

Idaho Panhandle Tour

August 22-30, 2020

Total cost: **\$1,600 if 18-24 Paid Participants**

Total Cost: **\$1,450 if 25 or more Paid Participants**

Single supplement: **\$775** (paid at time of registration)

Deposit: **\$500** (paid at time of registration)

Final Payment: **\$1100/\$950 due by 5/20/20**

Rider limit: **30**

Tour Leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum

Tour Rating: Intermediate (Read Level of Difficulty below.)

OVERVIEW

The Idaho Panhandle Tour is a clockwise loop starting and ending in Spokane, WA. The tour starts with some wonderful riding on the paved trail network around Spokane as we head for our first night in Coeur d'Alene. The route then travels north on quiet back roads around Hayden Lake to Sandpoint, Idaho. After following Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River into Montana, the route heads southwest over Thompson and Dobson Passes to the historic mining town of Wallace, Idaho where we will spend a rest day. Included in the tour cost is a 15-mile mountain bike ride of the Trail of the Hiawatha. We will have a trail pass and hard-tail mountain bike available for all participants. This awesome ride takes us across the trestles and through the tunnels of John Hill's Great



Northern Railroad grade. The next day we follow the spectacular Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes to Harrison, ID. The following day we re-enter Washington and ride back north to Spokane. This 400-mile, 7-day tour has something for everyone, tremendous variety in scenery, mountain passes, lakes and streams, plentiful opportunities for sighting wildlife, and two beautiful paved trail systems.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: This tour is rated as Intermediate. This tour has a 63-mile daily average though two days are over 80 miles. Several days are nearly flat but one day includes two mountain passes for a total tour elevation gain of ~ 13,000'. Although the route generally traverses lightly travelled rural roads, there are occasional stretches with no shoulder and/or significant traffic.

WEATHER: Weather in the Idaho Panhandle area can be very warm in August. Nevertheless, riders should also be prepared for rain and chilly conditions. We climb a 5,800' pass which can be quite cool even in mid - August

MEALS: This tour will provide both snacks and lunch on riding days. Breakfast and dinner are your responsibility; however, some of our accommodations provide a warm breakfast.

LODGING: Quality of lodging varies from basic to traditional motel chains such as Holiday Inn Express, Best Western and La Quinta. In one place we find ourselves severely limited as to what is available. Although the rooms are quite nice, we may have to put more than 2 people in a room (not in the same bed 😊).

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 0 - Saturday, August 22

We meet the first night in Spokane near the airport and get to know each other during a brief informational meeting at 8:00PM.

DAY 1 - Sunday, August 23 – Spokane, WA to Coeur d'Alene, ID - 63 miles, ~ 2,000'

Our first day we begin the tour riding a little north along the Spokane River on one of the prettiest wooded trails in the country before heading south and then east to Spokane Falls and finally along the Centennial Trail to Coeur d'Alene.

DAY 2 – Monday, August 24 – Coeur d'Alene, ID to Sandpoint, ID - 80 miles, ~ 3,200'

We quickly work our way through Coeur d'Alene to Hayden Lake whose shores we follow for 17 miles as we nearly circumnavigate it. We then proceed northward through rolling hills to the Pend Oreille River which we follow all the way to Sandpoint, ID.

DAY 3 – Tuesday, August 25 - Sandpoint, ID to Thompson Falls, MT 84 miles, ~ 3,250'

The beautiful Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River are our constant companions today as we travel southeast along a scenic highway toward our eventual day's end in Thompson Falls, Montana. The road is dotted with interpretive signs and the landscape has you seeking waterfowl and moose throughout the day.

Day 4 - Wednesday, August 26 – Thompson Falls, MT to Wallace, ID - 56 miles, ~ 4,500'

Today we get to test our climbing legs. The 2400' climb starts gradually but ends with a little kick to reach the top of Thompson Pass at 4,800'. Once over the pass we are back in Idaho with another shorter but steep climb to the top of Dobson Pass (4,150'). The rest is a wonderful downhill into Wallace, Idaho.

DAY 5 - Thursday, August 27 – Tail of the Hiawatha and Rest Day in Wallace, ID - 13 or 26 miles ~ 1,000'

Today is a rest day but we expect everyone to exchange our road bikes for mountain bikes. A shuttle will take us to the top of Lookout Pass and where we will rent mountain bikes to ride the spectacular 15 mile Hiawatha Trail (See <http://www.ridethehiawatha.com/the-trail>). This is a ride you will treasure forever! Spend the rest of the day checking out the historic town center with several museums including a mine tour. **COST OF THE MOUNTAIN BIKE RENTAL IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR! COST OF OPTIONAL SHUTTLE BACK TO THE TOP AND LUNCH IS AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE.**

DAY 6 – Friday, August 28 - Wallace, ID to Harrison, ID – 57 miles, ~ 650'

We spend all day on the spectacular Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. We first travel through the Silver Valley, then past lakes, marshes, streams, and rolling farmlands along Lake Coeur d'Alene to Harrison. There is a very good chance that we could spot wildlife including moose.

DAY 7 – Saturday, August 29 – Harrison, ID to Spokane, WA - 73 miles, ~ 3,800'

Today we travel the last 17 miles of the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene crossing the lake on a long trestle before climbing up through woodlands to Plummer. From here we continue along quiet roads past rolling wheat fields before eventually entering Spokane and returning to our hotel. Your tour includes the cost of the hotel on Saturday night so plan to return home on Sunday, August 30th.

Detailed route maps, cue sheets and GPS files will be provided in advance to tour participants.

For further information about this tour contact: Ralph at 206713-9417 or RENussbaum@outlook.com

SEE OVERVIEW MAP ON NEXT PAGE.

2020 IDAHO LOOP TOUR

