

Tucker Tour '26 Course Description for the 80 Mile Route

Segment Difficulty Rating:

🚶🚶🚶🚶🚶 = Unrideable. This section is only navigable on foot.

🚶🚶🚶🚶 = Ridable only with advanced skill and a robust bike set up. Rocking 2.2" tires and spend a lot of time riding technical mountain bike trails? You'll be riding most if not all of this section. Otherwise, expect to spend some time on foot.

🚶🚶🚶 = Technical but passable. Pay attention and take your time and you should be ok. Rocks and/or steep terrain make this section one to remember.

🚶🚶 = You wouldn't want to take your car on this road, but a bike? No problem.

🚶 = A step up from your average gravel road.

The 80 mile route turns right at the end of the driveway and heads up Tucker Mountain Road. About a mile in, we have our first Class VI road: Valley Rd. Down, a 🚶🚶🚶 segment. We then jump on the rail trail and head south.

A left turn off the rail trail and then a sharp left takes us onto the next segment: Timberland Drive. At over 3 miles and a rating of 🚶🚶🚶🚶, this is jumping right into the deep end. Don't forget to enjoy the viewpoint just after the crest of the hill!

After crossing Route 3A, we drop down Old Call Road (🚶🚶🚶) into the Franklin Falls Dam Flood Control area. We only stay on the main track for a short while before heading left into a field and rolling along the Pemigewasset River for almost 3 miles on an unnamed 🚶🚶 segment ending up at the dam.

We then cross back over 3A towards Webster Lake eventually starting to climb away from Franklin, NH on Flaghole road. After a paved and gravel climb, we take a left-hand fork onto Montgomery Road. At 🚶🚶🚶🚶, the 2.5 mile segment has a little bit of everything: giant puddles, a stretch of gravel, steep rocky ups followed by technical downs. At the end of this segment, the 24 milers peel off and head north back to the start.

We then take a left onto Robie Road and then straight onto Bog Road, both 🚶🚶🚶. A heads up that the entrance to Robie Road is a little hard to find. It looks very much like a driveway and there is no sign indicating that it is a road. Trust your gps and you should be fine.

We then jump on Route 127 for a short hop and end up at the first gas station/general store at mile 19.5. Be sure and take advantage of the homemade cookies baked right on the

premises!! The whoopie pies are also a nice punch of sugar. My favorite is the banana bread whoopie pie.

Head north on Route 4 briefly before taking the right-hand fork onto Whittemore Road. After a few miles on paved roads, including a short stretch back on Route 4, we eventually end up on Loverin Hill Road, 🐾🐾🐾 on a dry year. This segment goes up to 🐾🐾🐾🐾 if it's been raining a lot lately as this means you will be fording a couple of deep puddles. At the end of Loverin Hill, the 38 milers take a right on Plains Road (🐾🐾🐾) and start working their way back to the start/finish. For the rest of us, we make a left and head out towards Smith's Corner.

After a few miles on some pleasant gravel roads, we veer right onto South Ramgeaway. This 1.6 mile, 🐾🐾🐾🐾 segment with over 600 ft of elevation gain will take us onto the southern slopes of Mount Kearsarge and has some of the steepest grades of the entire ride. Popping up over 20% and coming almost 30 miles in, this is where the ride starts to bite. Don't worry, we only have over 50 miles to go!!

We jump on the paved road that connects the town of Warner with one of the entrances to Mount Kearsarge State Park. After letting our tires feel the pleasantness of pavement, we hang a left onto Gore Road eventually starting our first 🐾🐾🐾🐾 segment that drops us down to North Road. Although most of this segment is rideable, nature has taken over some of this road. A serious wash out means you will be walking a deep gully where there used to be a road.

After crossing under Interstate 89, we make a hard right and start a 🐾🐾🐾🐾, Eaton Grange Road. Be prepared to get your feet wet! I have tried to clear out some of the brush to enable us to walk around the marshy area. However, if we get enough rain, it's going to be hard to avoid walking through some water.

Next on the menu is another 🐾🐾🐾🐾 segment, Pound Road. This is the inspiration for this year's logo and rating system!! After a pleasant climb, we all get to traverse a beaver dam! Sometime in the past, this used to be a road with a culvert. When beavers plugged the culvert, water started going over the road, so the beavers built a dam along the road. Fast forward several decades, and the road is long gone. Watch your step as we really do have to walk along the top of an active beaver dam!

We are halfway done! We now head towards the north flank of Mount Kearsarge. The climb up towards Winslow State Park is a doozy. The good news? Its paved. The bad news? 550 feet in a little over 1.5 miles. A nice 🐾🐾🐾 segment drops us down into the town of Andover. Lots of big, wheel eating rocks and quite steep in parts.

We turn right just before the rail trail onto the cross-country ski course for Proctor Academy. A short out and back takes us to the second re-supply where more fresh baked goodies await! At this point, the 62 milers will split off, jump back on the rail trail, and head back towards Tucker Mountain before dropping back down to the start.

For everyone that is crazy enough to keep going, we get to enjoy a loop around Beech Hill. We head up to Bradley Lake, then along a 🚴🚴🚴🚴 segment down to Mountain Road before immediately hanging a left onto some lovely 🚴🚴🚴🚴🚴 hike-a-bike on Beech Hill Road (Bean Hill Bike Walk is the Strava segment). After topping out, we drop down and turn right onto a short but very steep 🚴🚴🚴🚴 drop down to Route 4. A couple of left turns takes us to the rail trail.

After exiting the rail trail, crossing Route 11 and turning onto Elbow Pond road, we then have the only singletrack on the entire route before we start to climb up toward Tucker Mountain. A mix of paved and 🚴 gravel takes us to the 🚴🚴🚴🚴 climb up Old College followed by the 🚴🚴🚴 Poverty Pond segment drops us down into Danbury. Some paved roads and some more 🚴 gravel takes us to the base of the final set of climbs.

We now start the biggest climb of the entire route at 3 miles and over 800 feet of elevation. Enjoy some of the best views of the entire ride as we will have an incredible view of Mount Cardigan. A 🚴🚴🚴🚴🚴 segment takes us up and over the highest point along the entire route before we drop down right next to the Page Hill mountain bike trail network. It is mostly rideable with one section totally washed out where you will have to get off and walk.

A right turn onto King Road with mostly 🚴 gravel with a short 🚴🚴🚴🚴 segment back up and over Tucker Mountain before we bomb down towards the barn and finish the ride.