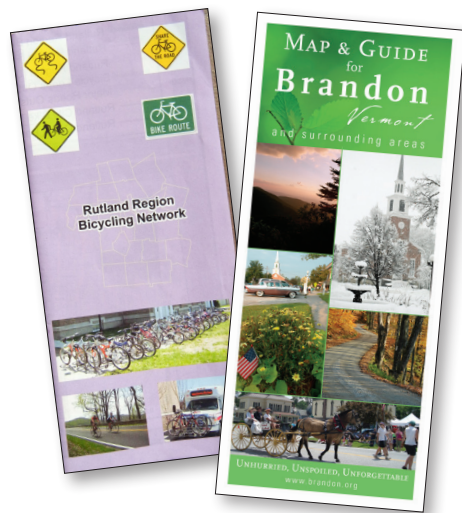


LOOP #1: Historic Brandon Village.
3.0 miles /20 minutes. Climb/loss: 97 feet.

This quick ride stays within Brandon's village center, and will tour both of Brandon's showcase residential boulevards, Pearl Street and Park Street, and the vibrant commercial district that has long made up the center of town. With few exceptions, virtually every house on this tour is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Brandon's historic district has about 250 contributing buildings.

- 1 Head south in front of the Baptist Church, cross VT 73, and head onto Pearl St. 0.3 mi
- 2 LEFT on Maple St. 0.4 mi
- 3 LEFT on Union St., crossing Neshobe River. 0.3 mi
- 4 Cross railroad track, immediate RIGHT on Church St. 0.3 mi
- 5 LEFT on Carver St. 0.3 mi
- 6 Sharp RIGHT in front of Methodist Church below park, cross US 7 to Park St. 0.3 mi
- 7 Go to stop sign on Park and make a U-turn and ride back the other side of Park St. 0.4 mi
- 8 Park St. meets US 7, turns RIGHT, and becomes Center St. 0.1 mi
- 9 Continue onto Conant Square (still US 7) 0.2 mi
- 10 Continue to Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace, 4 Grove St. 0.1 mi



You will find detailed road and biking maps in the guides pictured above. They are available in the Brandon Visitor Center at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace at 4 Grove St., Brandon.



Cover photos: Inn to Inn (back cover, front cover top right, and bottom)

BRANDON'S
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 to
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 ROAD BIKING



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“If you ironed out Vermont, it would be bigger than Texas,” so the saying goes. There are lots of hills, but in and around Brandon to the north, south, and west, they are of the low, rolling type. Those looking for a real challenge may consider Brandon Gap in the National Forest, 8 miles east and 1800 feet higher than the village (12% grade last mile). The routes described here are all safe, scenic, and paved, suitable for thin-tire road bikes, hybrids, or mountain bikes.

Wear a helmet and brightly-colored clothing for safety, bring adequate water and snacks, and ride single-file, on the same side of the road as vehicle traffic (keep as far to the right as practical). Along US 7 in the center of town, especially if riding with children, the sidewalk is a good choice. Obey all traffic signage, and signal your turns by using your arms. Cyclists yield to pedestrians. Be sure your bikes are in good repair. Check the weather forecast before setting out, and choose your ride accordingly. Be careful riding through covered bridges, as surface and light conditions change.

All routes are cued as loops that start and end at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace and Brandon Museum at 4 Grove Street. Park at the museum, the post office lot across Crescent Park, or the new municipal parking lot behind the Mobil Station in the center of town. Village shops and eateries are available to supply your pre-ride picnic provisions or reward you with a tasty treat upon your return.

ROAD BIKING IN AND AROUND BRANDON
BRANDON, VERMONT



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LOOP #2: Forest Dale Blast Furnace. 8.5 miles / 1 hour. Climb/loss: 259 feet.

This hour-long meander connects the two villages of the Town of Brandon and heads out past the golf course to working agricultural land and the village of Forest Dale. The 1856 smokestack visible from Newton Road and the Forest Dale blast furnace later on are enduring reminders of the early industry pursued in this part of town.



Forest Dale blast furnace.

Gary Mielke

- 1 Head south on US 7: Grove St. becomes Conant Square, then Center St. 0.4 mi
- 2 LEFT at Monument on Park St. (VT 73 East) and straight at stop sign. 1.1 mi
- 3 LEFT on Country Club Rd. 0.5 mi
- 4 CROSS VT 73 and head past the golf course on Town Farm Rd. 1.2 mi
- 5 RIGHT at the cornfield on Newton Rd. 0.8 mi
- 6 LEFT on North St. and immediate RIGHT on Furnace Rd. (P.O. & market). 0.4 mi
- 7 Where Furnace Rd. makes a sharp bend to the right, there is a small parking area. Hike in the trail a hundred yards and visit the historic blast furnace on the right.
- 8 Continue on Furnace Rd. and then go RIGHT downhill on VT 73 (Forest Dale Rd). 0.7 mi
- 9 After cemetery on right and church on left, LEFT on McConnell Rd. 1.1 mi
- 10 RIGHT on Smalley Rd. 0.7 mi
- 11 RIGHT on Country Club Rd. then immediate LEFT on Park St. Extension. 1.1 mi
- 12 Park St. meets US 7, turns RIGHT, and becomes Center St. 0.1 mi
- 13 Continue onto Conant Square (still US 7). 0.2 mi
- 14 Continue to Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace, 4 Grove St. 0.1 mi

LOOP #3: Forest Dale & Leicester. 14.5 miles / 1.5 hours. Climb/loss: 415 feet.

