

**2024 ALFA WANNABE
HISTORIC LODGES TOUR
July 4-July 15**

Still a FEW spaces left for this 2024 tour. Unlike some earlier tours, you need to book your own reservations at each lodge/hotel. More work for you but you gain added flexibility to cancel up to a week or so before the event (in contrast to rooming contracts). This late, you may not be able to secure lodging at each resort/hotel, however, I have listed *alternative* lodging relatively close to each that would allow you to partake in all the planned activities.

The 2024 Alfa Wannabe Tour will take us to three National Parks and feature 5 old lodges and 2 very old hotels, all on the National Register of Historic Places. The tour will be 12 days in length.

The first night will feature Timberline Lodge (1937). After an early afternoon walk among the wildflowers and a soak in the outdoor hot tub, we enjoy libations in the Rams's Head bar and enjoy fellowship and dinner in the lodge. Likely to see a lot of fireworks from the mountain.

If no rooms available at Lodge, you might consider lodging in Government Camp or just plan on catching us the morning of Day 2.



Day 2 has us heading to Lake Quinault Lodge (1926) in the Olympic National Park for two nights. The lodge sits on the lake among huge fir trees. One will be able to choose among several short hikes in dense rain forest, see the world's largest Sitka tree, partake in a boat tour around the lake and/or sit on the grounds behind the lodge and relax.

Alternate Lodging at Lake Quinault: Rain Forest Resort Village or Lochaerie Resort.

Day 4 we next head to Lake Crescent Lodge (1915) also in the Olympic National Forest. A short walk in the Hoh Rain Forest is a must since we are in the area. Thereafter, we visit Ruby Beach, which I feel is one of the more scenic beaches in the NW. Finally, we stop at the Makah Tribal Museum located on the NW tip of Washington. While not being a large facility, the museum has outstanding exhibits.



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Alternate Lodging: Log Cabin Resort or Emerald Valley Inn

Days 5 and 6 are at Paradise Inn (1916) on Mt. Rainier. Along the way, we will drive up to Hurricane Ridge to bid farewell to the Olympic Mountains. If the snowpack cooperates, the wild flowers should be beautiful. Once in Rainier, we will take the scenic drive to Sunrise Point, one of the higher places one can drive to and have sufficient time to enjoy this beautiful setting.

Alternate Lodging: National Park Inn or Mountain Meadows Inn.



The next destination is the Balch Hotel (1907) in the small town of Dufur. The hotel was built by Charles Balch, a rancher who relocated here from Massachusetts in the early 1900's. This hotel has been restored with loving care to retain much of its original glory.

Alternate Lodging: Multiple hotels in The Dalles.



Day 8 has us heading East to enjoy some open roads and the historic Grand Geiser Hotel in Baker City (1923). When the Geiser Grand Hotel opened in 1889, Baker City, Oregon, was known as the "Queen City of the Mines," a nod to the Gold Rush happening in the region.

Alternative Lodging: Bridge Street Inn, Oregon Trail Motel, or many others closer to freeway.

The next historic lodge is too far away to reach in a day. Hence, we will spend a night in Bend at the fun and funky St. Charles School McMenamins.

Alternative Lodging: DoubleTree, Oxford and many others.



Thereafter, we are off to Crater Lake Lodge (1915) for two nights. In addition to making the Rim Drive, we will take a cruise around the lake and spend some time on Wizard Island.

Alternative Lodging: Mazama Village Cabins, Prospect Historic Hotel

The tour is limited to 19 couples due to limited rooms at the Balch Hotel. If you have interest in joining this tour, you should call all the lodges/hotels and make your reservations.

If you do get rooms, then let me know so I can add your name to the tour list c/o tomsredalfa@gmail.com.

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