

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Cycle the Divide-Montana Tour Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
6/27/20		N/A	Whitefish
6/28/20		N/A	Whitefish to Bigfork
6/29/20	Flathead, Swan Lake RD	N/A	Bigfork to Condon
6/30/20	Flathead, SLRD/Lolo, SLRD	N/A	Condon to Seeley Lake
7/1/20		N/A	Layover Day in Seeley
7/2/20	Lolo, SLRD/Helena, LRD	N/A	Seeley Lake to Lincoln
7/3/20	Helena, LRD	N/A	Lincoln to Stemple Pass to Lincoln
			4 Days X 50 Riders = 200 service days FNF = 100 days LNF = 50 days HNF = 50 days

*Green indicates use of NFS roads/Trails with camping on NFS lands

*Orange indicates use of NFS roads/trails with overnight on private/other land ownership

*White indicates no NFS use all day

[Cycle the Divide - Montana](#) Fully Supported | June 27, 2020 - Jul 3, 2020 | 50 riders

Flathead, Lolo, & Helena National Forests

Day 1

Whitefish, 0 miles. We'll meet up with the tour leaders and fellow group members for our first map meeting, our first dinner together, and our first night of camping under the big sky of Montana. If time permits before the tour begins — or after it's over, when you'll be in even better shape — you may want to tackle the glorious Going-to-the-Sun Road in nearby Glacier National Park, an iconic American ride. Also nearby is Whitefish Mountain Resort, a popular winter ski destination and home to some super-fun mountain bike trails.

Day 2

Whitefish to Bigfork, 44 miles. Today we'll ease into things along a route that winds through the most civilized countryside we'll visit during our weeklong ride. The network of rural valley byways links the resort town of Whitefish with the small artistic community of Bigfork, nestled at the mouth of the Swan River on the northeastern shores of massive Flathead Lake. Most of the ride is paved and relatively flat, but there are a few gravel sections. Our overnight camping will be hosted by Bigfork Elementary School.

Day 3

Bigfork to Condon, 62 miles. Today we leave the agrarian countryside behind and ascend what the Great Divide is known for: mountains! Riding from Bigfork to Condon, most of the day will be spent on Forest Service dirt roads, with plenty of climbing and descending. The first climb, at six miles, is the longest, but it is followed by an unforgettable downhill. Our path follows a series of rolling, primitive dirt roads squeezed between the base of the stunning Mission Mountains and State Highway 83. We'll enjoy some fantastic views of the Swan Range to the east before reaching our overnight camping destination.

Day 4

Condon to Seeley Lake, 44 miles. Today's adventure starts out with seven miles of pavement; after that it's all dirt roads with a short section of singletrack thrown in for good measure. About halfway into the ride, there's the option of stashing your bike in the woods and hiking a half mile to hidden Clearwater Lake, a sparkling gem that's perfect for a bracing dip. From the day's high point, get ready for a memorable downhill along Morrell Creek, followed by some rolling terrain into lively Seeley Lake where overnight camping is at the Seeley Lake Motor Lodge.

Day 5

Seeley Lake, 0 miles. Layover day. This small Montana town tucked into the banks of sparkling Seeley Lake is a perfect place for golfing, canoeing on the Clearwater River or Seeley Lake, hanging out on the beach, walking around town, riding the snow-free paths of the Seeley Creek Nordic Trails, or hiking the Morrell Falls National Historic Trail. Did we mention the outstanding ice cream scooped up at the ever-popular Stage Station? We'll camp for a second night at the Seeley Lake Motor Lodge.

Day 6

Seeley Lake to Lincoln, 67 miles. Today's ride takes us along rolling Forest Service roads and includes a lunch stop along the Blackfoot River near the tiny hamlet of Ovando. You'll skirt Monture Creek, originally named Seaman Creek by William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition, after his Newfoundland dog, Seaman. After cresting scenic Huckleberry Pass, we'll enjoy a great downhill and a nice cruise into the town of Lincoln, named for the President by gold seekers who rushed into the area during the 1860s. Overnight camping will be at the Lincoln School.

