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ULTIMATE CHALET ADVENTURE - GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experiencing the breathtaking beauty of Glacier National Park on foot
- Staying overnight in historically registered National Park Chalets
- Seeing the abundant wildlife and flora of the park
- Star gazing far from city lights

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Glacier National Park
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive anytime to our lodging within Glacier National Park on Day 1.
Depart:	Depart anytime on our last day. We'll be staying at a hotel with a shuttle to the Kalispell Airport (FCA)

Trip Overview

Glacier National Park is truly one of the crown jewels of the National Park System and now you get to experience it in a way that most others don't! Wake up surrounded by jagged peaks, wildflowers, and abundant wildlife. Sip your coffee while watching a postcard perfect sunrise, away from the crowds. Experience the best of Glacier National Park while staying at the historic backcountry huts and chalets. Maximum group size: 11.

Rating

This trip is designed for women who want to experience the backcountry without having to haul everything they own. We'll trek into the chalets carrying just the necessities in our backpacks (45-50 L is ideal). Our lodging is both stunning and at times rustic but don't worry - we're never more than 48 hours away from a hot shower! We will be hiking 5 - 10 miles a day in hilly terrain with steep ascents and descents, along rocky and uneven terrain where the weather can be unpredictable. Previous hiking experience is extremely useful, as is having a sense of adventure and a good level of physical fitness. A rating of 4 requires aerobic conditioning for at least 40-50 minutes 4-5 times a week. Additional endurance exercise (e.g. going for a 2-hour hike once a week) and/or strength training is appropriate. **Rating:** 1 2 3 **4** 5.

What's Included

- 1-2 experiences guides
- 4 nights in backcountry National Park chalets and 3 nights lodging in charming western lodges and .
- All meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on the last day. Meals while in the backcountry will be prepared by your guides or by chalet staff. We'll have a midweek dinner at the gourmet Belton Chalet and our final dinner 'out on the town' as a group in a restaurant in Kalispell.
- Transportation to airport for departure at the end of the trip

Not included: Travel to Glacier National Park at the start of the trip, National Park Entry Fee, Day 1 dinner, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities and travel insurance

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Glacier National Park is an incredible place to visit for many reasons including that the 71 species of diverse mammal and other wildlife here have not changed much since the park's inception: thanks to over one million acres of preserved land and early protection efforts! Our trip starts today at our lodging in West Glacier, where you'll be able to check in by name any time after 4PM. The group will officially meet at 7PM for our AGC orientation. If you arrive early, you can check your bags and stretch your legs on the nearby trails or take a [Red Bus Tour](#) around the park (advanced reservations recommended). Dinner is on your own tonight, a great chance to explore downtown West Glacier.

Overnight: Glacier Guides Lodge

DAY 2

We'll meet our local Glacier guides at 6:30AM at their West Glacier headquarters for a brief orientation to saddle up for Sperry Chalet, allowing us to take in the fantastic views from a new perspective - by horseback! You're also welcome to hike the 6.5 miles and 3,000 foot elevation gain. Once we get settled in at Sperry Chalet we can optionally day hike out and back 2 miles to Lincoln Pass, which gives us an incredible view of Mount Jackson (one of the tallest peaks in the park at over 10,000 feet).

Overnight: Sperry Glacier (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Since we are spending a second night at Sperry Chalet, we can day hike up to Comeau Pass and Sperry Glacier. Here we can observe the scouring effects of the glacial movement and even get to touch the glacier itself. The trail to the Pass rises 1,600 feet over 3 miles making it a challenging hike, but well worth the effort (6 miles round trip).

Overnight: Sperry Chalet (B, L, D)

DAY 4

On our final hiking day, we walk 6.5 miles downhill to Lake McDonald through gorgeous cedar forests, full of bird life. At 10 miles long and almost 500 feet deep, Lake McDonald is the largest lake in the park and its waters are refreshing for anyone that dares to brave the cold! Under the crystalline surface, you'll see rocks in striking hues of red, green, and blue.

Our shuttle (stocked with ice cold beverages!) will meet us at the bottom and transport us back to West Glacier where we can freshen up at our lodging before dinner at the elegant Belton Chalet restaurant from a pre-selected menu. This lodge, also a national historic landmark, was built by the Great Northern Railway in the early 1900s and displays charming Swiss Chalet architecture.

Overnight: Glacier Guides Lodge (B, L, D)

DAY 5

We meet bright and early back at the office in West Glacier for a brief orientation before driving up the historic Going to the Sun Highway to Logan Pass. What used to be a washed-out wagon trail described as “a combination of quagmire, corduroy and misery” is now the most scenic road in all of Montana! Behold what the Blackfoot tribe have called “the backbone of the world” in the razor-sharp escarpments and finely etched peaks of Glacier National Park. We’ll hike 7.5 miles on the Highline Trail to the famous Granite Park Chalet. This rustic lodge is registered as a National Historic Landmark and offers breathtaking views.

Elevation gain: some short climbs of 100-400 feet at a time. Chalet elevation: 6,693 feet.

Overnight: Granite Park Chalet. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Since we’re staying at Granite Park Chalet another night, we can day hike toward Ahern Pass (8.5 miles round trip with not much elevation gain/loss) or toward Swiftcurrent Lookout (4 miles round trip with 2,500 elevation gain/loss). We can split into two hiking groups so you can select how long your hiking adventure is today. Keep your eyes peeled and your binoculars at the ready, in this area we may see mountain goats, bighorn sheep and even bears!

Overnight: Granite Park Chalet (B, L, D)

DAY 7

Relax on your own in the morning, sipping coffee and enjoying the spectacular views or join us for a short hike to Grinnell Glacier Overlook (3 miles round trip, 1,500 feet elevation gain/loss). In the afternoon we’ll hike 4.5 miles down from the Chalet on the Loop Trail (2,200 feet elevation drop). Once back at headquarters, we will take a short, but scenic shuttle drive to our lodging in Whitefish. We will have time to shower and freshen up before heading out to our final group dinner.

Overnight: lodging in Kalispell. (B, L, D)

DAY 8

We have trekked through the vast beautiful wilderness of Glacier National Park, seeing sights other travelers only dream of, now it's time to say goodbye. Fly out any time today. Check out is at 11AM and the hotel shuttle runs throughout the day to the airport. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

If you are flying, the closest airport is Kalispell Airport (FCA).

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

The lodging on this trip will vary as much as the landscape. The accommodations include: a charming modern lodge, a world class front country chalet, and two historically registered backcountry chalets. Bathrooms range from ensuite hotel bathrooms with 21st century plumbing to backcountry pit vault toilets. All accommodations are shared on this trip (the frontcountry hotels and chalets will have two queen beds in each room and you'll be with several other AGC participants in bunks or rooms with two twin beds in them while staying in the backcountry chalets). Bring your earplugs and your sense of adventure!

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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