Discovering Our Planet Together



Glacier & Waterton: An International Treasure

Discover Scenic Splendors & Alpine Heights in Two Neighboring National Parks

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Trip Details:

Days
9 Days / Jun–Sep

Price
From $9995

Glacier & Waterton: An International Treasure

Discover Scenic Splendors & Alpine Heights in Two Neighboring National Parks

The Blackfeet Indians, at home in the Northern Rockies of Montana for over 10,000 years, call Glacier National Park the backbone of the world. Its serrated spine of granite peaks forms the Continental Divide, with glacier-carved valleys scoured out on both flanks. It's a glorious landscape of sharp summits, meadows, wildflowers and meltwater lakes fed by rills tumbling down off the park's namesake ice shelves. Subalpine forests and rocky ramparts are home to grizzly bears, mountain goats, elk and more. Survey the wonders on Going-to-the-Sun Road, float the Flathead River, and discover hidden corners with our guides who know this wild terrain intimately. Our rare small-group foray into Glacier—plus Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park, which shares a border and an ecosystem—will refresh and energize contemporary spirits, as this land has done for centuries.

Trip Highlights

Two Grand Parks on One International Itinerary

Join our expert guides on a natural history adventure in two stunning national parks—few itineraries include both Glacier and Canada's Waterton Lakes

Stay at Optimally Located Lodges in the Parks

Enjoy special lodgings replete with history and with prime proximity to wild nature, including Many Glacier Hotel on Swiftcurrent Lake

No More Than Six Guests Per Vehicle

Traveling with two Expedition Leaders lets us divide our small group even further, for varied hikes and intimate wildlife encounters bus tours don't get

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Glacier & Waterton: An International Treasure Itinerary

Discover Scenic Splendors & Alpine Heights in Two Neighboring National Parks

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Kalispell / Whitefish
Day 2	Flathead River / Lake McDonald
Day 3	Trail of the Cedars / Many Glacier
Day 4	Many Glacier
Day 5	Waterton Lakes National Park
Day 6	Waterton / Upper Waterton Lake
Day 7	Waterton / Glacier National Park
Day 8	Badger-Two Medicine / Two Medicine Lake
Day 9	Kalispell



Day 1

Kalispell / Whitefish

Arrive beneath the peaks of Glacier Country

- Settle into a boutique hotel in Whitefish near Glacier National Park
- Join your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in Whitefish

Arrive in Kalispell and transfer to our stylish boutique hotel in nearby Whitefish. Our Glacier National Park & Waterton Lakes tour begins with a welcome dinner this evening.

Day 2

Flathead River / Lake McDonald

Float the Flathead River and cross Glacier's Continental Divide

- Drift along the wild Middle Fork of the Flathead River, watching for ospreys and eagles
- Ride a private open-top Red Bus along Going-to-the-Sun Road to the Continental Divide
- Walk the Lake McDonald shore, where multicolored pebbles show through clear water

Drive east this morning toward Glacier National Park, the “Crown of the Continent” in the northern Montana Rockies and one of the most treasured natural landscapes in the United States. Famous for its ice-carved valleys and sheer peaks, Glacier contains some of the most pristine natural ecosystems left in the Lower 48. Water levels permitting, our introduction begins with a scenic float on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, a stretch of water that birthed the National Wild and Scenic River System in the 1950s. Bordering Glacier National Park, the Flathead is one of the premier undammed rivers in Montana, coveted by anglers for its cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish and kokanee salmon. Look for osprey and eagles as we pass through a steep, walled canyon along our way.

This afternoon, we board a classic open-top Red Bus for a private tour along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. One of America's most famous national park drives, this narrow byway, an engineering marvel completed in 1932, twists and climbs around Glacier's rocky spine all the way to the Continental Divide. Waterfall spray creates rainbows as streams pour off rock precipices, while serrated peaks poke the blue sky. Dropping back down the west flank of the pass, we overnight near Lake McDonald, with a chance to explore the lakeshore to admire the multicolored rocks in the transparent water.

