



**NorthWest Tour  
2019**

**Wed. June 12 –  
Sun. June 16**

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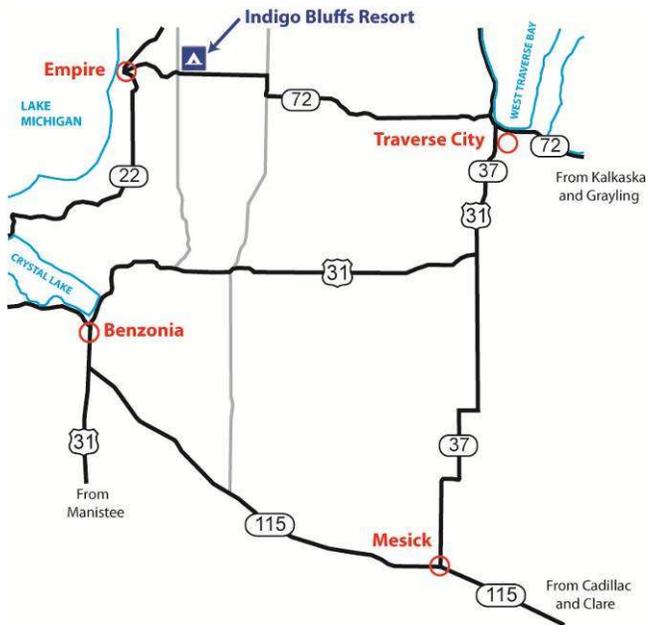
**The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual**

NorthWest Tour is a five day bicycle tour in the beautiful Sleeping Bear Dunes and Leelanau areas of Michigan’s northwest Lower Peninsula. The tour features great scenery on good roads through many small towns and tourist areas, all from the convenience of a single camping location.

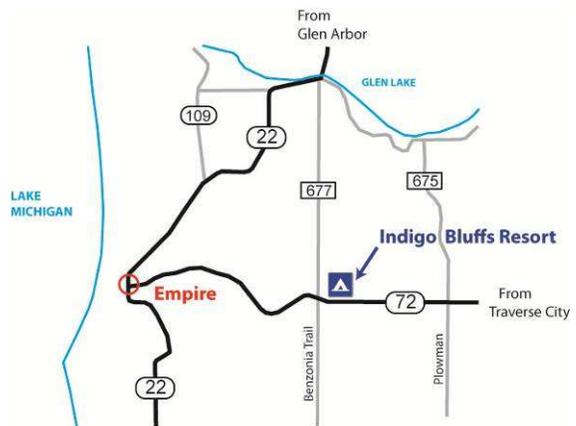
Daily routes typically have shorter and longer options of about 30, 60, and 100 miles. The first and last days are of the shorter variety to allow for travel time. Be prepared for **hilly terrain** no matter which routes you take. See the [Schedule of Rides](#) for more info.

This is **primarily a tent camping tour**. Our campsites are in a wooded area, with nice restrooms and showers. Anyone not tenting must reserve their site directly with Indigo Bluffs RV Park. Check the [Campground](#) section for details.

Included in the basic fee are tent camping facilities, route maps, SAG service, and meals: breakfast and dinner Thursday through Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.



**Location:** Indigo Bluffs Resort,  
6760 W. Empire Highway (M-72),  
Empire, MI 49630  
3.5 miles east of Empire and  
20 miles west of Traverse City



NorthWest Tour is sponsored by the Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) of Lansing, MI, a volunteer non-profit organization. Any surplus from the Tour is donated to cycling related projects.



## General / Applying

- Registration is online only – confirmation is by email
- Everyone in the NWT campground area must be registered with the tour whether biking or not. Registered riders are **not allowed to bring un-registered family or guests.**
- **No pets** are allowed.



## Pricing

- \$190

## Refunds

- \$25 cancellation fee per registration/participant on or before **May 15**. No refunds after this date. You are encouraged to purchase **cancellation insurance** offered through most trip insurance companies for coverage beyond this date.
- Accepted registrations are **not transferable**.
- For changes or cancellations contact us as shown below.

## Contact

- Email - [nwtour@biketcba.org](mailto:nwtour@biketcba.org)

## Rider Check-In

- Wednesday from 12:00-6:00pm. On Thursday at breakfast or dinner in the dining tent.
- Check-in is in the campground office. Signs will be posted.
- Pictured ID will be required.
- Wristbands will be issued and must be worn at all times. You will be expected to display them for meals and to receive SAG support.



## Campground

You will be tent camping on sites reserved for NorthWest Tour, or, in the case of non-tent campers (RV's) on a site you reserved directly with Indigo Bluffs.

