Southwestern Ontario Cycling Loops

Windsor/ Essex

1. Ja Safe Loop - 20 km - Begin in Lasalle and follow Dr 103. This flat loop offers extended views of the Detroit River and Fighting Island, named after a skirmish in 1838, and offers pleasant countryside too. The many French names show the long presence of the French-speaking community in Essex County (e.g. derived in the French word for strait or narrows).

2. Amherstburg - Detroit River Loop - 28 km - This flat loop begins in beautiful, historic Amherstburg. Travel east along Alma St. to Thomas Rd., turning north. Visit Fort Malden, just north of the town on the Detroit River, on your return.

3. Amherstburg - Auld Loop - 25 km - This flat loop begins in beautiful, historic Amherstburg. Travel east along Alma St. to Thomas Rd., turning north. At Lacoudemoche Park, you will pass, reportedly, the largest Eastern cottonwood tree in Canada's best farmland. Farmers produce a wide variety of fruit, including grapes and wine.

4. Windsor - Essex - Amherstburg Excursion - 90 km. This ambitious, but flat 'loop' begins on Riverside Dr. in downtown Windsor. It takes you east along the shore of Lake St. Clair through prime farmland to Essex, and then on to historic Amherstburg, returning to Windsor along Hwy 18, next to the Detroit River.

5. Talbot Road Sampler - 45 km. This flat, meandering loop through agricultural land south of Windsor follows parts of the Talbot Road, built in 1801 to facilitate the settlement of Lake Erie and Essex County. Begin in Olinda.

6. Maidstone Loop - 33 km. Another Talbot Road sampler, east of the one above. A nice mix of agricultural landscapes and small villages. Begin in Maidstone, at the junction of County Rds. 22 and 34 heading east on County Rd. 22.

7. Essex Heart Loop - 42 km. Begin in Essex and head west along Fairview Ave./Cross Hwy 2 and follow the North Malden Rd. Flat agricultural tour.

8. Clear Beach South Loop - 38 km. Begin in St. Clair Beach, Head south on East Pike Rd. through Elmstead. From Pleasant Park head back north along the Pure River to Pace on the shore of Lake St. Clair.

9. Essex - Belle River Tour - 45 km - Begin in Essex. Head north on Fairview to Napier Sdrd. And north to Pleasant Park. Pick up the Pure River road north to Lake St. Clair. Head east along CR2 to Belle River, founded by French settlers in the early 1800's. Follow Belle river south to the North Talbot Rd., which takes you to Essex.

10. Amherstburg - Malden Center - 22 km. This loop takes you to the mouth of the Detroit River and the beginning of Lake Erie from historic Amherstburg and samples rural farming landscape and the community of Malden Centre. Edical the tour several kilometres by visiting Holiday Beach CA along CR20.

11. Windsor Excursion - 53km. This longer tour takes you along the Windsor waterfront, out to the historic Talbot Rd. and through Tecumseh on Lake St. Clair.

12. Tecumseh - Essex Stretch - 60 km. This long narrow loop takes you from the shore of Lake St. Clair to the towns of Maidstone, Essex, and Pleasant Park before finding East Pike Creek and returning to the lake's shore.

13. Essex - Cottam Loop - 22 km. This slightly longer tour explores pleasant countryside southeast of Essex.

14. Essex - Cottam Jaunt - 17 km. Short tour takes the North Talbot Rd. east and returns from Cottam along the Talbot Rd.

15. Cottam - Mnsr Game Preserve Loop - 25 km. This flat tour through rural Essex starts in Cottam and takes you past the Mnsr Game Game Preserve.

Leamington/ Kingsville

Tour note: ferries to Pelee Island, the most southerly part of Canada, leave from Kingsville for part of the season and from Leamington for another. Pelee Island is generally flat and has few paved roads. Call 1-800-661-2220.

16. Harrow - Colchester Loop - 40 km. This flat tour begins in Harrow and explores some of the richest farmland in Essex County.

