

Big Tip Road Trip 2024



Big Tip for Rebecca



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Karen and I hopped out of bed at 3:30 am and out the door! We were headed to Louisiana for our second annual "Big Tip Road Trip"! It was 56 degrees as we left the local Circle K gas station. Official start time 4:03 am on December 17, 2024.

It was dark and damp as we headed north on I-55. Thunderstorms had passed through the Hernando area just hours earlier.

Memphis was lit up with light traffic as we rolled through. We enjoyed a beautiful view as we crossed the Memphis "M" bridge over the Mississippi River heading eastbound on I-40. The city lights along the river to our left and the huge Bass Pro Pyramid to our right.

According to the weatherman, we should ride over the top of any scattered rain remnants on our route towards Little Rock. For once, the weatherman was right!

There was light truck traffic over to Little Rock. By light, I mean only the right lane was full. Typically, both lanes are bumper to bumper semi-trucks!

The I-40 stretch between Memphis and Little Rock is some of the worst in the country for truck traffic. At the Little Rock split where you can continue west on I-40 or in our case, head south toward Dallas on I-30, truck traffic dissipates. It's very noticeable!

It was 6:51 am at our first fuel stop in Malvern, Arkansas. The temperature had slowly risen to the low 60's. The overcast skies kept the sun from shining. We enjoyed the ride and the pleasant temperatures for December!

We were riding the BMW K1600 Grand America. It's a great touring bike! Karen had on her heated shirt under her jacket to keep her warm. I had on a heated jacket liner, although I never did need to turn it on.

Our Shoei, full-face helmets, are equipped with Cardo headsets. The helmets are very quiet and allow us to talk to each other or listen to music from our phones. I can also listen to GPS commands and receive telephone calls.

As we approached Texarkana, we rode through a light sprinkle of rain for a few minutes. We hit I-49 southbound and ran into fog as we entered Louisiana. The temperature was 66 degrees. The fog lasted

almost to Shreveport before the sun came out. Just south of there, we stopped in Frierson for our second fuel stop. It was 9:40 am.

The gas station had a deli. How about a breakfast sandwich? They were all out due to a busy morning. We bought a couple of the pre-made BBQ sandwiches. They were delicious!

As we continued south on I-49 through Alexandria and on to Lafayette, the temperature quickly rose to 87 degrees and blue skies prevailed! Louisiana is a beautiful state! We really enjoyed this part of ride!

It was 200 miles to our third fuel stop in Lafayette. There, we thought about stopping at Prejeans restaurant since we had been there a few times. They have a wonderful Cajun menu! But we quickly changed our minds when we saw the parking lot was full! We'd be there forever!

We jumped on I-10 eastbound through Baton Rouge. I told Karen that Middendorf's is a great restaurant. I had eaten there before on a ride. Let's stop there!

We continued to Hammond and hit I-55 southbound to Middendorf's in Manchac. Unlike Prejeans, the parking lot was deserted! They were closed on Tuesdays!

How about Don's Seafood? We had just seen a billboard a few miles back. Our long-distance friends, Reef and Ksolo held their annual RTE there a few months ago. It must be good! So, we did a U-turn and

backtracked 10 miles to Don's Seafood in Hammond, Louisiana.

By now it was 2:30 pm, we had ridden 710 miles. We were ready for a break! Those BBQ sandwiches we had 5 hours ago had worn off!



Don's Seafood in Hammond, LA

The restaurant was empty at this time of the afternoon. Great! We had the place to ourselves!



Merry Christmas Gator

Karen and I enjoyed an appetizer of blackened gator, along with our meal of Cajun ravioli! Plus, we just had to try the white chocolate bread pudding! It was awesome!

When it was time to pay, we explained to our server, Rebecca, what we were doing. Today, long-distance motorcycle riders were riding around the country giving out big tips, thus "The Big Tip Road Trip"! She was so excited when we gave her a sticker and \$100 dollar

bill as a tip! It also made our day to gift a stranger during the holiday season!



Blackened Gator

We spent about an hour and a half at the restaurant before heading north on I-55.



Cajun Ravioli

I always like to end an Iron Butt ride with the easier (less technical or stressful) part of the route, if possible. I-55 northbound from Hammond to Hernando fits the bill! It doesn't get much easier than that!

We stopped in Brookhaven, Mississippi for our fourth gas stop. It was 7:00 pm and dark with the temperature still in the low 70's.

