



14810 Linden Ave. N. Shoreline, WA 98133

(206) 363-0859

## **OUTING CLUB LLC TRIPS (SUMMER 2018)**

### **7/13-15 STONEHENGE and THE PAINTED HILLS**

There is an exact replica of the British Stonehenge in the Columbia River Gorge. So if you have never been able to visit the original built some 5,000 years ago you should come on our trip to visit this monument. Ours was built way back in 1929 (85 years old). It was built by Samuel Hill, a lumber magnate, and the rumor was that he built it for his English wife to make her feel more at home in America. The monument is dedicated to WWI veterans. After our tour of the monument and the art museum and perhaps a winery or two the second part of the trip will be exploring the John Day Fossil Beds and Painted Hills National Monument. The colorful rock formations at John Day preserve a world class record of plant and animal evolution, changing climate, and past ecosystems that span over 40 million years. For instance, the first horses evolved in North America 50 million years ago, and at least 14 different generations have been found at the Fossil



Beds . At the monument there are exhibits, and a working lab at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center. There are also many scenic drives and hikes at all three parts of this park. The Painted Hills unit of the park is very much like our own Zion National Park with similar multicolor strata on display. This trip will be a trip through human history and planetary prehistory. Provided: transit, lodging. Dates 7/13-15 Cost \$485

### **8/25-26 NORTH CASCADES BIKE RIDE**

Ever wish you could spend more time looking at the scenery passing you by when driving through a beautiful section of forest of National Park. Well there is no better way to enjoy a quiet stretch of highway than by bicycle. It gives you the opportunity to look up at the sky and all around without having that port hole feel you get looking through a window frame in a car. You can smell the wild flowers and the evergreens, you can feel the warm and cool breezes as they pass. It is a whole different sensory experience. We will be riding the North Cascades highway through North Cascades National Park, one of the prettiest stretches of highway in our state. Every time I drive this route I am impressed that anyone would have thought to push a highway through these mountains. The summits are so high and steep here that they cannot keep it open during the winter because of the snow, not just because of some budgetary decision. We will ride from east to west and you can elect to start at the summit of Washington Pass if you just want to do the downhill, or you can start at Early Winters so you can get the climb up the pass all the way from the Methow Valley. We will spend two days on this trip stopping at the North Cascades Institute for the overnight. If you haven't experienced this place before you really should. This was a beautiful and opulent resort facility built by our power company's utility fees. The architecture is Northwest modern, the food is delicious and mostly locally sourced, and the setting is dramatic. The second day we will ride the rest of the way to Marblemount and drive home from there. Provided: transit, lodging, maps. Dates 8/25-26 Cost \$429

### **9/6-10 SUN VALLEY SUMMER HIKING**

Sun Valley bustles with travelers during the winter ski season. It was one of the first Alpine ski resorts in existence in the United States, built just before WW II, and it's still one of the trend setters in ski resort standards. The valley also is home to half a dozen good Nordic Ski track networks. During the summer however the area quiets down with the local residents outnumbering the vacationers. The valley is beautiful this time of year and by mid September the hills will frequently be starting to show their fall palette of colors, at these lofty altitudes in the Rocky mountains. The town's restaurants and shops are the same high quality and healthy dining found during the winter season they are just less crowded and less expensive, and the hiking is beyond compare. North of town are the Sawtooth mountains and west are the open forested Smoky Mountains. Galena Summit between Sun Valley and Stanley provides some of the highest altitude trailheads in the area. The hiking trails here are extensive with dozens of options ranging in difficulty and length. Vegetation is different than most of us coast range residents are used to. There is little underbrush to push your way through on older trails, and many of the trees are grand ponderosa pine trees with their characteristic red bark. Our trip will take us to lodging in town from which we can take day hikes out into the forests, or wander town on a day off. If you have never been to the valley and are not a downhill skier this is a great time of year to go! Provided: transit, rental cars, airfare, lodging. Dates 9/6-10 Cost \$1162



### **9/30-10/6 BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS, SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK**

This part of west Virginia is well known for its fall colors, the locals even have a name for the annual visitors. They call them leaf peepers. Although magnificent fall colors abound throughout Virginia, the distinctive Blue Ridge Mountains capture the state's purest natural beauty, particularly along the famed namesake Blue Ridge Parkway. The park extends some 469 miles between Shenandoah National Park and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. Visitors are expected to witness a cavalcade of seasonal colors and from multiple vantage points along this road in

the fall. Just a few of the favorite viewing areas include James River, Peaks of Otter, the cities of Roanoke and Lexington, and Mabry Mill. As Virginia's only national park, Shenandoah National Park is equally acclaimed for encapsulating views of lush fall colors via the 105-mile long Skyline Drive, with its easy access to the Appalachian Trail and exceptional viewing of the autumnal colors at places like Little Stairs Overlook, Stony Man Overlook and Pinnacles Overlook. While Virginia has only the one National Park, West Virginia has several national forest areas that are great hiking and foliage viewing areas, including Monongahela National, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest and many others. We will be traveling to the area during the early part of the fall season when the colors are typically more intense and not as muted to browns and golds as tends to happen later in the month. This may also give us a jump on the seasonal weekend crowd of local leaf peepers. We will keep our lodging in the heart of this West Virginia mountain country and travel out to drive and hike in the region each day. With a little luck the avid photographers can come out for a sunrise or sunset trip during our week to catch the trees and the sky in full technicolor. Provided: transit, rental cars, airfare, lodging. Dates 9/30-10/6 Cost \$1,556

**11/3-18 NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand is a must visit destination. It is unfortunate that this English speaking friendly land is so far away, but it is exactly because of this distance that it is a world apart from anything else you may have experienced. New Zealand evolved as an island which split from Australia 25 million years ago. Like Hawaii it evolved without any predators so it has many flightless birds (Kiwis, etc.), and even the flighted bird population often seems unconcerned with people and other mammals. The Jurassic era like trees and vegetation here are also entirely a world apart. If you have seen any of the Tolkien movies with the magical, vast landscapes these are just native to New Zealand. On our two week tour of the country we will fly into Auckland on the north island. While here we will take time to visit some of the highlights. The north island was the center of the ancient Maori culture and ceremonial sites, it is also where most of the geothermal features are. Tongariro National Park is here, and by most accounts the best hiking trail in the country through the terrain used to film the Mordor sequence in Tolkien. We will take the ferry from the capital city of Wellington to the south island. Its an expensive ferry ride but worth every penny for the two hour ocean voyage. The south island has too many attractions to count including Mt Cook, the highest summit in the country, and the Fox and Franz Joseph glacier walks on its west flank. The Tasman coastline and rainforests offer a green lush and surreal landscape. Queenstown (bungy jumping-jet boats...) some of the best Sail Planing in the world, the Great Tramps/walks in the Fjordlands, Milford sound, penguins, and many other marvels. Prepare for lots of day hiking with lots of other optional adventures possible. Pack light and portable we will be covering a lot of ground on this trip! REI travel also offers several New Zealand trips starting at \$5,100 without airfare, and one island only. Provided: transit, airfare, lodging. Dates 11/3-18 Cost \$4,650



MAIL THE FORM BELOW WITH YOUR 25% DEPOSIT To:  
Outing Services LLC: 14810 Linden Ave N; Seattle, WA 98133

Details by request

Winter 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ H.(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ O. \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Titles: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room Mates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I the above signed understand that there are risks and hazards involved in active sports including the activities I will be participating in with The Outing Club LLC. I accept these risks as my responsibility and agree to release The Club, their representatives, guides, and associates from any liability for accidents or injuries which may occur during or traveling to and from said activities.



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