

northern adirondack coast

seven loops of the lake champlain bikeways network



lake champlain bikeways
northern adirondack coast bikeways
clinton county, new york

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the northern adirondack coast

The landscape of the Northern Adirondack Coast is primarily agricultural, characterized by working farms and apple orchards. Views of the Adirondacks to the west, and the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain to the east, are found throughout. Pristine brooks and rivers provide refreshing stops along the way. Opportunities to experience Lake Champlain exist through ferry connections from several routes.

The area is rich in history. Led by Benedict Arnold, the United States fought its first naval battle at Valcour Island in October, 1776. The U.S. Navy under Commodore MacDonough, defeated the British Navy at the battle of Plattsburgh, Sept. 11, 1814. This was the last naval battle between English speaking nations, and the last American City to be occupied by a foreign army. After 220 years as a military installation, the Plattsburgh Air Force base officially closed in 1995. Second to West Point, it is the oldest base in the country with 26 buildings on the National Historic Registry.



Samuel de Champlain Monument, Plattsburgh/Chris Boire of Boire Design

lake champlain bikeways



**1,355 total
network miles**

northern adirondack coast bikeways
adirondack coast bikeways

franklin county routes
champlain islands bikeways
local motion routes

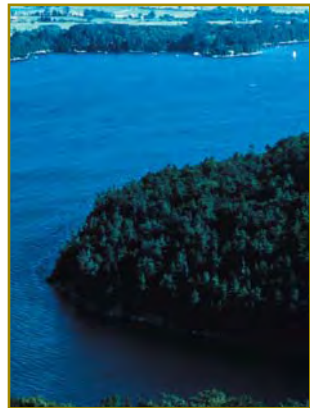
**38 interpretive
theme loops**

heart of vermont bikeways

the lake champlain region at a glance

- Lake Champlain: 120 miles long, 12 miles wide, 580 miles of shoreline and the most historic body of fresh water in North America
- a 363-mile route around the entire lake called the "Champlain Bikeway"
- 992 miles of theme loops ranging from 6 to 60 miles along a vast network of quiet back roads
- Adirondack Mountains to the west--Green Mountains to the east
- Taconic Mountains to the south--Richelieu River to the north
- agricultural landscapes, historic hamlets and picturesque villages
- gently rolling terrain to undeniably hilly
- scenic lake crossings by way of ferry system

- connections to trains with bicycle carriage
- museums, forts and historic attractions
- within a few hours drive from Boston, Montreal and New York City
- accessible via plane, train, bus, car, and, of course, bicycle!



Lake Champlain/Gary Randorf

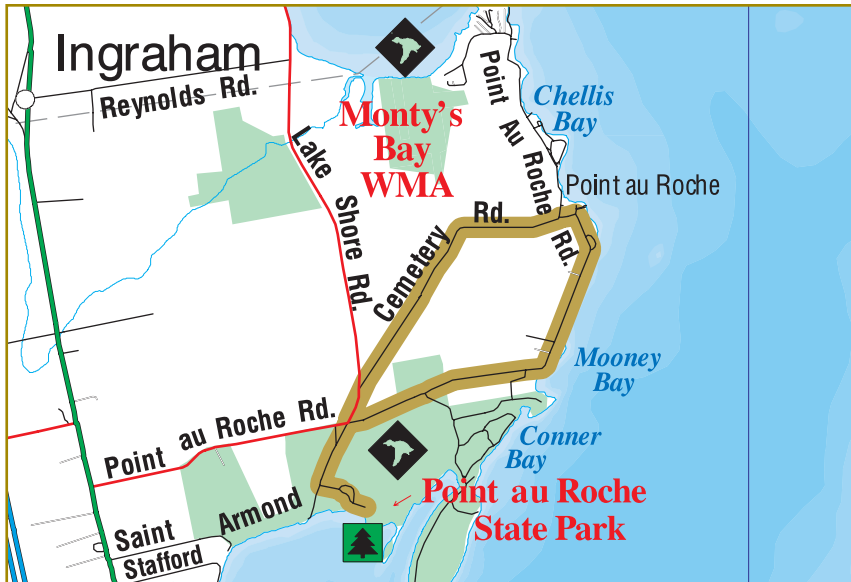
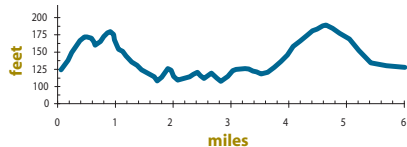
**an interconnected, international network of
bicycle routes around Lake Champlain
in New York, Vermont and Quebec.**

