

Bicycling on Martha's Vineyard

A. West Chop Loop: For a quick, scenic four-mile ride in Vineyard Haven, take Main Street out past the West Chop Lighthouse and loop back on either Main Street or Franklin Street.

B. East Chop Drive: There is no off-road path for the three-mile trip from Vineyard Haven to Oak Bluffs, so you must share the road with cars and trucks, and it is a heavily traveled roadway. Be cautious, and consider taking East Chop Drive; while it's a little longer, it's much more scenic and less congested.

C. Oak Bluffs to Edgartown: The six-mile Beach Road path from Oak Bluffs to Edgartown is the Island's most popular ride for a reason, offering scenic views of State Beach and Sengokontacket Pond. Note that the path is usually quite sandy.

D. Edgartown to Vineyard Haven: To get directly from Edgartown to Vineyard Haven, use the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road path. Watch for vehicles crossing the path from side roads and driveways on this rolling, seven-mile trip.

E. Edgartown to South Beach: Biking from Edgartown to South Beach avoids parking hassles, and there are paths with bike racks on both Katama and Herring Creek Roads. Roads in Katama, like Edgartown Bay Road and Slough Cove Road, offer generally flat and pleasant riding.

F. State Forest Loops: Four miles outside Edgartown, the path along Edgartown-West Tisbury Road takes you into the State Forest, where you can enjoy a beautiful loop of roughly ten miles around the forest. There is also a smaller loop of about three miles in the northeast corner of the forest. Both of these loops are easily accessible from Oak Bluffs (five miles away) and Vineyard Haven (about three miles).

G. Up-Island Route: "Up-Island" towns of West Tisbury, Chilmark, and Aquinnah do not have multi-user paths. Most of the roads in these towns are narrow, winding, and hilly, and suitable mainly for experienced cyclists. The scenery however, is terrific.

H. West Tisbury to Vineyard Haven: To get from West Tisbury to Vineyard Haven, consider a detour on rolling, twisty Lambert's Cove Road, and then take a left onto West Spring Street to avoid the heavy traffic on Upper State Road.

