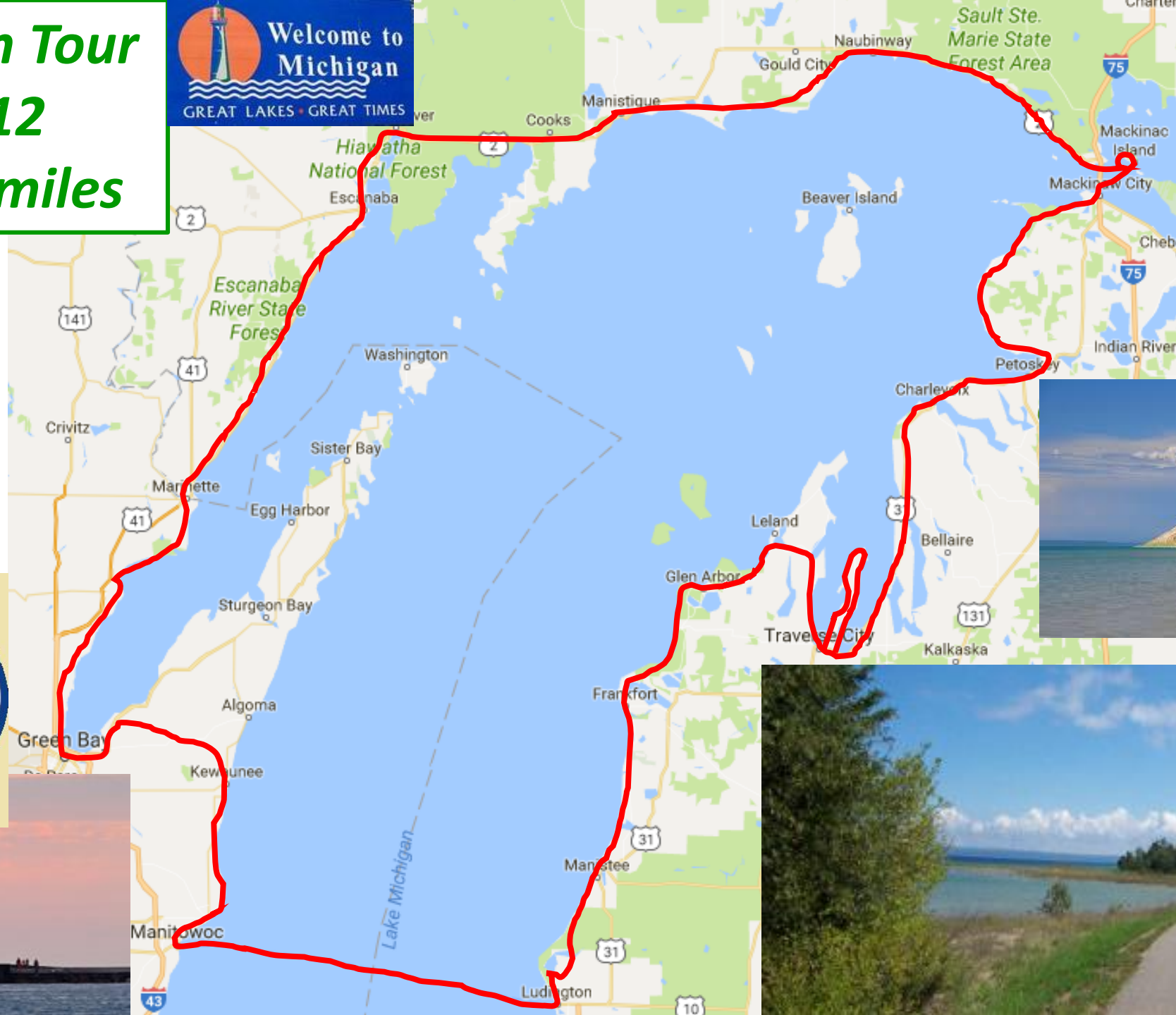


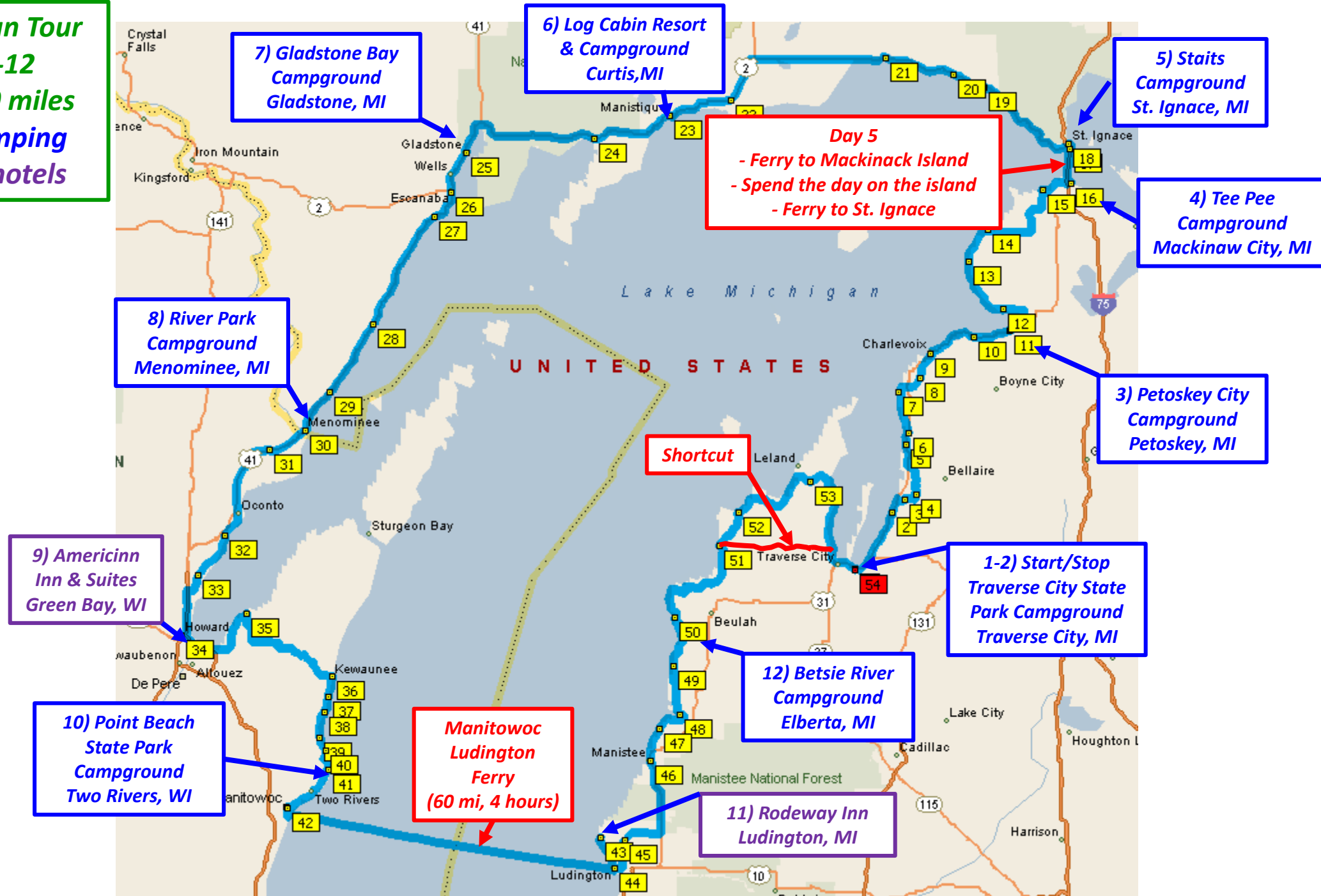
Lake Michigan Tour

August 1-12

12 days, 800 miles



Lake Michigan Tour
August 1-12
12 days, 800 miles
9 nights camping
2 nights in hotels



Adventure Cycling North Lakes Bike Route

- AC's North Lakes Bike Route (shown in yellow).
- Modified route – shown in red (in order to create a trip that is feasible to complete in 12 days).



