



## Annapolis Royal Back to the Yarmouth Ferry

### Connection: Annapolis Royal to Yarmouth

133 kilometres / 83 miles

Strong cyclists can do this ride in one long day, but it is better divided in two. There are beautiful views to enjoy and innumerable places of interest, and this is a fairly popular route for cyclists. We feel that it is marred by frequent rather heavy traffic, but it can still be a useful and enjoyable connection. Since the entire ride is on either Route 1 or Route 101 (they sometimes merge), we provide directions mainly to help you mark progress and pick a few excellent side trips.



*One of many beautiful views along St. Mary's Bay*

#### Food and Lodging

This is a heavily traveled route with frequent restaurants, stores, and accommodation, especially on the Acadian shore, roughly between kilometre 61 and kilometre 100. In fact there are so many amenities that we do not try to list them.

#### Terrain

Terrain varies from nearly flat to strongly rolling.

#### Directions

Directions start at the intersection of Route 1 and Route 8 in the center of Annapolis Royal.

#### Digby Ferry

It is 8.3 kilometres from Exit 26 to the ferry terminal, with clear signs to show the way. The busy and attractive downtown is centred on the harbour. (Digby is the home of eastern Canada's largest scallop fishing fleet.) There are two VICs, one downtown on the harbour, and one near the ferry terminal. There are many restaurants and places to stay.

**0.0 Take Route 1** following the sign to Digby. There are beautiful views of the Annapolis River from Route 1, sometimes marred by traffic.

5.5 Upper Clements Park, with amusements and rides, is followed soon by Upper Clements Wildlife Park. Stay on Route 1 following signs to Digby and Yarmouth. Terrain is rolling, with frequent views of the river.

12.9 In Clementsport, pass a left toward Clementsvale. (This is a possible route to Bear River. *See sidebar, p. 156.*)

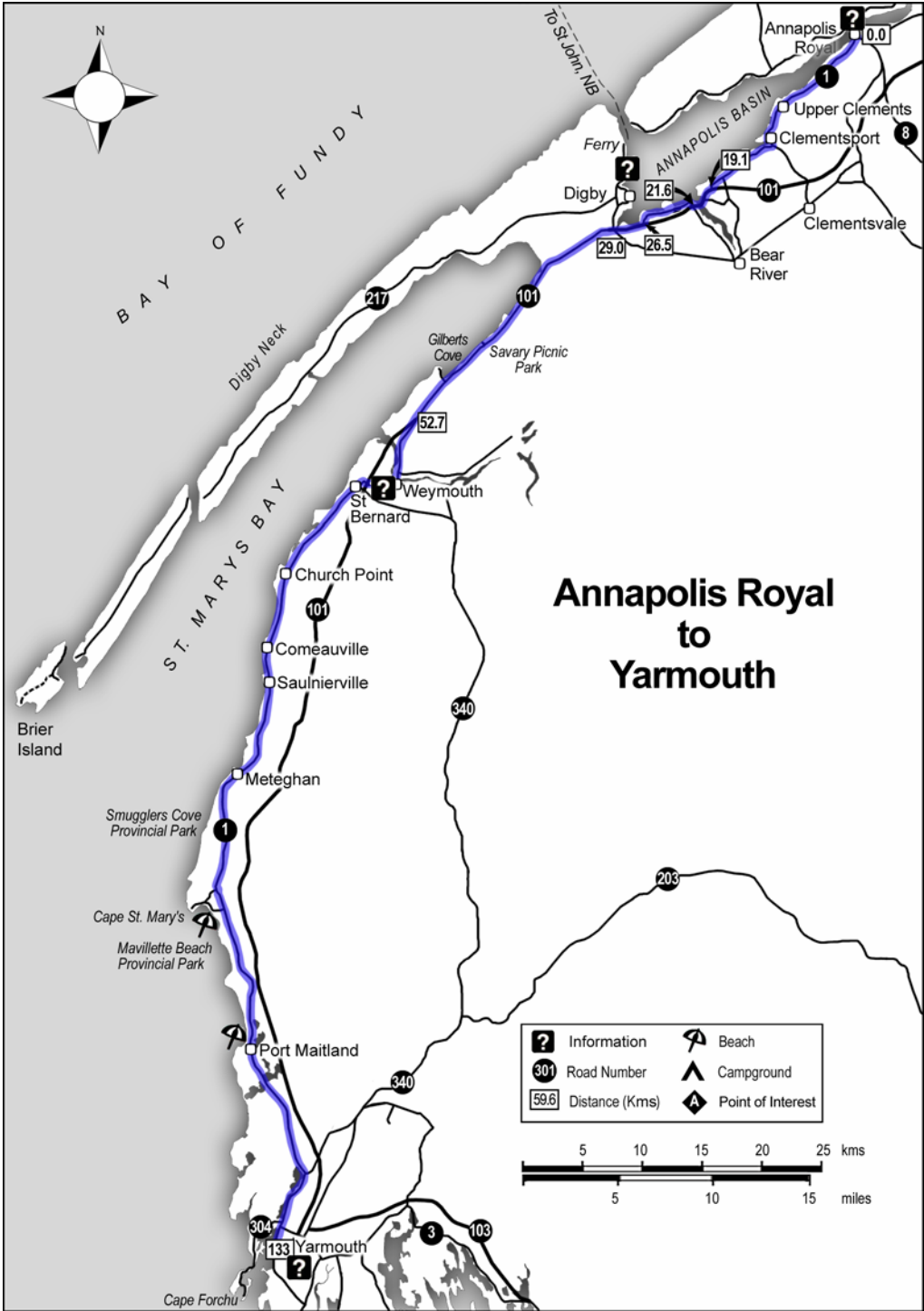
**19.1 Turn left** and then **bear right** in 300 metres in order to cross Bear River on Route 101.