point au roche family ride - 6.1 miles

easy

mile

- 0.0 Park at Point au Roche State Park day use area. Take the paved bike path.
- 1.5 Paved bike path ends. L onto Camp Red Cloud Road.
- 1.8 R onto Point au Roche Road.
- 2.5 Point au Roche Road turns North at entrance to Mooney Bay Marina.
- 3.6 L on Cemetery Road.
- 3.7 Point au Roche boat launch parking lot.
- 5.5 L on Lakeshore Road.
- 5.6 R on Point au Roche Road.
- 5.7 L at Point au Roche State Park entrance.
- 6.1 Return to day use area parking lot.



route description

This short loop through cornfields, woodlands and pastures in Beekmantown and Chazy involves almost no climbing. It begins at the Point au Roche State Boat Launch on Cemetery Road. Lake Shore Road follows the coast of Lake Champlain, with spectacular views of the Island of South Hero and the Green Mountains of Vermont. Many sugar maple trees are roadside, with some 'sugar bushes' in the area dating back 3 and 4 generations. Upstate New York, Southern Quebec, and Northern Vermont are the ideal locations for maple syrup production. In early spring, a popular local custom is the annual Pancake Breakfast, served with hot maple syrup just boiled down in the 'sugar shack'. Also in the spring, thousands of apple trees are in bloom. During the summer months, several marinas are filled with pleasure boats, and the fall offers some of the most beautiful foliage in the country for cyclists to enjoy, along with the perfect weather.



Sailboats in marina on Lake Champlain

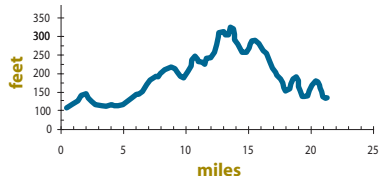
the flatlander - 21.1 miles

6

easy

mile

0.0	Boat launch. R on Cemetery Road.
1.8	R on Lakeshore Road.
3.9	L on Reynolds Road.
5.6	Cross U.S. Route 9.
5.7	L on Ingraham Road.
5.8	R on Stratton Hill Road.
6.5	Stratton Hill Road turns left. Cross Northway.
9.2	Straight on Fisk Road.
9.8	L onto NY Route 22 at flashing light.
13.3	L onto Spellman Road.
15.9	Re-cross Northway on overpass.
16.6	R on U.S. Route 9 at flashing light.
17.0	L on Point au Roche Road.
18.6	Entrance to Point au Roche State Park.
19.9	Point au Roche Road turns left at Marina.
21.0	L on Cemetery Road.
21.1	Point au Roche boat launch parking lot.



route description

This loop takes the rider on a short loop through the cornfields of Beekmantown and Chazy and involves almost no climbing. The route also passes by Point au Roche State Park, free to cyclists, which has a day use area, swimming beach, hiking and mountain biking trails which end at three separate rocky points projecting into Lake Champlain, paved bike path, and a nature center.

The route begins at the Point au Roche State Boat Launch on Cemetery Road and passes a stand of roadside sugar maples on Stratton Hill Road. After crossing the Northway the route leaves the cornfields and crosses through woodlands and pastures climbing a very slight grade. There is a grocery store and restaurant in West Chazy. Spellman Road leads past Beekmantown School and Beekmantown Town Hall before recrossing the Northway. Taking a left on Point au Roche Road and taking it back to the boat launch parking lot, you will pass the state park and nature center along the way.