**North Lakes
Section 1**

Osceola, WI - Escanaba, MI (381.5 miles)



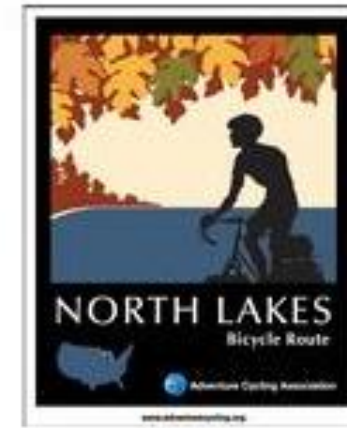
**North Lakes
Section 2**

Escanaba, MI - Mackinaw City, MI (151.0 miles)

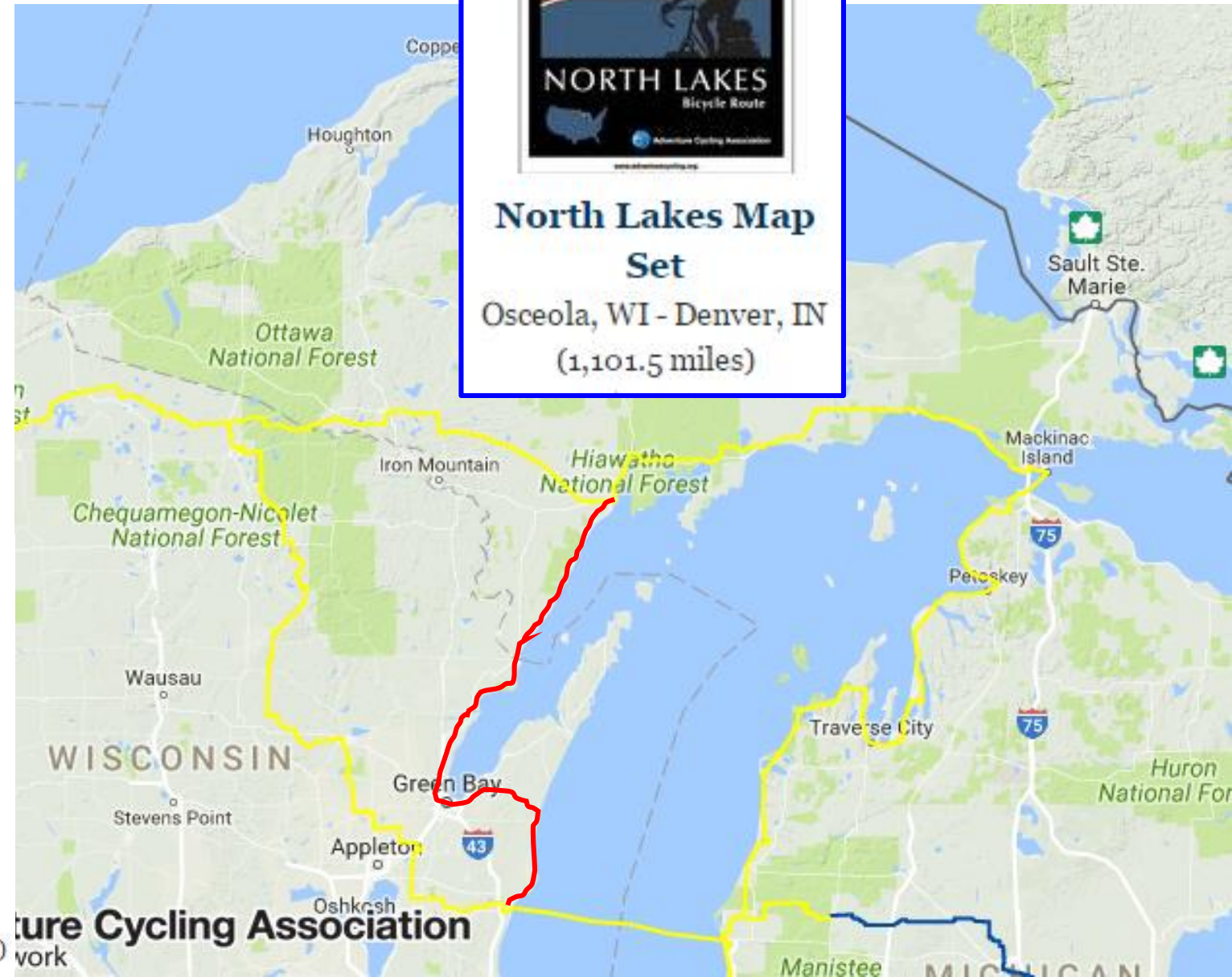


**North Lakes
Section 3**

Mackinaw City, MI - Denver, IN (569.0 miles)

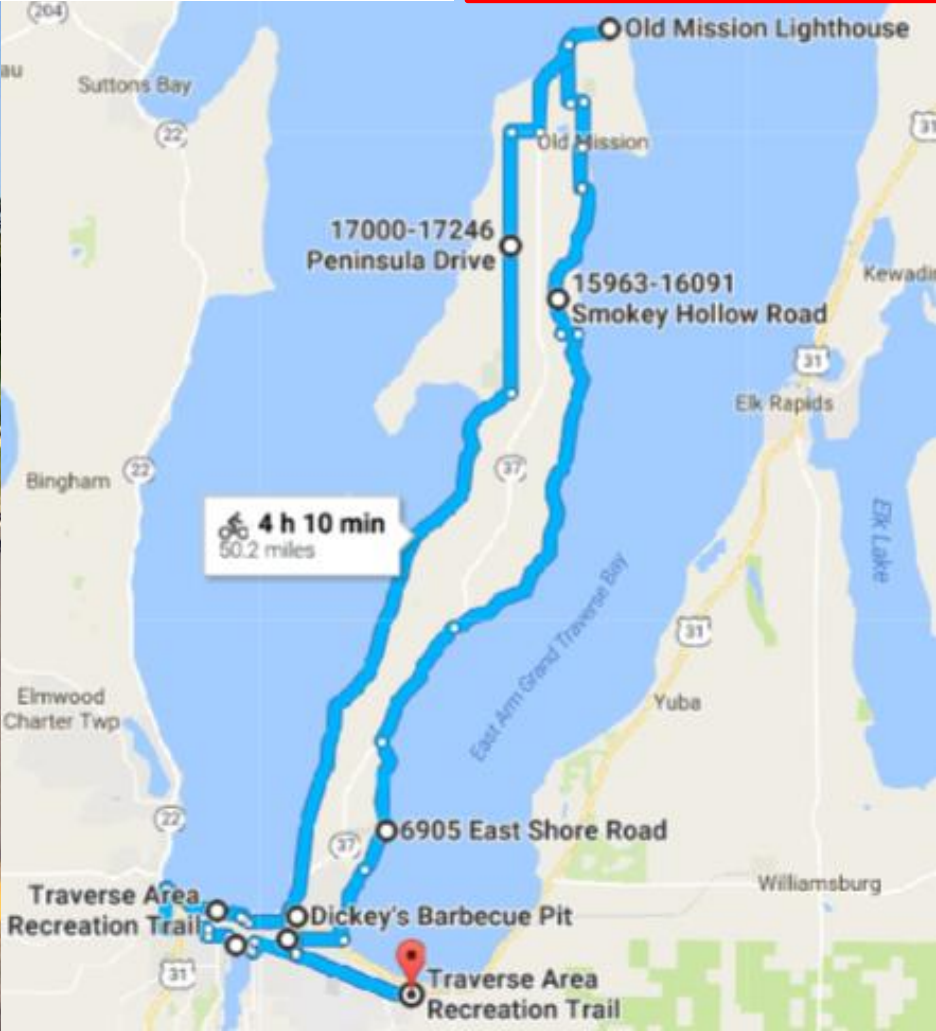
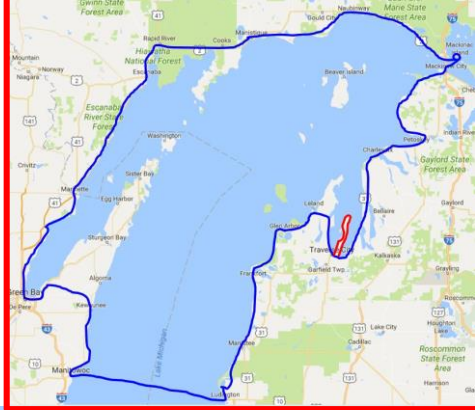


**North Lakes Map
Set**
Osceola, WI - Denver, IN
(1,101.5 miles)



Day 1 – Tue, Aug 1
Exploring Traverse City, MI - 63 miles

We cycled a day trip from Traverse City up the Old Mission Peninsula past beautiful shorelines and cherry orchards. Traverse City is the ***Cherry Capital of the World***. Michigan produces 75% of the tart cherries grown in the US.



We stopped at the
Mission Point
Lighthouse at the top
of the peninsula.

