

# 25th Annual



# Bikes, Brews & Beaches; July 16-23 2016

## MICHIGANDER BICYCLE TOUR

Explore the natural beauty of West Michigan and Michigan's famous "Gold Coast" on the 25th Annual Michigander Bicycle Tour. Named one of the "Top 10 Multi-Day Rides in America" by *Bicycling Magazine*, the Michigander offers a combination of picturesque trails, Lake Michigan beaches, lighthouses, rivers, forests, historic places and landmarks, and a healthy serving of breweries, wineries, ice cream shops and special entertainment along the way. The event raises funds to help support the mission and continuing work of the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance ([www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org)).

This tour is also part of The Pure Michigan Fitness Series, which endorses local, regional and state events consistent with the Governor's Council mission to promote healthy choices, while offering a physical activity event to all participants, regardless of skill level or age.

The 2016 Michigander is a fun and casual bicycle tour that offers three options: a 2-Day Tour, a 6-Day Tour, or a combined for an 8-Day Tour. Each tour features a mix of paved trails and road routes. The ride is a fully supported classic cycling vacation with fresh breakfast and dinner buffets daily, camping in a mix of schools and woodsy campgrounds with fun events and nightly entertainment. Water refill stations and snacks are available every 10 to 15 miles. The 2-Day Tour stays put in Fruitport, so there is no need to set up and tear down each day. The 6-Day Tour is staffed by a team of veteran volunteers who move all baggage and camping equipment to each destination, leaving you free to ride from destination to destination unhampered. The 8-Day Tour combines both tours.

### 2-Day Michigander Bicycle Tour (July 16-17)

The 2-Day Tour averages 30-35 miles each day and is meant to be a casual, easy ride

with plenty of extra time to enjoy the scenery, local attractions and Lake Michigan's beautiful beaches. The home base for the ride is Fruitport Middle School, just north of Grand Haven.

On **Day One**, ride on the trails, including US Bicycle Route 35 to Harbor Island, then continuing on Lakeshore Trail to Kirk Park on Lake Michigan. Kirk Park is one of Michigan's hidden jewels with 68 acres of pristine dunes, bluffs and beach, nature trails, observation decks, restrooms – a great place to play for a day. There will be a carnival themed rest stop put on by the volunteers and Righteous Cuisine Food Truck will be on site for those that would like to pick up a great lunch at the park. Bringing a swimsuit is encouraged, as the overlook features a great staircase right down to the pristine white sand beach.

On **Day Two**, ride northwest through picturesque Spring Lake up to PJ Hoffmaster State Park then off to Pere Marquette Park and Beach in Muskegon via the Lakeshore Trail. The trail loops around the park and includes great views of Lake Michigan, the South Pier Light Station and the Muskegon Channel. In addition



to the shoreline, riders are encouraged to tour and take in the history of the USS Silversides, once an active WWII Submarine, and the Prohibition era US Coast Guard Cutter McLane. Optional overnight lodging on both vessels is available (see our website for details).

### 6-Day Michigander Bicycle Tour (July 18-23)

The 6-Day Tour averages 50 miles per day and travels through West Michigan's best rail trails, backroads and urban bicycle paths with views of forests, rolling country vistas and natural wonders. The adventure





The Michigander is a fully supported classic cycling vacation with camping in a mix of schools and woody campgrounds.



**Day Two** has riders heading east on rolling country roads to Ed Henning County Park and Campground right on the Muskegon River in Newaygo – home to the United States Canoe Association’s national championships. After a Thanksgiving-themed dinner by Gala Gourmet, Wisner Canoe Livery will come to camp that evening to take the adventurous out for Full Moon Canoeing and Kayaking down the river, which will be sweetened even more with live music and a S’mores roasting party around the campfire

midway through the excursion on “the island.” Wisner’s will bus everyone back to the campground for a good night’s rest. **Day Three** begins with a brisk ride on back roads through Manistee National Forest from Newaygo to Sand Lake. From there, head south on the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park, which is Michigan’s second longest rail trail. The “Great White Pine” runs along the former Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad through Cedar Springs, Rockford and Belmont to Comstock Park, where camp will be set up at Mill Creek Middle School. The trail passes over and under several bridges and long tunnels of trees, through downtown Rockford along the Rogue River and the Grand River to Fifth Third Ballpark – home of the West Michigan Whitecaps. For the evening’s festivities, you are invited to the 25th Annual Michigander Ride Party, which includes an all-American baseball game and a special rooftop BBQ dinner at the ballpark.

