



The Saint John River Valley



Lupines brighten gentle landscape along the St. John

Jemseg-Cambridge Narrows Loop

52 kilometres / 32 miles

This route begins where the Gagetown Ferry crosses the St. John River. It passes through a wetland conservation area, rolls through quiet rural countryside, and traces the shores of Washademoak Lake and the St. John River. There are wonderful spots for picnicking and swimming. Although you can cycle the entire loop in three hours, we recommend packing lunch and a swim suit to make a day of it.

Lodging and Food

We started this route from the Gagetown Ferry because Gagetown has a good selection of accommodation for such a tiny place. Gagetown is worth a visit whether you stay there or not, with its pretty riverside setting, a tavern and restaurant, and a few charming shops and galleries. In Cambridge Narrows are the Village Inn and the Cambridge Narrows Campground and B&B. After Gagetown itself, food is available only in Lower Jemseg, Jemseg, and Cambridge Narrows; the possibilities are all mentioned in the directions.

Terrain

Terrain varies from nearly flat to moderately difficult, rolling hills.

Directions

0.0 From the ferry landing, follow the paved road (Ferry Road) toward Lower Jemseg.

This road is flat for over three kilometres. It traverses Black Duck marsh, a 500-acre wetland. Watch for an osprey nest atop a pole about a kilometre from the ferry. This is a splendid area for observing birds – but if you stop, use insect repellent. The marsh is as hospitable to mosquitoes as it is to waterfowl.

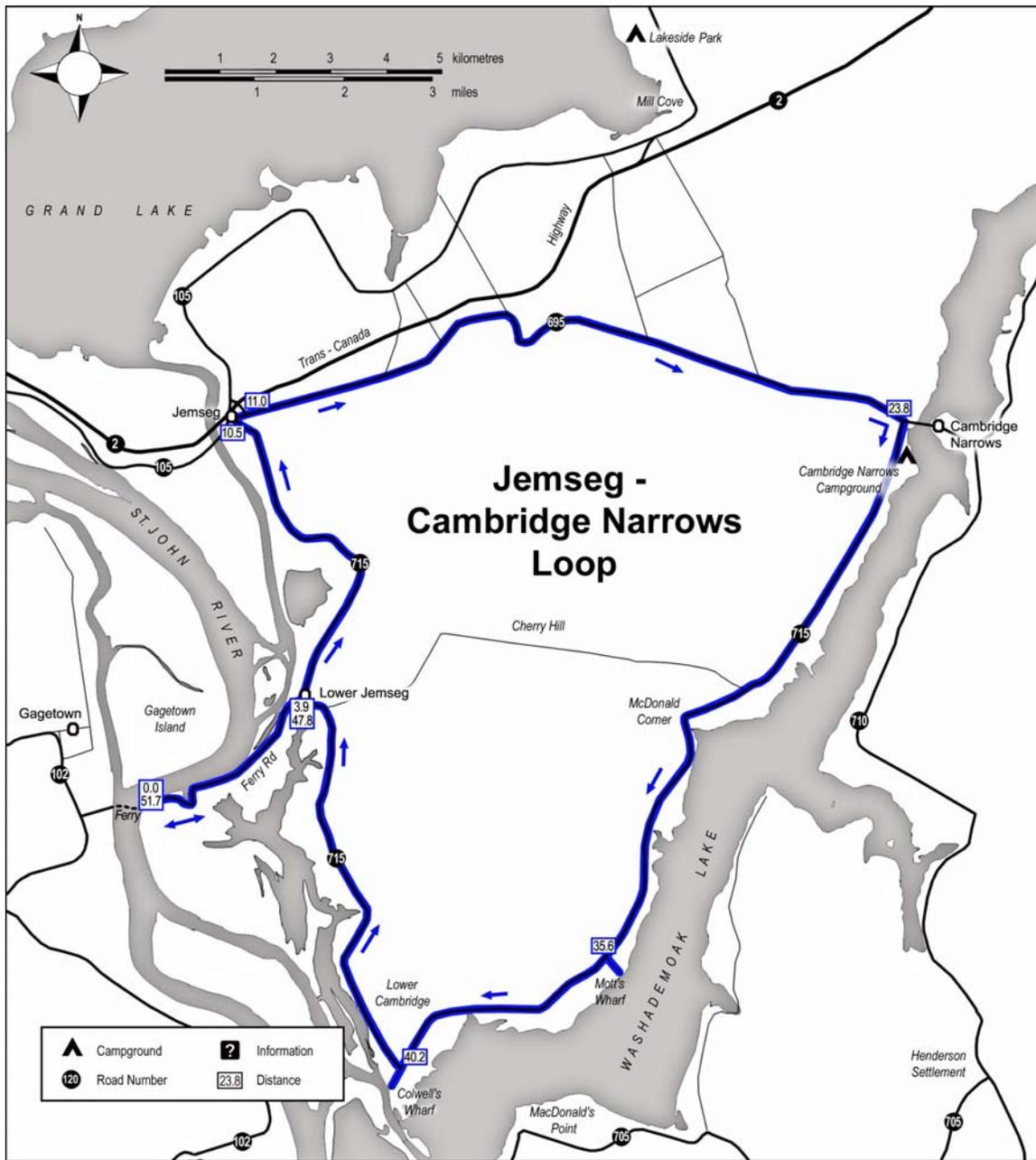


Marshland paradise for birds, birdwatchers, and bugs





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Cues

0.0 Take paved road from ferry
 3.9 Left onto Rte 715
 10.5 Right at stop sign
 11.0 Straight onto Rte 695
 23.8 Turn right onto Rte 715

35.6 Mott's Wharf Rd on left
 40.2 Sharp right staying on Rte 715
 (Straight to Colwell's Wharf)
 47.8 Left toward ferry
 51.7 Arrive at ferry landing





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From Mott's Wharf, kilometre 35.6

3.5 As you are climbing a moderate hill, notice a small monument on the right. It marks the location of Fort Jemseg, built as a trading post in 1659 during the English possession of Acadia, ceded to France in 1667, and captured by a Dutch expedition in 1674. Now all that remains is a cairn of stones topped by a cannonball.

