

# 2025 Bon Ton Roulet Handbook



Dear Cycling Enthusiast,

Welcome to the 28th annual Bon Ton Roulet, the Finger Lakes Region's premier bicycle touring event with scenic routes that will take you through charming towns of the beautiful Finger Lakes of New York State.

The Bon Ton Roulet is a fundraiser for the Auburn YMCA-WEIU . While enjoying a wonderful and healthy vacation you will also be helping our local YMCA provide youth programs in our communities.

This Rider Handbook has been carefully prepared to provide you with essential information about the tour. Familiarizing yourself with this information will answer most of your questions and make your ride more pleasant. For additional information visit [auburnymca.org/BonTonRoulet](http://auburnymca.org/BonTonRoulet) or call 315-990-0787. For cancellation or registration information please call Liz at 315-253-5304.

We are grateful you have chosen to join us on this adventure and pledge we will do all we can to make your experience enjoyable and worthwhile. Welcome again to the 2025 Bon Ton Roulet!

Auburn YMCA                      &

Tina Hunt (Ride Director)

## A Typical Day on the Bon Ton Roulet Ride

- Wake-up leisurely and take your gear to the Gear Truck.
- Enjoy a hearty breakfast served near the campsite.
- Start riding any time after sunrise, Long or Regular course.
- A regional map, cue sheets, gps, and roadside route marking direct you to the next overnight Host Community. Enjoy the charm of small towns in New York State!
- Morning Rest Stop is roughly 15-25 miles from the start.
- Afternoon Rest Stop is roughly 10-20 miles from the finish.
- Arrive at the next overnight Host Community.
- Find your gear at the camping area, set up your tent and relax!
- Chow down at dinner!
- Bike Mechanic & Massage Therapists available each day (additional fees apply).
- Camping on your own or reserve a hotel or dorm for a fee each night.
- Relax with local entertainment, yoga or speakers, provided most nights.
- No Mass start, pedal when you are ready!

**Registration Day:** 7/22 Tue. Arrive in Geneva. Sleep at HWS(camp, hotel or dorm options) with two(22 mile or 33 mile) unsupported rides at 2pm, leaving form the Red Barn

**NEW: Dinner included from 5-7pm on Registration Day**

Day 1: 7/23 Wed. Geneva to Geneva. Sleep at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Day 2: 7/24 Thur. Geneva to Penn Yan. Sleep at Keuka College(shuttle to two wineries included)

Day 3: 7/25 Fri. Penn Yan to Penn Yan Sleep at Keuka College. Phil Fountain Century Ride.

Day 4: 7/26 Sat. Penn Yan to Geneva. Tour ends at 3pm.

## Tour Hours of Operation

Tour Registration & Packet Pick-Up: Tuesday, July 22, 12:00-6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday, July 23, 6:00-8:00 a.m.

Start Location: Hobart William Smith Colleges, 300 Pulteney St, Geneva, NY 14456

FREE Parking Tue July, 22 – Sat, July 26 -Across from the Red Barn, St. Clair St, Geneva, NY

Camping is available at the start on July 22, but **NOT on Sat. July 26.**

## Daily:

S.A.G. Support: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
 Gear Truck: **Load** until 8:00 a.m. & Unload 1:00 p.m.  
 Information Tent: 6:00-8:00 a.m. & 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
 Breakfast: 6:00-8:00 a.m.  
 Cash Snack Bar: Afternoon  
 Dinner: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
 Rest Stop: Rest Stop Schedule will be available soon  
 Special Services: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Hotel Shuttle/Dorm Registration  
 Evening Rider Meeting: 7:15 p.m.  
 Evening Program: Between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. (typically after rider meeting)  
 Quiet Hour Starts: 10:00 p.m.

