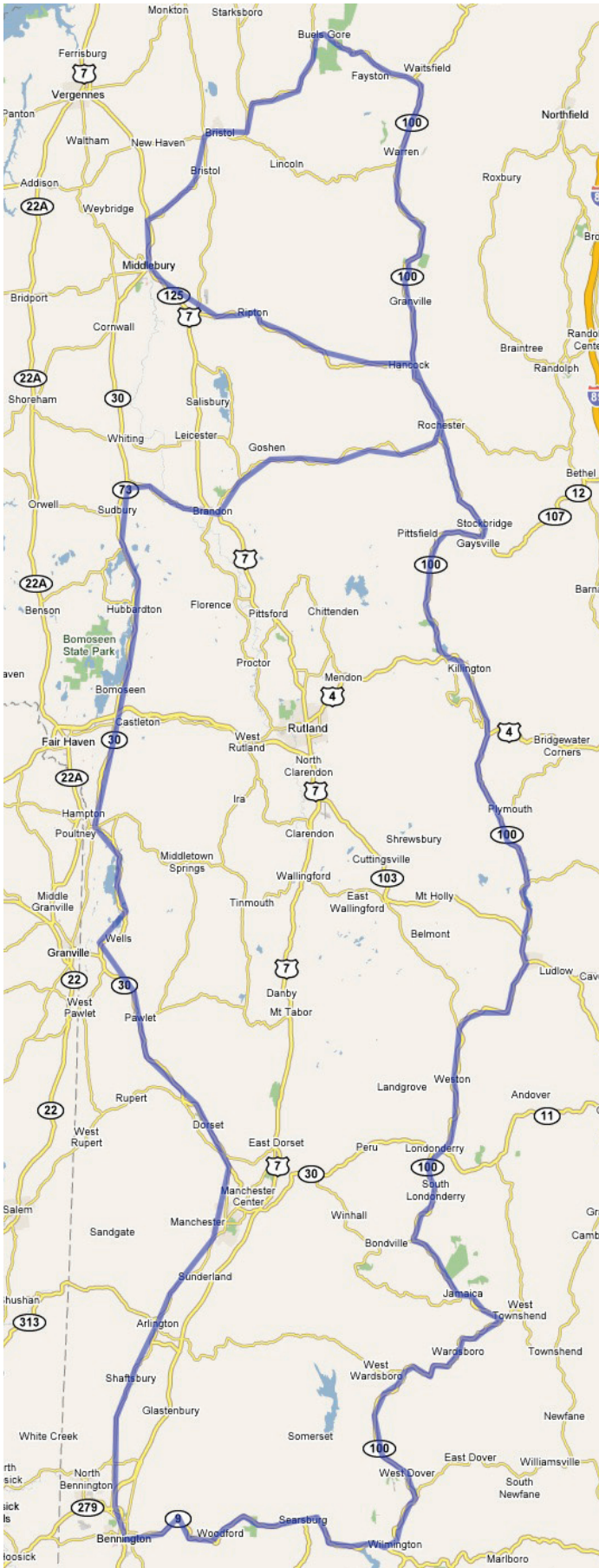


Bennington Triumph Bash Gaps Ride

(Loop of about 290 miles)



From beautiful downtown Bennington, take Rt 7 north to scenic Rt 7A. Ride north on Rt 7A until you get to Manchester, where you'll want to make a left onto Rt 30.

Ride north on Rt 30, enjoying the views of Lake St Catherine and Lake Bomoseen. After Sudbury, make a right (east) onto Rt 73. Pass through Brandon, staying on Rt 73, and ride over the mountain towards Rochester. This road gets twisty, including a 90-degree 15mph right-hand corner, so ride with caution.

At the end of Rt 73, make a left (north) onto Rt 100. You'll enter the town of Rochester; stop for gas and a rest at the gas station adjacent to the town green.

From there, proceed north on Rt 100 to Hancock and make a left (west) onto Rt 125 towards Middlebury. Ride with caution on this road—the pavement can get pretty rough, and there are some tight corners, especially just outside of Ripton. Also, be on the lookout for deer and moose.

When you get to Rt 7, make a right (north) and proceed about two miles to Rosie's Restaurant (on the left) for lunch. (If you prefer fast food, try the A&W drive-in (on the right), which is the only remaining one in New England.)

After lunch, continue north on Rt 7 for about 4 miles and make a right onto River Road. Follow this to Rt 116 and make a left, then follow Rt 116 through Bristol. Rt 116 will merge with Rt 17 in Bristol.

Where Rt 17 splits off of Rt 116 north of Bristol, make a right onto Rt 17 and follow it to the Appalachian Gap. Exercise extreme caution on the App Gap—the road is extremely twisty, with tight 180-degree hairpins and S-turns. Watch for other motorcyclists and cars. Take a short break in the parking lot at the top of the Gap—enjoy the view, take some pictures, kick some tires, and listen to other bikes coming up the road.

Wait until any traffic passing over the Gap has had a few minutes to clear (unless you enjoy getting stuck behind cars in the twisties), then proceed down the other side of the Gap. Continue to ride cautiously—it's easy to build up speed on the downhill straightaways and then get taken by surprise by sudden tight curves.

Continue on Rt 17 until it ends at Rt 100. Stop off at the gas station on the corner for fuel and a restroom break, then turn right (south) onto Rt 100. Shortly after the town of Warren, you'll pass through a state forest with nice sweeping curves. Watch for deer, moose, and tourists. Continue south on Rt 100, following the signs (it will merge and split off of several roads along the way).

Stop for a break at the town green in Weston, then continue south on Rt 100 to Wilmington and make a right (west) onto Rt 9. Follow Rt 9 all the way over the mountains and back into Bennington.