

bicycling ROUTES



The Scotland County bicycle route system consists of three numbered, signed routes and several unsigned connectors. This 147-mile route system uses lightly traveled, paved roads favored by local bicyclists to link towns and points of interest as well as for peaceful rides through the countryside. Road surfaces are mainly smooth, although a few sections have tar-and-gravel surfaces. Most roads usually have low traffic volumes, with relatively more traffic in Laurinburg. Scotland County's relatively flat terrain is ideal for cyclists of all abilities with only scattered small hills to add interest.

There are few convenience stores or restaurants outside the populated areas of the county, so bicyclists are advised to plan ahead and carry ample snacks and water with them. It's also wise to carry a bike repair kit since Scotland County has no bicycle shops.

The routes described below can help you plan your rides and are designed so that you can follow all or part of a single route or combine them to create your own tour. Routes may be ridden in either direction, although the descriptions indicate the direction perspective. Names in ALL CAPS indicate sights that are described under Points of Interest. However you choose to ride these routes, you will enjoy the peaceful back roads that make Scotland County an enjoyable place for bicycling.

Route 1 (26 miles) Purple Northeast-Southwest

This route starts at the northeast border of Scotland and Hoke counties at the Lumber River, meandering through sparsely populated areas before skirting downtown Laurinburg and heading southwest toward South Carolina. A sandy parking area on the north side of Turnpike Road near the Lumber River provides access to a short trail to the cool river water with shade for picnicking.

Turnpike Road slices across this northeast quadrant of Scotland County past scattered homes as it follows U.S. Bike Route 1, part of North Carolina's Bicycling Highways system. The preponderance of pine trees – most notably the long-leaf pines – provides shady respites, especially from the summer heat. Even the short stint on U.S. 15-501 only barely interrupts this peaceful route. The section around Silver Hill and Sneadtown roads is narrower with some blind curves so caution is advised. In this area, cornfields outnumber houses with a few horse farms to add variety.

On Xway Road on the outskirts of Laurinburg sits the restored white Victorian home of JOHN BLUE, designed to resemble the riverboats that were popular at that time. Other

historic 18th-century structures also stand on the estate, offering an efficient tour of the county's heritage. On the other side of Xway Road is the SCOTLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, repository for innumerable interesting artifacts from the county's past.

As the route continues toward South Carolina, horses graze in the shade of a pecan orchard and a few produce stands sell bounty from the area's farms and orchards.

Route 2 (64 miles) Green loop

Description is counterclockwise beginning at James L. Morgan Recreation Complex on Turnpike Road in Laurinburg.

The JAMES L. MORGAN RECREATION COMPLEX on Turnpike Road offers a great starting point with ample parking, restrooms (except in winter), and picnic tables. This route, which loops around the southern two-thirds of the county, quickly takes you from Laurinburg into the countryside and past several historic sites and recreation areas.

The historic STEWARTSVILLE CEMETERY, nesting peacefully among tall pines, includes graves of soldiers from the Revolutionary War. The east side of Scotland County with its industrial park and many different businesses, experiences more traffic, especially trucks. Near the airport and U.S. 74 road configurations can sometimes be confusing, so watch the signs carefully.

For a short stretch the route parallels the Lumber River where vineyards announce the proximity to CYPRESS BEND VINEYARDS. Just off the route on U.S. 401 is the LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK'S CHALK BANKS ACCESS AREA, which offers restrooms, a picnic area and sites for group and individual camping.

Heading west on Arch McLean Road, you'll see signs for the JOHN CHARLES MCNEILL HOUSE, home of North Carolina's first poet laureate, and the nearby brick building that housed the RICHMOND TEMPERANCE AND LITERARY SOCIETY. As the route continues, take care to follow Arch McLean Road as it veers left (or right if you're riding clockwise on the route) where it intersects with Spring Hill Road, a confusing intersection.

This sparsely populated section of Scotland County has a few horse farms and scattered residences among pastures, forests and fields of scrub pine. After the route turns east on Old Wire Road,

water spills noisily over the dam for RICHMOND MILL POND on the north side of the road. The dam and pond once served an important Civil War gun factory. The site later became Scotland County's first textile mill. Watch for the historic OLD LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH just south of the intersection with N.C. 144/Old Wire Road. The route then turns toward Laurinburg, skirting the western edge of the town.