← **3.9** 📍 **Turn left onto Route 715.** Dykeman's Store is on the left at this turn, with groceries and ice cream. Also at this turn is St. James Anglican Church, a stone building that looks as if it were shipped over the ocean from an English country village. From here, Route 715 is rolling for the next several kilometres, with a kilometre-long climb before Jemseg.

➔ **10.5** **Turn right** at a stop sign, following a sign to the Trans-Canada Highway and Cambridge Narrows. This is the tiny village of Jemseg.

⬆️ **11.0** 📍 **Continue straight following the sign to Cambridge Narrows.** Fanjoy's General Store is on the left at the intersection with Route 105. There is a snack bar inside. At this point, Route 715 becomes Route 695. There will be long, rolling hills, with a particularly

steep, exhilarating descent around kilometre 16 into Den Valley, followed by a long, challenging climb. Then the riding is easy the rest of the way to Cambridge Narrows.

➔ **23.8** **Turn right** onto Route 715. Like Route 695, this road is also rolling, but the hills tend to be shorter. It travels through cottage country, with Lake Washademoak below to the left. The varied terrain makes for superb cycling.

24.7 ▲ Cambridge Narrows Campground and B&B is on the right, with tenting sites set a little away from the crowd of camping trailers. There is also a suite in the main house, a big farm home overlooking the water. Less than a kilometre past the campground, watch for H. Erbs' Herbarium on the right, as you are climbing a moderate hill. Visitors are welcome. In another kilometre or so, at a height of land, there are glimpses of the water below to the left and a low mountain range in the distance far ahead.

29.4 Continue straight, passing Church Lane on the right.

29.8 Continue straight, passing Cherry Hill Road on the right. Don't be tempted to shorten the loop by turning onto Cherry Hill Road. It has

Cambridge Narrows

📍 📍 📍 At kilometre 23.8, the village of Cambridge Narrows is straight ahead across the bridge, with a small general store, a popular snack bar, and the Village Inn and Restaurant.





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steeper hills, rougher pavement, and a long section of dirt and loose stones – unpleasant cycling.

35.6 Mott's Wharf Road is on the left. Mott's Wharf Road, really just a rough dirt lane, leads to the lakeshore. The wharf is popular for swimming and picnicking. There are even a small changing room and a portable toilet. After cooling off, ride back the way you came and turn left on Route 715. This detour adds about 1 kilometre to the distances that follow.

➤ **40.2 Turn sharply right, staying on Route 715.** Now Route 715 parallels the St. John, rolling through quiet farming and horse country, with flower-speckled meadows and occasional views of the river to the left.

(If you detour straight ahead onto the unpaved lane instead of following Route 715 to the right, you will soon reach Colwell's Wharf, maintained by the St. John River Society. It is a quiet, peaceful spot. There are ladders built into two sides of the wharf, making it another good place for a swim.)

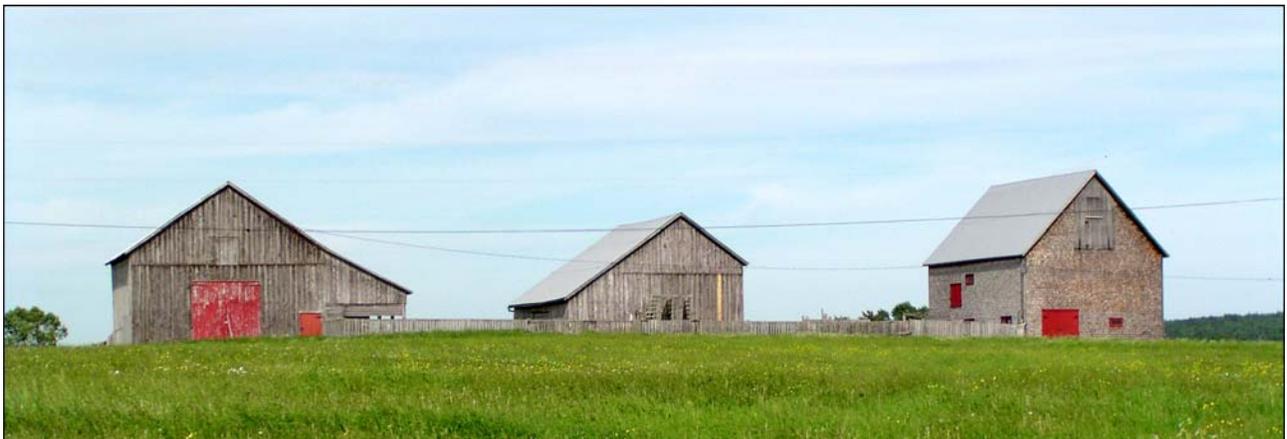
47.6 Continue straight, passing Cherry Hill Road on the right.

← **47.8** 🚦 **Turn left**, following the sign to the Gagetown Ferry.

Dykeman's Store is at this turn; from here you will be backtracking.

51.7 Arrive at the Gagetown Ferry landing.

END OF RIDE



Peaceful farming country on the way back to Lower Jemseg, Route 715