Day 3

Trail of the Cedars / Many Glacier

Cross from old-growth forest into Glacier's eastern valleys

- Walk the Trail of the Cedars among old-growth trees beside rushing Avalanche Creek
- Cross the Continental Divide into Glacier's drier eastern glacial valleys
- Settle into Many Glacier Hotel, a 1915 Swiss-style lodge overlooking Swiftcurrent Lake

Our day begins with a morning foray into the forest on the west side of the park. This is the wetter side of the Continental Divide, where dense stands of fir and cedar cover the mountain slopes, and fern and mosses grow in their shadows. Scenic trails take us along the rushing whitewater of Avalanche Creek and the Trail of the Cedars, where we walk among old giants.

From this lush lower elevation, we ascend the Going-to-the-Sun Road once more, traversing the Divide in the heart of the park. As we continue down the east side, learn about the Lewis Overthrust fault and the region's tumultuous geological history. This afternoon we enter Many Glacier, one of the park's classic glacial valleys. Our destination for the next two nights is Many Glacier Hotel, built in 1915 as a grand Swiss-style chalet in the "American Alps," in the vision of the railway barons behind its construction. It sits on the edge of Swiftcurrent Lake overlooking a panorama of crenellated peaks.

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Day 4

Many Glacier

Cruise beneath ice-carved peaks in Many Glacier

- Board a private boat on Swiftcurrent Lake for views of Mount Grinnell, Angel Wing and Grinnell Glacier
- Hike toward Grinnell Lake, watching for elk, mountain goats and bighorn sheep
- Learn why the Blackfeet call the greater Glacier ecosystem the Backbone of the World

Scoured into a broad U-shape by rivers of ice that retreated some 10,000 years ago, Many Glacier features ragged crags, waterfalls that glissade from icy ledges, and alpine lakes set like gems in the rocky backdrop. We see why the Blackfeet gave the name "Backbone of the World" to the greater Glacier Park ecosystem. On a narrated boat tour across Swiftcurrent Lake, take in the panorama of Mount Grinnell, Angel Wing and surrounding peaks. Learn about the geology and ecology of our environs as we get within view of Grinnell Glacier, an experience future visitors may be less likely to have as climate change hastens the melting of the park's permanent ice features. Depending on the angle of the sun, the lake may appear opaque turquoise, the result of glacial silt suspended in the water as it flows down the mountain from Grinnell Glacier.

On a hike to Grinnell Lake, look for grazing elk in the meadows, and mountain goats and bighorn sheep perched on cliffs. These features bear the name of George Bird Grinnell, an early American conservationist, explorer and founder of the Audubon Society. He 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. For those who are interested, additional hiking can be arranged today.

Day 5

Waterton Lakes National Park

Cross into Waterton, where Alberta's prairies meet the Rockies

- Enter Canada and explore Glacier's less-visited sister park with your Expedition Leader
- Hike through subalpine forest to Akamina Lake with local guides from Tamarack Adventures
- Admire summer wildflowers and views of the lake framed by surrounding peaks

Today we drive north across the Canadian border to spend two days exploring Waterton Lakes National Park. As Glacier's sister park, Waterton shares a border and an ecosystem, as well as joint UNESCO World Heritage Site status. In 1932, these two parks together became the first International Peace Park. Here where Alberta's prairies meet the peaks of the Rockies, Waterton is a continuation of Glacier's stunning landscapes, and opportunities abound to discover this less-visited region. With our Expedition Leader and local guides from Tamarack Adventures, explore a sampler of enticing trails that capitalize on the panoramic vistas at every turn, including a short hike this afternoon through subalpine forest and wetland habitat to Akamina Lake. Along the way, pause to admire summer wildflowers before reaching the lake, framed by the surrounding peaks.

Day 6

Waterton / Upper Waterton Lake

Cruise across the international border on Upper Waterton Lake

- Hike to a glacial lake while learning how fire renews Waterton's forests
- Cruise aboard the historic M/V International, watching for bears, moose and bald eagles
- Look for deer and bighorn sheep grazing around the Waterton townsite

Greet the morning with a mellow hike to a nearby lake. Several options exist, with many tarns cradled in glacial-carved bowls beneath the imposing peaks that surround us. Learn about fire ecology as we observe renewing forest areas where we witness the regeneration of the plant ecosystem following a previous burn. Wildflowers abound in summer, and we may see the delicate Baker's mariposa lily, purple bee balm and flowering bear grass.