We did hit Jackson at 5:30 pm, Tuesday evening rush hour! Traffic was thick, but no issues! Once we made it past Canton on the north side, it was smooth sailing!

We could see the stars as we headed north. Rain had moved through earlier since the shoulder was still wet. It turned out to be a great day for a ride! We had timed the weather perfectly along our route! We stopped in Batesville for gas, at least enough to get us the 37 miles home.

In Hernando, we ended our ride at the local Circle K. Official end time was 8:21 pm for a total of 1,029 miles in 16 hours and 18 minutes. We had made great time throughout the day!

Karen and I are both amazed and appreciative of these long rides! It gives us a chance to spend time

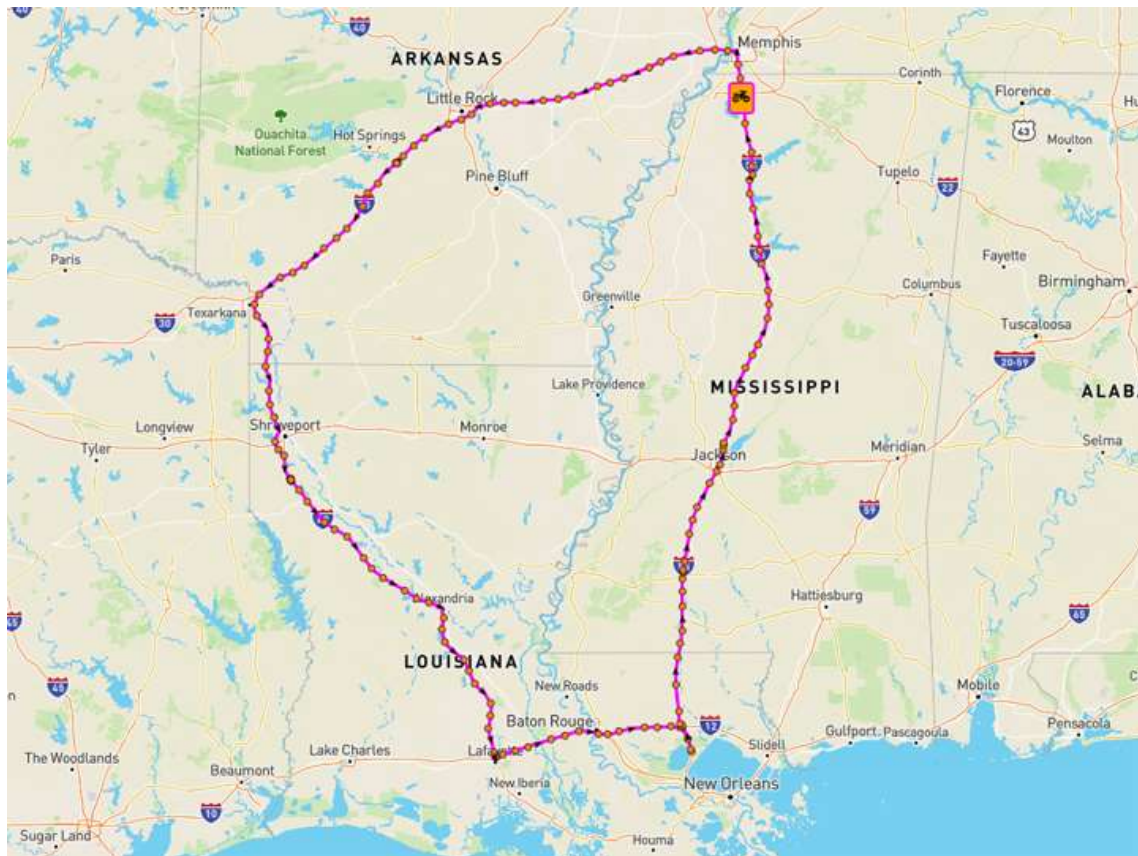
together without other daily distractions. Some couples would rather be separated and ride their own bikes. Not us, we love “our together time”!

Merry Christmas!



White Chocolate Bread Pudding

2022 BMW K1600B GA
Distance: 1,029 miles
Time: 16 hrs, 18 min.
Average Speed: 63 mph
Fuel Used: 31.148 gal
Fuel Mileage: 33 mpg
High Temperature: 87°
Low Temperature: 56°



1,029 Miles in 16 Hours, 18 Minutes