Route 3 (24 miles) Orange East-West

This route begins in the east near the LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT, training site for the GOLDEN KNIGHTS PARACHUTE TEAMS. Along this route, corn and soybean fields color the fields green in summer. The minimal traffic and rural countryside make for very pleasant riding.

As the route heads into town, the scenery begins to change, passing the dark water and lean trees of cypress bogs so prevalent in the area. The historic LAURINBURG INSTITUTE stands unassuming in a residential neighborhood of northeast Laurinburg. Before long, the route ascends slightly along Main Street into the historic DOWNTOWN LAURINBURG, crossing numerous railroad tracks that emphasize the town's role in the railroad's history in the area. This route bypasses the congested section of Main Street/McColl Road, passing instead by the medical offices that surround the Scotland Memorial Hospital before turning onto Dogwood Mile on the ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE campus. This road crosses the northwest end of the campus' central lake.

Past the residential developments along Blue's Farm Road, this route overlaps the purple route along Xway Road with its mix of cypress swamps, scattered houses, grazing horses and pecan groves. After briefly dipping into the town of Gibson, the route heads northeast toward Laurel Hill where it connects to the western side of the green loop route through the county.

Unsigned Connector Routes (33 miles)

Highlighted in dark yellow, the unsigned connector routes link designated, signed routes and provide opportunities for bicyclists to customize routes as they please. Countless, diverse route configurations invite bicyclists to explore the county from border to border.

bicycling SCOTLAND COUNTY



Located in the North Carolina Sandhills, Scotland County's flat to gently rolling landscape interspersed with verdant fields and tall pine forests provides a welcome venue for bicyclists of all abilities. Although named for the numerous Highland Scots who settled here in the early 18th century, the county's history and sights include the influence of its earliest residents, the Lumbee Indians, as well as that of African-Americans who came later to the area.

Laurinburg, the county seat, retains its small-town charm with quiet tree-lined streets belying its colorful history as the centerpiece of this rural county. The county's other towns – Laurel Hill, Gibson, East Laurinburg, Wagram and Maxton – stand as sentries along Scotland County's borders, leaving the central area of the county for farms and pastures. St. Andrews Presbyterian College, nestled in its spacious, lake-centered campus, bears the name of Scotland's most famous university and carries forward the strong Scottish tradition of higher education. Its scenic campus also offers pleasant venues for cycling, strolling and picnicking.

From its historic churches dotting the countryside to its important location on the North Carolina Civil War Trail, Scotland County quietly protects its heritage while its peaceful roads offer cyclists a contemplative and restorative haven for exploration and enjoyable pedaling.

bicycle LAWS

In North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle. Under North Carolina law, bicyclists are required to:

- Ride on the right in the same direction as other traffic.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Use hand signals to communicate intended movements.
- Equip each bicycle for night riding with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible from a distance of 200 feet.

In addition, cyclists under the age of 16 are required by North Carolina law to wear a bicycle helmet approved by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SAFETY tips

- Ride defensively and in a predictable manner.
- Wear a bicycle helmet every time you ride your bike.
- Avoid riding at night, if possible.
- Wear bright-colored clothes to increase your visibility.
- Be courteous to other drivers.
- Keep traffic flowing by helping motorists pass safely.

additional INFORMATION RESOURCES

Scotland County Parks & Recreation
Department
PO Box 1668
Laurinburg, NC 28353
Phone: 910-277-2585
www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org

Laurinburg/Scotland County Area
Chamber of Commerce
606 Atkinson Street
PO Box 1025
Laurinburg, NC 28353
Phone: 910-276-7420
www.laurinburgchamber.com

Lumber River Council of Governments
30 CJ Walker Road
COMtech Park
Pembroke, NC 28372
Phone: 910-618-5533
www.lrcog.dst.nc.us/

Visit Scotland County –
Scotland County Tourism Development Authority
507 W. Covington Street
Laurinburg, NC 28353
Toll-free: 888-270-0048
Phone: 910-277-3149
visitnc-soul.com/

Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation
1553 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1552
Phone: 919-807-0777
Fax: 919-807-0768
bikeped_transportation@dot.state.nc.us

Visit the Division's website
www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle
for maps of cross-state, regional, and local bicycle routes, additional information on laws and safety tips, a calendar of bicycle events and listings of North Carolina bicycle shops and clubs.



This map was produced in conjunction with the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Department. Funding for this project was provided through the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program. 10,000 copies of the map were printed on recycled paper at \$0.25 a copy and are distributed free of charge. Published January 2010.



