

# Welcome to the 2024 Tour of Minnesota



## "Official Rider Guide"

(mostly) everything you need to be in the know for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tour

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# Introduction/History

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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 30 paid/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

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(for full itinerary, see Appendix A)

On **Saturday, June 15 (Day 0)** people make their way to our starting location at the **Cannon Falls High School** (800 Minnesota St E, Cannon Falls, MN 55009.) **From 3:30-5:30 p.m., packet pickup** will be available at the high school. Afterwards, we will have our **“welcome and safety meeting” around 7 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 high school Saturday night, or you may choose to stay in a nearby hotel. Vehicles may be left (at no cost) in the high school parking lot for the week of the tour.

Sunday, June 16 (Day #1) morning (and every morning we have a TOM organized group ride), a complimentary breakfast will be available from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Daily 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 7:15 a.m. to begin riding** as our SAG vehicles will NOT yet be out on the road. If you choose to leave early, realize that you may not have support access until

after 7:15 a.m. Also, meals, rest stops, access to luggage/showers, etc. are based on a 7:15 a.m. departure. So, if you leave/arrive early, please don't ask/expect staff to allow you early access.

#### Typical Daily Schedule:

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

**6:30-7:30 a.m.** breakfast served

**7:15-7:30 a.m.** riders head out on the route

Usually every 15-20 miles is a rest stop (complimentary snacks, water, and electrolytes)

**~11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** lunch served (this time will likely vary each day)

**6:00-7:00 p.m.** dinner served

On Saturday, June 22, riders will leave Hastings and make their way back to our original starting point at the Cannon Falls High School. Luggage will be waiting in the parking lot near where we left our vehicles.



# What to Pack

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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:

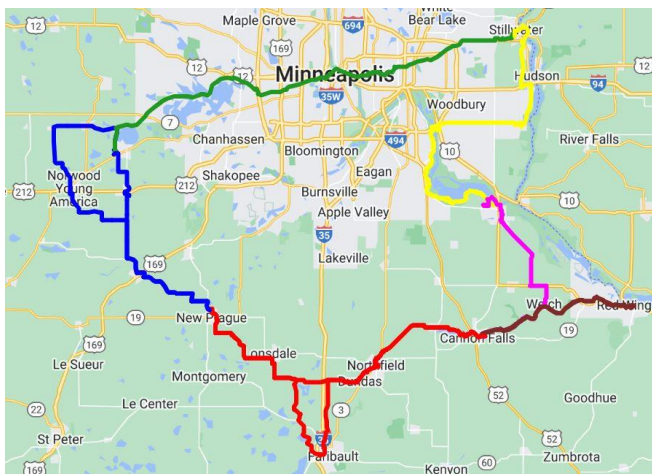
1. **NEW THIS YEAR** No individual bag may weigh more than **40 lbs**. We will use a hanging scale for any bags in question; any bag over the limit will require the owner to reduce the weight. If in doubt, just bring 2 bags. Don't be that person→
2. All items need to fit **within** the bag (so no strapping 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

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The Tour of Minnesota is a bike tour that starts and finishes in the same location (this year-Cannon Falls, 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. NOTE: This year, we are asking you to print off your own paper copies 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 15 (Day #0) Arrive at the Cannon Falls HS (802 Minnesota St E, Cannon Falls, MN)

June 16 (Day #1) out and back loop to Red Wing (~47 miles or 20 miles)

June 17 (Day #2) Cannon Falls to New Prague (~46 or 66 miles)

June 18 (Day #3) New Prague to Waconia (~31 or 51 miles)

June 19 (Day #4) DAY TO EXPLORE WACONIA (NO ORGANIZED RIDE)

June 20 (Day #5) Waconia to Stillwater (~62 miles)

June 21 (Day #6) Stillwater to Hastings (~55 miles)

June 22 (Day #7) Hastings back to the high school in Cannon Falls (~31 miles)

\*On Day #1, there will be two distance options for everyone, including:

1. Ride the full day's route out and back to Red Wing (~47 miles total)
2. Ride the trail 10 miles to Welch and back to Cannon Falls (~20 miles total)

\*On Day #2, the "2 Day Sampler Option riders" will ride 18 miles from Cannon Falls to the rest stop in Northfield, before returning to their vehicles in Cannon Falls (~36 miles total)

# Rules on the Road

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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. It's the first question our insurance person will ask!
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. Please bring spare tubes with you on your bike each day.



