



IDAHO PANHANDLE 7-DAY TOUR

August 16 – August 23, 2014

Non-refundable deposit: **\$225**

Total cost: **\$850 (\$925 if Trail of Hiawatha is included)**

Single supplement: **\$475**

Full payment due by May 15, 2014

Rider limit: **30**



Tour leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum (RENussbaum@outlook.com)

OVERVIEW:

The Idaho Panhandle tour is a clockwise loop starting and ending in Coeur d'Alene, ID. The route travels north on quiet back roads along 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. Most of you will want to join us on a 15 mile mountain bike ride of the Trail of the Hiawatha. 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 enter Washington and ride north to Spokane, where we pick up the Centennial trail back to Coeur d'Alene. This 375 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.

Download the [route map](#) (PDF).

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 elevation gain of approximately 12,000'. Although the route generally traverses lightly travelled rural roads, there are occasional stretches with no shoulder 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.

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, Red Lion and La Quinta. In at least two places we find ourselves limited as to what is available.

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DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Saturday, August 16: We meet the first night in Couer d'Alene and get to know each other during a brief informational meeting.

Sunday, August 17: (Day 1) – Coeur d'Alene, ID to Sandpoint, ID - 81 miles, approximately 3,000'

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

Monday, August 18 (Day 2) Sandpoint, ID to Thompson Falls, MT 84 miles, approximately 2,500'

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.

Tuesday, August 19 (Day 3) – Thompson Falls, MT to Wallace, ID - 56 miles, approximately 5,000'

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. Once over the pass we are back in Idaho with another shorter but steep climb to the top of Dobson Pass. The rest is a wonderful downhill into Wallace, Idaho.

Wednesday, August 20 (Day 4) – Rest Day in Wallace, ID

Spend the day checking out the historic town center with several museums including a mine tour, or rent mountain bikes and ride the spectacular Hiawatha Trail (See <http://www.ridethehiawatha.com/>). This is a ride you will treasure forever!

Thursday, August 21 (Day 5) - Wallace, ID to Harrison, ID – 50 miles, approximately 500’

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

Friday, August 22 (Day 6) – Harrison, ID to Spokane, WA - 65 miles, approximately 1,250’

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 farmlands before eventually entering Spokane.

Saturday, August 23 (Day 7) – Spokane, WA to Coeur d’Alene, ID - 35 miles, approximately 250’

Our final day ends by riding the Centennial Trail all the way back to our cars in Coeur d’Alene.

Information on Airport Shuttle:

Payless Airport Shuttle (Service to Coeur d’Alene, Hayden Lake, Rathdrum, Post Falls, and Athol Idaho)
12241 North Kelly Rae Drive
Hayden Lake, ID 83835-9483
208-762-7433