Edges Trail (see photo on front cover), Butterworth Trail, Fred Meijer Millennium Park Trails and Kent Trails. Fred Meijer Millennium Park, one of our nation’s largest urban parks, offers 1,400 acres of rolling terrain and six miles of frontage on the Grand River. The park is rich in natural resources, featuring unique habitats and large natural areas for wildlife to thrive. Facilities within the park include a six-acre beach and splashpad and boat rental facilities. For those that would like extra miles, there are nearly 18 miles of trails that traverse the park. It is known as one

circumnavigates quaint towns and urban spaces throughout West Michigan, starting and ending in Fruitport.

On **Day One**, ride north on the Musketawa Trail, Laketon Trail, Muskegon Lakeshore Trail, Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail and William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail to John Gurney Park and Campground in Hart. You’ll cross bridges over the Muskegon and White Rivers and ride along forests, fruit orchards, asparagus fields and dairy farms on the recently widened and completely repaved William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail. During the evening we’ll enjoy an Irish-themed catered dinner and entertainment in town and at the campfire.



## 2016 MICHIGANDER BICYCLE TOUR RATES

**2-Day** \$125 adult \$75 youth (ages 7-12)  
Youth 6 and under are free

**6-Day** \$450 adult \$400 youth (ages 7-12)  
Youth 6 and under are free

**8-Day** \$525 adult \$475 youth (ages 7-12)  
Youth 6 and under are free

- Includes camping, gourmet coffee, full breakfast and dinner buffet daily with vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options, fresh water and snacks every 10-15 miles, baggage transport, cell phone charging stations, hot showers, evening shuttles, evening entertainment, and afternoon yoga & stretching.

- Additional fee-based amenities include: tent rentals, full moon kayaking, Whitecaps baseball game, Blue Star Trail Soiree & Wine Tasting, bicycle repair, massage, food trucks, Michigander merchandise and concessions.

- Youth age 6 and under are free with parent or legal guardian. All minors must have medical release forms with them at all times during the ride.

- Registration is open through June 30, 2016. No refunds after June 15, 2016.

of Michigan's best places for recreation and relaxation, making it a picture perfect rest stop on The Michigander.

Riding across rural farm country from Grand Rapids to Holland on the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail, Upper Macatawa Greenway Trail and Holland Shoreline Trail will bring everyone to the encampment at Holland High School. Founded by Dutch Calvinists in 1847, the city of Holland is an outpost of Dutch culture and tradition in the midst of the American Midwest, home to dikes, canals and even an authentic Dutch windmill. The downtown will be filled with street performers that evening and Our Brewing Company will be providing a night of music with DJ Shark spinning classic vinyl for the riders.

**Day Five** offers several fun choices in Holland. The Holland area boasts one of the most extensive networks of urban bike trails in Michigan. In addition to the local trail experience, there are multiple options for cyclists. **Option One** is a touristy day with a short ride; spending the day at the Holland State Park beach or visiting the shops and attractions in Holland, Saugatuck, Douglas and Fennville. **Option Two** takes cyclists to the shoreline and beach in South Haven and up to Fennville via the Beeline and Blue Star Trails. **Option Three**, for the first time on the Michigander, will be a Century Ride for our more ambitious touring cyclists (with a portion on crushed limestone on the Kal-Haven Trail). All three tour options will converge at our final overnight stay in Fennville, dubbed "One of the 20 Coolest Towns in the US" by Matador Network, where we will enjoy a "farm to table" dinner with an optional Blue Star



Trail Soiree, featuring a Wine Tasting and concert at Fenn Valley Vineyards to raise much needed funds for the Friends of the Blue Star Trail.

On **Day Six**, the ride moves north along the Lake Michigan coastline through Saugatuck, Holland and Grand Haven on the Lakeshore Trail as all return to Fruitport – where old and new friends will celebrate and say goodbye with a memorable finish line party.

This is only a small taste of all the many activities, events and adventures in store for the 25th Annual Michigander Bicycle Tour. For more details and information, and to get registered for this Pure Michigan Cycling Vacation of the summer, visit: [www.Michigander.bike](http://www.Michigander.bike)

Call us or visit our website to make your donation to the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance.

## Here are some of the trails featured on the 25TH ANNUAL MICHIGANDER BICYCLE TOUR

- Beeline Trail
- Blue Star Trail
- Butterworth Trail
- Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail
- Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail
- Fred Meijer Millennium Park Trail Network
- Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park
- Grand Haven Waterfront Trail
- Grand River Edges Trail
- Holland Shoreline Trail
- Holland Metro Area Trails
- Iron Belle Trail
- Kal-Haven Trail State Park
- Kent Trails
- Lakeshore Trail
- Lakeside Trail
- Musketawa Trail
- William Field Memorial Hart Montague Trail
- US Bicycle Route 35



**Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance**  
PO Box 27187  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 485-6022  
[info@michigantrails.org](mailto:info@michigantrails.org)  
[www.MichiganTrails.org](http://www.MichiganTrails.org)

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