Biking in historical Clinton County

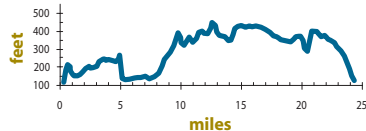
acres of apples - 24.4 miles

8

easy

mile

0.0	Port Kent Ferry Dock - Parking.
0.2	R on Lake Street.
3.5	R at Route 9.
6.3	L at Bear Swamp Road/Route 442.
10.4	R on Route 22.
10.6	Hamlet of Peru, L on Route 22B.
11.7	L on Mannix Road.
12.4	L on Old Town Road.
13.0	L on Barney Downs Road.
13.3	L on River Road.
13.8	R on Jarvis Road (becomes Union).
16.3	L on Brown Road.
17.5	R on Route 22.
18.0	L on Arthur Road.
18.7	R on Chasm Road.
19.5	L to stay on Chasm Road.
20.7	L on Route 9.
21.1	R on Route 373
24.4	Port Kent Ferry Dock.



route description

This loop winds through a magnificent apple country landscape of orchards and farms, and through the hamlet of Peru, a charming town that retains vestiges of its agrarian past. The upper Champlain Valley is one of the highest producing apple areas in the United States, second only to regions in Washington. While traveling Acres of Apples you will travel through five different apple orchards.

The orchards that mark the countryside of Peru had humble beginnings as backyard orchards in the late 1890s. The first commercial orchard, Northern Orchards which is on the route, began production in 1906. The larger orchards are in excess of 5,000 acres, and approximately 80% of the apple trees are of the McIntosh variety. These trees are ideally suited to the Champlain Valley due to their ability to withstand harsh winters, and to mature in a shorter growing season. In addition, this loop passes the largest dairy farm in Clinton County and offers a spectacular view of a river carved gorge at Ausable Chasm.



Apple blossoms in Peru/PHOTOPIA: Shaun Heffernan

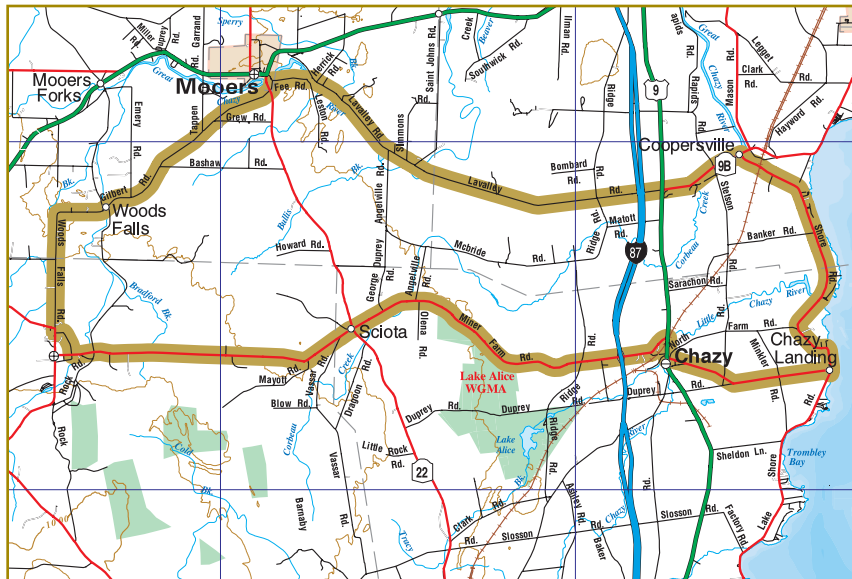
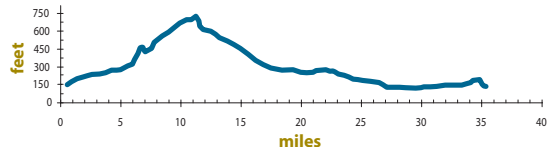
the william h. miner story - 35.3 miles

