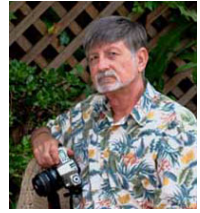




→ International Travel

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Selkirk Loop, Part One



An international adventure that begins in Sandpoint, Idaho; goes north into British Columbia; loops back around and down across the NE corner of Washington State and ends along Lake Pend Oreille back in Idaho, is one adventure that begs to be discovered. You can devote three days or 2 weeks to experiencing the [Selkirk Loop](#) which is another way of saying you can tailor this road trip to fit your specific vacation needs. We recently enjoyed this adventure, spending seven days casually engaging in several of the many diversions the Selkirk Loop has to offer, including one of the many side (mini-loop) trips that are possible.



An excellent place to begin is with a stay at the Western Pleasure [Guest Ranch](#) just out side of Sandpoint. For the family on vacation this ranch offers a modern lodge or individual cabins and for a single fee they provide 3 home cooked meals a day and all the horseback riding you care to enjoy. Western Pleasure is absolutely great for the kids for it offers a horse camp that lasts five day. You can stay and do what please while the kids or grand kids are fully schooled in the care of and the proper way to ride an equine. At the end of the program a graduation is held



where the kids and teens show off all of the new skills they have acquired. Evening dinner cruises on Lake Pend Oreille are hosted through the ranch as are Dutch oven cook outs and live country/western music. You can also spend a day in nearby Sandpoint, cruising the bistros, micro-breweries, boutiques and specialty shops. Fun, Fun, Fun!

From here a short 40 minute drive gets you to Bonners Ferry, a quaint US (almost) border town with its own special charm. Minutes away you cross the International Border where with proper credentials moving between the US and Canada is simple. Adults will need passports and children with need original or certified birth certificates. If you're traveling with grand children, you will need a notarized letter from the

child's parent that clearly states they are allowing their child to travel back and forth between the two countries. Check with the immigration authorities (both governments) before you go.



Just minutes into British Columbia is the little community of Creston. Using it as a base camp, go west six miles to Creston Valley Wildlife [Management Area & Interpretation Centre](#) and take a guided canoe trip out in the wetlands and estuary. Be sure and go to [Blueberry Patch Country Market](#) a U-pick berry and fruit grower in nearby Lister where you can harvest your own blueberries, strawberries, apples and garden veggies that are in season. Their shop offers excellent soup and sandwiches and a variety of locally made crafts and arts. You will enjoy this place!



Traveling north alongside Kootenay Lake (Hwy 3A) you will pass a cliff side home that is open to the public. It is built out of 600,000 bottles so voila, the name Glass House. It's dramatic and very unusual. Minutes north in Crawford Bay is an [artisan community](#) where glass is blown, pottery made, tapestries are woven before you very eyes on giant looms and a blacksmith forges from raw iron stock beautiful handcrafted items. Check out the enamel painted jewelry and walk across the road to the [Northern Woven Broom factory](#) where hand made brooms are fashioned while you watch (these are the folks that made the broom for the Harry Potter movie). Check it out!



From here you will board a free ferry boat for (this includes your automobile) for a ride across Kootenay Lake where you then continue north up Hwy 31 to [Ainsworth Hot Springs](#). The outdoor pool is kept at 98-degrees F but if you go inside the cave where the hot mineral water originates, the water is a steaming 114 degrees. Between where you disembark from the ferry and the hot springs is an excellent place to spend the night, the [Kootenay Lakeview Lodge](#). Overlooking the lake you must dine here at North Country Grill. These people should have a show on the Food Network. For the duffer, 18-holes of golf can

be enjoyed on a course that carpets mountainsides that sweep down to the lake below. Sweet!

Next month in the Selkirk Loop, Part 2, the old Victorian shipping town of Kaslo where a steam ship museum and quaint old buildings awaits those who come We sill visit Nelson, BC and after reentering the US go through the second largest underground limestone cavern in the Great Northwest. Two delightful lodgings, one a cabin on Lake Pend Oreille and the other an excellent B&B's located on the shores of Diamond Lake will be reviewed. Until then, Happy Traveling!