

Welcome to the 2022 Tour of Minnesota



“Official Rider Guide”

(mostly) everything you need to be in the know for the entire bike tour

Contents

Introduction/History	2
General Schedule	2
What to Pack.....	4
Route.....	5
Rules on the Road.....	6
Meals and Rest Stops	7
Overnight Accommodations.....	8
Tent & Porter Service.....	8
Hotels/Motels	8
Miscellaneous Items.....	9
Bike Mechanic.....	9
Appendices.....	10
Appendix A: Itinerary.....	10
Appendix B: Packing List.....	12
Appendix C: Hotels/Motels.....	13

Introduction/History

Formerly known as the Klobuchar Ride (or “Jaunt w/ Jim”,) this bike tour was started in 1974 by Jim Klobuchar, the well-known columnist for the Star Tribune newspaper in Minneapolis, MN. After 39 years of organizing the ride, longtime rider, Bob Lincoln, was asked by Jim to serve as the leader of the ride in 2014 and it was renamed the Tour of Minnesota (aka TOM.) In 2021, assistant director, **Doobie Kurus**, transitioned into the **lead director** role, supervising a team of nearly 20 volunteer staff.

The Tour of Minnesota has three main objectives, set forth by Jim Klobuchar himself:

1. Visit out of the way small towns and vistas
2. Enjoy the heritage and culture of those towns
3. Bring economic development to the local businesses



General Schedule

(for full itinerary, see Appendix A)

On **Saturday, June 18 (Day 0)** people make their way to our starting location at the **Crow Wing County Fairgrounds** (2000 SE 13th St, Brainerd, MN 56401). **From 4-6 p.m., packet pickup** will be available at the fairgrounds. Afterwards, we will have our **“welcome and safety meeting” around 6 p.m.** Dinner this night is on your own, and we encourage you to enjoy one of the numerous restaurants in the area. Camping is available at the fairgrounds Friday night, or you may choose to stay in a nearby hotel. Vehicles may be left in the parking lot of the fairgrounds for the week of the TOM.

Sunday, June 19 (Day #1) morning (and every morning we have a TOM organized group ride), a complimentary breakfast will be available from 6-7:15 a.m. Morning announcements, including any updates/changes to the route will be relayed either verbally, through signage, or through texts (via the Remind app). **Riders are asked to wait until 7:30 a.m. to begin riding** the course so that we may get our SAG vehicles out on the road.

Typical Schedule:

6 a.m. break down tent and bring baggage/gear to the truck.

6-7:15 a.m. breakfast served

7:30 a.m. riders head out on the route

Usually at about 15-25 miles is a rest stop (complimentary snacks, water, and electrolytes)

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. lunch served
(Note: on your own for days #2 and 5)

6:00-7:30 p.m. dinner served (maybe served in 2 shifts)



On Saturday, June 25, riders will leave Staples and make their way back to our original starting point at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds. Luggage will be waiting in the parking lot near where we left our vehicles.



What to Pack

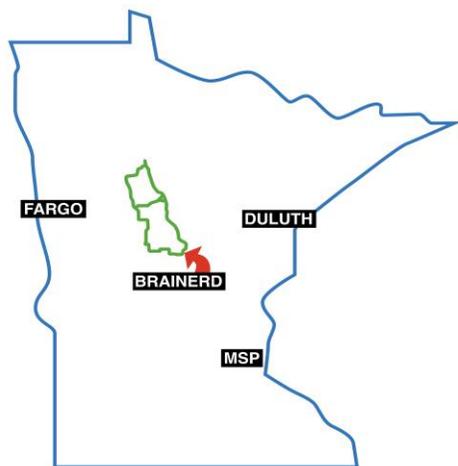
While each person tends to have certain items that they like to bring with them on bike tours, there are some basic items you will probably want. See Appendix B for a sample packing list of items you may want to consider (especially if this is your first time on a bike tour.)