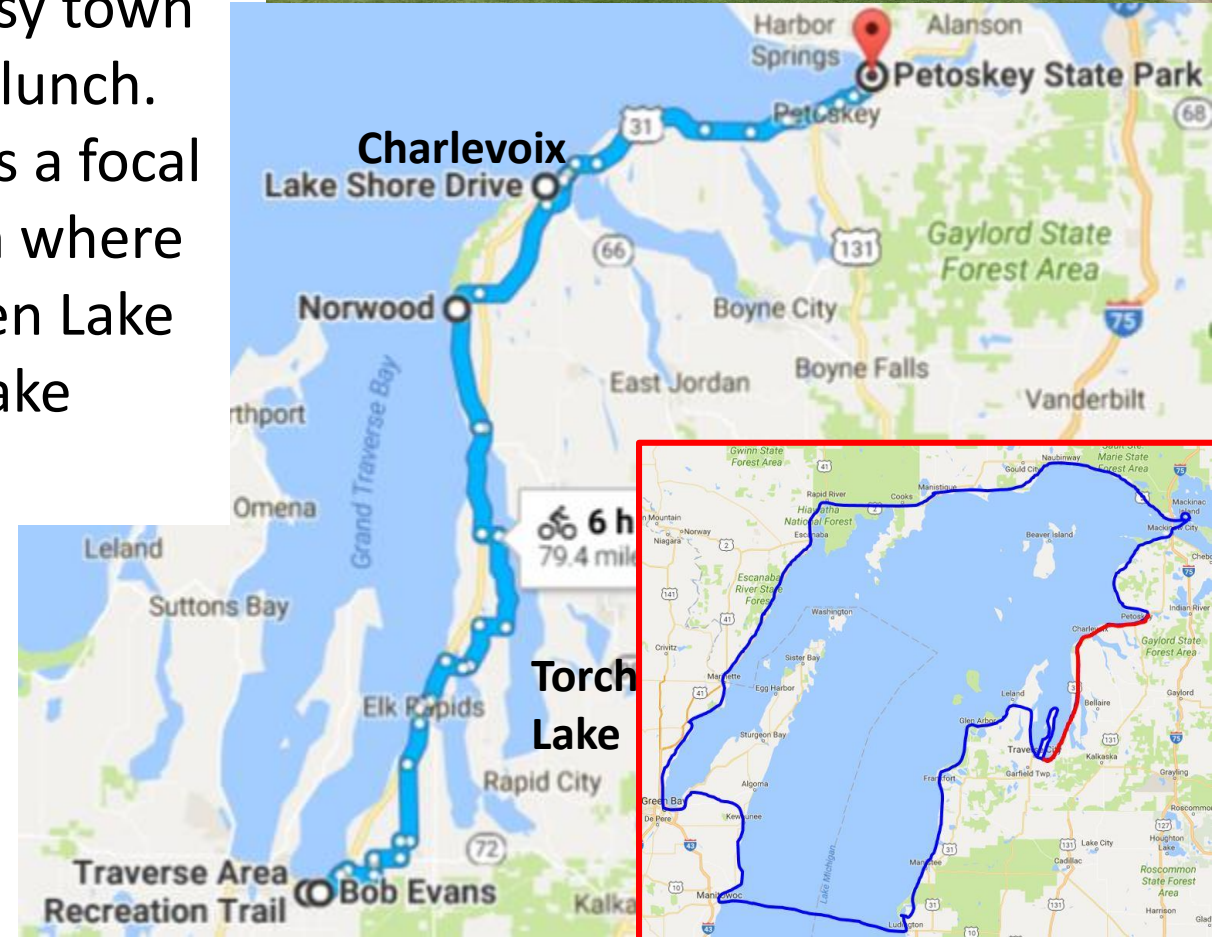




Day 2 – Wed, Aug 2
Traverse City, MI to Petoskey, MI - 86 miles



We left Traverse City using the TART trail, cycled along beautiful Torch Lake, and continued up the coast of Lake Michigan to the charming and busy town of Charlevoix for lunch. The drawbridge is a focal point in the town where boats sail between Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan.





One of many
“**mushroom
houses**” in
Charlevoix,
built by
architect
Earl Young.

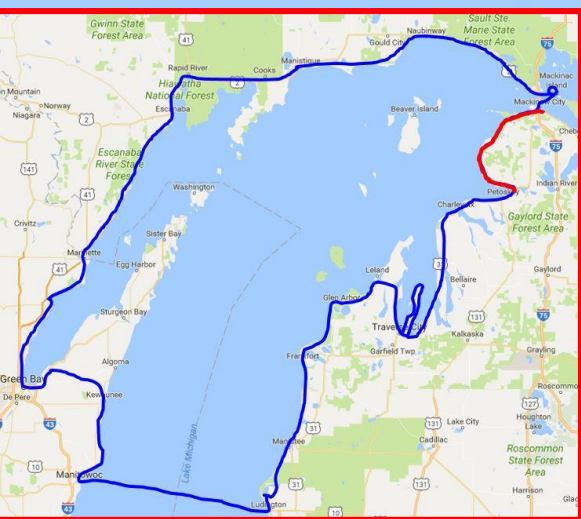
We followed the Little Traverse Wheelway for the last 17 miles to Petoskey State Park where we camped.



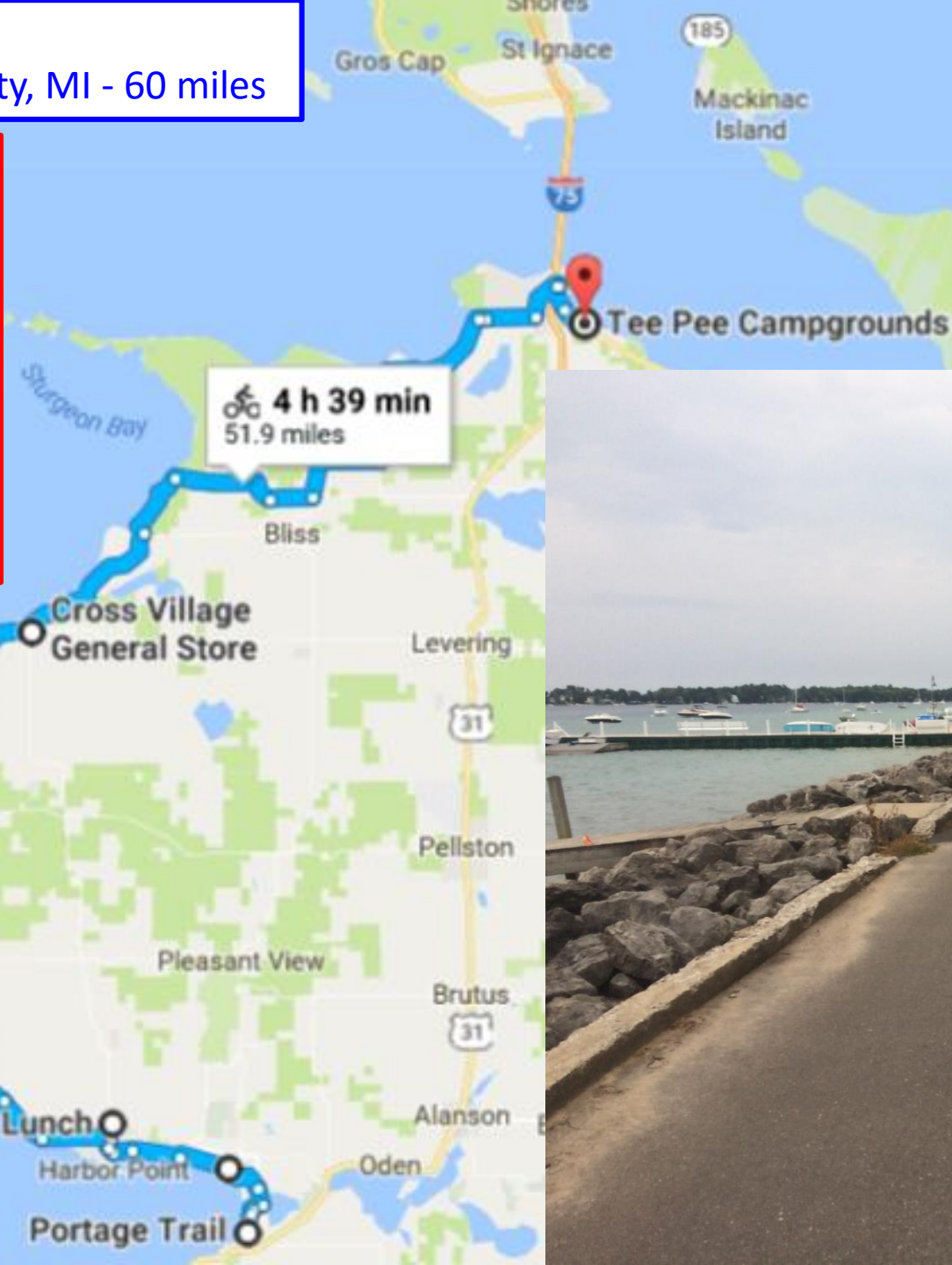


A view of Lake Michigan from the Little Traverse Wheelway in the evening (we walked from camp to eat dinner and do laundry).

Day 3 – Thu, Aug 3
Petoskey, MI to Mackinaw City, MI - 60 miles



**We followed
M119 through
the famous
“tunnel of
trees”**



We cycled to Harbor Point for breakfast along quiet roads with beautiful houses along Lake Michigan.



We cycled through the “tunnel of trees” along M-119. We stopped at Good Hart General Store and ran into some other cyclists.



It was hard to find a photo that did justice to the “tunnel of trees” along M-119. We had a canopy of trees on a winding road for 20-miles, where the road would sometimes brush the lake and give us a view of sandy beaches or steep cliffs.





The sand dunes along the eastern side of Lake Michigan were surprising, but very beautiful. Many of the dunes are protected within state parks and forests.



We stopped
along a quiet
beach in
Wilderness
State Park for a
picnic lunch.



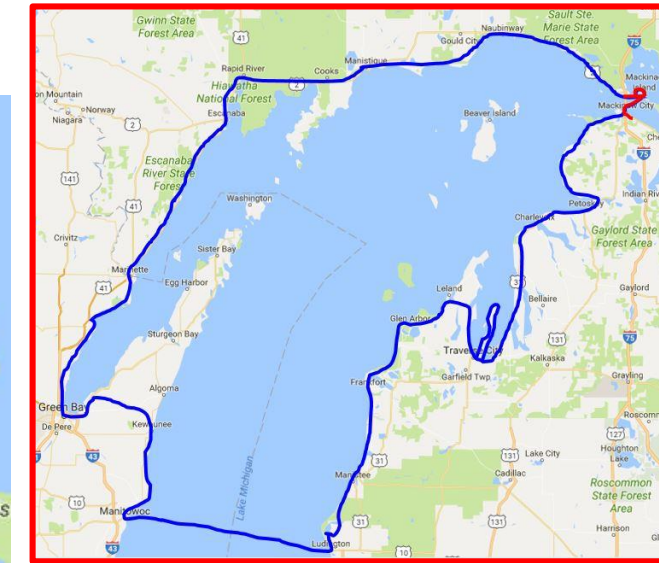


Our campground in Mackinaw City was right on the beach with a view of the Mackinac Bridge in the distance. We had been dodging rain for a couple of days, but it really poured this night and practically flooded the campground! John and Daryl played pool in the game room while it rained.



