



# GLACIER COUNTRY

www.glaciermt.com · 800.338.5072

Glacier Country is the Montana that people who have never been to Montana tend to envision—woody, with alpine lakes and towering mountain panoramas; wild, with bison, bears and huckleberries galore. Glacier National Park, the quintessential postcard snap, does nothing to dispel this notion, while areas like the Seeley-Swan, the Bitterroot Valley and the National Bison Range in Moiese only bolster the region's majestic reputation.



There's no shortage of ways to soak up all this grandeur, either. For starters, you'll see plenty just through your car windows, or, to shake the distraction of driving, the viewing car of Amtrak's Empire Builder line. For a little recreation with your scenery, raft trips, horseback trail rides, bike paths, snowmobile trips, cross-country outings and downhill ski days all guarantee views and wildlife sightings. You can even put a few major dents in your bucket list here—tracking untouched powder on a backcountry snowcat adventure or gazing at high-altitude panoramas from a helicopter tour high above the Rocky Mountains.

While your overworked camera recharges, hit Missoula, where eateries serving up locally sourced products, farmers markets and chocolatiers mingle with cowboy bars and hunting supply stores. Or roll into Bigfork for gourmet cuisine, art galleries and golf. Whether you snowmobile or skinny-ski, eat sushi or bison burgers, swill microbrews or local wines, Glacier Country tends to feel like the Montana you've always imagined: often homegrown, occasionally cosmopolitan and always beautiful.



**Left:** *Quiet moment on Lower Stillwater Lake*

**Above:** *Hiking the Stoney Indian Pass trail in Glacier National Park*

## AT A GLANCE

- + *Clearing the snow-laden Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park is a serious effort: snowplows must battle the "Big Drift," anywhere from 50 to 80 feet deep.*
- + *Every horse in A Carousel for Missoula in Caras Park is hand carved, and each horse has its own backstory.*
- + *The Bitterroot Valley is named for the bitterroot flower found there, the roots of which were once a staple food for the Flathead tribes. Now, it's Montana's official state flower.*
- + *Kootenai Falls, near Libby, is one of the largest free-flowing waterfalls in the northwestern U.S.*

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## BEST TIME TO VISIT

In the summer, Glacier Country is abuzz with fruit stands hawking homegrown cherries, glacier lilies blooming and boats cruising the region's many lakes. If you visit Glacier National Park in the summer, it's the most popular season with the most road and trail accessibility of the entire year. Arrive on bicycle in the springtime weeks before the Going-to-the-Sun Road opens to vehicles for a serene taste of Glacier. Note: it's a good idea to check road status before you come, as Going-to-the-Sun Road opens in its entirety only when the snow is plowed, which is usually mid-June.

Springtime in the rest of the region is a thrill for kayakers and rafters when the rapids swell with snowmelt. Go in autumn for hikes, bike rides and outdoor pursuits while the weather is still pleasant and the crowds are thinning.

In the winter, an ice fishing perch, snowshoe outing or cross-country ski trip affords views of snowcapped peaks, while a lift ticket or a snowmobile will actually put you on one.

## HOW TO GET HERE

Take a flight into Kalispell or Missoula, or arrive on the blood-pressure-lowering Amtrak Empire Builder and rent a car. If you bring your own wheels, you'll probably drive in via I-90 or US 93 or US 2—watch for deer on the road in the evening.

## WHAT TO PACK

Anything goes in cultural Missoula, where the clothing style can be dressy or casual. In art towns like Bigfork and Whitefish, clothing ranges from outdoorsy-chic to boutique fashion to just jeans. Everywhere in the region, pack layers appropriate for hiking, horseback riding, rafting and playing outside—wicking shirts, quick-drying pants, rain gear and polar fleeces are good bets.

Fleeces, parkas, snow pants and snow boots are customary for this region in the winter, although the valleys aren't as snowy as Southwest Montana and Yellowstone Country. Beyond hiking boots and snow boots, don't worry about bringing your own outdoor gear if it's a hassle; there are rentals and outfitters for almost every recreational pursuit here.

## CANADA & WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Easy to forget sometimes, Canada is a separate country from America, so if you go to the Canadian side of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, you will need to show your passport to return to the U.S. Also, be prepared to pay a small entry fee at the gates of Waterton Lakes National Park.

## PHOTOGRAPHING TRIBAL CEREMONIES

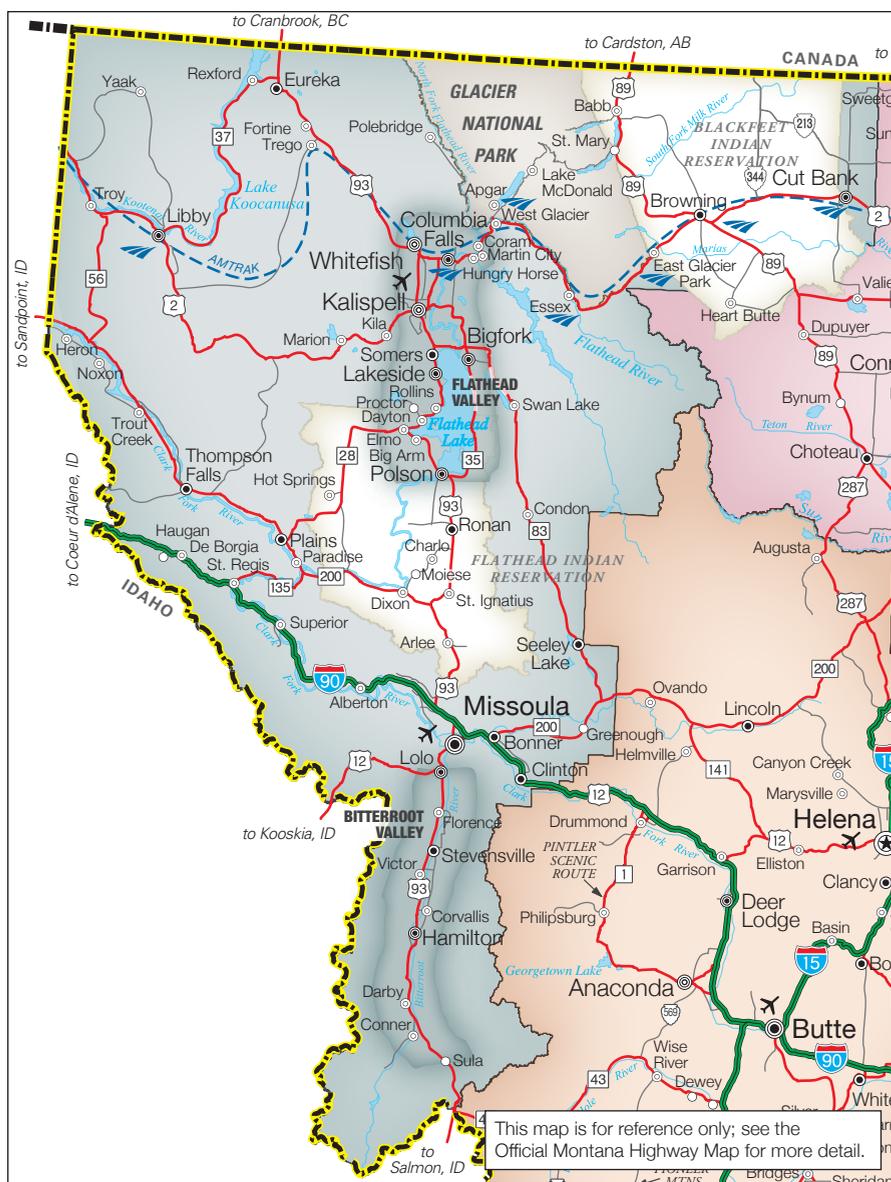
Powwows and dances have deep religious significance and typically do not allow flash photography. Be sure to have permission before snapping photos at tribal ceremonies. For more information on proper etiquette while visiting the reservations and how to best enjoy your experience, contact tribal offices at [visitmt.com/indiannations](http://visitmt.com/indiannations).

