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## Heartbreak Hill Loop

**Distance:** 18 miles

**Estimated Time:** 2-5 hours

**Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Surface Type:** Mixture of pavement and gravel

**Special Notes:** This is one of the few biking routes that starts near Lake Superior. Can ride on a cyclocross bike. Bring a lock so you have the option to take a short hike in Temperance River State Park. It is customary to take a quick dip in Lake Superior post-ride.

**Directions to Trailhead:** Start and finish this ride at Tofte Town Park. Just West of Bluefin Bay Resort is County Road 24, or Tofte Town Park Road. Park near Lake Superior in the parking lot.

**Route Description:** Head out of the town park and ride past Bluefin Bay to the Sawbill Trail (County Road 2). Climbing the Sawbill Trail for the first three miles on pavement, you gain a good deal of elevation, although the climb is never steep. At the end of the pavement there is a parking lot on the right side—that's the Britton Peak Trailhead. (See the Britton Peak description for a nice singletrack side trip.) The trailhead also makes for a great shuttle drop-off if you don't want to climb the Sawbill.

Proceed for another 3 miles. This is a very scenic section of the ride, with the Temperance River Valley on your left. At Forest Road 166 (600 Road) turn left (west) across the "Pink Bridge." At this point you will have another gradual 3-mile climb to the top of Heartbreak Hill. The hill got its name from the old logging days. In the winter months, loggers would use draft horses to pull fully loaded sleighs of white pines out of the woods. When the horses couldn't make it up the hill, it caused the loggers much heartbreak.

Less than a mile after you cross Heartbreak Creek, turn left (south) on Forest Road 343 (Temperance River Road). As you work your way back toward Lake Superior, enjoy the great views of Carlton Peak and the Temperance River. A couple hundred yards before you hit Highway 61, turn left (east) on the Gitche Gami Bike Trail. This trail will take you right through the heart of Temperance River State Park. There is a bridge crossing the gorge and even a bike rack to lock up your bike if you want to take a short hike along the river. Continue on the Gitche Gami trail back to Tofte. You will cross Highway 61 and be back on Tofte Town Park Road.