

Grand Traverse Bay Treasures Bicycle Tour



Planned by Bob and Cheryl Burkhardt

By popular request, we are planning another bicycle tour based in Traverse City, Michigan. We will again stay at the Hampton Inn, which is directly across the street from the state park beach.



The hotel offers a wonderful breakfast, a room to congregate in the evening, a pool, and the ability to keep our bikes in the rooms. It also gives us fairly easy access to the TART Trails system in the city.

We will arrive at the hotel on Tuesday evening, September 12th. Our biking itinerary begins the next morning. In varying order dependent upon weather for the next three days, we'll bicycle to Sutton's Bay on the Leelanau Trail (approximately 40

miles round trip on a paved trail), ride on Old Mission Peninsula (several wineries), ride around Glen Lake and stop at Glen Arbor, and perhaps follow some routes from the Cherry Capitol Cycling Club. Since this is a sight-seeing tour, and the sights are usually pretty wonderful, we will lead the rides at a 2* pace with stops for photos, wine, food, or shopping. Optional Cherry Capitol routes can be ridden by folks who can round up at least one partner so they are not riding alone. The speed then can be whatever is decided upon by those on the ride. On Saturday, participants can register for the Leelanau Harvest Tour. This ride features routes of 20 – 100 miles. The cost is \$30 if you register with the Cherry Capitol Cycling Club before June 24th. There is a cutoff number of cyclists for the ride, so we recommend registering before the day of the ride. The routes for this ride are



flat to rolling for the shorter routes and flat to hilly for the longer routes. On our last trip to Traverse City, we did the Torch Lake Tour, so this ride will give us some new scenery.

Since most rides will finish in the early afternoon, participants are free to take advantage of all the activities offered in the area. There are a lot of wineries! Kayaking is available as well as a gigantic dune climb. Sleeping Bear Dunes are just west of the area. Traverse City and Sutton's Bay offer an abundance of interesting shops and galleries, and the beach is right across the street. It's a great place for a stroll, a swim, or just getting lost in a book (remember to pack a beach towel or chair). These activities and the shorter mileage each day with afternoons free make this a great tour on which to bring a non-cycling spouse.



A hearty breakfast is provided at the hotel, but other meals are on your own. Generally the group breaks into smaller groups to sample the local fare. Restaurants are close by, varied, and quite good.

If you are interested in this tour, you need to contact Hampton Inn at 231-946-8900 or copy and paste the following address to register with an online registration site specifically set up for Silver Wheels http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/T/TVCLMHX-SWC-20170912/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG . We have reserved a block of rooms under the Silver Wheels Club at the group rate of \$160 per night plus tax. If you cannot come for the entire trip, please be clear about that when reserving your room. Again, the dates are Tuesday night, September 12th through Sunday morning, September 17th. If you have questions about this trip, please call Cheryl or Bob at 440-282-1122 (home phone).

