

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD BIKE RIDE - Sanction #115841, Rated 2A

Saratoga National Battlefield
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY, 12170
Phone: 518-670-2985, Website: www.nps.gov/sara/
Visitor's Center is open daily, 9 am to 5 pm

The bike ride will start and finish at the **Saratoga National Battlefield Visitor Center**. Towards the end of the Battlefield loop road, bikers will have the option to return to the Start Point for a 10.7 mile (17.2 km) ride or continue on to include riding along the Hudson River and visit the Saratoga National Cemetery for a 17.6 mile (28.3 km) ride. Allow 2 to 3 hours for the ride depending on which option you choose and stops made.

Please visit the Visitor's Center at the top of the hill from the parking lot which opens at 9:00 am. You will find an excellent video, lighted display board depicting the battles, artifacts, gifts, great panoramic view, and bathrooms. There are also bathrooms at the cemetery. Helmets are also required.

A few words about the Saratoga National Battlefield:

The Battle of Saratoga was named "most crucial battle of the last 1000 years" by New York Times Magazine in 1999. Here, in 1777, brave Americans decisively defeated an invading British army, winning a victory so powerful that it drew international allies and turned the tide to ultimately win America's War for Independence.

“Standing on a bluff above the Hudson River, it is easy to see why the terrain inspired confidence in the American troops in the fall of 1777. Knowing that British General John Burgoyne and his soldiers were heading toward Albany, N.Y., the Northern Army fortified its high position overlooking the key bottleneck of both the river and road. Except for the now-larger forests and the modern cars zipping down U.S. Route 4, little of the landscape that encompasses Saratoga National Historical Park has changed in almost 240 years. Understanding the terrain and using it to their advantage, the soldiers under General Horatio Gates secured a resounding American victory at Saratoga — and began a chain reaction that ensured the country's independence for good. America's victory gave rise to international support, showcased the strength of a diverse army, instigated the complex dichotomy of hero and traitor and gave the country physical evidence of a successful revolution. The multiplicity of lessons that can be understood at Saratoga guarantees a personal connection to not only America's history, but to the impact that social revolutions have had on this nation.” (from the Civil War Trust)

A few words about the Saratoga National Cemetery:

Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is New York State's sixth national veteran's cemetery and the 116th in the National Cemetery Administration. More than 1.4 million veterans live in New York and more than 225,000 reside in the Albany/Saratoga area. The first phase of construction, encompassing 60 acres of the 351-acre cemetery, included 5,000 grave sites, 2,000 lawn crypts, 1,500 columbaria niches and 700 garden niches for cremated remains. At full capacity, Solomon-Saratoga can provide burial space for 175,500 veterans and eligible dependents.

On Jan. 24, 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation renaming Saratoga National Cemetery as the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. Congressman Solomon was known as the champion of veterans' causes. Among his accomplishments, he spearheaded the effort to create the cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs and successfully led a drive to establish the national cemetery in which he is now interred.

The cemetery also has a walkway that features a number of memorials erected by various veterans and fraternal organizations in honor of events and fallen comrades. (from the website for the cemetery).

Directions:

From the I-87 (Northway), take Exit 12, Route 67 to the (east) for about 0.4 miles. At the first traffic circle after McDonalds, cross Route 9 and continue straight to the east (second right) onto Dunning Street for 0.5 miles. At the second traffic circle after crossing Route 9, take the second right onto Plains Road for 1.3 miles. Continue to the tee in the road and at the stop sign, take a right onto Route 9P. Continue on Route 9P east and then north around the SE corner of Saratoga Lake for 2.2 miles. Take a right onto Route 423 (you will see signage for the Saratoga Battlefield) for 3.9 miles. Take a left onto Route 32 for about 2.2 miles, then take a right into the entrance for the Saratoga National Battlefield. Follow the entrance road into the paved parking lot on the right. The Visitor's Center is up the steps at the top of the hill.

The bike ride will have two distance options.