17. Kingsville West Loop - 27 km. This flat tour heads west along Heritage Rd. from Kingsville, along the shore of Lake Erie, turns north past Cedar Creek, and turns east to the Minor Game Preserve before returning to the port of Kingsville. Ferries to Pelee Island travel from here.

18. Kingsville East Loop - 17 km. This flat tour explores the countryside east of Kingsville, including the community of Ruthven, and the shore of Lake Erie.

19. Ruthven Loop - 12 km. This short hour takes you around the vicinity of Ruthven. Ruthven is also the eastern start point of the Greenway part of the Trans Canada Trail.

20. Kingsville - Belle River Excursion - 75 km. This long tour takes you from one side of Essex County to another, east from Lake St. Clair. The tour is flat, but passes through varied landscapes.

21. Leamington to Point Pelee - 30 km. This out and back tour takes you to the furthest southern point of Canada, Point Pelee National Park at Point Pelee. You will have to pay a fee to enter the park. Plan to get off your bike and explore some of the walking trails.

22. Leamington - Hetrena Loop - 45 km. This long, flat tour explores southeastern Essex County.

23. Leamington - Holiday Harbour - 27 km. This tour takes you east to Holiday Harbour on the shore of Lake Erie. A little further east is Wheatley, and Wheatley Provincial Park, where swimming is available.

24. Lake St. Clair - Stoney Point Loop - 17 km. This short flat loop on the south shore of Lake St. Clair explores part of Tilbury Township.

Chatham/ Blenheim

25. Chatham - Thames View Ride - 20 km. This short pleasant ride follows the banks of the Thames River out and back.

26. Chatham - North Buxton Loop - 48 km. Head out from Chatham along either side of the Thames River, and then south and back through the farmland of Raleigh Township which was settled by freed and fugitive slaves from Louisiana and elsewhere in the late 1840's.

27. Chatham - Lake Erie Excursion - 65 km. This long tour leaves Chatham south on CR29. Continue to Lake Erie, between Erie Beach and Erieau, on Rondeau Bay. there are places to swim. Return and join Hwy 3, the Talbot Trail, west. Return through Merlin along CR2, and at CR43 head east to CR20 and return north to Chatham.

28. Tilbury - Merlin - Thames Excursion - 58 km. Head east to Merlin on CR8 then north to the Thames River on CR 7, and then west along the bank of the Thames on CR20. Return to Tilbury on CR2. Flat tour through farmland.

29. Chatham - Kent Bridge Loop - 33 km. This longer tour explores the countryside from Chatham to Blenheim through Kent County's rich farmland. Include a stop in Erie Beach if you want to swim.

30. Chatham - Kent Bridge - 15 km. Head east out of Chatham along CR39 and return from Kent Bridge along the banks of the Thames River.

31. Chatham North Loop -35 km. Head out of town on CR24 along the Thames. Head north on CR 45. Pass through Bradgh and return on Prince Albert Rd.

32. Chatham - Mitchell's Bay Tour - 40 km. Head out of Chatham along the Thames. Follow CR24 through Painswort to Mitchell's Bay. Rest and swim on Dover Beach, before returning along CR35.

33. Chatham - St.Clair Loop - 42 km. Head west out of Chatham along the Thames to Bagnall. Head north to the St. Clair National Wildlife Area. Return through Painswort.

34. Blenheim - Rondeau - Ridgetown Loop - 65 km. This south East County tour is flat, but varied, passing through several towns and offering exploration of Rondeau Provincial Park.

35. Ridgetown South Loop - 35 km. This short flat tour explores the farmland of Howard Township, southeast of Ridgetown. You can extend the tour with a stopover at Rondeau PP.

36. Ridgetown - Redwood Excursion - 65 km. This longer tour explores the countryside northeast of Ridgetown, heading du way to Redwood, founded by Father of Confederation, George Brown, and crossing the Thames River several times. There are several opportunities to cut the tour short.

37. Thamesville - Mnsnalonx Loop - 30 km. This tour takes you through countryside that was once swept by the War of 1812. Mnsnalonxwas was a mission settlement founded by Delaware Indians that was destroyed in 1813 by American forces and later re-built.

