

Montana - Big Sky Country

A TRIPS Signature Tour Program!

Featuring Glacier National Park

July 24 - 30, 2022 7 Days and 6 Nights

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

Itinerary

July 24, 2022 - Welcome to Montana!

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

Overnight: Helena

(D)

July 25, 2022 - Helena

After breakfast this morning, set out on a tour of the **Helena** area. You'll see the stunning **Montana State Capitol**, and stop to explore historic **Reeder's Alley**, its 19th century buildings carefully restored to preserve the colorful heritage of Helena's original settlement as a mining mecca. These fascinating structures show the rich variety of the fortune seekers and their colorful trades combining to shape this unique pioneer town! Afterwards, **St. Helena Cathedral** awaits you with its beautiful stained glass windows and imposing spires. Along the way, you'll hear tales of the old west and of the people who made Montana great! **Last Chance Gulch**, where gold was discovered in Helena, is now home to shops and restaurants. With free time for lunch on your own here, don't pass on a scoop of refreshing huckleberry ice cream! Then, it's on to your next adventure, a scenic cruise through the **Gates of the Mountains** waterway, named by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Great towering walls of limestone stand guard over the river and bighorn sheep and mountain goats still scamper in the rocks high above the water. With its inexhaustible scenery, wooded slopes, rugged rock formations and the placid beauty of the timeless Missouri River, this is Montana at its best!! This evening, a delightfully memorable dinner awaits you at picturesque **Kleffner Ranch**, featuring the largest barn west of the Mississippi!

Overnight: Helena

(B/D)

July 26, 2022 - Flathead Valley

Today you travel through the Seeley and Swan Valley en route to Glacier National Park and the beautiful Flathead Valley. With landscapes so big and open and rugged that they'll stretch your soul, this drive will leave

you in awe! A stop in **Lincoln**, Montana will give you an opportunity to shop for local products such as buffalo jerky and all manner of huckleberry products! A delicious lunch is featured at a local restaurant with views that might just include a deer or two! Then continue on traveling through the town of Kalispell and the scenic Flathead Valley! Situated just west of the Continental Divide in the rugged Rocky Mountains, this is your gateway to Glacier National Park! After time to freshen up, the remainder of the day and evening is at your leisure to explore, shop and dine!

Overnight: Flathead Valley

(B/L)

July 27, 2022 - Glacier National Park

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

Overnight: Flathead Valley

(B/D)

July 28, 2022 - Flathead Valley and Kalispell

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before traveling the short distance to **Big Mountain**! You have the option of taking the ski lift or gondola to the top of the mountain where you'll take in the incredible 360 degree panoramic views of Flathead Valley. From the "top of the

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

Overnight: Flathead Valley

(B/D)

July 29, 2022 - Hutterites and Helena

After breakfast this morning, you'll be on your way back to **Helena**. Traveling through the lower section of spectacular Glacier National Park, you'll stop at **Glacier Park Lodge** in East Glacier. Take time to wander through this century old lodge. Built over a century ago, the lodge was set on land purchased from a tribe of the Blackfeet Nation. The opening

was a joyful event as hundreds of Blackfeet Indians erected their teepees on the grounds. The 60 immense timbers that support the Lodge are over 600 years old, and the Blackfeet were amazed at the powers the "Great Spirit" bestowed on the white man as they watched the massive lodge take shape. **Your next stop is at a Hutterite Colony for a TRIPS exclusive experience!** You'll begin with a **homestyle lunch** that's cooked and served by the women of the colony. Then you'll hear about the Hutterites and their way of life. This **special inclusion** provides you the opportunity to talk to, and learn from, those who live here. Hutterites live a communal life style, sharing possessions and living a quiet peaceful life. They're happy to share stories about themselves as they show you their community on this highlight of your Montana tour! You'll depart this afternoon, and on arriving at your hotel in **Helena**, you'll have time to settle in, freshen up and relax a bit. Then enjoy a farewell dinner to round out your fun-filled time in Big Sky Country!

Overnight: Helena

(B/D)

July 30, 2022 - A Fond Farewell

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

(B)

****Please note all itineraries are subject to change.**

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare from Houston to Montana (please inquire for other gateway cities; checked baggage fees not included)
- Six nights hotel accommodations
- Six breakfasts
- Five dinners and one lunch
- City tour of Helena
- Gates of the Mountains Waterways Cruise
- Jammer Bus ride on the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park
- Scenic river float adventure on the Flathead River
- Visit to Lonesome Dove Ranch
- Tour of the Conrad Mansion
- Big Mountain Ski Lift tickets
- All admissions as described in the detailed itinerary
- Services of a TRIPS escort while in Montana
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees

Montana

\$3,998.00

per person/double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional \$698.00

Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.

*** Your TRIPS Hutterite exclusive inclusion provides our guests with a unique experience not available in other tour programs. We are required to obtain permission from year-to-year for our visit, from the Hutterites. We have every reason to believe that we will be able to offer this inclusion on your tour, however, be aware that on very rare instances, we are not able to visit.

Call today to reserve your space!!!

CST # 2057913-10

Reservations for **"Big Sky - A Montana Adventure"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis. An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour. This deposit is fully refundable up to May 1, 2022.

Final Payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before May 1, 2022.

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of May 1, 2022.

Payments may be made by checks made payable to **TRIPS**

18111 Superior St. Northridge, CA 91325

or by credit card by visiting Lamar.edu/cardinaladventures and following the link for this trip.

Your Lamar University contact is Laurie Ritchel, University Travel Programs Coordinator,

who may be reached at (409) 790-4307 or laurie.ritchel@lamar.edu. You may also contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@lamar.edu. Mikki Walker at TRIPS may also be contacted at (818) 253-5472 or mikki@gotripsinc.com with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.



The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing on March 9, 2022. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.