



Discovering Our Planet Together



Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition

Photograph Striking Landscapes & Rocky Mountain Wildlife in Two Neighboring National Parks



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Trip Details:

Days:
9 Days / Jun-Jul

Price:
From \$9595
(+ Air)

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition

Photograph Striking Landscapes & Rocky Mountain Wildlife in Two Neighboring National Parks

As we weave among the red and green argillite cliffs, you dare not set your camera down as the tapestry of this dynamic landscape unfolds before us. On display is billion-year-old bedrock, scoured by glaciers that have carved peaks and valleys into what was once an ancient seabed. Here in this sacred land, known to the Blackfeet as the Backbone of the World, we find evidence of the first life forms to arise on our planet. Today, Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park, a single ecosystem spanning the border of the U.S. and Canada, remains a stronghold of protected wilderness. It's a photographic wonderland of meadows thick with wildflowers, cascading waterfalls of crystal meltwater, sheer alpine peaks and dense forests, home to mountain goats, bighorn sheep, grizzly bears and more. Capture the wonders on the Going-to-the-Sun Road and beyond with Photo Expedition Leaders who know this terrain intimately.

Trip Highlights

Join expert guides on a photography adventure in two of North America's most stunning national parks, tapping their knowledge of hidden corners and wildlife haunts

With a maximum of 10 guests and two Expedition Leaders, we split into even smaller groups to gain access to remote spots off limits to larger groups

With decades of collective experience leading specialized photography trips, our guides offer highly personalized coaching, ensuring you get better images



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Itinerary At A Glance

- Day 1**
Kalispell, Montana / Whitefish
- Day 2**
Glacier National Park—Trail of the Cedars / Going-to-the-Sun Road / Lake McDonald
- Day 3**
Going-to-the-Sun Road / Many Glacier
- Day 4**
Many Glacier—Swiftcurrent Lake Cruise / Hike to Grinnell Lake
- Day 5**
Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta—Hikes to Akimina Lake & Bertha Falls
- Day 6**
Crandell Lake Hike / Upper Waterton Lake Boat Cruise

Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition Itinerary

Photograph Striking Landscapes & Rocky Mountain Wildlife in Two Neighboring National Parks

Day 1: Kalispell, Montana / Whitefish

Surrounded by ranchlands and framed by the dramatic peaks of Glacier National Park, Kalispell is a gateway to Glacier National Park. Upon arriving, transfer to nearby Whitefish, a photogenic Old West town with an historic railway depot and weathered wooden storefronts that evoke Montana’s frontier past. Early arrivals may stroll the town streets with camera in hand to capture the textures of rustic western architecture against the backdrop of modern daily life. Tonight, gather with your Photo Expedition Leaders at our welcome dinner for an overview of the week ahead and a brief discussion of photo opportunities, gear and an informal question and answer session





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 7

Waterton / Glacier National Park—Logan Pass / East Glacier

Day 8

Sunrise Photography in Two Medicine Valley / Blackfeet Cultural Presentation

Day 9

Kalispell / Depart

Day 2: Glacier National Park—Trail of the Cedars / Going-to-the-Sun Road / Lake McDonald

Drive this morning to Glacier National Park, one of the most treasured natural landscapes in the United States. Famous for its ice-carved valleys and dramatic mountain peaks, Glacier contains some of the most pristine natural ecosystems left in the Lower 48 states. We'll have abundant opportunities to see and photograph many of the species that call it home, including the mountain goat, the park's emblematic animal.

Our focus today is the west side of the park, and we begin with a walk on the Trail of the Cedars. The Lake McDonald Valley is on the interior edge of the Pacific Northwest maritime climate zone. Moisture-loving trees such as cedars and western hemlock cause the light to fracture as it streams through the forest, ideal conditions to experiment with exposure as we capture the light's rays. A footbridge over Avalanche Gorge provides dramatic opportunities to photograph the rushing cascades below, adjusting our shutter speeds to freeze the water's motion and slow our shutters for a silky water capture. Later, we'll shoot as we make our way to Logan Pass on the west side of the famous Going-to-the-Sun Road. An engineering marvel completed in 1932, the narrow byway twists and climbs around Glacier's rocky spine all the way to the Continental Divide. We'll use the road as a leading line as we work on sweeping landscape photography. Descend to spend the night at Lake McDonald Lodge, a historic hostelry inspired by Swiss alpine architecture. Explore the lakeshore to capture the multicolored rocks in the crystal-clear water, or relax in front of the massive stone fireplace in the hotel's famous lobby.



