

# Saanich Bicycle Tourist Route

The Saanich Bicycle Tourist Route circumnavigates the Municipality of Saanich. Where possible, it follows the Galloping Goose Trail and the Lochside Trail; elsewhere it uses rural or residential roads. The eastern section offers spectacular ocean views; the northern section passes Elk and Prospect Lakes, both with excellent swimming and picnic facilities; to the west are rural undeveloped forested areas and farms; the southern section follows the Galloping Goose trail which overlooks the Portage Inlet.

The total circle route is approximately 45 km, but cyclists preferring a shorter route may follow a smaller loop by taking any of the many other bicycle routes within Saanich.

Bicycle symbols on a bright yellow background clearly mark the route direction as it passes through Saanich.



Elk Lake



Prospect Lake Road



Rural Saanich



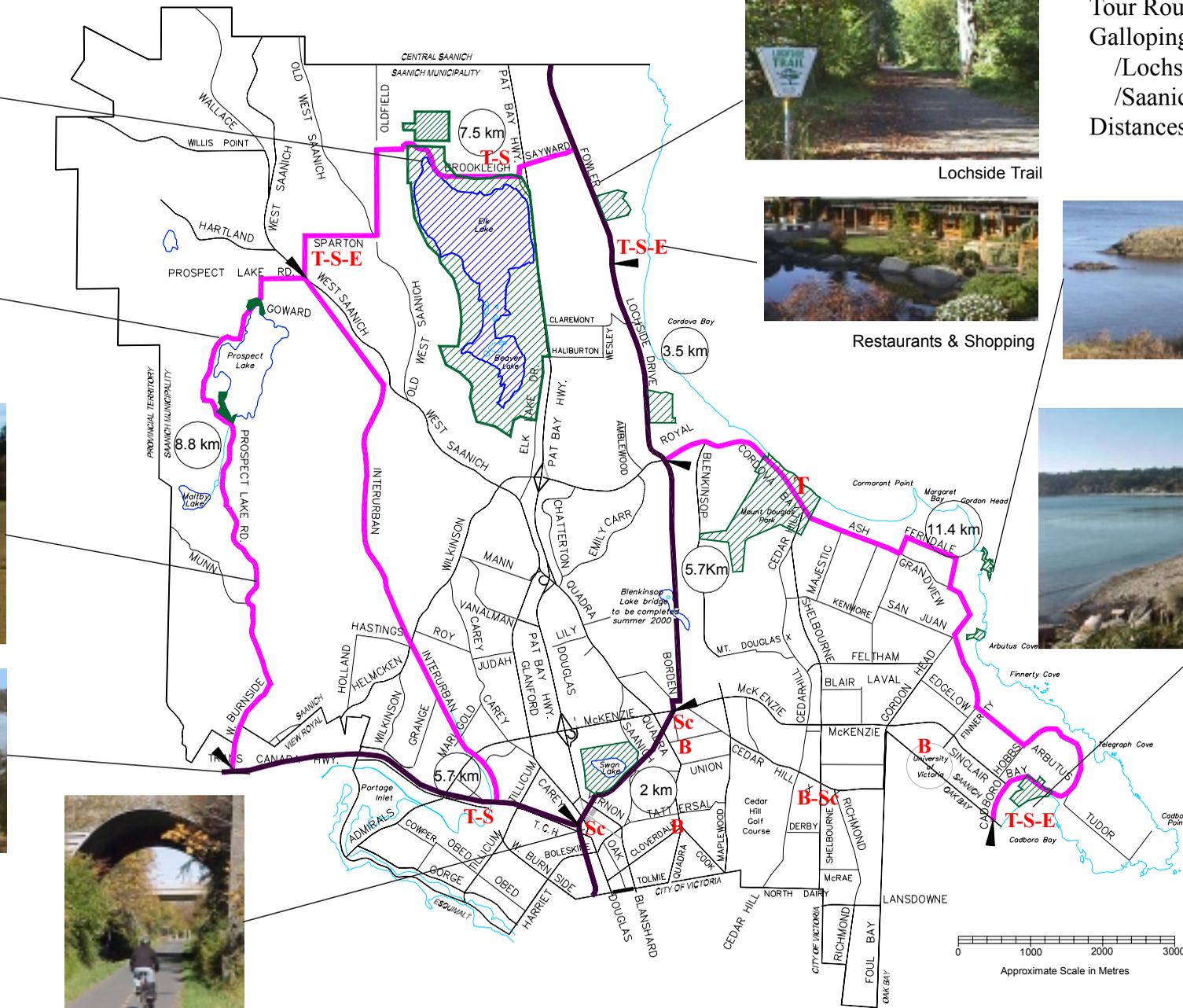
Portage Inlet



- B** Bike Shop
- E** Eateries
- S** Stores
- Sc** Shopping Centre
- T** Toilet



Saanich Spur



Lochside Trail



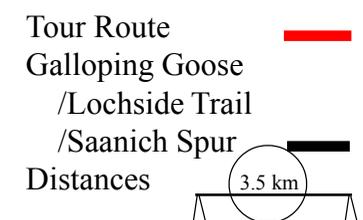
Restaurants & Shopping



Glencoe Cove



Cadboro Bay



## Saanich Points of Interest

Mount Douglas Park beach is a long sandy beach with a beautiful panoramic view extending from Cormorant Point to the south, the San Juan Islands to the east, and the Gulf Islands to the north. The beach is a short 50m walk from the parking lot where there are picnic tables and restroom facilities.

Mount Douglas summit, accessible via a paved, but steep, park road, is the highest point within Saanich. The lookout provides a 360° view overlooking downtown Victoria and the Olympic Mountains to the south, the San Juan Islands and Mt. Baker to the east and the North Shore Mountains behind Vancouver to the north.

Dominion Astrophysical Observatory offers panoramic views of southern Vancouver Island and also an opportunity to visit the telescope. It is a steady 5-6% climb to the summit.

