



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 five-day itinerary that is certain to introduce you—and your clients—to the best the area has to offer.

Five Days in Kalispell: A Hub-and-Spoke Tour from Montana’s Flathead Valley

Day 1: Kalispell

With its location between Flathead Lake, Glacier National Park and Whitefish Mountain Resort, Kalispell [[link to www.discoverkalispell.com](http://www.discoverkalispell.com)] is the ideal destination for a hub-and-spoke tour in Western Montana.

Begin your trip with a full day in Kalispell, the anchor of Montana’s Flathead Valley. Start with a morning visit to Lone Pine State Park for a bird’s-eye view of the valley, as well as a peek at the peaks of Glacier National Park and the expansive waters of Flathead Lake. After taking in the view and stopping in at the visitor center, set out on the 12 kilometers of trails at the park—all of which are ideas for hiking, mountain biking and snowshoeing.

For lunch, check out one of Kalispell’s many eateries and fill your belly on Montana dishes, like bison burgers, huckleberry milkshakes and pizza made with local ingredients.

From there, it’s time to soak up Montana culture by taking a stroll through downtown Kalispell. Along the way, you’ll pass historic buildings like the depot (home to the Discover Kalispell Visitor Center) and a lively downtown full of several local shops, including The Toggery, Western Outdoor and Montana Marie. After strolling along Main Street, spend time visiting Kalispell’s museums—including The Museum at Central School, the Hockaday Museum of Art and the Conrad Mansion Museum—for an immersive look at the town’s illustrious past.



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For a deeper dive into the Flathead Valley's culture, book a tour on the Montana Brew Bus or Big Sky Brew Cruise where you'll learn more about the local brewers who live, work, play in the valley, all while making delicious beer, cider and spirits.

After visiting local breweries [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/brews-wines/>] on your tour, end with a nightcap at Kalispell Brewing Company, SunRift Beer Company, Bias Brewing or Vilya Spirits

Overnight in Kalispell.

Explore More:

Conrad Mansion Museum [link to <http://www.conradmansion.com/>]
Hockaday Museum of Art [link to <http://www.hockadaymuseum.org/>]
Museum at Central School [link to <http://www.yourmuseum.org/>]
Glacier Symphony & Chorale [link to <https://www.gscmusic.org/>]
Montana Brew Bus [link to <https://www.montanabrewbus.com/>]
Big Sky Brew Cruise [link to <https://www.bigskybrewscruise.com/>]

Wine + Dine:

Breakfast: Ceres Bakery, Sykes Diner, Bonelli's Bistro, The Knead Cafe
Lunch: 406 Bar and Grill, Bonelli's Bistro, McKenzie River Pizza, Montana Coffee Traders
Dinner: Moose's Saloon, Hop's Downtown Grill, The DeSoto Grill, Blue Canyon Kitchen Tavern, ScottiBelli's Ristorante Italiano, The Brass Tap

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

Lodging:

Red Lion [link to <https://www.redlion.com/kalispell>]
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>]
Homewood Suites [link to <https://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/homewood-suites-by-hilton-kalispell-mt-KALHWHW/index.html>]

Day 2: Flathead Indian Reservation

From Kalispell, travel south along U.S. Highway 93 and the west shore of Flathead Lake to the Flathead Indian Reservation [link to <https://www.visitmt.com/places-to-go/indian-nations/selish-ktunaxa-flathead.html>]. Home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, the 1.3-million acre Flathead Indian Reservation encompasses the southern portion of Flathead Lake, as well as the National Bison Range and several communities, including Polson, Pablo, St. Ignatius and Charlo.



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A must-see attraction on the Flathead Indian Reservation is The People's Center in Pablo. The museum offers both self-guided and guided tours to help visitors learn about the history of the Salish, Pend d'Oreille and Kootenai tribes, as well as offer insights and perspectives not found anywhere else.

From Pablo, continue south to St. Ignatius and visit the St. Ignatius Mission. Built in the early 1890s, the St. Ignatius Mission has 58 hand-painted murals—created by the mission's handyman Brother Joseph Carignano—on its walls and ceilings. Today, the mission is open to both tourists wanting to visit this historic site, as well as Sunday church services.

Next up is the nearby National Bison Range. The 18,500-acre range is home to around 350 head of bison, as well as pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, grizzly bears and black bears. During the summer season (mid-May to early October), Red Sleep Mountain Drive is the range's most popular driving option as it takes visitors up and over the mountain on a one-way, 30-kilometer route. Additional drives include West Loop and Prairie Drive, and both are open year-round. As you're exploring the National Bison Range, be sure to stop and take in the views of the Mission and Clark Fork valleys.

On your way back north to Kalispell, take Montana Highway 35 along the east shore of Flathead Lake to the charming lakeside village of Bigfork. End the day here by watching the sunset with a cool beverage at The Raven in Woods Bay or from the dining rooms of Flathead Lake Brewing Company in Bigfork.