## Syracuse, NY Airport:

Hancock Int'l. Airport (SYR),  
 1000 Colonel Eileen Collins Blvd.  
 Syracuse, NY 13212

Shower Truck Schedule (subject to change)				
		5-7:30 a.m.		2-9 p.m.
Tue., 7-22	Geneva			Geneva
Wed., 7-23	Geneva – Geneva	Geneva		Geneva

Thur., 7-24	Geneva-Penn Yan	Geneva		Penn Yan	
Fri., 7-25	Penn Yan - Penn Yan	Penn Yan		Penn Yan	
Sat., 7-26	Penn Yan– Geneva( finish)	Shower truck closes at 3 p.m. in Geneva(HWS)			

## Miscellaneous:

**Free Long-Term Parking:** Free parking is available from July 23 – July 26. Check in at Registration for the designated lot. The Bon Ton Roulet will not be held liable in the unlikely event of fire, theft, or damage to vehicles and/or contents. Return shuttles to this lot during the tour are available in case of emergencies.

**Pet Policy:** For the safety of all bike riders & volunteers the BTR does not allow pets on the tour.

**Medication:** The BTR and its tour staff are not permitted to store, transport, or otherwise handle any personal medication at any time.

**Drug Free Zone:** New York State prohibits the use of alcohol or tobacco on "Drug Free" school grounds when we stay at these facilities. We ask for your cooperation and compliance.

**Rechargeable Electronic Devices:** Overnight facilities typically have standard outlets located throughout the building, which riders can use. The BTR will provide a charging station, please bring your own connectors, converters, or adaptors. There will also be a CPAP power plug-in station.

**Ebikes:** We welcome ebikes on our tour! There will be designated ebike charging stations for you to use to charge your ebike battery; please DO NOT use the standard small-device charging station.

**Laundry Facilities:** Some overnight communities have coin-operated Laundromats that are usually located within walking distance. A local map will be posted on the Message Board each day. Laundry facilities may also be available at the college campuses.

**Pre- & Post Tour Camping:** Camping on your own available at start on Tue July 22 but **NOT** on Sat July 26.

**Long and Regular Route:** The Bon Ton Roulet is a different kind of bicycle tour, designed for relaxation and just plain FUN! Both routes take cyclists through quaint villages and past picturesque scenic beauty, and both offer BTR stops along the way. Since there's no need to sign up for the regular or long option, riders choose which option they prefer. The **Long Route** appeals to those riders who want the challenge of a 50-100 mile ride per day at a pace that's typically quicker. The **Regular Route**, typically 35-50 miles per day, tends to attract newer riders and those who plan on spending the day leisurely browsing the markets and attractions along the way. Many riders switch back and forth between both routes during the week, making the BTR the perfect tour!

**Luggage & Tracking Tags:** Each rider can have one large bag (or two small) plus camping gear. Riders must place a separate colored tracking tag on each bag. Each tag must display your rider number. Tags

can be found in your registration packet and at the Info Tent. Please make sure you can carry and transport your luggage comfortably; if it's too heavy for you, it's too heavy for us! Please – no open-top tote bags, no shoes tied to the outside, no bags lashed together.

**Information Tent:** The Information Tent is the focal point of every overnight camp. Here riders will find daily cue sheets, limited BTR merchandise (please refer to 'merchandise' section), local maps, and our helpful Information Staff to answer your questions about area attractions or interests.

**Message Board:** A message board, located next to the Information Tent, posts upcoming events, maps, special activity announcements, updated weather forecasts, and emergency messages. It also offers a place for riders to post messages to fellow riders. Riders should check this board each day for the latest tour information.

**Rider Meeting:** 7:15 p.m. each evening BTR officials will provide updates about the next day's ride.

**Merchandise:** The Bon Ton has a number of souvenirs, T-shirts, hats, and jerseys for you to purchase, available during registration!

**Gear Trucks:** Our Gear Truck Staff will load your gear onto the truck when you bring it to them each morning. A tracking tag is required for each bag. The gear is then driven to the next site and laid out for riders to retrieve. In the event of rain, gear is covered with tarps.

