



CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT FROM WHITEFISH, MONTANA

This driving tour accompanies the Crown of the Continent MapGuide. Log on to visitmt.com/national_parks/glacier for your MapGuide.



View from Whitefish Mountain Resort on Big Mountain

DAY 1: MANY GLACIER

Using this Crown of the Continent itinerary, visitors arriving from the south can access Glacier National Park by driving north on Highway 93. Spend the rest of your travel day in Whitefish, a town that's earned the title "recreation capital of Montana." A fitting claim – this charming small

town is nestled at the base of Big Mountain and only 40 miles from Glacier National Park.

Downtown Whitefish is perfect for leisurely strolls from galleries and shops to eateries. Much of the grub is fresh, local and handmade. Tupelo Grille serves up good Cajun fare – shrimp and grits are just the beginning. Montana-grown flavors blend with handmade Mexican cuisine at Pescado Blanco. And for breakfast, burgers and "oilcloth elegance," locals like the Buffalo Café.

Shopping is near the top of any Whitefish to-do list, from local arts to log furnishings to just about anything huckleberry. Must-stop places for one-of-a-kind finds include Montana Territory, Bookworks and The Purple Pomegranate.

If you're traveling with a campstove and espresso pot, a quick stop at Montana Coffee Traders will score some locally crafted beans. There's also a fine selection of coffee tackle, locally made gifts and a tour highlighting how this acclaimed beanery came to be.

Whitefish Mountain Resort's Walk in the Treetops is one of the area's striking outdoor activities. A short bike ride segues into a naturalist-led hike through the forest canopy on a boardwalk suspended 60 feet above ground. Brace for glorious views of mountains and lakes, where red-tailed hawks, western tanagers and kinglets vie for your attention.

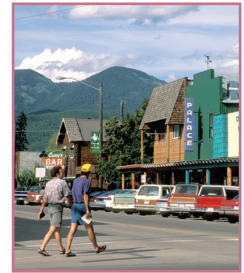
History buffs will enjoy the Great Northern Railway Depot. Here, Amtrak trains still come and go in the same fashion as the early models that brought tourists to Glacier. Through collections that span from fur trapper times to the early days of skiing, the Stumptown Historical Museum tells the story of how the logging camp of Stumptown became Whitefish.

For additional highlights in and around Whitefish, please log on to whitefishvisit.com or call (877) 862-3548.

IF YOU GO:

Whitefish Mountain Resort's Walk in the Treetops • Whitefish (406) 862-2900 skiwhitefish.com/activities.php

Downtown Shopping • Whitefish • (877) 862-3548 whitefishvisit.com



Downtown Whitefish, Montana

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT MAP HIGHLIGHTS:

Montana Coffee Traders • Whitefish • 5810 Hwy. 93 S (406) 862-7633 • coffeetraders.com

The Stumptown Historical Museum • Whitefish 500 Depot St., Ste. 101 • (406) 862-0067 stumptownhistoricalsociety.org

EATS:

Tupelo Grille • Whitefish • 17 Central Ave. (406) 862-6136 • tupelogrille.com

Pescado Blanco • Whitefish • 236 1st St. (406) 862-3290 • pescadoblanco.com

Buffalo Café • Whitefish • 514 3rd St. E (406) 862-2833 • buffalocafewhitefish.com

SLEEPS:

Garden Wall Inn • Whitefish • 504 Spokane Ave. (888) 530-1700 • www.gardenwallinn.com • From \$135, an impeccably restored 1920s home.

Hidden Moose Lodge • Whitefish • 1735 E. Lakeshore Dr. (888) 733-666 • www.hiddenmooselodge.com • From \$139, a charming lodge on wooded grounds.

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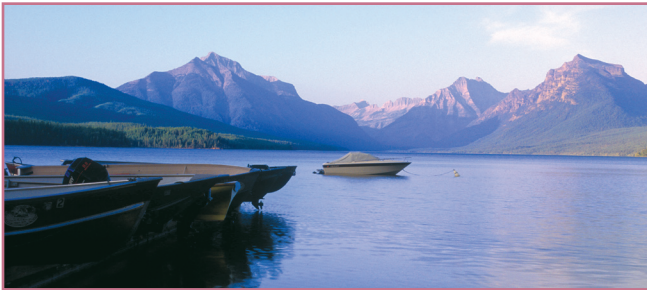
MONTANA

For more information, log on to visitmt.com

DAY 2: GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

You'd be hard pressed to find a more scenic drive in the lower 48 than Going-to-the-Sun Road. A wilderness of lakes, towering peaks and remnants of glaciers is readily accessible off road or on. *(This is a seasonal road. It is suggested that visitors check road conditions when planning their trip.)*

Before starting the drive, swing into West Glacier. Visit the historic Belton Chalet and browse the shops in the Village. The Village also includes a train depot, grocery store and restaurant.



Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park

There are numerous ways to travel and enjoy the 52-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road. This is just a sample itinerary. Feel free to improvise or follow the path less taken. Whether you drive yourself or hop a Red Bus Tour, you will find plenty of opportunities to gaze at roadside scenery and stretch your legs on trails.

Even the shortest hikes are well worth the stop. If you have kids in tow, the Trail of the Cedars is a perfect walk. The one-mile boardwalk path cuts through lush old growth western red cedar and hemlock forest.