Day 7

Lincoln to the Continental Divide and back, 35 miles. Today's ride will take us up to the Continental Divide via Poorman Creek at 6,376-foot Stemple Pass. After enjoying the incredible views and the accomplishment of the climb, we'll complete a clockwise loop and descend back to Lincoln along the South Fork of Poorman Creek before rejoining the main Poorman Creek Road. Our Whitefish-bound shuttle will depart at 2:00 p.m. from Lincoln, arriving at our point of origin at approximately 6:00 p.m. Take our word for it: this 250-mile sampler of the world's longest off-pavement cycling route will leave you craving more. And since you've bagged only 10 percent of it, there's much more to be ridden!

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Great Divide Canada I Tour Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
7/16/20	Kootenai FRD	Graves Creek CG	Baines Lake to Grave Creek
7/17/20	Kootenai FRD/Flathead GVRD	N/A	Grave Creek CG to Polebridge
7/18/20	Flathead GVRD & TLRD	N/A	Polebridge to Whitefish
			3 Days x 14 Riders = 42 service days KNF = 14 days FNF = 28 days

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*White indicates no NFS use all day

Great Divide Canada I | Self Contained | Jul 08, 2020 - Jul 18, 2020 | 14 riders

Kootenai & Flathead National Forests

Day 9

Baynes Lake to Grave Creek, 46 miles. Today's ride will take us through less mountainous countryside, via a series of low-traffic gravel and paved roads winding through the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa, or Kootenay, First Nations People. We'll earn a memorable view of Lake Kooconusa, an immense body of water shared by Canada and the U.S. After crossing the international border at Roosville, Montana, we'll continue on through the town of Eureka, where we'll briefly share a paved section with the Northern Tier Route before making the short ascent on gravel to our campsite for the night on Grave Creek.

Day 10

Grave Creek to Polebridge, 47 miles. We'll start the morning with a gradual climb up and over the Whitefish Divide, after which we'll be rewarded with stunning views of nearby Glacier National Park and a beautiful descent into the valley of the North Fork of the Flathead River. We'll overnight in the eclectic town of Polebridge, located just outside the western border of Glacier National Park.

Day 11

Polebridge to Whitefish, 47 miles. If timing permits, perhaps you'll want to grab a huckleberry bear claw at the historic Polebridge Mercantile before hitting the trail. We'll start our last day's ride with a climb back into the Whitefish Range and over Red Meadow Pass, zipping past a series of scenic backcountry lakes. Then comes our ultimate reward: a big descent down to Whitefish Lake and into the town itself. After this long and unforgettable ride, you may want to stop and celebrate at the centrally located Great Northern Brewery and perhaps take a few days to explore Glacier National Park before heading home.

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Great Divide Canada II Tour Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
7/19/20	Kootenai FRD	Graves Creek CG	Baines Lake to Grave Creek
7/20/20	Kootenai FRD/Flathead GVRD	N/A	Grave Creek CG to Polebridge
7/21/20	Flathead GVRD & TLRD	N/A	Polebridge to Whitefish
			3 Days x 14 Riders = 42 service days KNF = 14 days FNF = 28 days

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[Great Divide Canada II](#) - Self Contained | Jul 11, 2020 - Jul 21, 2020 | 14 riders

Kootenai & Flathead National Forests

Day 9

Baynes Lake to Grave Creek, 46 miles. Today's ride will take us through less mountainous countryside, via a series of low-traffic gravel and paved roads winding through the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa, or Kootenay, First Nations People. We'll earn a memorable view of Lake Koocanusa, an immense body of water shared by Canada and the U.S. After crossing the international border at Roosville, Montana, we'll continue on through the town of Eureka, where we'll briefly share a paved section with the Northern Tier Route before making the short ascent on gravel to our campsite for the night on Grave Creek.

Day 10

Grave Creek to Polebridge, 47 miles. We'll start the morning with a gradual climb up and over the Whitefish Divide, after which we'll be rewarded with stunning views of nearby Glacier National Park and a beautiful descent into the valley of the North Fork of the Flathead River. We'll overnight in the eclectic town of Polebridge, located just outside the western border of Glacier National Park.