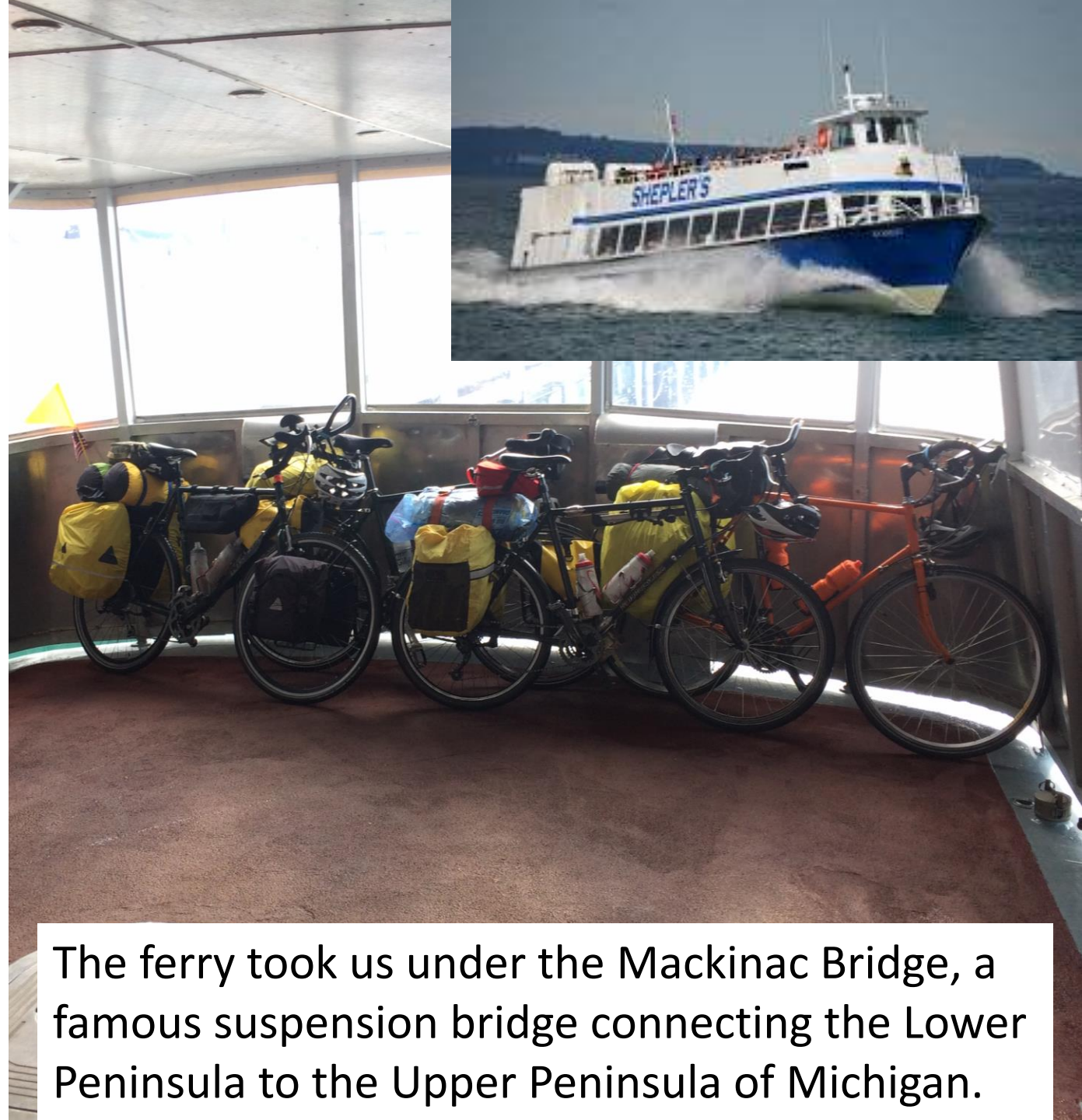
Day 4 – Fri, Aug 4
Mackinaw City, MI to Mackinack Island to St. Ignace, MI) - 32 miles

Bikes aren't allowed across the Mackinac Bridge, so we took a ferry from Mackinaw City to Mackinac Island, spent most of the day exploring the island, then took another ferry to St. Ignace in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A short day!





It rained for a few minutes after breakfast in Mackinaw City, but then we were treated to a double rainbow!



The ferry took us under the Mackinac Bridge, a famous suspension bridge connecting the Lower Peninsula to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



Mackinac Island is a vibrant tourist destination. It allows no cars, so bicycles and horse-drawn wagons and carriages are everywhere on the island.

The 8-mile bike path around Mackinac Island has many points of interest, including a long set of stairs (240? steps) to Arch Rock.





Mackinac Island is busy in the downtown area, but most of the island is a state park so it is undeveloped and very scenic.



There are no cars of the island, so we decided to ride without helmets! (Mackinac Bridge in the background.)



Mackinac Island is in Lake Huron (the “Mighty Mack” bridge forms the boundary with Lake Michigan). The color of both lakes is amazing!



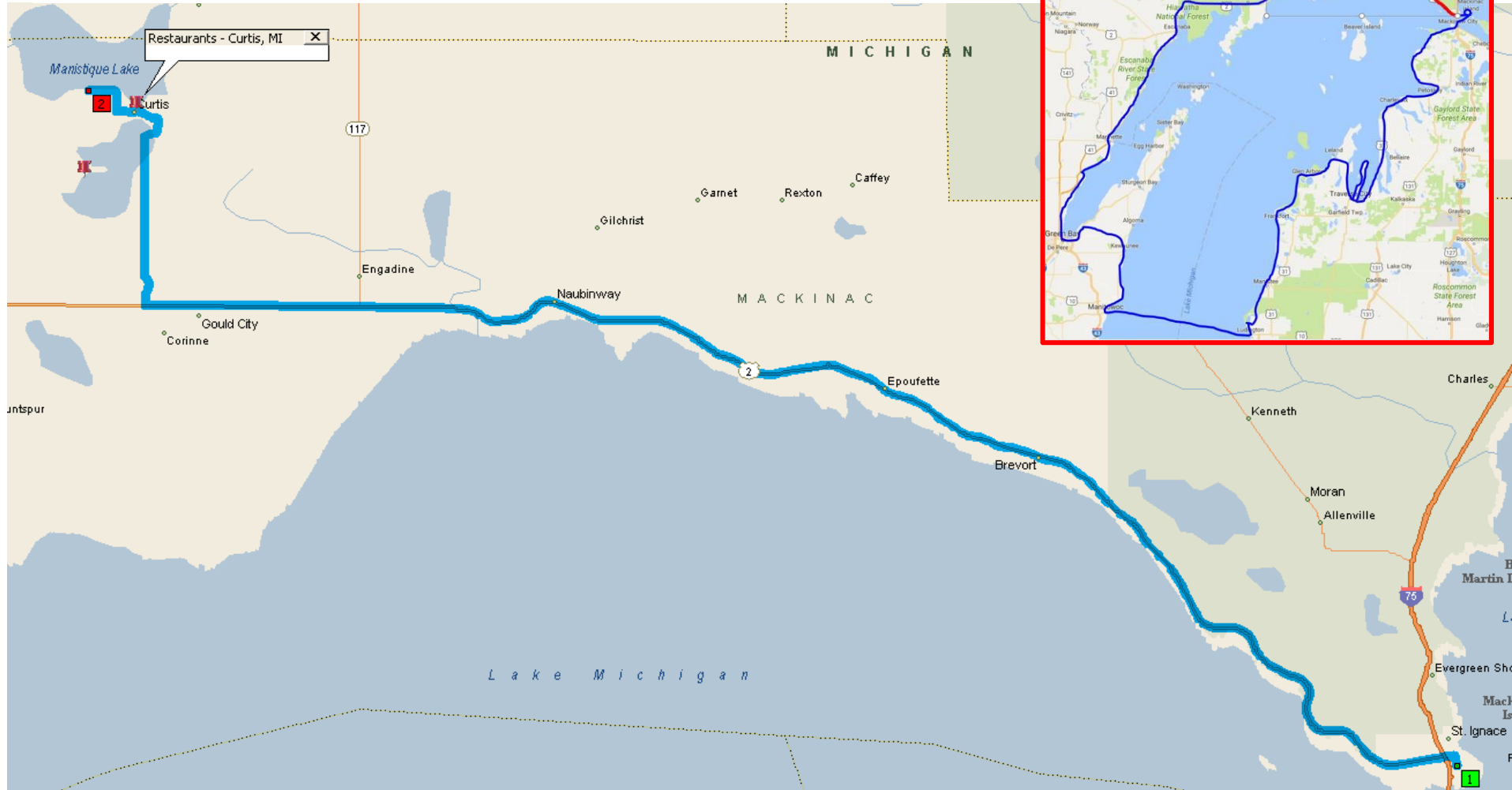


We cycled by the historic Grand Hotel, which boasts the world's longest porch (260 ft) and has been visited by 5 US Presidents. With rooms starting at around \$600/night, we decided to take the ferry to St. Ignace and camp!