Later this afternoon, join Waterton Shoreline Cruises for a boat trip aboard the *M/V International* on Upper Waterton Lake, sailing south into Montana at the lake's end point just over the U.S. border. This historic vessel first began taking visitors to admire the views of waterfalls and sheer mountain cliffs in 1927. As we ply the sparkling blue waters, look for bears, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and bald eagles. Once we return to our hotel, opt to wander around the small townsite where deer and bighorn sheep often graze upon the lawns.

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Day 7

Waterton / Glacier National Park

Climb above treeline to Hidden Lake Overlook

- Hike across alpine meadows to views of Hidden Lake and Bearhat Mountain
- Look for mountain goats, bighorn sheep and bears feeding near the avalanche chutes
- Descend through Blackfeet lands to East Glacier beneath the Continental Divide

After a final morning in Waterton Lakes, return to the American side of this International Peace Park via the Blackfeet Reservation on the park's eastern edge. Traveling westward, we climb above treeline once more to reach Logan Pass on the Continental Divide. From the pass, we ascend the Hidden Lake Overlook Trail, a high-alpine hike through lush meadows and tundra thick with white bear grass, glacier lilies and other seasonal wildflowers that may include yellow columbine and magenta fireweed. The stacked sedimentary layers of 8,765-foot Clements Mountain dominate the landscape early on, while we gain outstanding views of the Garden Wall and other peaks as we climb. From the overlook we are rewarded with a stunning 360° panorama, looking down on sapphire-blue Hidden Lake backdropped by the prominent profile of Bearhat Mountain. Look for abundant wildlife: the shaggy white mountain goat, which is Glacier National Park's emblematic animal, is often seen in the area, as are bighorn sheep. Listen for the whistle of hoary marmots darting among the rocks, and keep an eye out, too, for black bears and grizzlies feeding among the bushes in avalanche chutes. More rarely, we may spot wolverines.

Descend to spend two nights in East Glacier, the eastern gateway to the park where the sacred lands of the Blackfeet Nation stretch from the rolling prairie to the towering peaks of the Continental Divide. For millennia, the Blackfeet people have revered this landscape, with its alpine summits, glacier-carved valleys, pristine turquoise lakes and ancient forests, as a place of deep spiritual significance. While early train travelers on the Great Northern Railway began arriving at East Glacier Station to marvel at these natural wonders in the early 1900s, the Blackfeet have long known and honored this land as "the Backbone of the World," a place of immense beauty, strength and cultural importance. In 1910, President William Taft established Glacier National Park, preserving 1 million acres as part of America's collective national heritage.

Day 8

Badger-Two Medicine / Two Medicine Lake

Explore Blackfeet homelands along the Rocky Mountain Front

- Hike the roadless Badger-Two Medicine region with a Blackfeet guide
- Learn about the Blackfeet Nation's enduring cultural ties to this land and its wildlife
- Cruise Two Medicine Lake aboard the historic Sinopah, the park's oldest tour boat

Badger-Two Medicine is an almost entirely roadless expanse of mountains, high ridge tops, forested river valleys and wetlands along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front. It is located at the intersection of the Blackfeet Reservation, Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, and is part of the headwaters of the Missouri River. After two decades of effort, Badger-Two Medicine is on the cusp of permanent protection by Congress as a Cultural Heritage Area. We discover a portion of it on a guided hike today with a tribal member, learning about the Blackfeet Nation's ancient connection to this land and its creatures. Wildlife abounds in the region, including grizzly and black bear, wolverine, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and bighorn sheep. We'll also have a cultural presentation by members of the tribe.