Option #1: This ride will take you around the loop road at the Battlefield with two stops for historical significance and views. The first stop will be at the Neilson Farm, Stop 2, a short distance from the start of the ride where you can walk up to the red house, read the historical markers and have great views of the Green Mountains of Vermont. The second stop is at the Great Redoubt, Stop 9, which can serve as a rest stop. From there you will have great views of the Hudson River and the foot hills of the Green Mountains of Vermont. After leaving Stop 9, you will go down a steep hill, pass through an open gate and come to a stop sign. For the shorter ride, turn right on Phillips Road and return to the Visitor's Center. This at Step #8 on the Cue Sheet.

Distance: 10.7 miles or 17.2 km

Elevation change: 586 feet (one short steep hill you can walk up)

Option #2: (Recommended) This ride is an extension of Option #1. Shortly after leaving Stop 9, riders for Option #2 will depart the Option #1 loop by turning left at the stop sign at the bottom of the hill and continue to the Hudson River and the Saratoga National Cemetery. This ride will include a pretty ride along the Hudson River and then continue to the National Cemetery. Bikers are allowed in the cemetery, but must act respectfully. You may skip the cemetery loop, but add 0.5 miles to your odometer reading for the remainder of the ride to correlate with the Cue Sheets. At the very north end of the cemetery loop, park your bike at the obelisk and walk the Memorial Path. After leaving the cemetery, continue back to the Saratoga National Battlefield Visitor's Center (Start Point).

Distance including Option #1: 17.6 miles or 28.3 km

Elevation change including Option #1: 727 feet

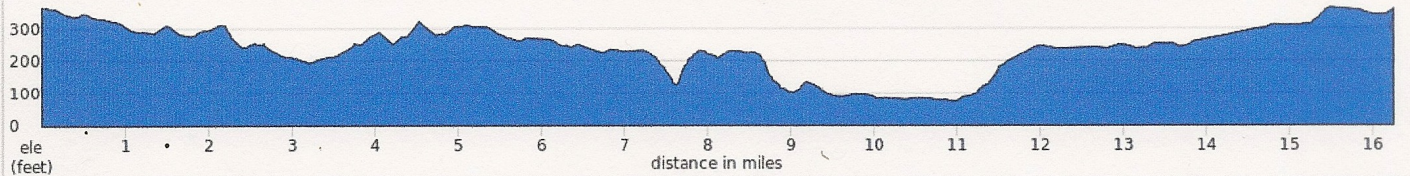
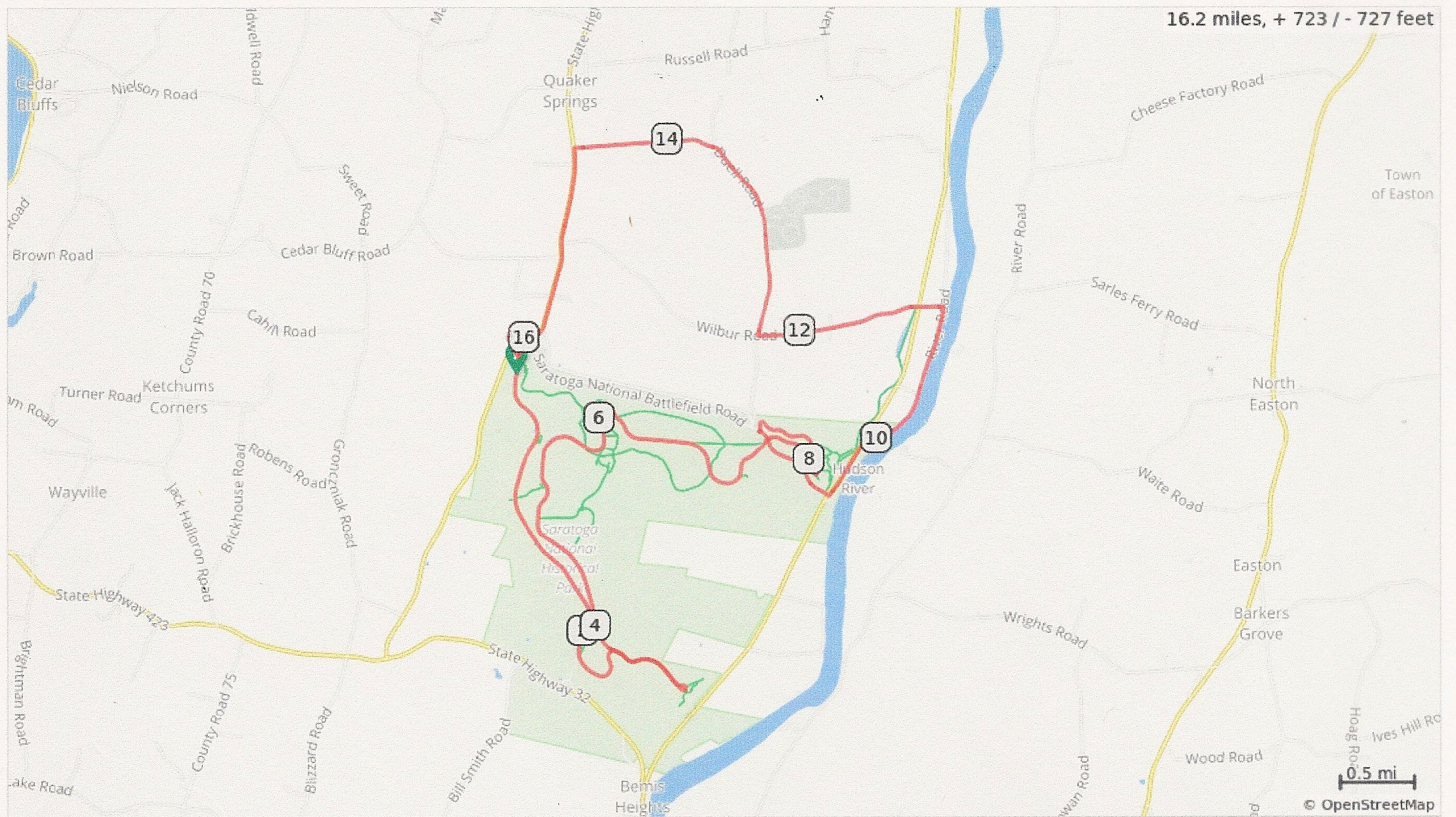
AFTER YOUR RIDE, please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration. The OSB system does not deduct any fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was completed, the distance biked, and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from your Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the completion info as a paying-for-credit biker. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days).

