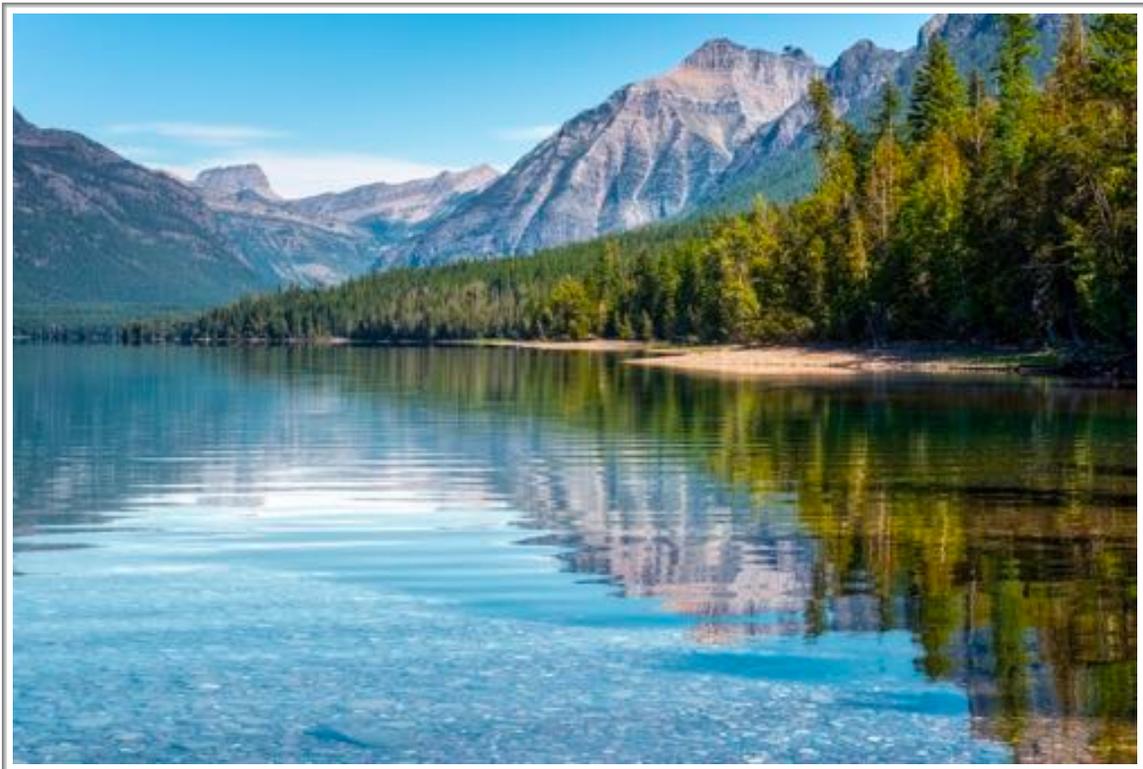


Flathead Valley Scenic Drive

Montana's Glacier Country



5 Days/4 Nights

Gateway City: Missoula, Montana



Get ready for some gorgeous untouched scenery created millenniums ago when the icy waters of Glacier Lake Missoula flowed out to the Pacific Ocean. The rushing water gouged deep valleys, scraped soil off craggy rocks, lifted volcanic rock to new heights, and created new rivers and deep lakes. The water left behind the Crown of the Continent and its outrageously beautiful Going to the Sun Road in Glacier National Park. Yet, in this age-old place, life thrived even before the ice age. Oral traditions coinciding with geological findings indicate that ancient cultures lived here more than 40,000 years ago. Europeans arrived in the late 1700s when the Hudson Bay Company surveyed the land. Lewis and Clark brought back details of lands rich in resources and ready for settlement. Mining expeditions arrived in the 1850s, followed by the Pacific Railway Expedition and the Royal Geographical Society Palliser Expedition in 1857. Soon, Jesuit missionaries arrived to build a series of missions, and the railroad brought settlers and visitors. Main Street in Kalispell was established in 1884 and for generations, large steamships served as the main transportation on Flathead Lake, until the road encircling the lake was completed. Flourishing small towns kept attracting people who kept coming, but the landscape was so rugged that the majestic scenic beauty, the beautiful snow-capped peaks, alpine lakes, lush forests and serene landscapes, did not change. And thank heavens they didn't, leaving untouched the scenic beauty you can enjoy today!