## WATER

Glacier Country is famous for its pure lakes and streams, but all that lovely water carries the very real risk of *Giardia lamblia*, an unpleasant intestinal parasite. Resist the urge to sample even clear-looking streams, and if you must, filter or treat your water first.

## FOOD

Montanans in Glacier Country love to eat, as you'll find in the plethora of friendly cafes and widespread varied eateries. In the larger towns you'll encounter creative fare like sushi, local-focused pizza and French and Thai cuisine. In more rural locales, look for small country cafes and steakhouses.





The colorful and quaint downtown of Bigfork

## PLACES TO GO

### COMMUNITIES

**BIGFORK** Hugging the sparkling blue bay where the Swan River flows into Flathead Lake, this picturesque, almost storybook-like community charms with its world-class art galleries, fine dining and live theater. Named “One of the 100 Best Small Art Towns” in the nation, this community truly loves the arts, as noted by its numerous galleries and Bigfork Summer Playhouse. And while this thriving community welcomes visitors with 50 shops, 25 restaurants and 16 galleries, it’s also a great launching point for playing on Flathead Lake. Winter offers great snowmobiling opportunities between Flathead Lake and Swan Lake in the Crane Mountain area.  
**406.837.5888**  
[www.bigfork.org](http://www.bigfork.org)

**EAST GLACIER PARK** is located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, which is home to the Amskapi Pikuni Band of the Blackfeet Nation. Learn about East Glacier Park and the surrounding area’s historical and cultural significance to the Blackfeet by saddling up with Glacier Gateways Trailrides on a guided horseback trip into the heart of this American Indian land. Or hop onboard a Sun Tours bus and see Glacier National Park—the “Backbone of the World”—from the perspective of the Blackfeet people. Take on grand vistas, unique geology and abundant wildlife-

viewing by driving the Looking Glass Road (MT 49), which starts at the aspen prairie edge near East Glacier Park. If you plan to get off the road to explore, make sure you purchase a \$10 recreation permit at one of the local shops in East Glacier Park or Browning. Permits are required to access tribal lands for hiking. After the drive, stop at one of the local restaurants for a bison burger or huckleberry shake.  
**406.226.4403**  
[www.eastglacierpark.info](http://www.eastglacierpark.info)

**EUREKA** is tucked away in Montana’s northwest corner along the Tobacco River. It’s easy to while away the hours exploring the downtown shops and cafes. Learn about area history at the Tobacco Valley Historical Village, where you’ll find a unique collection of buildings and other structures from the 1880s to 1920s. Ten Lakes Scenic Area treats visitors to mountain drives, pristine lakes and abundant fishing. Also located nearby is Lake Koocanusa and the Lake Koocanusa Scenic Byway. Surrounding Forest Service lands offer miles of hiking trails, fishing, camping, groomed snowmobile trails and cross-country skiing.  
**406.889.4636**  
[www.welcome2eureka.com](http://www.welcome2eureka.com)

**HAMILTON** Anchoring the Bitterroot Valley is Hamilton, the central trade area for hundreds of small farms, ranches and orchards that fill the valley. Hamilton is the hub of the local arts scene for the valley, with community theater, live music at local pubs and a hopping

downtown. It’s also Montana’s gateway to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and offers a number of other year-round recreational attractions.  
**406.363.2400**  
[www.bitterrootchamber.com](http://www.bitterrootchamber.com)

**KALISPELL** Centrally located between Flathead Lake, Whitefish and Glacier National Park is the hub of the Flathead Valley and year-round outdoor recreation. A bustling community, Kalispell has a notable Old West charm that seems to effortlessly coincide with modern-day arts and culture. Stroll through the historic downtown district and explore its local studios and galleries. Visit the Conrad Mansion Museum, Hockaday Museum of Art and The Museum at Central School to learn more about the region’s history. Plus, time it right and you may catch the sounds of the Glacier Symphony and Choral.  
**406.758.2800**  
[www.discoverkalispell.com](http://www.discoverkalispell.com)

**LIBBY** Located in Montana’s northwest corner in a valley carved by the Kootenai River and at the base of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is the bustling community of Libby. Combining small-town charm with breathtaking scenery, Libby welcomes visitors to explore its surrounding area attractions—including Ross Creek Cedar Grove, Kootenai Falls, Libby Dam and Turner Mountain—and soak up its hometown allure.  
**406.293.4167**  
[www.libbychamber.org](http://www.libbychamber.org)

## GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD

Glacier's most famous attraction, the 52-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road takes you between the park's east and west entrances. Along the way, you pass gorgeous granite peaks, waterfalls, serene lakes, historic lodges and more as you make your way to the top of the Continental Divide at Logan Pass.



