

# Glacier National Park and Blackfeet Powwow

WITNESS THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN DAYS & HIKE THE ROCKIES



Wilderness Travel



# Glacier National Park and Blackfeet Powwow

## TRIP DATES

2024

July 11-17, 2024

2025

July 10-16, 2025

This active cultural adventure weaves together the story of a people and a place as we witness the annual powwow of the Blackfeet Nation and hike in the grand landscapes they have called home for 10,000 years. With drumming, singing, and spectacular dances, the Blackfeet Powwow blends both the old and new traditions of a proud culture. Trip Leader Melissa Scott has spent significant time on the Blackfeet reservation and gives us an insider's access as we feel the intensity of the celebrations. Afterwards, we hike Rocky Mountain trails in Glacier National Park and savor stunning Montana sunsets. Overnights are in historic national park lodges.



# Witnessing North American Indian Days Celebration

Our journey is a unique immersion into a culture that blends past traditions with the modern day. For these peoples, it is a time of celebration, a time of reuniting, a time of spirituality, a time of gratitude, a time of recognition, and a time for a little friendly competition, but most of all it is a time to be proud of who they are. This is an annual event specific to Plains Indian traditions and draws tribal members from all across the prairie regions of the US and Canada. In order to keep the focus of the event in the right place, alcohol is not sold anywhere on the reservation for the four days of the celebration.

The Blackfeet Powwow blends the old and new. We cannot expect things to be completely “traditional.” They no longer live in teepees, although the powwow grounds will be filled with them. Today, teepees are used for spiritual reasons, and at times like this, some people stay in them for the duration of the celebration. Most attendees will be dressed like typical Americans, but those who are participating in the dances will be wearing spectacular regalia adorned with stunning beadwork and feathers. The dancing and drumming/singing are framed as competitions, with winners receiving prizes. But for most of these participants, it is about more—it is about regaining and retaining a proud culture.

Each day of the celebration will include time for more traditional activities such as prayer, honoring individuals with “giveaways,” dancing, drumming, singing, a stick-game tournament, and Indian relay races. Probably the highlight for most visitors is the dancing, which is separated into men’s

and women’s dances and then by age group. We will do our best to witness it all, from the power and athleticism of the men’s fancy dance or women’s shawl dance to the measured and purposeful traditional dance. No matter who is dancing, however, the drummers and singers provide the music that fuels the movement. The energy of the drumbeat coupled with singing will be unlike anything you’ve ever heard. It often fills your whole body and becomes like a heartbeat shared by all. Sometimes it is best to close your eyes and let the sound fill you up—let the energy flow right through you.

All of these experiences are interspersed with more modern things like a rodeo, Miss Blackfeet and princess pageants, a fun run, and a golf tournament, to name a few. There is no way to see everything, so we will focus on some of the highlights while also including things that the group may be more interested in. During the powwow, everyone on the reservation is completely caught up in the excitement and energy of the time—they are busy and distracted. We will try to incorporate visiting with a few participants as our visit progresses, but this will be an organic situation, one that will evolve in the moment.

The experience of witnessing the powwow is extremely difficult to describe. It is one that needs guidance and interpretation, internalized differently by each person, but there will be something for everyone’s interest. (Please note that it can also take a great deal of patience, as the schedule of events is often a loose guideline, so flexibility is our friend.)



