



The hub of Montana’s Flathead Valley, Kalispell [[link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com](http://www.discoverkalispell.com)] is a renaissance town that offers a variety of experiences, from touchable history to outdoor recreation and a lively culinary scene to genuine Western experiences, as well as comfortable lodging and impeccable amenities. Plus, Kalispell provides quick and easy access to some of Montana’s most special places, like Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park. And while it may seem worlds away, getting to Kalispell is easy. Glacier Park International Airport welcomes flights from eight U.S. hubs [[link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com/getting-here/](http://www.discoverkalispell.com/getting-here/)], Amtrak’s Empire Builder makes two stops within 30 minutes of Kalispell and U.S. Highway 93 and U.S. Highway 2 intersect in Kalispell, making it an ideal stop on a road trip through the Rocky Mountain West.

To help make travel planning easier, below you’ll find a three-day itinerary that is certain to introduce you—and your clients—to the best the area has to offer.

### **Three Days in Kalispell: Meet Montana’s Undiscovered Charmer**

#### **Day 1: Explore Kalispell’s Urban Offerings**

After arriving in Kalispell, start your day with a cup of locally roasted coffee from Montana Coffee Traders (located on Main Street) before setting out to explore the city’s vibrant downtown. As you walk along, you’ll soon experience Kalispell’s “Old West meets New West” personality, with historic brick buildings serving as home to breweries, boutiques and culinary hotspots.

Along the way, you’ll pass several local shops, including The Toggery, Western Outdoor, Kalispell Antiques Market and Sassafrass. Be sure to stop and check out their offerings, from locally made products to antiques and cowboy boots.

If you’re wanting to learn more about this city’s culture, set out on a self-guided walking tour [[link to https://www.downtownkalispell.com/historical-walking-tour](https://www.downtownkalispell.com/historical-walking-tour)] that takes you on a stroll through the past as you learn about Kalispell’s [[link to link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com/trips/historic-downtown-kalispell/](http://www.discoverkalispell.com/trips/historic-downtown-kalispell/)] rich history.

From there, continue to Kalispell’s museums—The Museum at Central School, Hockaday Museum of Art and the Conrad Mansion Museum—for a hearty serving of culture [[link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com/rustle-history/](http://www.discoverkalispell.com/rustle-history/)]. Each offers a different look at the Flathead Valley and Glacier National Park history, from a glimpse into the valleys’ logging industry at The Museum at Central School to paintings by renowned artist Charlie Russell at the Hockaday Museum of Art and stepping back in time at the 1895 home of Kalispell’s founders, Charles and Alicia Conrad.



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After a day of soaking up this urban hotspot in Montana, cowboy up a one of the area's year-round rodeos. Options include the Northwest Montana Fair and Rodeo (August), the Rocky Mountain Challenge Rodeo (March), the Brash Rodeo Series [link to <https://glaciercountryrodeo.com/>] (held winter and summer) and Rocky Mountain Extreme Bullriding (February).

### **Explore More:**

Thursday!Fest (summer) [link to [www.downtownkalispell.com/thursdayfest](http://www.downtownkalispell.com/thursdayfest)]

### **Wine + Dine:**

*Breakfast:* Ceres Bakery, Sykes Diner, Bonelli's Bistro, Montana Coffee Traders

*Lunch:* Bonelli's Bistro, McKenzie River Pizza, Norm's News, Split Rock Café

*Dinner:* Moose's Saloon, Hop's Downtown Grill, Brannigan's Irish Pub, The DeSoto Grill, Blue Canyon Kitchen Tavern, ScottiBelli's Ristorante Italiano,

*Watering holes:* Kalispell Brewing Company, SunRift Beer Company, Bias Brewing and Vilya Spirits.

More dining options can be found here [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/wine-dine/>].

### **Lodging:**

Best Western Flathead Lake Inn & Suites [link to <https://bestwesternflatheadlake.com/>]

Kalispell Grand Hotel [link to <http://www.kalispellgrand.com/>]

Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell [link to

<http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/hilton-garden-inn-kalispell-FCAKSGI/index.html>]

Hampton Inn Kalispell [link to

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/hampton-inn-kalispell-FCAMTHX/index.html>]

### **Day 2: Discover Kalispell's Great Outdoors**

Spend your second day in Kalispell by getting outside and exploring the many kilometers of hiking, walking and biking trails [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/outdoor-activities/trails-routes/>] located within 30 minutes of the city limits.

Walk on old railroad beds on Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana, take in a bird's-eye view of the valley from Lone Pine State Park, meander through timberlands on the Foy's to Blacktail Trails or head to Jewel Basin—located a scenic 30-minute drive from Kalispell—and set out on its well-marked trail system.