This afternoon, board the historic boat *Sinopah* for a morning cruise on Two Medicine Lake. The oldest boat in the park's fleet, *Sinopah* was built in 1926 for the Glacier Park Hotel Company, the tourism subsidiary of the Great Northern Railway. After lunch, continue to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation where we have the privilege of exploring an exceptional tract of land—the Badger-Two Medicine region—with a local guide from the Blackfeet Nation. The name "Badger-Two Medicine" is a translation from Blackfeet terms for two crystalline streams that begin in snowfields and rivulets along 30 miles of the Continental Divide: Badger Creek— *Miisinskiisah'taa* —was the traditional name for that river, and Two Medicine— *Naatookyookaasin* —references an encampment of two medicine lodges pitched along that river. Afterward, return to East Glacier where we gather for a farewell dinner.

Day 9

Kalispell

Follow Glacier's southern edge before departing from Kalispell

- Drive Highway 2 along Glacier National Park's southern boundary
- Pass Essex, a historic stop on the Great Northern Railway
- Connect with homeward flights from Kalispell

This morning our Glacier National Park trip concludes as we get an early start for the drive back to Kalispell, where we meet departing flights this afternoon. Following Highway 2, our scenic route skirts the south side of the park, passing through Essex, a historic stop on the Great Northern Railway line between West and East Glacier where trains took on additional coal and water. Our journey concludes at Glacier Park International Airport in Kalispell.

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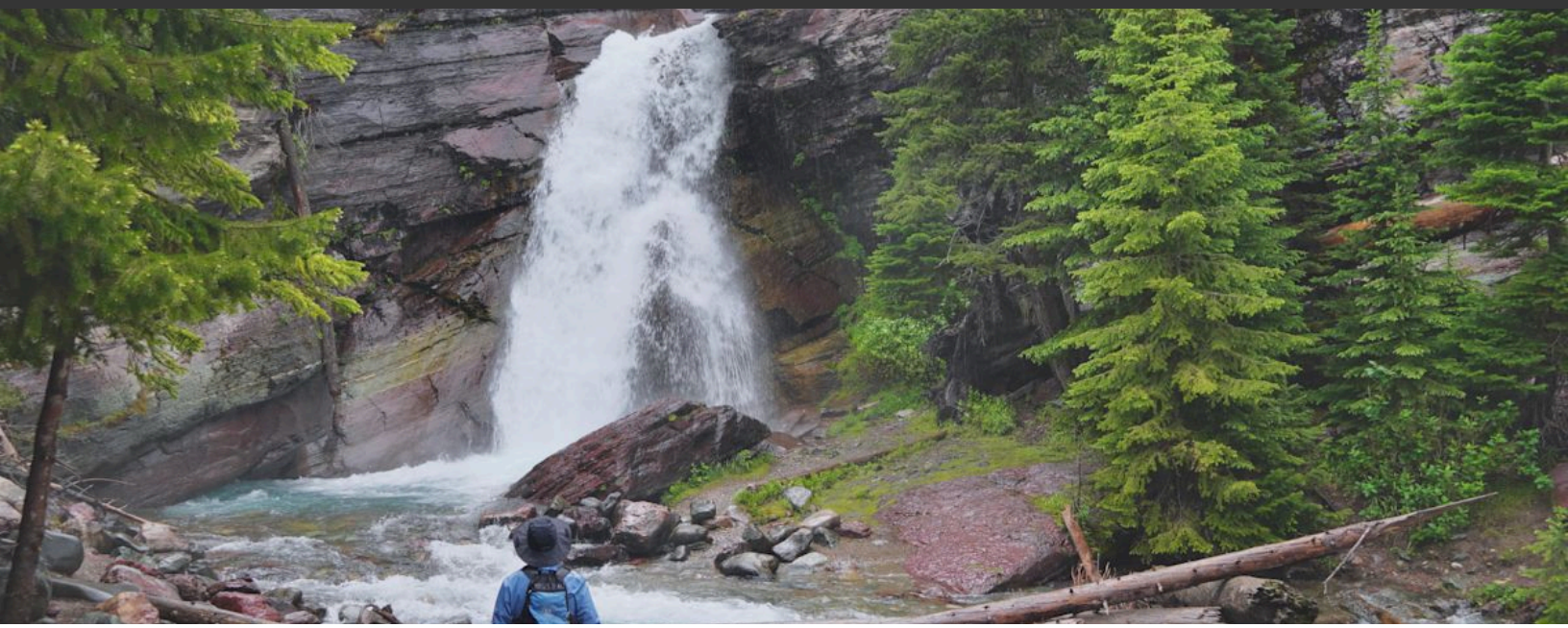


