



## Housatonic Heritage Bike Routes - Kent CT

### Kent Bike Route #1

This 10.4 mile out and back is about as flat a ride as you will find in Northwestern Connecticut. As such, it is ideal for families and those who want a mellow, scenic ride. Starting in the center of Kent you will travel through the grounds of Kent School and onto Schaghticoke Road along the west side of the Housatonic River. You will also be passing through the Schaghticoke Indian Reservation. For the last few hundred yards before you make the left onto Bulls Bridge Road, you will be riding along the Appalachian Trail!

The ride ends at Bulls Bridge – a one lane covered bridge built in 1842. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington and his staff crossed an earlier bridge at this same spot. The bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bulls Bridge area has a number of hiking trails. A short trail on the north side of the Bulls Bridge Road takes you to the falls; another short trail on the south side of the road takes you to a scenic overlook. There is a trail map near the parking area before you get to the bridge.

If you are in need of a snack or some water before heading back to Kent, you will need to cross Bulls Bridge and go a short way to the intersection with Route 7. A store where you can get supplies is on the opposite side of Route 7.

### Kent Bike Route #2

This 11.3 mile ride has a little bit of everything that makes cycling so enjoyable – scenic river views, an historic covered bridge, quiet country roads and one good hill to test the legs.

Starting in the center of Kent, you head to the west side of the Housatonic River and by the Kent School Campus before turning left onto Schaghticoke Road. This road runs parallel to the Housatonic River and offers great views of the River. You'll go over Bulls Bridge – a one-lane covered bridge built in 1842. The Bulls Bridge area has a number of short hiking trails that provide great views of waterfalls and rapids. There is a trail map near the parking area before you get to the Bridge.

After riding over the covered bridge – is that cool or what – you cross Route 7 and shortly afterwards start a gradual climb that goes on for a little over a mile. At the stop sign, make a left onto South Kent Road and enjoy a nice cruise back into Kent past farms, ponds and forests.

After you leave the center of Kent, the only place to get a snack or water along this ride is a store on Route 7 just south of its intersection with Bulls Bridge Road.

### Kent Bike Route #3

For the most part, this 15.4 mile ride follows the same roads as Ride #2. The only difference is a loop towards the end of Ride #2 that incorporates another good hill. At the intersection of South Kent Road and Route 341, instead of heading back to the center of Kent you make a right and start climbing up Route 341. After a little over a mile of steady climbing, you will make a left onto Cobble Road. Careful with this turn – cars come zooming down Rt. 341.

At the end of Cobble Road, make a left onto Route 7. For the culturally and/or historically inclined, the Sloane Stanley museum is on your right about 3/4s of a mile after your turn onto Route 7. The museum has exhibits of early American tools and a collection of Eric Sloane's art work. The ruins of a 19th

century iron furnace is also on the museum grounds.

### Kent Bike Route #4

This 26 mile ride starts out dead flat but don't be fooled; there are two serious climbs on this ride.

Once you get onto South Kent Road, you ride past a mix of farm fields and forest. The short hill after the left onto Camp Flats Road is a taste of things to come. After you make the left onto Geer Mountain Road, watch for the palomino horses in the fields on the right. Soon after that is a steep climb. Stop at the top to take in the great views to the south - and to catch your breath.

After a few turns and a great downhill, you will make a left onto Lake Waramaug Road with great views of the Lake. Along the way is Lake Waramaug State Park where you can swim, refill your water bottles, and use their bathrooms. A few miles further along is the Hopkins Vineyard where you can get something stronger to drink.

After the left onto Route 45, it is back to climbing! But, there is a great swoopy downhill back into Kent.

### Kent Bike Route #5

For this challenging 25.2 mile ride, you will need a mountain bike. Roughly 70% of this ride is on dirt roads – and what roads they are! You should also be sure to bring along enough food and water because there are no convenience stores where you will be going. Any turkeys you encounter along these roads will most likely have feathers.

Leaving the center of Kent you head west along Route 341 and make a right hand turn on Macedonia Brook Road. You are heading towards the Macedonia State Park. The road will soon turn to dirt. When you hit the next section of pavement, you should be at the intersection of Keeler and Lambert Road. You will need to pay close attention to the ride directions and the map, because, in keeping with their frugal Yankee heritage, the two towns – Kent and Sharon – have not spent lavishly on road name signs. The next paved road you should encounter is at the intersection of Rt. 41 and Lambert Road. This stretch of road is the only one that is through extensive farm fields.

After wending your way along more dirt roads, you will drop down to River Road along the Housatonic River. A short stretch of River Road is part of the Appalachian Trail. When you reach pavement again, you will be at the edge of the Kent School campus and close to the end of your ride.

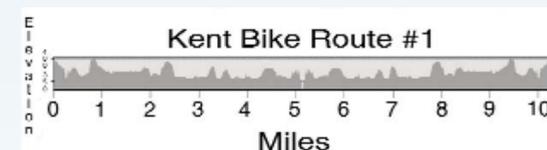
# Route 1



Kent Bike Route # 1 - 10.4 miles - Easy flat bike ride for beginners and families.

Miles: Directions:

- 0.0 From the traffic light / monument in center of Kent ride in the direction of Bridge Street / 341 West.
- 0.7 Turn LEFT onto Schaghticoke Road after The Kent School.
- 5.0 At the stop sign and T-intersection, turn LEFT onto Bull's Bridge Road.
- 5.2 Stop at the scenic overlook to the right before the cover bridge, then ride back the same way.
- 10.4 Finish in the center of Kent by the traffic light / monument.



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