Day 5 – Sat, Aug 5
St. Ignace, MI to Curtis, MI 80 miles

Days 5, 6, and 7 were much quieter as we followed US-2 along the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We had some nice views of Lake Michigan, but no much else. It was too far north for crops to grow and there were very few roads or buildings.





We followed US2 for over 100 miles. It had a nice shoulder, but lots of traffic, including many logging trucks.





US2 was desolate, but we did find a place that sold smoked fish. Beth bought some smoked salmon for us to share. It was incredible!



Small outbuildings were billowing smoke. A worker came out to check the smokers, so we had a chance to see what was inside.



The AC route took us off of US2 for a bit, but soon the road became a trail. Could this be right? The path got worse and it eventually led to a huge sand pit. Lesson learned: Be sure to check online for updates to AC maps!

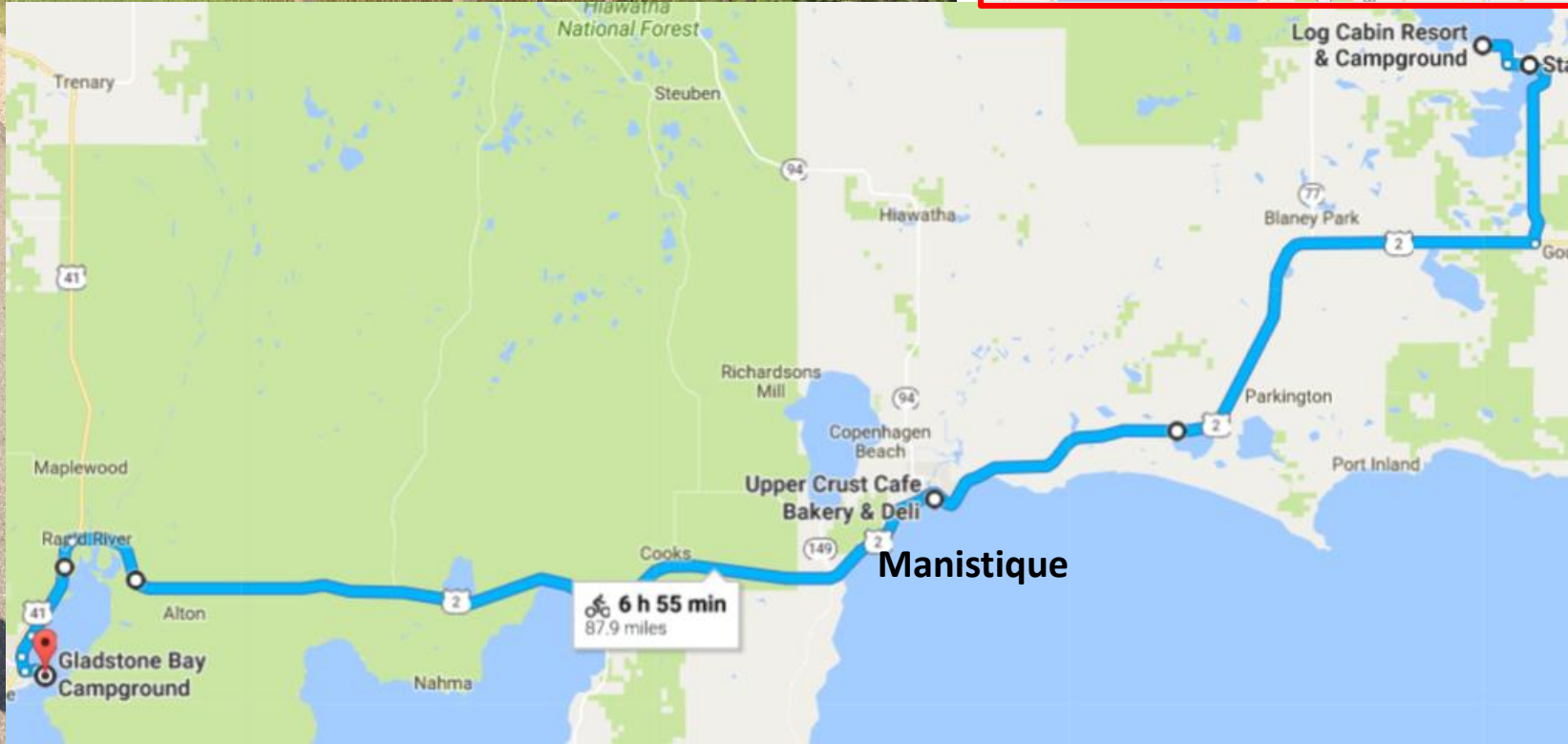
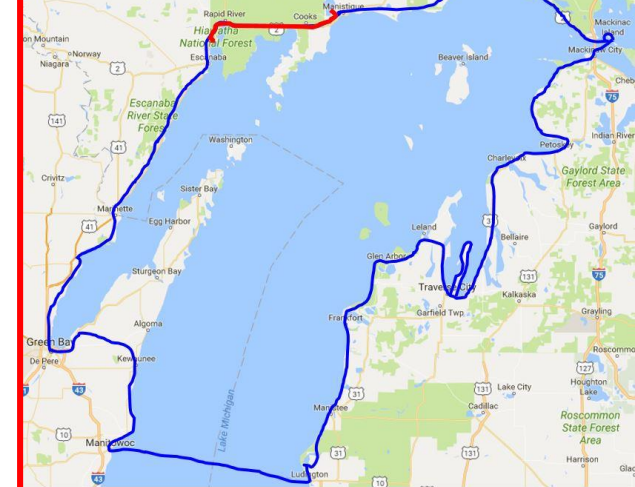




We headed north away from Lake Michigan to get to our campground on Big Manistique Lake in Curtis, MI. The campground host said that 90% of their campers come there to fish or hunt.

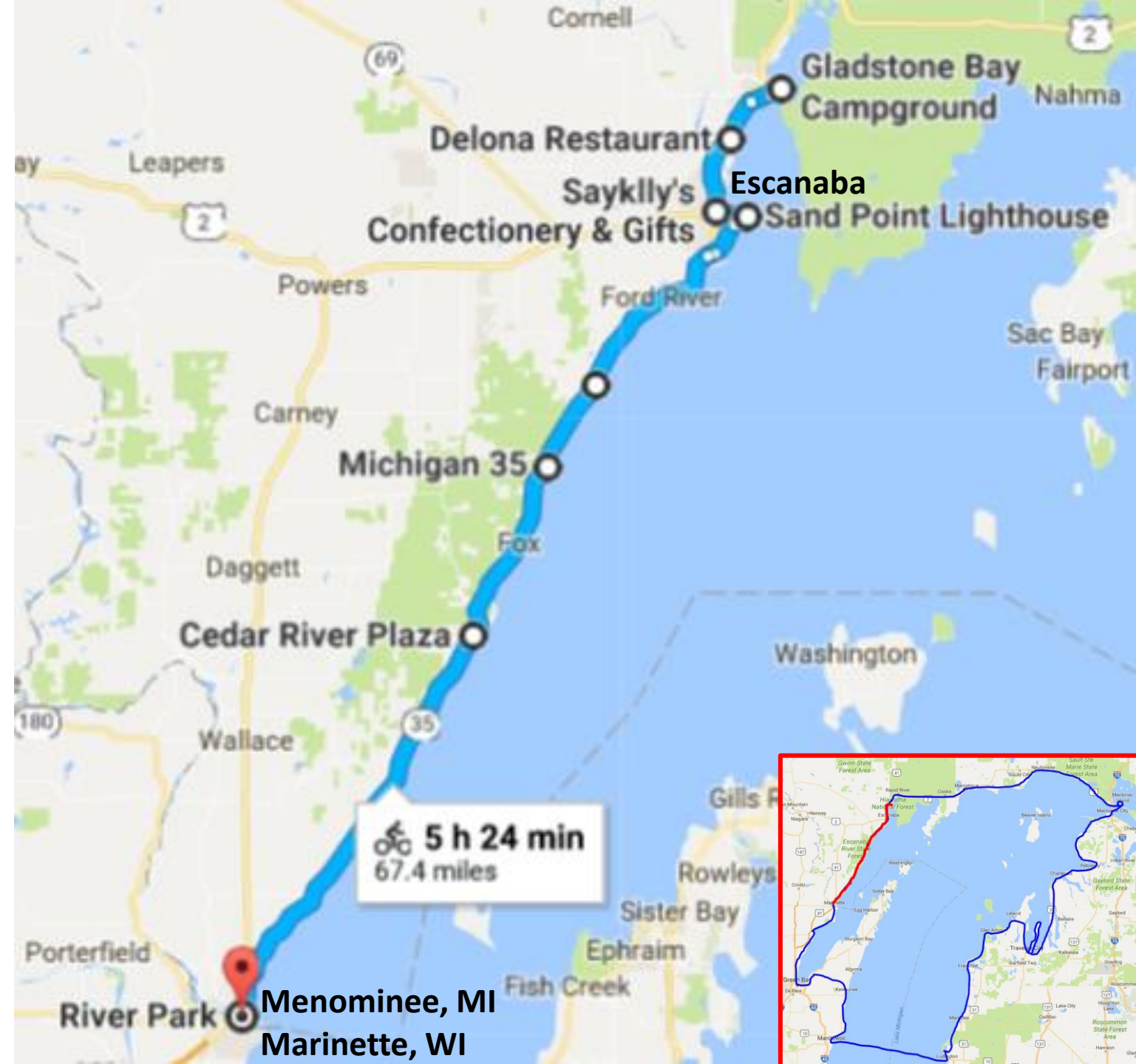
Day 6 – Sun, Aug 6
Curtis, MI to Gladstone, MI - 93 miles

Other than a nice lunch in the Manistique, there wasn't much to see today and we continued on US2 to Gladstone.