10

easy

mile

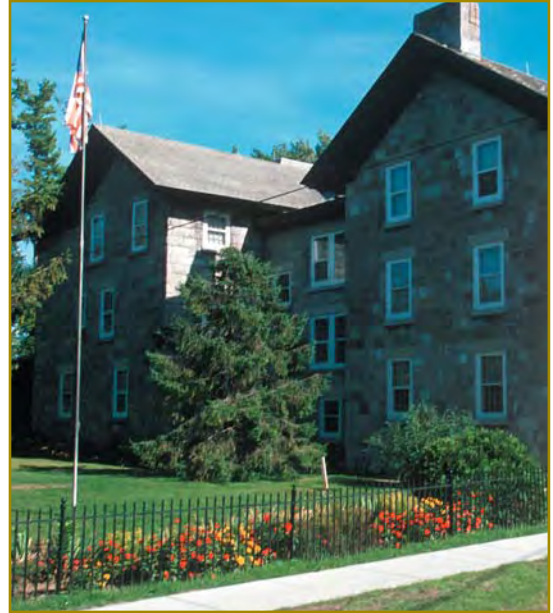
0.0	Chazy Central School - Parking. L on Graves Street.
0.2	R on Route 9.
0.7	L on Miner Farm Road.
6.8	Cross Route 22.
11.4	R on Joe Wood Road (stay straight for services in Altona).
14.3	R on Gilbert Road.
17.9	L on Route 22.
18.2	Downtown Mooers.
18.7	R on Lavalley Road.
26.1	Cross Route 9 and stay on Route 9B.
27.6	Coopersville. R on Lake Shore Road.
32.5	R on Duprey Road.
35.3	Chazy Central School.



route description

This loop starts at the Chazy Central Rural School, built by William H. Miner, and adjacent to the Alice T. Miner Museum. The school was the first central school established in the United States. Mr. Miner invented a shock absorbing device for railway cars, known as the “Miner Tandem Draft Rigging.” The invention was patented and through resulting businesses, Mr. Miner became a wealthy man. In addition to the school, he built and equipped the Physicians Hospital and Kent-Delord House museum in Plattsburgh and restored the Alice T. Miner Colonial Collection in Chazy. The Miner Foundation built and equipped the William H. Miner Agriculture Research Institute in 1956. Miner's old homestead, Hearts Delight Farm, located on Minor Farm Rd., is open to the public. It is a working dairy farm with a variety of exhibits and Morgan horses.

The Champlain Valley in this area is wide and relatively flat so the slight climb experienced when leaving the lake is pleasantly rewarded on the return.



Alice T. Miner Museum, Chazy

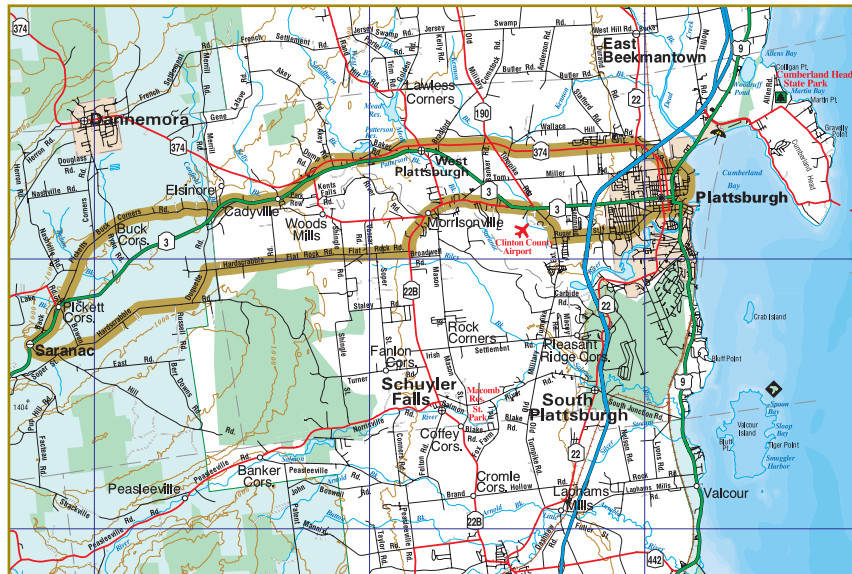
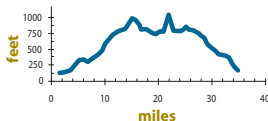
monuments, mills & music - 35.6 miles

12

moderate

mile

- 0.0 City Hall Place - go south on Durkee Street.
- 0.3 R on Broad Street.
- 0.8 Bear L on Rugar Street.
- 3.2 R on Route 190.
- 4.0 L on Route 3.
- 4.5 L on Route 22B.
- 7.4 R on Flat Rock Road.
- 10.4 Stay straight on Hard Scrabble Road.
- 17.0 Saranac, R on Route 3.
- 18.2 L on Picketts Corner Road.
- 19.8 R on Bucks Road.
- 22.9 L on Route 3.
- 23.0 R on Gougeville Spring Road.
- 23.4 L on Route 3.
- 25.2 Stay straight onto Route 374.
- 33.5 Turns into Catherine Street.
- 34.2 L on Boyton Avenue.
- 34.7 Cross Margaret Street onto Cumberland Avenue.
- 35.6 Bear left on City Hall Place.



