



ONTARIO BY BIKE RIDE AUGUST 2021

NIAGARA CIRCLE ROUTE SOUTH



What You Need to Know THE ESSENTIALS

Total Distance: 129km

Suggested Ride Time: 2 days, 1 night

Experience Level: Easy to Moderate (due to daily ride distances of 60km+)

Route Surfaces: Paved trails, 19% of route on road sections that require caution. Mostly quieter secondary roads.

Ride Start/Finish Location & Parking: This is a looped route. Suggested start location in the community of Thorold. If in a group and parking overnight, ensure you receive permission or permit. For our group tour we parked at Thorold Community Arena, 70 Front Street North, Thorold.

Your Bike: Ensure you arrive to start with a bicycle in good working order, appropriate outerwear for conditions, and refreshments. Helmets are strongly recommended. Bike shops in the area have limited hours and are busy, should you require any major repairs. It is a good idea to travel with an extra tube for tire, should you have a flat. This ride is on paved surfaces. While mostly off-road, there is approximately 24km of on-road riding between the Welland Canal and Niagara River. With limited elevation changes, the flat terrain makes this ride suitable for all bike types.

Digital Route Map:

- Full route - www.ridewithgps.com/routes/36085561
- Day 1 only – www.ridewithgps.com/routes/37199222
- Day 2 only – www.ridewithgps.com/routes/14308828

Suggested Overnight Accommodations:

- [Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre](#), 1485 Garrison Road, Fort Erie - (905) 871-8333
 - Swimming pool, outdoor patio, other amenities
- **Ontario By Bike Certified Bicycle Friendly Businesses in Niagara:** [View Here](#)

Disclaimer – This route is a suggested route only. The route incorporates both multi-use trail and on-road riding. All cyclists are responsible for their own safety and must use both trails and streets with caution and do so at their own risk. Always wear the proper safety gear when cycling, ride sensibly and abide by all laws. Each route should be evaluated by each individual cyclist based on their level of experience, comfort level in cycling on trails and roads, weather conditions, time of day, and any road obstacles. Ontario By Bike / Transportation Options and all others involved in the development of this route do not assume any liability whatsoever for cyclists using this information and travelling upon this route.

What You Need to Know RIDE DETAILS

Day 1: Thorold to Fort Erie - 71km

Digital route: www.ridewithgps.com/routes/37199222

Saturday Ride Recommendation:

- Start in Thorold
- Please be aware there are limited washroom facilities enroute between Thorold start and Chippawa lunch stop. Commercial businesses such as Tim Hortons are open nearby.
- Port Robinson ferry crossing is approximately 11km south of Thorold start location. Do not miss this fun experience, with room for only 6 cyclists allowed per ferry crossing connecting to east side of Welland Canal on small pontoon boat for cyclists and walkers. Free.
- Alternate routing instead of ferry available using Allanburg Bridge.
www.ridewithgps.com/routes/37129983
- Follow recommended routing along quiet roads 24km to Chippawa, some alongside the Welland River. **Please note this 24km section has been updated from 2018 route to avoid construction between Port Robinson and Chippawa.**

36km – Chippawa Lunch Stop – Picnic – Kingsbridge Park - 7870 Niagara Pkwy

- Located on north side where the Welland River meets Niagara River.
- Suggested lunch location has picnic tables located at gazebo, public washrooms. Enjoy packed lunch in the park or ride north along Niagara River Recreational Trail into Niagara Falls for lunch at café or restaurant.

61km – Downtown Fort Erie and Riverfront

- Take time to explore the wonderful waterfront and areas of downtown Fort Erie as you ride south into Fort Erie on the trail. Enjoy a riverside patio or rest under Peace Bridge with views across the Niagara River to Buffalo, US.

71km – Clarion Hotel – Overnight Accommodation - 1485 Garrison Road, Fort Erie

- The hotel is conveniently located close to the trail. Follow trail approximately 6km past Peace Bridge, turn north past Crescent Beach, on Buffalo Street for 1km, until Garrison Road. Hotel located at intersection.
- Note – Trail is passable at end of Lakeshore Road, approximately 3km after bridge, but marked as not.
- Hotel has swimming pool, outdoor patio and other amenities.

Saturday Evening

- Enjoy dinner at choice of locations as listed on Fort Erie Visitor Information sheet.
- Please note – taxi service is limited in Fort Erie.

Day 2: Fort Erie to Thorold (58km)

Breakfast: Continental and bagged breakfast is available from hotel lobby, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Ride Start Location: Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre, parking lot

Day 2 Digital Route – www.ridewithgps.com/routes/14308828

9.5km – Crystal Beach – Optional Stop

Small Lake Erie cottage and beach town. Grab a coffee and saunter down to the beach to cool off before pedalling on along The Friendship Trail. Look out for Crystal Beach / Ridge Road trail exit signs. Caution on Ridge Road, which can be busy. Take side street towards beach, approximately 2km from trail.

~17km – Sherkston Beach – Optional Stop

- Another renowned Lake Erie beach stop, with busy RV/Trailer private holiday park overlooking beach.
- Take Pleasant Beach Road south, to east end beach. Porta-potty on site. Or take Wyldewood Rd to west end and main beach area. No services. Both beach access points are 1km from trail.
- To access beach through RV park, there may be an entry fee.

25km – Lunch Stop – Suggested Lunch Stop

- The Green Apple Coffee House, 162 West Street, Port Colborne
www.facebook.com/greenapplecoffeehouse
- Small but fantastic café that offers up great coffee, soups, salads and sandwiches.
- Bicycle parking is available in front of café canal side or the rear of café off Kent Street.
- Eat your picnic lunch alongside the canal and watch the ships travel up the canal, or at nearby park. Visit historic harbour and lake area for a tour about town.

~38km – Welland – Optional Stop

- Small city located in centre of canal.
- Take an optional side trip to ride through Merritt Park trail, an island with canal on either side. Exit trail on Main Street, head east across canal, to Boardwalk Street. Approximately 5km each way. Note: no exit at north end of Park, return needed.

58km – End of Ride

Return to vehicle and parking lot at your choice of start location in the community of Thorold.