Errol NH & Great North Woods Cycling Guide

Road, trail & touring cycling from an Errol, New Hampshire home base

Day Rides • Multi-Use Trails • Mountain Biking • Touring Through

STAY & RIDE

Use Errol as one home base and choose a different direction each day.

MATCH YOUR BIKE

Road, mountain-bike, and easier multi-use trail options.

TOURING THROUGH

Routes 16 and 26 meet in Errol for cyclists continuing a longer journey.

Presented by Errol Motel

132 Main Street, Errol, NH 03579 | 603-482-3256 | errol-motel.com

Stay in Errol. Ride in a different direction. Come back to Errol.

Why Errol Works as a Cycling Home Base

Errol sits at the junction of New Hampshire Routes 16 and 26, with the Androscoggin River, Thirteen Mile Woods, Dixville Notch, Lake Umbagog, and Western Maine radiating in different directions. For cyclists, that creates two ways to use Errol: stay several nights and explore from one base or make Errol an overnight stop while traveling through on a longer tour.

This guide does not treat every scenic road as a beginner-friendly bicycle route. Routes 16 and 26 are public state highways shared with motor vehicles and do not provide a continuous protected bicycle facility. Road-riding suggestions are intended for cyclists comfortable with rural highway riding, changing shoulders, hills, and limited services.

HOW THIS GUIDE WAS BUILT

Cycling apps and trail sites were used to discover ideas, but access, trail use and major route claims were checked against managing agencies and established trail organizations whenever possible. Road conditions, construction, closures, and trail status can change; current signs and official information always take precedence.

Choose Your Ride

LOOKING FOR	TRY	BIKE	BEST FOR
Scenic road ride from Errol	Route 16 South through Thirteen Mile Woods	Road	Experienced road cyclist
Mountain road challenge	Route 26 West toward Dixville Notch	Road	Experienced / climbing
Maine scenic-byway ride	Route 26 East toward Grafton Notch	Road	Experienced / climbing
Easy, flatter unpaved ride	Presidential Rail Trail from Moose Brook	Hybrid / MTB	Most abilities
Purpose-built singletrack	COÖS Trails / Moose Brook	Mountain bike	Beginner to advanced
Long-distance touring	Routes 16 & 26 through Errol	Touring / road	Self-supported touring

Ride From Errol — Scenic Road Cycling

Routes 16 and 26 provide experienced road cyclists with scenic riding in several directions from Errol. These are public highways shared with motor vehicles, not designated or protected bicycle routes. Traffic, shoulder width, road construction and conditions can vary, so riders should choose routes based on their own experience and current conditions. Out-and-back rides make it easy to adjust the day's mileage without committing to a long loop.

South on Route 16 — Thirteen Mile Woods

Paved state highway • River scenery • Out-and-back distance is your choice

Head South from Errol on Route 16 along the Androscoggin River and through Thirteen Mile Woods. New Hampshire promotes this corridor as part of its Great North Woods scenic touring route. For cyclists, an out-and-back lets you choose the mileage instead of committing to a long loop.

KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE

Route 16 is a motor-vehicle highway, not a separated bike path. Shoulder width and traffic conditions vary. Use high-visibility gear and lights, and do not treat this as a protected or beginner road ride.

West on Route 26 — Toward Dixville Notch

Paved state highway • Sustained climbing • Mountain scenery

Route 26 West from Errol heads toward Dixville Notch and Colebrook. New Hampshire's Great North Woods scenic route highlights the Errol-to-Dixville stretch. This direction best suits fit road cyclists who want climbing and mountain scenery.

KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE

The notch adds grade, curves, and changing sight lines. Check weather and road work before leaving.

East on Route 26 — Toward Grafton Notch

Paved scenic byway • Maine mountain riding • Significant climbing

Crossing into Maine, Route 26 becomes the Grafton Notch Scenic Byway. Riders can head toward Upton and Grafton Notch, choosing an out-and-back distance that fits the day.

KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE

A scenic-byway designation does not mean there is a continuous bike lane. Expect a rural two-lane highway, hills, and motor traffic.