The visitor center at Logan Pass points you to trails leading to backcountry destinations such as turquoise alpine lakes and backcountry chalets. In 1983 the Going-to-the-Sun Road was included in the National Register of Historic Places and in 1985 was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

The entire Going-to-the-Sun Road is open for two-way motorized traffic from mid-June to mid-September, weather permitting.

Glacier's shuttle system gives visitors an option to sit back and enjoy the scenery. Ride for free as often as you like. Guided tours are also available on the park's historic red buses, or learn about the park from the perspective of the Blackfeet Tribe with Sun Tours.

406.888.7800

[www.visitmt.com/glac](http://www.visitmt.com/glac) · [www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac)

View the Glacier National Park Video Series at [visitmt.com/glaciervideos](http://visitmt.com/glaciervideos).

**MISSOULA** Sitting in a lush valley at the confluence of three nearby rivers is Montana's cultural hub—Missoula. The city is home to the University of Montana, nine historic districts, funky boutiques, live theater and music, a symphony and delectable dining. It's a prime launching point for outdoor recreationists who enjoy rafting, fishing, floating, hiking, golfing, snowmobiling and downhill and cross-country skiing. Head to Caras Park in the heart of downtown Missoula and watch kayakers play at Brennan's Wave on the Clark Fork River. Other "must-see" attractions include the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation with its impressive displays, theater and gift center; the Smokejumper Visitor Center, where you'll learn the science of fighting forest fires; and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

406.532.3250

[www.destinationmissoula.org](http://www.destinationmissoula.org)

**POLSON** is located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in a natural amphitheater at the south end of Flathead Lake. This area of the valley is a prime cherry-growing region and home to numerous cherry orchards. The broad, sweeping Mission Valley south of Polson is bordered by the rugged, snowcapped Mission Mountains. The Flathead River features whitewater rafting and Kerr Dam. Also located nearby: the National Bison Range at Moiese, as well as the Ninepipe and Pablo National Wildlife Refuges for bird watchers. Two museums, The Miracle of America Museum and Polson-Flathead Historical Museum, offer many displays and memorabilia. Polson Bay Golf Course is nestled near the Mission Mountains, at the base of Flathead Lake.

406.883.5969

[www.polsonchamber.com](http://www.polsonchamber.com)

**SEELEY LAKE** An outdoor adventure lover's paradise, Seeley Lake offers access to nearby trails, lakes, streams, the Lolo National Forest and Bob Marshall Wilderness. In winter, Seeley is a mecca for snowmobilers, dogsledders and cross-country skiers, while the warm season attracts water lovers to the valley's numerous waterways. To experience the Seeley-Swan Valley at its best, rent your toy of choice (bike, canoe, snowmobile) in town and let the adventure begin.

406.677.2880

[www.seeleylakechamber.com](http://www.seeleylakechamber.com)

**WEST GLACIER** anchors the western entrance to Glacier National Park and provides a variety of visitor services including lodging, cafes and gift shops. The vistas seen from Going-to-the-Sun Road are breathtaking as you cross the Continental Divide at 6,646-foot-high Logan Pass, and many guided tours of Glacier National Park and the surrounding area are offered out of West Glacier. Enjoy fishing, whitewater rafting, golfing, hiking, helicopter tours, horseback riding and much more. West Glacier is also one of the year-round stops on Amtrak's northern route across Montana.

**WHITEFISH** Named one of the "Top 25 Ski Towns in the World" by *National Geographic*, Whitefish is located on the shores of Whitefish Lake and at the base of Big Mountain—home to Whitefish Mountain Resort. A short jaunt to Glacier National Park, Whitefish is a year-round destination with plentiful attractions and a mixed array of shops, coffeehouses, restaurants, community gatherings and kick-up-your-heels nightlife. Visitors can enjoy snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, boating and live professional



The Red Bus tour along the Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park

theater, as well as stellar dining.  
406.862.3548 or 406.862.3390  
[www.explorewhitefish.com](http://www.explorewhitefish.com)

## NOTABLE SITES

**THE BLACKFEET NATION** is located in the northwestern part of Montana, bordering the Canadian province of Alberta on the north and Glacier National Park to the west. The Blackfeet, or Pikuni, belong to what is called the Blackfoot Confederacy. This confederacy consists of the Montana Blackfeet of Pikuni and three other tribes residing in Canada: the North Peigan/Pikuni, Blook/Kainai and Blackfoot/Siksika. Blackfeet call themselves Niitsitapi, meaning “the real people.” If you’re near Browning, stop at the Museum of the Plains Indian for a glimpse of well-curated artifacts and exhibits or buy authentic goods from the gift shop. The Blackfeet Heritage Center also has a wide variety of arts, crafts and jewelry. During the summer, the center offers art demonstrations from local artisans. If you want to learn more about Blackfeet history and culture, join the Blackfeet Cultural History Tour or take the self-guided Blackfeet Trail Tour.

*Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Browning*  
406.338.7521  
[www.blackfeetnation.com](http://www.blackfeetnation.com)

### FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION

is home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, which are a combination of the Salish, the Pend d’Oreille and the Kootenai. The reservation lies between Missoula and Kalispell and includes fertile valleys, towering mountain ranges and the lower half of Flathead Lake. The tribes are environmental stewards—the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness is a designated wilderness preserve. Permits are required for hiking, camping and fishing and are available at many local stores. The town of Pablo is home to The People’s Center—a museum that offers a vital, living encounter with Native American culture. The center features an exhibit gallery, educational programs such as beading classes and a gift shop with locally made crafts including beadwork.

*Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo*  
406.675.2700  
[www.cskt.org](http://www.cskt.org)

**FLATHEAD LAKE** At nearly 200 square miles and surrounded by six state parks, Flathead is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi and a perfect

destination for anyone who enjoys boating, swimming, fishing, sailing, waterskiing and outdoor fun. Nearby towns are Polson, Lakeside, Somers, Bigfork and Kalispell.  
[www.visitmt.com/flatheadlake](http://www.visitmt.com/flatheadlake)

**GLACIER NATIONAL PARK** is part of the world’s first International Peace Park (a distinction it shares with Waterton Lakes National Park, its Canadian neighbor to the north). And after visiting this park’s more than one million acres of natural wonder and beauty, you’ll agree that it is, indeed, a place of peace. Glacier itself is one of the largest intact ecosystems in the continental U.S., meaning wildlife—bighorn sheep, moose, grizzlies and more—thrive within the park’s borders. Hike 734 miles of trails ranging from wheelchair-accessible walkways through cedar groves to rugged backcountry hikes atop steep cliffs. If you don’t want to drive or hike, try a tour bus, take a guided horseback ride or climb aboard a scenic boat tour. Come winter, most of Glacier’s roads are left to pile up with snow except for a small portion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road from West Glacier to Lake McDonald Lodge and from the St. Mary entrance about a mile to the St. Mary Campground. The rest of the park is just waiting for you to explore via snowshoes and cross-country skis.

406.888.7800  
[www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac)

**LIBBY DAM VISITOR CENTER** on Lake Kootenai is a great place to visit with family and friends. During the summer, free dam tours are offered daily, with photo ID;

off-season, call ahead to schedule a tour. The visitor center is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, with limited services in May and September. Inside the center, you will find interactive educational displays, regional info, a bookstore and more. Nearby are playgrounds, picnic shelters, boat ramps, hiking, fishing, camping, wildlife watching and a challenging 18-hole disc-golf course.  
406.293.5577

### MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS INDIAN

is located in Browning and contains a permanent exhibit of the creative works of Native American artists and craftspeople. You can see artwork along with traditional costumes of Northern Plains men, women and children. Beyond the permanent exhibits are two special exhibition galleries with changing presentations. Open all year.  
406.338.2230

[www.browningmontana.com/museum](http://www.browningmontana.com/museum)

**NATIONAL BISON RANGE** Enjoy a self-guided auto tour of this national treasure that protects one of the most important remaining herds of American bison. The refuge, approximately 25 miles north of Missoula near Moiese, is home to about 350 to 500 of these majestic animals. Other wildlife found at the National Bison Range includes elk, white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep and black bears. Open all year.

406.644.2211  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/national\\_bison\\_range](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range)



*Teepees near East Glacier Park on the Blackfeet Nation*



*Bigfork Whitewater Festival*

**SMOKEJUMPER VISITOR CENTER,** in Missoula, is the largest active smokejumper base in the nation. The center is a unique opportunity to learn about this unusual, demanding and dramatic occupation. As you walk through the center, you can visit the National Smokejumper Memorial, explore a replica of a 1930s lookout tower and take a tour of the smokejumper loft, where the smokejumpers work when they are not fighting fires. Open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Open by appointment year-round.  
**406.329.4934**  
[www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/smokejumpers/missoula](http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/smokejumpers/missoula)

## THINGS TO DO

### EVENTS

For exact dates and a complete listing of all events go to [visitmt.com/events](http://visitmt.com/events).

**SEELEY LAKE AREA WINTERFEST – SEELEY LAKE, JANUARY** Winterfest kicks off with a torchlight parade, biathlon and bonfire. Enjoy snow sculpture viewing and competition through the entire event.  
**406.677.2880**

**BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL – MISSOULA, FEBRUARY** The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival showcases the best in documentary films from around the world. This 11-day event attracts more than 25,000 people and screens more than 100 films. All films

are shown at the historic Wilma Theater, Crystal Theater or Top Hat in downtown Missoula. Filmmakers from around the world are in attendance to address audiences after their films screen. Tickets and passes are sold at the venues or online.  
**406.541.3456**

**WHITEFISH WINTER CARNIVAL – WHITEFISH, FEBRUARY** Join in the fascinating mythology of the Whitefish Winter Carnival. Notable events include the Grand Parade, Kiddie Carnival and Black Star Beer Barter. Round out the weekend at the Torchlight Parade and fireworks at Whitefish Mountain Resort—a spectacular, must-see display.  
**406.862.3501**

**SNOWBOARD JAM – MISSOULA, FEBRUARY/MARCH** Snowboard Jam consists of two days of events for snowboarders, including giant slalom, Slope Style Jam and the Banked Slalom. Cash purse and prizes are available at this U.S.S.A.-sanctioned event.  
**406.549.9777**

**RENDEZVOUS DAYS – EUREKA, APRIL** This event celebrates the end of winter and the coming of spring. Enjoy activities such as a mountain man camp, black powder shoot, parade, Village Vendors Arts, crafts, food, quilt show, flea market, the mud bog and sand drags, kids' gold rush and antique and classic car show.  
**406.889.4636**

**BIGFORK WHITEWATER FESTIVAL – BIGFORK, MAY** The Bigfork Whitewater Festival involves kayaking on the “Wild Mile” of the Swan River, which runs through Bigfork. At the height of spring runoff, the “Wild Mile” is considered a class V whitewater. There are festivities running throughout the weekend.  
**406.837.5888**

**4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS – FLATHEAD LAKE AREA, JULY** Several communities host parades and spectacular fireworks shows over the lake. Other activities include competitive games for kids and family and an arts and crafts fair.  
**406.532.3234**

**DALY DAYS – HAMILTON, JULY** Step back in time as life during the turn of the 20th century is re-created at the Daly Mansion. Festivities include reenactors in the house and on the grounds, demonstrations, antique farm equipment and cars, carriage rides down Providence Way, local artisans, music, a pie and bread sale, tours and more.  
**406.360.9124**

**LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL – CUT BANK, JULY** The Lewis and Clark Festival annually brings together people from all over Montana to celebrate Lewis and Clark in a contemporary fashion. Events include parades, an arts and crafts fair, talent shows, Lewis and Clark site tours and a farmers market.  
**406.949.2160**

**NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN DAYS – BROWNING, JULY** North American Indian Days hosts American Indians from across the U.S. and Canada. Featured events include traditional drumming, games and dancing contests, the crowning of Miss Blackfeet, a parade, fun run, PRCA rodeo events and more.  
**406.338.5194**

**POLSON MAIN STREET FLATHEAD CHERRY FESTIVAL – POLSON, JULY** Over 100 vendors showcase their goods on Main Street for this family event featuring cherry-related foods, displays of Montana-made items for sale and activities for kids.  
**406.871.8252**

