

COGS WASHINGTON – BRITISH COLUMBIA TOUR

9 Day Tour (9 nights lodging)

July 26 - August 4, 2019

Total cost: **\$1725 if 18-24 Paid Participants**

Total Cost: **\$1525 if 25 or more Paid Participants**

Single Supplement: **\$775** (paid at time of registration)

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

Final Payment: **\$1225/\$1025 due by May 2, 2019**

Rider limit: **30**

Tour Leaders: Ralph & Carol Nussbaum

OVERVIEW:

One of our most popular tours, our Washington-BC tour is a 530-mile loop, starting and ending in Colville in Eastern Washington which is approximately 75 miles north of Spokane. This tour travels along beautiful

valleys, quiet roads and along nearly unspoiled lakes of the Kootenai Mountains. It climbs four mountain passes, and on other days climbs many small hills. The shortest day is 46



miles and the longest is 93 miles. The rest of the days are between 55-80 miles per day. Among the highlights of the tour is a half day stop in Nelson, BC which is one of the most scenic resort towns in the Kootenai region BC. We will also stop at the world-famous Ainsworth Hot Springs where we can walk into the mountain to the source of the hot spring. Our day off will be in Kaslo where we stay at a 5-star luxury hotel. We hope to again have live music to dance away the night.

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 3,000' – 4,000' most days with one day up 5,500' total gain. Although the route generally traverses lightly travelled rural roads, there are occasional stretches with no shoulder and/or significant traffic. See itinerary below for daily mileage and elevation gain.

WEATHER:

Early-August 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, some of our accommodations provide a complimentary warm breakfast.

LODGING:

Most of our lodging will be at very nice Best Western Plus style hotels. 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 a Washington enhanced driver's license is required. If you need one, start the process early!

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

Day Zero - Friday, July 26: Meet in Colville

We will meet in Colville on Friday evening for an introductory meeting. There is a twice daily shuttle from the Spokane Airport to Colville.

Day One - Saturday, July 27: Colville to Trail - 55 miles, ~3,000 feet elev. gain

The first day we travel first on quiet roads across to Roosevelt Lake and follow this dammed-up arm of the Columbia River all the way north to Trail.

Day Two - Sunday, July 28: Trail to Nelson - 51 miles, ~3,000 feet elev. gain

From Trail, we head back east and then north to Nelson. Along the way we ride through Salmo and then through Ymir to Nelson. With relatively short mileage we should have plenty of time to explore the charming historic city center or take a swim in the arm of Kootenay Lake.

Day Three - Monday, July 29: Nelson to Creston– 78 miles, ~5,000 feet elev. gain

The third day takes us south from Nelson through Ymir and Salmo again to the major climb of the tour, Kootenay Pass, the highest paved highway in British Columbia at 5,823 feet. The descent to Creston is quick and beautiful.

Day Four - Tuesday, July 30: Creston to Kaslo - 79 miles, ~4,500 feet' elev. gain

From Creston, we will ride north along another arm of Kootenay Lake to Kootenay Bay where we will take the longest free ferry in North America to Balfour and continue north on Kootenay Lake to Ainsworth Hot Springs. After exploring the caves and enjoying the hot baths, we will ride a quick finish to Kaslo.

Day Five - Wednesday, July 31: Kaslo

Day Off in Kaslo-enjoy hiking, paddling, swimming in a gorgeous lake going to a museum, shopping, or just taking it easy.

Day Six - Thursday, August 1: Kaslo to Castlegar via Christina Lake – 93 miles, ~5,500 feet elev. gain

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 - Friday, August 2: Castlegar to Grand Forks – 61 miles, ~4,500 feet elev. gain

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 there's a high bridge crosses a gorge. In the town of Christina Lake 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 Eight - Saturday, August 3: Grand Forks to Republic - 63 miles, ~3,000 feet elev. gain

After a quick across the border and a stop a Ralph's favorite coffee stand in Eastern Washington, we will climb up the verdant Kettle River and Toroda Creek Roads to the town of Wauconda (Post office, gas station, restaurant) and then climb an extra 500 feet to the top of Wauconda Pass and then make the quick descent into the mining town of Republic.

Day Nine - Sunday, August 4: Republic to Colville - 52 miles ~3,700 feet elev. gain

On this last day, we begin immediately to climb Sherman Pass, the highest highway pass in Washington State open all year long at 5,400'. It's a beautiful climb and when you reach the bottom, you are a mere 12 miles from the end of this tour. We should be back to our cars by early afternoon.

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