Sarnia/ Wallaceburg

38. Walkerton - Dresden Tour - 45 km. Follow the south bank of the Sydenham River to Dresden through low-lying farmland. Former slave Rev. Josiah Henson settled in the area in the 1840's. Return through Highfield and Kent County farmland.

39. Dresden - Shetland Tour - 38 km. This winding tour follows the Sydenham River upstream from Dresden to the Shetland CA, and returns along the opposite side of the river.

40. Bothwell - Shetland Loop - 40 km. This tour straddles Kent and Lambton Counties and offers travel through farmland and hardwood stands.

41. Walkerton - Lambton Excursion - 85 km. This long tour allows you to stretch your legs through flat farmland and visits the Sydenham River.

42. Walkerton/ North Loop - 30 km. Following the North Sydenham River, this loop samples a pleasant part of Lambton County. It passes the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Walkerton Bog.

43. Port Lambton - Sarnia Loop - 35 km. This tour takes you to Sarnia where you can find a ferry across the St. Clair River to Eastern Michigan (one of only two this side of Canada). Return through arrow points into Michigan, the other being on Walpole Island, west of Wallaceburg). Walpole Island offers opportunities to explore the low wetlands that mark the confluence of the St. Clair and Sydenham Rivers. Contact the Band Council Office at 1-519-627-1481 for more information.

44. Sarnia - Corunna Loop - 53 km. This medium length tour follows the bank of the St. Clair River and explores the farmland of western Lambton County. Corunna was considered once for the site of the capital of Upper Canada. It is named after a battle in Spain where the British defeated Napoleon's forces in 1809.

45. Petrolia - Lambton Excursion - 95 km. Explore the flat countryside where oil was first found in Canada. Shetland CA on the Sydenham River offers a good rest spot.

46. Petrolia - Strathroy Excursion - 60 km. This long tour provides several loop options between Petrolia and Strathroy, passing through Watford.

48. Sarnia - Petrolia Loop -50 km. This long flat loop takes from Sarnia, *current* centre of petrochemical enterprise to Petrolia where it all began in the1860's. Take Indian Road south out of Sarnia and find Plank Rd. and travel southeast through Lacarmille. From Petrolia zig zag north through Martinville and Mandamora to Lakeshore Rd. on Lake Huron and follow it back into Sarnia and Point Edward.

49. Sarnia - Corunna Loop -60 km. Take Front and Vidal streets south out of Sarnia onto the St. Clair Pkwy, into Corunna. There head east and then north through the Lambton farmland south of Sarnia.

50. Sarnia East Loop - 30 km. Head east along Michigan Line, passing just south of the airport and through Tupperville, then south from Hwy 402 on Mandamora Rd. Return to Sarnia along Confederation Line to complete this easy flat tour.

51. Sarnia Lakeshore Jaunt - 25 km. This short tour is ideal for an evening stretch, taking you along the shore of Lake Huron.

Grand Bend/ Exeter

52. Grand Bend - Mount Carmel Loop - 40 km. Grand Bend is a pleasant town on the shore of Lake Huron serving the holiday crowd and featuring a well-established summer stock theatre and roller/blades market. This tour heads into the flat farmland of Huron County, crossing the Ausable River. Hwy 21 can be very busy. You may want to follow Klondyke Rd. back to Grand Bend, but the surface is not as smooth as Hwy 21.

54. Grand Bend - Parkhill Excursion - 80 km. This long tour takes you from Grand Bend east to Crediton and south across the county line between Huron and Lambton south to Parkhill and west back to Lake Huron. Hwy 21 can be busy. If you prefer take the rougher Tout Rd. north to Grand Bend.

55. Exeter-Lucan Loop - 65 km. This tour takes you through easy, but historic countryside settled by fugitive slaves from Ohio in the 1830's, and later scene of the bloody Donnelly feud that lasted over thirty years.

