

# Montana – Glacier National Park



## Trip Summary

Known to the Native Americans as the “Shining Mountains” and the “Backbone of the World,” Glacier National Park preserves over a million acres of old growth forests, alpine lakes, rugged mountains and sweeping wildflower meadows. Boasting more than 750 miles of maintained trails, one of the most scenic stretches of paved road in North America and a river equally as suited for rafting as it is gazing at the surrounding beauty, the Park’s unique, glacier-carved terrain is an adventurer’s paradise.

Hike backcountry trails for a jaw-dropping view of history laden sedimentary cliffs and jagged ice fields reflected perfectly in the azure blue waters of Iceberg Lake. Step into the set of *The River Wild* as you raft the unspoiled waters of the Flathead. By day, witness the wildlife and natural beauty of the park up close and personal. By night, raise a glass to your day’s adventure before retiring to the comfort of your historic mountain resort, chalet, or lodge.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Whitefish / Two Medicine Lake / East Glacier

Our adventure begins in the hip western town of Whitefish • After an introductory welcome meeting in town, we begin our two-hour drive towards East Glacier and head over to a lakeside picnic lunch • A bike ride to Glacier Park Lodge will get you feeling comfortable in the saddle and ready for the days to come • Dinner is a short walk away at our favorite Mexican restaurant, Serrano’s • *Overnight Glacier Park Lodge (L, D)*

### Day 2: Iceberg Lake Trail Hike

Early morning wake up and shuttle north, deeper into the park, to the trailhead of Iceberg Lake, considered by many the “Crown Jewel” of hiking trails in the park • Iceberg Lake Trail offers one of the most scenic hikes on the planet • 4.5-miles in will seem a short distance as you enjoy panoramic views, watch for mountain goats, big horn sheep and of course, bears • Your reward at the end of the trail? A jaw-dropping view of giant limestone cliffs and ice fields shooting up from the pristine blue waters of the alpine lake below • If you’re feeling adventurous, take a dip into the iceberg dotted lake! • After lunch at the lake, we’ll hike back to our shuttle and continue on to our home for the night, Many Glacier Hotel • *(B, L, D) Overnight at Many Glacier Hotel*

### Day 3: Grinnell Lake Hike

Today we trek to one of the many backcountry lakes of the park • After awakening in the Many Glacier Valley we hike alongside Swiftcurrent Lake and soon after, Lake Josephine • Upon reaching Grinnell Lake, kick back and relax as you reflect on the stunning scenery around you • The lake is named after George Bird Grinnell, an early American conservationist, explorer, and founder of the Audubon Society, who was so inspired by the scenery during his first trip to the area in 1885 that he spent the next two decades working to establish it as a national park • Take your time heading back to the trailhead, and this evening enjoy a night on your own in Many Glacier • *Overnight at Many Glacier Hotel (B, L)*



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## **Day 4: Going to the Sun Road Bike / Lake McDonald**

Today's the Big Day...the day we bike the Going-to-the-Sun Road (east to west) • While you enjoy breakfast, the guides will get the bikes ready to mount up! • As the sun lights up the peaks, we'll enjoy our challenging ride to Lake McDonald with frequent stops along the way to watch for mountain goats and the ever present grizzlies • Completed in 1932 and at an estimated cost of \$3 million, the Going-to-the-Sun Road is the highlight of any trip to Glacier • Shortly after we begin the descent from Logan Pass, we'll enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking a stunning view of the western valleys • Our ride ends near our home for the night, Lake McDonald Lodge • The afternoon is yours to do as you choose • Take a few hours to relax by (or in) the lake, hike one of the many trails from the lodge, take a boat ride or simply find a cozy spot and curl up with a good book • Dinner tonight is at the Belton Chalet • *(B, L, D) Overnight at Lake McDonald Lodge*

## **Day 5: Flathead River Raft / Flathead Valley**

This morning, we shuttle to the Flathead River for a morning of rafting on perhaps not the wildest of rivers, but definitely one of the prettiest • Enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch prepared by your guides • This afternoon, we drive to Whitefish through the Flathead Valley amid the Swan, Mission, Salish and Whitefish mountain ranges of northwest Montana • Be sure to keep your eyes open while cruising through these breathtaking landscapes • Dinner tonight is at Tupelo's which specializes in Cajun and Southern cuisine, fresh seafood, steaks, and pasta • *Overnight at Grouse Mountain Lodge (B, L, D)*

## **Day 6: Whitefish / Kalispell**

For our final adventure, we have time for one last hike in the Whitefish area • Ride the gondola up the mountain taking in picturesque views along the way • Once at the top, hike around the mountaintop covered in wildflowers and wild huckleberries • We ride back down the mountain before saying our final goodbyes • Transfer to either your Whitefish hotel or the Kalispell airport for your departure home • *No overnight (B)*

*\*\* Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

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## Activities

**Hiking:** 4 to 10 miles per hike, moderate to challenging terrain; Day 2 hike to Iceberg Lake considered strenuous at 9.7 miles out-and-back with 1,275 feet elevation gain.