Each rider may bring either **1 or 2 bags**, with the following expectations:

1. No individual bag may weigh more than 50 lbs. We will use a hanging scale for any bags in question; any bag over the limit will require the owner to reduce the weight. If in doubt, just bring 2 bags. Don't be that person...
2. All items need to fit **within** the bag (so no strapping on anything including chairs and mats.)
3. While our luggage crew takes great pride in the transport of luggage and gear, bags will be stacked on top of one another. Please refrain from putting any valuable or delicate items in your luggage, as we cannot be held responsible for theft or damage.
4. Similarly, although our luggage crew makes efforts to keep luggage dry, there is an occasional chance that an unexpected moment of precipitation may occur between the time your bag has been unloaded and you arrive in camp. Consider using dry bags or plastic storage bags inside of your bag.
5. TIP: Remember you won't have access to your bag once it goes on the truck, so keep a few things on your bike with you (in a bike bag) like: sunglasses, money, lip balm, toothbrush and toothpaste (think about it...you eat breakfast after you put your bag by the truck), a light jacket/windbreaker, chamois cream, a spare tube, tire levers, and similar.



Route



The Tour of Minnesota is a bike tour that starts and finishes the weeklong ride in the same location (this year-Brainerd, MN). The route is marked with **painted white arrows** on the ground 100 feet and 20 feet before any turns and a confirmation arrow 20 feet after a turn. We also provide a printed hard copy of **turn-by-turn directions** as well as a digital copy through the **Ride with GPS app**. Note: Due to revisions, side excursions, and any detours, "your mileage may vary!"

June 18 (Day #0) Arrive at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds (2000 SE 13th St, Brainerd, MN)

June 19 (Day #1) Brainerd to Walker (~63 miles)

June 20 (Day #2) Walker to Park Rapids & back (~60 miles + shorter options*)

June 21 (Day #3) Walker to Bemidji (~39 miles)

June 22 (Day #4) Bemidji to Park Rapids (~63 miles)

June 23 (Day #5) REST DAY in Park Rapids

June 24 (Day #6) Park Rapids to Staples (~52 miles)

June 25 (Day #7) Staples to Brainerd (~38 miles)

* NOTE: On Day #2, there will be numerous mileage options, including:

1. Ride the trail 30 miles to Park Rapids and back to Walker (~60 miles)
2. Ride the trail 23 miles to Dorset and back to Walker (~46 miles)
3. Ride the trail 17.5 miles to Nevis and back to Walker (~35 miles)
4. Ride the trail 11 miles to Akeley and back to Walker (~22 miles)
5. Stay in Walker and check out town (~0 miles)

Rules on the Road

While on the TOM, we require that our riders/participants follow some important safety rules:

1. You **MUST** wear an ANSI-approved biking helmet at all times while on your bicycle. This includes even when you are taking short rides, like testing out your bike after an adjustment from the bike mechanic or riding from your tent to the bathroom.
2. You **MUST** ride as close to the right side of the road as safely possible except for when you are about to make a left turn.
3. Riders may ride 2 abreast, but no more than that. Pace lines are allowed, but we ask that you limit them to smaller groups of 6-8 riders.
4. You **MUST** obey all traffic devices and signage (including traffic lights and stop signs), lest be subject to penalty by the local authorities.
5. Call "ON YOUR LEFT" to alert a rider you intend to pass, as you should only pass from the left side. The call "CAR BACK" passes the message forward when a vehicle is approaching from behind. Use your arm to indicate turns by pointing left or right. Point out hazards to those behind you. Signal your intention to stop.
6. When crossing roads, refrain from announcing "ALL CLEAR" or "CLEAR", as by the time riders behind you get to the same spot, it may no longer be safe anymore.
7. We will have 3-4 SAG (support and gear) vehicles out on the route each day we have scheduled rides. The SAG vehicles will have basic first aid kits in the event of minor incidents and can offer transport in the event your bike becomes inoperable or unsafe. SAG vehicles are **NOT** for transporting riders because they are feeling tired. If transported by a SAG vehicle, you may need to remain with the vehicle until the driver is able to return to the day's final destination.