Glacier & Waterton: An International Treasure Accommodations

Discover Scenic Splendors & Alpine Heights in Two Neighboring National Parks



Lake McDonald Lodge

Backed by dense forest on the shore of crystal-clear Lake McDonald, this beloved national park hostelry comprises a cozy 1913 hunting lodge, a scattering of rustic lake cottages, and a classic motel.



The Village Inn

Built in 1956 and recently renovated, The Village Inn in the heart of Apgar is a quaint and classic national park lodge with a prime location on the southern shore of Lake McDonald.



Many Glacier Hotel

This magnificent Swiss chalet-style lodge on Swift Current Lake was built by the Great Northern Railway in 1915, with expansive decks surveying a grand panorama of dramatic peaks and hanging glaciers.



Prince of Wales Hotel

Perched regally on a bluff overlooking Waterton Lake, this 1927 hotel built by the Great Northern Railway is a Canadian icon—reminiscent of a magnificent Swiss chalet and harking back to a gracious bygone era.



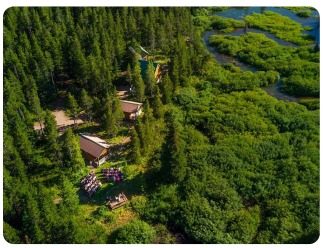
Bayshore Inn

The Bayshore Inn is the only Waterton Lakes National Park hotel located right on the shore of Waterton Lake, framed by striking mountain peaks on either side.



Glacier Park Lodge

Steeped in the history and culture of the Great Northern Railway, this early 20th-century national park hotel exudes rustic grandeur, with 40-foot-tall Douglas fir posts supporting its soaring lobby.



Summit Mountain Lodge

Located in a quiet, private setting just outside East Glacier Park village, this family-owned rustic retreat offers cozy individual cabins surrounded by dense forest and wildlife.



Paddle Ridge

Nestled near Glacier National Park's Going-to-the-Sun Road, this rustic lodge offers cozy rooms with handcrafted furniture, plush bedding, scenic views, a lounge, library and wildlife sightings.



The Firebrand Hotel

Bringing a new level of luxury to mountain town of Whitefish, this stylish boutique hotel blends contemporary sophistication and rustic details in a chic alpine-modern meld.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/us-national-parks-tours/glacier-national-park-tour/accommodations.

An Intimate Journey Through the Crown of the Continent

Glacier & Waterton: An International Treasure

Glacier National Park is one of America's iconic vacation destinations. Most travelers try to see it on their own, scrambling for timed reservations and scarce accommodations, or on a conventional bus tour, settling for a quick drive across the park among hordes of other tourists and missing out on Glacier's many hidden treasures—and very few head across the border to enjoy the equally spectacular sights of Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park. Together, Glacier and Waterton are complementary gems, and Nat Hab offers a superlative way to experience them:

1 **Don't Do It Yourself: Let Us Give You a Hassle-Free Vacation!**

You know what's involved in planning your own trip: endless hours of research, questions, competing to get scarce reservations, then driving around trying to figure out where to go and what to do. In the process, you lose time and endure a lot of headaches. We take the legwork and guesswork out! When you travel with us, you'll tap our years of expertise, for a far superior experience.

2 **Travel in a Small Group for Intimate Wildlife Encounters**

Imagine trying to experience the beauty and wonder of Glacier from a bus with 45 other passengers. Now picture yourself in our small group, with just seven guests per vehicle (and no more than 12 guests total), each with a naturalist Expedition Leader. It's a vastly superior way to experience nature. We have the flexibility to move quickly to areas where wildlife has recently been spotted and to access more remote areas that motorcoaches and even small buses cannot reach.

