

RBBC / RAGBRAI FAQ:

1. RAGBRAI XLV?

Roman numeral for 45, this year's ride is the 45th crossing of the state, always from west to east, each year starting and ending in a different town.

2. What is the route for the ride?

See the RAGBRAI Website. This years route will be announced on Jan 21st.

3. Why west to east?

The prevailing winds are westerly, or so they say. We don't guarantee it.

4. How much will it cost me?

Price of registering for RAGBRAI is \$175. for the wristband from the Des Moines Register, the folks that sponsor the ride. See the RBBC registration form for bus and Baggage fees for the club. The average rider spends about \$35 per day while on the ride. This varies greatly from rider to rider depending on how much stuff you go home with. Food prices are very reasonable.

5. When do I sign up for RAGBRAI?

On line registration is quick and easy; just follow the simple instructions on the official RAGBRAI website. You can download a printed form and send it in or register on line. All registrations, waivers, and payments must be in Des Moines by April 1. (Unless you were a member in 2016 and are getting your wristband through the club. In that case, you need to get your registration and forms in by February 15. See the RBBC Newsletter.)

6. How many riders can go?

The Des Moines Register limits the number of full week riders to 8,500 +/- a few hundred. That number is on a first come first served basis.

7. If I sign up can I get a refund if I cannot go?

If you cannot go you will be responsible for selling your own wristband. If you must cancel, contact RAGBRAI as soon as possible, they may be able to help with your wristband. RAGBRAI charges a \$75 cancellation fee, so if you can sell your own wristband you may save some money.

8. How do I sell my wristband if I need to?

Check out the RAGBRAI forums. Look for passes wanted or passes for sale. Make a post and wait for the phone to ring or keep checking your email. If you have a question about how it works contact me. I'll be glad to help.

9. Why would I want to use a charter service?

If you are a first time RAGBRAI rider you will want to go with a charter service to learn the ropes. RAGBRAI is much different from any other bike ride you have been on. With twelve to fifteen thousand bikers on the road there is much to learn and limited time to learn it. Any good charter service will help you through the difficult first few days and give you much needed help, support and safety information that will be invaluable. You will find their help and advice will make the difference between an enjoyable first experience and "I will never come back here again". Many long time riders return to the same charter service year after year. Charters also find a campsite, mark the route to the campsite and transport your baggage from campsite to campsite.

10. What do I get with your charter?

Full charter includes transportation for you, one bike and two (2) bags from the ending town to the starting town, moving your baggage from overnight town to overnight town (campsite to campsite). You may opt for just the bus

ride or just the baggage service. We have cold drinks (non-alcoholic) in the truck along with water to fill your bottles in the morning, battery-charging station for cell phones, cameras etc, air pumps for your tires and someone around to help and give advice if you ask. NO COOLERS ON THE BUS! This is bus company policy. We stop half way or sometime around lunch time for a break and stretch. Bicycles are padded for protection during transportation on the trucks, please remove pedals and turn your handlebars before arrival.

11. Why do I need the baggage service, doesn't RAGBRAI do it for free with the wristband?

With the RAGBRAI your baggage is put on a semi and dropped in a parking lot at the next overnight town. It is up to you to find your own bags and campsite. In the past, they unloaded two semis full of bags, some people looked for more than an hour to find their bags. After that, they needed to find someplace to pitch their tent. Our group is smaller and we will have a campsite ready. We have a quiet campsite policy. Quiet camp after 9:00 PM. We do not supply alcohol. If you drink, keep it quiet and do not bother others. We have never had a problem, however if we do, the problem may be asked to leave our group and a partial refund will be made.

12. How do I find the campsite?

When you enter the overnight town, stay on the main route until you see one of our signs, and then just follow the arrows. We will give you more information about that at check in on Friday afternoon. Signs will be posted so you know what to look for.

