

Summer AROO Tour
August 23-26

Those that have been on one of my tours already know I try to incorporate at least one or two 'New to AROO' roads on my tours, which is a challenge in light of the number of tours AROO has done over the past 50 years! I think I have found a couple on this tour...at least we have not been on them recently so they may seem 'new' even if they are not.

Another thing I have enjoyed is incorporating interesting places to see along the tour. How many of us whiz by a sign to a landmark and say to ourselves "I wonder what that is?" We will be stopping at a few of these sites over the 4-day tour.

We will depart from Meinig Memorial Park in Sandy at 8:30 AM on our way to John Day. Our first 'interesting' stop will be the Museum at Warm Springs. I cannot tell you how many times I have blown by here without stopping! I did some research online and it has rave reviews. Flush toilets are a bonus as well!

After having lunch in Prineville, rather than taking the customary Hwy 26 through Mitchell and the John Day Riverbeds, we will head SE onto "new to me" OR 360 Paulina Hwy through the metropolis of Post and stopping at Paulina County Store in Paulina for an ice cream and/or soda. Thereafter, we continue east on Paulina-Suplee Hwy before reaching our destination. We are staying at the Best Western with has an outside pool that will be appreciated after a potentially warm drive. Dinner will be at Snaffle Bit, home to some outstanding steaks (other stuff as well).

Friday our destination is Lakeview. If one is willing to take the less direct route, there are some interesting things (other than sage brush) to see along the way including the Malheur Bird Refuge, the French Glen Hotel (an old stage coach stop), and Fields Station, home of some of the best milkshakes and burgers in the world! We have eaten here before and they are really good! Being the dead of summer, there will not be much to see at the refuge but we will take in French Glen and have lunch in Fields. After a day of fast, straight roads, a nice pool awaits our arrival at the Best Western.

Saturday will be a really scenic drive. Hwy 31 past Summer Lake is a great road. It will lead us to Fort Rock, a very cool crater that really looks like a big fort. We will learn a little about the history of the area during a visit to the Fort Rock Museum. After lunch in La Pine, we will drive the High Cascades Highway into Bend. Lodging will be at My Place, a newer hotel the Old Mill District. Dinner will be at HOLA, a Peruvian restaurant we can walk to. Their menu really looks good!

Sunday you are welcome to join us as we work our way home. We will once again drive the High Cascade Highway *south* so as to enjoy the mountain and lake views from a different direction, then head west on Hwy 58, stopping at Salt Creek Falls for

a short break before arriving at Plank Town Tavern in Springfield for lunch which will be the end of the tour.

I encourage you to make your hotel reservations EARLY, especially in Bend. Multiple hotels and resorts I contacted in the middle of *January* were already full!

Please shoot me an email letting me know you are coming. I need to give the lunch and dinner houses an idea of how many are coming.

Questions? Give me a call or e-mail me. Tom McGirr, 503-983-3656, tomsredalfa@gmail.com.



What a view!



One of many Exhibits at Warm Springs Museum



A first for me! What about you?



A hopping afternoon in Paulina.



Imagine the stagecoach arriving.



Only gas around these parts!



A lot of history here



Just one of many serene views from this highway.





I 'discovered' this place planning a tour several years ago. I will not tell you how many times I had blown by.

RESERVATIONS: ASK FOR ALFA ROMEO ROOM BLOCK RATES!

John Day Best Western-August 23-[\(541\) 575-1700](tel:5415751700)

Lakeview Best Western: August 24- [\(541\) 947-2194](tel:5419472194)

Bend My Place: August 25-: [\(541\) 213-2108](tel:5412132108)

Remember to let Tom McGirr know you are coming!