Route Description

Heading due north, the Day 2 route takes us to Van Buren, another town located on the Canada–US border, and named after President Martin Van Buren. From there, we bike along the St. John River, through the small towns of Keegan, Notre Dame, Lille, Grand Isle, and St. David. Our home for two nights is Madawaska, which is well known for its friendly people and great hospitality. It serves as the center of Acadian culture in Maine and features easy access to its Canadian neighbor, Edmundston, and its extensive system of off-road bike paths.

Natural Points of Interest

Connected Forests: Northern Maine is the heart of the Northern Appalachian/Acadian Region. This globally significant region is the most intact temperate broadleaf forest in the world. Ranging from upper New York state to Quebec and Nova Scotia, it is home to over five million people and uncounted millions of wildlife. The forests are vital to the region’s communities and quality of life, providing economically important natural resources and livelihoods, clean water and air, and places to explore for recreation and respite. Thanks to a large network of healthy forest, wetlands, and rivers, Canada lynx, black bear, moose, and other wide-ranging mammals roam freely across much of this landscape.

Cultural Points of Interest

Acadian Village: Our lunch stop today is a head-first dive into Acadian Culture. Boasting over a dozen buildings built in the first wave of Acadian settlement, you won’t want to miss the chance to take a tour after lunch, for a reduced entrance fee of $5.

Musée Culturel du Mont Carmel: A few miles past the Acadian Village stands a beautiful cathedral, built in 1910, now home to the Musée Culturel du Mont Carmel, a nonprofit cultural museum dedicated to the preservation and development of Acadian and Québécois culture and history in the St. John Valley of northern Maine. Enjoy a tour for free as a BikeMaine rider!