

Ride of the Month

Fall Foliage Tour – Hudson Valley

This is a great ride for a Sunday afternoon. It is a hilly trip, rolling up and back through the lower Hudson valley. My buddy Joe points out that some of the hills are a bit challenging. Point noted.

The ride passes three state parks, and there are nice places along the way for picnics and photos. Of course there's also plenty of delis and food stops along the way.

T.A. members can take pride as they ride on the south sidepath of the George Washington Bridge and Henry Hudson Drive. Both of these stretches were opened to cyclists by Transportation Alternatives.

This ride is inspired by the Transportation Alternatives Touring Club's Bear Mountain Ride.

Total Miles: 52.7

State Park
 Water
 Climb

Scale

1 2 3 Miles

- 1 At 178 St., cross the **George Washington Bridge** to NJ.
- 2 At the end of the bridge, make a left onto **Hudson Terrace**, and proceed down through traffic light. (Caution: Hill is steep & there is sewer construction under way.)
- 3 Halfway down the hill, make the first left onto **Henry Hudson Drive** (aka **River Road**). Park regulations mandate helmets on this road. Look for the refreshment stand along the river. There is a 1 mile climb (400 ft. elevation) at the end of this road, with a Park Police Station at the top – good for bathrooms, water, and help. — 9.7 miles
- 4 Past the Police Station, take a left onto **9W South** and travel about a half mile, to the first light. — 10.2 miles
- 5 Turn right on **Closter Dock Rd.** Coast down a nice long hill to the second light, and turn right (at the Exxon Station) onto **Piermont Rd.** — 12.4 miles
- 6 Follow **Piermont Rd.**, past Trautwein Farms (always nice to cyclists), and continue to the end (in NY State). Make a left at the **T** (by the Lobster House) onto **Valentine**. There is a nice picnic area here. Follow the road left (at Village Auto Body). Go through the light and cross the railroad tracks. — 17.4 miles
- 7 Past the tracks, continue briefly on **Orangeburg** and make a right onto **Hickey** (at the Chinese Restaurant), and a quick left onto **Kings Highway**. — 17.7 miles
- 8 Follow **Kings Highway** to **303**. — 19.2 miles. Cut onto **303** for a few yards and veer off right onto **Greenbush Rd.** Look for good rest areas here. Continue until this meets with **303** again (at Alfoxie's Bar). — 20.7 miles
- 9 Make a right onto **303 North**. Rt. 303 is fairly quiet and well-paved, but there is one busy stretch by Rt. 287. There is also a tough hill here. Ride the wide shoulder.
- 10 Rt. **303** continues to **9W** — 31.1 miles. Make a right and head south. 9W has a nice shoulder and some good hills. Look for the state parks if you need a rest area. There are plenty of delis along the road as well. Continue on 9W into New Jersey. Some of this will look familiar.
- 11 Make a left onto **Palisade Ave.** (at the Royal Cliff Diner, the first major left in NJ). — 49.4 miles
- 12 Make a right onto **Hudson Terrace** — 49.5 miles, and follow back to the **GWB**. — 52.7 miles

—Mark Masuelli