

A Trip to the Beach

NOTE: This Ride Description and its corresponding Route Sheet may not have been checked for accuracy by the www.ctbikeroutes.org team

Total Distance: **39.8 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1360 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1360 ft / 39.8 mi = 34.17 ft/mi**

Terrain: **Rolling**

Killer Hills: **None**

Geographical Region: **South Central**

City/Town: **Durham**

Starting Location: **Durham Post Office, Route 17 and Fowler Avenue, between the intersection of Routes 68 & 79, Durham.**

Note: The parking lot at the Post Office is small and shouldn't be used when the Post Office is open. Parking at such times should be available across Route 17 at the library or Town Hall.

Ride Description: **Take a trip to Hammonnassett Beach, using as many shady back roads as you can. You'll have to spend some time on Route 79 with beach traffic in the summer, but the shoulders are good (do watch for broken glass!) and a dip in the ocean is great. Bring a jacket, even on warm days, as it can be cool at the beach.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
0.0	If you travel any time except Sunday or Saturday afternoon, you may have to find an alternate parking location, as the Post Office parking lot is small. The Durham Library is across the street and there are a number of businesses along Route 17 in Durham, so this should not be a problem.
19.2	Visit Meig's Point Nature Center at Hammonasset State Park on the left. Check the Internet for more information. The Nature Center's bathroom is open year round.
19.7	Take a swim at the beach. Bring a picnic and have your lunch there. Restrooms and changing rooms are available, as well as vending machines that sell cold soda. You can choose another beach at Hammonasset State Park if you like, some of which have concession stands. Check the Internet for more information. Bikes are not permitted on the ramp up to the Pavilion; continue on the road through the east parking lot and loop back to the Pavilion.
23.9	Downtown Madison: If you haven't had lunch yet, or if it's a cold day and you need to warm up, there are plenty of eateries and coffee stops in this old-fashioned downtown, as well as an excellent bookstore: R. J. Julia Book Sellers.
31.0	A shady stop in front of the church, before you head out onto Route 79. Across the street there is a convenience store and a pizza joint, right before the rotary. For a grocery store and restrooms, detour east on Route 80 for 0.1 mile.
39.5	An ice cream stand with soft serve, regular ice cream and frozen yogurt is on your right, just before the end of the ride!

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Ride submitted by: **Kathy Eldergill, 5/28/06 (updated 3/3/07)**

Ride description: **Wu-New011**

Route sheet: **RS-New011**