Day 11

Polebridge to Whitefish, 47 miles. If timing permits, perhaps you'll want to grab a huckleberry bear claw at the historic Polebridge Mercantile before hitting the trail. We'll start our last day's ride with a climb back into the Whitefish Range and over Red Meadow Pass, zipping past a series of scenic backcountry lakes. Then comes our ultimate reward: a big descent down to Whitefish Lake and into the town itself. After this long and unforgettable ride, you may want to stop and celebrate at the centrally located Great Northern Brewery and perhaps take a few days to explore Glacier National Park before heading home.

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Great Parks North Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
7/13/2020	Flathead - Swan Lake RD	N/A	Missoula to Seeley Lake
7/14/20	Flathead - Swan Lake RD	N/A	Seeley Lake to Swan Lake
7/15/20	Flathead - Swan Lake RD & Glacier View RD	N/A	Swan Lake to Apgar
7/16/20	N/A	N/A	Apgar to St. Mary
7/17/20	N/A	N/A	St. Mary to Waterton
			3 Days x 10 Riders = 30 service days FNF

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*White indicates no NFS use all day

[Great Parks North](#) | Self Contained | July 11, 2020 - Jul 30, 2020 | 10 riders

Flathead National Forest

Day 3

Missoula to Seeley Lake, 60 miles. Today's ride takes us along the Big Blackfoot River, made famous in Norman Maclean's coming-of-age novella *A River Runs Through It*. At Clearwater Junction we'll veer north onto State Route 83 and zip past lovely Salmon Lake before reaching Seeley Lake, which is both the name of the town and the lake the community sits alongside.

Day 4

Seeley Lake to Swan Lake, 57 miles. As we continue northbound through the Seeley-Swan Valley, the heavy forest cover of species like western larch and Douglas fir will open occasionally, allowing glimpses of the lofty Swan Range to the east and the mighty Mission Mountains to the west. This road makes up much of the route of the annual Tour of the Swan River Valley (TOSRV West), a two-day ride whose popularity you will understand after experiencing the route yourself.

Day 5

Swan Lake to Apgar, 60 miles. Today we'll visit Bigfork, a picturesque place sitting at the mouth of the Swan River on the northwest shore of Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the U.S. west of the Mississippi. We'll also hit Columbia Falls and Hungry Horse before entering Glacier National Park at West Glacier and proceeding to our overnight destination, Apgar Campground. It's located at the lower end of marvelous Lake McDonald, whose still waters reflect images of the snow-clad peaks rising above its upper, northern end. There are definitely no fast food restaurants situated along the shore of Lake McDonald — so if you're craving a Big Mac, you'll have to whip up your own tonight.

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Glacier Waterton Inn to Inn Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
7/20/20	FNF- HHRD, GVRD	N/A	Apgar to Whitefish
			1 Days x 13 Riders = 13 service days FNF

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[Glacier Waterton](#) | Inn to Inn | July 11, 2020 – July 20, 2020 | 13 riders Flathead National Forest

Day 10

Apgar to Whitefish, 30 miles. The tour ends back in Whitefish after an easy ride. It includes four miles of the unpaved Blankenship Road, which we take in order to avoid busy U.S. Highway 2 between Hungry Horse and Columbia Falls. At the end of the day, we'll hold a celebration feast and toast to a ride well done!