route description

The region's largest city, Plattsburgh, was settled in 1784 and grew rapidly as a shipping port for early Saranac River basin industries such as potash, lumber, pulp and iron ore. The exhibits in City Hall, the Kent-Delord House and the riverwalk, all within a block of the arched bridge, make this a great starting point. See the Plattsburgh section on pages 18 & 19 for additional information. The loop continues west through the Saranac River valley where large pulp and sawmills once dominated the landscape from the early 1800s until 1927. Evidence of this industrial heritage is clear when entering the hamlet of Morrisonville where you will find a scenic riverside picnic area offering historic interpretation and memorabilia of the lost mills. A site not to be missed is Gorgeville Spring, a natural spring on Gorgeville Spring Rd. where residents come for their drinking water. Entering the city on Cumberland Avenue on *The Heritage Trail*, you will pass wonderful lake front homes and arrive at Champlain Park.



McDonough Monument, Plattsburgh/Chris Boire of Boire Design

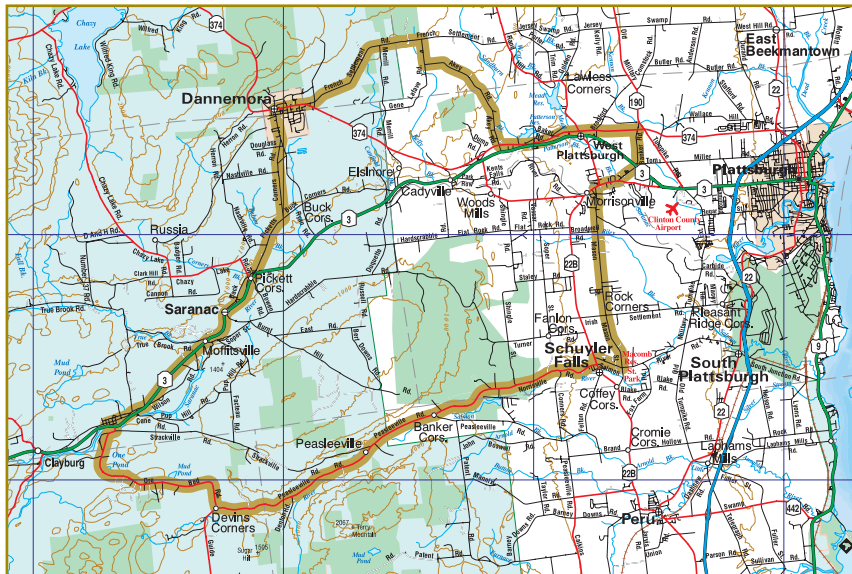
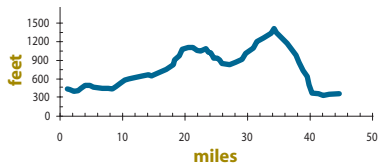
over the hills and far away - 45.2 miles

14

difficult

mile

- 0.0 Plattsburgh Town Hall; right onto Banker Road.
- 0.1 Cross NY Route 3.
- 0.7 R onto NY Route 22B.
- 1.3 Cross Saranac River; L onto Mason Street.
- 6.0 R on Salmon River Road.
- 6.7 L onto NY Route 22B.
- 6.9 R onto Norrisville Road at Gas Station.
- 10.5 Entrance to Macomb State Park on left.
- 11.5 R onto Peaseleeville Road.
- 17.8 R onto Ore Bed Road.
- 22.6 L onto Ore Bed Road; Cross the Saranac River.
- 22.7 R onto State Route 3.
- 28.3 L onto Pickett's Corners Road.
- 32.5 R onto NY Route 374 (Cook Street).
- 33.3 L onto General Leroy Manor Road.
- 37.0 R onto Gene LaFave Road (before tractor sign).
- 37.7 L onto Akey Road.
- 40.9 L onto NY Route 374.
- 44.4 R onto Banker Road.
- 45.2 Finish at the Plattsburgh Town Hall.



route description

This loop requires a couple of strenuous climbs and exhilarating downhills. After the climb on Norrisville Rd. the route passes Macomb State Campsite and Day Use Area, no day use fee for cyclists. After Peasleeville, climbing becomes strenuous and ends after the turn onto Ore Bed Rd. which affords great views of Lyon Mtn., farm fields, woodlands and a steep downhill.