8. Should any incidents occur while riding, or even anywhere during the TOM, we ask that you help the individual(s) get to a safe place, **contact the main SAG vehicle**, and wait with them, if necessary, until assistance arrives. Please refrain from offering medical attention, advice, or diagnosis. Also, due to basic health data privacy laws, **DO NOT discuss details** with anyone besides TOM staff.

Meals and Rest Stops

The Tour of MN is known for feeding its riders well. Your registration includes 10+ meals throughout the week. See Appendix A for more specific meal information. Our menus will offer some sort of a vegetarian and a gluten-friendly option. Any special dietary requests beyond that are your responsibility. We also offer complimentary snacks, water, and electrolytes at the rest stops. Along the route and in the towns we visit, there will be opportunities to purchase additional items from the various businesses and restaurants.



Overnight Accommodations

Each night of the TOM, we offer a complimentary group location for outdoor camping in tents, usually at a local school or park. This is a great way to get to know other riders. Most people bring their own equipment including tent, sleeping bag and mattress. Amenities include access to bathrooms, showers, and a covered electrical charging station. (Note: We are not responsible for theft or damage)



However, if you are not interested in pitching your own tent, we have a couple of other options for you to consider (additional cost involved.)

[Tent & Porter Service](#)

For a fee (\$300), you get a “4-person size tent” (for up to 2 people) that our staff set up/take down, a dedicated sturdy chair, daily towel service, access to a shade tent and charging station, and complimentary n/a beverages and snacks while in camp. When you arrive into camp, your bags will be waiting in your tent. When you head out each morning, leave your bags in your tent and they will be brought to the luggage truck for you. A thick comfortable air mattress can be added for just \$25 more. [Limited availability](#)

[Hotels/Motels](#)

You may make reservations to stay at one of the numerous hotels and motels on our [list](#). See Appendix C. Our luggage crew will pick up your bags each day from the hotel/motel lobby and bring it to the next location. Note: baggage transport is only available from those hotels on our [list](#); the cost per person (not per bag) is **\$5/night or \$20 for the week** (payable upon check-in for packet pickup)

Miscellaneous Items

Bike Mechanic

[Tonka Cycle & Ski](#) of Minnetonka, MN will once again be the official bike support for the 2022 Tour of Minnesota. Luther Halverson will be our mechanic for the week. Many people may know Luther from other bike tours, as well as from making his debut last year on the TOM. Be sure to stop by the Tonka Cycle tent to top off your tires, get adjustments made, or have repairs done while on the tour. Note: Service is free, but you are expected to pay for any parts needed. Please have your bike inspected, tuned up, and repaired prior to riding the TOM, as Luther will have limited time during the tour. Also, **remember to bring extra tubes, or even a tire**, especially if you have something more unique. Luther can keep it on his truck during the week.

Towel Service

Want a clean dry towel (and washcloth) ready every day when you go to shower? For only \$20 for the entire week, the tent and porter service crew will take care of that for you. (Note: the towel service is already included for free for those using the tent porter service) Use this [link](#) to get on the list.

With that, welcome to the 2022 Tour of Minnesota!

