



Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Your National Park System in Glacier National Park Montana - Big Sky Country

7 Days and 6 Nights

Some places are the same whether you view them from the pages of a magazine or from the soles of your traveling shoes - Montana is not one of those places! The real treasures of this beautiful state are the sweeping vistas, pristine streams and awe-inspiring mountain peaks. Find out why Lewis and Clark described Montana as, "scenes of visionary enchantment," and among the prairies, mountain ranges and ghost towns expect to see a variety of two and four legged creatures! Our Montana Adventure is one of the most popular tours with clubs often repeating every few years so come with us and find out why on this exciting and delightful tour of the Big Sky Country - a true feast for the senses!

Day 1 - Helena

Today you depart for **Helena**, the Capital of Montana where you will be met and assisted with your hotel transfer. After time to relax, unwind and breathe in the fresh Montana air, enjoy a **Welcome-to-Montana dinner** at a local restaurant. After, you return to the hotel for overnight.

Overnight: Helena

(D)

Day 2 - Helena

After breakfast this morning, set out on a tour of the **Helena** area. A guided tour of the stunning capital building gives you the opportunity to see the beautiful details of the rotunda as well as the magnificent **Charles M. Russell** painting by Montana's favorite son. Afterwards, **St. Helena Cathedral** awaits you with its beautiful stained glass windows and imposing spires. Along the way, you'll hear tales of the old west and of the people that made Montana great! **Last Chance Gulch**, where gold was discovered in Helena, is now home to shops and restaurants. You'll have free time for lunch on your own here, don't pass a scoop of refreshing huckleberry ice cream! Then, it's on to your next adventure, a scenic cruise through the **Gates of the Mountains** waterway, named by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Great towering walls of limestone stand guard over the river and bighorn sheep and mountain goats still scamper in the rocks high above the water. With its inexhaustible scenery, wooded slopes, rugged rock formations and the placid beauty of the timeless Missouri River, this is Montana at its best!! This evening, you'll enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Helena

(B/D)

Day 3 - Flathead Valley

Today you travel through the Seeley and Swan Valley en route to Glacier National Park and the beautiful Flathead Valley. With landscapes so big and open and rugged that they'll stretch your soul, this drive will leave you in awe! A stop in **Lincoln**, Montana will give you an opportunity to shop for local products such as buffalo jerky and all manner of huckleberry products! A delicious lunch is featured at a local restaurant with views that might just include a deer or two! Then continue on traveling through the town of Kalispell and the scenic Flathead Valley! Situated just west of the Continental Divide in the rugged Rocky Mountains, this is your gateway to Glacier National Park! After time to freshen up, the remainder of the day and evening is at your leisure to explore, shop and dine!

Overnight: Flathead Valley

(B/L)

Day 4 - Flathead Valley

You'll leave Whitefish this morning after breakfast and drive through West Glacier to **Glacier National Park**. Here you'll transfer to an authentic 1933 Motor Coach - a **Red Jammer** - for an unforgettable adventure! You'll ride to the peak of Glacier National Park on the spectacular **Going-to-the-Sun Road**. The highway, completed in 1932, clings to the edge of the world as the Jammer makes its way to the Continental Divide through cedar forests and windswept alpine tundra before returning to **Lake McDonald Lodge**. You'll have time to lounge on the veranda, grab a bite to eat, enjoying the scenic setting or do a bit of shopping in the unique gift shop. This afternoon, you'll have a thrilling soft adventure as you **float** the crystal clear waters of the **Middle Fork of the Flathead River!** This is always a high light, and folks can't wait to boast to their family that they were out on the water! After a great experience, enjoy a fitting end to a wonderful day! Feast on a wonderful dinner prepared by your guides as you reflect on the majesty of Glacier National Park!

Overnight: Flathead Valley

(B/D)

Day 5 - Flathead Valley

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before traveling the short distance to **Big Mountain!** You have the option of taking the ski lift or

gondola to the top of the mountain where you'll take in the incredible 360 degree panoramic views of Flathead Valley. From the "top of the world" vantage point you'll be able to see the peaks of the Canadian Rockies to the north as well as Glacier National Park. From here, you'll continue into **Kalispell** where you'll visit the **Conrad Mansion**, the most beautifully preserved pre-1900 mansion in Montana and experience the elegance of a bygone era. When Charles Conrad arrived in the Flathead Valley in 1891, this lovely town with its tree-lined streets was still but a dream. Along with establishing the Kalispell Townsite Company and eventually the Conrad National Bank, he built the gracious Victorian home for his family in 1895 in what was then a wilderness. This evening, a special treat is in store as you're welcomed by cowboys at a real Montana cattle ranch! For those interested, enjoy an **optional guided horseback ride** for a nominal fee. You'll enjoy a "**cowboy style dinner**" at the **Lonesome Dove Ranch** complete with cowboy coffee and entertainment! After this fun-filled evening under the Big Sky Country stars, you'll reluctantly return to your hotel for the evening.

Overnight: Flathead Valley

(B/D)

Day 6 - Great Falls

After breakfast this morning, you'll be on your way to **Great Falls**. Traveling through the lower section of spectacular Glacier National Park, you'll stop at **Glacier Park Lodge** in East Glacier. Take time to wander through this century old lodge. Built over a century ago, the lodge was set on land purchased from a tribe of the Blackfoot Nation. The opening was a joyful event as hundreds of Blackfoot Indians erected their teepees on the grounds. The 60 immense timbers that support the Lodge are over 600 years old, and the Blackfeet were amazed at the powers the "Great Spirit" bestowed on the white man as they watched the massive lodge take shape. **Your next stop is at a Hutterite Colony for a very special afternoon.** You'll begin with a **homestyle lunch** that is cooked and served by the women of the colony. Then, hear about the Hutterite's and their way of life. This **TRIPS exclusive inclusion** provides you with the opportunity to talk to, and learn from, those who live here. Hutterites live a communal life style, sharing possessions and living a quiet peaceful life. They are happy to share stories about themselves as they show you their community. This will no doubt be a highlight of your Montana tour! You'll depart this afternoon, and on arrival at your hotel, you'll have time to settle in, freshen up and relax a bit. Then, this evening, enjoy a farewell dinner to round out your fun-filled time in Big Sky Country!

Overnight: Great Falls

(B/D)

Day 7

After breakfast, you depart for the airport and your return trip home. You're sure to remember your **Big Sky Western Adventure** with **TRIPS**. From the spectacular vistas of the American West to your exciting introduction to the cowboy way of life, we're thrilled to have shared Montana with you!

(B)



Inclusions

- Round trip airfare to Montana (checked baggage fees not included)
- Six nights hotel accommodations
- Five fortified continental breakfasts
- One lunch
- Five dinners including: Welcome-to-Montana dinner, Cowboy Style Dinner, Farewell dinner at your hotel
- City tour of Helena
- Gates of the Mountains Waterways Cruise
- Jammer Bus ride on the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park
- Scenic river float adventure on the Flathead River
- Big Mountain Ski Lift tickets
- All admissions as described in the detailed itinerary
- Services of a professional guide while in Montana
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees

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