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Epic Great Divide Tour Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
7/21/20	Kootenai FRD/Flathead GVRD	Tuchuck USFS CG	Roosville to Tuchuck USFS CG
7/22/20	Flathead GVRD	N/A	Tuchuck NFC to Whitefish Lake State Park
7/23/20	N/A	N/A	Whitefish to Bigfork
7/24/20	Flathead SLRD	N/A	Bigfork to Cedar Creek Campground
7/25/20	Flathead SLRD	Holland Lake USFS CG	Cedar Creek CG to Holland Lake USFS CG
7/26/20	Flathead SLRD; Lolo NF Seeley RD	N/A	Holland Lake USFS to Seeley Lake
7/27/20	N/A	N/A	Rest day Seeley Lake
7/28/20	Lolo NF Seeley RD	Big Nelson USFS CG	Seeley Lake to Big Nelson USFS CG
7/29/20	Lolo NF Seeley RD; Helena-L&C NF	N/A	Big Nelson CG to Canyon Creek, MT
7/30/20	Helena-L&C NF	N/A	Canyon Creek, MT to Helena
7/31/20	Helena-L&C NF	N/A	Helena, MT to Basin
8/1/20	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	N/A	Basin to Butte KOA
8/2/20	N/A	N/A	Rest day in Butte
8/3/20	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Butte RD	Beaver Dam USFS CG	Butte KOA to Beaver Dam USFS CG
8/4/20	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Wise River RD	Little Joe USFS CG	Beaver Dam CG to Little Joe USFS CG
8/5/20	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Wise River & Dillon RD	N/A	Little Joe USFS CG to Bannack SP
8/6/20	Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Dillon RD	Morrison Lake CG	Bannack SP to Morrison Lake CG
8/7/20	N/A	N/A	Morrison Lake to Lima MT
			14 Days x 13 Riders = 182 service days 13 days=KNF 39 days = FNF 39 days = LNF 26 dals = HLCNF 65 days = BDNF

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[Epic Great Divide Van Supported](#) | Jul 19, 2020 - Sept 21, 2020 | 13 riders

Kootenai, Flathead, Lolo, Helena-Lewis & Clark, & Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forests

Week 1

Eureka to Seeley Lake, Montana (shuttle to Eureka from Whitefish, Montana). We'll meet up in Whitefish, Montana, one of the most civilized places along the largely uncivilized Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. There we'll begin getting acquainted with our fellow group members and leaders, learn the ins and outs of the daily routine, and take a shakedown ride or two to ensure that everyone's bike and gear is in good order. On Day 2, we'll be shuttled to the U.S./Canada border at Roosville, where we'll begin our long trip southward. This week's ride will take us through the valley of the North Fork of the Flathead River, which creates the western border of Glacier National Park; back through Whitefish, where we'll enjoy one more night at the Whitefish Bike Retreat; and, finally, to picturesque Bigfork, perched at the mouth of the Swan River on the shore of immense Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Having eased into things, we'll really hit the mountains. Outside Bigfork we'll enter the Flathead National Forest and commence a six-mile climb on a gravel road ascending the ridge that separates Flathead and Swan lakes. After that, we'll freefall for several miles before negotiating a series of primitive dirt roads nestled at the foot of the Mission Mountains. Through forests of western larch and Douglas fir we'll continue up from shimmering Holland Lake to the flank of Richmond Peak and into Grizzly Basin, which looks like a piece of Glacier National Park that's been transported south a few miles.

Week 2

Seeley Lake to Butte, Montana. From Seeley Lake — the name of a beautiful lake and the town adjacent to it — we'll ride to Lincoln, then up and over the Continental Divide country between there and the city of Helena. Montana's capital city features plenty of historic attractions; at the top of the must-see list is Montana's Museum, located near the capitol building, and the splendiferous Cathedral of St. Helena, a century-plus-old Gothic-style cathedral inspired by the Votive Church of the Sacred Heart in Vienna, Austria. From the citified environs of Helena, it's back to the backwoods, through Montana's "Gold West" country to what was once called "the richest hill on earth," hellroaring Butte. Butte will be the site of a layover day and you will be able to enjoy some of amenities of a larger city.