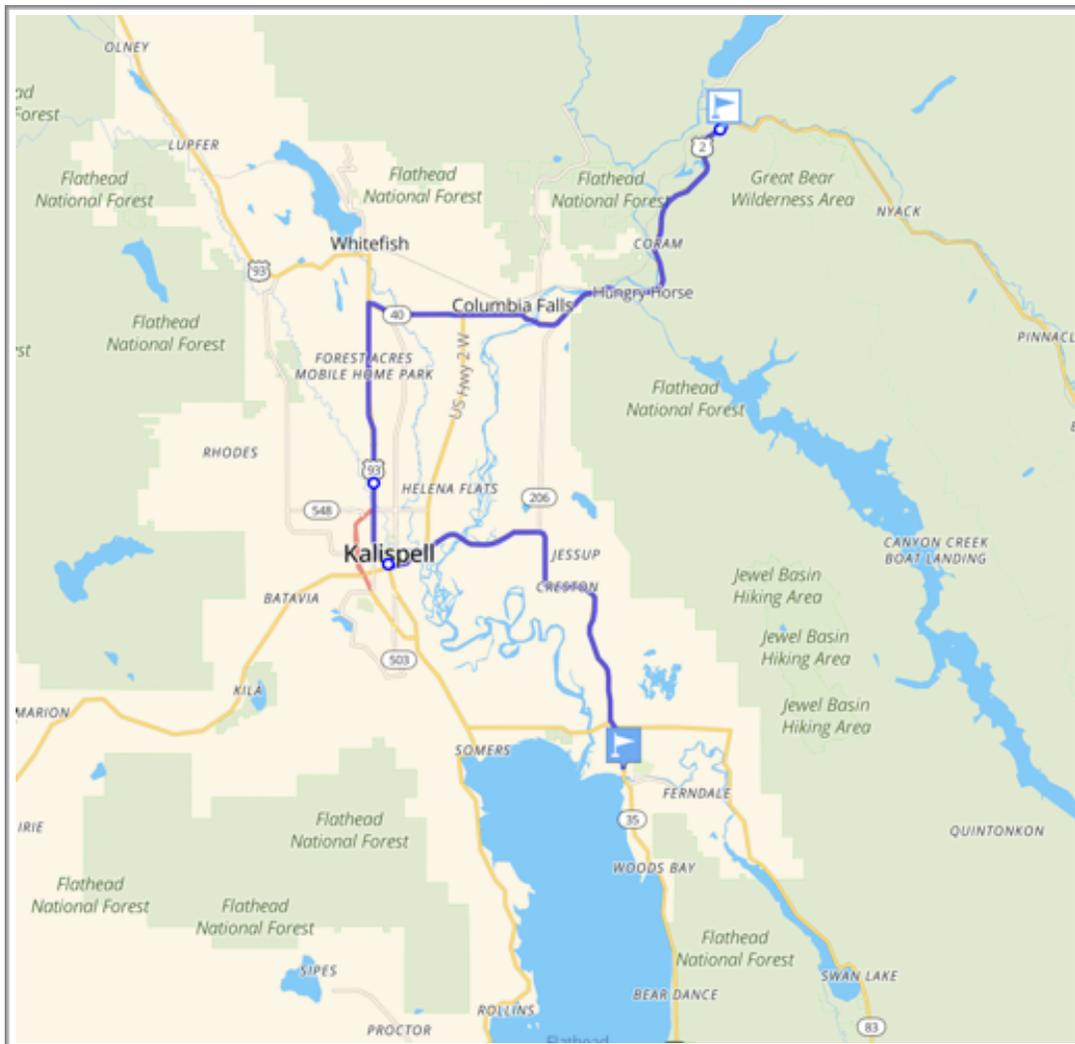
Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Missoula, where you can get to know the city on the Historic and Art Walking Tour and explore the Montana History Center, the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, the Historical Museum of Fort Missoula, and the Riverfront Walking Trail before spending the night at the Blue Mountain Bed and Breakfast.