PHOTOS BY MELISSA SCOTT



PHOTO BY MELISSA SCOTT

## Itinerary

### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

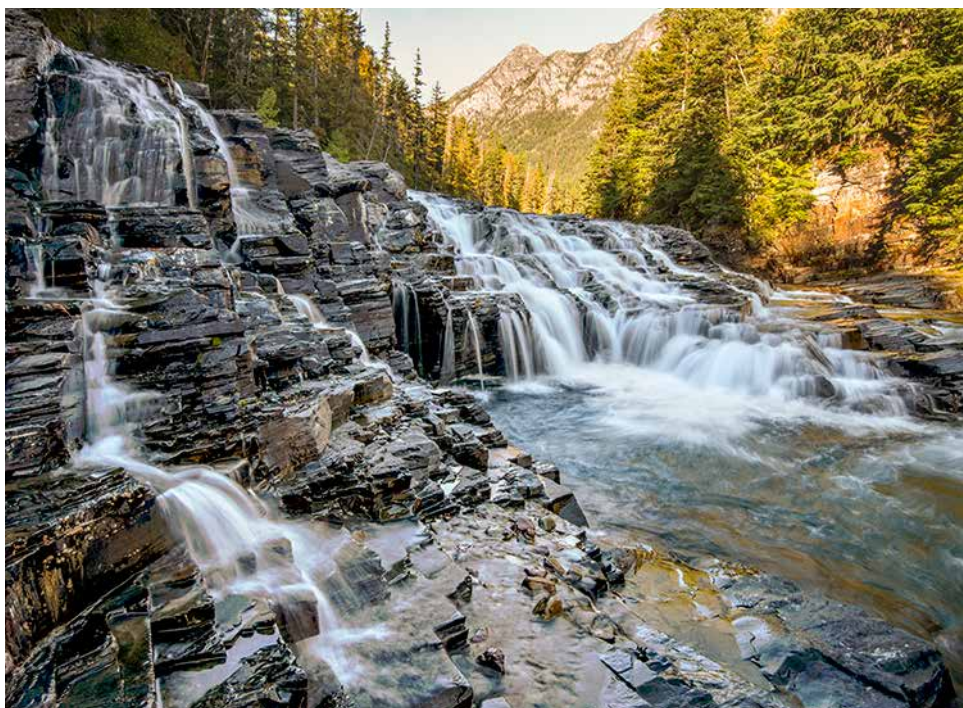
<b>Length:</b>	7 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Glacier Park International Airport, Montana
<b>Depart:</b>	Glacier Park International Airport, Montana
<b>Lodging:</b>	6 nights hotels and lodges
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included except 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	1 2 ③ 4 5 6 Wildlife viewing, moderate walks and hikes

### DAY 1, GLACIER PARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MONTANA / GROUSE MOUNTAIN LODGE

Arrive this afternoon at Glacier Park International Airport, located halfway between Kalispell and Whitefish, Montana, and transfer to our lodge in Whitefish. This evening at our lodge, we meet for a Welcome Dinner and a trip orientation as we prepare for the week ahead. We'll learn about the uniqueness of Glacier National Park, host to species from five major biomes, and the people who have been inhabiting this area since the glaciers retreated at the end of the last Ice Age some 12,000 years ago. The experience of attending the largest, most impressive Blackfeet tribal event of the year can be overwhelming, so this evening, Melissa will share the knowledge and understanding necessary to receive the event in a meaningful and memorable manner. Overnight at Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, Montana...D

### DAY 2, TWO MEDICINE VALLEY / MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS INDIANS / BLACKFEET POWWOW

After breakfast, we begin our journey east to Browning, traveling along the route of the old Great Northern Railway. On the way, we will learn about some of the other tribes who occupied the area west of the Continental Divide, their interactions with the Blackfeet, and the current status of these people. We cross the Continental Divide at Marias Pass, find out why its discovery was so difficult, then continue on to the Two Medicine Valley in the southeast corner of Glacier National Park. Our visit here helps us gain additional insight into the relationship the Blackfeet had to this land and why its loss has been mired in controversy and resentment by today's tribal members. After lunch, we venture on to Browning to visit the Museum of the Plains Indian. Later we'll head out to immerse ourselves in the sights and sounds of



the powwow. Overnight at Glacier Park Lodge, Glacier's first grand hotel, built between 1913 and 1915...BLD

### DAY 3, TWO MEDICINE VALLEY HIKES / OPTIONAL BLACKFEET POWWOW VISIT

Today we step back into the Two Medicine area to let loose some energy by exploring on foot. The park has more than 700 miles of maintained trails and the Two Medicine Valley has some beautiful offerings. We have most of the day to enjoy the quietude of the mountains and enjoy lunch by a mesmerizing waterfall before returning to the lodge in the afternoon. Dinner is on your own this evening. For those who did not get enough of the powwow the night before, there will be an option of returning this evening for a second chance to take it in. Overnight at Glacier Park Lodge...BL

