

# Bicycle Camping – A Way to Combine Two Hobbies

Dale Murrish

GMPT Cranktrain Analysis, Pontiac, MI

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# Benefits of Camping

- Quantity vs. quality time
  - An extra 8-12 hours outdoors daily
- Different rigors and rewards depending on type chosen
- Kids love it!
- Can get everyone away from their electronic addictions – leave the radio and internet at home
- Knowing what is the minimum required and sometimes doing that can help you be satisfied with the luxuries you enjoy every day

# Types of Camping

- Backpacking
- **Bicycle and canoe camping**
- **Youth hostels**
- Scout and church camps
- Tent camping with a car
- Folding trailers (popups)
- Hard sided trailers and fifth wheels
- Motor homes
- Where to camp (government and private)

# Bicycle and Canoe Camping

- **Can take a bit more because you will be using wheels to go up hills.**
- You'll still have to carry stuff and the canoe over portages if canoeing.
- **An item that's never or rarely used but is brought just in case can really slow you down.**
- At the end of your trip, evaluate the things you didn't use and consider leaving them home next time.



Arlberg Pass, Austria, June 1981



Amsterdam Airport, August 1981

# Youth Hostels

- Found worldwide, hostels are common in Europe, where they originated. In some areas of Germany, they are within a day's hike of each other. While technically not camping, they are included as an inexpensive lodging option.
- The camper brings a sheet sleeping sack; the hostel provides blanket, pillow and usually a continental breakfast.
- Open to all ages, they are most popular with young people. Some hostels have family rooms and cooking facilities. In Europe it can be cheaper for a solo traveler to stay at a youth hostel than a campground.

# Pre-trip Planning

- Fail to plan is a plan to fail – could be disastrous in the backcountry
- How you want to travel, where you go determines what to take
  - Give serious thought to what to take and what to leave at home
- Maps – topographical & compass essential if hiking, **1:200,000 ideal for cycling**
- Examples from backpacking & cycle trips

# Bicycle Camping List

- Bike Equipment & Tools
- Camping Equipment
- Clothing
- Toiletries
- Miscellaneous
- **Travel light!** Consider weighing each item.

# Bike Equipment & Tools

- Bicycle – **low gearing** or walk some hills
- **Tires to suit roads or trails**
- **Panniers**
- **Water bottle(s)**, frame pump, spare tube
- Tire irons, crescent wrench, allen wrenches, hand cleaner, chain lube
- Lock & cable
- Longer tours: spokes, spare tire if cycling in a remote area

# Camping Equipment

- Sleeping bag and **PAD**
  - Pillow is optional (sweatshirt can double as a pillow)
- Lightweight tent or Bivy Bag if solo
- Flashlight, multi-purpose knife
- Plastic bags to keep equipment & clothing dry
- Insect repellent, first aid kit
- Light cord for clothesline (wash & dry each night)
- Duct tape for repairs of all kinds
- Compass, sewing kit, safety pins (optional)

# Clothing

- **Helmet** and **gloves, shoes**
- Bike shorts (2 pair), T-shirts or jerseys (3 pair)
- Socks (3 pair)
- Raincoat and pants w/strap (Gore-tex is ideal)
- Sweatshirt
- Gaiters and shoe coverings (optional)
- Winter gloves, stocking hat (optional)
- Swim trunks (optional – can swim in bike shorts)
- Jeans are nice for camping but are heavy, bulky & dry slowly

# Toiletries

- Hand towel and washcloth to sponge off before using towel after showering
- Nylon bag to hold small stuff:
- Toothbrush & case, toothpaste
- Soap in tube or case, shampoo
- Comb, Chapstick
- Deodorant
- Medicine & vitamins
- Ear plugs for sleeping in YHs or noisy campgrounds
- Nail clippers (long trips), hand lotion (optional)
- Razor & shaving cream (optional)

# Miscellaneous

- Digital camera (film is obsolete!)
- Wallet & ID cards (youth hostel, camping, etc.)
- Cell phone with reading material loaded on it
- Travel guides (Michelin Guides are good)
- Maps (1:200,000 is a good scale for cycling)
- Writing supplies (or use smartphone)
- USA Melting Pot travel phrase spreadsheet
- Wear a smile and have a friendly attitude!

# Training Tips

- If you can, work your way up to the total number of hours/miles you will spend on the ride – to enjoy rather than endure the trip.
- Take a shakedown trip with all gear if possible.
- If not, take a few rides with equivalent amount of weight on the bike – will help you pack lighter.

# Vacation Planning

- Read all you can on the subject
  - How Many Hills to Hillsboro (inspired me)
  - Adventure Cycling in Europe (practical book)
- Talk to people who have done similar trips
- Learn from experience and Other People's Mistakes
- Plenty of info on the internet – use common sense to filter out the bad advice
- Use Google or other search engines to find advice

# Google Little Fingers of Michigan Bike Tour

Get directions My places

Car Bus Walk Bike

- A Thompsonville, MI
- B Beulah, MI
- C Riverside Canoe Trips, 5042 North Scenic High
- D Empire, MI
- E Pierce Stocking Scenic Dr, Empire, MI
- F D H Day Campground, 8000 West Harbor High
- G Leelanau State Park, Northport, MI
- H Traverse City State Park, U.S. 31, Traverse Cit
- I Young State Park, Boyne City, MI
- J Wilderness State Park, 903 Wilderness Park C
- K McGulpin's Point Lighthouse, Wilderness Park
- L Fort Michilimackinac State Park, West Straits
- M Wilderness State Park, 903 Wilderness Park C

