



The Cowboy Dinner Tree Tour
With
Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC

The rustic Cowboy Dinner Tree, located in remote Silverlake, Oregon, offers a fantastic dining experience that reflects the rustic lifestyle of the Oregon cowboy life around the turn of the century.

This Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, all-inclusive tour offered a scenic drive from Bend, OR, to the Cowboy Dinner Tree Restaurant in May that included meal, transportation and even the chance for an Old Fashioned Buckboard ride. Gadabout Adventures can be reached at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at www.gadaboutadventures.com to receive a Calendar of Tours.

The original “Dinner Tree” (the tallest behind the building in the photo) was a long sought destination for many a saddle sore cowboy during the roundup and cattle drive across many miles of Oregon wilderness, through Scrub and Sage brush, scraggly Juniper trees and across the high desert plains. Literally living and eating out of their saddle bags was a necessary way of life on the desolate trail, with only the cattle, coyotes, rattle snakes and fellow cow pokes for company, and home cooked meals were few and far between. But one of the highlights of the trail was meeting up with the Chuck Wagon at the dinner tree for a hearty meal prepared fresh and delicious by the Cook. And second

helpings were encouraged for all before they returned to their staple food of dried Pemmican (today called “Beef Jerky”) and dried biscuits as they finished up the drive.

The Dinner Tree became legend first with the cowboys on the trail and then spread to the local cattle hands that would come out to socialize, pass on local news and share a meal with their weary counterparts. As the years passed a small shack was first built to store some of the basic supplies necessary to feed the increasing numbers of mouths and then gradually over the years the shack was expanded until today the Cowboy Dinner Tree restaurant occupies the same space where once only a Chuck Wagon was parked to mark the location of the feast.

From these humble beginnings the Cowboy Dinner Tree restaurant has become renowned for their Steak and all you can eat sides, including Salad, fresh baked rolls, soup and, of course, baked potato, followed by an old fashioned home-made dessert to top it all off. People travel, from all across the states and even from abroad, to enjoy this great meal and experience a small taste of cowboy life on the “Drive”. To this day the Cowboy Dinner Tree has no public Electricity and all meals are prepared and served fresh by light of lantern and candlelight, supplemented by solar powered lighting to ensure safety. And, bring Cash or Check to pay because they can’t process your Visa either!!!



Today the Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC tour travels with a bit more comfort than the horse and saddle to enjoy the Cowboy Dinner Tree feast but the surrounding area hasn't changed much in all the years and we enjoy the same peaceful calm and quiet the cowboys did on the trail (without the smell of all those cattle!!). The sky was crystal blue with light fluffy clouds dotting the sky and affording brief breaks from the heat by their passing.



The meal was excellent, perfectly cooked steaks for everybody, plenty of “left-overs” to take home, and nobody left the least bit hungry. With so much good food it was difficult to save room for dessert, home baked cake, covered with local berries and fresh cream. Delicious!!!

After dinner there was time to relax in the shade, browse the Gift Shoppe for home made Jams and Jellies, Local and rustic craftwork and souvenirs, and even take in a leisurely Buckboard ride through the local terrain to see some of the historic camping locations used by so many of the cattle hands (really makes you appreciate a nice soft bed).



Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, located in Sunriver, OR, really enjoyed being able to add this tour to our schedule this year and appreciate that so many of you came out to enjoy the day with us. Thank You.

Robin & Danita Parker, Owners / Operators
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