

Rib Mountain Loop

36.6 miles	57% hardpacked red granite gravel	~1,200 ft	Scenic Overlooks
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Trail details

Start your adventure at the welcoming trailhead in Doepke Park, nestled in the heart of the Village of Rib Mountain. This 22-acre urban oasis invites you to explore its scenic woodlands and tranquil wetland hiking trails. With generous parking, comfortable shelters, clean restrooms, a fun playground, and access to portable water, the park sets the stage for a memorable day outdoors. The 36.6-mile loop promises a delightful ride, with 57% of the surface covered in hardpacked red granite gravel. Rated “Easy,” the trail showcases some of the finest vistas of Rib Mountain, surrounded by dense woods that evoke a true wilderness atmosphere. As you venture into the far west portions, you’ll experience a charming slice of Wisconsin’s dairy country, where Marathon County’s lush farms highlight its status as one of America’s top dairy producers.

Heading east, the trail crosses South Mountain Road/County Highway N and winds along Trillium Lane, leading to the beautiful Trillium Recreation Trail. Here, you’re treated to a gentle path through the village, eventually emerging on Foxglove Road at the western edge of Mosinee Hill—each bend revealing fresh perspectives of the landscape.

From there, the trail veers west and then north on Bittersweet Road/County Road KK before turning west again onto Goldenrod Road. It slices through the small but inviting 3.8-acre Chellis Park, heads west on Gooseberry Road, and turns south on Red Bud, where it enters the expansive 9-mile County Forest Recreation Area. Here, mountain biking enthusiasts will find their paradise, with 13.45 miles of single-track trails and 20 miles of wide, 12-foot paths to explore. The forest’s 4,897 acres of mixed uplands, marshes, and sparkling water impoundments open up endless possibilities for outdoor fun and discovery. Whether you’re seeking adventure or serenity, these natural spaces are sure to leave you inspired.

After leaving the Recreation Area, the trail zigzags through picturesque backroads south and west of Rib Mountain, offering riders sweeping panoramic views of the countryside. Turning east, you’ll skirt the north side of Granite Peak Ski Area and pass a lively collection of restaurants and bars, perfect for a well-earned break. The route finally heads south along Hummingbird Lane, guiding you back to your starting point at Doepke Park. Cap off your ride by stopping in at The Breakfast Bear, where you can savor some of Wausau’s best breakfast and brunch favorites—a delicious ending to a day spent exploring the wonders of Rib Mountain.

Distance: 36.6 mile

Difficulty: Easy

Surface: 57% hardpacked red granite gravel

Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet

Trailhead: Doepke Park, Village of Rib Mountain

Parking: Free parking available at Doepke Parktext

Trail Highlights:

- Doepke Park trailhead amenities (restrooms, water, shelters, playground)
- Scenic views of Rib Mountain throughout the loop
- Trillium Recreation Trail through Rib Mountain
- Chellis Park ride-through segment
- County Forest Recreation Area (singletrack + wide trail system)
- Granite Peak Ski Area views and nearby restaurants
- Great post-ride stop options including The Breakfast Bear

[Rib Mountain Lap · Ride with GPS](#)