If you're hiking or walking in the summer months, keep your eyes open for huckleberry bushes. Huckleberries, loved by people and bears alike, only grow in the wild at certain elevations and are one of Montana's most-loved summer treats. While you can pick them along many of northwest Montana's trails, they are also available at local shops and roadside stands. In addition, they often make their way into culinary treats like huckleberry ice cream, huckleberry jam and huckleberry syrup.



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After enjoying the area's walking trails, head south on U.S. Highway 93 to Flathead Lake. The largest freshwater lake in the West, Flathead Lake [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/communities-attractions/flathead-lake/>] is ideal for cooling off after a hot summer day with state parks and public-access points located along its more than 297 kilometers of shoreline.

To get out on the water, book a guided boat tour on the Far West in Lakeside, set sail with Flathead Lake Lodge, dip your toes in the water at one of the lake's public beaches or rent a stand-up paddleboard or jet ski and explore the glacial-fed waters yourself.

For a trip around the lake, travel south on U.S. Highway 93 from Kalispell to Polson, with a return trip on Montana Highway 35 along the east shore of Flathead Lake through Woods Bay and Bigfork. In the summer months, be sure to keep your eyes open for roadside fruit stands where you can pick up locally grown and delectable Flathead cherries. Or, if you want to harvest your own fruit, stop at a local orchard and pick your own cherries with the waters of Flathead Lake serving as your backdrop.

Round out your day by tasting Montana [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/brews-wines/>] at one of Kalispell's local breweries or distillery. Local favorites are Kalispell Brewing Company, SunRift Beer Company, Bias Brewing and Vilya Spirits.

### **Explore More:**

Montana State Parks [link to <http://stateparks.mt.gov/export/sites/ParksPublic/default.html#map>]  
Hockaday Orchards [link to <https://hockadayorchards.com/>]

### **Wine + Dine:**

*Breakfast:* Ceres Bakery, Sykes Diner, Bonelli's Bistro, Montana Coffee Traders  
*Lunch:* Bonelli's Bistro, McKenzie River Pizza, Norm's News, Split Rock Café  
*Dinner:* Moose's Saloon, Hop's Downtown Grill, Brannigan's Irish Pub, The DeSoto Grill, Blue Canyon Kitchen Tavern, ScottiBelli's Ristorante Italiano,  
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More culinary options can be found here [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/wine-dine/>].

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Kalispell Grand Hotel [link to <http://www.kalispellgrand.com/>]  
Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell [link to <http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/hilton-garden-inn-kalispell-FCAKSGI/index.html>]  
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### **Day 3: The Crown of the Continent, Glacier National Park**

From Kalispell, it's an easy 51-kilometer drive to Glacier National Park's west entrance in West Glacier, Montana. Open year-round, Glacier National Park [[link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com/communities-attractions/glacier-national-park](http://www.discoverkalispell.com/communities-attractions/glacier-national-park)] offers visitors something different during every season.

Driving the Going-to-the-Sun Road in summer is a must-do activity; fall brings incredible wildlife and foliage-viewing opportunities; spring sees snowmelt and plentiful waterfalls, as well as the chance to bike the Going-to-the-Sun Road before it opens to vehicle traffic; and winter [[link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com/glaciers-winter-glory/](http://www.discoverkalispell.com/glaciers-winter-glory/)] offers a quiet snow-covered wonderland that's ideal for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Start your day in the Crown of the Continent with a stop at Apgar Visitor Center (open year-round), where you'll get an overview of things to do during your visit, from the best trails to hike in late spring, summer and fall to best trails for snowshoeing during the winter season, as well as a chance to chat with park rangers. From there, the opportunities to soak up the park are endless and during the summer season include taking a guided red bus tour, setting out on a historic wooden boat on one of the park's many lakes, taking a hike or simply soaking up the beauty of the park from the shore of Lake McDonald. The park is open year-round; winter-specific activities can be found here [[link to http://www.discoverkalispell.com/glaciers-winter-glory/](http://www.discoverkalispell.com/glaciers-winter-glory/)].

Return to Kalispell for a cocktail, dinner and overnight.

#### **Explore More:**

Glacier National Park [[link to https://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm](https://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm)]

Guided red bus tours [[link to http://www.glacienationalparklodges.com/red-bus-tours](http://www.glacienationalparklodges.com/red-bus-tours)]

Guided hiking and biking [[link to https://glacierguides.com/](https://glacierguides.com/)]

Scenic whitewater rafting [[link to https://glacierraftco.com/](https://glacierraftco.com/)]

#### **Wine + Dine:**

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For more ideas on ways to explore Kalispell and Montana's Flathead Valley, visit [www.DiscoverKalispell.com](http://www.DiscoverKalispell.com).



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