Day 7 – Mon, Aug 7
Gladstone, MI to Menominee, MI - 76 miles

We cycled to Escanaba where the AC route heads west, but we headed south along MI-35. It was another desolate stretch until we reach our destination of Menominee, MI which is on the border of MI/WI. Marinette, WI is just across the border.

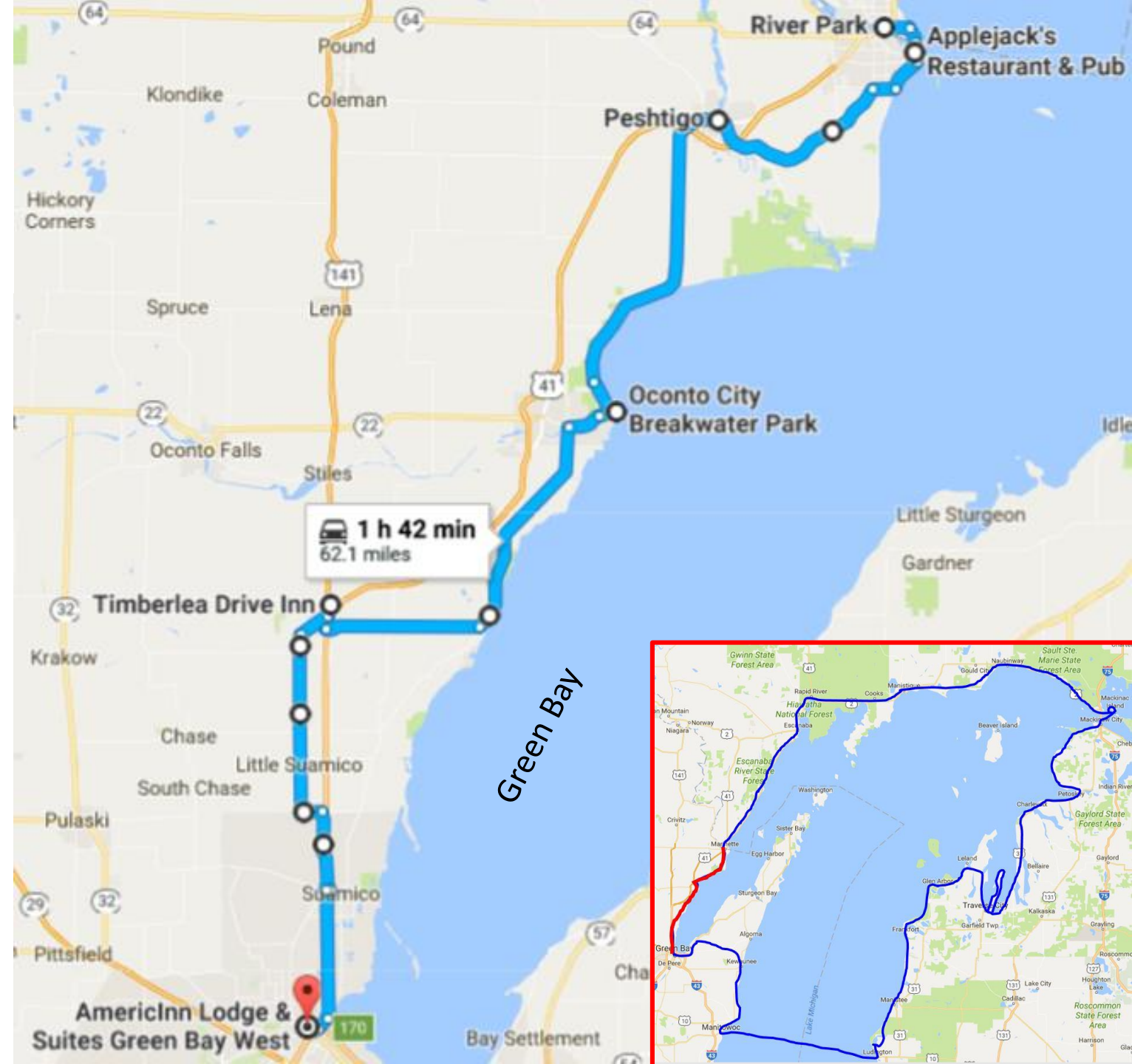




Paul set up camp and then cycled a couple of miles to see the breakwater lighthouse where the Menominee River enters Lake Michigan. A storm quickly approached across Lake Michigan!

Day 8 – Tue, Aug 8
Menominee, MI to Green Bay, WI - 82 miles

After 7 nights of camping, we looked forward to staying in a motel in Green Bay.



In Oconto, WI, we
cycled to the end of a
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile breakwater
extending into Lake
Michigan. We found
the sign at the end to
be a bit comical!



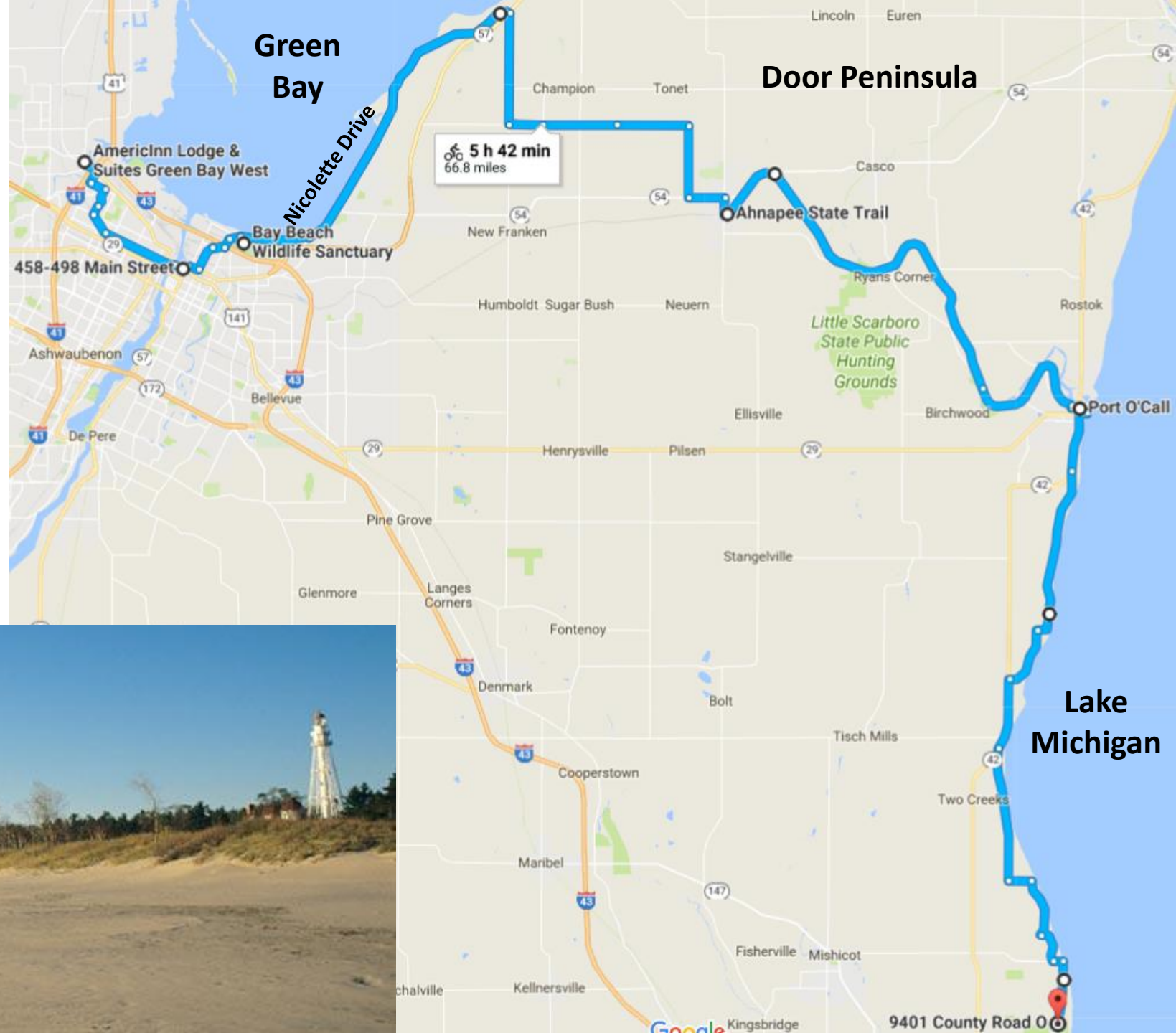
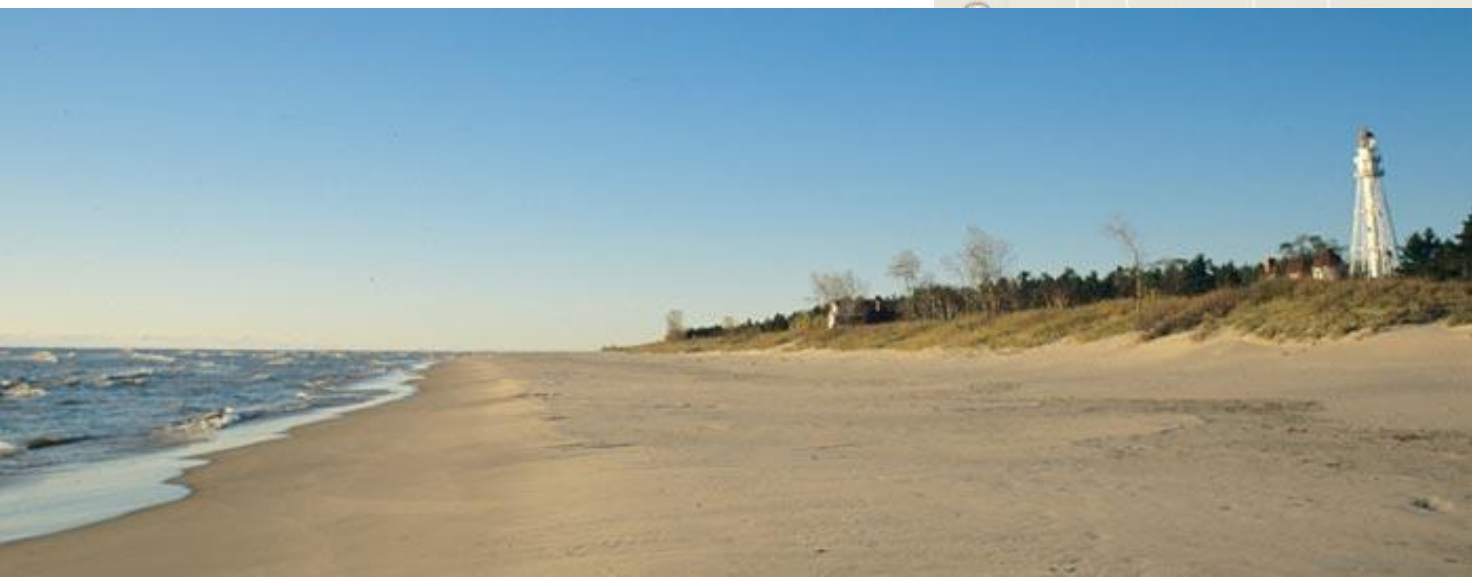
Daryl grew up in Wisconsin and is a huge Green Bay Packers fan (note his jersey). Daryl, Dean and Paul cycled about 5 miles from the hotel to visit the Packers stadium, Lambeau Field.