The Clinton Correctional Facility, which opened in 1845 with the mandate for inmates to work an iron ore mine owned by the state, is the center of Dannemora. The mining experiment was ended in 1877 and the wall was built. Just east are the gothic buildings of Clinton Annex, opened in 1899 as the Dannemora State Hospital for inmates declared insane after trial. Closed in 1972, it is now a separate correctional facility. The Gen. Leroy Manor Rd., with views of the Adirondack High Peaks, is named for a Clinton County native who served with distinction as a fighter pilot in World War II and the Vietnam War. Akey Road includes a spectacular 2 mi. downhill.



A dairy farm in Clinton County

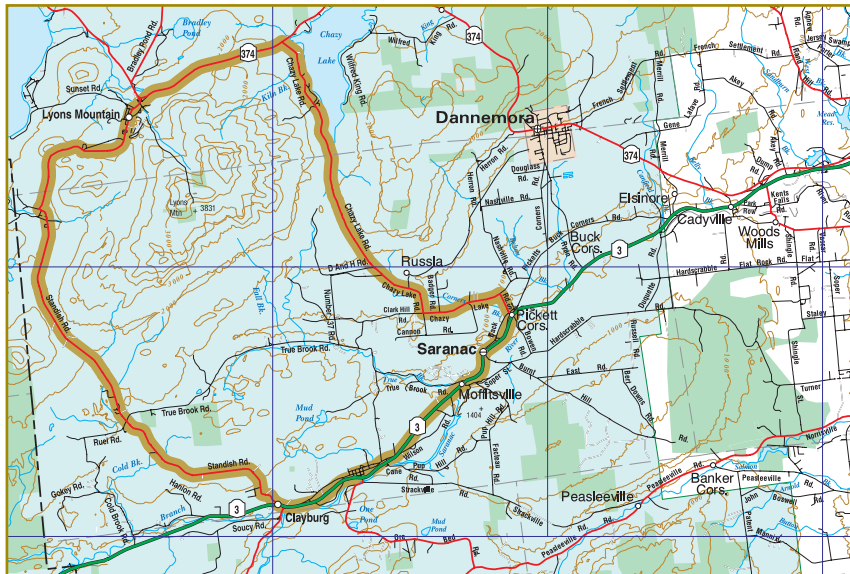
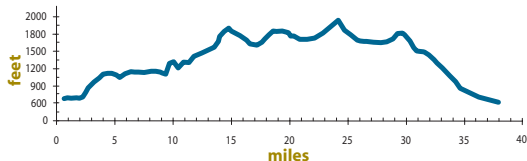
the climber - 38.0 miles

difficult

16

mile

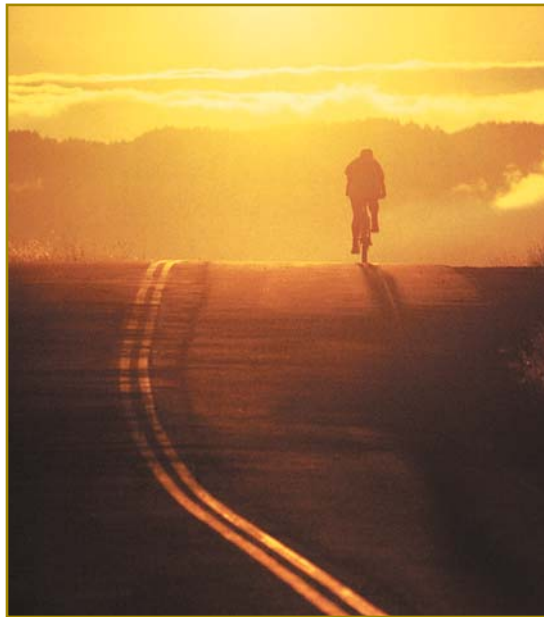
- 0.0 L out of Saranac Elementary parking lot.
- 0.2 R on Route 3.
- 7.7 R on Standish Road at Clayburg (last store until Lyon Mountain).
- 12.3 High Banks - True Brook Road to the right is a rough short cut return.
- 18.1 Road turns right in Standish.
- 22.3 R on Route 374.
- 28.0 R on Chazy Lake Road.
- 35.4 L at intersection with Clark Hill Road (still Chazy Lake Road).
- 37.7 L on Ganong Drive.
- 38.0 Saranac Elementary School.