On Day Two, you'll be on your way to the National Bison Range Scenic Drive which skirts the edge of the National Bison Range, a tribally managed wildlife conservation area focused on restoring the buffalo population. On the drive, you'll discover Moiese and Charlo, and in Charlo, the Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana and the Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge. Have lunch at Ninepipes Lodge. When you reach US 93 at the end of the National Bison Range Scenic Drive, you can visit the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge before heading for Polson at the southern end of Flathead Lake. After another night's stay, visit the Polson Flathead Lake Museum and from there, head north on Montana Highway 35 on the eastern edge of Flathead Lake. About 10 miles south of Bigfork (mile marker 21.5) be sure to stop at the Bowman Cherry Orchards, where sweet cherries have grown since the 1920s. In Bigfork, explore the Bigfork Art and Cultural Center, and taste at the Whistling Andy Distillery, before moving on to Kalispell where you can

take the Downtown Historic Walking tour to get to know the city before a good night's rest at the Kalispell Grand Hotel.

The next day tour the Conrad Mansion Museum and the Northwest Montana History Museum. Traveling through Whitefish and Columbia Falls, be sure to see the town's historic murals representing the Columbia Falls of 100 years ago. Between Columbia Falls and Hungry Horse, on the way to Glacier National Park, Bad Rock Canyon is the gateway to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. From there, it's time to drive to McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park where you'll have all the next day to explore Glacier, drive the famous Going to the Sun Road, and end your drive at St. Mary's Lodge on the other side of Logan Pass. From there, we wish you safe passage if you're traveling on another Montana Scenic Drive or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Missoula

C. P. Higgins and Francis Worden opened a trading post on the Blackfoot River in 1869, that was followed by the arrival of the Mullan Road connecting Fort Benton with Walla Walla, Washington. Fort Missoula was opened in 1877 to protect the growing community. The arrival of the railroad in 1883, along with the Missoula Mercantile Company, made the city a trading center. The University of Montana opened in 1895. Missoula's location within a heavily forested area made logging the mainstay industry until the mid-1970s. Saws could be heard over two miles away on a clear summer night.

Downtown Missoula Historic and Art Walking Tour

Learn more about Missoula on the downtown walking tour, which has one of the largest collections of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the country. Locations like the Atlantic Hotel and the Diner Café, with huge historic neon signs, that have long been repurposed, peacefully coexist with the 1910 Missoula County Courthouse and the 1909 Palace Hotel. The downtown partnership has funded over 20 works of public art that appear along the route.

Montana Natural History Center

The Montana Natural History Center features displays of the flora and fauna, ecosystems, and geology in the state, including the Montana Ecosystem, The Magic Planet, a Naturalist Forest Station, Glacial Lake Missoula, Explore Fossils, Explore Geology, and the outdoor Nature Adventure Garden.

120 Hickory Street, Suite A, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-327-0405, T-F 9AM-5PM, Sat Noon-4PM, Adults \$4

Montana Museum of Art and Culture

Located on the University of Montana campus, this museum now has 11,000 pieces including works by Rocky Mountain artists, historic European works, along with collections from Southeast Asia, American Impressionists, contemporary Native American artists, ceramics, and public art sites across the campus. European masters include Rembrandt, Delacroix, Boucher, Piranesi, and Daumier, along with 20th century artists, Miro, Toulouse-Lautrec, Chagall, Dali, Picasso, Remington, Merritt Chase, and Andy Warhol.

Across from the Adams Center off East 6th Street. University of Montana Campus. 406-243-2019. Tu-Sat Noon-6PM. Free, donations accepted.

