

9/15/2024 @ Sf[a] S^BSd

& North American Indian Days Powwow



It is a living work of art—carved and honed by the forces of nature. Straddling the Continental Divide, Glacier National Park is part of an awe-inspiring landscape of towering mountains, cobalt blue lakes and windswept plains. Across Glacier’s sprawling valleys, the ruby reds, sapphire blues and citrine yellows of summer wildflowers can be so vibrant that the landscape virtually appears bejeweled. Throughout the park’s million-plus acres of snowcapped peaks, dense forests, and sparkling waterfalls are countless opportunities to create exceptional landscape images—usually just a few steps from the roadside.



The park is bisected by only one road—the famous Going-to-the-Sun Road. Completed in 1932 and designated a “National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark,” Going-to-the-Sun Road is notable as one of the first National Park Service projects specifically intended to accommodate visitation using an automobile. This spectacular sinuous route, through the very heart of Glacier, offers easy access to some of the finest scenery and photography opportunities the park has to offer. Radiating from the road are more than 700 miles of park trails that traverse a variety of scenic habitats.

Glacier is also home to a wide variety of photogenic wildlife, including pikas and marmots, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, and an important population of grizzly and black bears. During our photo tour, smaller summer

residents like ground squirrels, chipmunks and marmots are very active and are almost always available to provide photogenic entertainment for you with your camera.

Starting on the park's west side we reside at picturesque Lake McDonald where, at times, snowcapped peaks stand reflected in the mirror-smooth water. Later we head to the park's east side where we photograph spectacular mountain landscapes and explore the transition zone between the alpine habitats and the rolling plains of eastern Montana. A boat excursion on two of the park's picturesque lakes enhances a remarkable week of photography.

A major highlight of this western Montana photographic adventure is an opportunity to photograph at one of our largest Native American cultural gatherings—North American Indian Days. A short drive from our lodge in East Glacier brings us to Browning, Montana—the only incorporated town in the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. During the celebration, dozens of dancers and singers from the Blackfeet Nation, plus a myriad of other North American plains tribes, gather to perform traditional dances in beautifully handcrafted regalia.



Throughout the event, participants compete in a variety of traditional dances accompanied by live drum music and song. Altogether, this is a powerful and energetic photography experience. This outdoor celebration welcomes photographers—making it one of the best places to capture the diversity and pride of indigenous peoples in North America.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 (Jul 4)

Arrive at Glacier Park International Airport near Kalispell, Montana. Upon arrival contact our lodge in Whitefish for its complimentary shuttle service. We gather in the hotel lobby prior to dinner. (D)

Day 2

Following breakfast we have a short drive to Glacier National Park. This morning we spend some time seeking images of the wild and scenic Middle Fork of the Flathead River on the park's southeastern boundary. Following lunch, we shoot at several landscape photo locations around crystal clear Lake McDonald. Later in the afternoon, we check into our historic accommodations. We enjoy an early dinner to take advantage of evening light along the shores of Lake McDonald or stunning McDonald Creek. (BLD)

Day 3

This morning we've planned an early morning photography walk through an ancient forest along Avalanche Creek on the Trail of the Cedars. Returning to our lodge for breakfast we pack up and then drive the

scenic Going-to-the-Sun Road. The road is rated one of the world's most beautiful drives and today's "west side" images should attest to that. We take our time making numerous photo stops for iconic mountain scenery and more intimate nature vignettes. We stop at Logan Pass where we cross the Continental Divide at 6,647 feet above sea level and arrive at St. Mary Lodge later in the afternoon. (BLD)



Day 4

This morning is spent photographing the stunning landscapes east of the Continental Divide on Going-to-the-Sun Road between St. Mary and Logan Pass. After lunch, St. Mary Lodge gives us easy access to areas around Rising Sun and Red Eagle Meadows for photographing scenery and wildflowers. Once night falls, and if skies are clear, a short drive takes us to the Wild Goose Island Overlook for a chance to photograph the moonlit landscape. (BLD)

Day 5

A clear morning provides sunrise photo opportunities to shoot the peaks of Fusillade, Dusty Star, Goat and Little Chief mountains looming over St. Mary Lake. After breakfast, we take a leisurely drive to Swiftcurrent Valley on Glacier's northeastern tier as we make our way to the Many Glacier area. Our lodging at the historic Many Glacier Hotel has us tucked in right along the shores of Swiftcurrent Lake just across from Grinnell Point. This is one of North America's



most idyllic landscape photography settings. High above the valley, bighorn sheep and mountain goats are often observed foraging as moose and deer browse along the valley bottom and lake shore. Following lunch at our hotel, we have time for a scenic boat tour across Swiftcurrent Lake. After landing, a short walk takes us to Josephine Lake where we continue aboard our second vessel. This allows an opportunity to explore a bit further from the road and gets us deeper into the vast wilderness of Glacier Park. (BLD)

Day 6

Today we concentrate our photography around the Many Glacier area, taking advantage of the towering mountains and tranquil lakes to create dramatic compositions—all the while keeping a keen watch for moose, deer and bears. The valley provides excellent wildflower photography opportunities in early July as lupine, bee balm and Indian paintbrush grace the meadows with their brilliant colors. (BLD)

Day 7

After a second morning photographing the sunrise in the Many Glacier area, we depart the valley and photograph our way to East Glacier. The road south provides many vistas of the eastern prairie and, to the west, unparalleled views of the spine of the Rocky Mountains—what the native people called “The Backbone of the World.” This is the land of the Blackfeet Nation. After a cultural photography orientation, our goal for this late afternoon is photography of the authentic, colorful and energetic dances of the Native American performers at the North American Indian Days powwow in Browning, Montana. (BLD)



Day 8

We are up early to catch sunrise and photograph the early light as it first touches the peaks surrounding Two Medicine Lake. On mornings with good alpenglow, the rich light enhances the red rock of the mountains. We have time to photograph Running Eagle Falls before returning to East Glacier for lunch and a second opportunity to visit Browning for afternoon/evening powwow photography. Between dances, we will have an opportunity to wander the powwow grounds seeking out unique images of people, as well as colorfully adorned tipis. (BLD)

Day 9 (Jul 12)

Our final morning begins with sunrise photography in the East Glacier/Two Medicine area. Following breakfast at our lodge, we make the scenic two-hour drive back to Glacier Park International Airport for mid-afternoon homeward departures. (B)

Trip Details

Jul 04 - Jul 12, 2020

Fee: \$5,495 from Kalispell, Montana

Deposit: \$500

Limit: 7 participants

Activity Level: Easy



Tour Leader



MELISSA SCOTT

CONTACT US ABOUT THIS TRIP