

# Quartz-Loon Scenic Drive

*Deep in the Forest*

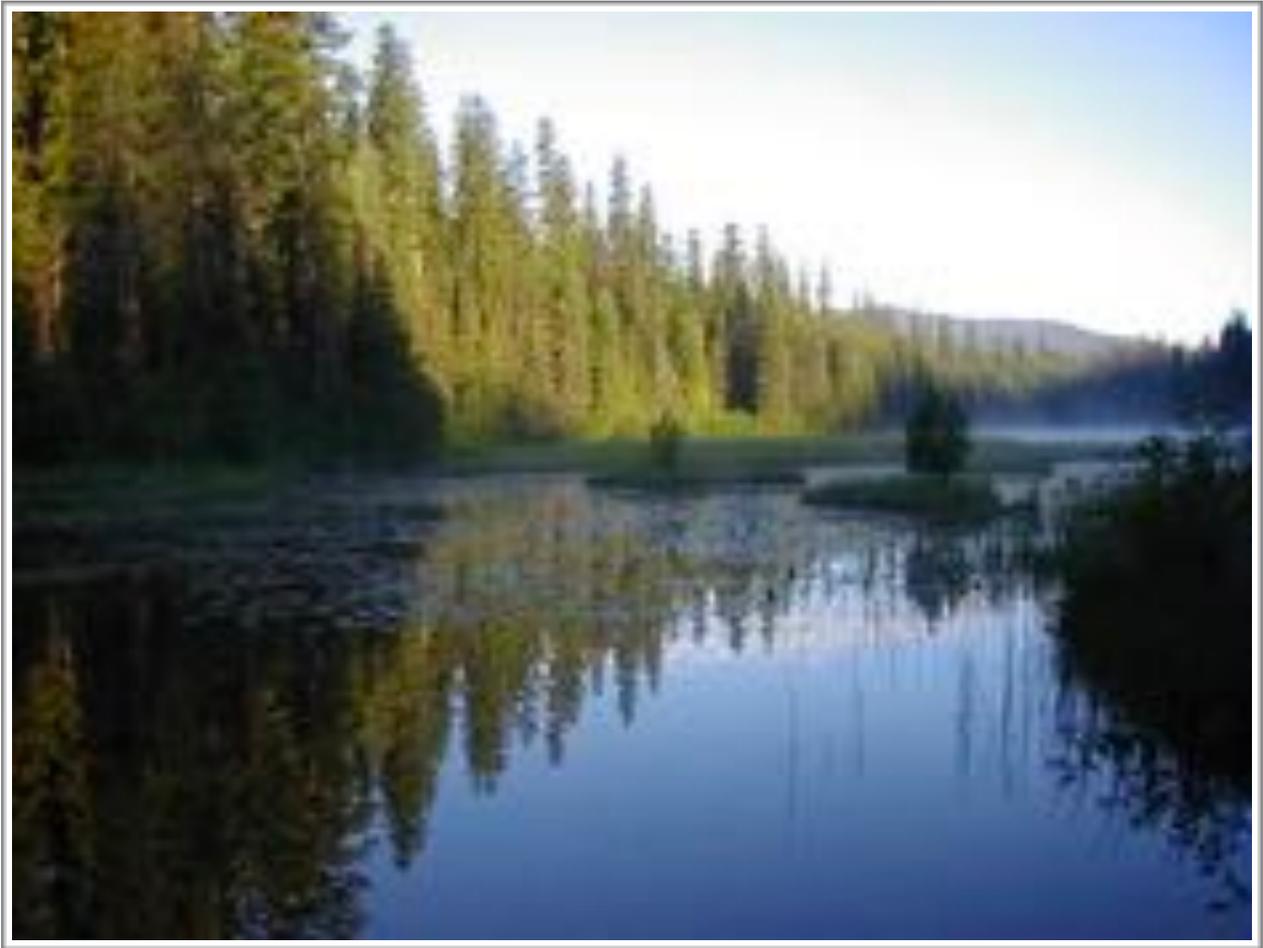


6 Days/5 Nights

Gateway City: Kalispell, Montana



If you've never been deep in a National Forest, here is an opportunity to enjoy a unique drive while surrounded by 2.2 million acres of green, an area three times the size of Rhode Island. Nestled in the mountainous terrain of Northwest Montana, the Kootenai National Forest is bordered by Canada and the panhandle of Idaho. At nearly 9,000 feet, Snowshoe Peak reigns over the Cabinet Mountain's cliffs, spires, river canyons, waterfalls and glacial lakes. In addition to the Cabinet Mountains, the Whitefish, Purcell, Bitterroots, and Salish all radiate from the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers. They are fed with abundant rainfall rendering a climate described as "modified Pacific maritime" as compared to the rest of Montana. In winter, that "characteristic" is modified by arctic air masses and heavy mountain snowfalls. As you head out from Libby on the Quartz-Loon Scenic Drive, expect to see whitetail deer, ruffed grouse, moose, blue heron, osprey, and loons along with beaver dams and lodges and an occasional black bear. Leaving Libby on Montana 508 (which becomes Forest Road 69), the route parallels the Kootenai River for the first five miles. The roads are good quality paved or gravel, but take it slow, as you may encounter logging trucks and you'll want to take every opportunity to enjoy traveling through this very unique environment, likely found nowhere else on earth.