**BITTERROOT CELTIC GAMES & GATHERING – HAMILTON, AUGUST** The festival takes place on the beautiful Daly Mansion grounds. Your admission

includes a tour of the mansion and a weekend full of Highland games, Celtic music, bagpipes and dancing. Kilts are not required to attend the festival but are required to compete!  
406.274.8886

**HUCKLEBERRY FESTIVAL – TROUT CREEK, AUGUST** The annual Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek includes live entertainment, a huckleberry pancake breakfast, run for fun, parade, children's activities, arts and crafts booths, dancing under the stars and karaoke.  
406.827.3301

**RIVER CITY ROOTS FEST – MISSOULA, AUGUST** The region's largest arts and music festival showcases downtown Missoula. The event includes an all-day music stage, tasty local dishes, art festival, 4-mile run/walk and children's activities!  
406.543.4238

**SANDERS COUNTY FAIR AND PRCA RODEO – PLAINS, LABOR DAY WEEKEND** An old-fashioned country fair with no charge to enter. The fair includes agricultural exhibits where locals display their talents. PRCA-sanctioned rodeos and bull riding and the largest demolition derby in the Northwest plus a carnival for the "kid" in us all. Located at the fairgrounds along the banks of the Clark Fork River.  
406.826.3202

**MONTANA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL – BIGFORK, SEPTEMBER** The sport of dragon boat racing originated more than 2,300 years ago. Today it's one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Teams of 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steer person compete against each other in colorful and ornate 46-foot-long boats on Flathead Lake. All ages and skill levels can participate as well as cheer from shore.  
888.888.2308 or 406.758.2800

**THE GREAT NORTHWEST OKTOBERFEST – WHITEFISH, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER** Join the fun in Whitefish for two weekends of authentic German beer, food, music and fun—Montana style!  
406.862.3501

**CHRISTMAS TOURS AT THE CONRAD MANSION – KALISPELL, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER** Christmas is a very special time of year at the historic Charles Conrad Mansion, a museum on the National Register of Historic Places. The Conrad family holiday traditions are the focus of the holiday tours. Guided tours

run Friday through Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. A Tea and Tour is hosted each Saturday during the Christmas tour season at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and reservations are required.  
406.755.2166

## CULTURE/HISTORY

**ALPINE THEATRE PROJECT** Montana's world-class professional Equity theater brings artists from Broadway and other major regional theaters to perform in the beautiful Flathead Valley in productions ranging from classic musicals to contemporary drama. Operates year-round in Whitefish.  
406.862.7469  
[www.atpwhitefish.org](http://www.atpwhitefish.org)

**BLACKFEET CULTURAL HISTORY TOURS** Experience the Blackfeet Cultural History Tour where Blackfeet history and culture come alive with examples from both modern science and Blackfeet oral history and traditions. In the spring and fall ask about bison herd tours. Buffalo jumps, tepee rings and medicine lodges are a sample of what you'll experience. Open all year.  
406.338.2787  
[www.blackfeetculturecamp.com](http://www.blackfeetculturecamp.com)

**CONRAD MANSION MUSEUM** Charles Conrad founded the city of Kalispell in 1891 and four years later built this historic home. The Norman-style mansion is an example of luxurious 19th-century living. The 26 rooms are originally furnished and have been completely restored to include Tiffany-style windows, bedrooms with canopied four-poster beds, bathrooms with imported marble lavatories and eight fireplaces. The mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and has operated as a museum since 1976. Open May through October and Thanksgiving through New Year.  
406.755.2166  
[www.conradmansion.com](http://www.conradmansion.com)

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT FORT MISSOULA** The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula was established by community efforts in 1975 to save what remained of original Fort Missoula and to interpret the area's history. The museum is located on 32 acres in the heart of historic Fort Missoula with a collection that includes 24,000 objects and 13 historic structures. Open all year.  
406.728.3476  
[www.fortmissoulamuseum.org](http://www.fortmissoulamuseum.org)

## GOLFING IN GLACIER COUNTRY

*Glacier Country offers the rare combination of renowned courses, stunning scenery and affordability. You'll never be bored with the ever-changing countryside as you enjoy your game.*



*Golfing in Whitefish*

*Golf Digest named the Flathead Valley area a "Top 50 Golf Destination." Add to that a perfectly mild shoulder season, which helps make the courses available to fit into anyone's vacation schedule, and you can swing your clubs here during much of the year.*

*Our typical golf season lasts from approximately May through October 15. These dates depend on weather and winter snowfall.*

*Weather in Montana can take sudden turns, from sunshine to showers and back again in the time it takes to play 18 holes, so always come prepared.*

*For more information visit [visitmt.com/golfing](http://visitmt.com/golfing) and [glaciermt.com/golf.php](http://glaciermt.com/golf.php).*



*Ski joring during the Whitefish Winter Carnival*

**MARCUS DALY MANSION** Marcus Daly, an enterprising Irish immigrant and one of Montana's Copper Kings, purchased the Anthony Chaffin homestead in 1886 to serve as his family's summer residence. The mansion has over 56 stunning rooms, with 25 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms and seven fireplaces, five of which have imported Italian marble. The three-story, 24,000-square-foot mansion is situated on 50 tree-planted acres in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley in Hamilton. Open daily May through October, with special events occurring throughout the year.

406.363.6004

[www.dalymansion.org](http://www.dalymansion.org)

**THE PEOPLE'S CENTER** is a unique cultural center built by the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille peoples. The center features an exhibit gallery, educational and natural history programs and a gift shop. Open all year.

406.675.0160

[www.peoplescenter.org](http://www.peoplescenter.org)

**ST. IGNATIUS MISSION** Experience the beauty of this Catholic church built in the early 1890s, featuring 58 original paintings by Brother Joseph Carignano. The Mission Mountains provide a beautiful backdrop for the church, located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in St. Ignatius.