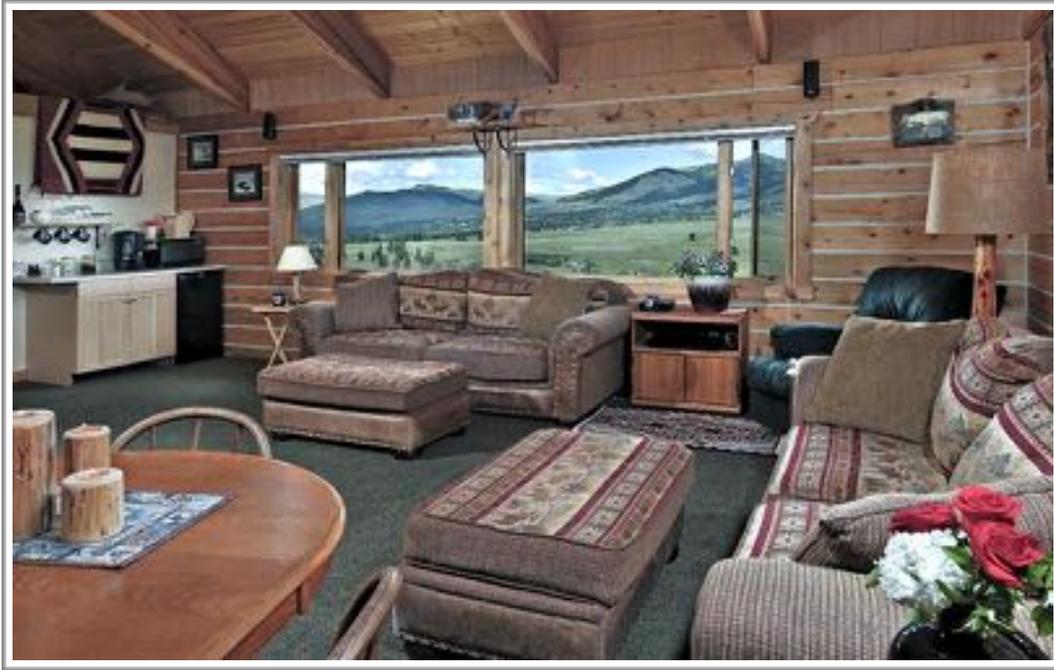
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

Fort Missoula was established by the US Army in 1877 to protect settlers in the region. Nearly 100 years later, the Historical Museum encompasses 32 acres with over 20 historic structures and a collection of nearly 50,000 artifacts.

3400 Captain Rawn Way, Missoula, MT 59804, 406-728-3476 M-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun Noon-5PM

Riverfront Walking Trail

The riverfront walking trail along the Clark Fork River takes you past McCormick Park, the Old Milwaukee Depot, John H. Toole Park, and other scenic and historic treasures in Missoula.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Blue Mountain Bed and Breakfast 6980 Deadman Gulch Road, Missoula, MT 59804, 406-203-3187 The gardens here frame breathtaking views of the Bitterroot River. Elegant breakfasts go along with the Inn's lovely décor. Guest rooms have private baths with jetted tubs, air conditioning and amenities, plus Wifi.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Catalyst Café 111 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT, 59802, 406-542-1337
American cuisine café.

Scotty's Table 131 South Higgins Avenue, Unit P3, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-549-2790 Fine dining in Missoula.

Tamarack Brewing Company 231 Front Street West, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-830-3113
American pub and bar, vegetarian and vegan options.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Missoula Art Galleries

The Artists' Shop 127 North Higgins, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-543-6393
Missoula's premiere co-op fine craft gallery. M-F 10AM-6PM, Sat-Sun 10AM-5PM

Dana Gallery 246 North Higgins Avenue, **Murphy-Jubb Fine Art** 210 North Higgins Avenue, Suite 300, **Radius Gallery** 114 East Main Street and **The Art Hang-up** 839 South Higgins Avenue

Lake Missoula Tea Company 136 East Broadway, Missoula, MT, 59801, 406-926-1038 Teas from around the world, including blends made in small batches.

Hometana 312 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-224-4166

Ducrey Chocolate Maker 311 East Front Street, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-218-7396

DAY TWO



National Bison Range Scenic Drive

The National Bison Range was founded to prevent extinction of the plains bison. Today, about 500 bison peacefully coexist with birds, whitetail and mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. Two scenic roads allow access to prime viewing areas. There is a fee to enter, firearms are prohibited, walking is only allowed on designated trails. Picnic areas, sanitation stations, and fishing areas are available. The range is open during daylight hours and vehicles over 30 feet, or towing trailers, motorcycles, ATVs and bicycles are not allowed on Red Sleep or Prairie Drive.