The road continues to wind up and around the giant switchback known as "The Loop." From here, you climb to Logan Pass at 6,700 feet. The Visitor Center features alpine-zone plant and animal exhibits. A broad selection of trails are within easy access. Hidden Lake Overlook is a three-mile round-trip trail through alpine meadows frequented by marmots, ptarmigan and mountain goats. The Highline Trail is another hike that really doesn't feel like a hike. The fairly level terrain, above-timberline views and chattering marmots help with that. After enjoying leisurely pursuits outdoors, hop into the car and coast down the other side of the mountain. The east side of the park is drier, but no less beautiful.

St. Mary Lake is the next stop. The Sun Point trailhead is a veritable "peak-finder." Nine peaks are visible from here, including Going-to-the-Sun Mountain at 9,942 feet. The Sun Point Nature Trail is a gently sloping .7 miles, or you can extend the walk to 2.8 and take in St. Mary Falls and Virginia Falls. Boat tours of St. Mary Lake set out several times a day from

the Rising Sun complex. The sunset cruise is top notch if you're in this neck of the woods around 6:30pm. An evening stay in the St. Mary sets you up for gorgeous dawn views of the lake.

For additional highlights in and around Going-to-the-Sun Road, visit nps.gov/glac or call (406) 888-7800.

IF YOU GO:

National Park Service
(406) 888-7800
nps.gov/glac

Glacier Park, Inc.
(406) 892-2525
glacierparkinc.com

West Glacier Village
(406) 888-5662 • westglacier.com



St. Mary Falls, Glacier National Park

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT MAP HIGHLIGHTS:

West Glacier • (406) 888-5403 • westglacier.com

Going-to-the-Sun Road • (406) 888-7800 • nps.gov/glac

Glacier Park Boat Co. • (406) 257-2426 • glacierparkboats.com

EATS:

Park Café • St. Mary • Hwy. 89 • (406) 732-4482
Good ol' vegetarian fare and fresh pies daily.

Two Sisters Café • Babb • The brightly painted building 4 miles north of St. Mary on Hwy. 89 • (406) 732-5535
twosistersofmontana.com • Homemade meals in a fun and funky atmosphere.

SLEEPS:

Rising Sun Motor Inn • 6 miles west of St. Mary Visitor's Center • (406) 892-2525 • glacierparkinc.com • From \$107, built in 1940, adjacent to St. Mary Lake, a superb drop-off point for boat cruises and red bus tours.

St. Mary Lodge and Resort • St. Mary • Hwy. 89
(888) 778-6279 • stmarylodgeandresort.com • From \$119, seven facilities ranging from rustic to upscale, just a stone's throw from St. Mary Lake.

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DAY 3: GLACIER TO THE SOUTH

From St. Mary, you'll return to Whitefish via Highway 2, which skirts the southern and western borders of Glacier and crests the Continental Divide at Marias Pass.

Your first stop is Browning. The exhibits of cultural artifacts at the Museum of the Plains Indian are among the finest in the West. The Blackfeet Heritage Center and Art Gallery and the Lodgepole Gallery and Tipi Village feature traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. If you visit during the second week in July, don't miss the dancing, drumming, rodeo action and teepees at North American Indian Days.



Marias Pass area, Glacier National Park

From Browning, you'll continue on Highway 2 west toward Essex. Essex is home to the historic Izaak Walton Inn that once housed winter snow removal crews for the Great Northern Railroad. Today, it's enjoyed by railroad buffs and the skinny ski crowd alike. The Inn is a well-known stop for lunch and a perfect lodging stop if you stay an extra day.

A few miles from Essex, watch for the Walton Goat Lick pulloff. Mountain goats perpetually graze and lick the mineral-laden rock of an exposed river bank cliff at this site.

Follow Highway 2 to West Glacier. The Belton Chalet in West Glacier is well worth a stop, or even another night's stay, if you can't bear to go home just yet. Fine dining, spa and other comforts call to mind its elegant history as Glacier's first Great Northern Railway hotel.

A final stop at Whitefish provides a last chance to enjoy local restaurants and finish up shopping.

For additional highlights in and around Highway 2, log on to visitmt.com

IF YOU GO:

National Park Service • (406) 888-7800 • nps.gov/glac

Glacier Park, Inc. • (406) 892-2525 • glacierparkinc.com

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT MAP HIGHLIGHTS:

Browning • (406) 338-2344 • browningmontana.com

Izaak Walton Inn • (406) 888-5700 • izaakwaltoninn.com

Goat Lick Overlook • izaakwaltoninn.com or inquire locally

Belton Chalet • West Glacier • 12575 Hwy. 2 E
(888) 235-8665 • beltonchalet.com

EATS:

Grill Dining Room, Belton Chalet • West Glacier • (888) 235-8665
Buffalo meatloaf doused in chipotle gravy. Enough said.

Latitude 48 • Whitefish • 147 Central Ave. • (406) 863-2323
Mediterranean style bistro with wood-fired pizza.

Would you like to extend your trip? Beautiful country and relaxed Montana charm don't end in Glacier National Park. For more information, log on to visitmt.com or call one of our travel counselors toll-free at 1-800-VISIT-MT (847-4868).



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