56. Port Franks Loop - 12 km. This short tour takes you along the shoreline of Lake Huron to and around Port Franks on the border of magnificent Pinery PP.

57. Thedford - Ipperwash Loop - 45 km. This tour takes you to the shore of Lake Huron and through pretty countryside in Lambton County.

58. Arkona Loop - Bluewater & Colour Tour -30 km - Enjoy the spring blossoms in the second week in May and the fall colours the 3rd week in October. This tour samples rural scenery and tourists from rolling countryside and wooden areas to flat fields of farmland, smooth pavement to packed-gravel sideroads.

London/ Strathroy

59. London - Lambeth Tour - 55 km. Follow Wellington Rd. south out of London and over the 401 to Glanworth. This medium length tour takes you into the countryside of Middlesex County over mainly quiet roads. Mostly flat, some gentle rolling sections.

71. Silton Bog - Delaware Loop - 35 km. Beginning at Silton Bog on the west side of London, follow Riverside Dr. to Commissioners' Rd. You can also follow the hydro path along the river to the corner of Bamfoin and Colonel Talbot. This short tour takes you over Hwy 402 to the community of Delaware, founded by Loyalists and named after Indian who had been driven from the United States and who had settled along the Thames River. You will also pass by Arcadia PP on your way back to the west edge of London.

72. London - Aussie Loop - 25 km. This short pleasant loop on a gently rolling route takes you through the countryside just north and west of London. Watch for quarry traffic on Oxbow Rd., just west of CR16 Koroska Rd.

73. Mount Brydges - Delaware - 40 km. This medium length tour takes you through varied countryside and pleasant communities. Several hills around Mt. Brydges and Delaware.

74. Komoka - Mount Brydges Loop - 45 km. This tour takes you through a great variety of landscapes and communities in West Middlesex. Head out of London along Wellington to Glanworth.

75. Komoka - Coldstream Loop - 25 km. This short loop heads north from Komoka on the Komoka Rd. to Coldstream and the nearby CA and returns along Nairn Rd.

76. Lobo - Ailsa Craig Loop - 70 km. Head south from Lobo on the Nairn Rd., head east through Coldstream and then north again through Poplar Hill and Prendell. Take Poty St. through Nairn and continue on Ailsa Craig. Return through Carlisle and Vanneck.

77. Strathroy West Loop - 25 km. This short loop takes you through the farmland west of Strathroy.

78. Strathroy - Mount Brydges Loop - 30 km. This medium length tour links you to routes into London, but stands alone too. Varied countryside and pleasant communities round. Some hills, but long flat sections.

79 p. Strathroy - Nairn - 65 km. This long tour takes you north from Strathroy through the Ausable River basin and cross pleasant countryside to Nairn. Some hills on the southern part of the loop. Easier around Strathroy.

79 b. To extend the long tour slightly longer, or on its own, this loop takes you through the flat farmland southwest of Strathroy. 35 km.

80. London - Arva Loop - 40 km. The goal is the Hampstead Tea Room just east of Arva. Adelaide St. can be busy at times. A few hills.

81. Siloton Loop - 35 km. This tour can begin in London, or can begin in Siloton. From London head for Nanneck Rd. and join the loop. This tour takes you to the North Thames River and through the community of Arva (Hampstead Tea Room) and back to Siloton. A few short hour hills.

82 Fanshawe Lake Loop - 25 km. This short loop takes you around Fanshawe Lake CA. Some hills. There can be busy traffic getting in and out of London, so pick your time.

83. Fanshawe East Loop - 25 km. This loop follows the rolling rural landscape east of Fanshawe Lake CA, Some hills.

84. London - Three Bridges Loop - 40 km. This medium length tour takes you from downtown London through suburban areas into the countryside and to the village of Three Bridges. Follow Huron Rd. out of town and return on Gore Rd. Where Gore Rd. meets Hamilton Rd., cross to take path that will return you downtown (entrance is through Pottersburg Pollution Plant).

85. London - Dorchester Tour - 30 km - This easy loop takes you along the bank of the Thames River through Nilestown to Dorchester. This route is best done outside of rush hour.

