



P.O. Box 1330  
116 West HWY 61  
Grand Marais, MN 55604  
218.387.2788  
VisitCookCounty.com

## Pancore/Honeymoon Loop

**Distance:** 20 miles

**Estimated Time:** 3 - 5 hours

**Difficulty:** Intermediate. Rated intermediate due to the distance and mild route finding

**Surface Type:** Generally smooth gravel with a few rockier sections on the Pancore Lake Road.

**To Trailhead:** The ideal place to start this ride depends on whether you access it from the Lutsen side or the Tofte side. The route will generally be described from the Lutsen Side. A half mile East of Lutsen, turn up the hill on the Caribou Trail, County Road 4. After about 6 miles the road turns to gravel, there will be a snowmobile trail parking lot immediately on your right.

***3A Spur Trail:** \*\*As an alternate starting point, that will add 10 miles to the loop, read further. Park at the parking lot just past Papa Charlies. Ride North up the gravel road. The improved gravel ends in ¼ mile. Stay right on the two track trail, called The North Road. After a couple miles you will cross the Poplar River on a one lane bridge. You will be on a snowmobile trail at this point. Climb the hill and basically stay left for the next mile and a half. The trail will give way to an improved road, please stay on the road, as this is private property at this point. After another half mile, the driveway will run into Barker Lake Road, hang a right, after 2 miles, you will join the route described above, take a left onto the Honeymoon trail.*

**General Information:** A classic Northwoods ride, the Pancore/Honeymoon Loop will give you a taste of the ruggedness of the area. The surface is generally smooth with a few rockier sections on the Pancore Lake Road. With caution, this is ride able on a cyclocross bike. Throw a fly rod in your pack, as you cross a great section of the Poplar River, known to hide some great trout!

### Route Description:

Turn left, South, out of the Parking Area. Turn right, West, on the Honeymoon Trail. Although during the fall color season it may feel like you are on a honeymoon with the maple forest you are riding through, this road has enough topography to make you wonder what kind of honeymoon you are on! The first couple miles are somewhat residential. Once you pass White Pine Lake, a nice little side detour, the route becomes more remote.

Crossing the Poplar River, for the first time, you will notice a small campground on the right side. Leaving the Poplar River you will roller coaster your way through an amazing maple forest. About 3 miles after the river there will be a short spur on your right. A little climb, there is a cool view from the top. The old lookout tower has been replaced with a county communications tower. Cell phones usually work from this spot.

Leaving the tower you have a nice downhill run to the Sawbill Trail. Folks coming from Tofte can use this intersection, with a small parking area, as their starting point. Turn right, North, on the Sawbill Trail for one mile.



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Look for the Pancore Lake Road sign on your right, also Forest Road 338. Pancore Lake Road starts out level and works into some hills, the first 4 miles being well maintained. There is private land along this section, please be respectful. Once past Erickson Trail, the road becomes a minimum maintenance road. This means that there will be rocks, ruts, washouts, etc... for the next few miles, great riding actually! Another mile and you will cross the Poplar River for the second time. This area is pretty prime moose habitat, you might be lucky enough to see one.

A couple miles later, Rice Lake Road will come in from the left. Stay right on Rice Lake Road. Another mile and Clara Lake Road will come in from the left. Stay right on Clara Lake Road, an improved gravel road. About 3 more miles and you will be back at the Caribou Trail, turn right, travel 1.5 miles back to the Parking Area, on your left.