406.745.2768

[www.visitmt.com/stignatiusmission](http://www.visitmt.com/stignatiusmission)

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

### ALPINE SLIDE, ZIPLINE TOURS, AERIAL ADVENTURE PARK, WALK IN THE TREETOPS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

Start your Whitefish Mountain Resort summer adventure by grabbing a sled and racing down the Alpine Slide, controlling your speed through straightaways and around curved banks. Next up is the Zipline Tour—the longest zipline tour in Montana—with amazing views of Whitefish Lake and the Flathead Valley. Test your skills at the Aerial Adventure Park. Participants are fitted with harnesses and gloves, led through a safety and park usage demonstration and are then free to navigate through their choice of five courses of varying difficulty. For an elevated adventure, join Walk in the Treetops on a 2.5-hour boardwalk tour through the treetop canopy. Additional resort activities include hiking to the 6,817-foot summit—complete with a gorgeous view of Glacier National Park—scenic lift rides and nearly 30 miles of biking trails.

406.862.2900

[www.skiwhitefish.com](http://www.skiwhitefish.com)

**BIRDING TRAILS** A U.S. Fish and Wildlife survey found that Montana leads the nation with the largest percentage of bird watchers. More than 260 species of birds have been recorded, with raptors such as the bald eagle, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, osprey and several species of hawks residing year-round.

Glacier National Park is perhaps the best place in the lower 48 states to see harlequin ducks. Check out Glacier Country's Bitterroot, Flathead and Missoula Trails at [montanabirdingtrail.org](http://montanabirdingtrail.org).

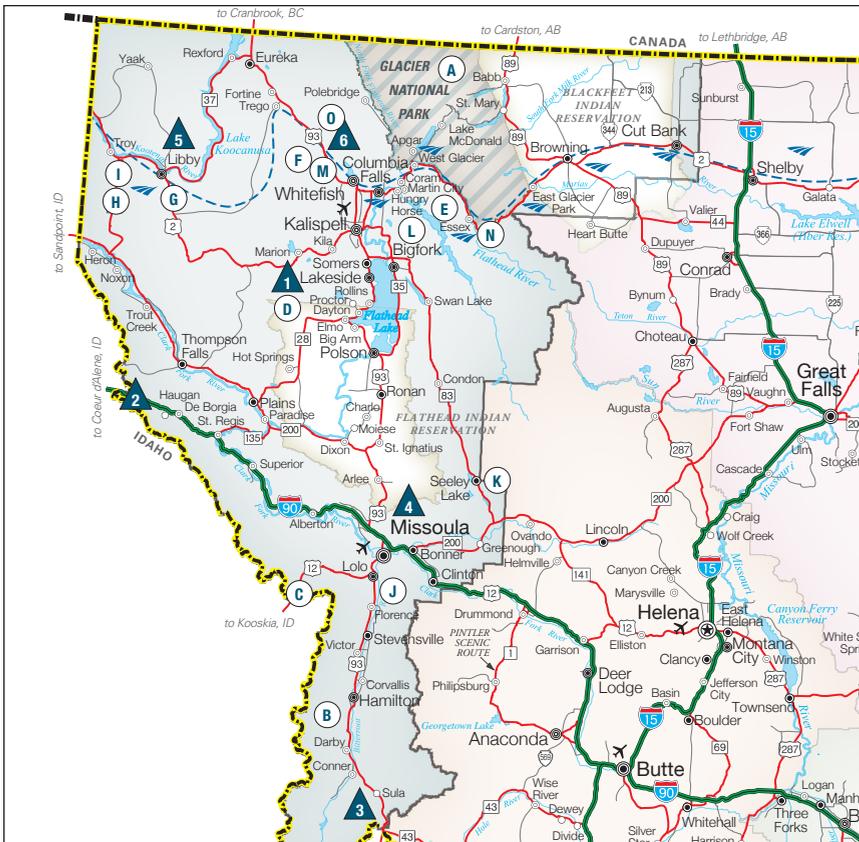
For world-class birding, bring your binoculars to the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge ([fws.gov/refuge/lee\\_metcalf](http://fws.gov/refuge/lee_metcalf)) along US 93 in the Bitterroot Valley. Or visit the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge ([fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe](http://fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe)), on US 93 North, south of Ronan in the Mission Valley. The Goat Creek Wildlife Trail, at the north end of the scenic Swan Valley on MT 83, is a quiet place to check several birds off your list.

**CAMPING** Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of northwest Montana by spending a few nights under the stars. A variety of campsites are available—backcountry to full-service campgrounds and RV parks, including in Glacier National Park. Don't be afraid to try winter camping as well, but check access and dates of operation before venturing out. And, of course, pack appropriately for the weather, any time of year.

[www.visitmt.com/camping](http://www.visitmt.com/camping)

**FISHING** Western Montana has some of the most pristine, undisturbed waters that nature has to offer. Glacier Country's streams, rivers and lakes offer competitive fishing for the hard-core angler, as well as an abundance of easily accessible choices for the casual angler. Area hot

# SKIING IN GLACIER COUNTRY



## Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding

At elevations perfect for downhill skiing and boarding, Glacier Country gets hundreds of inches of snow. And it's the dry stuff. Combine all that fluffy snow with mild temperatures and you have an exciting, comfortable winter playground. Glacier Country features six well-rounded, full-service downhill ski and snowboard areas. Visit [skimt.com](http://skimt.com).

- 1 **Blacktail Mountain, Lakeside**  
406.844.0999  
[www.blacktailmountain.com](http://www.blacktailmountain.com)
- 2 **Lookout Pass Ski Area**  
Saltse, ID (MT/ID border)  
208.744.1301, [www.skilookout.com](http://www.skilookout.com)
- 3 **Lost Trail Powder Mountain, Conner**  
406.821.3211, [www.losttrail.com](http://www.losttrail.com)
- 4 **Montana Snowbowl, Missoula**  
406.549.9777  
[www.montanasnorbowl.com](http://www.montanasnorbowl.com)
- 5 **Turner Mountain, Libby**  
406.293.2468, [www.skiturner.com](http://www.skiturner.com)
- 6 **Whitefish Mountain Resort, Whitefish**  
406.862.2900, [www.skiwhitefish.com](http://www.skiwhitefish.com)

## Cross-Country Skiing

Offering a healthy, heart-happy alternative to downhill skiing, cross-country ski trails are abundant throughout western Montana. Don't forget Glacier National Park for your winter experience on skinny skis or snowshoes. See trails listed at [wintermt.com/xcski](http://wintermt.com/xcski).