86. London - Belmont Tour -40 km. This tour is on mainly quiet roads, but there can be traffic on Hwy 74 and Wellington. It explores the countryside southeast of London. There are several good refreshment spots in Belmont.

87. St. Thomas - Glanworth Loop - 55 km. This short easy tour explores the area just north of St. Thomas and passes by the reservoir and game reserve just north of town.

88. St. Thomas - Mastery Explorer - 65 km. This medium length tour begins on Wellington Rd., heading north to Glanworth. In Glanworth turn west and follow Glanworth Dr./ Littlewood Dr. You will pass through Littlewood and enter the Ontario Ajax Fort Malden. At Fort Malden the Thames River is the village of Mnsrey. Pick up CR20 south to CR 40 and turn east to Littlewood (CR22).

89. St. Thomas - Fingal Loop - 60 km - This medium length tour follows quiet roads through the pleasant countryside west of St.Thomas.

90. St. Thomas Southwest Loop -50 km. This short easy tour on quiet roads takes you to Fingal and then toward Lake Erie. You may want to consider heading to Lake Erie Beach or Port Stanley before returning to St. Thomas.

91. St. Thomas - Port Stanley Loop - 45 km. This short tourist hour takes you to Port Stanley on Lake Erie from St. Thomas. Follow Fairview Ave. south out of St. Thomas. Return along the bank of Kettle River.

92. St. Thomas - Hawk's Cliff Tour -55 km. Continue south from St. Thomas on Fairview Ave. Continue past Lakeshore Rd. onto Hawk's Cliff Rd. At the end there is a worthwhile view of Lake Erie. Return to Lakeshore Rd. and turn east through Orinix. Return to St. Thomas along CR20 through Sparta.

93. Port Bruce - Aylmer Loop - 55 km - On Cardinal Creek, Port Bruce is often a Provincial Park and a beach. This short tour through rolling countryside explores the area north of the Lake. Several hills.

94. St. Thomas - Aylmer Excursion - 55 km. This varied tour takes you through many villages and through varied landscapes. Aylmer offers many good rest spots.

95. St. Thomas - Elgin County Excursion - 70 km. This long tour leads west from St. Thomas through Fingal and Port Talbot and on to Dutton. Return parallel to Hwy 401 through Lawrence Station.

Tillsonburg/ Port Burwell

100. Tillsonburg - Stradbroke Loop - 45 km. This tour takes you through the sandy low-lying farmland, featuring tobacco, between Tillsonburg and Lake Erie. Part of the trip takes you along the historic Talbot Rd., built in the early 19th century to foster settlement along the Lake Erie shoreline. You will cross parts of the Otter River in several places.

101. Tillsonburg - Delhi Excursion - 90 km. This long tour takes you east of Tillsonburg to Delhi, the Tobacco Capital of Canada, through varied landscapes on quiet roads.

102. Tillsonburg - Long Point Three and Back - 138 km. This tour takes you to the beautiful Long Point PP where many migratory birds are spotted on their way north in the spring. Stop in at Port Rowan before returning your route.

103. Delhi Southwest Loop - 33 km. This short loop leaves Delhi east on King Rd. and turns south on Perlinier Rd. Passing through local farmland, over many creeks, and through villages such as Silverton and Lynnfield. Short portion on Hwy. 3.

104. Delhi - Windham Center Loop - 35 km. This loop takes you through flat farmland to Windham Center, where Ontario's provincial cycling track is located.

105. Port Burwell - Stradbroke Tour - 48 km. This moderately long tour begins in Port Burwell on Lake Erie. Follow the shore and then head north through farmland and over many streams through Calton and onto Richmond. Head east along the Talbot Rd. through Stradbroke. At Gopsborough turn south on CR20 and return to Lakeshore Rd. Head west to Port Burwell.

106. Simcoe - Windham Center Meander - 65 km. This medium length tour heads out of Simcoe west then heads north to Windham Centre, home of the province's cycling track, then through wetlands and onto Waterford before returning again to Simcoe.

