

Scenic Bicycle Tours in Pendleton County

Loop 4. Deer Run

Length: 16.2 miles • Ascents: 1 (2.5 miles) • Gain: 780 ft. • Hwy. miles: 2.6



0.0 miles



1.9 miles



5.5 miles



5.8 miles



7.6 miles

This tour begins at the South Fork Ruritan building in Oak Flat, which is located on US Rt. 33, 8.2 miles east of Franklin or 3.6 miles west of Brandywine.

Begin the tour by turning right on US Rt. 33. This section of main highway totals 2.6 miles, but half of that distance includes a third lane making it safer for bicycles. This is also a steady uphill climb topping out at **2.5 miles**. At **2.6 miles**, turn right onto Troublesome Valley Road (Rt. 12) and begin a gradual climb up that valley, reaching the crest at **5.8 miles** to overlook the watershed of Deer Run and the small community of the same name. At **6.8 miles**, turn right at the intersection.

At **7.2 miles**, pass by the intersection with Steele Gap Road and the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. At **7.9 miles** turn right onto Siple Mt. Road (Rt. 14). The view from here is outstanding. The pastoral landscape of near and distant farms, and fields with grazing cattle and sheep is a vivid evocation of a rural way of life that is rapidly disappearing.

At **9.0 miles**, reach the crest of Siple Mt. and begin a descent through roadside scrub pines and magnificent vistas of Shenandoah Mt. and the South Fork Valley. The road levels out at **9.8 miles** and then gradually descends, passing Mitchell Mt. Road at **10.1 miles** and then narrowing somewhat as it enters a pine reforestation area at **12.0 miles**.

Make a right turn at **12.9 miles** on to the Sweedlin Valley Road (Rt. 3), and proceed 3.3 miles along this road back to Oak Flat and the starting point.



7.9 miles



9.0 miles



10.0 miles



12.3 miles



12.8 miles

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