

Welcome to the 2025 Tour of Minnesota



“Official Rider Guide”

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

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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 over 35 paid/volunteer staff. In 2024, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary.

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 14 (Day 0)** people make their way to our starting location at the **Itasca County Fairgrounds** (1336 Fairgrounds Rd) **From 4:00-5:30 p.m., packet pickup** will be available in our group camp area. We will have our “**welcome and safety meeting**” at **7:15 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 on the arena grounds Saturday and Sunday night, or you may choose to stay in a nearby hotel.

Every morning, we offer a complimentary breakfast from 6:30-8:00 a.m. in camp. 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, please realize that you may be unsupported until after 7:30 a.m.

Typical Daily Schedule:

6:30-8:00 a.m. breakfast served

7:15-8:30 a.m. riders head out on the route. Be safe and have fun!

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

Riders return to camp after their ride, shower, and pack up their gear. Lunch is **ON YOUR OWN** each day. On Mon. and Wed., people will drive to the next host city, set up tents/go to a hotel, and enjoy the evening entertainment/activities.



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. Since you will be transporting your own gear, you can bring (almost) whatever you want, like a lawn chair, a cot, or even a second bike, for those mountain bike trails.

Route



In 2025, Tour of Minnesota is testing out a different option, by where we will stay overnight for 2 nights in 3 different host cities: **Grand Rapids, Ely, and Chisholm**. This will allow people to spend less time setting up/taking down their gear and more time enjoying our host cities. Don't worry though! We will have a brand-new route each day of the tour, including shorter options too.

The route is marked with **painted white arrows** (see photo) on the ground ~100 feet and ~20 feet before any turns and a confirmation arrow ~20 feet after a turn. We will provide digital copies of the **maps and directions** that you can use to print off your own paper copies, as well as access through the **Ride with GPS app**. Note: Due to revisions, side excursions, and any detours, "your mileage may vary!"

June 14 (Day #0) Meet up at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids and camp

June 15 (Day #1) bike ride and camp in Grand Rapids

June 16 (Day #2) bike ride in Grand Rapids, camp in Ely

June 17 (Day #3) bike ride and camp in Ely

June 18 (Day #4) bike ride in Ely, camp in Chisholm

June 19 (Day #5) bike ride and camp in Chisholm

June 20 (Day #6) bike ride in Chisholm, then head home!

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. It is 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. In MN, you are allowed to "roll through" stop signs, but NOT stop lights.
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 others get to the same spot, it may no longer be safe anymore.
7. We will have 3-5 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

The Tour of MN is known for feeding its riders well. Your registration includes breakfast every day and 3 dinners (1 in each host city) throughout the week. Lunch will be ON YOUR OWN each day. See Appendix A for more specific meal information. Our menus will offer 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 tour, 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 tent, sleeping bag and mattress. Amenities include access to bathrooms/portapotties, 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. Luggage is transported by you all week.

[Tent & Porter Service](#)

For a fee (\$300), you get a “4-person size tent” (for up to 2 people to share) that our staff set up/take down, daily towel service, access to a shade tent, chairs, and charging station, and complimentary n/a beverages and snacks while in camp. We are phasing out our mattress service. However, you have the option of using one from our inventory of mattresses or bringing your own. Either way is fine, but you must inflate it yourself each day using one of our pumps.

[Hotels/Motels](#)

We have reserved a block of rooms at one hotel in each host city. See appendix C. You may also choose to stay at a different hotel, a B&B, a rental by owner, a friend’s/family member’s home, etc. Note: You need to transport your own luggage.

Miscellaneous Items

Bike Mechanic

[Tonka Cycle & Ski](#) of Minnetonka, MN will once again be the official bike support for the Tour of Minnesota. Luther Halverson and his son, Joseph, will be our mechanics for the week. 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: The 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 and Joseph 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 the starting host city 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 an e-bike charging station in camp. NOTE: There is a \$25 (for the week) fee to use our designated heavier duty generator for e-bike charging, payable upon check in on the first day.

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.)

With that, welcome to the 2025 Tour of Minnesota!

Doobie Kurus

Director of the Tour of Minnesota

www.tourofminnesota.com



Appendices

Appendix A: Itinerary

(subject to change) updated November 1, 2024

6/14 **DAY #0 (Saturday)** Itasca County Fairgrounds (1336 Fairgrounds Rd, Grand Rapids)

Check-in (4:00-5:30 p.m.)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

Welcome & Safety meeting at the arena (7:15 p.m.)

Camping: Itasca County Fairgrounds (1336 Fairgrounds Rd, Grand Rapids)

6/15 **DAY #1 (Sunday) Grand Rapids**

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: TBD

Rest stop #2: TBD

Camping: Itasca County Fairgrounds (1336 Fairgrounds Rd, Grand Rapids)

Dinner: at campsite

6/16 **DAY #2 (Monday) Grand Rapids**

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: TBD

Rest stop #2: TBD

Camping: Whiteside Park (58 S 7th Ave E, Ely)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

6/17 **DAY #3 (Tuesday) Ely**

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: TBD

Rest stop #2: TBD

Camping: Whiteside Park (58 S 7th Ave E, Ely)

Dinner: at campsite

6/18 **DAY #4 (Wednesday) Ely**

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: TBD

Rest stop #2: TBD

Camping: MN Museum of Mining grounds (701 W Lake St, Chisholm)

Dinner: **ON YOUR OWN**

6/19 **DAY #5 (Thursday) Chisholm**

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: TBD

Rest stop #2: TBD

Camping: MN Museum of Mining grounds (701 W Lake St, Chisholm)

Dinner: at campsite

6/20 **DAY #6 (Friday) Chisholm**

Breakfast: at campsite

Rest stop #1: TBD

Rest stop #2: TBD

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

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 (charging block) 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

We have 20 rooms reserved each night at one hotel in each of the 3 host cities. They are on a first come, first reserved basis by calling in to the specific hotel and mentioning the Tour of MN. This helps you get the prices quoted below, as well as helps us reach our room minimums. If you are unable to reserve a room at one of these hotels, or simply would prefer to stay somewhere else, that is totally fine, but totally on you to research and vet.

Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15 (leaving Monday morning June 16)

[Best Western](#) 2309 SW 1st Avenue, Grand Rapids
(218) 301-0345

King Room: \$156.99 plus tax (Sat. night) and \$135.99 plus tax (on Sun. night)

Double Queen Room: \$166.99 plus tax (Sat. night) and \$145.99 plus tax (on Sun. night)

Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17 (leaving Wednesday morning June 18)

[Grand Ely Lodge](#) (400 N. Pioneer Road, Ely)
(218) 365-6565

Standard Room: \$206.95 a night plus tax

Whirlpool Room: \$216.95 a night plus tax

Wednesday, June 18 and Thursday, June 19 in Chisholm (leaving Friday morning June 20)

[Chisholm Inn & Suites](#) (501 Iron Dr, Chisholm)
(218)-254-2000

Double Queen Room: \$131.39 a night plus tax

King suite: \$140.39 a night plus tax

Whirlpool King Bed: \$149.39 a night plus tax