

## USBR 41 • North Star Route • Tour Details

As Adventure Cycling Says: Build It • Bike It • Be a Part of It



### **What is the US Bicycle Route System?**

The [U.S. Bicycle Route System](#) (USBRS) is a developing national network of bicycle routes which connects urban, suburban, and rural areas using roads, trails, and other facilities suitable for bicycle touring. The routes are numbered and will eventually include signage. To date, 11,563 miles of U.S. Bicycle Routes have been established in 24 states: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, **Minnesota**, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia.

[U.S. Bicycle Route 41](#) is Minnesota's newly designated USBR; it connects with Minnesota's first route, USBR 45. USBR 45, which begins in Minnesota and closely follows the Mississippi River to the Gulf, was created in conjunction with the nine other river states. USBR 45 was designated in 2012 and is also called the [Mississippi River Trail](#).

### **Highlights of the NEW USBR 41**

Minnesota's newest U.S. bicycle route, USBR 41, travels from its capital city of St. Paul, to Grand Portage State Park at the international border where bicyclists can end their 315-mile journey with a view of Minnesota's highest waterfall, the High Falls of the Pigeon River, which separates the U.S. and Canada.

USBR 41 combines existing roads and mixed-use paths and trails to create a route that winds its way through some of Minnesota's most beloved and popular locations. It passes through two national parks: the [Mississippi National River and Recreation Area](#) and [Grand Portage National Monument](#) and through the [Superior National Forest](#). It connects to nine [state parks](#), is close to two others, and closely follows one of the country's Great Lakes, Lake Superior. In addition, it passes through two nationally recognized bicycle-friendly communities: Duluth and Grand Marais, and numerous cities with small-town charm.

A ribbon cutting event and ride will kick-off the USBR 41, which was developed based on state-wide feedback from public open houses held in towns and communities along the route and online.

### **Is This Tour for Me?**

Although nearly half of the route includes off-road segments on some of Minnesota's most popular trails, bicycling the entire 315 miles of USBR 41 will have special appeal only to experienced bicyclists who are capable of sharing the road with cars and trucks. Some segments of Highway 61 north of Two Harbors have narrow shoulders. Over time, agencies and advocates plan to build more miles of trail separated from motorized traffic. Until more trail is built, we are asking tour participants to (besides wearing helmets) to have a visible red tail light, to wear bright colored clothing and we will be providing all riders with a reflective bicycle triangle to put on you or your bicycle.

### **The Ride, Meals, and Support**

You will be provided a minimum of two rest stops each day plus three meals, starting with a light breakfast at check in and dinner in Grand Marais, Thursday, May 25th. The SAG vehicles will be on-site at rest and lunch stops for approximately 2 hours. You may be asked to SAG forward if a rest stop or meal will be closed prior to your arrival, but we will monitor that daily and communicate as necessary. Rest stops will include fruit, snacks, nuts, water, and Gatorade. Locations for these will be on your maps each day.

All riders must wear helmets, the safety triangle we have provided, have a visible red tail light, recommended bright colored clothing, follow the rules of the road, and be good bicycling ambassadors. Please be safe. In case of emergency, please dial 911. Support numbers will be listed on your daily maps.

Maps with turn-by-turn instructions will be distributed every evening where will talk about the next day, the weather, and highlights. We will also provide the routes on RidewithGPS that you can download to a GPS or phone.

Since we are bicycling with long summer days, with lots to see, our plan is to have everyone on the road between 7 - 8am each day with the luggage trailer available for loading starting at 6am.

NOT INCLUDED – tips for the bus driver and at restaurants, entrance fees to museums/events unless noted, laundry, and alcoholic beverages.

### **Hotel Information**

Below are the hotels we will be staying at on our tour. Depending on departure time, weather, and pace of the group, we will try to have your luggage at the hotel by 3pm each afternoon.

