ave. toward Essex for 0.3 miles (approx); turn left just after library onto Grove St. Parking lot is immediately on your right behind the Town Hall. Park near the tennis courts.**

Ride Description: **This interesting and challenging ride passes through the Otter Cove section of Old Saybrook en route to the Baldwin Bridge bike trail crossing the Connecticut River. The route then travels up to Hamburg via mostly back roads before tackling the very difficult Joshuatown Road route to the Chester Ferry (\$2.00 fee). After debarking from the ferry the ride visits Chester village before heading back to Essex through Deep River via the classic River Road bike route.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
2.0	<i>Start tour through the Otter Cove development; pay close attention to the route cues, it's a maze</i>
4.8	<i>Start bike path over the Connecticut River via the Baldwin Bridge</i>
6.2	<i>A&P plaza; bathrooms in A&P; various shops in plaza</i>
12.9	<i>Hamburg village; general store</i>
13.7+	<i>Scenic bridge over Eight Mile River at Hamburg Cove; start of serious hills on Joshuatown Rd</i>
19.5	<i>Chester-Hadlyme Ferry (\$2.00 fee); possible lunch/snack stop</i>
21.1	<i>Chester village; various shops</i>
23.0	<i>Deep River Green on corner; grocery store on left</i>
23.5	<i>Start 4-mile ride along Connecticut River (views)</i>
28.4	<i>Essex business district; various shops and eateries; convenience store</i>
28.5	<i>Public restrooms in little park beside the post office and New Alliance Bank on right</i>
28.8	<i>Connecticut River Museum; Essex town boat launch and Essex town dock/pier (views)</i>

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