Hartland Mountain Bike Park is accessed via Hartland Road in the Saanich northwest corner. Detailed information and maps for this superb mountain bike park are available at most bike shops and also from the South Island Mountain Biking Society.

(<http://www.coastnet.com/~simbs/>)

Spectacular ocean vistas appear all along the eastern section of the route. Watch for Saanich Park's beach access signs that often mark secluded coves and beaches. Especially look for

Gyro Park Beach in Cadboro Bay, Hollydene Park and Arbutus Cove. A scenic side loop overlooks Glencoe Cove with an unobstructed panorama of Haro Straits and the San Juan Islands. If you venture into the park, please stay on the trail, many rare, protected plants grow here.

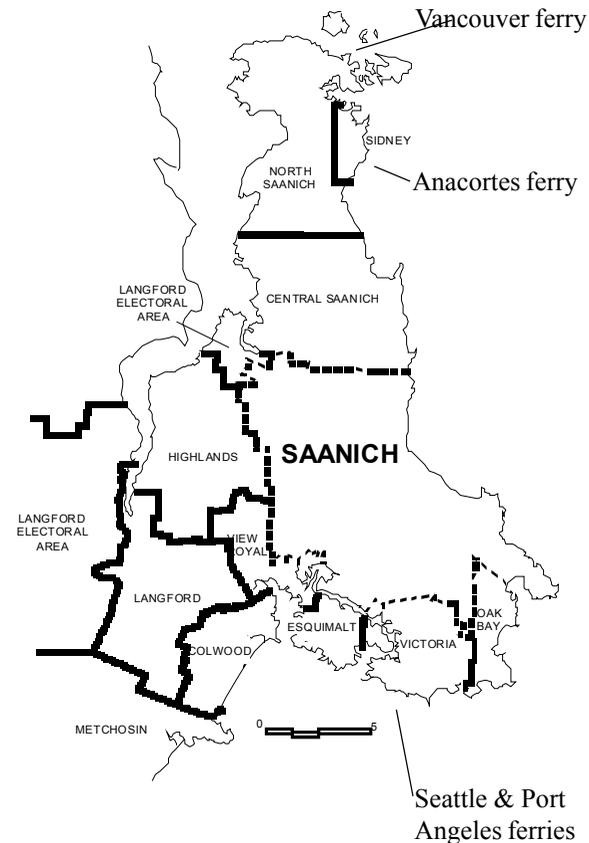
Other points of interest along the eastern section of the route are the University of Victoria and Mt. Tolmie lookout, possibly the best view of the entire greater Victoria region.

Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available at a number of homes immediately along the route on Brookleigh Road and on Lochside Drive. Many more choices are possible in the Cordova Bay area and in rural Saanich. The Quality Resort near Mount Douglas Park offers motel accommodation along the route.

Tourism Victoria's toll-free line information line is 1-800-663-3883 or visit their web site at <http://travel.victoria.bc.ca/>.

For information and maps of the **Galloping Goose Trail** to Leachtown beyond Sooke, visit the CRD Parks web site at <http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks/> or the **Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition** web site at <http://www.gvcc.bc.ca/touring.htm>

Saanich, the largest of the four Victoria core municipalities, is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. There is regular ferry service to Victoria/Saanich from Vancouver, Anacortes, Seattle and Port Angeles. And Yes, you can take your bike on the ferry!



Prepared by Saanich Planning Department  
&  
Saanich Bicycle Advisory Committee

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a D.Wick production.

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