**S.A.G.:** Several S.A.G. vehicles drive the daily route. Each S.A.G. vehicle can be identified by magnetic door signs and/or small vehicle flags. If a S.A.G. vehicle isn't readily available contact the S.A.G. Coordinator. Please note your cumulative mileage for the day and nearby crossroads to help locate you. S.A.G. vehicles will have with them bike pumps, water and first aid supplies. For road condition issues, or general concerns about the route and S.A.G. support or support issues, please contact the S.A.G. Director.

**Emergencies/Issues:** Call 911 for emergencies, and then call the Ride Director. For road condition issues, or general concerns about the route and S.A.G. support or support issues, please contact the Ride Director.

**Meals/Rest Stops:** Breakfast & dinner are provided as part of the registration fee. Meals, including meatless entrees, are offered throughout the week. Wherever possible, routes are mapped to take riders near lunch options, which are posted on the daily attractions sheet. We encourage riders to carefully consider their morning pace in order to arrive near lunch options around noon. Or riders can simply take advantage of our hearty breakfast & dinner, & well stocked Rest Stops. Lunch is not provided by the BTR. Two Rest Stops are provided most days along the route. The morning stop is located roughly 15-25 miles from the day's start point, & the afternoon stop is roughly 10-15 miles from the next overnight camp. Riders can refuel with a selection of fruit, water, & sports drinks. Rest Stop food & beverages are provided as part of the registration fee.

**Water Fill Stations / Beverage Coolers:** Each overnight camp has a water filling station for water bottles. Bottled water, sports drinks, and non-water beverages are located in ice filled beverage coolers near the Information Tent. A small donation for drinks is appreciated. Sorry, storing personal items in the coolers is not allowed.

**Snack Bar:** Our cash & carry Snack Bar, located near the Special Delivery, offers typical "snackie" fare

such as hamburgers, hotdogs, and candy - food to curb a hungry appetite!

**FREE Wine Pick-Up: Great Bonus!!** We offer free wine pick-up from designated wineries! Simply ask the winery staff to write your name and rider number on your purchase. We'll collect your wine at the end of the day. Our Gear Truck Staff will retrieve it for you at camp, or keep it secured in the Gear Truck until Saturday, July 26th. Participating wineries are posted at the Information Tent and on the cue sheets. Wine pick-ups will be at the campsite by 7 p.m.

**Bike Repair:** The BTR has partnered with a couple of bike mechanics who'll be stationed at the campsite in the morning and at the a.m. & p.m. rest stops, and at the overnight campsites. S.A.G. vehicles can transport your bicycle to the nearest mechanic. Fees for parts & service apply. A schedule will be posted at info tent.

**Massage Therapy:** The Bon Ton has partnered with a local licensed massage therapist who'll provide the perfect cure for a sore body! Daily scheduling is handled at the massage tent and fees vary depending on your personal massage choices.

**Evening Program:** Most evenings you can relax to the sounds of a great local musician, enjoy listening to a historical speaker or learn interesting facts about the area you are visiting. This program is located either in the camping area or nearby. Or you can experience a local establishment, usually just a short walk away.

**Quiet Time:** For the convenience of fellow riders we ask that all overnight campers observe a quiet time after 10:00 p.m. each night. For those campers with a later bedtime, or are simply noisy sleepers, we recommend that you place your tent away from other campers.

**Trash:** Trash containers are located around the overnight camping area. Please make sure your camp is clear of debris each morning, or contact a BTR volunteer if you observe any trash issues.

**What to Bring:** This tour takes place in all kinds of weather...hot days ...cool evenings. This list is just a suggestion of what you should bring. We advise that you do not pack valuables, easily breakable items, items of personal worth or medication in your luggage. The Bon Ton Roulet is not responsible for any lost, stolen, damaged or misplaced items.

