

The Northwest MOUNTAINS AND GLACIERS

20 DAYS/3000 MILES

MOTORHOME ITINERARY

This itinerary can be booked to start/end in **Seattle** or **Portland** – simply re-arrange the campground bookings to fit. This tour is available mid-May to mid-September.

Day 1 On arrival into Seattle, make your way to the downtown area hotel you have booked and enjoy a relaxing overnight stay.

Day 2 Call Cruise America first thing to arrange the time for motorhome collection. Unless you have pre-purchased the 'Early Bird' departure special, you will make your own way by taxi to the rental office this afternoon. Once you have your motorhome, get yourself on to Interstate 5 and head north. The drive is 47 miles, less than an hour to your first stop at **Burlington KOA**. The scenery alone is worth the visit. Relax and unwind and get used to your motorhome.

Day 3 Head east through North Cascades National Park today. This 150-mile drive will take about four hours through the most amazing landscape. You are going to **Winthrop/N. Cascades National Park KOA**. Winthrop is an Old West mining town, set on the Methow River. There are frequent shuttles to this colorful town center with wooden sidewalks, restaurants, galleries and shops. At the campground there is a western-style playground to please the youngsters.



Coeur d'Alene campground

Day 4/5 You will be hard-pressed to leave Winthrop but it will be worth it as you embark on the seven-hour drive to Lake Coeur d'Alene. It is about 295 miles, again through amazing scenery. Your campground, the **Coeur d'Alene KOA** is booked for two nights; it has access to the Lake which National Geographic once described as "one of the five most beautiful lakes in the world". Elk, otters, eagles, osprey and songbirds abound on the Lake and in Wolf Lodge Creek. Rent a paddleboat, kayak or canoe to make the most of your visit. Hiking trails follow the Lake and the woods. Relax and enjoy this jewel of Idaho.



White water rafting



Day 6/7 206 miles today, 140 of which are Freeway – so it is only 3.5 hours to the next port of call, **Polson/Flathead Lake KOA** in Montana, where you are booked for two nights. The breathtaking panorama of the Mission Mountains behind the blue waters of the 28-mile long, 15 miles wide natural lake cannot be beaten. Activities include horseback riding and whitewater rafting, or if you want to be more relaxed, excursion boats ply the deep waters of the lake. The campground itself has mini-golf, nightly movies on one of the two decks as well as weekend hayrides and kids' craft programs.

Day 8 North today to the **West Glacier KOA**, located just 2 miles from the west entrance of Glacier National Park. The 84-mile drive will take less than two hours, leaving time to spend the day relaxing at this KOA resort which serves breakfast and dinner in the restaurant, has a large lodge housing a television, pool table and fireplace. Take a look at the famous 'Going-to-the-Sun' road, which twists and climbs for 52 miles across this million-acre alpine preserve and National Park.

Day 9 103 miles and just over two hours will bring you to the **St Mary/East Glacier KOA** – one mile from the east end of the Going-to-the-Sun road. The view is almost as good from the campground but, if you wish, you can board a Glacier tour bus right at the entrance. At the end of the day, enjoy chicken, ribs or steak at the "AOK Barbeque" then count the stars while relaxing in the hot tub.

Day 10 After that idyllic evening, a fascinating 'Lewis & Clark' Day. First head south alongside the Lewis & Clark National Forest and parallel to the Continental Divide. It is a 270-mile drive today and if you allow for a one hour stop in Montana's State Capital of Helena, and another stop at Butte, you will have about an eight-hour day on the road before arriving at the **Three Forks KOA**, 53 miles east of Butte. This is real pioneer country; the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers were named for explorers Lewis & Clark – and they merge just six miles from Three Forks to form the Missouri River. The historic

Sacajawea Hotel, built in 1910 in honor of the Native American lady who guided Lewis & Clark, serves tender steaks and is worth a visit. Take a guided tour of Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park.

Day 11/12 Yellowstone National Park – America's First National Park – is today's destination. Drive 51 miles on US287 and then turn off your route and drive the 13 miles to Virginia City for a quick visit. Turn back and rejoin US287 and continue for another 95 miles to the **Yellowstone Park/West Entrance KOA** – the perfect base camp for exploring this amazing national park. Stay here is for two nights and you don't have to drive because a tour bus will pick you up if you prefer; but there are several driving loops throughout the park if you want to keep your independence and stop/start as you wish to observe the moose, elk and other wildlife. Just 34 miles east, Old Faithful Geyser puts on its show as regularly as clockwork and is on that 'not to be missed' list.



Yellowstone Park

Day 13 Just 140 miles today, south through Yellowstone National Park, through Grand Teton National Park, following the line of the magnificent Rocky Mountains to your left and the Grand Tetons to your right. The journey should take just over three hours, but take it slowly to make the best of it. Overnight is at **Teton Village/Jackson West KOA** with the jagged peaks of the Grand Tetons rising overhead. The Arnold Palmer Teton Pines Golf Course is just across the street; take the Aerial Tram to the top of Rendezvous Mountain for a striking view of some of the West's most majestic scenery.

Day 14 Starting on the journey back toward Seattle, you will drive 333 miles today, but 225 or more of those are on Interstate Highways. Leave about 8am and plan to spend a couple of hours at Idaho Falls en route; arrive at the **Mountain Home KOA** by mid to late afternoon. This is the

Driving time: 63 hours (3 hrs per day average)

closest KOA to Idaho's State Capital, Boise, well worth a visit this evening.

Day 15 Enter the fifth State of your journey today by crossing the State Line into Oregon. It is the longest day yet at 405 miles. Take it gently and expect to average less than 50 miles per hour as you enjoy the forests, lakes and distant mountain views. Watch out for Glass Butte, which rises 6,390 feet to your left, just past Riley. Camp tonight at the foot of the Three Sisters Mountains at the **Sisters/Bend KOA**. Enjoy the heated pool and spa, fishing, basketball, miniature golf and Ping-Pong – and in June the Sisters Rodeo or, in September, the Sisters Jazz Festival.

Day 16 Just a morning drive today, 212 miles, up to the Washington State border to the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. At the **Cascade Locks/Portland East KOA** you cannot help but make your way to the River. Hike along the cliffs 4000 feet above the river; explore the waterfalls alongside it or cruise aboard the stern-wheeler, Columbia Gorge. Or, just 20 miles east, the Mount Hood Railroad links the Columbia Gorge with the foothills of snowcapped Mount Hood.



Mount Hood (Courtesy of USGS/Cascades Volcano Observatory)

Day 17/18 Quite a long drive at 280 miles today but when you arrive you will hit the beach on picturesque Willapa Bay – just the place to leave your cares and worries behind. The **Bay Centre/Willapa Bay KOA** staff members are just waiting to welcome you and you are booked here for a relaxing two nights as you come to the end of your holiday. Walk the scenic nature trail to the sandy beach for a swim in the tidal bay, some bird watching and beachcombing. Maybe take a picnic and watch the beautiful sunset over the Bay... This really is the life!

Day 19 You'll be at **Port Angeles/Sequim KOA** on the Olympic Peninsula by lunchtime – its 205 miles and will take just under five hours. The Olympic Mountain Range peaks are visible from every part of your campground. Sequim is the 'Lavender Capital of North America'. The campground is, however, a destination in its own right with loads of fun-filled activities, particularly in July and August when they have themed weekend parties. Poolside parties and nightly hayrides also feature.

Day 20 It is only 73 miles back to the Cruise America office in Everett today; unless you have taken the 'Early Bird' option you need to be there by 11am and should allow at least two hours.