8. Should any incidents occur while riding, or 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

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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

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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.) Indoor camping is only offered if severe weather is expected.

## [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 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. Sign up [here](#).

## [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/hotel or \$20 for the week** (payable upon check-in for packet pickup)



# Miscellaneous Items

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## Bike Mechanic

[Tonka Cycle & Ski](#) of Minnetonka, MN will once again be the official bike support for the 2024 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. If you want to **ship your bike**, contact [Tonka Cycle](#) to arrange that in advance, and Luther can bring your bike to Cannon Falls and reassemble it if needed. Mention the Tour of Minnesota.

## E-Bikes

Pedal assist e-bikes (types 1 and 3) are allowed. We simply ask that you be responsible for maintaining a proper daily charge and for getting from one destination to the other on your own, even if one's bike is out of power. We will have a charging station in camp, but people may prefer to find a nearby wall outlet (when available) for faster charging. NOTE: There is a \$25 (for the week) to use our designated heavier duty generator for e-bike charging, payable upon check in.

## Towel Service

Want a clean dry towel and washcloth ready every day when you go to shower? For only \$25 for the entire week, our crew will take care of that for you. (Note: the towel service is already included for free for those using the tent porter service) Everyone else, use this [link](#) to get on the list for towel service.

With that, welcome to the 2024 Tour of Minnesota!

Doobie Kurus

Director of the Tour of Minnesota

[www.tourofminnesota.com](http://www.tourofminnesota.com)



# Appendices

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## Appendix A: Itinerary

(subject to change) updated November 24, 2024

6/15 **DAY #0 (Saturday) Cannon Falls High School** (820 Minnesota St E, Cannon Falls)

Check-in (3:30-5:30 p.m.)

Welcome & Safety meeting in the school (**7 p.m.**)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Cannon Falls High School (820 Minnesota St E, Cannon Falls 55009)

6/16 **DAY #1 (Sunday) Red Wing out and back loop (~20 or 47 mile options)**

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 10) Trail Head (Welch)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 22) TBD (Red Wing)

Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Cannon Falls High School (820 Minnesota St E, Cannon Falls 55009)

Dinner: at campsite (school cafeteria)

6/17 **DAY #2 (Monday) Cannon Falls to New Prague (~45 or 66 miles)**

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 18) TBD (Northfield)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 35) King Mill Park (Faribault)

Lunch: (~mile 53) Trcka Park (Lonsdale)

Camping: New Prague High School (221 12th St NE, New Prague, MN 56071)

Dinner: at campsite (cafeteria)

6/18 **DAY #3 (Tuesday) New Prague to Waconia (~31 or 52 miles)**

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 13) Hooper Bowler Hillstrom Park (Belle Plaine)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 30) TBD (Norwood Young America)

Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Waconia High School (1650 Community Dr, Waconia, MN 55387)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

6/19 **DAY #4 (Wednesday) REST DAY IN WACONIA (0 scheduled miles)**

Breakfast: **ON YOUR OWN**

Lunch: **ON YOUR OWN**

Camping: Waconia High School (1650 Community Dr, Waconia, MN 55387)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

6/20 **DAY #5 (Thursday) Waconia to Stillwater (~62 miles)**

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 21) Wayzata boardwalk (Wayzata)

Lunch: (~mile 40) Como Park (St. Paul)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 54) TBD (North St. Paul)

Camping: Stillwater Middle School (Stillwater)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN (TOM Bucks meal option\*)**

6/21 **DAY #6 (Friday) Stillwater to Hastings (~57 miles)**

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 17) TBD (Afton)

Rest stop #2: (~mile 34) TBD (Inver Grove Heights)

Lunch: (~mile 54) American Legion (Hastings)

Camping: Hastings HS (Hastings)

Dinner: at campsite (school cafeteria)

6/22 **DAY #7 (Saturday) Hastings to Cannon Falls (~31 miles)**

Breakfast: at campsite (school cafeteria)

Rest stop #1: (~mile 19) trail head (Welch)

Return to the Cannon Falls High School (Cannon Falls)

**Good job! Safe travels!**

\*TOM Bucks Meals: For one the meals (dinner in Stillwater) that is labeled as "on your own", you will have the option of using a certificate we provide that is good for \$15 towards your tab at 3 restaurants in that town. It's a great way to ensure we spread around the commerce in the towns we visit as well as not all have to crowd into one a restaurant.