<b>Camping</b>	Tent, stakes, poles, tarps, ground cloth, tent bag, sleeping bag, air mattress, air pump, pillow
<b>Bicycle Gear</b>	Granny gears, helmet, spare tire, spare tubes, tire wrench, patch kit, rear view mirror, bike gloves, water bottles, tire pump, bike mounted bag, bike lock, cycling shorts, jersey, bike shoes, HALT spray, rear light, front light (and turn them ON!)
<b>Toiletries</b>	Tooth brush, tooth paste, floss, hand sanitizer, soap, shampoo, lotion, shaving products, tissues, deodorant, powder, towel, washcloth, clothes pins, nail file and clippers, q-tips, brush/comb, feminine items, laundry bag and soap
<b>First Aid</b>	Med alert bracelet, aspirin, band-aids, antibiotic cream, alcohol pads, lip balm, sun screen, insect repellent, moisture cream, rash ointment
<b>Clothing</b>	T shirts/ shorts, pants, rain gear, underwear, sports bra, socks, belt, shoes, shower shoes, sleepwear

<b>Essentials</b>	Glasses, contacts, sun glasses, cell phone, eye prescription, watch, chargers, knife, identification, fanny pack, flashlight, extra batteries, ear plugs, cork screw
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**Restroom & Shower Facilities:** The BTR relies mainly on the facilities at schools and colleges to accommodate our overnight campers. A mobile shower truck is also available at camp as well as portable restrooms where facilities may be limited. Please report any unsanitary conditions.

**Good Hydration:** Waiting until you're thirsty to drink is a common mistake. Feeling that you need to drink is an early indicator of dehydration. On the other hand, hyponatremia can result from excessive fluid intake. To maintain proper hydration all riders should carry at least two water bottles and remember to drink at regular intervals.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES:**

**E-Bike Rentals:** [Finger Lakes Electric Bikes - Electric Bike Sales and Rental](http://www.fingerlakeselectricbikes.com)  
[www.fingerlakeselectricbikes.com](http://www.fingerlakeselectricbikes.com) 315-374-4199

### **Geneva Bike Shop:**

Trek Bicycle Geneva  
489 Exchange St  
(315) 789-5922  
[https://www.trekbikes.com/us/en\\_US/retail/geneva/](https://www.trekbikes.com/us/en_US/retail/geneva/)

**BIKE SHIPPING** -Updated info coming soon

## **FAQ'S:**

**Where do I eat?** The Bon Ton Roulet works to tailor your breakfast and dinner to meet the unique dietary needs of bicycle touring participants. We work directly with our caterers- suggesting menu alternatives, establishing large portion size standards, and making sure there are a wide variety of options across the week. Both breakfast and dinner are part of your registration fee. A sample menu from a previous ride can be viewed on the Bon Ton website. Most meal sites are indoors in a climate-controlled area and a short walk (at most 10-15 min) from the campground / dorm areas. Some areas include outdoor seating to enjoy when weather allows.

**Where do I Sleep?** The BTR is a camping tour that provides wide open spaces for cyclists to pitch their own tents. Our overnight camps are selected specifically to allow our guests to set up in large groups, among friends and family, or off on their own where they can soak up the peace and quiet. We've also arranged for campers who prefer full service camp set-up packages, or you may choose to stay in a local bed & breakfast, motel, or hotel. Please note that accommodations in this mainly rural setting can be sparse for those who choose off-site lodging. We strongly recommend that you make reservations well in advance of the tour by choosing from the list provided. Please refer to the website for lodging information.

**What sort of terrain can I expect?** The current landscape in this region dates back over 10,000 years when a one-mile thick ice-age glacier formed the deep valleys of the Finger Lakes as it receded. As a result, traveling east or west between towns to the north (Auburn, Skaneateles, and Geneva) has fewer hills than a parallel path between southern towns (Hammondsport, Ithaca, and Watkins Glen) which tend to be hillier. Melting glaciers and natural rain runoff also carved deep gorges along the sides of the lakes, and while north or south travel is more level, it too can offer the occasional tall hill. Despite the hills, this area attracts thousands of bicyclists each year.

**Mapping your Route:** We strive to keep methods consistent but there are occasionally reasons we need to change a route on short notice. The pavement markings are placed a week or so before the tour and checked each morning. When in doubt, follow the markings. If you are off the route or feel lost call one of the BTR staff numbers.