Dean next to Vince Lombardi statue.



Day 9 – Wed, Aug 9
Green Bay, WI to Two Rivers, WI - 72 miles

We cycled through Green Bay, continued on beautiful Nicolette Drive along the coast of the bay ("the most scenic ride in Green Bay"), then began our journey across the Door Peninsula to Lake Michigan. We finished at Point Beach State Park, which has a 7-mile beach on Lake Michigan.





We stopped by the ***Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary***, an urban wildlife refuge in Green Bay that rescues thousands of animals annually. They have a wonderful collection of wolves.



We cycled the Ahnapee State Trail for 16 miles across the Door Peninsula from Green Bay to Kewanee, WI, where we again reached Lake Michigan.





Welcome

Explore Enjoy

Wisconsin
State Forests

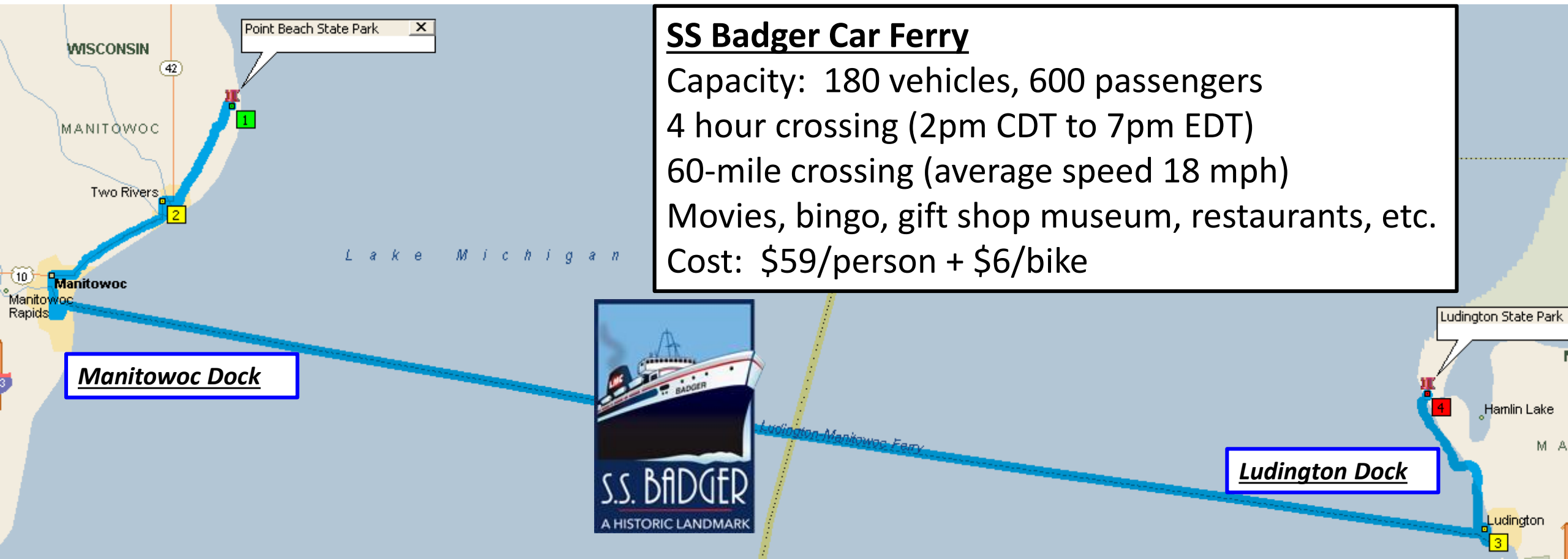
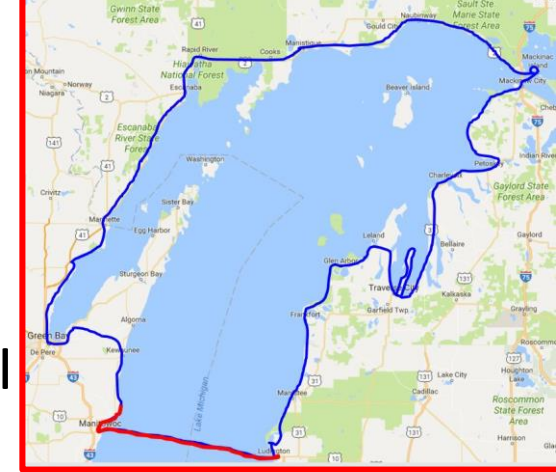
We camped in Point Beach State Forest.

Paul's wife, Alice, and two of their granddaughters, Zoey and Beth, joined us for the evening (Paul's daughter, Karen, lives about 2 hours away).



Day 10 – Thurs, Aug 10
Two Rivers, WI to Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI (via SS Badger Car Ferry) = 23 miles

We had a leisurely morning as we only had to cycle 15 miles to Manitowoc and arrive by 1pm to catch the car ferry across Lake Michigan. As we wouldn't arrive in Ludington until 7pm, we stayed in a motel in Ludington, MI



SS Badger Car Ferry

Capacity: 180 vehicles, 600 passengers

4 hour crossing (2pm CDT to 7pm EDT)

60-mile crossing (average speed 18 mph)

Movies, bingo, gift shop museum, restaurants, etc.

Cost: \$59/person + \$6/bike

Manitowoc Dock

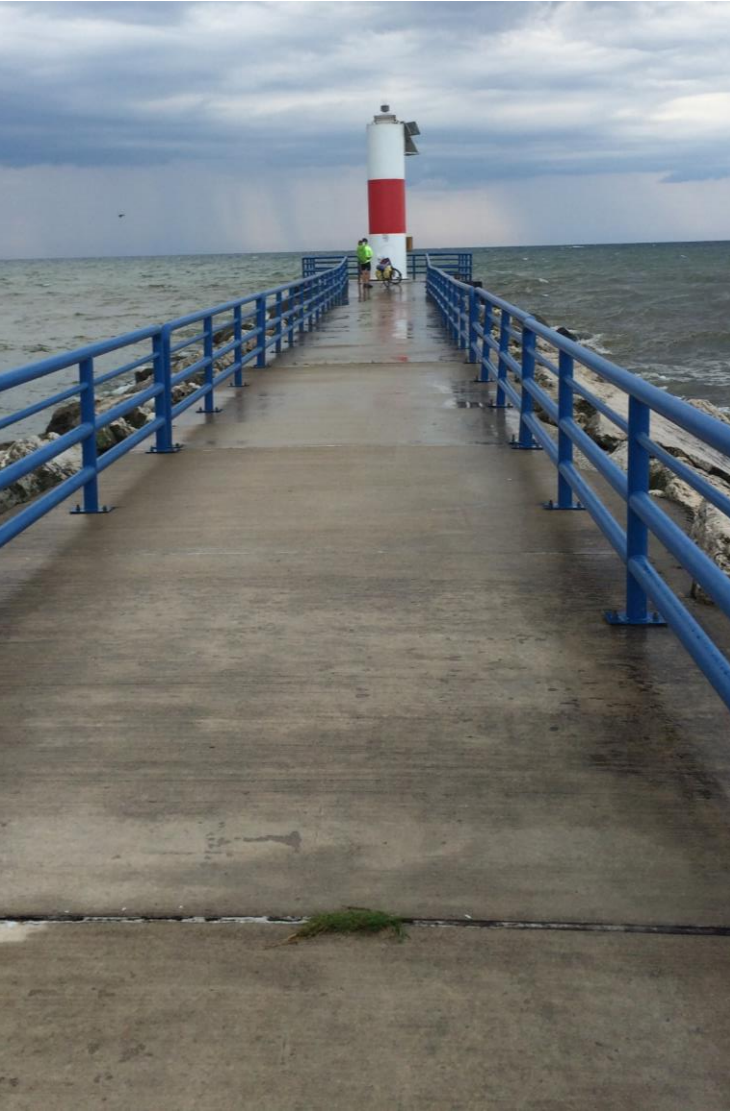
Ludington Dock



Beth makes the daring journey across the breakwater from the lighthouse in Manitowoc, WI.
(Top photo taken later from the ***SS Badger***.)



