



## Summer Solstice Wilderness Traverse

June 17-25, 2024

\$6700 per rider, only 4 rider spots available

Join us for a bucket list type experience as we traverse the Bob Marshall Wilderness during some of the longest daylight hours of the season. In celebration of the first days of summer we are putting together an all-inclusive horseback adventure not to be missed. We will spend 8 days on the trail, working our way northward along the lifeline of the Bob Marshall, the Southfork of the Flathead River. During these first few days of summer, you can expect cool days, new greenery everywhere you look, icy cold creeks gushing with runoff and long, long hours of daylight for exploring.

**June 17-** Riders will meet up with shuttle rigs in Columbia Falls. You and all your personal gear will be shuttled to the North Fork of the Blackfoot trailhead just outside the little town of Ovando. It will be about a 3-hour drive, and we'll get an early start. After everyone is saddled up and the gear is loaded onto the mules, we will be off on the first leg of our journey. Today's ride will be a long one! We will cover about 19 miles. We will skirt through the rugged and raw Scapegoat Wilderness and on into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. There will be plenty of opportunities to stop and stretch legs and let the horses rest and grab a bite of grass. Our goal is to reach the edge of Danaher Meadows before nightfall. All told we should have our fannies in the saddle for about 7-8 hours.

**June 18-** A rest day. After such a long trek the day before we will take a day to relax and recuperate. Danaher Meadows is a neat place to explore with plenty of grazing for the horses. The area was once homesteaded and relics from a bygone era can still be found today. This is also a good area to find wildlife out foraging for fresh spring plants and shed antlers from the winter before. A short excursion from camp is possible after a lazy sleep-in morning.

**June 19-** Today we will break camp and head towards the Basin Area. The trail will meander through damp forests and open meadows, a relatively easy stroll. We have about 10 miles to cover today. Again, there will be water crossings and perhaps some muddy areas to navigate, it is still springtime here in the wilderness! Our camp will be situated near the base of Jumbo Mountain.







**June 20-** Again, we break camp and continue to travel north. We will make it to the historic Big Prairie Ranger Station today. Danaher Creek and Youngs Creek will merge to form the Southfork River. Today's ride will include more water crossings and some side hills. With any luck Danaher Creek will be running bright and clear! After about 10 miles, we will camp on the banks of the Southfork River.

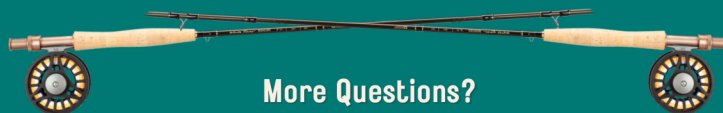
**June 21-** A layover day. Sleep in and enjoy the peace and quiet of the wilderness. Spend the day exploring the Big Prairie Ranger Station, perhaps talk the station crew into a guided tour. Or pull out the fishing rod and explore the river. This is a great camp to let the horses fill up on fresh green grass.

**June 22-** Breaking camp and heading north! We will watch the meadows give way to forests and open burn scars as we follow the river towards the Salmon Fork junction. We will make our way through towering old growth Ponderosa stands. After 13 miles we will drop down into the Salmon Forks area and pitch our tents on the banks of the river near a little sheltered meadow.

**June 23-** Down with the camp again and onward to Black Bear Cabin. The 9 miles we cover today will snake in and out of old burn scars and the remains of once towering old growth larch trees. As per the usual, creek crossings that are swift and high. Our camp will be just a mile or so past the historic Black Bear cabin, we can swing in and check out the cabin and associated airstrip. Our camp tonight is in the trees, again on the banks of the river.

**June 24-** Our last day on the trail finds us cruising the mainline Southfork trail out to Meadow Creek trailhead. The trip is about 10 miles and travels through an area that was heavily burned in 2015. The clearing away of trees lends itself to pretty, open views of the surrounding mountains. Everyone is put up in a rustic cabin with hot running water for the night. Our lodge chef will make sure everyone is fed before some much-needed shut eye in a real bed!

**June 25-** Coffee and breakfast at the lodge. Shuttle will take you back to town.



More Questions?

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