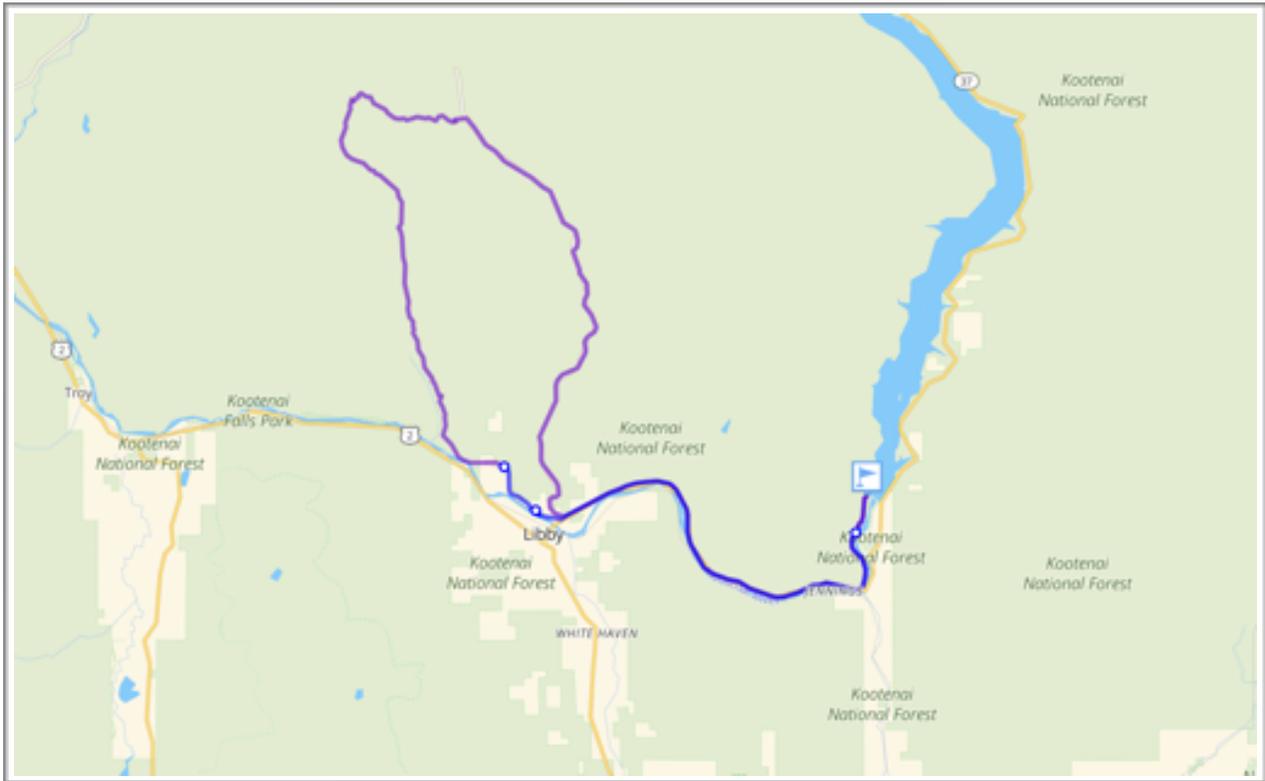


### **Touring the Byway**

We recommend starting your journey in Kalispell where you can take a walking tour of the downtown Historic District and visit the Conrad Mansion Museum, and the Northwest Montana History Museum, while staying at the Kalispell Grand Hotel. On Day Two, you'll be off to Libby, where you can visit the Heritage Museum and tour the Libby Dam Visitor Center before taking the Quartz-Loon Scenic Drive. After paralleling the Kootenai River, you'll turn north on 508 and continue north until you turn left on Forest Road 471, which is Seventeen Mile Creek Road, that takes you past Loon Lake. From there, you take Quartz Creek Road for a short distance to Quartz Mountain Road, which follows Quartz Creek south. That road takes you back to Libby and a stay at the Venture Inn.

On Day Three, you'll be on your way to Troy, where you can visit the City of Troy Museum and Visitor Center and grab a bite of lunch before you travel the Yaak

River Scenic Byway up to Yaak. Plan to stay in Eureka at the Homestead Cabin Resort before visiting the Tobacco Valley Historical Village and taking the Eureka Riverwalk. On Day Four, head to Whitefish and Columbia Falls where you should be sure to see the town's historic murals representing Columbia Falls, from 100 years ago. Between Columbia Falls and Hungry Horse on the way to Glacier, Bad Rock Canyon is the gateway to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Then, it's time to drive to McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park, in order to have all the next day to explore Glacier and drive the famous Going to the Sun Road, ending 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