Add Destination - Show options

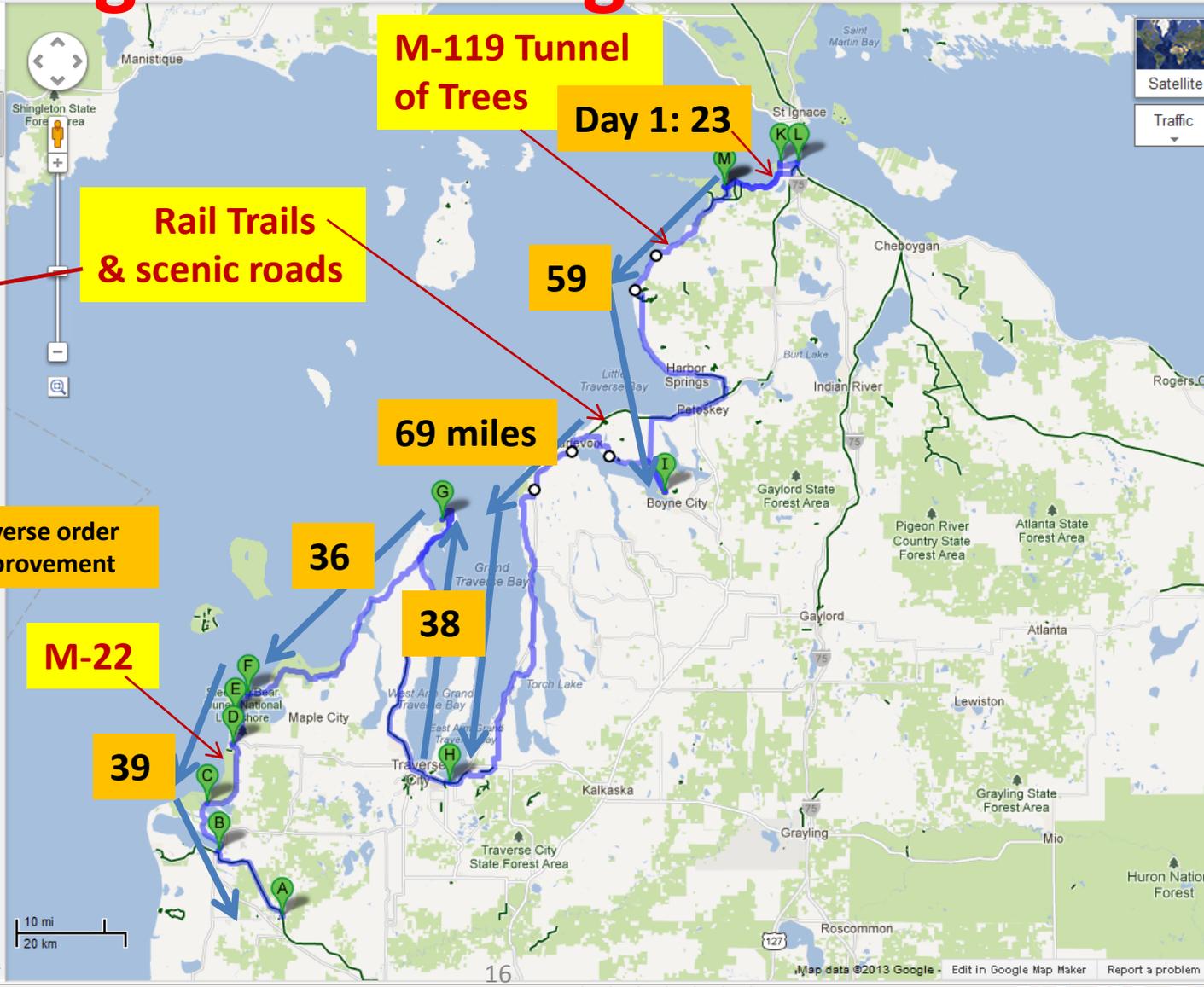
**GET DIRECTIONS**

**Bicycling directions are in beta.**  
 Use caution and please report unmapped bike routes, streets that aren't suited for cycling, and other problems [here](#).

Suggested routes

**Wilderness Park Dr** 274 mi, 22 hours 58 mins

**Bicycling directions to Wilderness State Park**  
 Via US-31 N, Bridge St, Boyne City Rd, M-119 N/N Lake Shore Dr, Lake Shore Dr - [remove](#)



24 July 2012

# Spaces still open for July Tour...

- Six-day or Three-day ride
- Plan to do Pierce-Stocking Scenic Drive and go tubing on the Platte River on the last day.
- Come join us!
- Need to figure out logistics of getting bikes, people and gear to start and finish points.

# Conclusion

- Always someone who has done something more adventurous – don't let that stop you
- Follow **your** dream with your tastes
- Different people have different things they're looking for
  - Some people like hustle-bustle; others like quiet
  - Danish farmer at crowded campground on coast of Yugoslavia
- Borrowing money for vacations leaves a bad aftertaste; borrow equipment rather than buy it
- Keep It Simple, Make It Fun (KISMIF)



# Questions and Comments?