**1-2 DAY SAMPLER OPTION SCHEDULE (for Sunday, June 16 and Monday, June 17)**

Day #1 (Sunday, June 16) is an out and back route two distance options for you. You can bike (one way) 10 miles to St. Joseph or 22 miles to Red Wing Waite Park before turning around and biking back to camp in Cannon Falls.

Day #2 (Monday, June 17), you will ride with the group 18 miles out to Northfield to Rest Stop 1, before reversing the route back to Cannon Falls. The weeklong riders will continue on from Northfield towards New Prague.



## 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

### 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 and 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 in plastic bags within their luggage bag)

## Appendix C: Hotels/Motels

### **Saturday June 15 & Sunday June 16 Cannon Falls**

Camping and parking at Cannon Falls High School, 820 Minnesota St E, Cannon Falls, MN

**Caravan Hotel** (no website) 4.0 miles to camping

31913 64th Ave, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

507-263-4777

Best to call hotel direct rather than using booking platforms; room in garage for bikes

**Grandstay Hotel & Suites Cannon Falls** 3.8 miles to camping

32027 Alexander Ct, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

507-757-1100

### **Monday June 17 New Prague**

Camping at New Prague High School, 221 12th St NE #2067, New Prague, MN 56071

Limited hotel room availability—call early!

**Quality Inn & Suites** 1.9 miles to camping

1200 1st St NE East, New Prague, MN 56071

952 758-7300

Block of double queen rooms reserved @ \$109 for two people, released two weeks in advance of June 17. Call the hotel and ask for the Tour of Minnesota block.

**Praha Inn** 1.4 miles to camping

120 Main St W, New Prague, MN 56071

952-290-3292

This is a two room AirBnB—review cancellation policy carefully.

### **Tuesday June 18 & Wednesday June 19 Waconia**

Camping at Waconia High School, 1650 Community Dr, Waconia, MN 55387

**AmeriVu Inn and Suites** – Waconia 1.9 miles to camping

550 Cherry Dr, Waconia, MN 55387

952-442-8787

Block of rooms reserved with 10% discount at time of booking, any room option.

Discount will be honored as long as rooms are available. Must call hotel and use code

"Tour of Minnesota Bike Tour."

**Waconia Inn & Suites** 2.6 miles to camping

301 E Frontage Rd, Waconia, MN 55387

952-442-5147

### **Thursday June 20 Stillwater**

Camping at Stillwater Middle School, 523 Marsh St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

**Country Inn & Suites by Radisson** 1.9 miles to camping

2000 Washington Ave, Stillwater, MN 55082

651-390-6179

**Stillwater Inn & Suites** 1.9 miles to camping

1750 W Frontage Rd, Stillwater, MN 55082

651-430-1300

**Grandstay Hotel & Suites Stillwater** 2.2 miles to camping

2200 W Frontage Rd, Stillwater, MN 55082

651-430-2699

### **Friday June 21 Hastings**

Camping at Hastings High School, 200 General Sieben Dr, Hastings, MN 55033

**Confluence Hotel** 1.9 miles to camping

200 2nd St W, Hastings, MN 55033

651-432-0202

Rooms may be reserved at a dynamic rate of 15% off the published rate at time of booking until rooms are no longer available or May 22, 2024. Use the landing page at <https://reserveconfluence.com/tourofminnesota>

**Nichols Inn** 4.2 miles to camping

2400 Vermillion St, Hastings, MN 55033

651-437-8877

**Coratel Inn & Suites** by Jasper 4.3 miles to camping

2450 Vermillion St, Hastings, MN 55033

651-438-0061