

RIDE NO. 7 CHAMPLAIN V, PORT KENT – PLATTSBURGH

Mileage = 51.4

Elevation Gain = 1,603 feet

Category = Easy

Here are some excerpts from my log: “This ride has many scenic parts, but, also, many busy highways. It starts out on a back road along the shore of the Lake, going north from Port Kent, but soon exits onto US RT 9, which it follows through and beyond Plattsburgh, going right through the heart of the City. Finally, it turns off RT 9 to follow State Route 314, which runs to the end of the peninsula known as Cumberland Head, reaching the ferry dock. This is a scenic road along the shoreline of Cumberland Bay. The 20-minute ferry ride goes to Grand Isle, Vermont and provides fine views of the Adirondacks and Green Mountains, as well, of course, of the Lake itself.

“Going south on Grand Isle, the ride soon leaves paved Vermont Route 314 (the same number as in New York) to follow unpaved West Shore Road for 5.9 miles. As dirt roads go, it’s an excellent one, but the surface is covered with small stones and pebbles, which are a cause for concern with road-bike tires. We survived that stretch without a problem, however. The road is pleasant and scenic, with many lake views. The next 2.4 miles was on paved roads, but they led to State Route 2, with lots of fairly heavy, fast-moving traffic. Much of the next five miles of Route 2 was a flat stretch of highway that crosses the part of Lake Champlain that separates Grand Isle from the mainland. It makes for easy pedaling. The heavy-traffic highways we used today, both in New York and Vermont, for the most part, have wide, paved shoulders”.

You leave Route 2 not long after crossing to the mainland, onto a 50-foot-long dirt path leading to paved Jasper Mine Road that parallels Route 2 for 1.7 miles before returning to it. Be Careful crossing over RT 2 to reach the path. It might be best to dismount and walk your bike. The path may not be easy to spot. If you miss it, just continue on RT 2 to cue sheet line 32.

“In time we escaped the busy highways and followed the Lake Champlain Bikeway for 3.7 miles to the ferry dock in Burlington. Some stretches of the bike path are on old industrial roads and are not so pleasant, but most of what we saw was quite nice, although used actively by walkers, in-line skaters, skate boarders and cyclists. We just missed the 2:00 o’clock ferry and waited an hour and a half for the next one. That gave us plenty of time for ice cream and a soda (we hadn’t stopped for lunch).” The ferry ride to Port Kent takes an hour. There’s a snack bar on board in case you too skip the lunch stop.

The cumulative elevation gain for the 51-mile ride is 1,603 feet, a little over 31 feet per mile, so it’s quite easy.

7 CHAMPLAIN V, PORT KENT-PLATTSBURGH

START: PORT KENT, NY FERRY P.A. AT END OF RT. 373

1	BACKTRACK ON RT. 373 TO R ON LAKE ST.	0.2	0.2
2	BECOMES GIDDINGS RD.	0.6	0.8
3	BL ON PLAINS RD.	0.8	1.6
4	X GIDDINGS RD.(LAKEVIEW MEADOWS RD.-R)	0.2	1.8
5	BR ON SUNLEA VILLAGE DR.	1.2	3.0
6	R AT END ON RT. 9	0.1	3.1
7	X AUSABLE RIVER BRIDGE	0.5	3.6
8	PASS RT. 442 (FULLER RD.) – L	1.4	5.0
9	PASS LAPHAM MILLS RD. (VALCOUR) – L	2.3	7.3
10	PASS SOUTH JUNCTION RD. – L	1.7	9.0
11	PASS CLINTON POINT DR. – R	1.6	10.6
12	REACH PLATTSBURGH CITY LINE	1.6	12.2
13	PASS NY RD. – L, VT. ST. – R	0.7	12.9
14	PASS ELIZABETH ST. – L	0.3	13.2
15	RT. 9 TURNS L AS BRIDGE ST.	1.1	14.3
16	R ON CITY HALL PLACE	0.2	14.5
17	BR OVER BRIDGE ON CUMBERLAND AVE.	0.1	14.6
18	R ON RT. 9 (MARGARET ST.)	1.0	15.6
19	R ON RT. 314	1.4	17.0
20	REACH DOCK FOR GRAND ISLE FERRY	3.9	20.9
21	FOLLOW EXIT RD. TO R ON RT. 314	0.2	21.1
22	SRTR8 ON W.SHORE RD. (UNPAVED TO LINE 26)	0.7	21.8
23	PASS EAGLE CAMP RD. – L	0.9	22.7
24	PASS SUNSET VIEW RD. – L	1.1	23.8
25	PASS STATION RD. – L	0.8	24.6
26	PASS LAKEVIEW RD. - L	1.6	26.2
27	L ON SOUTH ST.	1.5	27.7
28	R ON LANDON RD.	0.7	28.4
29	PASS EAST SHORE RD. – R	0.9	29.3
30	R ON RT. 2	0.8	30.1

31	L ON SHORT BIKE PATH & IMMEDIATE R ON JASPER MINE RD.	5.0	35.1
32	L ON RT. 2	1.7	36.8
33	R ON RTS. 2 & 7	0.4	37.2
34	R ON BAY RD. @ BOTTOM OF HILL	3.2	40.4
35	BL ON LAKESHORE DR.	1.4	41.8
36	BR ON RT. 127 (STILL LAKESHORE DR.)	1.4	43.2
37	L ON PRIM RD.	1.1	44.3
38	STR8 @ TL ON RT.127 (NOW HEINEBURG DR.)	1.3	45.6
39	GET ON BIKE PATH & X BRIDGE	1.0	46.6
40	LEAVE BIKE PATH, CONT. ON PLATTSBURGH AVE.	0.3	46.9
41	R @ TL ON NORTH AVE.	0.2	47.1
42	L ON STARR FARM RD.	0.1	47.2
43	L ON BURLINGTON BIKE PATH	0.5	47.7
44	REACH FERRY TO PORT KENT	3.7	51.4