**Regional Maps:** A map of the Finger Lakes Region is available at the Info Tent upon request. A large charted map will be posted on the Message Board to show riders the entire route, broken down by day/route.

**Digital Routes from Ride with GPS:** Digital Map Downloads: The Bon Ton is offering digital route downloads from Ride with GPS. As with any digital navigation product, ***please consider this to be supplementary to the cue sheets and route markings.***

**Cue Sheets:** Foldable, easy to read cue sheets provide turn-by-turn directions of the route, as well as point-to-point and cumulative distance information. Cue sheets are available each day at the Information Tent. Riders should re-zero their odometer daily.

**Route Marking:** Directional markings are painted onto the road surface. Three markings are used at all turns. The first is painted 80-100 feet prior to the turn, the second is at the turn, and the last is immediately after the turn to confirm. Straight markings are used on long routes to reassure you that you're still on the correct path. The Bon Ton has used a variety of colors & markings for more than 18 years. Please identify the symbols & colors used for this ride, posted at registration.

**Illness can spread rapidly on a bike tour. As part of our broader Illness Preparedness Plan, we've listed some health safety DOs & DON'Ts to help you keep illness at bay:**

**DO List:**

- DO wash your hands often using antibacterial soap
- DO use hand-sanitizing liquid, versus not washing hands
- DO clean your water bottle mouthpiece before drinking
- DO eat whole & pared fruit served from food-safe gloves
- DO keep hydrated by drinking water regularly
- DO comply with hygiene signage wherever posted
- DO report any unsafe hygienic practices you observe
- DO report any symptom of illness immediately

**DON'T List:**

- DON'T eat while wearing bicycle gloves
- DON'T replace hand washing with hand-sanitizing liquid
- DON'T "hand wade" in the coolers
- DON'T store personal items in Bon Ton Roulet coolers



DON'T share fruit or other personal consumables  
DON'T assume you're not sick if you have symptoms

### **Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down**



Our S.A.G. vehicle drivers often give several quick beeps of their horn they approach riders along the route. When this happens simply gesture:



as

**Thumbs Up = "I'm OK and don't need assistance."**

**Thumbs Down = "Please stop. I need assistance".**

**Sun Exposure:** Whether it's sunny or cloudy, a rider's skin will be exposed to the sun all day. We recommend the use of sunscreen with a high SPF on all exposed skin in order to reduce sunburn.

### **Safety Requirements & Recommendations**

The following will help make this tour safer and more enjoyable.

#### **Rider Requirements:**

- A Consumer Product Safety Commission approved helmet is required to be worn
- Ride single file, with traffic flow, as far to the right as safe
- Verbalize your intentions to other cyclists, especially when passing
- Inform other riders of potential road hazards
- As S.A.G. Vehicles pass... Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down
- Adult supervision is required for riders age 17 & younger
- Cyclists must obey all traffic laws and obey all traffic signs and signage posted by the tour.
- Bicycle rear safety light is required.

#### **Rider Recommendations:**

Pace yourself. Have fun! You have all day to travel the tour.

- A multi-gear bicycle and a rearview mirror is recommended
- You should be in good shape and capable of riding long distances and steep changes in elevation
- Have a health insurance card with you at all times, one that notes all important medical information
- Use common sense and courtesy with all road traffic

**Rare Severe Weather Conditions:** The most common severe weather conditions involve heavy rainfall, lightning, and/or strong winds. These conditions may force you to seek temporary shelter in a commercial or municipal building, on the porch of a private residence, or even in a S.A.G. vehicle. If shelter is not near during a lightning storm, crouch down away from trees and keep at least 15 feet away from other people, bikes, or metal objects. Overnight camps also have sheltered areas for these rare severe weather conditions. Forecasts are posted on the Message Board and updated



regularly as new weather information becomes available.



**We are a Styrofoam free tour.**  
**Please look for recycling labels at the campsites.**