

Circle 8 Outfitters *Choteau, Montana*

A Unique Wilderness Experience in the Secluded Heart of the West

We look forward to having you join us on a spectacular summer horse pack trip in the most remarkable country in North America. The Bob Marshall Wilderness is the second largest wilderness area in the continental US which affords you many options to explore and spend time on great outdoors activities simply unavailable anywhere else. You have the choice of many different trip schedules which emphasize various primary activities, including fishing, riding, and sightseeing. The travel days are filled with adventure as you travel from campsite to campsite seeing new and exciting country. On days when you don't travel, there are many activities that are often limited only by your imagination. You may have the opportunity to go on a short dayride, hike up a mountain, fish the trout filled streams, or just explore around camp and find your own beautiful corner of this magnificent country.



Summer Horse Packing Trip Schedule 2026

Trip 1 – SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES 5 days Open
June 23 – June 27

Springtime in the mountains is a colorful event. The mountain peaks will be covered with snow, and the lower country will be a lush green. We will stay at several campsites along the Sun River. Among the highlights of this trip are Route Creek Pass, Biggs Creek Pass, and the vast open meadows of the upper Sun River. This trip is the best of all the trips for seeing big game wildlife. We can see elk, goats, moose, and bear this time of year before the summer's heat and more visitors disperse them to higher ground. The countryside at this time is resplendent in natural color with most of the wildflowers in full bloom.

Description and itinerary can be found by clicking on this link: [Springtime in the Rockies](#)

Trip 2 – FORKS OF THE SUN 7 days Open
July 1 – July 7

This is such a special trip at the beginning of summer. This is a fantastic trip with vibrant wildflowers, snowy peaks, lush green meadows, and wildlife. This week also typically sees clear water and the beginning of the fishing season. This trip has a cadence of two nights at each campsite with moderate travel between sites. You will start at the Benchmark trailhead and begin working north with initial campsite at Pretty Prairie on the South Fork Sun. From there, we travel north to a campsite on the middle stretch of the North Fork Sun River. From there, we move further upriver to Gates Park on the North Fork. Your trip concludes by crossing Headquarters Pass and ending at the headwaters of the South Fork Teton River. [Forks of the Sun River](#)

Trip 3 – MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD

6 days

CLOSED

July 11 – July 16

This trip covers the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, one of the most remote and wild areas in the Bob Marshall. We start at the West Fork of the Teton trailhead and cross the continental divide at Teton Pass before dropping down to the confluence of Bowl and Basin Creeks. From here we ride down Bowl Creek through an ever-larger valley until Strawberry Creek joins, and we are now following the Middle Fork. Our next camp is at Winter Creek, which is a wide stretch with open hillsides and superb fishing. From here, we go up Gateway Creek to Big River Meadows. This is an exceptional basin nestled under the continental divide with dramatic views and outstanding hiking. From here we cross back over to the east side of the divide and ride a beautiful valley in the South Fork of Birch Creek ending at the trailhead at Swift Dam.

Trip 4 – GATES PARK / SUN RIVER

5 days

CLOSED

July 20 – July 24

This trip is designed for fishing enthusiasts. We usually stay at our beautiful Gates Park campsite on the North Fork of the Sun River. There are excellent fishing opportunities from either camp. The North Fork is about 1/2 mile from camp, and on this part of the river you won't see too many other fishermen. There are also many non-fishing activities possible from this campsite. These include possible day rides to the Chinese Wall & Sock Lake, Bear Top Lookout, or easy and relaxing rides along the Sun River.

Description and itinerary can be found by clicking on this link: [Gates Park – Sun Valley 2](#)

Trip 5 – NORTH CHINESE WALL

7 days

6 available

July 28 – August 3

This trip visits the spectacular and lightly traveled north end of the Chinese Wall, from Red Shale Creek to the Open Fork of the Sun. This is a great trip for scenery and some fishing along the way. We visit several different campsites on this route; each is superb and unique. One of the highlights of the trip is our stay under the Wall, where we will camp for two nights and have time to do some serious exploration. Our last two nights are at the beautiful Gates Park camp where you will have fabulous fishing and day riding options.

Description and itinerary can be found by clicking on this link: [North Chinese Wall](#)

Trip 6 – SOUTH CHINESE WALL

8 days

Open

August 7 – August 14

This trip explores the Chinese Wall by riding along it and provides opportunities to spend a day up close and exploring Wall. This is a great scenery trip with some limited fishing opportunities. We visit several different campsites. Most of the time is spent in the high country. Just about every day offers outstanding views. The day we ride along the Wall is easily the most scenic of any single day on our summer trip schedule. While the Chinese Wall is the highlight of the trip, the lower Sun River valley and the upper reaches of the Continental Divide near the Wall are spectacular as well.

Description and itinerary can be found by clicking on this link: [South Chinese Wall](#)

Trip 7 –GATES PARK / SUN RIVER

5 days

4 available

August 18 – August 22

We often get requests from mid-summer adventurers and fishermen for shorter trips in mid-August. Thus, we schedule a couple of 5-day trips into our beautiful camp on the North Fork of the Sun River. Mid-August is often peak fishing time, so this is a great trip for the dry fly enthusiast. We can access multiple stretches of river any given day to spread people out and give new stretches of water to ply. For the non-fishing adventurer, there are many other options – more than can be done in the time available. These include day rides to the Chinese Wall and Sock Lake, Bear Top Lookout, Biggs Creek Meadows, or easy rides along the Sun River in any direction.

Description and itinerary can be found by clicking on this link: [Sun River Exploration](#)

Trip 8 – GATES PARK / SUN RIVER

5 days

5 available

August 26– August 30

This trip finishes off our season with a trip to the Gates Park camp on the upper Sun River. It focuses on the abundant riding and fishing opportunities available to us in this area. We frequently take a day ride up to the Chinese Wall and Sock Lake, as well as to Beartop Lookout. Depending on your interests, we can take several day hikes, day rides or other exploration possibilities. We also find some great rides through the lush valleys and hidden meadows along the valley floors. The fishing this time of year is spectacular, and you will not be disappointed with the warm mountain weather, the fishing, or the stunning scenery.

Description and itinerary can be found by clicking on this link: [Sun River – Gates Park](#)

Trip dates can change as open trips are confirmed. Additionally, availability is subject to change as trips fill. If you see a trip you are interested in and are wondering about the different opportunities on the trip, give us a call. These descriptions are summaries and we're happy to elaborate on the activities if you give us a call.

All of our trips take place on National Forest lands. We are permitted and bonded by the federal government to operate on the Lewis & Clark and Flathead National Forests under Montana outfitter license #558