On the way to the ferry,
we stopped at the
breakwater and lighthouse
in Two Rivers, WI



We also stopped to visit botanical gardens in Manitowoc



Boarding the
SS Badger for
the 4-hour trip
across Lake
Michigan

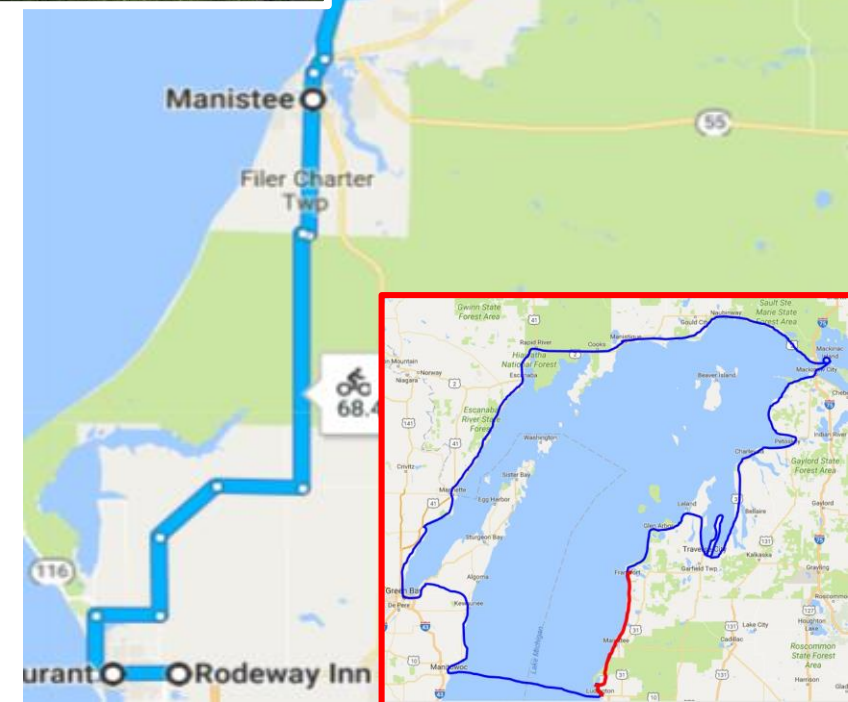


Dean gets ready to board the ***SS Badger*** for the 4-hour trip across Lake Michigan



Day 11 – Fri, Aug 11
Ludington, MI to Elberta, MI - 79 miles

Stopping at roadside markets
for fresh fruit is always a
treat.



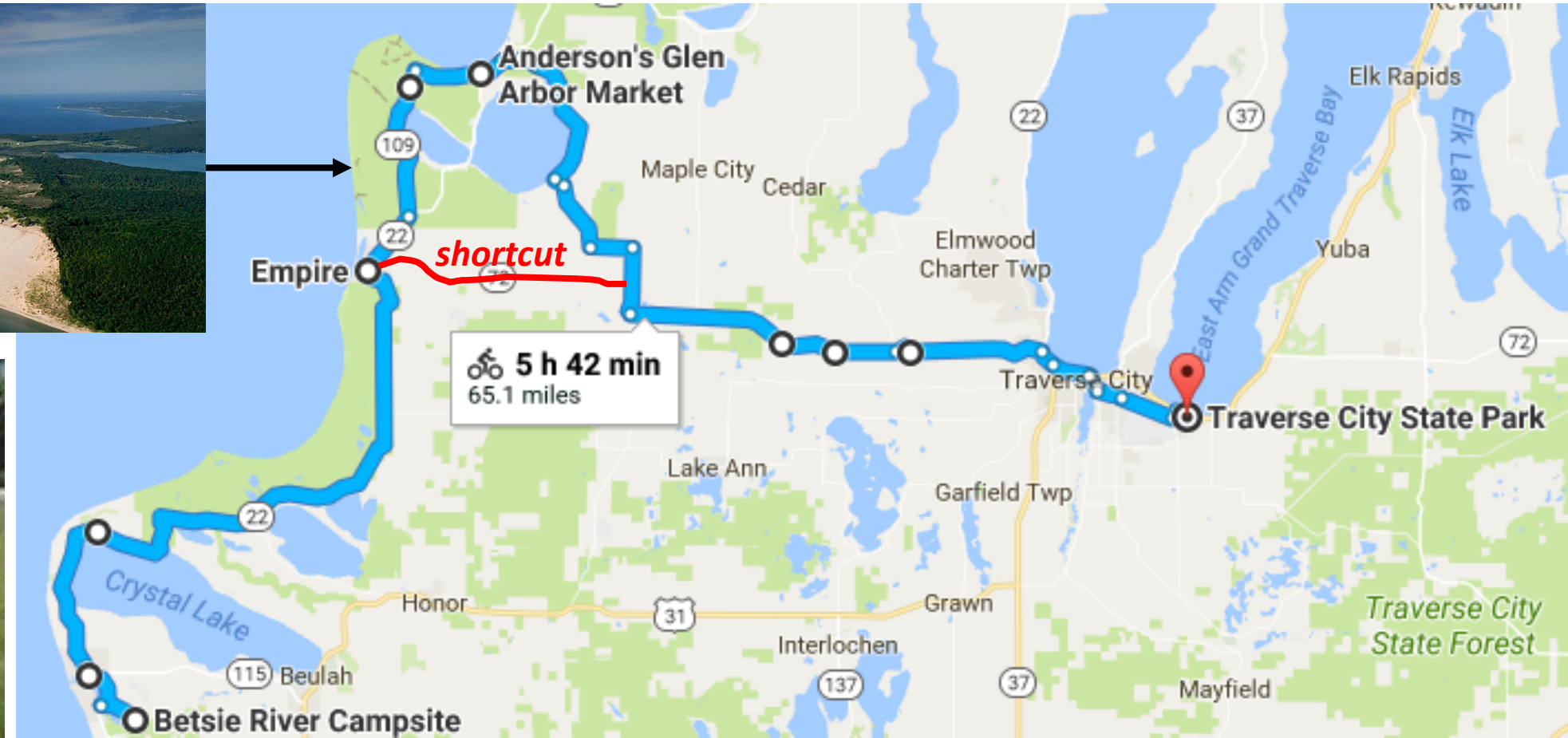
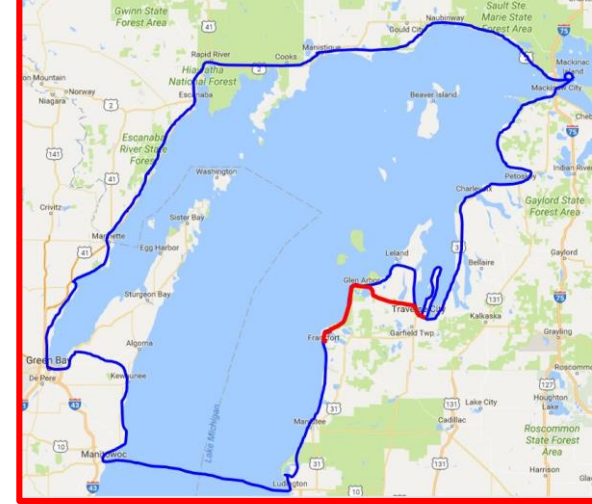
After climbing one of our biggest hills of the trip along highway M-22 near Elberta, MI, we stopped at an overlook which gave a nice view of Lake Michigan.



Day 12 – Sat, Aug 12
Elberta, MI to Traverse City, MI – 67 miles

We cycled past scenic lakes and forests on our way to Empire, MI. Everyone decided to skip the shortcut so that we could see the renowned **Dune Center** in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

<http://www.sleepingbeardunes.com/>





Climbing the huge sand dune at the Dune Center is popular, but quite strenuous. We climbed the dune, but didn't have time to also make the long hike to Lake Michigan and back (3-4 hours).





Bare feet!

Dean and Daryl are almost to the top.





We met Bill and Sandy Doyle in Glen Arbor for lunch. They ate at the same grocery/deli on their Northern Tier trip.



After pedaling 800 miles we were
back on the TART Trail in Traverse City.





How did he make it?
Daryl's bike ("Big Orange") was creaking badly and he discovered halfway through the tour that one stay was completely cracked in two and the other was partially cracked.