Week 3

Butte to Lima, Montana. After leaving Butte, it will be up to and then down precipitous Fleecer Ridge and along the smooth pavement and aromatic pine *forests* of the Pioneer Mountains National Scenic Byway. Bannack, now a state park, was the original capital of the Montana Territory; today its deserted streets hold some five-dozen historic structures, including the first frame house built in the territory. Our overnight experience at the state park campground should be pleasant enough — provided that somebody remembers the mosquito repellent. From Bannack we'll head into the big empty penetrated by the Big Sheep Creek Back Country Byway, an official designation given the route by the Bureau of Land Management. Over the Medicine Lodge–Sheep Creek Divide, we will ride along a portion of the historic supply route that linked the gold fields of southwest Montana with the Union Pacific railhead at Corinne, Utah. This sweep of empty country is visited by very few travelers, and after passing through you'll understand why you're lucky to count yourself among them. This week will end in the town of Lima, Montana.

Week 4

Lima, Montana, to Pinedale, Wyoming. From the tiny town of Lima, we'll pedal through another stretch of wild, dry terrain before entering Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, one of Montana's hidden gems. Chances are you'll see trumpeter swans, an immense and beautifully white bird that nearly became extinct early in the 20th century. After cresting Red Rock Pass, a surprisingly easy crossing of the Continental Divide, we'll coast down to Idaho's Island Park...

Adventure Cycling 2020 – Intro to Gravel Touring & Bikepacking Itinerary for Region 1

Travel Dates on Forest	Visited Forests	Overnight on R1 Forest (N/A = Overnight on Non-FS)	Route
8/4/20	Flathead- GVRD, TLRD	Big Creek USFS Group site	Whitefish Bike Retreat to Big Creek USFS Group Site
8/5/20	Flathead- GVRD	N/A	Big Creek Group Site to Polebridge
8/6/20	Flathead- GVRD, TLRD	N/A	Polebridge to Upper Whitefish Lake
8/7/20	N/A	N/A	Upper Whitefish Lake to Whitefish Bike Retreat
			3 Days x 14 Riders = 42 service days FNF

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*White indicates no NFS use all day

[Intro to Gravel Touring & Bikepacking-Montana \(formerly Dirt Touring\)](#) | Educational | Aug 02, 2020 - Aug 07, 2020 | 14 riders

Flathead National Forest

Day 3

Whitefish to West Glacier, 40 miles. Our journey begins traversing a portion of the broad Flathead Valley. The Flathead is bordered by mountains on three sides and Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the western U.S., on the fourth. We'll pass through the bustling town of Whitefish, a mecca for mountain bikers, skiers, and tourists seeking world-class scenery. Our ride brings us to the shores of Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park and the Crown of the Continent, called by National Geographic, "one of the wildest, most diverse, and intact ecosystems in the temperate zones of the world."

Day 4

West Glacier to Polebridge, 26 miles. Today, we will make our way out of Glacier to the vast forests that border the park along the North Fork Road. We'll parallel the North Fork of the Flathead River, one of the wildest rivers in North America. We'll ride through what the Nature Conservancy calls "one of a dozen places on the planet that remains a complete and functioning natural system." We end today's ride at funky and fun Polebridge, a place totally off the grid, and the home of a handful of rustic cabins and "the Merc" — the Polebridge Mercantile. Not only is the Merc on the National Register of Historic Places, it's hands-down the best bakery you have ever ridden to.

Day 5

Polebridge to Upper Whitefish Lake, 25 miles. Our journey continues northward along the Flathead River until we meet the famed Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. We will ride a short but beautiful section of Adventure Cycling's premier mountain bike route that stretches 2,774 miles from Banff, Canada, to Antelope Wells, New Mexico. On our way to Red Meadow Pass, we'll pass through prime habitat for mule deer, lynx, elk, wolverine, and grizzly bears. As you approach the pass and Red Meadow Lake, notice the high slopes above the lake that

are striped and fanned with avalanche chutes. Your climb up the pass is rewarded with a magnificent downhill ride to our evening's camp on Upper Whitefish Lake.

Day 6

Upper Whitefish Lake to Whitefish, 26 miles. Our descent continues today, but be sure to hit the brakes and look for ripening huckleberries. While Montanans seem to put huckleberries into everything from pastries to pies, pancakes, and beer, there is nothing better than getting off the bike and chowing down on fresh hucks. As we make our way back to our starting point, know that even though our journey ends, the memories of our ride through the Crown of the Continent will never fade.