

Bicycle Route Bash Bish – Breezy Hill, MA

0.0 mile Starting at the intersection of Rte. 23/41 and Button Ball Ln. in South Egremont, go west through town on Rte. 23/41. At the west end of town, Rte. 41 splits off and goes south. Continue on Rte. 23 west. The road is mildly hilly and a bit winding.

2.2 mile Take a left onto Botthill Rd. You'll recognize it by the empty red wooden building on the southwest corner. Swing left onto Jug End Rd. at the bottom of the hill. There's a great view of Jug End Mountain to the south after the turn.

2.9 mile Turn right onto Mount Washington Rd. at the stop sign. You now have a challenging, 2.5-mile climb. It's a steady uphill, with a 280-feet-per-mile climb for this stretch. The road then becomes gently rolling with flat downhill stretches through forests and past old farms and country homes. Blueberry Hill Farm is 5.4 miles from the turn onto MT Washington Rd. You can pick your own blueberries in season (late July through August).

9.6 mile Go right onto Bash Bish Falls Rd. just past the white Church of Christ. There's no road sign, but you'll see a sign pointing to Bash Bish Falls. This corner is actually the town of Mount Washington, even though there is nothing there other than the church.

On Bash Bish Falls Rd., you'll start going downhill. This is a cool and shady ride through heavily forested land. The road winds downhill. Watch your speed coming down; there could be sand in the road, and there are several very tight curves with frost heaves, bumps, and cracks in the pavement. Take it slowly. The first tight S-curve is followed by a tight C-curve, with a swing to left where a road comes in from the west. You'll cycle a winding stretch of road through the gorge along Bash Bish Brook. The gorge's heavily wood-ed sides are steep along the river for a mile or so.

12.9 mile (3.3 miles from the church in Mt. Washington), there's a parking lot on the left. Leave your bike here and take the trail, which begins at the south corner of the lot, to Bash Bish Falls. Follow the arrow blazes on the trees. (See Special Attractions chapter for descriptions of trails around the falls.) Climb to the top of the rocks above the parking lot for a spectacular view of the valley and mountains to the west.

Back on the ride, it's a winding downhill for the next mile. The road name changes to Rte. 344 as you enter New York State. You'll pass another parking lot for Bash Bish Falls on the left before coming to Taconic State Park, across from the Depot Deli convenience store. This very clean and well maintained park, which is free to enter if you arrive by bike, has a spring-fed swimming hole called Ore Pit Pond. There's a diving platform, ladders for coming out, a raft, and a lifeguard. Very cool, clean, and invigorating water. You can fill your water bottle at the drinking fountain near the park's entrance or at the faucet in the changing house.

15 mile Take a right onto Cemetery Rd. There's no road sign, but it's the first street past the Depot Deli and across from the white American Legion building.

15.1 mile Turn right onto North Mountain Rd. when you come to the stop sign beside the cemetery. The road is patched pavement. You start to climb again, and your climb is rewarded by incredible views of the Taconic Mountains to the west and of the valley and mountains to the south and north. At the end of this two-mile stretch, there's a "Y" in the road.

17 mile Go right onto Breezy Hill Rd. The patched-pavement road climbs about 130 ft. per mile for the next three miles, followed by a short, breezy descent to Rte. 23.

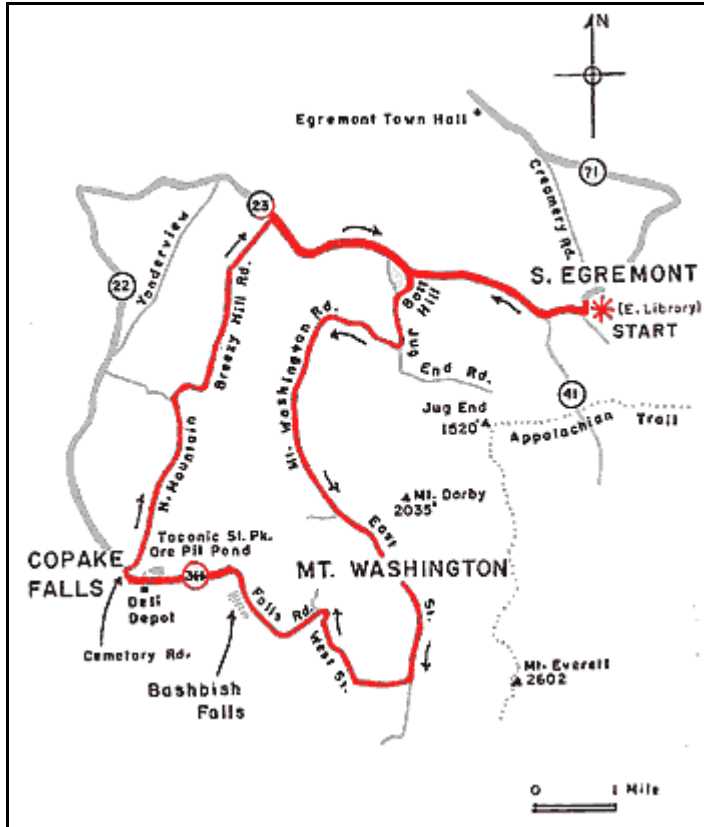


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20 mile Take a right onto Rte. 23. The road rolls gently uphill and has a good shoulder. You'll pass Catamount Ski Area and the Swiss Hutte restaurant on the right. A little further up, a 0.7 -mile descent begins, where the road levels and then is predominantly rolling and downhill all the way to South Egremont.

24.4 mile Turn right onto Button Ball Ln., and you're back to the library parking lot where the trip started.



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