

Idaho Sawtooth Mountains Tour

7 Day Loop Tour (8 Nights Lodging)

August 21-29, 2021



Total cost: **\$1,925 if 18-24 Paid Participants**

Total Cost: **\$1,725 if 25 or more Paid Participants**

Single supplement: **\$900** (paid at time of registration)

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

Final Payment: **\$1425/\$1225 due by 5/21/21**

Rider limit: **30**

Tour Leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum

SAG Support: Kathleen & Mayoma

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

OVERVIEW

This 480-mile 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 less than a thousand. There will be a day off in Stanley at Redfish Lake Lodge with opportunities to hike, swim, fish 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 and cabins to very basic small-town motels. We will have rooms and cabins at Redfish Lodge with shared bathrooms.

COGS COVID-19, CANCELLATION, & EBIKES POLICIES

COVID-19 Policy:

*The safety of all participants is the responsibility of everyone. It is our intent that all participants on this tour have been vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus. Refusal to take the vaccine when available will forfeit your participation on the tour. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination at the orientation meeting on the first day of the tour. **Failure to do so will result in your exclusion from the tour and the loss of all fees paid.***

REFUND, TRANSFER AND CANCELLATION POLICY:

The COGS Tours Program is a not-for-profit activity which offers the highest quality tours at the lowest possible price. Arranging these tours requires making financial commitments well before any tour begins, and late withdrawals from tours can cause significant losses to COGS Tours. Therefore, full payment will be required no later than 90 days prior to the tour start. COGS Tours registrations **are not** transferable.

Refund and Cancellation requests must be made in writing and directed to the Registrar at: RENussbaum@outlook.com. For the full policy please go to: [COGS Refund Policy](#).

EBIKE POLICY:

We have no problem with participants using an eBike in order to enjoy the cyclo-touring experience, but we do have certain restrictions:

- a. The eBike must be a pedal assist type bike on which you must pedal to engage the motor.
- b. The eBike participant needs to be able to place the eBike on a sag vehicle when necessary without the assistance of a sag driver. If not, the eBike participant needs to have a riding partner on the tour willing and able to help with this.
- c. The eBike in question needs to have sufficient battery life to complete the longest day as listed on the tour description. We will carry extra batteries in one of the vans for that bike, but the participant must be able to make it from one sag stop to the next **without any recharge capability en route during the day**.

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

Day 0 – Saturday, August 21: 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 22: 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 23: 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 24: 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 25: 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 26: Redfish Lake-Banner Summit-Stanley, 78 miles, 4045 ft. of climbing

From Redfish Lake Lodge, we head back to Stanley and head west climbing gradually up to Banner Creek Summit on the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Route. The defined route leads downhill to a historical information overlook in order to enjoy the Ponderosa Pine forests and the tumbling beauty of the Payette River. We then return to Stanley for the night. This day can be cut short and climbing limited as the route is an out and back.

Day 6 – Friday, August 27: Stanley Exploration, 60 miles, 2,100 ft. climbing

We start the day with an easy out and back to Stanley Lake in the heart of the Sawtooth National Forest. We will then explore (and hopefully enjoy) the many hot springs for which this area is famous. We ride back in the direction of Challis on gentle downhill for about 12 miles to the roadside Sunbeam Hot Springs which pour into the Salmon River. We will spend some time to enjoy these springs, eat lunch, and return to Stanley for another night. For those who want a bit more, you can ride up to the old Yankee Fork Gold Dredge. This 18-mile roundtrip starts paved and changes to hard-pack gravel. (This out-and-back is included in the mileage above.)

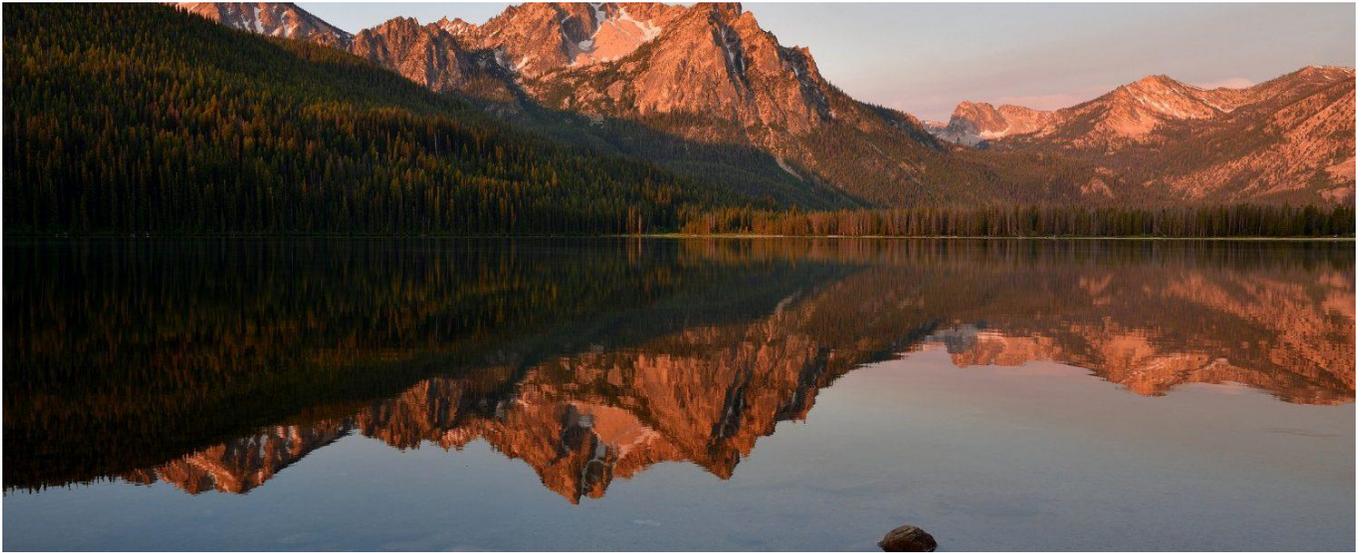
Day 7 – Saturday, August 28 – Stanley-Ketchum, 62 miles, 2800 ft. climbing

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 29.

Day 8 – Sunday, August 29 – Time to head home

Today we say good-bye to one and all and head back home, hopefully full of great memories.

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



2021 CENTRAL IDAHO TOUR

