

Gillette Castle Ride

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

Total Distance: **28.6 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1559 ft**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1559 ft / 28.63 mi = 54.45 ft/mi** Terrain: **Rolling to hilly**

Killer Hills: The route from the ferry to Gillette Castle and beyond to the intersection w/ Rt. 82 involves ~ 4 miles of uphill climbing; some sections are quite steep so be prepared for some hard work. Also, the 2 mile ride from Chester village back to the CPL at the end of the ride is mostly uphill.

Geographical Region: **Southeastern Connecticut**

Starting Location (city/town): **Chester**

Starting Location (detailed directions to): **Rt. 9 Exit 8 CPL (Rt. 148) in Chester**

Ride Description: This ride has several interesting features. It uses the ferry for one of two Connecticut River crossings (the other is over the East Haddam swing bridge), it travels for several miles along the Connecticut River on scenic River road, it stops at the Essex Steam Engine facility for your choo-choo fix, it visits Gillette Castle in mid ride which is an ideal lunch/snack stop, it visits Deep River Landing w/ spectacular and unusual views of the Connecticut River and passes thru the villages of Deep River, Essex, Centerbrook, East Haddam, Tylerville and Chester amongst other delights. Bring your climbing shoes, though; the climb up River Rd past Gillette Castle will definitely focus your mind for 20 or 30 minutes.

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
2.7	<i>Commence ~ 5 mile ride along the Connecticut River on scenic River Rd</i>
8.6	<i>Essex Steam Engine facility in Centerbrook</i>
12.8	<i>Deep River Landing (views)</i>
15.8	<i>Board ferry for 1st crossing of Connecticut River (\$2.00 one-way fare for bike and rider)</i>
16.8	<i>Gillette Castle; roughly mid-ride; enjoy a lunch/snack break (views)</i>
22.3	<i>Gelston House and Good Speed Opera in East Haddam</i>
22.3+	<i>2nd crossing of the Connecticut River; this time on the swingbridge (slippery when wet)</i>
27.1	<i>Chester village; various interesting shops and places to obtain food and beverages</i>

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Ride description: Wu-New158

Route sheet: RS-New158

Ride submitted by: Carol Marchion/DPS, 7/10/08 (updated 9/5/08)