

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club Tour de Sawtooth, Idaho 2021

- Dates:** Orientation meeting on Sunday, June 20, 2021. Riding Monday, June 21, 2021, through Sunday, June 27, 2021, with one day off. Departure on June 28, 2021. Included in the tour price is lodging on June 27, 2021.
- Leaders:** Fred Yu and Joan Spilka. **SAGs:** Melissa Collins and Cindy Alvarez.
- Rating:** Advanced, Miles ~405 and ~17,000 vertical feet of climbing
- Riders:** 26
- Price:** \$1,550 (double occupancy) \$200 at registration. Balance due by March 19, 2021. Single supplement: \$2,325.
- Cancellation:** Revised [cancellation policy](#) \$75 fee. Travel insurance recommended.



Overview

Ketchum, Idaho (home of Sun Valley), is the start and finish of this 8-day odyssey through exceptional scenery in the rugged heart of central Idaho. Every mile is on a designated scenic byway. After leaving Ketchum the first day, we will crest Galena Summit (2652m/8701'), one of the highest paved roads in Idaho. We then pick up the headwaters of the Salmon River ("River of No Return") and follow it for 3 days as it grows into a major waterway. Aside from the first and last nights in Ketchum, and a night at the Redfish Lake Lodge on beautiful Redfish Lake in the heart of the Sawtooth Range, we stay in small, picturesque mountain towns. Besides copious and varied mountain scenery, the tour will pass the otherworldly volcanic vistas of Craters of the Moon National Monument and western ranch country on a circuit back to Ketchum.

Detailed GPX files (Ride with GPS) will be provided in advance to tour participants.

Weather in central Idaho in late June should be warm and clear with long days and twilights; cool, but not cold nights. The climate is generally dry. But, as with all rides in the Rocky Mountains, bring rain gear and be prepared for rapid changes of weather.

Tour participants should plan to arrive no later than Sunday afternoon, June 20. Should you wish to arrive in Ketchum earlier to acclimate and/or stay later to enjoy other activities in this world-famous resort town, the hotel will honor the group rate for those registering before May 20, 2021. Ketchum has many bike shops, outdoor shops, and restaurants.

Ketchum is accessible by air to Boise, or Hailey, Idaho. Airport shuttles operate from both Boise and Hailey or a taxi from Hailey is possible.



Intinerary

Sunday, June 20, 2021: Orientation meeting.

Monday, June 21: Ketchum to Redfish Lake. 59 miles, 3450' of elevation.

A 3000' climb of Galena Summit is the main work of the morning on Day 1. The climb begins gradually but stiffens at the end of the valley as the pass approaches. Stunning views alleviate the effort of the climb. A long descent from the summit of the climb takes us past gorgeous views of the Sawtooth Range. We finish with a short, but gradual climb from the main highway to Redfish Lake. Group dinner this evening at the Redfish Lake Lodge.

Tuesday, June 22: Redfish Lake to Challis; 64 miles, 1479'.

Today is mostly downhill, as the road follows the valley carved by the Salmon River.

Wednesday, June 23: Challis to Salmon: 59 miles, 1290'.
Another day of “mostly downhill” with views of the river and dramatic roadside geology.

Thursday: June 24: Rest day.
Salmon offers rafting, fishing, mountain biking, and other leisure activities for a day off.

Friday: June 25: Salmon to Challis: 59 miles, 2523'.
We head back upstream to Challis, but the scenery looks different coming up the valley than it did earlier and, of course, we've got a bit more climbing. The café next to the motel offers good ice cream, so soldier on.

Saturday, June 26: Challis to Arco: 81 miles 2684'.
A longer day in the saddle, but one that offers sweeping views of the Lost River Range as we climb out of the Salmon River drainage over Willow Creek Summit (2183 m, 7161'). Borah Peak, the highest peak in Idaho at 12,662' 3859 m), is on your left for the fast descent into the Big Lost River drainage. Arco, our destination, was, in 1955, the world's first nuclear-powered city.

Sunday, June 27: Arco to Ketchum: 84 miles, 2408'.
Back to Ketchum, passing by Craters of the Moon National Monument and its unique scenery of lava fields and cinder domes. Stop at the Visitors Center. For the energetic, you can bring your National Parks Pass and pedal the scenic circuit inside the Monument (on your own). After Picabo, we take a back road into Gannett and then link to the Wood River bike trail in Bellevue, which delivers us back to our hotel, away from the main traffic in the valley. Last day includes hotel with departure Monday morning June 28th.



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