13. What if something happens and I cannot ride?

You are expected to have your bike and your body ready for a 500-mile bike ride before you arrive. However, if something happens and you cannot ride, the RAGBRAI does use a sag wagon along the route to get you to the next overnight town. If you know you will not be able to make that day's ride,

contact the RBBC truck driver or the van driver to ride with them to the next overnight town. You must notify the drivers before 6 AM that you will need a ride. The trucks leave at 7:30 AM and the van at 5:30 AM.

14. You said “bus from ending town to starting town”?

We meet in the ending town and bus to the start so your personal vehicle will be there waiting when the ride is over. With your vehicle at the ending town, your car will be waiting. You can take your time the last day, there’s no need to hurry to catch a bus, so when you want to go – you’re on your own schedule.

15. So what is an end town, start town, pass-through, and overnight town?

The end town is located on the east side of the state along the Mississippi River and is where the ride ends; the start town is located on the west border of the state and is where the ride starts; the pass through towns are towns we pass-through on the ride and overnights are towns we camp in for the night.

16. What happens in the ending town?

The ending town is the last of everything for the week. Because it is a short day, usually about 50 miles, most people get in about noon, get something to eat, say goodbye to their old and new friends, pack their car and depart. Each ending town hosts a celebration much like the starting town with tire dipping locations. Dip your rear tire in the Missouri River and front tire in the Mississippi River. The ending town is also where our charter service meets to load the bikes and bus. We meet as close as possible to the long-term parking, which is where you will leave your vehicle for the week. To make arrangement for parking you must contact the ending town by going to the RABGRAI website then click on the end town from the route map.

17. How do I find you at the end town?

On the Friday before the ride starts we will meet at the long term parking area, unless there is a problem with camping and showers. When you arrive at long-term parking, look for our signs that will lead you to our truck. Our bright yellow club flag will be flying and we post a bright lime green sign nearby. Check in at our welcome table before you unload anything. Our greeter will have all the information and details you will need and they can answer any question you pose. You will receive more information along with your confirmation notice. If there are any changes you will be notified.

On the last day of the ride we will meet at the same location we loaded bicycles and boarded the bus. There will also be signs from the main route into town and dip site to our meet location.

18. So, how much will the charter service cost me?

Cost of full charter service for non-members is \$330, which includes bus transportation for 1 person, 1 bicycle and 2 bags from the ending town to the start town and moving baggage from camp to camp for the week. Bus service only is available for \$170 and baggage service for the week \$190. We try to keep the price as low as possible while still make some money to support bicycle education, advocacy and safety issues concerning bicyclist. All proceeds go to support cycling!

19. What happens if I sign up and cannot go with the charter?

Cancellation policy: \$25 cancellation fee will be charged for cancellations before June 30th. After June 30th and before July 10th, the cancellation fee is the cost of the bus. The baggage fee will be refunded. There is no refund for cancellation after July 10th. If you are unable to go, contact us as soon as possible. We may be able to sell your seat on the bus.

20. Now that I know all this how do I sign up?

Fill in the on-line application; we will need an application for each person. Don't delay; we have limited space, which fills up in a hurry. We limit the numbers to keep our group small and friendly. When we receive your money we will reserve a place and send you a confirmation notice with more details such as meeting time and places. You will be expected to show your wristband before we will allow you to load your bike or person. All charter registrations must be returned to us by July 10, 2016. If your request is received after July 10 and we still have seats available, you will be informed promptly; if no seats are available you will be notified and your check will be returned promptly. We do not hold seats without payment so after July 10 call or email before you do anything.

We hope this answers most of your questions about RAGBRAI and our charter service. However if you have additional questions, please contact, John Bonte at 563.242.4470 or Jonathan Fah at 563.650.2595. Also you can email rbbcragbrai@gmail.com

Just a few quick additions; Once we receive your application you will receive a confirmation and some additional information. Then in early July you will receive the final information with exact times, places, things to bring and important up-to-date information. Be sure I have a valid email address that I can read! In the mean time check out ragbrai.com for more ride information.

We will accept reservations before the lottery to save you a place; if you are not chosen in the lottery a complete refund will be made. Lottery results are available May 1