Explore More:

Flathead Indian Reservation [link to <https://www.visitmt.com/places-to-go/indian-nations/selish-ktunaxa-flathead.html>]

Miracle of America Museum [link to <http://miracleofamericamuseum.org/>]

The People's Center [link to <http://www.peoplescenter.org/>]

National Bison Range [link to https://www.fws.gov/refuge/national_bison_range/]

Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge [link to <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/nine-pipe/>]

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana [link to <http://www.ninepipesmuseum.org/old/>]

Wine+ Dine:

Breakfast: Ceres Bakery, Sykes Diner, Bonelli's Bistro, The Knead Cafe

Lunch: 406 Bar and Grill, Bonelli's Bistro, McKenzie River Pizza, Montana Coffee Traders

Dinner: Moose's Saloon, Hop's Downtown Grill, The DeSoto Grill, Blue Canyon Kitchen Tavern, ScottiBelli's Ristorante Italiano, The Brass Tap

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

Lodging:

Red Lion [link to <https://www.redlion.com/kalispell>]

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



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Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell [link to <http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/hilton-garden-inn-kalispell-FCAKSGI/index.html>]

Homewood Suites [link to <https://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/montana/homewood-suites-by-hilton-kalispell-mt-KALHWHW/index.html>]

Day 3: Flathead Lake

An easy 10-minute drive from Kalispell is the north shore of Flathead Lake [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/communities-attractions/flathead-lake/>]. The largest freshwater lake in the West, Flathead Lake has more than 297 kilometers of shoreline, with many small towns on its shores, as well as six state parks that are open to the public.

Water recreation is endless on Flathead Lake, with plentiful opportunities for guided boat tours, sailing excursions, fishing trips, sightseeing tours, stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking. Guided excursions and rentals are available from Somers, Lakeside, Dayton, Polson and Bigfork. Plus, each fall, Discover Kalispell hosts the Montana Dragon Boat Festival [link to <https://kalispellevents.sportngin.com/>] on Flathead Lake which includes live music, local food trucks, craft beer and dragon boat racing.

If playing on the water isn't your speed, you can enjoy views of Flathead Lake from U.S. Highway 93, by hiking on Blacktail Mountain or by taking a day trip to Wild Horse Island.

During the summer months, roadside fruit stands line the roads and are a great pit stop for picking up locally grown produce, like Flathead cherries. During fall, the valley is converted into a fall-foliage viewing wonderland, with yellows, oranges and reds painting the mountainsides with their vibrant colors of autumn.

Overnight in Kalispell.

Explore more:

Flathead Lake State Parks [link to <http://stateparks.mt.gov/>]

Wild Horse Island Tours [link to <https://flatheadlakeboattour.com/wild-horse-island-charters/>]

Wine+ Dine:

Breakfast: Ceres Bakery, Sykes Diner, Bonelli's Bistro, The Knead Cafe

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

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Day 4: Whitefish + Whitefish Mountain Resort

An easy 20-minute drive from Kalispell will take you to the mountain resort town of Whitefish, Montana. A great day-trip excursion, Whitefish offers on-mountain fun at Whitefish Mountain Resort (located on Big Mountain), live theater and a charming downtown.

Start the day with one of the many outdoor activities at Whitefish Mountain Resort, with options that include zip lining, mountain biking, leisurely scenic chair lift rides, a visit to the Nature Center at the top of Big Mountain, Aerial Adventure Park, alpine slide and the summer tube park. During the winter season, Whitefish Mountain Resort offers more than 3,000 acres of skiable terrain, along with views of the Flathead Valley and Glacier National Park.

After playing on Big Mountain, head into town and stroll along boardwalk-covered Central Avenue and peruse the local shops, restaurants and watering holes before heading back to Kalispell for dinner and overnight.

Explore more:

Whitefish Mountain Resort [link to www.skiwhitefish.com]

Alpine Theatre Project [link to <http://www.atpwhitefish.org/>]

Wine+ Dine:

Breakfast: Ceres Bakery, Sykes Diner, Bonelli's Bistro, The Knead Cafe

Lunch: 406 Bar and Grill, Bonelli's Bistro, McKenzie River Pizza, , Montana Coffee Traders

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

Lodging:

Red Lion [link to <http://www.redlion.com/kalispell>]

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Day 5: Glacier National Park

Known as the Crown of the Continent, Glacier National Park is 51 kilometers from Kalispell and is the perfect way to end a stay in Western Montana. Open year-round, Glacier National Park [link to <http://www.discoverkalispell.com/communities-attractions/glacier-national-park>] is a must-see destination during any trip to Big Sky Country.

For a full-day adventure, consider driving the Going-to-the-Sun Road as it winds its way through the heart of the park and crests the Continental Divide at Logan Pass (and the Logan Pass Visitor Center) before returning to Kalispell via U.S. Highway 2. Highlights along the way include Apgar Village, Lake McDonald Lodge and St. Mary.

Another option is to spend the day exploring the west side of the park, with a guided whitewater, scenic float or fly-fishing trip on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River with Glacier Raft Company, Glacier Anglers or Montana Raft Company, followed by lunch in West Glacier, an afternoon boat tour on the historic DeSmet with Glacier Park Boat Company and a horseback trail ride with Swan Mountain Outfitters.

Additional Glacier National Park activities include:

- Drive to the park's historic North Fork, with a visit to Polebridge, the Polebridge Mercantile and Bowman Lake.
- From Kalispell, take U.S. Highway 2 east to East Glacier Park and visit Glacier Park Lodge, followed by a hike or boat tour in Two Medicine.
- Set out on a guided hike or biking trip with Glacier Guides.

Round out the day by having an early evening drink at the Glacier Distilling Company in Coram or the historic Belton Chalet in West Glacier before returning to Kalispell for dinner and overnight.

Explore More:

Glacier National Park [link to <https://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>]
Guided red bus tours [link to <http://www.glaciernationalparklodges.com/red-bus-tours>]
Guided hiking and biking [link to <https://glacierguides.com/>]
Scenic whitewater rafting [link to <https://glacierraftco.com/>]
Guided boat tours [link to <http://glacierparkboats.com/>]
Guided horseback rides [link to <https://www.swanmountainglacier.com>]

Wine+ Dine:

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

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Discover more ways to explore Kalispell at www.DiscoverKailspell.com.



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