



**INTERNATIONAL
SELKIRK LOOP**

**WILDLIFE AND
WILDFLOWERS TOUR**



This 7-day trip is a wild and wooly tour that has you encountering wild and domesticated animals from wolves to grizzly bears on your terms. Delight with an abundance of wildflowers from May to August as this tour takes you through glacial valleys to soaring peaks along with a guided photography tour to capture your own memories.



Day 1 – Spokane, WA to Sandpoint, ID (1.5 hr)

Wolves, alpacas, wild turkeys, horses

- First stop is 10 minutes south of Sandpoint in Cocolalla, ID to visit up close and personal with wolves at the **Wolf People Tour** and Gift Shop www.wolfpeople.com (208) 263-1100
- Lunch and shop in this fun little town of Sandpoint.

Suggestions: Spuds, **Trinity Café** or **Ivano's**. All on 1st Street (also Hwy 95) in the heart of downtown.

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

-Sing with the Alpaca's at **From the Heart Ranch** complete with educational tour.

www.fromtheheartranch.com (208) 265-2788

-While you're in the neighborhood visit **The Flower Farm** (Apr-June)



http://www.sandpointonline.com/farmersmarket/new_page_3.htm to see greenhouses full of beautiful flowers. On the weekend go to the Farmers Market in downtown Sandpoint.

- Enjoy your real country stay at **Western Pleasure Guest Ranch** and take a horseback ride through the wild daisy's if your there in the spring (May-June). Stay in the Grand Lodge or a hand-hewn log cabin. This ranch is situated on 960 acres and has been in operation since 1940. 208.263.9066 www.westernpleasureranch.com Lodging available at the Guest Ranch.



Optional downtown Sandpoint lodging at: LaQuinta – 415 Cedar St.
208-263-9681

Day 2 – Sandpoint to Bonners Ferry, ID (45 min)

Elk, Moose, deer, Yahk, birds of all sorts



- Visit Pack River Yahk's

– take a tour, get up close and personal and learn all about these registered Tibetan Yahks, they're interesting animals.

www.packriveryaks.com (208) 263-4785

-Hook up with **True North Expeditions** for a custom, guided SUV tour into the local mountains to really see wildlife in the beautiful

Selkirk Mountains. www.truenorthexpeditions.com (208) 267-0947

-Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge – 5 miles west of Bonners Ferry.

Home to 250 bird species and also home to moose, white tail and mule deer and the occasional elk. Auto tour and hiking trails to water fall.

<http://www.fws.gov/kootenai/> 208-267-3888

- Downtown Bonners Ferry – Free museum.

The Selkirk Mountains are home to an abundance of animal species including the woodland caribou. This area is the only place in the lower 48 states where



there are still a

small population of these elusive animals. Rarely seen, however there are a few full mounted “white caribou” residing at the Museum on the north end of Main Street.

- Overnight Bonners Ferry

– recommended options:

Kootenai River Inn & Casino – Walk to downtown. Dine at the Springs Restaurant on premise. www.kootenairiverinn.com 208-267-8511

Bonners Ferry Log Inn - www.bonnersferryloginn.com (208) 267-3986 2-miles north of Downtown, fun gift shop in unique log rooms complete with custom log furniture.

North Side School B&B Stay in a lovingly restored grade school. Lovely views of downtown, mountainEasy walking distance from town across the Kootenai River Bridge.

www.northsideschoolbedandbreakfast.com (208) 267-1822



Day 3 – Bonners Ferry to Crawford Bay, BC (2.5 hrs)

Elk, wildflowers, white tail deer

- **Selkirk Mountain Elk Ranch** – (15 min. north of Bonners Ferry) Get up close and personal with majestic elk on this interesting tour. If your lucky you may be able to give a bottle to one of the special needs babies.



www.selkirkmountainelkranch.com (208) 267-7438

-Creston Valley Wildlife

Management Area - Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area: The 17, 000-acre internationally accredited Ramsar Wetland, home to 370 bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian and fish species. Over 30 km. of walking trails are open year round. Wildlife Centre open May to October. Take a guided canoe tour through the marshlands.

www.crestonwildlife.ca 250) 402-6900

-In the spring the Creston Valley is alight with fields of golden Canola

flowers blooming. The seed is harvested to produce Canola oil. The word canola stands for “Canadian” and “oil”.

-Lunch on your own – downtown Creston

-**Gray Creek Pass** forestry scenic back road – 4x4 vehicle recommended. Accessible from Hwy 3A (45 min. north of Creston) from Anderson or Oliver Rd. (July – Oct best times). The road will take you to alpine vistas for great wildflower and wildlife viewing.

Wild Huckleberry picking opportunities (Aug – Sept).



- Lodging at The Lodges of Kokanee Springs in Crawford Bay. Beautiful views of the Kokanee Glacier, situated at the Kokanee Springs Golf Resort. A lovely, challenging 18 hole course. www.kokaneesprings.com (800) 979-7999 Restaurant on premises.

