

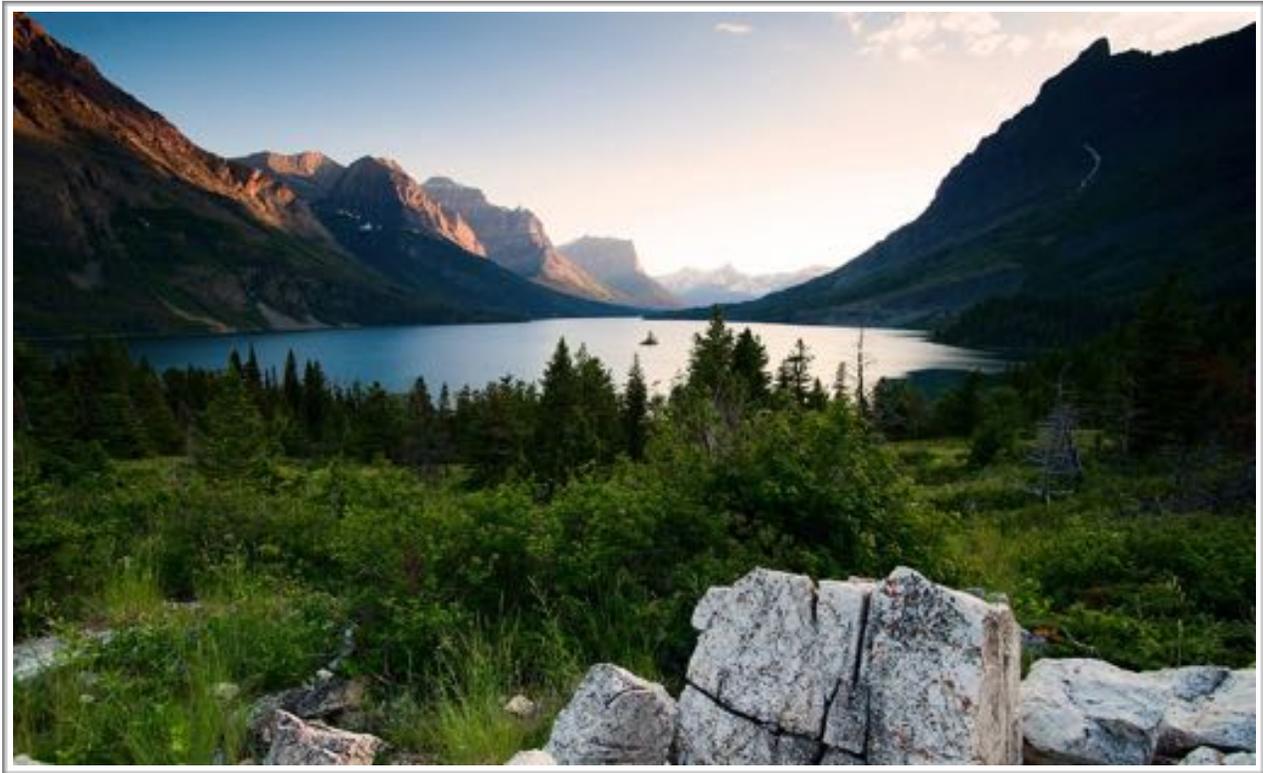
# Going to the Sun Road

*America's Most Beautiful Scenic Road*



4 Days/3 Nights

Gateway City: Kalispell, Montana



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.

