

Ashland Bicycle Routes

- ➔ **Trains & Brains**
 (2.0 miles)
- ➔ **Horses & Trolleys**
 (1.5, 4.6, or 5.6 miles)
- ➔ **Town & Country**
 (5.3 miles; can extend to 9.3 miles)
- ➔ **History & Heroes**
 (2.8 miles)



Railroad Avenue, Center Street or Center Street Road?
 From the Visitors Center block south to Myrtle Street, Ashland's main street is called Railroad Avenue. North of the Visitors Center and from Myrtle Street south to Ashcake Road, it's called Center Street. South of Ashcake Road, it's called Center Street Road.

► **Trains & Brains** (2.0 miles)

This is a short, easy route for all ages. From the Visitors Center, pedal north along Center Street beside the railroad tracks for 0.4 mile. At W. Patrick Street, turn left, go across the tracks and take an immediate right onto a path that continues beside the tracks for 0.5 mile, ending at Archie Cannon Drive. Turn right onto Archie Cannon, go across the tracks, and then turn right onto Henry Street.

Continue straight on Henry Street for 0.4 mile and enter the shady, 116-acre campus of Randolph-Macon College (R-MC), established in 1830 and relocated to Ashland in 1868 after the Civil War. Considered one of the country's top-tier private liberal arts colleges, it is the oldest Methodist-related college in continuous operation. R-MC's student body numbers about 1,425 men and women.

At College Avenue, turn right and pedal one block to the railroad tracks. You will see the Visitors Center on your left.

► **Horses & Trolleys** (1.5, 4.6 or 5.6 miles)

Designed for young bicyclists and distance riders, this route will take you through the area that was once a race course. Developed in 1858, the race track folded and became a cavalry training ground during the Civil War. Added to the Town in the 1870s, notice the architecture as you pedal through to the Trolley Line south of Town. Ashland was served by a 15-mile-long electric trolley line to Richmond from 1907 to 1938.

From the Visitors Center, pedal south beside the railroad tracks four blocks to Stebbins Street and turn right. Go two blocks to James Street and turn left. Continue on James for one block to Howard Street. Turn left on Howard and go one block to Duncan Street. Turn right on Duncan and go 2 blocks to Francis Street. (You will pass the boyhood home of Chris Chenery, owner of Secretariat. It's on your right at the corner of Duncan and Race Course Streets). Turn left onto Francis and go one block to Center Street. Bikers wanting a shorter route can cross the tracks and turn left on Center Street to return to the Visitors Center.

If you'd like a longer ride, turn right onto Center Street. Continue straight for 0.3 mile to Ashcake Road. Pedal straight across Ashcake onto Center Street Road (Route 663). Continue for .9 mile to Gwathmey Church Road (Route 707). Turn left and cross the railroad tracks. Continue 0.2 mile to the end of Gwathmey Church Road. You will pass the Trolley Line path on your left. (You can extend this ride by 1 mile if you turn left on the Trolley Line and go .5 mile to the surfaced road and then turn around.)

At the end of Gwathmey Church, turn around in front of Meriturn and pedal back to Center Street Road. Turn right and follow Center Street Road/Center Street along the tracks for 1.8 miles back to the Visitors Center. Along the way, note the grand homes, some dating to the 1850s, on both sides of the tracks.

► **Town & Country** (5.3 miles or 9.3 miles)

On this scenic route, you'll sample the sights, sounds and country air of farms and pasturelands, some dating back to much larger farms in the 1800s.

Begin at the Visitors Center and pedal south beside the railroad tracks on Center Street to Ashcake Road (0.9 mile). Go across Ashcake and continue straight on Center Street Road (Route 663) for 0.9 mile to the intersection with Gwathmey Church Road. Turn left onto Gwathmey Church Road and continue for 0.5 mile to Elmont Road (Route 626). Turn right onto Elmont and continue straight for 1.9 miles to Yowell Road (Route 665).

(Optional Extension, adds 4.0 miles: To enjoy a nice stretch of country road, turn left onto Yowell and pedal for 2.0 miles to Blanton Road. At Blanton, turn around and head back the way you came. At the intersection with Elmont, continue straight on Yowell toward town.)

Turn right onto Yowell and pedal 0.4 mile to the stop sign. Continue straight onto Thompson Street (Route 54), and then take the first left onto Dewey Street. Go one block and turn right onto Henry Clay Road. (American patriot and Secretary of State, Henry Clay was born nearby in Hanover County in 1777. The Town of Ashland was named for Clay's estate "Ashland" in Kentucky.) Pedal three blocks along Henry Clay Road to the railroad tracks. You'll see the Visitors Center on your right.

► **History & Heroes** (2.8 miles)

Some of the area's fascinating history goes gliding by when you pedal along this route. Beginning at the Visitors Center, pedal south beside the railroad tracks to the corner (½ block). Turn right onto Thompson Street (Route 54) and then immediately veer left onto Hanover Avenue. You'll pass Ashland's town hall on the right and a restored 1926 red caboose on the left, as well as the Ashland Museum.

As you travel along Hanover Avenue, a quick detour will take you to historic Shiloh Baptist Church, founded just after the Civil War in 1866 by freed African Americans. To see the current church built on land purchased in 1877, turn right onto S. James Street; the church is ½ block on your left.

Continuing back on Hanover Avenue, you'll pass Henry Clay Elementary School on the left and the Little League baseball park on the right.

In 0.3 mile, you'll come to side-by-side cemeteries on the right – Shiloh Baptist Church Cemetery (est. 1874) and Woodland Cemetery (est. 1862). Woodland includes the graves of 246 Confederate soldiers and a memorial obelisk.

After another 0.3 mile, Hanover Avenue ends at Elmont Road. Turn right onto Elmont and go 0.5 mile to Yowell Road. Turn right onto Yowell and pedal 0.4 mile to the stop sign (intersection of Yowell and Thompson Streets). Continue straight onto Thompson Street (Route 54). Take your first left onto Dewey Street. Go one block and turn right onto Henry Clay Road. Pedal three blocks to the railroad tracks. You'll see the Visitors Center on your right.