

# ROAD CYCLING

*in the Methow Valley*

## Winthrop

WASHINGTON

The Methow Valley has hundreds of miles of lightly traveled country roads which are ideal for road cycling. Here are a few fantastic routes starting and ending in Winthrop. Note all these rides can be made shorter or longer and can be connected. Your best bet is to get a good road map and go.

### SUN MOUNTAIN *Distance: 18 miles*

A quick jaunt from Winthrop on Twin Lakes Road will take you to the turn-off to the famous Sun Mountain Lodge. From there it is about 6 miles up two fairly steep but not too long climbs to the summit at the lodge. On the way, pass by Patterson Lake and take in the fields of arrowleaf balsamroot flowers in the spring on Patterson Mountain. The best easily accessible views of the valley are to be found at the lodge (as well as snacks and fine dining). Turn around for a fast spin back to town.

### CHEWUCH LOOP RIDES *Distance: 14 - 80 miles*

East and West Chewuch roads provide for a number of great road riding options. An easy 14 miles loop ride is the Chewuch Loop: up West Chewuch Road and then back on East Chewuch Road (can be reversed). For the ambitious, the route can be easily added to by continuing up the Chewuch Road to Andrews Creek (about 24 miles from Winthrop) for a 50 mile roundtrip ride. Or for those for whom no ride is complete without some suffering, add Boulder Creek Road which offers moderate climbing. And if you really like it steep try Falls Creek Road (the local Alp D'Huez) which is very steep at the start, followed by 8 miles or so of constant climbing.

### WASHINGTON PASS *Distance: 65 miles roundtrip from Winthrop (strenuous) or 30 miles roundtrip from Mazama*

A fairly strenuous climb that is well worth the effort for the outstanding views and epic descent! This is the defining ride of the valley. From Winthrop, it is straight up Hwy 20 to Washington Pass. The climbing starts at about mile 15 and is fairly relentless the whole way to the top. Take plenty of water, food and some layers of clothing. Hwy 20 is the most heavily trafficked road in the Valley, stay safely to the far right of the road while climbing and descending. To shorten the ride, start at Mazama or the Freestone Inn.



*take a break from the ordinary*

## WINTHROP TO MAZAMA

*Distance: 30 miles roundtrip to Mazama or 44 miles roundtrip to Lost River*

A gradual, undulating ride up the Methow Valley on Hwy 20 (busier than some of the side roads, but with a good shoulder and visibility.) Ride West on Hwy 20 for 8 miles, and turn right on Goat Creek Road for a slightly hillier but more scenic ride the last 6 miles to Mazama. For a longer ride continue past the Mazama Store towards Lost River for 7 more miles of pavement. Turn around and return via the same route.

## WINTHROP SOUTH TO TWISP AND CARLTON

*Distance: 18 miles roundtrip to Twisp or 38 miles roundtrip to Carlton*

Cyclists can enjoy some lightly traveled side roads that parallel Hwy 20 south to the towns of Twisp and Carlton. Take the East County Road (9129) south of Winthrop 9 miles to Twisp and the Twisp-Carlton Road (9105) 10 miles further south to Carlton.

## WINTHROP UP THE TWISP RIVER *Distance: 18 miles roundtrip to Twisp or 46 miles roundtrip to the end of Twisp River Road*

Take the East County Road (9129) south 9 miles from Winthrop to Twisp and then head west on the gorgeous Twisp River Road for 14 miles to the pavement end. This ride follows the Twisp River past agricultural farms, open fields and forests all with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

## TOUR DE OKANOGAN *Distance: 105 miles*

This route offers tough climbs, breathtaking descents and great terrain for riding. Plan for a long day in the saddle without many options for replenishing food or water along the way. This loop is traditionally ridden clockwise. From Winthrop take the East County Road to Twisp, follow Hwy 20 over Loup Loup pass and descend towards Malott. Take a right on B&O Road through Malott toward Old Hwy 97. Take a right and ride until Old Hwy 97 meets Hwy 97, keep going until Pateros. Cross the Methow River and turn on Hwy 153. Stay on Hwy 153 until you reach Gold Creek Loop and turn left. Ride this until it rejoins Hwy 153. Take another left on Hwy 153 and ride to Carlton. Take the Twisp-Carlton Road on the left just before you enter Carlton and ride to Twisp. In Twisp take a right on Hwy 153 heading south for ½ mile to East County Road. Turn left on East County Road and return to Winthrop.



get maps and more information at

**WINTHROPWASHINGTON.COM**