A great sampler of the region, you'll ride through neighborhoods in Brandon and Forest Dale villages before crossing to the west side of US 7 to get a glimpse of the Champlain Valley vistas that make cycle touring here so popular. A memorable valley on the Arnold District Road (down first, then up, so it's not a hill, right?) will give you a little exercise before easing back into town.

- 1 Follow steps 1-5 of Loop # 2.
- 2 LEFT on North St. (VT 53) in Forest Dale (post office opposite; market behind). 2.0 mi
- 3 CAREFULLY BEAR LEFT AT FORK on Fern Lake Rd. 2.3 mi
- 4 CAREFULLY CROSS US 7 and continue on Leicester-Whiting Rd. 1.6 mi
- 5 At stop, continue STRAIGHT on Swington Hill Rd., becomes Arnold District Rd. 3.4 mi
- 6 RIGHT on US 7 to Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace, 4 Grove St. 1.1 mi




Photo: Inn to Inn

LOOP #4: Ride through three covered bridges of the Marble Valley (extension to Wilson Castle). 25 miles / 2.5 hours / Climb/loss 1112 feet OR 35 miles / 3.5 hours / Climb/loss 1432 feet.

Relative to its distance, this route is pretty moderate in terms of elevation as you pedal along the Marble Valley formed by Otter Creek and ride through three covered bridges crossing it. Points of interest include Wilson Castle, the Vermont Marble Museum, and the New England Maple Museum.

- 1 Head south in front of the Baptist Church and cross VT 73 onto Pearl St. 0.3 mi
- 2 LEFT on Maple St. 0.4 mi
- 3 RIGHT on Union St. 2.4 mi
- 4 LEFT on Florence Rd., becomes West Creek Rd. then Florence Rd. again. 8.7 mi
- 5 RIGHT to North St. (follow down into town to visit Vermont Marble Museum). 0.1 mi

 If choosing Wilson Castle extension, at 5-way stop, take West Street 3.5 miles to Wilson Castle, then continue south 1 additional mile, then LEFT on US 4 Business 0.5 miles to LEFT on VT 3 north, 4.3 miles, cross LEFT over Marble Bridge to Main St. & 5-way stop.

- 6 If not choosing Wilson Castle extension, when you meet North St., turn LEFT. 0.3 mi
- 7 LEFT on Meadow St., then quickly RIGHT on Gorham Bridge Rd. 0.8 mi
- 8 THROUGH Gorham bridge, then LEFT on Elm St., THROUGH Cooley bridge. 2.0 mi
- 9 General store on right; take LEFT on US 7 North. 0.2 mi
- 10 LEFT down Depot Hill Rd., THROUGH Depot bridge. 1.2 mi
- 11 RIGHT on West Creek Rd. & Florence Rd. 5.2 mi (Syndicate Rd. is a three-mile unpaved alternate route for return - hybrids required).
- 12 RIGHT on Union St. 2.4 mi
- 13 LEFT on Maple St. 0.4 mi
- 14 RIGHT on Pearl St. to Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace, 4 Grove St. 0.4 mi

LOOP #5: Fort Ticonderoga 45 miles / 5 hours. Climb/loss: 2211 feet.

Apple orchards and dairy farms dot this spectacular most-of-a-day scenic ride through Vermont's land of milk and honey. Look for Shoreham Depot Road about 3 3/4 miles after Whiting — a little side trip down there will land you at the Fish & Wildlife parking lot and an easy path out to the 1897 covered railroad bridge, one of only two in the state. Low traffic, constant rolling hills, and distant mountain backdrops make this a well-loved excursion.

- 1 Head north away from town on US 7. 1.1 mi
- 2 LEFT on Arnold District Rd., becomes Swington Hill Rd. 3.4 mi
- 3 LEFT on Leicester-Whiting Rd., becomes Shoreham-Whiting Rd. & Richville Rd. 10.1 mi
- 4 CROSS VT 22A carefully onto Cemetery Hill Rd. 0.3 mi
- 5 RIGHT on School St. 0.4 mi
- 6 LEFT on VT 74 West. 4.9 mi
- 7 Ferry at Larrabee's Point to New York State. Usually \$2 each way for bicyclists, with 3 trips per hour, but check www.forttifferry.com for pricing and timing.
- 8 STRAIGHT on NY 74. 1.0 mi
- 9 LEFT through main gate to Fort Ticonderoga. 1.0 mi. Check www.fortticonderoga.org for hours and ticket prices.
- 10 After visiting the fort, leave the way you came or via Sandy Redoubt (unpaved). 1.0 mi
- 11 RIGHT on NY 74 to Ferry to Vermont.
- 12 CONTINUE on VT 74 East. 0.5 mi
- 13 RIGHT on VT 73 East. 11.0 mi
- 14 LEFT to stay on VT 73 East (also VT 30 North). 2.2 mi
- 15 RIGHT to stay on VT 73 East. 5.8 mi
- 16 LEFT in front of Baptist Church to Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace, 4 Grove St.