

Tri Town Tour

Total Distance: **34.6 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1811 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1811 ft / 34.6 mi = 52.34 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Rolling to hilly**

Killer Hills: **Several hilly sections**

Geographical Region: **Northwest Connecticut**

City/Town: **Litchfield**

Starting Location: **Topsmead State Forest parking area in Litchfield; take Rt. 8 Exit 42 (Rt. 118 Harwinton/Litchfield); go west on Rt. 118 toward Litchfield for about two miles; turn left on Clark Rd (sign for Wisdom House); go right at end onto East Litchfield Rd; take first left (about one mile) onto Buell Rd; then take first right onto Chase Rd and into Topsmeade State Forest. Parking area is on the right in about 0.3 miles.**

Ride Description: **This very scenic ride is over rolling to hilly terrain in the towns of Litchfield, Morris and Goshen, and loops around Bantam Lake, Connecticut's largest natural lake. The ride passes Haight Vineyard, White Memorial Foundation and Lourdes in Litchfield (catholic shrine). An ice cream stop in Litchfield is possible near the end of the ride.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.0	<p>Topsmead State Forest estate and grounds. <i>Topsmead State Forest is the former summer estate of Miss Edith Morton Chase, daughter of Henry Sabin Chase and Alice Morton Chase. Henry Sabin Chase was the first President of Chase Brass and Copper Company in Waterbury. Chase Brass was one of the leaders in the brass industry when Waterbury was the Brass Capital of the world.</i></p> <p><i>The English Tudor style house was completed in 1925. The exterior woodwork is of cypress, the downspouts are lead, the walls of brick and stucco, and the roof is slate. The interior woodwork is oak, as is most of the flooring. The foyer, hallway and dining room floors are of polished terra cotta tile. Most of the interior walls are of the same type of stucco as is found on the exterior. Fine craftsmanship, an eye for detail and understated wealth are evident throughout the house, which is tastefully and simply furnished with 17th and 18th century English country antiques.</i></p> <p><i>Free guided tours of the residence are offered from June through October on the 2nd and 4th weekends of each month. Reservations are not required. On open weekends, tours are available from 12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.</i></p> <p><i>Nestled in the Litchfield Hills, Topsmead State Forest remains a precious piece of an era past.</i></p>
1.9	<p><i>Haight Vineyard on left. Connecticut's oldest winery, having planted the first of the fine wine grapes in Connecticut in 1975 .Complimentary tasting and winery tours are offered year-round, seven days a week. Our daily hours of operation are, Monday through Saturday, 10:30 to 5:00 P.M., and Sundays from noon to 5:00 P.M.</i></p>
4.4	<p><i>Begin ride through part of White Memorial Foundation</i></p>
10.2	<p><i>Begin ride along west side of Bantam Lake</i></p>
11.0	<p><i>Begin tour of Deer Island</i></p>
15.3	<p><i>Begin ride through another part of White Memorial Foundation</i></p>
17.3	<p><i>Stop & Shop supermarket to the right</i></p>
25.6	<p><i>Marina on right</i></p>
31.9	<p><i>Litchfield</i></p>
32.5	<p><i>Lourdes in Litchfield shrine on left</i></p>
34.6	<p><i>Topsmead State Forest estate and grounds</i></p>