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**BONUS Pull-Out Guide NW Food Traveler** *inside >>*

## TOUR DE FOAM BOZEMAN, MONTANA

BY ADAM SAWYER

**GROUP TOURS THAT ARE LED BY A QUALIFIED TOUR GUIDE** can be better than striking out on your own. It's nice to have topical facts disseminated by an expert in an entertaining and engaging way. And, in the case of any adult beverage-themed tour, it's important to have a capable and sober designated driver.

The Tour de Foam is a driving tour of Bozeman, Montana's burgeoning craft beer scene, and it puts an ample check mark in both boxes. On a recent trip to Bozeman, I booked a tour and found that I had options. I could visit three or four craft breweries, choose a beer and food tour, or have an adventure that teams up with a local fishing outfitter—the aptly named Trout and Stout package. Just looking to get my feet wet, I opted for the three-brewery tour. The great news was that even the entry-level tour package was going to showcase plenty of beer. Each guest chose a tasting flight and an additional pint at each stop. We were also provided with some very appreciated amenities like unlimited bottled water and food for the group at the second stop.

Merlin, our guide, gathered me and the rest of group at The LARK hotel, and, after some introductions and an overview, we were on our way.

I love tours like this. And I particularly enjoy watching the way they unfold. I'll admit that I've been on many similar outings, and there are two indisputable claims I can make about them. First, 99 percent of the people that come on a tasting tour that involves alcohol are going to be fun to hang out with. Second, we are all going to seem even more delightful after every stop.

Just as the sun was ducking over the horizon and every conceivable hue of pastel washed over the Montana sky, we arrived at our first stop, Outlaw Brewing. The beer was quite varied stylistically. A pint of the Hangin' Judge Imperial IPA set the tone nicely. Also, if you're younger and stronger than I am,

visit on Tough Guy Tuesday when every pull-up you accomplish knocks 25 cents off your first round.

We loaded into the van and while in transit Merlin gave us some background about the beer scene in Bozeman, as well as the opportunity to win free additional beers by answering brew-themed trivia questions. I might not be able to do very many pull-ups anymore, but I can tell you the difference between an ale and a lager, especially if free beer is involved.

Our next stop was 406 Brewing. This was also the food stop, and after that imperial pint, a plate of nachos was a welcome sight. I appreciated their use of locally sourced ingredients, as well as the fact that the food menu was designed to pair with the beers they craft.

By the time we headed to our final stop, White Dog Brewing, group chemistry was firing on all cylinders and Facebook friends were being

made. Both the tasting-room ambience and beer were exquisite at White Dog. And as a caper to an already memorable outing, we were treated to an impromptu behind-the-scenes tour.

To learn all about visiting Bozeman, check out [bozemancvb.com](http://bozemancvb.com). For a room at The LARK, go to [larkbozeman.com](http://larkbozeman.com). Book your Tour de Foam experience at [tourdefoam.com](http://tourdefoam.com). 🍷



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