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**Mountain Horse Adventures
at Schweitzer**
The views are better from above

Trail Rides twice daily,
Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Small groups, great rides.
Ask about Full Moon Rides:
July 11, Aug. 9, Sept. 7
Call for group rates and reservations.

2 miles before Schweitzer Village
263.TROT or 800.831.8810
(8768) or reserve with the Activity Center
at Schweitzer, (208) 255.3081

www.MountainHorseAdventures.com

ADVENTURES
BY HORSEBACK
**Ride a horse
on a full moon**

Minutes from Sandpoint: 18
Location: Schweitzer Mountain
Resort, 2 miles below the village

“**B**y the light, by the light, by the light of the silvery moon ...” It’s hard for me not to sing on nights like this. I don’t know all the words, and I suspect certain tone deafness, so I try to keep it to myself. But the quiet night with just a clip-clop rhythm and the bright light of the moon occasionally poking through the trees, as if it were a light beam following me, just seems to beg for a song.

There’s not much steering to do, as the horse under me can see the trail much better than I can see the silhouette of the horse in front me. That’s part of the thrill of trail riding on the night of a full moon – trusting in your senses, trusting in the 1,000-pound animal. Listening to the red-tailed hawk’s alarming cry. Letting go of the habitual dependency on sight. With an imagination like mine, sight only serves as a trick. Each bush waving in the night air becomes a lumbering bear; the tall grass, a slinking mountain lion.

We are not hundreds of miles into the Frank Church Wilderness; we are just above the city lights of Sandpoint, watching one of the best full moon shows around. When we reach Picnic Point on Schweitzer, we pull out the cushions, spread out fruit and cheese, and wait for Luna to make her appearance. When it happens, it seems so fast – not like “bam” but like “ahwwwoooo.”

Across the lake, the profile of the Cabinet Mountains sets the stage. The star of the show peaks through the curtains, sees her audience and then rises – her chest full, her magnitude magnificent. The crowd goes nuts. One night we cheered so loudly that she ducked through the clouds on her



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WHITE


way up and came out again, even brighter than before, so we cheered louder. Then there was the full moon ride in which she didn’t appear at all. I thought my fellow riders would be so disappointed, but, instead, we saw the most extraordinary display of lightning. It rode the blackened clouds in a charge across the sky and never did a drop of rain fall upon us.

—LAURA WHITE

RESOURCES: At Schweitzer, Mountain Horse Adventures hosts full moon rides (see ad, this page, for dates) and 3-hour trail rides six days a week. Phone (208) 263-TROT (8768) or look up *mountainhorseadventures.com*, or call the Schweitzer Mountain Activity Center for reservations or trail information at (208) 255-3081.

Directions to the trailhead:
Drive up Schweitzer Mountain Road 7 miles to the horse barn on the right and park there. Or continue to Schweitzer Village; park in the lot below the village. Trails are marked for horses.

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