Rich Gordon & Doobie Kuras

Co-Directors of the Tour of Minnesota

www.tourofminnesota.com



Appendices

Appendix A: Itinerary

(subject to change) updated February 1, 2022

- 6/18 **DAY #0 (Sat.) Crow Wing County Fairgrounds** (2000 SE 13th St., Brainerd)
Check-in (4-6 p.m.)
Welcome & Safety meeting at the fairgrounds (**6 p.m.**)
Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**
Camping: Crow Wing County Fairgrounds
- 6/19 **DAY #1 (Sun.) Brainerd to Walker (~63 miles)**
Breakfast: at campsite
Rest stop: (~mile 25) Trailside Park (Pequot Lakes)
Lunch: (~mile 52) Hackensack
Camping: Tower Park (301 4th St, Walker)
Dinner: at Walker High School (cafeteria)
- 6/20 **DAY #2 (Mon.) Walker out & back to Park Rapids (~22-60 miles)**
Breakfast: at Walker High School (cafeteria)
Rest stop: (~mile 11) Paul Bunyan Museum (Hwy 34 NW Akeley)
Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**-many restaurants along the way & in Park Rapids
Camping: Tower Park (301 4th St, Walker)
Dinner: at Walker High School (cafeteria)
- 6/21 **DAY #3 (Tues.) Walker to Bemidji (~39 miles)**
Breakfast: at Walker High School (cafeteria)
Rest stop: (~mile 18) Guthrie Town Hall Pavilion (44255 Rail Rd., Guthrie)
Lunch: (~mile 39) Beltrami County Fairgrounds (7223 Fairgrounds Rd., Bemidji)
Camping: Beltrami County Fair Grounds
Dinner: Beltrami County Fair Grounds
- 6/22 **DAY #4 (Wed.)-Bemidji to Park Rapids (~63 miles)**
Breakfast: Beltrami County Fair Grounds
Rest stop: LaSalle Recreational Area (10899 Cty Rd 9, Solway)
Lunch: (~mile 30) Itasca State Pk picnic shelter (36750 Main Park Dr., Park Rapids)
Camping: Park Rapids High School (310 Huntsinger Ave., Park Rapids)
Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

- 6/23 **DAY #5 (Thur.) Rest Day**
Breakfast: **ON YOUR OWN**
Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**
Camping: Park Rapids High School (310 Huntsinger Ave., Park Rapids)
Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**
- 6/24 **DAY #6 (Fri.) Park Rapids to Staples (~52 miles)**
Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)
Rest Stop: TBD
Lunch: TBD
Camping: Staples High School (401 Centennial Drive)
Dinner: at campsite (cafeteria)
- 6/25 **DAY #7 (Sat.) Staples to Brainerd (~38 miles)**
Breakfast: at campsite (cafeteria)
Rest stop: (~mile 20) Lake Pillager Rec. Area (12170 Co Rd 1, Pillager)
Return to Crow Wing County Fairgrounds (2000 SE 13th St., Brainerd)

Good job! Safe travels!

Appendix B: Packing List

Shelter and bedding

- Tent (w/ all poles, stakes, and rain fly)
- Tarp or a sheet of plastic
- Rope (doubles as a clothesline)
- Sleeping pad, mat, or air mattress
- Blanket, comforter, or sleeping bag
- Pillow (or pillowcase filled w/ clothes)

Bike Gear

- Bike
- Helmet
- Extra tubes
- Chamois cream
- Simple tool kit
- Rear view mirror
- Biking shorts (3-4 pairs)
- Long biking shorts or leggings (1 pair)
- Biking jerseys (3-4)
- Biking shoes
- Neck gaiter/buff
- Windbreaker

Clothing and laundry

- T-shirts (4-5; 1 long sleeve)
- Shorts (2-3 pairs),
- Long pants (1-2 pairs)
- Socks (4-5 pairs)
- Hat (fleece one for cool nights) and, or cap
- Sweater, jacket
- Underwear (4-5 pair)
- Swimsuit
- Towel and, or washcloth
- Laundry bag
- Travel-size packets of laundry soap,
- Rain jacket (that you can bike ride in too)
- Shoes and, or sandals/flip-flops
- Towels, washcloths

First aid & hygiene

- Medications, prescriptions
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen
- Feminine hygiene products
- Sunscreen, sunburn lotion or ointment
- Scissors, tweezers, nail clippers, razor
- Bug spray
- Bar of soap
- Shampoo, conditioner