-Visit the nearby **Artisans of Crawford Bay** to see five working studios where you’ll see the artisans making brooms, weaving, blacksmithing, pottery, glass blowing and enamelling.

www.barefoothandweaving.com; www.kootenayforge.com; www.northwovenbroom.com



Day 4 – Crawford Bay to Meadow Creek (2.5 hrs)

Grizzly Bears, moose, bald eagles, wildflowers

-Ride the world's longest free ferry (45 min.), part of the Canadian Highway Transportation system. Proceed north from Balfour onto the Loop's Silvery Slocan – North Kootenay Lake Super Side Trip.

<http://www.selkirkloop.org/index.php?msid=3&smid=4&ssid=4>



-Kootenay Paradise Photography Tours will take you on an easy hike to view alpine mountain flowers and learn how to

photograph them, capturing your memories of this stunning alpine area within Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. www.dougyperphoto.com/photo-tours.html (800) 759-2456



-Lunch in the award winning small arts community of Kaslo at the **Rosewood Café** – with an astounding selection of wine and breathtaking views of Kootenay Lake from the patio. 213 5th St. (250) 353-7673

-**Tour the SS Moyie**, the oldest surviving passenger sternwheeler of her type in the world preserved in Kaslo. www.klhs.bc.ca (250) 353-2525

- North of Kaslo to Meadow Creek – Lodging at **Grizzly Bear Ranch** (1 hr). A secluded wilderness eco-friendly retreat offering first class bear watching and wildlife viewing and highly personalized service.

Spring is best for bear and wildlife viewing (May-June) and Fall is best for Grizzly bear viewing (Sept-Oct).

Dinner at the Lodge

www.grizzlybearranch.ca (250) 275-4856



Day 5 Meadow Creek, BC

Bears, wolves, rare birds and wildflowers

-Wildlife and wildflower tour with **Grizzly Bear Ranch**. This is a truly remarkable wilderness experience to be enjoyed in the comfort of a Toyota Land Cruiser or plying the majestic Kootenay Lake in a zodiac. Hike among 1,000 year old cedars. Some of the wildlife commonly seen in the spring are black bears, moose, mule deer,



white-tailed deer, hummingbirds, coyotes, elk, grizzly bears, porcupine, beaver, otter, occasionally grey wolves and, very occasionally, a wolverine. Dinner and lodging at the Ranch. www.grizzlybear ranch.ca (250) 275-4856

Day 6 Meadow Creek to Nelson, BC (3 hrs)

Profusion of wildflowers



-Go back to Kaslo then west on Hwy 31A and visit the ghost town of Sandon, once known as the Monte Carlo of North America Grab a snack and visit the Sandon Museum <http://www.slocanlake.com/sandon/> before heading on an incredible drive (8 mi / 12 km) – 4x4 vehicle recommended, to the access to **Idaho Peak, the most accessible alpine wildflower spot in the Kootenays**. Best time to see the wildflowers is late July, and August. There is a short 1.5 easy hike to the former fire look out. Panorama views and a profusion of wild flowers can be found here. These facilities are operated by the BC Forest Service, 250-365-8600

-On the drive back to Nelson via Hwy 6 stop at the quaint villages of New Denver (3 km

west of Sandon), Silverton, Slocan and Winlaw. (1 hr)

-Lodging in Nelson – Multiple choices with a great downtown shopping core.



Nelson is considered the heritage capital of the Kootenays.

Nelson is considered to be the #1 small arts town in Canada and is ranked in the top 5 for all of North America. For a list of over 20 varied accommodators go to:

<http://www.selkirkloop.org/index.php?msid=3&smid=2&tpid=38>

-Dinner at either the unique **Outer Clove** – featuring all things garlic <http://www.outerclove.com/theouterclove.html> or at **All Seasons Café**, arguably having the largest wine list you've ever seen. <http://www.allseasonscafe.com/>



Day 7 – Nelson, BC to Spokane, WA (3 hrs)

Big Horn Sheep, Osprey, Eagles

-Salmo – Kootenay Pass (Hwy 3) – (1 hr)
On the west side of the pass there is a great opportunity to view **Big Horn Mountain Sheep**. Proceed to the pass summit (open year round) where there is an opportunity to view spring wildflowers from mid-July to August.



- Retrace your drive back to Hwy 6 and proceed south. Watch from eagles and osprey as the drive follows the Pend Oreille River.



-Usk, WA – Cross the Pend Oreille River and turn north on LeClerc Rd, 1.5 mi. to the Camas Center. There is a **large herd of buffalo** that can be viewed from the parking lot of the Center. The herd is managed by the Kalispel Tribe. www.kalispeltribe.com (509)

445-1147

-**Camas flowers bloom**, generally the last two weeks of May providing a beautiful sea of blue flowers. Can be seen around the Kalispel reservation, Usk, and by following Hwy 20 south to Newport.



-Newport – lunch at Owens Deli including an authentic huckleberry shake.

337 S. Washington Ave, (509) 447-3525

-Spokane, WA International Airport (GEG) via Hwy 2. (1 hr)

<http://www.selkirkloop.org/index.php?msid=3&smid=2&tpid=54>

For more information contact:
Carol Graham, tour consultant
carol@selkirkloop.org

Additional Lodging & Dining:
www.selkirkloop.org

1-208-267-0822

Bonnars Ferry, Idaho USA