WHY OUT-AND-BACK WORKS HERE

A fixed loop can force a rider into more mileage or traffic than expected. From Errol, an out-and-back on 16 or 26 lets you decide whether the day is a shorter spin, an endurance ride, or a mountain-climbing day.

Multi-Use Trail Riding

Northern New Hampshire has many unpaved roads, but not every logging road, snowmobile trail or line on a cycling app is open to bicycles. Land ownership and access can change. Distinguish established public multi-use routes from exploratory unpaved riding.

Presidential Recreational Rail Trail — Easy Multi-Use Trail Riding

Approximately 18 miles • Generally flat, unpaved multi-use trail • Out-and-back

A day-use fee may apply when accessing riding through Moose Brook State Park. Fees, staffing, gates, and seasonal conditions can change, so check current NH State Parks information before your visit. Trail conditions can also change after heavy rain and during seasonal maintenance.

Moose Brook State Park in Gorham connects directly to the Presidential Recreational Rail Trail. New Hampshire State Parks lists the trail at approximately 18 miles and describes the riding from Moose Brook as flat, unpaved terrain. Riders can simply go out as far as they want and return, making this one of the region's best choices for a more relaxed ride away from highway traffic.

KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE
Use the current NH State Parks information before visiting. A day-use fee may apply through Moose Brook State Park, and seasonal conditions or temporary closures can affect riding.

Mountain Biking — COÖS Trails & Moose Brook

For riders who want purpose-built singletrack rather than highway or unpaved-road riding, the strongest established option within the broader Errol day-trip area is the COÖS Trails network around Gorham and Moose Brook State Park.

COÖS Trails

30+ miles of singletrack and flow • Multiple ability levels • Gorham / Moose Brook

The Coös Cycling Club maintains more than 30 miles of singletrack and flow trails in and around Moose Brook State Park and Gorham, with options for multiple ability levels. Because the network continues to evolve, use the club's current trail map rather than relying on a printed trail count or a fixed route in this guide.

KNOW BEFORE YOU RIDE

Use the current COÖS Trails map rather than a static route printed in this guide. The network changes as trails are built, maintained, or temporarily closed.

E-Bikes at COÖS Trails

The Coös Cycling Club currently permits Class 1 pedal-assist e-bikes on the network. Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited. Verify current club guidelines before riding.

Trail Etiquette

- Yield and ride under control on shared-use trails.
- Respect one-way or bicycle-only signs.
- Do not ride muddy trails when your tires are leaving deep ruts.
- Never build, alter, or bypass trail features.
- Remember that portions of the network depend on permission from private landowners.

Cycling Through Errol

Some cyclists arrive in Errol with loaded bikes rather than bikes on a car. Routes 16 and 26 make Errol a natural crossroads for riders moving through Northern New Hampshire and Western Maine, including cyclists traveling to or from Canada as part of a longer self-planned tour.

AN OVERNIGHT CROSSROADS

If Errol is one stage of a longer ride, stop for the night, recharge, dry gear, reorganize and continue in a different direction the next morning. Errol Motel sits directly on the Routes 16/26 junction corridor.

Four Directions Through Errol

DIRECTION	CORRIDOR	WHAT COMES NEXT
North / Northeast	Route 16	Umbagog area, Maine line, and the Rangeley direction
South	Route 16	Thirteen Mile Woods, Milan, Berlin, and Gorham
West	Route 26	Dixville Notch, Colebrook and connections toward the Connecticut River / Vermont
East	Route 26	Upton, Grafton Notch, Newry and the Bethel direction

These are travel corridors, not designated protected bicycle routes. Touring cyclists should build their own stage plan around current road conditions, traffic comfort, weather, services, and daily mileage.

For the Loaded Touring Cyclist

Northern New England touring is different from riding between closely spaced towns. Services can be widely spaced, cell coverage can be inconsistent, and mountain weather can change quickly. Plan each stage so you are not depending on the next store, restaurant, repair shop, or water source being only a few miles away.

