

BYOH DIY ULTRALIGHT HORSEBACK TREK

AUGUST 29TH -SEPTEMBER 3RD

OPEN TO 4 RIDERS @ \$2700 PER RIDER



THIS IS AN AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE. WE ARE GOING TO RACK UP THE MILES, THE MEMORIES, AND THE MAGIC OF THE WILDERNESS AS WE TREK THROUGH OUR LITTLE CORNER OF "THE BOB". THIS PACK TRIP WILL RUN THE GAMUT FROM AWE INSPIRING VISTAS TO DOG-TIRED EVENINGS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE. IT'S A FULL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE. WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AND TRAIPISE AROUND IN THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME.

YOU WILL MEET UP WITH THE PACKERS AND MULE STRING AT MEADOW CREEK TRAILHEAD ON THE SPOTTED BEAR RANGER DISTRICT. THIS IS OUR GATEWAY TO THE WILDERNESS. MEADOW CREEK TRAILHEAD IS OPEN TO CAMPING AND SET UP NICELY FOR HORSE PARTIES. THE FOREST SERVICE MAINTAINS FEED BUNKS, HITCHRAILS, FIRE RINGS, FOOD STORAGE BOXES AND PIT TOILETS FOR PUBLIC USE. THERE IS NO EASY ACCESS TO WATER AT MEADOW CREEK TRAILHEAD. SITES ARE FREE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. THERE ARE OTHER DISPERSED CAMPING OPTIONS IN THE AREA AS WELL.

AUG 29- AFTER LOADING THE MULES WITH EVERYONE'S GEAR, WE WILL HEAD DOWN THE TRAIL TO OUR FIRST CAMP. WE WILL FOLLOW THE MAIN LINE TRAIL ALONG THE SOUTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER (TRAIL #80 EAST SIDE TRAIL). THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS BRIDGES AND CREEKS TO CROSS ALONG THE WAY. THE TRAIL WILL TRAVEL THROUGH A 2015 BURN SCAR FOR MOST OF THE DAY. THE OPENING UP OF THE TREES MAKES VIEWS OF THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS POSSIBLE. AFTER

ABOUT 15 MILES IN THE SADDLE, WE WILL CROSS THE RIVER AND CAMP ON THE SHORELINE TUCKED IN A LITTLE POCKET OF GREEN TIMBER. EVERYONE WILL PITCH TENTS AND GET THEIR WELL DESERVING STEEDS SETTLED IN FOR THE EVENING WITH A PILE OF HAY. THE MULES WILL CAMP ON THE OPPOSITE BANK.

AUG 30- WE WILL BREAK CAMP AND HEAD FURTHER UP RIVER. RATHER THAN CROSS BACK OVER, WE WILL TRAVEL ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER FOR A FEW MILES. WITHIN A COUPLE HOURS, WE WILL HIT THE TURN OFF FOR BIG SALMON LAKE. THE TRAIL WILL TRAVEL ALONGSIDE THE LAKE FOR ALMOST 4 MILES! THERE IS AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF TREES TO TIE TO AND A NICE LITTLE AREA FOR LUNCH AT THE HEAD OF THE LAKE. WE WILL CONTINUE UP PAST THE LAKE, FOLLOWING THE CREEK TO A CAMPSITE IN THE TREES. PERHAPS A FEW LESS MILES TODAY, BUT WE WILL HAVE GAINED SOME ELEVATION ALONG THE WAY.



AUG 31- WE CLIMB HIGHER TODAY! WE WILL MAKE OUR WAY INTO OLDER BIGGER TIMBER AND THE LANDSCAPE WILL BECOME WETTER WITH PRETTY MOSSES AND FLOWERS POPPING UP ALONG THE TRAIL. THIS CHANGE IN ELEVATION ALSO MEANS WE WILL PASS BY A FEW WATERFALLS AND RAPIDS IN BIG SALMON CREEK. A SIDE TRIP TO LENA LAKE WILL ONLY ADD AN ADDITIONAL 3 MILES OUT AND BACK, WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT AND A GREAT PLACE TO LET THE HORSES TAKE A BREATH. FROM THERE IT'S JUST A COUPLE HOURS TO THE AREA OF THE SHAW CREEK CABIN. EVERYONE CAN SCOUT OUT A GOOD-LOOKING TENT SITE AND SETTLE IN FOR THE EVENING. THE MULES WILL RETURN ½ MILE BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM FOR NIGHTTIME GRAZING.

SEPT 1- BY NOW YOU ARE IN THE ROUTINE, BREAKING CAMP AND SADDLING UP AND AWAY WE GO. WE WILL POP BACK ONTO A MAIN LINE TRAIL TODAY. THE ROUTE FOLLOWS THE GORDON CREEK DRAINAGE ALL THE WAY BACK DOWN TO SOUTHFORK NEAR THE HISTORIC BIG PRAIRIE RANGER STATION. THIS WILL BE OUR DESTINATION TODAY. THE TRAIL IS A STEADY DESCENT HUGGING THE TERRAIN AND OFFERING VIEWS DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE VALLEY. AS WE APPROACH THE SOUTHFORK, THE DRAINAGE OPENS TO GRAVEL WASHES AND WILDLIFE ABOUNDS. AFTER ABOUT 13 MILES WE WILL REACH THE RIVER. THERE ARE NUMEROUS CAMPING SPOTS ALONG THE RIVER AND REAL ESTATE DECISIONS WILL NEED TO BE MADE.

SEPT 2- on our way out of "TOWN", Be sure to swing in and check out the ranger station, IT'S pretty neat! Traveling today is relatively easy, WITH LITTLE elevation gain and good mainline trail. IT WILL BE OUR LONGEST DAY YET AND JUST OVER 20 MILES. We WILL meander through old growth ponderosa stands and pretty meadows just begging to be snacked on. Views of the river pop up throughout the day. This is a smooth cruising stretch of trail ending with a nice camp that we call home. For this last night we will be welcomed "HOME" by a camp host preparing a campfire feast. Supper is on us!

SEPT 3- A lazy sleep-in morning, well deserved. Again, the camp host will serve hot coffee and breakfast before we make the last push out. Today's ride will be a repeat of the first day's journey. The ride will fly by, just 10 miles to cover today before we are back at Meadow Creek Trailhead.



Our lodge is situated about 12 miles from the trailhead. We can offer hot showers and cold beverages before either traveling back to town or camping for the night. Or perhaps you'd like to book a cabin and corral for the evening!

Please contact Lauren by email (info@spottedbear.com) if you wish to reserve your spot on this trip. She can get you squared away with booking and deposits. Questions pertaining to the trip itself can be sent to Abbie (horseback.spottedbear@gmail.com)