Night 1 – Saturday, May 20th – [AmericInn](#) - North Branch – two people per room

Night 2 – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – [Days Inn](#) – Moose Lake – two people per room

Night 3 – Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – [Willard Munger Inn](#) – two to four beds/people per room

Night 4 – Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – [Superior Shores](#) – 2 miles north of Two Harbors – two per room

Night 5 – Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – [AmericInn](#) – Tofte – two people per room

### **Let's Get this Started - Check In**

Meet us at the St. Paul [Union Depot](#), 214 4th St E, Street at **8am** on Saturday, May 20th. If you will be parking a car, use the [Long Term Surface Lot C](#). The cost for parking during our tour is \$38. Security patrols the parking lots 24 hours a day/7 days a week, but don't leave valuables in your car. We will load your gear into the Wahoo! Adventures transport vehicle. Please note – gear is limited to 2 bags approximately 30 pounds each. Please make sure your bags are easy to identify.

When you check in you will receive:

- 1) Identification band for your bicycle – Please attach the band on handlebars/visible location.
- 2) MnDOT-provided headlight (low-power)
- 3) Visibility triangle to display during the ride
- 4) Souvenir shirt if you ordered one
- 5) Light breakfast – muffins, yogurt, coffee, and fruit

## **On the Road – Daily Itinerary**

### **Day 1 - Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – 47 miles – Union Depot to North Branch**

After the ceremony, we begin our ride on the Bruce Vento trail next to CHS Field, home of the St. Paul Saints, to the Gateway Trail past the North St. Paul snowman, then into White Bear Lake on the newly named Mark Sather Trail near the lake and marina. When we arrive in Hugo, we jump on the Hardwood Creek Trail thru Forest Lake where it becomes the Sunrise Prairie Trail, until our stop for the night in North Branch.

### **Day 2 - Sunday, May 21st – 69 miles –North Branch to Moose Lake**

We continue on County Highway 61 today until we reach Hinckley and begin to pedal the length of the Willard Munger Trail. Willard Munger paved the way for environmental legislation to save our MN green space. We will learn more about him when we get to the Munger Inn at the end of the trail in Duluth. We pedal past the [Hinckley Fire Museum](#) with history of the 1894 fire that killed 418 people and burned 250,000 acres. We visit Pine City, Finlayson, and Sturgeon Lake, until we reach the Agate Capital of the world, Moose Lake. The largest agate found here weighs 108 pounds and is displayed at the First National Bank downtown.

### **Day 3 - Monday, May 22nd – 38 miles – Moose Lake to Duluth**

We continue on the Willard Munger Trail today with our highlight being [Jay Cooke State Park](#). The St. Louis River should be amazing this time of year and we will enjoy lunch in the park. Take advantage of trying out the NEW swing bring over the river (the old one was washed away by the river a few years ago!). Built in 1954, we will enjoy the historic [Munger Inn](#). A shuttle bus will be available to get us downtown Duluth for sightseeing and dinner.

### **Day 4 - Tuesday, May 23rd – 36 miles – Duluth to Two Harbors**

Enjoy our shortest day with lots to see starting out on the Cross City Trail into downtown Duluth....look for the [blue](#) center line on the path! Ride along the Lakewalk, visit the Maritime Visitor Center, Leif Ericson Park, Fitger's Inn, GlensheenMansion, and then onto Scenic Highway 61 where we begin the first of three days with a view of Lake Superior right off our shoulder. We will visit with the owner of the Spokengear a new bike and coffee shop in Two Harbors. You can also enjoy the lighthouse, the Edna G tugboat, the harbor, and [Castle Danger Brewing](#). SAG rides can be arranged for the final 2 miles to Superior Shores.

### **Day 5 - Wednesday, May 24th – 58 miles –Two Harbors to Tofte**

The overlooks, views, state parks, and waysides are numerous today as you ride State Highway 61 and the Gitchi Gami Trail. Enjoy Gooseberry Falls, Splitrock, Tettegouche, George Crosby, and Temperance River State Parks. The spring melt should make for amazing photo opportunities! You will also travel through the historic mining town of [Silver Bay](#). We will be at the AmericInn this evening, but enjoy a beverage and the views from the Bluefin Bay Grille across the street.

