



Idaho Sawtooth Mountains Tour

August 17-25, 2019

Total cost: **\$TBD if 18-24 Paid Participants**

Total Cost: **TBD if 25 or more Paid Participants**

Single supplement: **TBD** (paid at time of registration)

Deposit: **TBD** (paid at time of registration)

Final Payment: **TBD due by TBD**

Rider limit: **30**

Tour Leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum

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

OVERVIEW

This tour starts and ends in the town of Ketchum Idaho, of Sun Valley Ski Area fame. It will head east, first past the Craters of the Moon National Monument, then through ranchlands to Challis, Idaho. From there the route climbs up the Salmon River to a peaceful valley where the town of Stanley is located. We will spend several days cycling around that area and head back to Ketchum over scenic Galena Pass. **See overview route map below.**

WHAT TO EXPECT:

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

The ride is intended for riders with moderate to advanced biking skill levels or better. Everyone can ride at their own comfortable pace. We will be climbing 2,000' – 3,000' most days with one day at 4,000'. There will be a day off in Stanley at Redfish Lake Lodge with opportunities to hike, swim or boat. Although the route generally traverses lightly travelled rural roads, there are numerous stretches with no shoulder.

WEATHER:

The weather in Idaho in August is usually warm, but can be very hot, thunderstorms are possible as are days of cold rain. So, bring electrolyte replacements and rain gear!

MEALS:

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

LODGING:

Our lodging will vary from very nice Best Western and resort type lodging to mountain lodges to very basic small-town motels.

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

Day 0 - Saturday, August 17 – Orientation Meeting in Ketchum

We meet the first night at the Best Western Tyrolean in Ketchum—for an 8:00 PM briefing meeting. Folks may wish to get together for dinner informally beforehand.

Day 1 - Sunday, August 18 – Ketchum-Arco, 90 miles, 2346 ft. of climbing

We start out on the Wood River Bike Trail which will keep us off the main highway until we leave the valley. We head east through ranch land and high desert occasionally spotting outcroppings of lava until we reach the source – Craters of the Moon National Monument. After a tour of that awesome landscape, we ride to Arco for the evening. The town of Arco is most famous for the nearby nuclear reactor research site and for being the first town in the world to be totally powered by nuclear energy.

Day 2 - Monday, August 19 – Arco-Challis, 80 miles, 2900 ft. climbing

We leave Arco and head up the Big Lost River Canyon It starts out wide and gradually narrows as we climb up to Willow Creek Summit at 7150 feet. The route then descends into the Grandview Canyon, short, but definitely worth seeing. Finally, we arrive in the rather flat valley of the Salmon River.

Day 3 Tuesday, August 20 – Challis to Redfish Lake Lodge, 65 miles, 2800 ft. climbing

From Challis, we follow the Salmon River as it winds its way up into the Sawtooth Mountains. This winding river goes through much of central Idaho as well as three national forests before it dumps into the Snake

River at the Oregon border. We continue up to Stanley, a sportsman's mecca for hiking, river rafting, and hunting, to name just a few. Just a little further to the incredible Redfish Lake Lodge for our 2-night stay.

Day 4 - Wednesday, August 21 - Day off at Redfish Lake

At Redfish Lake Lodge, you can be as active or lazy as you wish on your day off. The lodge offers hiking, boat rentals, boat tours, shuttles to hiking spots, or just taking it easy on the porch of their historic lodge.

Day 5 - Thursday, August 22 – Redfish Lake-Lowman, 65 miles, 2000 ft. of climbing

From Redfish Lake Lodge, we head back to Stanley and head west climbing gradually up to Banner Summit on the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Route. As the name implies we have left the open valleys for a forested canyon that follows the Payette River as it tumbles downhill to the very small town of Lowman.

Day 6 - Friday, August 23 – Lowman-Stanley, 58 miles, 4300 ft. climbing

The good news of the day before turns into a challenge on this day as we return to Stanley over the same route. There is plenty of time to enjoy views that we whizzed past on the day before as we climb back up to Banner Summit. From the top there is a gentle descent back to Stanley where we will stay in the Salmon River valley for one more night.

Day 7 - Saturday, August 24 – Stanley-Ketchum, 62 miles, 2800 ft. climbing

On the last day we continue up the Salmon River valley until we ascend Galena Pass with its gorgeous views down onto the valley below. Then there is a quick descent back to Ketchum. We enter on the Wood River Trail which is shared with shepherders who seasonally bring their sheep up and down the valley through Ketchum. Watch for furry white obstacles on the trail! The last night in Ketchum is paid for so take it easy today and enjoy one more evening with newly made friends before heading home on Sunday, August 25.

For more information contact Ralph and Carol at: RENussbaum@outlook.com



2019 CENTRAL IDAHO TOUR