58355 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT 406-644-2211, Visitor Center 7-AM-8PM, hours change seasonally.

Moiese

Moiese was created as a “model” town of bungalows surrounding a school, to create a cohesive community. Several of the residences remain today.

Charlo

This small town, originally located on a trail crossing the lush Mission Valley, was named after Chief Charlo of the Flathead Tribe.

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana

Displays here depict the past life of tribes in the region, along with the story of the homesteaders who were allowed to settle on the Reservation. There is also information about the early fur trade and the Blackrobe missionaries who settled in the area.

69316 Highway 93 Charlo, MT, 406-644-3435, M-Sat, Mar 1-Oct 31, 9AM-5PM



Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge

This exceptional wetland complex with over 800 glacial potholes in a 1,770-acre span, reservoir is home to 200 species of birds, including great blue herons and double-crested cormorants.

69286 US Highway 93, Charlo, MT 59824 406-644-2211

Destination Distinctive Dining

Ninepipes Lodge

Located on the edge of Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge, the lodge has views of the snow-tipped Mission Mountains and native-grass-edged wetlands full of birds. The restaurant is open seven days a week, along with an art gallery, a museum, and trading post. 69286 US Highway 93 South, Charlo, MT 59824, 406-644-2588

Pablo

Pablo is the headquarters for the Flathead Reservation named for Michel Pablo, a Flathead Chief, rancher, and stockman who was responsible for saving bison from extinction.

Pablo National Wildlife Refuge

Shaped by glacial activity approximately 12,000 years ago, the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge is a 2,500-acre glacial terminal moraine with small wetlands, marshes, and grasses that support abundant waterfowl including mallards, northern shovelers, gadwalls, redheads and ruddy ducks, song sparrows, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, and ring-necked pheasants. Common mammals here include muskrats, striped skunks, mink, field mice, and meadow voles.

Turn west on Reservoir Road, 3 miles south of Polson and travel west for 1-1/2 miles, 406-644-2211

Polson

Polson was platted in 1909 when the harbor was dredged to allow economic activity on the southern end of Flathead Lake. A school, hospital and several businesses had opened within two years. The railroad came through in 1918 and Lake County was created in 1923. The town grew during the 1930s when dry-land farmers leaving the dust bowl, relocated to Montana.





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Kwataqnuq Resort and Casino, 49708 US Highway 93, Polson MT, 59860, 406-883-3636
Located on the shore of Flathead Lake with views of the Mission Mountains, the resort provides an authentic experience congruent with the beautiful surroundings and spectacular vistas. Select from the 107 newly removed spacious and comfortable guest rooms.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Finley Point Grill 35427 MT Highway 35, Mile Marker 6, Polson, MT 59860, 406-887-2020
Great steakhouse and pub with a multitude of selections.

Destination Distinctive Retail

HandMADE Montana 212 Main Street, Polson, MT 59860

Crow's Nest Gallery 214 Main Street, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-2488

Sandpiper Art Gallery 306 Main Street A, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-5956

DAY THREE

Miracle of America Museum

The largest and most diverse museum in Montana, dedicated to American history, includes a Pioneer Village featuring 42 historic buildings constructed between 1890 and 1960, that were moved to the site. The Outdoor Sculpture Gallery specializes in whimsical artistic renderings using discarded and repurposed items.

36094 Memory Lane, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-6804, Daily 9AM-5PM, Adults \$10

Polson Flathead Lake Museum

The Polson Flathead Historical Museum features a collection of artifacts from the Salish and Kootenai Tribes, a stagecoach, chuckwagon, horse drawn buggies and fire engines, a pioneer home interior from a 1910 homestead, Calamity Jane's saddle, and more.

