

Ferry Ride & Urban Greenway

If you are looking for an hour or two of relaxing, quiet riding this route recommendation is primarily off road. Combined with some ferry riding and lakeside trails it's a great way to escape Halifax and take in Downtown Dartmouth's many cute cafes and restaurants. Some on road riding is required to reach Lake Banook and while exploring Downtown Dartmouth.

Route options:

- **Stay off Road & Cycle the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail** (~ 1 Hr depending on Ferry):
 - This trail connects both ferry terminals. You can either cycle from one end to the other and take both ferries or make the return trip and take the Alderney Ferry both ways.
- **Optional Extension: Explore Downtown Dartmouth & Lake Banook Extension** (+ 1hr):
 - After finishing the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail head into Downtown Dartmouth, grab lunch or coffee and head to Lake Banook to ride alongside the lake with their lakefront trail.
- **MacDonald Bridge Extension** (+ 45 min from Dartmouth Ferry Terminal):
 - Instead of returning via Ferry, some riders like to take the MacDonald Bridge back to Halifax.
 - There is a completely separated bike lane on the right hand side of the bridge (coming from Dartmouth). You are not permitted to cycle on the pedestrian way.
 - Getting onto the Bridge from Dartmouth is a bit tricky and requires riding on road with traffic. Please exercise caution if you choose to take this route.



Tips // What to Bring:

- Bike Lock
- Water
- Sunscreen
- Charged cell phone
- Change for the Ferry \$2.50 CAD per person (no charge for bikes). Exact change is required.
 - If you decide to take the ferry both ways, ask for a transfer when purchasing your ticket. You can use the transfer to return via the Woodside or Alderney Ferry as long as you do so within 1.5 Hrs from the time of purchase.
- [Ferry Schedule](#)
 - **Alderney Ferry**
 - Every 15 min from 6:45 am to 8:00 pm AST
 - Operates every 30 minutes until 11:30 pm AST
 - Schedule changes on Holidays
 - **Woodside Ferry**
 - Only operates during weekdays (Monday to Friday)
 - Approx. every 30 minutes from 6:52 am to 8:52 pm AST
 - Does not operate on Holidays

Things to Do:

- Pack a picnic or stop at Little C's (Downtown Dartmouth)
- Grab coffee and pastry at Two If By Sea cafe (Downtown Dartmouth)
- Check out the freshest art murals along the Dartmouth Waterfront
- Explore Downtown Dartmouth
- Ride both ferries
- Capture the Halifax Skyline from Dartmouth

Notes // Safety Tips:

- On road riding is required for this route. Please ride with care and don't be afraid to hop off your bike and walk if you feel nervous. You can always hop back on. **Riders ride at their own risk.**



- When leaving your bike unattended please make sure it is securely locked and in a visible, high traffic area. You are responsible for any equipment rented from I Heart Bikes.

Route Notes:

Stay off Road & Cycle the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail

(~ 1 Hr depending on Ferry):

- o Departing from I Heart Bikes TURN to your RIGHT so that the water is on your right hand side.
- o Follow the wooden boardwalk until you reach the Ferry Terminal, due to construction you will be required to use the "Sea Bridge". Biking is not permitted on the Sea Bridge so you will need to hop off your bike.
- o If you wish to skip the traffic of the waterfront turn left after leaving I Heart Bikes and make your way to the street (Lower Water Street). Here you will TURN RIGHT onto Lower Water Street riding in the bike lane.
- o After Passing the Queens Marque Construction you will TURN RIGHT at the first set of traffic lights (4 Way).
- o Here you will return to the waterfront to find a small roundabout. To your LEFT is the Ferry Terminal.
- o At the Ferry Terminal you have two options: (see ferry schedule in note above or check the [HRM website](#))
- o **ALDERNEY FERRY** - The Alderney Ferry will take you to Downtown Dartmouth. From here you will cycle along a waterfront trail connecting the two ferry terminals. The Alderney Ferry departs regularly and seven days a week.
 - Please note, there is a small break in the waterfront trail. In both you departing and arriving terminal there is a map showing this trail. Please take a moment to look at the map.