**Biking:** 11 to 31 miles per ride, moderate to challenging terrain. Bike ride over Going-to-the-Sun Road considered strenuous at 31 miles point to point; Begins with a 12 mile uphill and 2,200 feet of elevation gain; Ends with 19 miles of downhill and 3,380 feet of elevation loss. Road has narrow shoulder and is winding with many curves.

**Whitewater Rafting:** Class II-III, no experience necessary

**Discovery:** Glacier National Park is the world's first International Peace Park and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Explore the park's outstanding scenery and diverse flora and fauna with our expert guides. When you reach the top of Logan Pass on the infamous Going-to-the-Sun Road, imagine what this high point looks like buried under 80 feet of snow mid-winter...and then think about the amount of snow removal equipment required to plow this spectacular, winding two lane road – amazing! See for yourself why Iceberg Lake and the trail leading up to it are considered “crown jewels” of the Treasure State. Hunt for the hundreds of different wildflowers that reside in the park: Bear Grass, Lupine, Fireweed, and Indian Paintbrush are just a few of these colorful beauties you might come across. Learn about the Flathead Indian Reservation tribes: the Bitterroot Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreilles – all tribes whose histories intertwine to form the anthropological past of the Flathead Valley. Discover massive U-shaped valleys, cirque lakes, horns, cols, moraines, and arêtes in this glacially carved land. Come play in Big Sky Country!

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any question, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, Austin Adventures guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

## Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions – except one dinner on your own – are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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## Distinctive Accommodations

### Night 1: Glacier Park Lodge

Built almost a century ago by the Great Northern Railway, Glacier Park Lodge is nestled in East Glacier at the foot of Dancing Lady Mountain. Situated on the Blackfeet Reservation, the hotel site was purchased from the Piegan, a tribe of the Blackfeet Nation. When the present railway depot was built in 1912, the area was renamed Glacier Park Station and then became known as East Glacier Park in 1950. With an outdoor swimming pool, day spa, lounge and fine dining restaurant, this property is an exception to the common “basic needs only” national park properties.

### Nights 2 & 3: Many Glacier Hotel

Many Glacier Hotel, located in the northeastern part of Glacier National Park on the shores of Swiftcurrent Lake, boasts a true Swiss atmosphere from the alpine beauty that surrounds the building to the themed architecture and decor of the striking atrium lobby. The hotel was declared a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 29, 1976. In keeping with the era in which the hotel was built, the rooms offer guests modest amenities and old-world style accommodations resulting in a one-of-a kind, National Park lodging experience.

### Night 4: Lake McDonald Lodge

Lake McDonald Lodge opened its doors on June 14, 1914 and is a three-and-one-half-story structure built on the eastern shore of glaciated, picturesque Lake McDonald. In keeping in the era in which all of the rooms were built, they offer guests modest amenities and old-world style accommodations resulting in a one-of-a kind, National Park lodging experience. The floors of the lobby have incised messages in Kootenai (a local Native American dialect) that translates into phrases such as “welcome”, “new life to those who drink here”, “looking toward the mountain”, and “big feast”. The main lodge was declared a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

### Night 5: Grouse Mountain Lodge

Grouse Mountain Lodge’s front doors welcome you to upscale comfort and an authentic Whitefish, Montana lodging experience. The fantastic location leads you to exciting year-round adventure. With 143 beautifully appointed guest rooms, fresh and exciting cuisine in Logan's Bar and Grill, an indoor pool, outdoor hot tubs, day spa, and a substantial list of services and amenities, Grouse Mountain Lodge is one of Montana’s finest lodge resorts. Guest rooms combine warmth and appeal with design and spaciousness to provide that pampered feeling.

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## Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving at least one day prior to your trip departure. Day one of your itinerary starts at 8:00 am or 8:15 am, depending on your hotel. Your trip ends with a drop-off at your Whitefish hotel (1:30 pm) or the Kalispell airport (2:00 pm).

## Trip Price

\$3,398 (\$580 single supplement)

## Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

## 2021 Dates

June 27 – July 2

July 11 – 16

August 8 – 13

## Host City

Host City: Whitefish, MT

Gateway Airport: Kalispell, MT

Airport code: FCA

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Unique, glacier-carved terrain  
equally as suited for exploring  
as it is simply gazing*



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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Bikes, helmets and other necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- One dinner on your own.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. *\*some restrictions may apply*

## Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.