### **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



### **Libby**

John Fisher and Stephen Allen first searched around Libby for minerals in the early 1860s and named the town for Allen's daughter Elizabeth (Libby). Their success on Libby Creek in 1867 attracted nearly 600 men to the mining camp. Fortunes varied, with some miners making as much as \$1.25 per pan while others made only two cents per pan. Most men left when winter came and by the 1870s, the camp was virtually deserted. Later when the Snowshoe lode was discovered in 1889 on Leigh Creek, the area was unprepared for a major find requiring the ore be shipped to Great Falls before the mine could be electrified.

### **The Heritage Museum**

This unique twelve-sided, 130-foot diameter log structure preserves artifacts from the region focusing on early settlement, mining, and logging, coupled with the Museum Cookhouse, Outdoor Pavilion, and Swamp Creek Community Hall. 34067 US Highway 2, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-7521, May-Sept, M-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun 1PM-5PM, Donations accepted

### **Libby Dam Visitor Center**

Take a tour of the Dam and take advantage of picnic sites, fishing, golf, the bookstore, and lake and river access.

17877 Montana Highway 37, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-5577



**Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Venture Inn** 1015 West Ninth Street, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-7711

Northwest Montana's finest place to stay, featuring a full-service restaurant, pool and hot tub, and unlimited outdoor recreation.

**Destination Distinctive Dining**

**The Black Board Bistro** 803 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-4505

Outstanding find in Northwest Montana.

**Cabinet Mountain Brewing Company** 206 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923, 406-293-2739 American pub with great food and lots of options.

**Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Zero uno Zero Robotics** 28132 Highway 2, Libby, MT 59923, 406-334-7319

Highlighting fabulous and under-represented artists from all around the country.