### **Touring the Byway**

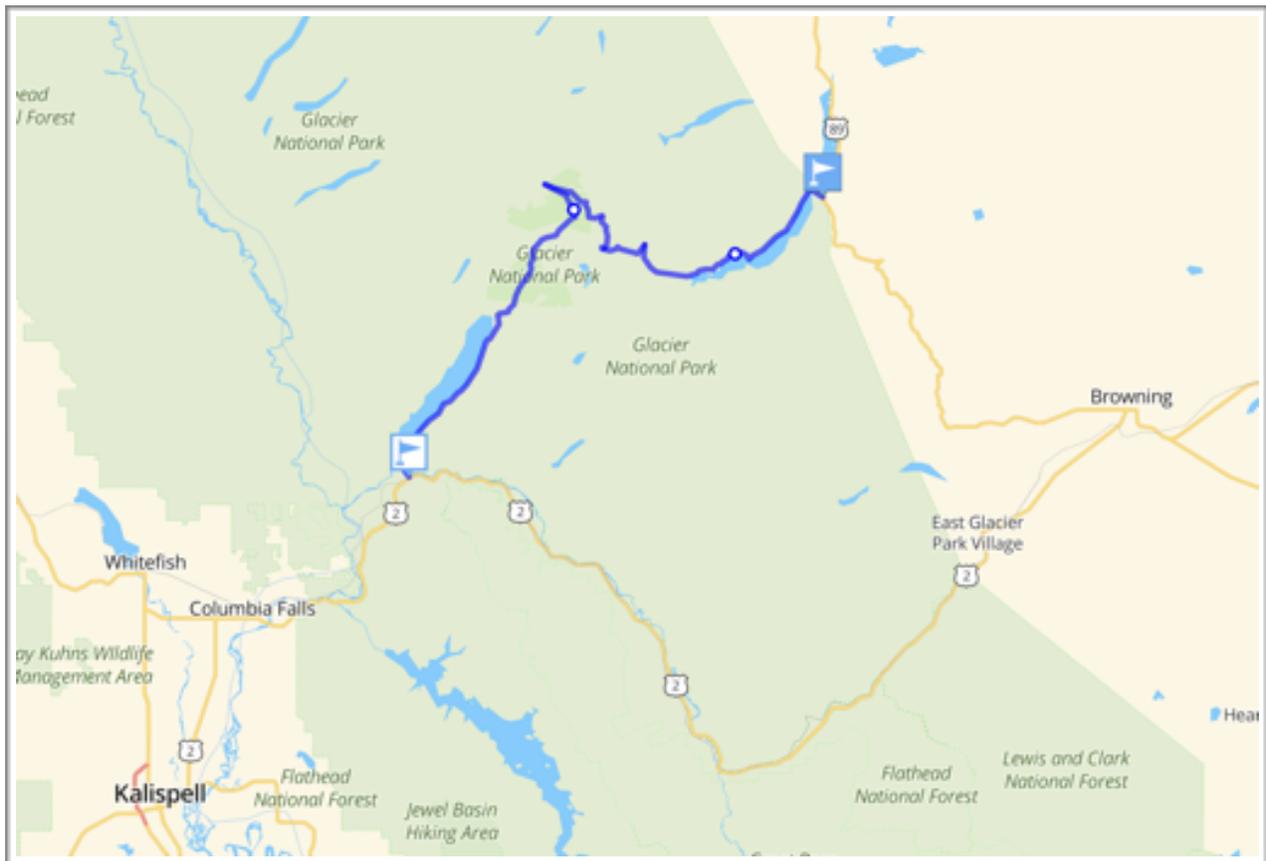
We recommend starting your journey in Kalispell, gateway to Glacier National Park. After you learn a bit about the city on the Downtown Historic Walking Tour, visit the Conrad Mansion Museum and the Northwest Montana History Museum before staying at the Kalispell Grand Hotel. The next day head for Whitefish to explore the Whitefish Museum, Sunti World Art Gallery, and the Going to the Sun Gallery before heading to Columbia Falls.

From there, you're on to Glacier National Park, often called the Crown of the Continent, which backs up to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park across the Canadian border. Along with 700 miles of hiking trails, there are three historic areas: Apgar, which was settled in 1892 to offer cabins and guided tours to early visitors; the East Side, which was settled by prospectors seeking to strike it rich before it became a protected part of the park in 1900; and North Fork, which had 44 homesteads east of Glacier before it also became a part of the park.



Driving the Going to the Sun Road from west to east, you'll visit the Apgar Visitor Center approximately two miles from the West Glacier Entrance Station on the west side of the park, the Logan Pass Visitor Center at Logan Pass, and the St. Mary's Visitor Center on the east side. Be sure to watch the 15-minute film, "Land of Many Journeys" at St. Mary's.

If you prefer to ride instead of driving through the park, take the Red Bus which travels the Going to the Sun Road on a regular basis. From there, we wish you safe passage if you are traveling on another Montana Scenic Drive, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



## DAY ONE



### **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.

### **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



### **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 TWO

### **Whitefish**

Situated in an enormous valley that stretches 60 miles, Whitefish was not developed by outside investors. Instead, over 50 years ago, residents created a vision for a memorable city, pooling their money and decisions to create the Whitefish Mountain Resort, Whitefish Lake Golf Club, and the town of Whitefish. Locals are welcoming, freely swapping stories at the local galleries, coffeehouses and saloons. With its covered sidewalk main street, cultural arts center, historic depot museum, and public library, this quaint, picturesque western town offers a change from the fast-paced hustle.



### **Whitefish Museum**

Housed in the massive 1928 Alpine Whitefish Depot with half-timbered walls, large dormers, and working railroad station, the Stumptown Historical Society created a museum that reminds visitors that before the railroad, the area made its living with lumbering. In addition, an interactive display recreates the desk of Lucien Gordon Becquart, a telegrapher who worked for the Great Northern Railroad for 40 years. A display also tells the story of Whitefish's most-noted author, Dorothy M. Johnson, who penned the classics *The Hanging Tree*, *A Man Called Horse* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. The Historical Society also offers a walking tour to explore Central Avenue and downtown Whitefish, with buildings dating from the early 1900s.  
500 Depot Street, Whitefish, MT 59937, 406-862-0067

### **Sunti World Art Gallery and Café**

This gallery hosts internationally acclaimed work of old masters, authentic plein-air impressionism, and exceptionally detailed hyper-realism, coupled with American-made raku, antique Turkish rugs, Khmer Cambodian-style wood carvings, and hand-embroidered zardozi from India.

345 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937, 406-862-1084, M-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun 1PM-5PM

### **Going to the Sun Gallery**

Featuring the work of regional artists producing contemporary work and jewelry, that is complemented with fine art and antique furnishings.

137 Central Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937, 406-862-2751



### **Columbia Falls**

There are no falls in the popular summer location of Columbia, the word was added to the town name to distinguish it from other towns with the same name.

#### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Three Forks Grille** 729 Nucleus Ave, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, 406-892-2900

Try the braised buffalo, braised bison, trout, pork chops or other interesting selections.

#### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Journeys West Gallery** 205 US Highway 2 East, Columbia Falls, MT, 59912, 406-892-1159

**Glacier Round House Pottery** 2408 MT Highway 206, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, 406-544-6292

## DAY THREE



### **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.

## **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.

## DAY FOUR

Enjoy the Going to the Sun Road!