- Ⓐ **Glacier National Park**  
[www.wintermt.com/xcski](http://www.wintermt.com/xcski)

## Ski Trails in National Forests

- Bitterroot National Forest**  
406.363.7100  
[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)
- Ⓑ **Como Lake Recreation Area**  
6 miles NW of Darby  
406.821.4298 or 406.363.4428
- Clearwater National Forest**  
(MT/ID border), 208.942.3113
- Ⓒ **Lolo Pass, 45 miles SW of Missoula**  
208.942.3113
- Flathead National Forest**  
406.758.5200, [www.fs.usda.gov/flathead](http://www.fs.usda.gov/flathead)
- Ⓓ **Blacktail Mountain Nordic Trails**  
8 miles W of Lakeside, 406.837.7500

- Ⓔ **Glacier Wilderness Resort, 20 miles E of Hungry Horse, 406.888.5664**

- Ⓕ **Round Meadows, 15 miles NW of Whitefish, 406.758.5204**

**Kootenai National Forest**  
406.293.6211, [www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai)

- Ⓖ **Bear Creek, 7 miles S of Libby**  
406.293.7773

- Ⓗ **Ross Creek Trail No. 400, 17 miles S of Troy, MT 56, 406.295.4693**

- Ⓘ **South Flower, 4 miles SW of Libby**  
406.293.7773

**Lolo National Forest**  
406.329.3750, [www.fs.usda.gov/lolo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lolo)

- Ⓙ **Pattee Canyon Ski Trail, 5.5 miles SE of Missoula, 406.329.3814**

- Ⓚ **Seeley Lake Ski Trails, 1 mile NE of Seeley Lake, 406.677.2233**

## Cross-Country Ski Centers/Trails

- Ⓛ **Bigfork Community Nordic Center**  
8 miles N of Bigfork, 406.837.0783  
[www.northshorenordic.org](http://www.northshorenordic.org)

- Ⓜ **Glacier Nordic Center**  
1200 US Hwy 93 West, Whitefish  
[www.glaciernordicclub.com](http://www.glaciernordicclub.com)

- Ⓝ **Essex Trail Complex, halfway between E. and W. Glacier entrances to GNP, Izaak Walton Inn, Essex, 406.888.5700**  
[www.izaakwaltoninn.com](http://www.izaakwaltoninn.com)

- Ⓞ **Stillwater Nordic**  
8 miles N of Whitefish on Beaver Lake Road, 406.862.7004  
[www.stillwatermtnlodge.com](http://www.stillwatermtnlodge.com)

## Backcountry Skiing

If you're looking for absolute solitude, we have the backcountry terrain of your dreams. With proper equipment and a bit of hiking you'll access peaks and gorges filled with powder. Other options into the backcountry include snowmobile or snowcat. For access and guide information visit [wintermt.com/snowcoaches](http://wintermt.com/snowcoaches).

## Go With A Pro

Learn to ski with a pro. Lesson packages include two or three days of lessons, rentals and lift tickets valid over the course of the current winter season. Check out the list of participating ski areas around the state at [wintermt.com/gowithapro](http://wintermt.com/gowithapro).

## SNOWMOBILING IN GLACIER COUNTRY

*The playground here is loaded: cruise snow-covered logging roads on Forest Service land, rocket across untouched meadows or dive into untracked powder. Don't own your own sled? Area outfitters can rent you one of the latest low-emission models as well as clothing and helmets. Guides can show you the ropes and secret powder stashes, too.*



*Billowy powder in the Seeley-Swan Range*

### *Popular Snowmobiling Areas:*

*Marias Pass Trail Complex with 45 miles of groomed and 35 miles of untracked trails between Cut Bank and Kalispell.*

*Flathead Valley communities of Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Olney, Kalispell and Bigfork boast over 200 miles of groomed trails and nearly 60,000 acres of usable terrain on U.S. Forest Service land.*

*Haugan, De Borgia and Saltese in the northwest corner of the state offer designated trails, open meadows and scenic views.*

*Kootenai Country provides breathtaking views of the Purcell Mountains.*

*Lolo Pass southwest of Missoula has 250 miles of groomed connecting trails in the Lolo and Clearwater National Forests.*

*Seeley Lake area is tucked between the Mission Mountains and the Swan Range in one of Montana's most popular year-round recreation areas.*

*Visit [wintermt.com/snowmobiling](http://wintermt.com/snowmobiling) for more information.*

spots include the Blackfoot River—made famous by *A River Runs Through It*; the Clark Fork River, which runs through the heart of Missoula; the Middle Fork of the Flathead River with Glacier National Park as its backdrop; or the Kootenai River, a quieter part of the region. Stellar fishing guides and outfitters can help make your excursion even more enjoyable.

[www.visitmt.com/fishing](http://www.visitmt.com/fishing)  
[www.foam-montana.org](http://www.foam-montana.org)  
[www.montanaoutfitters.org](http://www.montanaoutfitters.org)

**HIKING AND SNOWSHOEING** With acres and acres of wilderness and unspoiled nature, take some time to explore the many trails in our state. No matter where you are, a hiking trail is just off the road or a short jaunt from town. For more adventure and backpacking opportunities, check out the longer and more rugged hikes. As always, be prepared for the weather and animal encounters before heading out.

[www.visitmt.com/hiking](http://www.visitmt.com/hiking)  
[www.visitmt.com/snowshoeing](http://www.visitmt.com/snowshoeing)

**HOT SPRINGS** Whether you are looking for a relaxing way to end the day or an invigorating morning kick-off, Glacier Country offers six natural hot springs, all fed from geothermal wonders.

View a list of area hot springs at [visitmt.com/hotsprings](http://visitmt.com/hotsprings).

**JEWEL BASIN HIKING AREA** Hike and fish to your heart's content just north of Bigfork at the north end of the Swan Range in this specially designated hiking area that covers more than 15,000 acres and features 35 miles of diverse trails. Rocky peaks, alpine lakes, streams, meadows and wildflowers make this truly a "jewel basin."

