Cyclists of all ages have made the D&R Canal Towpath Ride one of New Jersey’s favorite rides. Whether you’re captivated by history, a love of nature, or just looking for a wonderful afternoon of great exercise, the D&R tour offers something for everyone. For more information please contact:

Bicycle Advocate
NJ DOT
1035 Parkway Avenue
P.O. BOX 600
Trenton, NJ 08625
www.nj.gov/transportation

Plan ahead.
Read the route directions before beginning the ride.

Obey safety laws.
Obey all rules of the road! Keep right; ride with traffic, not against it. Obey all traffic signs and signals. In New Jersey, a bicyclist has the same rights and responsibilities as a motor vehicle driver.

Use signals.
Show your intention clearly when turning and changing lanes.

Share the road/trail.
Be aware of and respect the rights and safety of other road and trail users, especially children, pedestrians, and joggers.

Be aware of road conditions.
Users should take the trail as they find it. NJDOT does not guarantee that the trail is completely free from conditions that may be a hazard to bicycle traffic. In preparing this route, every attempt has been made to select roads that can provide a quality bicycle touring experience. However, some route segments may have adverse conditions. Road conditions continually change: pavements deteriorate, roads are resurfaced, more development leads to increased traffic. Conditions listed in this route were effective at this printing.

Your comments will be useful in updating or revising the route. E-mail comments to Bicycle.Advocate@dot.state.nj.us.

Be aware of traffic patterns.
Plan trips to avoid peak traffic hours. This route generally utilizes low traffic volume roads. However, be careful if you bicycle during peak commuter traffic.
In its heyday the main canal connected the Delaware and Raritan rivers from Trenton to New Brunswick. Between 1834 and 1933, it was used for transporting goods, mainly coal, to the industrial cities in northern New Jersey and New York City.

The area, designated as D&R Canal State Park in 1974, is made up of 60 miles of canal paths winding through quaint little towns, beautiful scenery and a pristine wildlife corridor.

The Northern Section.

Traveling between Prallsville Mills, the headquarters of the D&R Canal Commission, and Frenchtown, you'll actually pass through the Bull's Island section of the D&R Canal Park. This is where the feeder canal actually begins. Between Prallsville Mills and Frenchtown, you can create a loop trail by traveling the towpath in one direction and Route 29 (there is a wide paved shoulder) in the other. When you reach Frenchtown, you'll be following an abandoned railroad right of way. Parking is available at Prallsville Mills, Bull's Island, and in Frenchtown, just off Bridge Street.

The Central Section.

This part of the ride passes through the picturesque river towns of Lambertville and Stockton and fine tree-lined streets, Victorian houses, Federal row homes.

Of Special Note:

• This ride is not intended for those who cannot control their bicycle.

• This trail is popular for pedestrians, too. Their rights and safety must be respected.

• The trail is intersected by roadways in several locations.

• Just south of Lambertville, there's a short section with a steep drop-off, and the river is within ten feet of the towpath.

General Tips

Be aware of road conditions.

Users should take the trail as they find it. NJDOT does not guarantee that the trail is completely free from conditions that may be a hazard to bicycle traffic. In preparing this route, every attempt has been made to select roads that can provide a quality bicycle touring experience. However, some route segments may have additional challenges. For example, you can expect a number of road crossings on Route 29. By nature, a canal and railroad route is not going to be flat. Cyclists must accept the challenge of the terrain. Despite the hard work, riders often enjoy the ride.

Be aware of traffic patterns.

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Plan Ahead.

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The Central Section.

This part of the ride passes through the picturesque river towns of Lambertville and Stockton and fine tree-lined streets, Victorian houses, Federal row homes, as well as unique shops and galleries just off your route. Look for parking facilities at Route 523 on the northern end of this section, or right off Route 202 on the southern end. Try Jimison Farmstead in Lambertville.

The Southern Section.

Between Lower Ferry Road in Ewing Township and Lambertville, the path passes through Washington Crossing State Park, which boasts a number of recreational diversions. No need to worry about parking — it's available next to the towpath. You can get to the main section of the park on a loop road via a pedestrian bridge that crosses Route 29. Limited parking is also available at other access points along the canal.

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The State of New Jersey has published this map to aid the cyclist and takes no responsibility for user’s safety and in no way warrants the safety or fitness of the suggested routes. Ride carefully.

This map illustrates the route and should be used for general wayfinding purposes.

The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Map by The Louis Berger Group, Inc.