

A list of Tip and Tricks from experienced Tour of Minnesota Riders
6 8 2016

Packing list

Limit your bag weight to 50 pounds max. Two small or one large bags.

Packing tips

Use kayak bags – for clothing. They are completely water proof.

Cheap water proof phone case – small plastic peanut butter container.

Battery back up for phones. Battery chargers are handy when you don't have access to outlets.

Breathable bag for dirty clothes

Rack on bike with bag

Good rain jacket

Flashlight or a head lamp

Spare inner tube(s). One in seat bag, one in duffel.

Helmet

Helmet cover

Tips from Riders

I put my clothes in ziplock bags inside my duffel bag. That way, if the luggage sits out in the rain, my clothes stay dry! Jackie Soular

Quick drying towel. Clothes pins and a clothes line. Bring detergent to hand wash biking clothing after you shower. Bring flip flops for the shower and to wear while taking down your tent in the morning, as the grass is usually quite damp. Sunscreen and lip balm with sunscreen. Pack your clothing in plastic bags inside your duffel bag - we have been known to get rain! By Julie Kuberski

Bring a little notebook for names and memories... You're going to want to remember these people! By Marilyn Nelson

Packing:

The year of my first ride, a few nights before departure, I test-packed my duffel bag and everything fit, even the tent. Barely.

After the first riding day, I woke up groggy, cold, sore and stiff, only to discover that somehow my gear had doubled in size. Or did my bag shrink? Nothing's worse than struggling in a cramped tent to make everything fit together like a Chinese jigsaw puzzle in your bag. That year, my zippers almost didn't make it.

Here are some of the steps I've adopted to slim down my load and make daily repacking more manageable:

1. Down sleeping bag with compression stuff sack instead of standard sleeping bag.
2. Bike shoes/sandals and a pair of casual loafers only. The sport shoes and flip-flops stayed home.
3. Microfiber camp towel instead of plush terrycloth model. Works as well and dries out faster on the clothesline too.
4. Ditch the denim! Jeans just do not pack small, whether long pants, shorts, or that

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fashionable jacket with the patches and rhinestones.

5. Consider doing a load of laundry on the rest day. For a few bucks in change and an hour's time, you can cut your clothing load in half and be done by mid-morning. Look up laundromats online before the trip. There's usually one within walking distance. I bungee my wash bag to my bike luggage rack.

6. Organization: I pack my clean clothes into two small nylon drawstring stuff sacks: one for riding duds, the other for off-bike clothes. I also pack a third sack large enough to hold all clothes: as the clean sacks empty, the dirty sack grows. On laundry day, the dirty sack goes in the wash too.

Packing for weather:

Keep up with the forecast; if you don't have a smartphone, find someone who does to check the skies. If there's a chance of rain, make sure the raingear is with your bike, not in your duffel. It's not fun digging through a full luggage trailer trying to find your bag while everyone else is relaxing at breakfast.

Keep your luggage dry:

The baggage hauling service will take reasonable steps to keep the gear out of the rain. Occasionally though, the gear is unloaded outside in nice weather only to be rained on later in the day. Unless you have a waterproof duffel bag, take steps to keep your gear dry. Here are a few options:

1. Roll-top dry bags: durable, good seal
2. Zip lock clothing storage bags: slightly less durable than roll-tops, slightly cheaper
3. Garbage bags: not very durable, cheap, bring extra for when (not if) they rip
4. Contractor bags: huge, strong as zip locks, no waterproof closure (fold over or twist-tie) by Karl Blazevic.

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Chamois Butter

Plastic bag for phone and wallet

Waterproof dufflebag

By Doug Edwards