107. Waterford Loop - 25 km. This short loop allows you to stretch your legs in the farmland south of Waterford.

108. Simcoe - Turkey Point Excursion - 55 km. This long tour takes you south to Lake Erie and captures the shore-line west to Port Rowan and then jogs back on quiet roads back to Simcoe.

109. Port Rowan East - 20 km. This short tour explores the Lakeshore east of Port Rowan. Add a jaunt down long Point if you have time.

110. Port Rowan West - 20 km. This short loop passes through Big Creek Marsh. Add a trip down Long Point Rd. after you return to Port Rowan.

111. Port Rowan North Excursion - 70 km. This long tour explores quiet roads north of Port Rowan and explores the shore of Lake Erie.

Woodstock/ Ingersoll

113. Woodstock - Embro Loop - 30 km. This medium length tour takes you from downtown London through suburban areas into the countryside and to the village of Three Bridges. Follow Huron Rd. out of town and return on Gore Rd. Where Gore Rd. meets Hamilton Rd., cross to take path that will return you downtown (entrance is through Pottersburg Pollution Plant).

114. Innerkip - Dereham Loop - 45 km. Add this tour to the one above, or make your way to Innerkip. This route follows quiet roads through rolling countryside.

115. Ingersoll - Embro Loop - 33 km. This medium length tour follows quiet roads through Zorra Township. Some rolling hills.

116. Ingersoll - Embro Loop - 33 km. Head north to the Embro CA from downtown Ingersoll, crossing various tributary creeks of the Thames River.

St. Marys/ Stratford

120. St. Marys - Fullarton Loop - 40 km. This tour follows the rolling landscape north of St. Marys to the Fullarton countryside.

121. St. Marys - Stratford Meander- 65 km. Follow CR120 to CR22 and then to O'Connor Ave. into Stratford. Return through Sawyerville and Cromarty. This tour samples the countryside between villages such as Sawyerville and Cromarty.

122. St. Marys South Loop - 15 km. This short jaunt takes you up the hill out of St. Marys along James St. Return along the Thames River and Water St. and cross your tracks.

123. St. Marys - Kirkton Loop - 45 km. This medium length tour follows quiet roads through Kelly Station, Friendly Corners, and Woodstock. Return north on Nunnes' Lane, paralleling the North Thames River. Cross over to Photo Mills and climb to Valley View Rd. Follow south to Prospect Hill and then return to St. Mary's through Kurtosch. You can cut hilly circuit of Thames River by continuing straight west on CR18 (Piper Mills Rd.) instead of turning south to Thorndale.

124. St. Marys - Winchelsea Excursion - 80 km. Take Queen St. west out of St. Mary's. At Kurtosch take CR129 to Prospect Hill and follow south to Prospect Hill Rd., through Greenwood, Kintore, Fairview, Bryanston, Granton, Whalen Corners, Zion, Winchelsea. This tour features rolling hills and varied landscape.

St. Joseph

Bayview Subdivision
Lakeview Gardens
Sons Ridge
Poplar Beach
Cedar Sand
Schade View
Norman Heights
Turnbull's Grove
Greenwood Park
Linwood
Sunnyside
Kingsmount
Wabash
Grand Bend
Beachcroft Park
Huron Park
Port Franks
Ipperwash Beach
Kettle Point
Lake Valley Grove
Cedarville
Cedar Point
Hillsborough Beach
Glendale Beach
Blue Point
Burnside Beach
Bonnie Beach
Beverly Glen
Erroll
Wellington Beach
Brightwood Beach
Ashfield
Forest
Thedford
Jonction
Arkona
Parkhill
Ailsa Craig
Lucan
Exeter
Hensall
Zurich
Dashwood
Grand Bend
Mount Carmel
Port Stanley
Port Bruce
Port Burwell
Port Rowan
Port Dover
Port Talbot
Port Glasgow
Port Bruce
Port Burwell
Port Rowan
Port Dover
Port Talbot
Port Glasgow
Port Stanley