406.387.3800  
[www.visitmt.com/jewelbasin](http://www.visitmt.com/jewelbasin)

**KERR DAM** At 204 feet high, Kerr Dam is 54 feet higher than Niagara Falls. A 1,000-foot boardwalk takes you directly above the thundering falls, where you'll also take in an amazing canyon view. Bring a picnic, or reserve a whitewater rafting trip nearby. To get there, head west from Polson on 7th Avenue, which becomes Kerr Dam Road, and follow the signs. Don't forget the camera. Open all year, with tours available by appointment.

406.883.4450  
[www.visitmt.com/kerrdam](http://www.visitmt.com/kerrdam)

## **KOOTENAI FALLS SWINGING BRIDGE**

The narrow bridge's ropes and trestles span the Kootenai River just below Kootenai Falls, near Libby, which was the setting for the action film *The River Wild*. A forest trail leads from the highway parking lot to the swinging bridge, winding through the trees and offering great river views along the way. It makes for an easy hike with a great reward at the end. Closed in the winter.

406.295.4693  
[www.visitmt.com/swingingbridge](http://www.visitmt.com/swingingbridge)

## **MOTORCYCLE TOURS/ROUTES**

Motorcycle riding in Montana provides the best of riding, including remoteness and solitude. No matter what region you are in, there are a variety of paved and unpaved roads to explore. For more information on routes, tours, rentals, motorcycle rallies and events, go to [visitmt.com/motorcycletours](http://visitmt.com/motorcycletours).

## **ROSS CREEK CEDAR GROVE SCENIC AREA**

Consisting of 500-year-old giant red cedars in a rain forest environment, this 100-acre scenic area is a favorite with visitors to the forests near Troy. The paved nature trail with informational signs and benches is an easy walk over mostly flat terrain. Closed in winter.

406.295.4693  
[www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai)

## **ROUTE OF THE HIAWATHA TRAIL**

The amazing Hiawatha Rail Trail is an inspiring 15-mile mountain bike trek cresting the Bitterroot Mountains, complete with spectacular views of alpine lakes and unbroken forests. With nine tunnels, including the 1.8-mile Taft Tunnel, and seven high trestles, the Route of the Hiawatha on the old Milwaukee road along Montana's western border at Lookout Pass on I-90 is one of the premier rail trails in the U.S. Open Memorial Day through September. Rentals are available at Lookout Pass.

208.744.1301  
[www.ridethehiawatha.com](http://www.ridethehiawatha.com)

**SKI JORING** If you're not ready to hitch yourself and your skis behind a racing stallion, rocket through an obstacle course and hang on for dear life at a ski joring event this winter, come watch instead—horse-powered ski joring might be even more thrilling as a spectator sport. Catch the action in late January, followed by the Whitefish Winter Carnival in February.



Packing into the Bob Marshall Wilderness

**STATE PARKS** Most of the state parks in Glacier Country are water-based recreation sites, so for those who like their fun with a little water, this is the region for you. Go to [stateparks.mt.gov](http://stateparks.mt.gov) for information on area parks or to reserve a campsite, cabin, tepee or yurt at parks that offer overnight stays, or call 855.922.6768.

**WINTER ADVENTURES** When visiting in the winter months, don't spend your time fireside until the end of the day. There are a variety of winter activities that don't require a lift ticket. Try a motorless mode of exploring: hook up with a dogsled guide and hit the backcountry. If you want to stick a little closer to home, try ice skating at one of the local rinks or sledding on one of our many hills, or enjoy a sleigh ride through the forest.  
[www.wintermt.com](http://www.wintermt.com)

## SCENIC & WILDLIFE

**BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX** This wilderness complex totals a million-plus acres, runs for 60 miles along the Continental Divide and includes a huge, 22-mile-long escarpment called the Chinese Wall. It's a fantastic place to camp, view wildlife, hike, pick berries and more. One of the most completely preserved mountain ecosystems in the world, "The Bob" features rugged peaks, cascading waterfalls, shimmering streams,

a towering coniferous forest and big river valleys. The area contains varying elevations of up to 9,000 feet.  
406.758.5200  
[www.visitmt.com/bobmarshall](http://www.visitmt.com/bobmarshall)

**FLATHEAD NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER** The South, Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River form one of the nation's longest Wild and Scenic River systems, encompassing more than 215 miles across breathtaking backcountry. Rafting, kayaking and fishing are all available.  
406.387.3800  
[www.visitmt.com/flatheadriver](http://www.visitmt.com/flatheadriver)

**LEE METCALF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** Located in the Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula, the refuge is surrounded by the picturesque Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains and offers spectacular viewing opportunities of the landscape and wildlife. The refuge holds 240 species of birds, 40 species of mammals and 17 species of reptiles and amphibians. There are 2.5 miles of trails, including a quarter-mile paved path in the refuge's wildlife viewing area. These trails go through meadows and woodlands along the Bitterroot River. Open all year.  
406.777.5552  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/lee\\_metcalf](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/lee_metcalf)

**MONTANA SCENIC LOOP** Straddling the Continental Divide of the northern Rocky Mountains, the nearly 400-mile-long Montana Scenic Loop has it all: spectacular mountains, extensive wilderness, abundant wildlife, vast plains and charming communities. At the heart of the Montana Scenic Loop is the Bob Marshall Wilderness—flanked by the Great Bear Wilderness on the north and the Scapegoat Wilderness to the south. The loop comprises three regions and 15 vibrant communities, each with its own special personality. All along the loop you will find a variety of activities, including year-round fishing. In the summer you can hike and golf in addition to many other activities. In the winter, explore a little more of the area on cross-country skis, snowshoes or even on a snowmobile.

**NINEPIPE AND PABLO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES** Enjoy spectacular scenery and wildlife, including waterfowl species such as mallards, northern shovelers, gadwalls, redheads and ruddy ducks, at these over 2,000-acre refuges and breeding grounds for native birds, both located south of Polson, within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation. Open all year with some seasonal restrictions. Check the website or call for more information.  
406.644.2211  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe)  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/pablo](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/pablo)

**RATTLESNAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND WILDERNESS** Located only eight minutes from downtown Missoula, the Rattlesnake Recreation Area offers hiking along creeks to mountain lakes or cross-country skiing through pine forests and parklands. Mountain biking, camping and fishing are available in designated areas. This premier urban wilderness blends the best of both wilderness and civilization.  
406.329.3814  
[www.fs.usda.gov/lolo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lolo)