708 Main Street, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-3049, 10AM-4PM

Bigfork

Known as the "Village by the Bay" and the major arts community in Northwest Montana, Bigfork is a year-round resort with art galleries, restaurants, sidewalk cafes, golf, boutiques, and live theater.



Bigfork Art and Culture Center

Located in a converted gas station, the center features local artists, artisans, and craftsmen who work in fiber, metal, gemstones, paint, clay, photography, sculpture, textiles, wood, glass, and the written word.

525 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, MT 59911 406-837-6927, Tu-Sat 11AM-5PM

Destination Distinctive Dining

Pocketstone Café 444 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, MT 59911, 406-837-7223

Breakfast and lunch favorites.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Art Fusion 471 Electric Avenue, Bigfork MT, 59911, 406-837-3526,

A contemporary gallery blending art and fine craft from over seventy Montana artists. I

Whistling Andy Distillery

Taste spirits made from unmilled grains with no shortcuts or automation. Age old recipes coexist peacefully with unique new blends made from what's in season.

8541 Montana Highway 3, Bigfork, MT 59911, 406-837-2620

Bigfork Summer Playhouse

Check out performances on offer at the “Theatre by the Bay,” winner of the Montana Governor's Award for the Arts.

526 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, MT 59911, 406-837-4886





Kalispell

Kalispell was platted by Charles Conrad when he realized the railroad was going to come through. Named the Salish word for “flat land” or prairie above the lake, Kalispell became a division point for the railroad between St. Paul, MN and Seattle. Soon after “the iron horse snorted through” the remaining buildings from a neighboring town gone bust were moved to Kalispell on log rollers. The first brewery was established in 1894, and today local craft breweries produce more than 40 varieties of ales and lagers made with Montana-grown malts, hand-picked local hops, huckleberries, and Flathead cherries.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Kalispell Grand Hotel 100 Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-755-8100

The Grand was one of the first hotels built on the frontier and the only one remaining in Kalispell. It hosted the well to do at double the going rate for running water, door locks, and wake-up calls.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Hops Downtown Grill 121 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-755-7687 Try the bison burger and other interesting tastes.

The DeSoto Grill 227 First Street West, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-314-6095 Great food and great service.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Art Galleries

Montana Modern Fine Art 127 South Main Street, 406-755-5321, **Sassafras Arts, Crafts**

and Antiques 120 South Main Street, 406-752-2433 and **Paint, Metal and Mud** 8 First Street East, Suite 104, 406-755-8886

Western Outdoors 48 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT, 59901, 406-756-5818

Featuring more than 2,500 boots and 1,500 hats.

Bear Country Gallery 4054 US Highway 93 South, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-752-6735

Flair Gifts and Cards 123 Main Street, Kalispell, MT, 55901, 406-407-7210

DAY FOUR

Downtown Historic District Walking Tour

Take a walk past buildings from the 1890s and early 1900s including the Conrad Mansion, the Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell Grand Hotel, and the Northwest Montana History Museum. The tour includes Main Street and First Avenue East from Depot Park on Center Street, south to the 400 block. Near the tour route, St. Matthew's Catholic Church, dating from 1910, remains the city's most commanding Gothic landmark. 602 South Main Street, 406-752 678

Conrad Mansion Museum

The residence of Charles Conrad sits proudly on three landscaped acres atop a bluff overlooking the valley. The shingle-style Norman building, a revivalist version of vernacular architecture in Normandy, France, is surrounded by large ever-blooming flower beds that provide constant color during the summer season, plus hedges, evergreens, and lawns.

330 Woodland Avenue, Kalispell, MT 55901, 406-755-2166, self-guided and docent led tours offer year around, May 15-Oct 15, docent led tours 11AM and 1PM. Adults \$20

Northwest Montana History Museum

Housed in the restored Central School building, this museum features exhibits about history of the Northwest Montana region and Flathead Valley including artifacts, documents, and photographs that tell the story of Big Sky Country. In addition to permanent exhibits, rotating curated exhibits are presented throughout the year.

