



WASHINGTON – BC EIGHT-DAY TOUR

June 29 – July 7, 2013

Non-refundable deposit: \$240

Total cost: \$950

Single supplement: \$550

Full payment due by April 29, 2013

Rider limit: 28



Tour leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum (RNussbau@earthlink.net)

OVERVIEW:

The Washington-BC tour is a 430 mile loop, starting and ending in the mining town of Republic in Eastern Washington. This tour travels along beautiful valleys, quiet roads and along nearly unspoiled lakes. It only climbs one mountain pass, but makes up for that lack by climbing many small hills on most days.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: This tour is rated high moderate to Advanced. This eight-day tour has only a 60-mile daily average but with two days just over 90 miles long. There is one mountain pass, one big hill, and numerous small hills.

WEATHER: Early July is in all likelihood going to be warm and dry but you should also be prepared for thunderstorms (which may even include some hail) which can drop temperatures suddenly as this tour goes through stretches at high elevation.

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

LODGING: Quality of lodging varies from quite nice to quite basic. In at least two places we find ourselves limited as to what is available.

PASSPORT REQUIRED: Since we are traveling into and out of Canada a passport or enhanced driver's license is required to get back into the US. If you need one, start the process early!

Day by Day Descriptions

Day One - Republic to Kettle Falls – 93 miles, 4500 feet: This route starts out downhill to the Bridge Creek turn. From here it's a 10 mile climb over a ridge and a 20 mile downhill cruise to the Inchelium Ferry across the Columbia River in its alias as Roosevelt Lake. There is a lumpy ride back north to Kettle falls.

Day Two - Kettle Falls to Trail BC – 55 miles, 4000 feet: From Kettle Falls we head north on SR 25 along the somewhat hilly Roosevelt Lake stretch of the Columbia River. After mile 25, we cross the river at the northern end of Lake Roosevelt and climb over a short pass and descend into Trail, BC. Trail's claim to fame is a zinc mine and the number of NHL players it has produced.

Day Three – Trail, BC to Nelson, BC 50 miles, 3500 feet: This day's route travels along a quiet rolling highway lined with fir trees. There is a gradual climb from 1400 feet to 3500 feet and a descent back down to 1800 feet to Nelson which is situated along the Kootenay Lake, a tributary of the Columbia. Nelson was originally a mining and lumber town, but has grown into a sports mecca and art/urban refugee colony. This means a nice historical downtown and lots of good restaurants.

Day Four – Nelson to Kaslo – 45 miles, 4500 feet: This route follows the Hot Springs Scenic route in BC. Kootenay Lake will be on our right the entire route. The hills rise steeply on either side of the long lake and as a consequence the ride is very "lumpy." We will stop at the Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort to experience both the natural and manmade hot pools. Another 13 mile of lumpy riding will bring us to Kaslo. We will stay at the Kaslo Hotel for two nights. There is a great view of the lake, an old paddle wheel steamer to tour, several coffee shop/bakeries, and a brew pub in the hotel.

Day Six – Kaslo to Castlegar – 93 miles, 5500 feet: Leaving Kaslo on BC-31A, we encounter possibly the steepest hill on the route, but mercifully it's only 0.4 miles long. From there, the road mostly follows a winding creek and climbs gently. The descent into New Denver is steeper, and has a few sharp curves. This town is the site of a WWII Japanese Internment Camp and now memorial. After New Denver, the road, BC-6, rolls up and down along Slocan Lake with small towns - especially nice is Silverton - and many viewpoints. We try to stay off the main highway as much as possible, but some traffic could be expected here. Castlegar is the largest town we will pass through. There is even a Starbucks.

Day Seven - Castlegar to Grand Forks – 61 miles, 4500 feet: The route today goes over Bonanza Pass on Highway 3. It starts promptly out of Castlegar; the sign at the bottom says Bonanza Pass, but the sign at the top at 5,036 feet says Paulson Summit. Regardless of the name, the road grade varies from 4 to 7%, with a steep section to begin with. The descent is very pretty, gradual in some spots, and steeper in others. At one point a high bridge crosses a gorge. In the town of Christina Lake, on the right just before a bridge, is the Ice Creamery which comes highly recommended. We'll eat lunch at Lake Christina Provincial Park. We reach Grand Forks at mile 58 and go through the town center. There are several nice coffee shops and an ice cream store there as well. We are staying at the Ramada Inn (with a pool) on the west side of town

Day 8 - Grand Forks to Republic – 34 miles, 1500 feet: Our last day is also the easiest. Two miles out of town we turn south towards the US, crossing the border at Danville. From Danville we follow SR 21 along the Kettle River. We finish up at the Prospector Inn where our cars are parked.