### DAY 4, MANY GLACIER VALLEY / GLACIER NATIONAL PARK / TRAIL HIKE

Bidding farewell to the Two Medicine area, we'll travel north to Many Glacier, with majestic mountains (known as the "Backbone of the World" to the Blackfeet) on our left and the endlessness of the Great Plains on our right. The Many Glacier Valley is tucked away on the east side of Glacier National Park and known for its aquamarine lakes, icy glaciers, and abundant wildlife. We take time to enjoy a relaxing lunch before heading out to stretch out legs on one of the many

trails in the valley. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Great Bear Lodge...BL

### DAY 5, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK / SWIFTCURRENT AND JOSEPHINE LAKES / TRAIL HIKES

Early mornings in Many Glacier are a sight to behold, so those who want to brave those wee hours will be invited to join Melissa on the shores of Swiftcurrent Lake to soak in the beauty—and perhaps snap a few award-winning images. After breakfast, we glide across Swiftcurrent and Josephine Lakes on two of the national park's historic wooden sightseeing boats. Not only is this a wonderful experience to add to our Glacier Park journey, it also gets us a few miles further along our way, allowing access to trails that can lead us into Glacier's higher reaches or perhaps to one of her stunning teal-blue lakes fed by the glaciers above. After a full day out on the trails, we relax on the porch of the lodge and enjoy a tasty beverage while scanning the hillsides for wildlife. Overnight at Great Bear Lodge...BLD

### DAY 6, GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD / CONTINENTAL DIVIDE AT LOGAN PASS

Our last full day in Glacier National Park takes us over the Continental Divide at Logan Pass. We arrive early to beat the crowds and get in a nice hike before things get too busy, then continue on down the west side of the pass, taking our time to

stop and enjoy the scenery. Historic Lake McDonald Lodge, built in 1913 and nestled in a tranquil cedar forest along the shores of Glacier National Park's largest lake, is the destination for our final night. Time permitting, we may have time to take a leisurely walk around the Trail of the Cedars or even make it to Avalanche Lake as a final farewell to the park. We gather for our Farewell Dinner this evening...BLD

## DAY 7, DEPART

Following a relaxing breakfast, we depart this incredible place by winding slowly down the road along the shores of the lake as we make our way to the airport and flights home...B



# Trip Details

## DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$8795 (5-7 members)

Single supplement: \$1945

*Call for 2025 pricing*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of Wilderness Travel Trip Leader Melissa Scott and local guides
- Accommodations per the itinerary
- All meals included except 2 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Drinks and snacks available daily in the vehicle
- Airport transfers as noted
- All entrance fees and activities per itinerary

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Air travel from your home city to Glacier Park International Airport, Montana, and return; excess baggage charges; airport fees and charges; gratuities; optional travel insurance; personal expenses including extra hotels nights pre/post-trip, etc.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

# Accommodations



## GROUSE MOUNTAIN LODGE

*Whitefish, USA*

*Day 1 (1 night)*

Grouse Mountain Lodge is located just outside of the charming little town of Whitefish, gateway to Glacier National Park. Set along a scenic golf course, the lodge offers simple rooms, an onsite bar and restaurant, an outdoor sitting area, a hot tub, an indoor swimming pool, and a coffee bar.



## GLACIER PARK LODGE

*Glacier National Park, USA*

*Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)*

Situated at the southeast corner of Glacier National Park, Glacier Park Lodge was the first hotel ever built by the Great Northern Railway (in 1913). Inside the grand lobby, massive Douglas fir logs tower above and a fire crackles in the big stone fireplace. Guest rooms are somewhat basic, as is expected in a 100-year-old national park hotel, but the historic lobby and public spaces are stunning and sunset views from the terrace are spectacular. There is no television or air conditioning.



## GREAT BEAR LODGE

*St. Mary, USA*

*Days 4 to 5 (2 nights)*

The Great Bear Lodge in the village of St. Mary offers modern rooms with private balconies and exceptional views overlooking Divide Creek. St. Mary itself, situated at the eastern gateway to Glacier National Park, has an unbeatable location with the Going-to-the-Sun Road at its doorstep and the Two Medicine and Many Glacier valleys only a short drive away.



