

Richlands Loop

Bicycle Route

Welcome to Onslow County!

The Richlands Loop Bicycle Route is marked by green and white bike route signs placed along the route. The 50 mile loop passes through rural south-eastern North Carolina (see locator map) and the headwaters of the New River.

The route passes farms, small crossroads towns, and pine forests common to the pocosins and swamps of the coastal plain of North Carolina. The terrain is level and all roads are paved and in good condition. Stores where food and drink are available are marked on the map. As the map shows, there are long stretches between stores, so plan ahead.

Roads with heavy automobile traffic are also marked on the map. These busy roads have "share the road" signs placed along them to alert drivers to bicycle traffic, but bicyclists should use caution when riding these roads.

The best times for enjoying the Richlands Loop Bicycle Route are spring and fall when temperatures are cooler and weather conditions are more moderate. Winter weather tends to be unpredictable and summers in Onslow County can be extremely hot and humid.

A shorter loop of 20 miles is also shown on the map. This route leaves the longer Richlands Loop south of Gregory Crossroads, and rejoins it at Catherine Lake.

So, whether you bicycle the entire Richlands Loop, or join us for a shorter ride, be sure to obey the safety tips and bicycle laws listed on the back of this map, and have a safe and enjoyable trip!

Bicycle Laws and Safety Tips

The bicycle has been legally considered a vehicle in North Carolina since 1937. Thus bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle, where applicable. North Carolina traffic laws require the rider of a bicycle to:

- ride on the right, in the same direction as other moving traffic
- obey all traffic signs and signals, including stop and yield signs and one-way directional signs
- use signals to communicate intended movements
- yield to pedestrians and emergency vehicles
- equip the bicycle with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector or lamp which is visible from a distance of 200 feet at night

To insure a safe trip along the roads of Onslow County, please follow the tips listed below:

- always wear a bicycle helmet
 - use a backpack or bicycle bag to carry goods
 - avoid biking at night
 - when riding with a group, ride single file
 - wear bright clothing to increase visibility
 - be sure your bicycle is the right size for you and keep it in good repair, checking for loose or worn parts regularly
- Remember, the bicyclist always loses in a conflict with a motor vehicle. Ride defensively and in a predictable manner to avoid accidents. Be courteous to other drivers. Keep traffic flowing by helping motorists pass you in a safe manner.

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Additional copies of this map and the "Jacksonville City to the Sea" bike map are available from:

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All publications are available free of charge

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