

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club IDAHO PANHANDLE TOUR

- Dates:** Orientation meeting Saturday, July 29th, 2023. Riding days 7/30-8/5/2023. Departure on August 6th.
- Leaders:** Doug Moll and Ben Pope.
SAGs: Kathleen Schindler and Mayoma Pendergast
- Miles:** 400 miles with approximately 17,000 vertical feet of climbing.
- Rating:** Intermediate/Advanced
- Riders:** 30 max
- Price:** \$2,000 (double occupancy), Single Supplement \$3,000. Deposit \$500
Balance due April 28th, 2023
- Cancellation:** [Standard Cancellation policy](#). Travel insurance is recommended.



OVERVIEW

The Idaho Panhandle Tour is a HeartCycle Classic and it is back in 2023! Last visited in 2017, this Tour has been consistently ranked high on surveys asking which area of the country would people be interested in touring. It is a clockwise loop starting and ending in Spokane, WA.

This 400-mile, 7-day Tour has something for everyone; tremendous variety of scenery, mountain passes, lakes and streams, plentiful opportunities for sighting wildlife, and two beautiful paved trail systems that are the envy of many states in this country.

Bonus Events:

- Included in the cost of the Tour is a 15-mile mountain bike ride of the Trail of the Hiawatha. We will have a trail pass and mountain bike available for all participants. This amazing ride will take us across the trestles and through the tunnels of John Hill's great Northern Railroad grade.
- Co-Leader Ben Pope will be giving Maintenance for Dummies clinics on selected evenings.
 - o Using Garmin/iPhone and RideWithGPS. Roadside Maintenance: Tire Changing and Emergency repairs. Routine Maintenance,.....to name a few.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: This Tour is rated as Intermediate/Advanced. While this Tour has something for everybody....it is not for everybody. There are two 80-mile days. The Thompson and Dobson Passes are a pair of demanding climbs (long climbs, steep descents). E-bikes are very much encouraged for those who want to enjoy this spectacular Tour but who would prefer a boost on those high mileage days or on the climbs. Be prepared to practice smiling before you start this Tour because you will be doing a lot of it, during it!

The reality of most Tours is that there will be sections on routes where the shoulders are lacking. This Tour is no different. Although the routes generally traverse lightly traveled rural roads, you will need to be comfortable riding on some busy highways periodically, with minimal shoulders.

ITINERARY

DAY 0 – Saturday, July 29th, 2023

We will gather the first night in Spokane near the airport at Sleep Inn and get to know each other during our informational meeting. For those of you who have not been to downtown Spokane, you're in for a treat.

DAY 1 – Sunday, July 30th 46 miles, approximately 1500'

Spokane, WA to Coeur d'Alene (CDA) ID – Our first day of the tour we make our way from the hotel to the Centennial Trail and follow this trail along the Spokane river to CDA. The day starts with some easy riding on the paved Centennial trail between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene (CDA). Passing through Spokane, following along the river will be a great warm-up for the next day's climbing. Hotel: Holiday inn Express

DAY 2 – Monday, July 31st 80 Miles, Approximately 3,200'

Coeur d'Arlene, ID to Sandpoint, ID – We quickly work our way through CDA to Hayden Lake whose shores we follow for 17 miles as we nearly circumnavigate it. Rolling and quiet roads follow the lakeshore of Hayden Lake and then we're off to Sandpoint, Idaho. Downtown is a 'must visit' area of cute shops. All within walking distance from the hotel: Cedar Street Hotel.

DAY 3 – Tuesday, August 1st -

Sandpoint, ID to Thompson Falls, MT – 84 Miles, Approximately 3,250'

The beautiful Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River are our constant companions today as we travel southwest along a scenic highway toward our eventual days end in Thompson Falls, MT. The river view from the motel is wonderful. The turquoise toilets and vanity in the bathrooms are.... memorable : Rimrock Lodge

DAY 4 – Wednesday, August 2nd 56 Miles, Approximately 4500'

Thompson Falls, MT to Wallace, ID Today we get to test our climbing legs. The 2,400' climb starts gradually but ends with a kick to reach the top of Thompson Pass at 4,800'. Once over the pass we are back in Idaho with another shorter but steep climb to the top of Dobson Pass (4,150). The rest is a wonderful downhill into Wallace, Idaho: a historic mining town where we'll spend a rest day. The town is funky; the food is great; the beer is refreshing! You will also have the unique and unforgettable opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of Wallace. He is on loan to the Wallace Inn and is a treasure trove of information!

DAY 5 – Thursday, August 3rd

Rest day or Bonus day: Trail of the Hiawatha (<http://www.ridethehiawatha.com/the-trail>)

Today we exchange our road bikes for mountain bikes; and we will ride the Hiawatha Trail. A shuttle will take us to the top of Lookout Pass and we then get to ride the spectacular Hiawatha Trail. This is a ride you will treasure forever! Spend the rest of the day checking out the historic town center. Enjoy a second night at the Wallace Inn.

DAY 6- Friday, August 4th 57 Miles,
Approximately 650'

Wallace, ID to Harrison ID – We spend all day on the spectacular Trail of the Coeur d'Alene. We first travel through the Silver Valley, then past lakes, marshes, streams and rolling farmlands along Lake Coeur d'Alene to Harrison. The moose in the photo was taken during our scouting trip on this trail and Yes...we were that close to him! Stopping for lunch at the oldest building in Idaho before heading on to Harrison: Idaho Lakeview Lodge and additional lodging.



DAY 7 – Saturday, August 5th 73 Miles, Approximately 3800'

Harrison, ID to Spokane, WA – 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 wheat fields before eventually entering Spokane and returning to our hotel. Your tour includes the cost of the hotel: Sleep Inn on Saturday night so plan to return home on Sunday, August 6th.

Detailed route maps, cue sheets and GPS files will be provided in advance to tour participants.

For further information about this tour contact
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