route description

This route involves some strenuous climbing around 3,820' Lyon Mountain, the highest point in Clinton County and through some of the most sparsely settled areas in the county. Shortly after the Saranac Town Hall the first climb Russia (pronounced Roo-sha) Hill begins, a 1 mi. climb. About halfway up the hill there is a 1/4 mile dirt road leading to a parking lot at the top of High Falls Dam with a nice view. The last store for 15 miles is in Clayburg about 1/4 mi. before the Climber turns onto Standish Rd. and starts the major climb. In Standish the route takes a sharp right turn toward the hamlet of Lyon Mtn. and climbs for about 3/4 mi. to the high point, 1989 ft. Just before entering Lyon Mtn., there is a public spring.

Chazy Lake can be seen at a number of points south of Rt. 374. and at mile 33 the trip becomes all downhill. There is a great view of the Saranac Valley just before Nashville Rd. where Chazy Lake Rd. turns right for the downhill to Pickett's Corners.



An Adirondack sunset/PHOTOPIA: Shaun Heffernan

the city of plattsburgh

The historic area of the former Air Force base is easily accessed from downtown on Route 9 (which has been upgraded for bicycle traffic). A two-mile, paved bicycle/pedestrian path has been constructed alongside the lake front, and can be entered from the Old Base Oval, or from the south gate on Route 9.

A ride around the oval and a visit to several museums at the south end of the bike path are well worth the time. The Champlain Valley Transportation Museum includes wonderful restored automobiles (including the famous Lozier, manufactured in Plattsburgh) and the “Weatherwax”, a replica of an 18th century sail ferry, which sails out to historic Crab and Valcour Islands. The Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center is also located on the base.



Plattsburgh/John Wayne Johnston

northern adirondack coast regional attractions

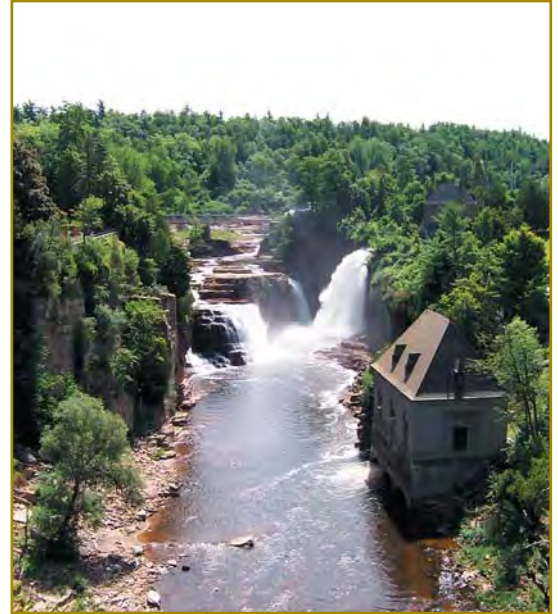
Parks & Wildlife Management Areas

King Bay WGMA
Lake Alice WMA
Lewis Preserve WMA
Monty's Bay WMA
Point au Roche State Park
Crab Island
Cumberland Bay State Park
Plattsburgh Municipal Park & Beach
Valcour Island State Park
Wickham Marsh WMA
Ausable Point State Park
Macomb Reservation State Park

Attractions

Alice T. Miner Museum
Ausable Chasm
Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center
Champlain Valley Transportation Museum
City Hall & MacDonough Monument
Clinton County Historical Museum
Kent-Delord House
Hearts Delight Farm
North Country Cultural Center for the Arts
The Weatherwax
Plattsburgh State University Art Museum
The Oval
Clinton County Community College