124 Second Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 55901, 406-756-8381, M-F 10AM-5PM, Sat 10AM-3PM, Adults \$5

OPTIONAL DAY FIVE



Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park is a stunningly beautiful, ice-carved terrain of serrated ridges, jutting peaks, dramatic hanging valleys, 50 glaciers, more than 200 lakes and waterfalls, and some 1.2 million acres of forest. Some call it the Crown of the Continent and few know that it backs up to the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park across the Canadian border. In frontier days, visitors to the remote mountain valleys were likely to be horse-mounted hunters seeking hides and heads as trophies. Today's visitors are photographers, hikers, birders and scenic drive lovers. The Park is big, wild, majestic, awesome and spectacular - and when their open mouths begin working again, visitors seeing it for the first time say something profound, like "wow." A portion have returned with their work, urban tastes and expectations, and settled in, working to sustain and save working ranches, clear streams, and free ranging wildlife from the intrusions of modern life.



Going to the Sun Road

Get ready for the drive of a lifetime! You saw it in the opening moments of the film “The Shining” as Jack’s Volkswagen glides past St. Mary’s Lake and up the road. You’ll be traveling through one of the most scenic 50 miles in the world, and a truly inspiring journey. Shining, glaciated peaks, plunging valleys, and turquoise blue lakes were carved by ice and slow-moving glaciers that still quietly creep across a vast wilderness. The Going to the Sun Road pierces the landscape through the heart of Glacier National Park, crossing the Continental Divide over Logan Pass at 6,646 feet. The steeper and more jagged peaks near the Continental Divide are about 10,000 feet. The 52-mile drive, both a National Historic Landmark and Civil Engineering Landmark completed in 1932, is the only road that crosses the park. It was literally carved out of the precipitous mountainside for 12 miles of its length, where the cliffs drop hundreds of feet from the roadside. As you start through the park, you’ll pass through lush forests of spruce, lodgepole pine, cedar, hemlock and subalpine fir. Turnouts allow you to relish vistas of glacier-sculpted mountains and glimpse wildlife. Further on, the vertical rock face along the road is known as the Garden Wall, a section that features amazing waterfalls, especially in late spring when the snow is melting. A long section of rock wall adjacent to the road covered by running water, called the Weeping Wall, is one of the more unusual. The road, generally only open from early June to mid-October, is one you want to take slowly. Even in summer, the peaks may be shrouded in clouds with fog at the top. In spite of that, don’t miss the Crown of the Continent’s beautiful road through rugged terrain. It’s a once in a lifetime adventure.

Glacier National Park Historic Areas

Apgar

Early trappers, loggers, and miners quickly realized that tourism would be a primary economic driver at Glacier, and by 1892, settlers Milo Apgar and Charlie Howe were offering rental cabins, meals, pack horses, guided tours, and boat trips to visitors who arrived on the Great Northern Railway. Guests were rowed across the river before a rugged dirt road connected the river to the foot of Lake McDonald. From there, guests would board George Snyder's steamboat for the trip up the lake to the Snyder Hotel, now the Lake McDonald Lodge.

East Side

Miners came searching to strike it rich on copper and gold, but no large deposits were ever found here. To prevent any further damage from mining, this area of Glacier National Park was the first to receive protection from Congress as a forest preserve in 1900.

North Fork

The existing wagon road up the North Fork became the western boundary of the park in 1910, the homesteads to the east of the new boundary fell within Glacier.

Glacier National Park Visitor Centers

Apgar Visitor Center

Located on the Going to the Sun Road, two miles from the West Glacier Entrance Station. Open Mid-May-Mid-Oct. There are exhibits, restrooms, a bookstore, WiFi, Ranger led activities, an astronomy program, paved path from Lake McDonald, and a shuttle service.

Logan Pass Visitor Center

Located in the middle of the park at the highest point on the Going to the Sun Road. Open daily 9AM-7PM, mid-May-Labor Day, 9AM-4PM, Daily through Sept 26. Exhibits, restrooms, bookstore, Ranger led activities, a trailhead, and a shuttle service.

