

# 2018 Alfa Wannabe Tour — June 16–23, 2018



*Hat Rock State Park*

**H**ard to believe it is time to start thinking about the 2018 tour. I still have very fond memories of our 2017 trip to the Canadian Rockies, hot spring resorts and especially Prince of Wales Hotel in Alberta.

Time to reserve your spot. I will be limiting the tour to 20 couples. I am asking for an initial deposit of \$750 to cover some initial deposits that need to be made. Please send me an e-mail c/o [tomsredalfa@gmail.com](mailto:tomsredalfa@gmail.com) indicating your interest and mail your deposit to my attention c/o 3420 Dogwood Dr S, Salem OR 97302. I will keep a wait list once I reach the magic number. I am still awaiting formal contracts for some of the lodging facilities so I am unclear when their deadlines will be but I anticipate being able to make full or partial refunds up to 60 days of the event and if there is someone to take your spot, then later.

The 2018 Alfa Wannabe tour takes us to Northern Idaho. Being sensitive to some who felt the drive times each day were a little long last year, I have designed this tour with that in mind. What follows is a day by day outline of the tour.



*Walla Walla wine country*

### **Day One: Portland to Walla Walla Washington**

We will head East on I-84 crossing into Washington via Bridge of the Gods. I really enjoy this road for its beauty. Drive time is only 4 hours and 235 miles. We will visit one of my favorite wineries, Walla Walla Vintners (great wine at a reasonable price) before checking in at the Historic Marcus Whitman Hotel. You will have time to check out the town or sample wine at one of many wine tasting rooms downtown.

### **Day Two: Walla Walla to Coeur d'Alene Resort.**

The drive through the Palouse Mountains and the wheat fields is spectacular. We will be only covering 191 miles today with drive time estimated to be 3 ¼ hours. Upon arrival, we will board a

charter boat and cruise Priest Lake for three hours while enjoying lunch and your favorite beverages. Around 4pm, we will check-in to your lake view rooms and have several hours to check out the resort, go for a swim, or just sit on your deck and enjoy the view. Limos will pick us up around 7 to take us to Cedar's Floating Restaurant, where I highly recommend the cedar planked salmon (but I have also enjoyed some great prime rib there as well).



### **Day Three: Leisurely Drive to Wallace Idaho!**

We will head to St Maries and drive up the scenic St. Joe River where we will enjoy a box lunch along the river. There is a nice exhibit of the log flumes used to get the logs down the hills and into the river as well as a neat museum in an old caboose.

We arrive in Wallace in time to enjoy a tour of a working silver mine. This place is pretty cool as the guides are actually retired miners who worked there.  
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They will demonstrate the equipment (ie: use the drills/etc) so you will actually experience how it was to work in the mine. Drive time is 4 hours over 203 miles.

### **Day 4-Bike the Hiawatha bike trail!**

Yes, you read this right. We will be picked up in the morning and ferried to the trailhead where our bikes, helmets and lights will be waiting. Lights? They will be handy as we travel through several tunnels on what is an abandoned RR track. This is an outstanding bike trail over trestles and through very scenic country. The trail is about 15 miles long-all downhill. Check out the following links for more info.

<http://www.ridethehiawatha.com/>

<http://www.ridethehiawatha.com/the-trail>

<http://www.ridethehiawatha.com/media>



*View from Elkins Resort*

After lunch in Wallace, we are off to Priest Lake. The afternoon drive will take a little more than 3 hours over 194 miles. Our destination is Elkins Resort, located on the lake. We

will be staying in individual log cabins, each with their own bath, and many are Lake Front.

### **Day 5-A day with NO DRIVING!**

After breakfast, we will board one of 4 pontoon boats for a lake cruise. We will head through a narrow channel to Upper Priest Lake, a primitive area. When in the channel, you will see trout two feet long and a LOT of bald eagles perched in the trees alongside contemplating dinner. The Canadian Rockies are at the north end of the lake. The boats will be equipped with ice chests full of beverages and box lunches. Upon return to dock, we can relax along the lakefront and toast to great friends and fellowship. I will need 3 volunteer 'Captains' to drive the boats.



*Davenport Hotel*

150 miles over 3.5 hours will get us into Spokane in the early afternoon. Upon checking into the Davenport, you will be able to take in Spokane Falls, Riverside Park and/or enjoy one of many wine tasting shops in or around the hotel. Still working on the dinner plans but there are some great restaurants in town!

### **Day 6-Great Driving Roads to The Dalles**

This will be the one long day of driving. We will cover around 340 miles over 6 plus hours. Destination is Ceillo Inn, a nice place overlooking the Columbia River and Bonneville Dam. After happy hour on the deck, we will head into town for a 'farewell dinner.'



*View from Ceillo Inn*

### **Day 7-Drive the Old Scenic Hwy home.**

Those that are so inclined can follow me the last few miles to Portland. We will get on the old highway, take in the many waterfalls in the area, view the damaged landscape in some areas, and finish up at McMinnimin's Edgefield for lunch.

