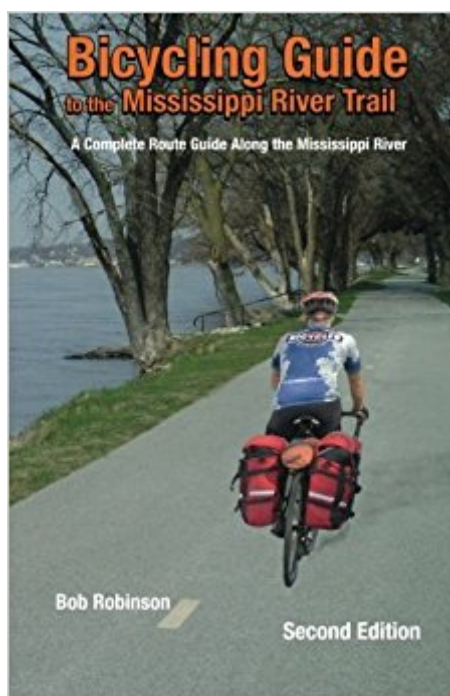


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# Bicycling Guide To The Mississippi River Trail: A Complete Route Guide Along The Mississippi River



## Synopsis

New 2nd edition, published April 29, 2013. From Itasca State Park in Minnesota, to the southernmost point in Louisiana, on the Gulf of Mexico, Bob Robinson guides you along the designated route of the Mississippi River Trail, turn by turn. The Mississippi River Trail follows the mighty river's 2500-mile journey across America's heartland. Whether you are planning to cycle the entire trail or looking for a weekend adventure, this guidebook includes the services, route directions, bike shops, and maps you need to plan your adventure. The narration accompanying each section of the guidebook includes points of interest and history of the area. Many of the quaint picturesque communities along the Mississippi River have long been popular destinations for travelers, and are well equipped to accommodate their needs. All services have been verified and updated in this new edition, along with over 600 additional miles of new MRT routes. So grab your bike and get prepared for the adventure of your life!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bob Robinson has been an avid cyclist for over 30 years. During this period he has raced both road and mountain bicycles, organized races for both road and mountain bicycles, built numerous mountain bicycle trails, served as cycling club president, organized bicycle tours, and worked as a committee member for the National Trails Symposium. He strongly believes in actively supporting interests that he participates in. After preparing the original version of the MRT guidebook, researching the second edition, and just touring for the fun of it, Bob has ridden the entire route on one occasion and most sections on several occasions. When asked which section of the route is his

favorite his response is always “Whatever section I am currently riding.” Bob currently lives in Fort Smith, Arkansas, within a short distance to the Ozark Mountains and the Ouachita Mountains. He is an active member of the Ozark Highlands Trail Association and the Friends of the Ouachita Trail organization. Bob looks forward to meeting cyclists, and sharing stories with them around the campfire during future rides along the Mississippi River Trail, as well as while riding on other tours.

I have ridden (supported) from Red Wing, MN to NOLA using this book, and I can't over-emphasize how valuable it was to us. There are just a handful of mistakes throughout the entire thing that we found and these could have been due to simple changes over time. You'll need another source for maps IMHO, as the included maps listed nothing off-route and any detour makes that a problem. The wealth of knowledge that Bob adds such as extra stops for scenery, historical sites and info about lodging, food and repair shops was truly invaluable. This is a phenomenal resource. My caveat is the route itself---once you are south of St Louis, you will never see the Mississippi, except when crossing it on a bridge. It is completely flanked by levees that stand 20-30ft high above you and you may be riding as far as 10 miles away from them!. North of St Louis, especially through IL, IA, WI and MN you'll get beautiful vistas of the river like you'd expect. So if you're riding for river scenery, forget the southern half of the trip, it's prettier riding E-W across Iowa, and you'll see the river just as much. That being said, we had a wonderful time. Absolute stops are the Chain of Rocks Bridge N of St Louis (old Rte 66), Trail of Tears State Park in MO, Tom Sawyer Campground in West Memphis, AR, Roy's Store Cabins in MI, Riverview (they're not kidding) RV Park in Vidalia, LA (just across river from Natchez). I'd go to each of these places again as a destination---and we'd never have found them without the book! Just a silly suggestion for the adventurous--all of the levees are topped with rough gravel roads to be used to inspect the levees, we saw pickups on them occasionally. They would be a really rugged for a 2" tire mountain bike, but with the advent of the new fat tire bikes (and a support vehicle), I bet you could have a beautiful ride. Occasionally we rode to the tops of the levee, the view was outstanding, but running with 1-1/2" tires it was impossible to ride for us. And you're not on the MRT, or sometimes not within 10 miles! To sum it up---the book is fantastic, the southern half of the trail was a serious disappointment for scenery.

After reading through this book (using it to help plan a fall ride) I think most of the text is fine but the book's layout leaves a lot to be desired. The Maps of a section are at the end instead of at the beginning which is awkward. Many times the beginning text of a section faces the map from a

previous section which is confusing. Also, in the mileage charts, the author shows the mileage to turns but doesn't seem to indicate mileage to the campgrounds along the route... so it's impossible to figure out how long your day will be without additional resources. Being familiar with some of the route this book has you take, yes the roads are crummy but that's what you get when the US has a history of not bothering to invest in roads that are safe for all legitimate road users.

Great guide

Hey, this is important! The book says turn left on 77 to get to the Dorena ferry. TURN RIGHT! If you turn left there is a whole lot of nothing. This is a great guide for the Missouri section of the Mississippi River Trail (though understand you will never actually see the river south of St. Louis), but once you get into Tennessee the directions become pretty annoying, as you are led block by block through neighborhoods (some with unmarked streets) and down long stretches of Highway 51, which is not ideal. It is not the book's fault, but there is not a really great way to get through Tennessee by bike. There are better long rides. Also, the trail in Missouri is often on state highways with no shoulders. The drivers are usually friendly enough, but I did encounter a little hostility along the way.

Lot of good information. For me this book is a starting point to plan trips with. It offers routes and alternative routes and even places that offer bike parts and repair along the way.

Helpful book. Thanks for writing it. Hope to ride the mrt this year.

I am a German cyclist. Between 2007 and 2012 I cycled more than 12,000 miles all over the USA, and believe me: This Guidebook is great work and an indispensable companion for every cyclist who wants to follow the path of the mighty river. I cycled the Mississippi River Trail twice (2009 and 2011). The video gives you a few impressions of the (southern part of the) MRT. Without Bob Robinson's book I would have missed most of the things you see in the video. The guidebook was an essential part in both tours. The meticulous step-by-step directions saved me the trouble of figuring out directions in the first place (for some thousand miles) and then constantly checking with my map whether I'm still on course or already gone astray. Just do as Bob says and enjoy the ride. Well, most of it anyway. Of course every now and then reality moves on and a once clear path is now overgrown. But that's not Bob's fault but part of the program. Anyone who doesn't like

improvising from time to time might consider setting sails for a long distance cycling tour anyway :-)

Hermann Plasa (Munich, Germany)

Good guide for cycling the Mississippi River Trail. Wish there was an app version.

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