



4 Day Eastern Washington Tour

May 18 - 22, 2017

Total cost: **\$550 (Price includes tour souvenir)**
Single supplement: **\$275** (paid at time of registration)
Deposit: **\$200** (paid at time of registration)
Final Payment: **\$350 due by February 15, 2017**
Rider limit: **38**

Tour Leaders: Ralph Nussbaum & Pam Austin

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

OVERVIEW:

Join us on the **16th** edition of this 295 or 325 mile loop which has it all - beautiful quiet roads, lush valleys, and challenging climbs up several mountain passes. It starts in Chelan and goes through the Methow Valley and over Loup Loup to Omak. The next day climbs over Wauconda Pass (or take the longer, rolling route through the Toroda Creek valley) to the tiny town of Republic. On the third day, we cruise down the Sanpoil River, over a big hill and down into Grand Coulee Dam to stay at the base of the dam. Many of us consider the ~50 miles along the Sanpoil as one of the prettiest road this state has to offer. The final day includes a climb out of the Columbia River valley, a ride across a rolling plateau, a descent of stunning McNeil Canyon and the return to Chelan. This tour is gorgeous and has been considered by many repeat participants as the necessary training ride for a summer of great riding.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

This tour is rated Intermediate/Advanced. This four-day tour has a 75-mile daily average and significant climbing every day. We climb Loup Loup and Wauconda Passes as well Manilla Creek Hill and a long hill out of Grand Coulee Dam. Please note there is no "rest day" on this tour – we will be riding four days straight (Friday thru Monday). Day 2 provides you both a short and a long option. See details below.

WEATHER:

May can be unpredictable in Eastern Washington. They are likely be warm and dry (even hot!), but you should also be prepared for both rain and cold temperatures as this tour goes through stretches at high elevation and over two high mountain passes.

LODGING/MEALS:

Lodging varies from very nice to quite basic. This tour will provide all breakfasts (three of them through the hotels we are staying at), lunch and snacks on riding days. The one remaining breakfast will be provided by the tour leaders and sags or at a restaurant. Dinners are on your own except for one group dinner that is included in the tour cost.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY: (Mileages & Elevation gains are approximate – route may vary slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.)

Thursday, May 18 – Orientation Meeting in Chelan

We **meet** the first night in Chelan at **8:00 PM** and get to know each other during a brief informational meeting. Folks may wish to get together for dinner informally beforehand.

Friday, May 19 - 85 miles – approximately 5000' elevation gain

We start off riding along the scenic Columbia River. From there we wind our way gently up the beautiful Methow Valley to the base of Loup Loup Pass. Climbing the western slope through farmland and pine forests, we get up to 4,000' and enjoy a beautiful descent down to Okanogan and Omak where we will spend the night.

Saturday, May 20 - 70 or 102 miles– approximately 4600' or 5000'elevation gain

This day allows you to choose from two options. In both routes we follow the Okanogan River up to Tonasket. From Tonasket, we will climb little known Wauconda Pass up to 4300 feet - or you can turn off the highway approximately 300' below the pass and take a longer but very scenic route through the Toroda Creek and Kettle River Valleys. The climb up Wauconda is gradual, through pines and

open meadows. Both routes bring us to the tiny town of Republic, an old mining town, where we'll stay for the night.

Sunday, May 21 - 70 miles– approximately 3200' gain

This day starts with a lovely descent down the Sanpoil River Valley, through ranches, forest lands, and the Colville Indian Reservation. It is our favorite road in all of the state of Washington. After approximately 50 miles, we have a gorgeous lunch stop right on Lake Roosevelt. After lunch we have one of our steepest but shortest climbs - up Manilla Creek Road. This road climbs through pine forests to an elevation of 3,100 feet, then plunges down to the Columbia River, affording panoramic views of the valley north of the Coulee Dam. The descent brings us shortly into the town of Coulee Dam where we will stay at one of our favorite motels at the foot of the dam.

Monday, May 22 - 70 miles – approximately 3500' elevation gain

After a steep climb out of Coulee Dam to a viewpoint above the dam we cross the high plateau where ranchlands can be seen extending for miles in all directions to the small town of Mansfield for lunch. We drop back down on McNeil Canyon Road where we can look down on Lake Chelan and the Columbia River before crossing it. We end the tour with one final climb back to Chelan. Here we'll say goodbye and each take home fun memories and the feeling of having left the workaday world behind for a few days.

For more information contact **Ralph Nussbaum** renussbaum@outlook.com or 206-713-9417 or **Pam Austin** freeandflying@live.com or 206-525-1020