The following maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited. For immediate emergency assistance, call 911. POC: Harry Darling, cell: 518-275-6220, email: battlefieldbike@walkescv.org.

Saratoga Battlefield - National Cemetery



16.2 miles, + 723 / - 727 feet



Saratoga Battlefield - National Cemetery

Num	Dist	Type	Note	Next
1.	0.0	📍	Start of route	2.0
2.	2.0	i	At Stop #2, visit the red Nielson house at top of hill. What mountains are those to the east	0.6
3.	2.6	➔	R to Stop #3	0.7
4.	3.3	↪	Go around the circle and head back out. Enjoy the view.	2.2
5.	5.5	i	Stop #7, Bathroom and bike tool station	2.5
6.	8.0	➔	R to Stop #9	0.1

8.0 miles. +324/-464 feet

Num	Dist	Type	Note	Next
13.	13.0	➔	R into the National Cemetery - BE RESPECTFUL! - Go around the flag pole circle taking the first R. At the end of the loop, stop and walk the Memorial Path at the Obelisk. Continue on the Loop road. When back out to Duell Rd., add 0.5 miles to the cue sheet entries for balance of turns. R ONTO DUELL RD.	1.6

0.7 miles. +0/-0 feet

Num	Dist	Type	Note	Next
7.	8.1	↪	Rest Stop - get a drink and enjoy the view. Head out and stay to the R	0.7
8.	8.8	←	L onto Phillips Road at the bottom of the hill at stop sign.	0.7
9.	9.4	←	L onto US 4	0.5
10.	9.9	➔	First R onto River Road	1.1
11.	11.0	←	Second L onto Wilbur Road and cross Rt. 4	1.3
12.	12.3	➔	R onto Duell Road	0.7

4.3 miles. +219/-195 feet

Num	Dist	Type	Note	Next
14.	14.6	←	L at stop sign onto State Highway 32	1.5
15.	16.2	←	L onto Saratoga National Battlefield Road.- Park Entrance	0.1
16.	16.2	➔	R into upper parking lot (one way). End of Ride	0.0
17.	16.2	📍	End of route	0.0

3.2 miles. +77/-22 feet