- Once you arrive to the Woodside Ferry you can either take this Ferry back to the Halifax Terminal or turn around and return via the Alderney Ferry.

- If you wish to continue riding continue with one or both of the following options:
 - **Explore Downtown Dartmouth & ride the lake side trails at Lake Banook**
 - **Take the MacDonald Bridge back to Halifax**

Explore Downtown Dartmouth & Lake Banook Extension (+ 1hr):

- If you choose this extension, instead of returning to the Alderney Ferry you will be turning onto KING STREET. King Street will be to YOUR RIGHT returning from the Woodside Ferry Terminal via the Waterfront Trail. It is just before the Alderney Ferry Terminal, and just after you cross the bridge.
- Via KING STREET you can turn LEFT onto PORTLAND to visit the Canteen or Little C's to grab picnic supplies or lunch. Another option is to continue down KING STREET and turn RIGHT onto OCHTERLONEY STREET.
- Just after turning right onto OCHTERLONEY you will see Two if by Sea Cafe on your right. Great coffee, croissants, and wifi can be found here!
- Once you are done exploring Downtown Dartmouth you will continue down OCHTERLONEY (after making a right onto this street).
- You will travel roughly 6 blocks before making a LEFT TURN onto a marked trail at Sullivan's Pond. The Pond is very visible from the road and will be your signal to turn left.
- Here you will follow the trail along side the pond. At the end of the park you will need to cross HAWTHORNE STREET in order to reach Lake Banook and the rest of the trail.



- Shortly after crossing the street and continuing along the trail you will come to a fork in the trail, TURN RIGHT.
- Following the trail and lake (on your left hand side) this trail goes almost around the whole lake.
- The trail does cross numerous roads. Eventually you will come to a gravel park, ride through the park and you will be able to continue riding along the lake side trail once you cross the parking lot.
- When you are ready or have reached the end of the trail, turn around and come back the way that you came.
- You have two options to return to Halifax:
 - **Take the Alderney Ferry;** or
 - If you choose this option turn the way you came. When you exit Sullivan's Pond you will turn RIGHT onto OCHTERLONEY. OCHTERLONEY will put you on a straight course to the Ferry Terminal.
 - **Return via the Bridge**

MacDonald Bridge Extension (+ 45 min from Dartmouth Ferry Terminal)

- If you choose to return via the Bridge when you exit Sullivan's Pond (where you first entered the lake side trail) you will TURN RIGHT onto OCHTERLONEY but instead of making your way straight to the Ferry Terminal you will TURN RIGHT onto PINE STREET.
- Stay on PINE onto the end and then make a LEFT onto THISTLE STREET.
- THISTLE will bring you WYSE ROAD. This is a major street. Please be careful.
- TURN RIGHT ONTO WYSE ROAD. Here you will approach a major intersection with much of the traffic turn on or off the bridge.
- Here you can hop off your bike and use the crosswalks to reach the far right hand side of the bridge. This is where the bike lane is to cross. There



is no charge to cross by bicycle.

- Once you have reached the Halifax Side you must take a ramp that will bring you around and underneath the Bridge.
- Once you reach the bottom on the ramp hop off your bike and use the crosswalk to cross the street.
- On the other side you will find an Urban Green way.
- TURN RIGHT onto the Green way following the trail.
- It will bring you UPPER WATER STREET.
- TURN LEFT onto UPPER WATER
- You will want to make your 1st LEFT onto LOWER WATER STREET
- As soon as you enter LOWER WATER STREET you should see the CASINO to your left.
- Turn LEFT staying to the left of the CASINO, here you will be able to ride along the water, traffic free until returning back to I Heart Bikes.

Suggestions? We are always looking to improve our riders experience. Let us know what we missed.

Last updated March 2019