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

WELCOME TO Scotland COUNTY



Scotland County, officially created in 1899 with land from Richmond County, has a rich and varied history that dates from much earlier. In fact, the first Highland Scots, for whom the county is named, were living in this area as early as 1729 when North Carolina became a royal colony.

The Scotland County name reflects the strong Scottish influence in this area, yet the Scots were but one of a number of groups that contributed to the county's history and heritage. The Scots Highlanders augmented the Lumbee Indians, original settlers in the area, followed by African slaves and veterans of the Civil War. The county's proximity to the thriving port at Wilmington and to ancient native trading trails farther west placed it at the nexus of these distinct groups that enrich Scotland County.

The Scottish imprint on the county remains not just in the names but also in traditions such as the Scotland County Highland Games, which are still presented annually, and in the emphasis on education, as represented by ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE and the SCOTTISH HERITAGE CENTER housed on campus.

Original settlers in Scotland County, the tribe now called the Lumbee Indians, were known by several different names throughout history. Recent scholarship suggests that the Lumbee tribe may even have existed in the region as early as 12,000 B.C. Like many U.S. tribes, the Lumbees were stripped of many rights in the 18th century, but the tribe attained federal recognition in 1956 and currently presents a broad spectrum of cultural and community events in Scotland County, especially at the INDIAN MUSEUM OF THE CAROLINAS.

Scotland County also benefits from a rich African-American heritage dating to the early years of the American republic, with many current residents having ties and traditions that extend to the years before the Civil War. The African-American community shares its heritage with others through its annual Kuumba Festival and emphasizes its tradition of education, too, represented by the LAURINBURG INSTITUTE, founded in 1904.

More recently the military community's influence, due to its proximity to both Fort Bragg and to Pope Air Force Base, intertwines with the other cultural elements. More significant is Camp Mackall, established in Scotland County in 1941 as a training base for the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and the U.S. Army Special Forces. The GOLDEN KNIGHTS U.S. ARMY PARACHUTE TEAMS practice their jumps at the LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT.

The City of Laurinburg, named as the county seat at the county's creation, draws its name from the prominent McLaurin family. Laurinburg and the county's other towns of Laurel Hill, Gibson, Wagram, and part of Maxton concentrate the population in the southern half of Scotland County.

Much land in northern and western Scotland County is designated as part of the 53,800-acre Sandhills Game Land, which is managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to promote conservation and wise use of the state's abundant wildlife resources. Bicycling offers a great way to explore the county's varied heritage and landscape, so hop on your bicycle and explore.

points OF INTEREST

LAURINBURG

DOWNTOWN LAURINBURG, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, offers a slow-paced, small-town atmosphere with inviting cafes and specialty shops for relaxing and refreshing during your tour. During the Civil War railroad yards were relocated from Wilmington to Laurinburg because of the Union threat along the coast. This tactic ultimately failed as General Sherman's army destroyed the Laurinburg depot and rail yards on their famous march.

The downtown is also home to the Storytelling Arts Center of The Southeast (SACS), which hosts workshops and various storytelling activities throughout the year.

INDIAN MUSEUM OF THE CAROLINAS contains a permanent collection of more than 200,000 artifacts – some more than 10,000 years old – of native peoples, primarily from the Southeastern U.S. For information: 910-277-6875 or [www.visitnc-soul.com/heritage/lumbee_indian_museum.html](http://visitnc-soul.com/heritage/lumbee_indian_museum.html)

JAMES L. MORGAN RECREATION COMPLEX offers ample parking and a great place to start your ride. In addition to a walking trail, you'll find picnic shelters and athletic facilities. Restrooms are available and open to the public except during the winter months. For information: 910-277-2585 or www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org

JOHN BLUE HOUSE, built as a "riverboat on land" in the 1890s, stands as a delightful centerpiece among other historic buildings on the Blue estate. A half-mile, 18-gauge miniature railroad appeals to history buffs of all ages. Restrooms are available inside as part of the tour. Tours are available on



Tuesday through Friday from 10:00a-12:00p and 1:00p-4:00p. Donations requested. Call 910-276-7238, 910-277-6875, 910-276-3761 or 910-610-8335. The number at the house is 910-276-2496. www.johnbluecomplex.com

SCOTLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM/MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND COUNTY, located across Xway Road from the John Blue House, houses a wealth of historical souvenirs from the county's past: Laurinburg's second motorized fire truck, a 1905 Maxwell and antique 'hit and miss' engines, early household goods, antique American cars, tractors and farming implements, early textile machines, local art, and Civil War artifacts. Open by appointment: 910-276-2496.