**21.6 Take Exit 24** to Smith's Cove and Bear River, and **turn left** back onto Route 1.





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➔ **26.5 Turn right** onto 101 West at a stop sign and blinker light.

➔ or ⬆ **29.0 Take Exit 26** for the Digby ferry to St. John, New Brunswick

**OR**  
**Continue straight** on Route 101 toward Yarmouth. Routes 1 and 101 merge for the next 28 kilometres. Route 101 has a paved shoulder when the road narrows to two lanes.

33.0 Pass a connection on the right to Route 217 and Digby Neck. (See sidebar, below, p. 156.)

44.1 Savary Picnic Park is on the right. This is a particularly pretty park, with lawns and trees on the water – a good stop for a picnic. Cycling in and out of the park adds a kilometre to distances that follow.

<b>Cues</b>	
0.0	Rte 1 W toward Digby
19.1	Left, then right
21.6	Exit 24 & left onto Rte 1
26.5	Right onto Rte 101 W
29.0	Exit to Digby
<b>OR</b>	
	Straight on Rte 101
52.7	Exit 27 onto Rte 1 W
133.3	Yarmouth ferry



## Annapolis Royal Back to the Yarmouth Ferry



*Savary Picnic Park*

48.6 Lighthouse Road is on the right. It goes to Gilbert's Cove Lighthouse. There is a cozy little tea room in the lighthouse, open every day in July and August from 10 am to 6 pm. We recommend this detour, which adds 3 kilometres to distances that follow.

➡ **52.7 Take Exit 27** toward Weymouth and Weymouth Falls, following Route 1 West. You now need only to follow Route 1 all the way to Yarmouth.

58.0 **?** Cross the Sissiboo River. There is a VIC just after the bridge.

61.0 Cross under Route 101, which slants inland, while Route 1 follows the shore. From here to Cape St. Marys, one seaside village blends into another – St. Bernard, Belliveau Cove, Grosses Cocques, Comeauville, Saulnierville, Meteghan, Mavillette.

French is widely spoken, and you will frequently see a red white and blue flag with a single gold star – the flag of Acadia. The road is fairly narrow, with not much in the way of shoulders – but since this is practically an extended village, traffic does not usually go too fast.

92.3 Smuggler's Cove Provincial Park is on the right, soon after the village of Meteghan. From here, Route 1 turns inland for a few kilometres through an area that is sparsely settled.



*Tearoom in Gilberts Cove Lighthouse, cozy shelter from the coming storm*





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100.3 A road to the right, just before a bridge over the Mavillette River, goes to Cape St. Mary's and Mavillette Beach. **Consider a side trip.**

The road to Cape St. Mary's twists through salt marshes and reaches the Cape in 2.8 kilometres. The last part of the road is gravel, but fine for cycling. At the cape there is a busy wharf on the left, with a boat builder's shop and fishermen's bait sheds. This rocky cape is scenic and worth the side trip. A left before the cape goes to **Mavillette Beach Provincial Park**, where boardwalks cross the dunes to a long sand beach. There is a restaurant, a motel, cottages, and tenting beside the park. The road from Mavillette Beach returns to Route 1 at kilometre 102. We highly recommend cycling to Cape St. Mary's and to Mavillette Beach, which adds about 4 kilometres to distances that follow kilometre 102.

102.1 Pass the road from Mavillette Beach.

114.7 In the attractive town of Port Maitland, there's a right to the breakwater and a sandy beach.

126.6 At the junction with Route 340, a left goes to Ellenwood Provincial Park. Continue straight on Route 1, which will become Main Street, to Yarmouth and the ferry.

**133.3 In downtown Yarmouth at the Forest Street traffic lights, the VIC and the entrance to the ferry are to the right.**

**END OF RIDE**

### You Can't Ride 'Em All

We couldn't include in this guide all the routes we cycled, and even in 10 months in the Maritimes we couldn't cycle all the routes that we would have liked to try. These are two in Southern Nova Scotia for which detailed directions have been omitted:

#### Digby Neck

From kilometre 29.0 or kilometre 33.0 above, you can connect with Route 217, which runs along the Digby Neck all the way to Brier Island.

From a quick glance at a map, you might think this skinny neck of land is a long, flat sandbar. That would be wrong. Digby Neck is a continuation of North Mountain that separates the Annapolis Valley from the Bay of Fundy. Therefore Route 217 sometimes runs along ridges, sometimes dips down to coves and climbs back again. It is not flat.

From Digby, you can cycle 65 kilometres and ride two ferries in order to reach Brier Island, at the end of the neck. Then you ride must ride back again. Consider budgeting three days to really enjoy the trip. This allows a relaxing layover at Brier Island, where you can stay at a backpackers' hostel or at Brier Island Lodge.

Friends who enjoy the ride to Brier Island have berated us for not cycling it, so Route 217 tops the list of rides we hope to do next time. In the meantime, if you give it a try, send us an email and tell us more about it.

#### Bear River

We also omitted a possible loop to Bear River, south of Clementsport. Bear River is a charming village with splendid galleries, a café, grocery, and a nice picnic site. We cycled to Bear River but decided to omit it because the hills in an out of the village are very steep. Experienced cyclists who don't mind climbing will certainly enjoy it.

One possible route is to turn south at Clementsport (kilometre 12.9 above) and ride to Clementsvale; then turn right following the sign to Bear River; and return along the west side of the river to Smith's Cove on Route 1 (kilometre 21.6 above). You can also reach Bear River through Clementsvale by turning at kilometre 24.2 of [Annapolis Royal to Liverpool](#), p. 151.

