

DALMAC

50th Year • An Epic End-of-Summer Bicycle Camping Tour

Main Photo: Jason Lambricht • Other Photo Credits Inside



Wednesday, September 1 – Sunday, September 5, 2021



Register On-Line: www.DALMAC.org

TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE ASSOCIATION



SHARE THE ROAD! SHARE THE APPLICATION!



1971-2021
50 YEARS

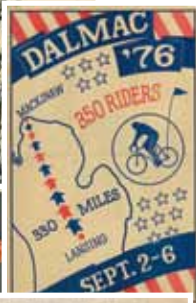
Little did then-state Rep. Dick Allen know that an upstart ride in 1971 from Michigan's capitol to the Mackinac Bridge would evolve into one of the state's longest-running multi-day bike tours.

2021 is the 50th Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw Bicycle Tour! The DALMAC is Michigan's annual, fully supported, epic end-of-summer bicycle camping tour. Routes wind northward from Michigan State University (MSU) on country roads and through quaint small towns, ending in historic and beautiful Mackinaw City.



Additional routes beginning in Gladwin, Grayling, and Waters will also conclude in the shadow of the Mackinac Bridge in Mackinaw City. Riders enjoy a fully supported tour that includes:

- Low-traffic roads with spectacular scenery, including Lake Michigan and the Mackinac Bridge
- Rolling hills and downhill thrills
- Ample opportunities to enjoy pie, ice cream, and cookies
 - A variety of breweries en route and in host communities
 - Friendly support vehicles (SAGs), if needed
 - Breakfast and dinner, with limited vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-sensitive options
 - Overnight camping, shower facilities, and baggage shuttles
 - Mobile bicycle mechanics



Whether you are new to cycling or an old hand, there are adventures to be had, friendships to be made, and hills to climb.

DALMAC is one of the oldest, lowest cost, all-volunteer-run bicycling tours in the country, celebrating its 50th year in 2021. DALMAC is about the fun of bicycling and sharing the roads! DALMAC originated in 1971 when former state Rep. Dick Allen challenged his friends, colleagues, and constituents to "ride all the way to the bridge" to prove that bikes and cars could share Michigan roads safely. DALMAC seeks to develop an awareness of bicyclists and their needs among the citizens of Michigan, to promote bicycling as a healthy means of transportation and recreation, and to encourage wider use of bicycles. DALMAC is organized and staffed by volunteers of the Lansing-based Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA).

Proceeds from DALMAC are shared between TCBA and The DALMAC Fund. The DALMAC Fund provides grants to promote and improve bicycling throughout Michigan. More information, and how to independently donate, can be found at www.biketcba.org by hovering over DALMAC and clicking on DALMAC Fund in the drop-down.



Photos on this page courtesy of Steve Leiby



The Routes

The Most Popular Route

5-Day West: 338/354 Miles

Wednesday: to Vestaburg High School - 73 Miles

Thursday: to McBain/Northern MI Christian School - 74 Miles

Friday: to Elk Rapids High School - 79 Miles

Saturday: to Petoskey High School - 60/76 Miles

Sunday: to Mackinaw City High School - 52 Miles

Riders leave the MSU campus on Wednesday, traveling north through farmlands and small towns. Riders turn westward at Alma onto the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, ending at Vestaburg High school.

Thursday brings more open country and small farming towns before finishing in McBain surrounded by dairy farms.

On Friday, riders wind north through Michigan's scenic fruit tree country for an overnight at the Elk Rapids High School.

Saturday features longer and shorter routes that have participants riding to Charlevoix where they turn onto the Little Traverse Wheelway trail to Petoskey. Riders can also choose a route along the shorelines of Elk Lake and beautiful Torch Lake, then on to East Jordan, home of "The Wall." A final climb takes you to Petoskey.

The DALMAC 5 West route culminates on Sunday, riding north through the "Tunnel of Trees" overlooking Lake Michigan. Riders wind through the communities of Harbor Springs, Good Hart, and Cross Village before reaching Mackinaw City.