Miscellaneous

- Ear plugs (for snoring tent neighbors)
- Some cash (just in case)
- Personal identification/insurance card
- Charger for your device(s)
- Sunglasses (or prescription glasses)
- Flashlight (extra batteries)
- Drybags, garbage bags, or large Ziplocks
(some people like to pack their clothes and such inside plastic bags within their luggage bag)

Appendix C: Hotels/Motels

Saturday June 18 Brainerd (camping and parking at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds, 2000 SE 13th St, Brainerd, MN 56401)

Quality Inn & Suites 0.9 miles

2115 S. 6th Street, Building A, Brainerd, MN, 56401, US

218-270-7333

<https://www.choicehotels.com/minnesota/brainerd/quality-inn-hotels/mn094>

Econolodge next door to Quality Inn & Suites—0.9 miles

2115 S 6th Street, Building B, Brainerd, MN, 56401

218-270-5001

<https://www.choicehotels.com/minnesota/brainerd/econo-lodge-hotels/mn209>

AmericInn 4.3 miles

7836 Fairview Road, Baxter, Minnesota 56425

218-833-2062

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/americinn/baxter-minnesota/americinn-baxter-brainerd/overview>

Sunday and Monday June 19 & 20 Walker (camping at the Walker-Hackensack Akeley High School, 302 4th St S, Walker, MN 56484)

Chase on the Lake 0.5 miles

502 Cleveland Blvd, Walker, Minnesota 56484

888-242-7306 info@chaseonthelake.com

<https://www.chaseonthelake.com/>

Walker Hotel 0.7 miles

907 Minnesota Avenue, Walker, MN 56484

218-547-2200 walkerhotel@outlook.com

<https://walkerhotel.us/>

Country Inn Walker – 1.3 miles

442 Walker Bay Blvd, Walker, MN 56484

Phone 218-547-1400

<https://www.walkercountryinn.com/>

Tuesday June 21 Bemidji (camping at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds, 7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bemidji, MN 56601)

Super 8 by Wyndham 3.6 miles

2422 Ridgeway Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN, 56601

218-751-2487

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/bemidji-minnesota/super-8-bemidji-mn/overview>

Best Western Bemidji 3.6 miles

2420 Paul Bunyan Drive NW, Bemidji, MN 56601

218-751-0390

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-bemidji/best-western-bemidji/propertyCode.24115.html

AmericInn 4.2 miles

1200 Paul Bunyan Dr NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

+1-218-751-3000

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/amicinn/bemidji-minnesota/amicinn-lodge-and-suites-bemidji/overview>

Thursday June 22 & 23 Park Rapids (camping at Park Rapids High School, 401 Huntsinger Ave, Park Rapids, MN 56470)

Red Bridge Inn 0.5 mile

118 Washington Ave N, Park Rapids, MN 56470

218-237-7337 (need to call as no online reservations, ask for confirmation email)

<https://www.redbridgeinn.com/>

C'Mon Inn 1.4 miles

1009 1st St E, Park Rapids, MN 56470

218-732-1471

<https://www.cmoninn.com/parkrapids>

Super 8 1.5 miles

1020 1st St E, Park Rapids, MN 56470

218-366-9071

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/park-rapids-minnesota/super-8-park-rapids/overview?iata=00580881>

AmericInn 2.0 miles

1501 1st St E, Park Rapids, MN 56470

218-732-1234

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/amicinn/park-rapids-minnesota/amicinn-lodge-and-suites-park-rapids/overview?CID=LC:AA::GGL:RIO:National:51982&iata=00093796>

Friday June 24 Staples (camping at the Staples-Motley High School, 401 Centennial Dr, Staples, MN 56479)

America's Best Value Inn (Red Lion) 0.4 miles

109 2nd Ave NW, Staples, MN 56479

218-894-3585

<https://www.redlion.com/americas-best-value-inn/mn/staples/americas-best-value-inn-staples>

Timberlake Hotel 0.9 miles

1212 2nd Ave NE, Staples, MN 56479

218-895-1300 contact@timberlakehotel.com

<https://www.timberlakehotel.com/>