- Camping is available starting Wednesday after 12:00 noon until Sunday at 3:00pm.
- Our campsite assignment team will assign sites at check-in (no reservations).
- **Tent campers will be sharing sites** as they are large enough for several tents. So plan to share with friends or meet some new ones!
- **Those who are not tent camping (RV's)** are responsible to arrange and pay for their own campsite reservation directly with Indigo Bluffs Resort at (231) 326-5050.
- If you choose to arrive prior to the Tour's start, or extend your stay after the Tour's conclusion, you must make a separate campsite reservation with the campground office. If arriving prior you may be reassigned to another site at the start of the Tour.
- Nice restrooms and showers are available. **Showers cost 25¢** for approximately 3 minutes.
- **Quiet hours** in the campground are 11:00pm - 8:00am. Please observe them.
- Please keep your campsite clean. Trash bags will be provided at registration.
- Ice is available for purchase at the campground office.
- When using the pool please use appropriate swimwear. **No cycling clothing is allowed.**

## Ride Requirements

- A CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) approved bicycle helmet must be worn while riding the NorthWest Tour.
- **Minors:** Riders under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult that rides with the child.
- The use of earphone devices while riding is prohibited.

## Meals and Activities

- Breakfasts and dinners Thursday thru Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are included and served under a large canopy in the camping area. **Dinner is not provided on Wednesday and lunches are on your own.** See maps for some restaurant suggestions.
- **Breakfast: 7:00-8:30am** (coffee at 6:30am) **Dinner: 5:30-7:00pm**
- **No smoking** is allowed in the dining area.



- Group campfires with "S'mores" and munchies some evenings.
- **Concert** on Friday evening featuring talented Northern Michigan artists.
- **Win free stuff!** Big raffle on Saturday evening.
- Swimming at the pool in the campground and at Empire Public Beach (4 miles).



- Many off-site tourist opportunities! Ask the NorthWest Tour campground hosts.

### **SAG (support) Service**

- SAG service is provided from **8:30am-5:00pm** (shorter hours on Wed. and Sun.)
- SAG vehicles only travel on the designated route for that day.
- The service is intended to help those in need with breakdowns to bicycle or body, and **not as a shuttle service**. Please be mindful of this in judging your route choices, abilities, and timing.
- SAG driver's cell phone numbers are listed on the maps and cue sheets.
- A mechanic provides repair service at the campground. His services are paid for by the Tour and you will only be charged for parts. Tips are appreciated!

### **Schedule of Rides**

*Make Note!!!*

- There is not a designated group start time for each day's ride.
- Due to County Road Commission restrictions, **no arrows will be painted to mark the routes**. Signs may be used in select locations. **Use your maps and cue sheets**.
- Routes will be available for downloading in digital gps format from [ridewithgps.com](http://ridewithgps.com)
- Routes are subject to change

#### **Wednesday**

- After you arrive at camp there is a short route (27) for you to ride in the afternoon or evening that goes to Glen Arbor, where restaurants are available. The way back goes by the Sleeping Bear Dunes. When to ride and where to eat is your choice.

#### **Thursday**

- Today's route is two nested loops toward the east. The long route (55) goes to Traverse City with an optional extension (45) riding on Old Mission Peninsula.
- The short route (34) will turn north at Lake Ann.
- Another option is to drive to Traverse City and ride just the Old Mission loop (45).

#### **Friday**

- Our routes today go north into the Leelanau Peninsula. The long route (52) goes through Maple City to the town of Lake Leelanau. An extension (37) takes in Leland, Northport and Suttons Bay, and another extension (13) goes to Leelanau State Park.
- The short route (35) loops out through Maple City and Cedar.

#### **Saturday**

- Today's route is a pair of nested loops to the south through Honor. The long route (61) goes through Benzonia and Frankfort, along Crystal Lake, and through Empire. An optional loop (31) extends further south around Bear Lake and then back through



- Arcadia to Frankfort.
- The short route (30) turns northwest at Honor and continues through Empire.

### Sunday

- Today's route is a short ride (27) through Empire, along the Sleeping Bear Dunes, and through Glen Arbor. There is an optional ride on Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive (\$5 pass fee), a 7.4 mile one-way road with steep terrain and sharp curves. **Use caution** if doing this optional route.
- Riders must be in the campground by 2:00pm, packed up, and out by 3:00pm.

### A few FAQ's

#### **Q. Why aren't non-registered persons allowed to stay in the NorthWest Tour campground area?**

**A.** It's part practicality and part liability. From a practical standpoint the Tour has expanded to where we now fill the campground and its facilities have accommodated the increase. If, however, everyone were allowed to bring a guest(s) we would greatly exceed that capacity and negatively affect the Tour. On the liability side a guest would be registered with neither NorthWest Tour nor Indigo Bluffs to be in the campground.

#### **Q. Isn't a non-rider that registers taking a riders place?**

**A.** Yes, but don't worry. We are happy to have some non-riding companions on the Tour as few riders are displaced.

#### **Q. Is there a discount for non-riders (meals only)?**

**A.** To be honest, our (non-profit) margin is low enough that it wouldn't be much of a discount. And the bulk of our costs are related to catering and campground, which are non-rider expenses anyway.

#### **Q. So online registration allows additional riders to be registered and paid for together?**

**A.** Yep. To register yourself and someone else for the same event, register yourself first, and then click the "ADD ANOTHER RIDER" button. After entering everyone fill-in the payment info and click "SUBMIT" to finish.

#### **Q. How do make changes or (sigh) cancel my registration?**

**A.** See the [Refunds](#) section in this document for cancellation policies. See the [Contact](#) info heading if you have questions or to request a change or cancellation.



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