## LAKE MCDONALD LODGE

*Glacier National Park, USA*

*Day 6 (1 night)*

Historic Lake McDonald Lodge, built in 1913, is located right inside Glacier National Park, nestled on the shores of the largest lake in the park and just 10 miles from the west entrance. There are 82 guest rooms in the three-story main lodge, whose grand lobby extends to the third floor, replete with a massive fireplace and flagstone floor. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987. Guest rooms are rustic, yet comfortable, with modest amenities. Televisions, air conditioning, and elevators are not available, and the WiFi signal is spotty, but the lodge has a truly spectacular lakeside location.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Glacier National Park and Blackfeet Powwow* webpage and click on the “Lodging” tab.

# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Glacier Park International Airport, Montana (FCA)  
Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, 3:00 pm or earlier. You will be met for a 20-minute transfer to your hotel.

## DEPARTURE

Glacier Park International Airport, Montana (FCA)  
Suggested Date & Time: Day 7, after 1:30 pm

You will be transferred to the airport for your departing flight.

## AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Montana. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from your home town one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

# Our Guide

## MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our Trip Leaders are experienced guides with a genuine gift for bringing the rich natural history and local cultures to life. Their connections, deep knowledge, and insights give you an “insider” experience as you explore the legendary landscapes of Glacier National Park.



### MELISSA SCOTT

In 1987, Melissa moved to the mountains of Montana, began guiding in Glacier National Park in 1992, and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has been her home playground ever since. Melissa completed her degree in Environmental Science Education and has dedicated her career to inspiring conservation through relevant, firsthand encounters with the natural world. She is a dynamic and enthusiastic professional naturalist/guide with over 28 years of experience leading backpacking, fly-fishing, rafting, hiking, natural history, and cultural trips around the globe. Her knowledge of the region's ecosystem and wildlife is unsurpassed! Melissa is also an accomplished photographer and enjoys helping guests capture exceptional images of nature and wildlife. So, wherever you are exploring, you can be sure she is excited to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

# What the Trip is Like

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is Level 3, Moderate, according to our trip grading system. There are various hiking options available each day, according to trail conditions at the time. Hikes cover a variety of terrain and are usually on well-marked trails. Terrain will vary from dry, rocky slopes to alpine meadows to marshy paths through dense forest. There may be hikes on uneven surfaces, occasionally over loose scree, and sections of steep ascent or descent.

Please note that your guide may make adjustments to the itinerary and hiking routes, depending on local weather, trail conditions, and availability.

## TERRAIN

Hikes cover a variety of terrain and are usually on well-marked trails. Terrain will vary from dry, rocky slopes to alpine meadows to marshy paths through dense forest. There may be hikes on uneven surfaces, occasionally over loose scree, and sections of steep ascent or descent.

## GETTING IN SHAPE

For your own enjoyment, we recommend you make a special effort to be in good physical condition. Daily brisk walking and/or regular hiking are excellent preparatory exercises. You should wear sturdy, well-broken in hiking boots for maximum comfort on the trail. Accommodations are in comfortable lodges ideally located to get you as close as possible to the best wildlife viewing.

## WEATHER

In May and June, daytime temperatures average in the 60Fs, dropping to the 30Fs at night. In early June, the annual snow removal project on Going-to-the-Sun Road begins.

July and August is the peak season for visitors, with daytime temperatures averaging in the 70Fs and 80Fs and nights that can drop into the 40Fs. Glacier's weather is highly variable and can be extreme. Hikers setting out on a warm summer day should still bring along raingear and lots of extra clothing. Dressing in layers is key. September and October are beautiful months to visit if you enjoy fall foliage displays and temperatures are moderate, with days in the 60Fs and cool nights into the 40Fs, but some businesses and stores close after Labor Day and rain is more likely at this time of year.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

All our hotels are chosen for their local history and central location. Because some of them are in historic buildings, the rooms may not conform to uniform standards, but we hope you will enjoy them for their charm and local color. Single rooms can be requested, but are not always available, due to the limited space in some of our hotels. If you require a single room, please make the request as early as possible.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the North America Manager or email us at [northamerica@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:northamerica@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

Average Daily Max/Min °F						
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Glacier National Park	65/38	72/44	84/49	82/47	72/40	55/33
Rainfall - Inches						
Glacier National Park	2.6	3.3	1.8	1.6	2.0	2.0

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

# Travel Notes



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

Revised: September 28, 2023 8:51 AM

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.



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