St. Mary Visitor Center

Located adjacent to the St. Mary Entrance Station on the Going to the Sun Road, near the town of St. Mary. Open, daily, late May-early Oct. Exhibits feature the Native Americans of the region, are complemented with a park film "Land of Many Journeys" and other activities

Historic Lodge Accommodations

Glacier Park Lodge, 1912

With unpeeled log pillars and open campfire-like fireplaces in the lobby, this Great Northern Railroad Lodge acted as the grand entry to the wilderness, for visitors who arrived by train from the East. Located outside the park boundary but connected by a trail, visitors stepped off the train platform in East Glacier and walked across the street to the lodge grounds.



Lake McDonald Lodge, 1913

The original Snyder Hotel constructed in 1896, was enlarged and surrounded with a new 65-room hotel in 1913. Construction materials that could not be locally sourced had to be hauled from the depot in Belton and ferried nearly 10 miles up the lake. Decorated as a hunting lodge, Lake McDonald became a gathering point where artist Charlie Russell could sometimes be found telling stories in the lobby. When the property was sold in 1930, the name was changed to Lake McDonald Lodge. The lodge also contains the Russell's Fireside Dining Room, Jammer Joe's Grill and Pizzeria, Lucke's Lounge, and Creekside Reading Room. All guest rooms are rustic, yet comfortable, although televisions, air conditioning, and elevators are only available in suites.

Many Glacier Hotel, 1914

Many Glacier was built by the Great Northern Railway as the showplace of their network of chalets and hotels. A hardy crew of craftsmen overcame the difficulties of building what was then Montana's largest hotel, withstanding winter temperatures below zero in order to have the hotel complete for July 4, 1915. Most of the timber for the hotel was logged nearby and milled on the shores of Swiftcurrent Lake.

Prince of Wales Hotel, 1926

Perched above Waterton Lakes in Canada, this GNR hotel is now a National Historic Site of Canada.

St. Mary's Lodge

Even though it is not a Historic lodge, St. Mary's Lodge, located on the eastern side of the park, is a convenient to stay after driving the Going to the Sun Road. It has one of the most dramatic backdrops of all Glacier National Park hotels, with 127 guest rooms spread across seven facilities, coupled with a number of dining and shopping outlets.





Red Bus Tours

If you'd rather ride than drive in Glacier, the famous Red Bus tours serve as an ideal way to see the park. With much of the park's scenery vertically oriented, the roll-back tops are perfect for providing a full view of the stunning scenery. The guides are seasoned park veterans who are here because they love the park and enjoy visitors. The buses seat 17 people, with 4 across on bench seating and 1 front passenger seat and tours generally sell out daily. East side departure points include: Swiftcurrent Motor Inn, Many Glacier Hotel and Rising Sun Motor Inn, all inside the park. Various spots outside the park include the town of St. Mary's, Johnson's (for their hotel guests only) and at the Glacier Park Lodge in East Glacier. West side departure points include: Apgar Visitor Center, Village Inn at Apgar and Lake McDonald Lodge.



Other Area Options

If you have explored Glacier before and are looking for a different adventure, explore Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in the western US and one of the cleanest in the world. At 28 miles long and 15 miles wide, the lake delivers breathtaking views. Wild Horse Island, the largest in Flathead Lake, has been a landmark since the Kootenai Indians used it to pasture horses to keep them from being stolen. A drive around Flathead Lake is best started on the west side, for reasons that will become vividly apparent around sunset. In early May, the cherry orchards that rim the lake are in full bloom. After rounding the lake at Polson, head back up to Kalispell. The higher peaks and steeper shoreline on the east side offer a dramatic contrast with orchards, farms, and sailboats.

The Swan Scenic Drive is a scenic corridor along Highway 83 southeast of Kalispell that includes majestic views of the Mission Mountains and Swan Range. Grab a picnic lunch in Kalispell before you take the approximately 40-minute drive to the Swan Lake day use area with picnic tables, restrooms, and a great beach.

The Hungry Horse Dam and Reservoir are located 20 miles northeast of Kalispell. At 564 feet high, the dam is one of the largest concrete arch dams in the U.S. and its morning-glory spillway, the highest in the world. The 34 mile long reservoir is surrounded by towering mountain peaks. The Hungry Horse Dam Visitor Center is open daily May – September and offers free guided tours of the dam.