*For more information on bicycling on the Northern Adirondack Coast:
Champlain Shores Visitors & Convention Bureau, PO Box 310, 7061 Route 9,
Plattsburgh, NY 12901, 518.563.1000.*



Ausable Chasm

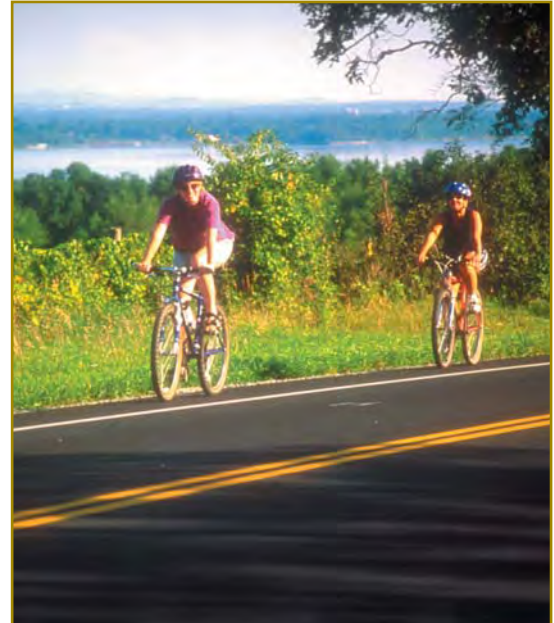
safety guidelines

Motorists and bicyclists share scenic roads. Use caution on narrow, winding or unpaved roadway. Follow traffic laws and ride safely. Bicycles are vehicles by law and have the right to use public roads. You are responsible for operating your bicycle under all conditions.

when cycling, please follow these guidelines:

Source: Mad about Cycling

1. WEAR A HELMET and cycling gloves.
2. Ride with the flow of traffic.
3. When using travel lanes, follow motor vehicle laws. Obey all traffic signs and signals. Do not cut corners.
4. Use clear hand signals when making turns or stopping.
5. Ride in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars or curbs.
6. If you must ride at night, use lights and reflectors.
7. Ride defensively! Be aware of motorists' actions.
8. Be aware of train tracks and other road conditions.
9. Ride single file.
10. Carry items in panniers or a handle-bar pack.



Cyclists touring the Champlain Bikeway/Gary Randorf

about lake champlain bikeways

Lake Champlain Bikeways promotes bicycling throughout the Lake Champlain regions of New York, Vermont and Québec for the purposes of increasing opportunities for bicycle recreation and transportation, improving the quality of life, enhancing the economic vitality, advocating for sustainable communities, encouraging healthy lifestyles and raising public awareness and appreciation of inherent scenic, historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources throughout the area.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Bikeways depends on contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations to carry out our mission. We are proud to be able to provide helpful information and brochures for cyclists who come to the Champlain Valley to enjoy our beautiful countryside, vistas and hospitality. We currently provide this information at

no charge when requested through our Clearinghouse at www.champlainbikeways.org. If we are to continue to provide this service and pursue our other goals of encouraging bicycling in the basin, we need the support of like-minded bicyclists.

Be a part of the movement! Please contribute via credit card at PayPal.com (payable to "join@champlainbikeways.org"), or send your check to: Lake Champlain Bikeways, c/o Local Motion Trailside Center, 1 Steele Street #103, Burlington, VT 05401. Your donation is tax deductible.

A variety of Lake Champlain Bikeways publications, as well as other regional bicycling information, is available through our web site at www.champlainbikeways.org or by phone at 802.652.BIKE (2453).

acknowledgements

Northern Adirondack Coast Bikeways was developed through a partnership with Lake Champlain Bikeways, Champlain Shores Visitors & Convention Bureau, I Love New York and local bicycle enthusiasts. *The Family Ride, Flatlander, Over the Hills and Far Away* and *The Climber* were developed by Brendon Jenks as part of his work to become an Eagle Scout. This work was supported and guided by Peter Racette. Their efforts greatly expanded work previously done in this area. The partners of this brochure support the efforts of Lake Champlain Bikeways as we are proud to be included in their 1,355-mile network.



CHAMPLAIN
SHORES
IN THE ADIRONDACKS
Visitors & Convention Bureau