## DAY THREE

### **Troy**

Lying at 1828 feet above sea level, the lowest elevation in Montana, the first miners arrived here in 1886 stayed in a tent camp on the Kootenai River. Later that year the Keeler Lode Claim was discovered, creating a new mining district. The town, which did not begin in earnest until the railroad came through, was saved from a fire that raged through in 1901 by railroad hoses that soaked the buildings. Stop at the Troy Museum and Visitors' Center which features Troy-related historical items, conveniently located on Highway 2 as you enter town from the east. The wooden sign in front of the museum was carved entirely by chainsaw.

629 East Missoula Avenue, Troy, MT 59335, 406-295-4540

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Main Street Perk and Pub** 509 East Missoula Avenue, Troy, MT 59335, 406-295-7375

### **Yaak River Scenic Byway**

Sweeping vistas, magnificent views, peaceful serenity! When you travel the Yaak River Scenic Byway, you've reached one of the truly Last Best Places - the Wilds of far Northwest Montana. It's home to the rugged, remote landscape encompassed by the Kootenai National Forest, in an area that was a high barren plain when an uplifting mountain range along the Pacific Coast caused the sea to flow into the plains. As the mountain eroded, billions of tons of shells and skeletons of sea creatures that eventually turned to limestone were buried in the icy water. 60 or 70 million years ago, forces began gradually uplifting the Rocky Mountains, which were two miles higher than they currently are. In fact, the oldest rocks on earth are exposed in the Siyeh Formation at the top of northwest Montana's mountains.

### **Yaak**

Yaak derives its name from the word A'ak, which is Kootenai for "Arrow," because the river forms the shape of a drawn bow; its tributary, the Yaak River, is its arrow. Homesteaders arrived shortly after the passage of the Forest Homestead Act of 1906.

## **Eureka**

Until the railroad pushed through the region, this area was home to the Kootenai tribe. In 1904, a longer and easier railroad route through the Tobacco Valley was constructed to replace the existing route, and Eureka was born. Today, it radiates the classic, rural Montana lifestyle. Highway 93 is better known as Main Street.



### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations**

**Homestead Cabin Resort** 18 Drop Tine Road, Eureka, MT 59917 406-882-4929

Accommodations at the highest rated resort in the area are well-built individual cabins decorated in lodge décor with Amish furniture. Windows are positioned for natural sunlight and great views. All are complete with a bedroom, bathroom, family room, and kitchen.

### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Front Porch Dewey Burger and Fish Company** 307 Dewey Avenue, Eureka, MT 59917, 406-297-1234 Great burgers and American choices.

**Café Jax** 207 Dewey Avenue, Eureka, MT 59917 Try the breakfast pancakes and other comfort food goodies.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Front Porch Trading Company** 307 Dewey Avenue, Eureka, MT 59917, 406-297-9090

**Mountain Gift Shop** 205 Dewey Avenue, Eureka, MT 59917, 406-297-2321

**Silver Fish Gallery** 301 Dewey Avenue, Eureka, MT 59917, 406-207-7660

## DAY FOUR



### **Tobacco Valley Historical Village**

The village features nearly a dozen structures built between the 1880s and the 1920s including a general store, schoolhouse, library, church, two log cabins, a hand-hewn house, railway depot, caboose, and fire tower. Several of the buildings, rescued from the Libby Dam, are all filled with exhibits and artifacts from the founding of Eureka. The Fewkes General Store serves as a museum and depository for archival materials donated by organizations and residents of the Tobacco Valley.

4 Dewey Avenue, Eureka, MT 59917, 406-890-0625 Memorial Day-Labor Day, 1PM-5PM

### **Eureka Riverwalk**

A 2-mile loop trail that leaves the Historical Village area and continues southeast along the Tobacco River has natural and historical interpretive sites, exercise stations, and benches.

## **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





## **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.

## DAY FIVE

### **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.



## DAY SIX



### **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.



### **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.