LAURINBURG INSTITUTE, founded in 1904, was for many years the only school in the area for African-American students and is now one of North Carolina's most significant African-American historical sites. The school's graduates include jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, Boston Celtics star Sam Jones and the University of North Carolina's first black athlete, basketball star Charlie Scott. Visits by appointment: 910-276-0684.

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE opened in 1961 as a four-year liberal arts college on a scenic, contemporary campus with a 70-acre lake as the centerpiece. Named for the famous university in Scotland, the college reflects the heritage of Highland Scots settlers who valued education highly and had established a number of educational institutions in the area that were eventually absorbed directly or indirectly into St. Andrews.

SCOTTISH HERITAGE CENTER, housed on the St. Andrews campus, and the St. Andrews Pipe Band are logical extensions of the college's Scottish Heritage. The Center, created in 1989, highlights and preserves Scottish heritage and honors individuals rendering outstanding service to preserving Scottish heritage. For more information about St. Andrews: 800-763-0198 or www.sapc.edu



SCOTLAND COUNTY

JOHN CHARLES MCNEILL HOUSE, home to North Carolina's first poet laureate, who was born in Scotland County in 1874, was moved from its original location near Wagram. Adjacent is the **RICHMOND TEMPERANCE AND LITERARY SOCIETY'S** building with its hexagonal design built of hand-molded bricks, one of the state's most interesting antebellum architectural sites. A marker on the site describes how soldiers from Sherman's Army shot off the Bible and upturned chalice (symbol of temperance) atop the building (later replaced) when they stopped here on their march from Laurel Hill to Fayetteville.

LAURINBURG-MAXTON AIRPORT began as a base for training glider pilots and others during World War II. Used mainly for private aviation, the facility now hosts the **GOLDEN KNIGHTS U.S. ARMY PARACHUTE TEAMS**, who use the airport as their main training facility. Their practices can be observed Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30a-

12:30p. For information: 910-396-7423 or www.usarec.army.mil/hq/goldenknights/

LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK – Chalk Banks Access provides entry to the park's 8,438 acres and 115 miles of state natural and scenic waters. In addition, 81 miles of the river are also designated as national wild and scenic waters, the only North Carolina black-water river to earn this designation. This access park offers restrooms, a picnic area, 14 primitive campsites (one site is designated handicapped accessible), and group camping sites that require reservations. A 1.5-mile walking trail meanders along the river's edge, by a wetlands habitat, and through a mixed pine and hardwood forest. Open Thursday-Sunday; hours of operation vary by season. For information: www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/luri/main.php

OLD LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was first constructed in 1797 and served as the mother church for most Presbyterian churches in the area as well as two of the oldest black



churches in the county: Cool Springs Methodist Church and Silver Hill Presbyterian Churches. The present sanctuary and illuminated tower were added in 1856. In March of 1865, General Sherman and his army camped at the church on their march through North Carolina.

Visitors can still see the signatures his Union soldiers inscribed in plaster in the church tower. For information: 910-276-7151.

ST. ANDREWS EQUESTRIAN CENTER'S 300+ acres are home to St. Andrews College's equestrian program, which is a national leader in combining riding with academic excellence. The Therapeutic Riding degree, begun in 1996, was the first undergraduate degree of its kind in the country. The St. Andrews Equestrian Team continues to be national champions.

STEWART-HAWLEY-MALLOY HOUSE was the birthplace of Joseph Roswell Hawley, a Union general and senator from Connecticut (1881-1905). Stationed in Wilmington, NC, Hawley was charged with securing supplies for Sherman's troops and later was the general in charge of eastern North Carolina after Sherman captured the area.

NORTH CAROLINA CIVIL WAR TRAIL connects these historic war sites in Scotland County with others throughout the state: Downtown Laurinburg, Old Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Stewart-Hawley-Malloy House, and the Richmond Temperance and Literary Society. For a more detailed map and information: www.civilwartraveler.com/EAST/NC/



CYPRESS BEND VINEYARDS brings viticulture to Riverton, a farm dating to 1807 that is now owned by descendants of the first owners, Rev. Daniel White and his wife, Katherine Campbell White. Open seven days a week for tastings and tours: Noon to 6:00p Sunday through Friday, 10:00a-6:00p on Saturday. For more information: 910-369-0411 or www.cypressbendvineyards.com