

# Biking

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Edwards said the 25-mile route through Bliss is a great loop for taking in all the aspects of the region. Riders who opt for longer routes will travel through the Tunnel of Trees and along the shoreline of Lake Michigan on M-119. Bicyclists who do the tour on Saturday will also be able to ride over the Mackinac Bridge on Sunday. The ride goes north over the bridge to St. Ignace where cyclists are picked up and taken to the ferry docks. They can then go back to Mackinaw City or continue on to Mackinac Island.

On the same weekend, TART Trails, Inc. and the Cherry Capital Cycling Club will put on the Leelanau Harvest Tour, which will wind through

Leelanau County on Sunday, Sept. 19. The tour is a fundraiser for TART Trails and is most known for the great fall views and gourmet-style food stops along the way, said Emily Taphouse, board member of the Cherry Capital Cycling Club.

Riders will begin and end at Glen Lake High School, where people have the option of camping Saturday night. Routes of 25, 45, 65 and 100 miles are available with food stops every 20 to 30 miles at parks along the water. Local merchants and farmers donate fruit, bread and baked goods for participants.

Each loop goes up Inspiration Point overlooking Glen Lake. Riders who opt for the longer routes will stop along County Road 626 at one of the highest points in Leelanau County to get a view of the

Manitou Islands and Sleeping Bear Dunes.

“The ride goes constantly through beautiful views,” Taphouse said.

In its 21st year, the tour generally draws about 500 riders of all skill levels, Taphouse said.

“It’s probably about 50 percent local people who do it,” she said. “They know it helps TART Trails.”

Later in the season, as the color reaches full peak, Boyne Mountain will be taken over by bikers participating in Biketoberfest put on by Zoo-de-Mackinac. The three-day event includes two nights of music and socializing with two full days of riding. Participants have a choice of six different rides designed to meet any skill level.

“There’s something for everybody,” said Doug

Drawbaugh, who co-owns Zoo-de-Mackinac with his brother Greg, “from the hardcore mountain biker to the person who just wants to party.”

Riders looking for a smooth, paved course can participate in the Bike and Blade the Bay along the Little Traverse Wheelway, or they can ride in the Original Biketoberfest, which departs from Boyne and centers around Lake Charlevoix.

Mountain bikers can tackle the Michigan Mountain Bike State Championship Course at Boyne Mountain, ride through the Tunnel of Trees or participate in the Boyne Mountain Downhill on Sunday, which includes a chairlift ride up the face.

Regardless of where people choose to ride, Drawbaugh said the weekend is a chance to be up close and personal with

fall beauty.

“It’s not just the color,” he said. “You can smell it in the air, you can see it, you can feel the breeze. It’s a slower pace. You get to see things you’ve never seen before when you’re traveling slower.”

Information

**“Big Mac” Shoreline Scenic Bike Tour**, \$15 before Sept. 1, \$20 after deadline up to day of tour, [www.mackinawchamber.com](http://www.mackinawchamber.com), (888) 455-8100.

**Leelanau Harvest Tour**, \$23 through Sept. 17, \$28 day of ride, [www.cherry-capital.com/cccc](http://www.cherry-capital.com/cccc), click on tours tab, 941-BIKE.

**Biketoberfest**, \$45 for biking, bash and chairlift ride, \$155 per person for all-inclusive package through Boyne, [www.zoo-de-mack.com](http://www.zoo-de-mack.com), click on upcoming events tab.