### **Day 6 - Thursday, May 25th – 69 miles –Tofte to Grand Portage State Park**

Our final day of Lake Superior views will bring us into the beautiful city of Grand Marais, named a Top 100 Adventure Town by National Geographic Adventure Magazine and given the title of "America's Coolest Small Town" by Budget Travel Magazine. We will enjoy lunch at the famous [Naniboujou Lodge](#) with its ornately painted ceilings. State Parks today are Cascade and Judge C.R. Magney. The route gets a little hillier today as we enter the Grand Portage Reservation, with amazing views from Mount Josephine. We also pass the National Park Service's [Grand Portage Monument](#), home of the partnership between the Ojibwe and the North West Company where furs were traded at Fort Charlotte until 1802. Our final stop is the Grand Portage State Park!

### **Oh, Canada!**

Once we reach [Grand Portage State Park](#) at the Canadian border, amongst cheers from your SAG support team...you will have a chance to walk a short park trail to see Minnesota's highest waterfall, the High Falls of the Pigeon River. The Visitor Center also offers Native American cultural displays. You and your bike will be shuttled back to Grand Marais for our **We-Made-it-to-Canada Celebration** at [Voyageur Brewing](#) in Grand Marais. We will enjoy dinner, beer, prize giveaways, and our final photos! Showers are available at the YMCA about 5 blocks away. You will have access to your bags and you will need to transfer them to the motorcoach once it arrives. We will reload bicycles as you prepare for your journey home. Our plan is to be on the road by 6:30pm and have you back to the Union Depot at midnight (with comfy seats you can nap on the bus).

## **Bike Maintenance**

Please arrive with your bicycle in good working order. All participants should have the ability to make minor repairs to their own bicycle such as repairing/changing a tire, brake work, and day-to-day maintenance to keep the bicycle in working order. The SAG vehicle will have tools and assist with repairs as needed and we will have a bike repair stand available to you. You should have a few tubes, a tire, a simple tool kit, and lock along with you. The SAG vehicle can carry your spare tire, but please identify it as yours.

## **Suggested Packing List and Weather**

As this ride is a spring ride, keep in mind although the average high on our first day is 63 and our low is 40. The average high in Grand Marais on our last day is 56 and the average low is 38, so comfortable clothing is important. Be sure to bring a variety of clothes for the week, including rain gear. Layers will be important with zippers that allow temperature control without getting off the bike. We will ride regardless of the weather and so it is critical that you have good quality rain and cold weather gear. You are limited to **TWO** bags that weigh **no more than 30 pounds** each, please make sure your bag is easy to identify with name and phone number.

<u>Items for your Bike</u>	<u>Non- Bike Items</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• helmet</li> <li>• ID, insurance card, credit card, money</li> <li>• spare tube</li> <li>• frame pump</li> <li>• riding gloves</li> <li>• booties, warm socks</li> <li>• mittens</li> <li>• bike shoes</li> <li>• sunglasses</li> <li>• 2 water bottles</li> <li>• sun screen</li> <li>• basic tools</li> <li>• camera</li> <li>• medications</li> <li>• basic first aid supplies</li> <li>• bike bag</li> <li>• bike lock</li> <li>• red tail light for daytime and after-dark riding</li> <li>• white front light for after-dark riding to/from dinner</li> <li>• map clip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• credit card/ID/medical information</li> <li>• Lip Balm</li> <li>• rain gear</li> <li>• flash light/headlamp</li> <li>• bug spray</li> <li>• ear plugs</li> <li>• extra plastic baggies and bags</li> <li>• riding clothes</li> <li>• toiletries</li> <li>• street clothes and shoes</li> </ul>