

A Spin Around the Lake

Enjoy the Lakes Region

New Hampshire's Lakes Region is arguably the most popular destination for motorcycling in the state.

Every summer, bikers and tourists come from all over the country to enjoy its plentiful scenery, family entertainment and terrific motorcycle riding. Towns like Meredith, Weirs Beach and Center Harbor are built on the tourism industry and are born again in the spring, then die every fall as the waves of riders and tourists ebb and flow. Lakes like Winnepesaukee, Squam and Winnisquam offer endless summer adventures for all ages and spectacular views, especially when experienced from a bike.



This day trip takes us on a loop around Winnepesaukee via Route 25 out of Meredith, Route 16 in Ossipee, 28 through Wolfeboro, then Route 11 through Alton and Meredith. One of the lake loop's most popular destinations is Meredith,

Lake Loop Eats

LAGO

Route 25, Meredith
www.thecman.com
279-2253

THE CIDER PRESS

30 Middleton Road, Wolfeboro
www.theciderpress.net
569-2028

CANOE

Route 25, Center Harbor
www.eatatcanoe.com
253-4762

home to restaurants, shops, sightseeing and entertainment of all kinds. It's a location that almost guarantees a great ride, no matter what time of year you go. Around Bike Week or Labor Day weekend the Meredith/Center Harbor area is abuzz with visitors, boaters, jet-skiers and tourists; at other times of year it's tranquil. Taking a ride through the area in November is one of the real joys of late fall riding, if you don't mind the cold; the lake glistens in the sun, and the waits are short at the restaurants.



Route 25 sends you on a winding and entertaining journey through some classic New Hampshire countryside. Attractions like The Castle in the Clouds are accessible from

25 (Route 171 East in Moultonborough), which is open from summer through fall. Before leaving Meredith, visit The Village Perk coffee

shop near the Inn at Mill Falls for a hot cup of joe and some lunch. You can check out their menu and daily specials at www.thevillageperk.com.

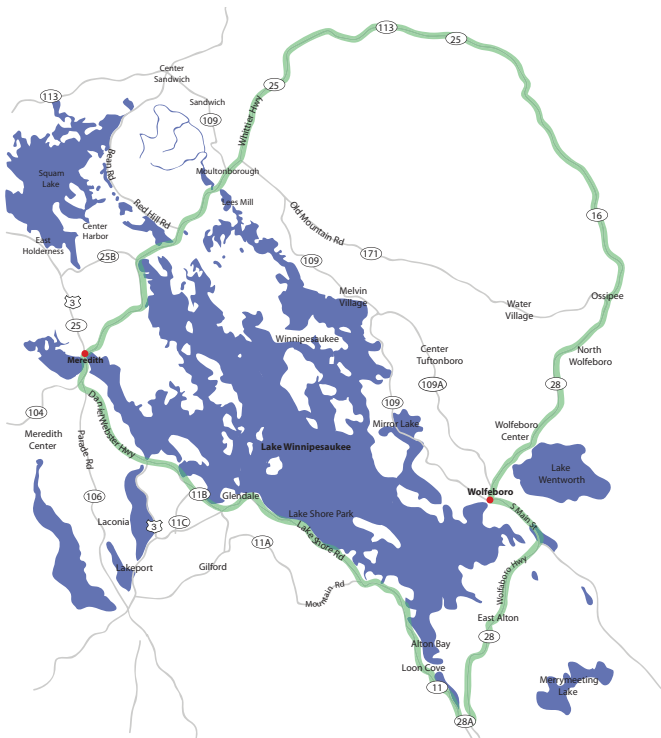
Route 25 becomes Route 16 by Center Ossipee, then heads east into Maine. One of Ossipee's most interesting features, besides Ossipee Lake in the summer, is the Ossipee Pine Barrens. This rare forest type used to exist in several places in New Hampshire but has largely disappeared. The Pine Barrens gets its name from the sandy, acidic soil that stymied the early settlers' attempts at agriculture, hence the name "barren." In reality, the forests serve as a natural filter for one of New Hampshire's aquifers, keeping the water clean for the surrounding area's use. They also are a home for nearly two dozen threatened and endangered moths and butterflies and several declining bird species.

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Follow Route 16 to Ossipee and then turn right onto Route 28 into the quaint town center of Wolfeboro, billed as 'The Oldest Summer Resort in America'. In the summer, Wolfeboro is a popular attraction mainly because of its location right on Lake Winnepesaukee. There are some great restaurants right on the shore, and the town dock is one of the stops for the M/S Mt. Washington cruise ship. It's a small town filled with things to do.



At 77 Center St., the Wright Museum is a World War II museum packed with tanks and planes and information on what the American lifestyle was like during the war. Find out about all the museum's exhibits and events at www.wrightmuseum.org.



From Wolfeboro, follow Route 28 beside the lake to Alton Bay, located at the southernmost point of Lake Winnepesaukee. Route 28 is a sweet little road, especially when you get closer to Alton as it winds and dips right next to the lake, offering great views. In Alton, turn right onto Route 11 heading north at the intersection near the Harmony Park beach. On Route 11 is Mt. Major, one of the most accessible and popular hikes in New Hampshire, which rewards with stunning views of the lake and would make for a terrific early afternoon adventure. Mt. Major has several well marked and well traveled trails, and when you're on Route 11 heading toward Meredith, the parking lot is on your left.

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