- Do not assume the next store, restaurant or repair option is only a few miles away. Carry enough food and water for the stage.
- Download offline maps and carry a backup navigation method.
- Use front and rear lights during the day as well as in low light.
- Carry the repair supplies your bike actually needs: tube or tubeless repair, pump, tire boot, chain tool or quick link and basic fasteners.
- Plan around daylight and weather, especially when a stage includes Dixville Notch or Grafton Notch.
- Expect wildlife, logging trucks, motorcycles, RVs, and other highway users. Ride predictably and use extra caution where sight lines narrow.

- If crossing the international border, check current entry and customs requirements directly with government agencies before departure.

A Note for Riders Coming From Canada

Errol is not on Adventure Cycling's Northern Tier route, and this guide does not present Routes 16 or 26 as an official international bicycle route. Canadian and U.S. touring cyclists do build their own North Country itineraries through these highways. Verify border crossing, identification, and customs requirements before departure.

What Kind of Bike?

BIKE	BEST USE HERE	WATCH FOR
Road / endurance bike	Routes 16 & 26; touring through	Traffic, shoulders, climbing
Hybrid	Presidential Recreational Rail Trail and easier multi-use riding	Tire width and surface conditions
Mountain bike	COÖS Trails / Moose Brook	Choose trail difficulty carefully
Class 1 e-bike	Where the managing property permits it	Rules differ by property and trail

North Country Cycling Safety

- Wear a helmet and high-visibility clothing.
- Use lights, especially on shaded forest roads, in rain and near dawn or dusk.
- Check brakes, tires and shifting before a long descent or remote stage.
- Carry layers and rain protection.
- Assume cell service may disappear.
- Tell someone your route and expected return time.
- During hunting seasons, wear bright or blaze-orange clothing on wooded and multi-use routes, and use bright gear for any accompanying rider or pet where appropriate.
- Never assume a snowmobile or ATV trail is open to bicycles just because it appears on a map.

Build a Cycling Stay in Errol

These are examples, not a rigid itinerary. Choose according to your bike, weather, road comfort, and trail conditions.

DAY	STYLE	IDEA	WHY IT WORKS
1	Road	Route 16 South from Errol	Choose your turnaround through river-and-forest scenery
2	Road / climb	Route 26 toward Dixville or Grafton Notch	Mountain day in either direction
3	Multi-use trail	Presidential Rail Trail	Flatter recovery ride with flexible mileage
4	Mountain bike	COÖS Trails	Purpose-built singletrack with many route choices

Staying at Errol Motel

For a multi-day cycling trip, Errol lets you keep one room while changing the ride. Head South along the Androscoggin, West toward Dixville Notch, East toward Grafton Notch, or drive to an established multi-use or mountain-bike trail system for a different kind of day.

For touring cyclists, the same location works differently: Routes 16 and 26 meet in Errol, so the motel can be an overnight stop between stages rather than a side trip away from your route.

ERROL MOTEL	RESERVATIONS
132 Main Street Errol, New Hampshire 03579	603-482-3256 errolmotel@gmail.com errol-motel.com

Reservations are made directly by phone or email.

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STAY & RIDE — OR RIDE THROUGH

Use Errol as your cycling home base for several days or make it the overnight crossroads on a longer North Country journey.

Current Cycling Resources

Visit New Hampshire — Great North Woods Scenic Drives — Official regional context for Routes 16 and 26.

New Hampshire State Parks — Biking — Official state-park cycling information, including Moose Brook.

Moose Brook State Park — Official park information and cycling-map links.

COÖS Cycling Club — Current mountain-bike network information and trail updates.

COÖS Trails Map — Current trail map for the Gorham / Moose Brook network.

Maine — Grafton Notch Scenic Byway — Official Maine byway information; bicycling is listed among recreation uses.

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge — Check directly before assuming refuge roads or trails are open to bicycles.

A Final Note

Cycling around Errol is not one type of riding. One day can be a paved river corridor, another a mountain highway, another a flat unpaved rail trail, and another purpose-built singletrack. Or Errol may simply be the place where a touring cyclist finishes one stage and starts the next.

Choose the route that fits your bike and experience, verify current conditions, and keep Errol at the center of the plan.

Research Note: Route ideas were checked against official state, park, and trail-organization sources where available.