3 **Move at Your Own Pace, with Personalized Guiding**

Our Expedition Leaders understand that physical abilities vary within a group and are adept at accommodating a range of different capacities. Two guides allow us to divide the group up according to physical ability and individual desires. This means you can hike at a comfortable pace on your own level without needing to wait for others or feel rushed. You won't find a better guide-to-guest ratio!

4 **A Custom-Crafted Route That Highlights Nature & Avoids Crowds**

Our own staff Expedition Leaders have carefully designed our itinerary to reveal out-of-the-way corners of Glacier's diverse landscapes that big tour groups and many independent visitors miss. Our in-depth knowledge of the Glacier region allows us to take you to lesser-known spots where wildlife viewing is better and crowds are fewer.

5 **A Window Seat for Every Guest**

Our custom North America Safari Cruisers are a real contrast to big motorcoaches. Because we limit our capacity to just six guests in a vehicle (dividing our group of 12 into two vehicles), not only does everyone get a window seat for easy photography and wildlife viewing even while we're driving, but there's plenty of room to spread out. You won't travel more comfortably!

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

6 **Expert Naturalist Guides Create a Matchless Experience**

Our Expedition Leaders are professional naturalists with in-depth insight into the habitats we explore, the behavioral patterns of the wildlife we encounter, and the know-how to be in the right place at the right time to see animals and avoid crowds of other tourists. Guides with decades of experience lead our Glacier trips. They intimately know every trail, include lots of special stops and surprises that the casual tourist would miss. They offer a wealth of information about wildlife, geology, ecology, natural history and Native American culture. Many people see our national parks on their own, but when you travel with our naturalist guides, you'll see, do and learn so much more. See **Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

7 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Glacier & Waterton Adventure**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, stating clearly that we will meet the lofty expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. We think this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

8 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

9 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $9995

Group Size
Limited to 12 Travelers

Glacier & Waterton: An International Treasure Dates, Pricing & Info

Discover Scenic Splendors & Alpine Heights in Two Neighboring National Parks

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jun 25 - Jul 3, 2027	$10195	
Jun 29 - Jul 7, 2027	$10195	
Jul 7 - Jul 15, 2027	$10195	Wildflower Season
Jul 9 - Jul 17, 2027	$10195	Wildflower Season
Jul 17 - Jul 25, 2027	$10195	Wildflower Season
Jul 25 - Aug 2, 2027	$10195	Wildflower Season
Jul 27 - Aug 4, 2027	$10195	Wildflower Season
Aug 14 - Aug 22, 2027	$10195	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Aug 24 - Sep 1, 2027	$9995	
Sep 3 - Sep 11, 2027	$10195	

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2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Jun 28 - Jul 6, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Jul 6 - Jul 14, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Jul 8 - Jul 16, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Jul 18 - Jul 26, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Jul 26 - Aug 3, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Jul 28 - Aug 5, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Aug 5 - Aug 13, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Aug 7 - Aug 15, 2028	**From $10495**	Wildflower Season
Aug 15 - Aug 23, 2028	**From $10495**	
Aug 17 - Aug 25, 2028	**From $10495**	
Aug 25 - Sep 2, 2028	**From $10495**	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Aug 27 - Sep 4, 2028	**From $10495**	
Sep 4 - Sep 12, 2028	**From $10495**	

See https://www.nathab.com/us-national-parks-tours/glacier-national-park-tour/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local staff, transportation, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), optional travel protection and medical evacuation insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

This exhilarating adventure explores one of North America's most magnificent natural areas, exploring readily accessible parts of Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes that are nonetheless often missed by the casual tourist—with views that are typically enjoyed only by hardy backcountry hikers! It sometimes happens that we cannot book specific dates with the national park hotels until August, for the following year. Trip dates listed are thus likely to change slightly and will be confirmed at that time. Depending upon availability, itineraries may run in a different order.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Kalispell, Montana. **You must arrive in Kalispell by 4 pm on Day 1** in order to join your group orientation at the hotel at 5 pm.

You may depart Kalispell any time after 12:30 pm on the final day.

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Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

Natural Habitat Adventures · PO Box 3065 · Boulder, CO USA 80307

US & Canada: 800-543-8917 · International: 303-449-3711

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