Photo: Shaun & Stacie Ballard

A Challenging Route

4-Day West: 314/412 Miles

Thursday: to Vestaburg High School - 73/109 Miles

Friday: to Lake City High School - 74/100 Miles

Saturday: to Boyne City High School - 96/101 Miles

Sunday: to Mackinaw City High School - 71/102 Miles



Photo: Pete Derkos

Riders on this route have options. The longer routes are laid out for century riders (100 miles or more).

Riders leave MSU on Thursday, traveling north through farmlands and small towns. Riders turn westward at Alma riders onto the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, ending at Vestaburg High school.

On Friday, more open country and small farming towns roll by before finishing in Lake City.



Photo: Charlotte Stafford

On Saturday, riders pass through Kalkaska and Alden along with other scenic views and a chance to climb "The Wall" on the way to Boyne City. An alternate route allows riders to bypass "The Wall."

The 4 West route culminates on Sunday, riding north through the "Tunnel of Trees" overlooking Lake Michigan to finish at the Tip of the Mitt in Mackinaw City.

Photo: Thomas Baumann



The Most Challenging Route and Even More!

5-Day Quint: 500+ Miles

Wednesday: to Alma High School - 100 Miles

Thursday: to Vestaburg High School - 100 Miles

Friday: to Lake City High School – 100 Miles

Saturday: to Boyne City High School - 101 Miles

Sunday: to Mackinaw City High School - 102 Miles

More challenging than the challenging 4 day West – The Quint! Ride at least 100 miles for five days in a row. Are you up to it?

Riders start from MSU on Wednesday and ride to Alma. Thursday, riders will trek another 100 miles and end in Vestaburg, where they join up with the 4 Day West route. (See 4 Day West Route for the description of days 3, 4, and 5.)

The Shortest Route with Fewer Hills

5-Day East: 281/311 Miles

3-Day East: 164/194 Miles

2-Day East: 99/129 Miles

Wednesday: to Alma High School - 61 Miles

Thursday: to Gladwin High School - 56 Miles

Friday: to Grayling High School - 65 Miles

Saturday: to Inland Lakes High School (Indian River) - 58 Miles

Sunday: to Mackinaw City High School - 41/71 Miles

5-Day East

The 5 Day East route begins Wednesday at MSU and takes riders north through farmland to Alma.

Thursday's route will roll through farmland and later the forests that help define the borders of "Up North" Michigan, arriving in Gladwin.

3-Day East

3 Day East riders start on Friday in Gladwin and head into White Pine country passing by Houghton and Higgins Lakes and ending in Grayling.

2-Day East

2 Day East riders start on Saturday in Grayling and ride a route which heads northwest on scenic tree-lined roads all the way to Inland Lakes High School in Indian River.

Sunday, the final day for the 5 Day East, 3 Day East, and 2 Day East routes, provides riders with a choice. Choose to take the direct route to the finish in Mackinaw City, 41 miles away, or follow a 71-mile route across the Tip of the Mitt to beautiful Good Hart, where a fabulous lunch stop awaits. Riders can then join the rest of the DALMAC riders and enjoy the Tunnel of Trees, then on to Mackinaw City.



2-Day Trail: 73 Miles

Saturday: Waters to Inland Lakes High School in Indian River - 39 Miles

Sunday: to Mackinaw City High School - 34 Miles

Trail riders will begin their adventure in Waters on Saturday morning riding Michigan's North Central State Trail. This is a rail-trail so the grades are relatively flat, providing an easy ride to Inland Lakes High School in Indian River. Trail surfaces are described as "well-maintained crushed stone" so wider tires will be a must for enjoying the ride!

Sunday morning riders will hop on the North Central State Trail again for the 34-mile ride to Mackinaw City and the completion of the DALMAC.



Optional Fee-based Services

- Tent support services
- Bus transportation back to starting points
- On-site massage therapy

Additional Information

All riders should review the DALMAC handbook on the DALMAC website.

Additional information, FAQs, and registration can be found at the DALMAC Website: <http://www.dalmac.org/>

The DALMAC tour name and logo are trademarks of the Tri-County Bicycle Association and may be used only for official purposes. They may not be placed on clothing, advertising, or souvenir items not authorized by TCBA. Use of the DALMAC name or logo for private fundraising efforts is strictly prohibited.