Day 3: Going-to-the-Sun Road / Many Glacier

Rise early this morning to practice shooting sunrise, as the golden hour morning light illuminates this stunning landscape and overarching sky. The colors and contrasts are magnificent. Don't worry, though, if today's shots aren't exactly what you hoped for—we'll have ample opportunity to photograph more sunrises in the days ahead.

We spend the morning shooting images from more trails on the west side of the Continent Divide, working on stopping motion as we photograph waterfalls, framing and composition of the serrated peaks, and wide-angle landscape shots. Then we climb the Going-to-the-Sun Road once more, traversing the Continental Divide in the heart of the park. As we continue down the east side, learn about the Lewis Overthrust fault and the region's tumultuous geological history, studied by scientists from around the world.

This afternoon we enter Many Glacier, one of the park's classic glacial valleys. Have your telephoto lens handy as we keep an eye out for black bears and grizzlies feeding among the bushes in avalanche chutes, bighorn sheep perched on cliffs, and elk grazing in the meadows. This will be our first chance to zoom in on wildlife, using lower aperture and faster shutter speeds. Our destination for the next two nights is Many Glacier Hotel, built in 1915 as a grand Swiss-style chalet in the "American Alps," in the vision of the railway barons behind its construction. It sits on the edge of Swiftcurrent Lake overlooking a panorama of crenellated peaks.

Day 4: Many Glacier—Swiftcurrent Lake Cruise / Hike to Grinnell Lake

After several days of intensive instruction, practice what you've learned to date with the freedom to shoot the sunrise from your location of choice. And then it's on to more landscape photography. Incorporate yesterday's insight as we explore the broad, glacial valley that formed some 10,000 years ago. Many Glacier features ragged crags, waterfalls that glissade from icy ledges, and alpine lakes set like gems in the rocky backdrop. Here, we capture the mountains' reflection on the lake's surface and use a circular polarizer to shoot the famous rocks on the bottom of the lake.

We see why the Blackfeet gave the name "Backbone of the World" to the greater Glacier Park ecosystem. On a narrated boat tour across Swiftcurrent Lake, photograph the panorama of Mount Grinnell, Angel Wing and surrounding peaks. Learn about the geology and ecology of our environs as we get within view to photograph Grinnell Glacier, an experience future visitors may be less likely to have as climate change hastens its melting. Depending on the angle of the sun, the lake may appear opaque turquoise, the result of glacial silt suspended in the water as it flows down the mountain from Grinnell Glacier. On an easy hike to Grinnell Lake, be ready to capture for wildlife and raptors soaring overhead. These features bear the name of George Bird Grinnell, an early American conservationist, explorer and founder of the Audubon Society. He was so inspired by the scenery during his first trip to the area in 1885 that he spent the next two decades working to establish it as a national park.



Day 5: Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta—Hikes to Akimina Lake & Bertha Falls

This morning, we drive north across the Canadian border to spend two days exploring Waterton Lakes National Park. As Glacier's sister park, Waterton shares a border and an ecosystem, as well as joint UNESCO World Heritage Site status. In 1932, these two parks together became the first International Peace Park. Here where Alberta's prairies meet the peaks of the Rockies, Waterton is a continuation of Glacier's stunning landscapes, and opportunities abound to photograph this less-visited region.

With your Photo Expedition Leaders, explore a range of trails that capitalize on the panoramic vistas with sturdy spots from which to capture the landscape. On a short hike to Akimina Lake, we may photograph wildlife—moose are often seen munching on vegetation at the bottom of the shallow lake. We'll also ascend through a mixed aspen forest on a hike to Bertha Falls, a series of cascades that course down the mountainside. Practice macrophotography as we capture the vibrant beauty of wildflowers and the marshy forest, and then pivot to wide-angle landscape photography as you capture the spectacular view from Bertha Point that overlooks Upper Waterton Lake and its surrounding peaks. Tonight, we photograph the sunset over Upper Waterton Lake.

Day 6: Crandell Lake Hike / Upper Waterton Lake Boat Cruise

Capture the intricate details of forest ecology this morning with a mellow hike through a regenerating burn area to pretty Crandell Lake, which sits in a low forested saddle between Ruby Ridge and imposing Mount Crandell. The contrast between blackened and dead snags against the lush and colorful forest floor tells the story of nature's resilience, and our photo session covers depth of field, composition and macro techniques. Wildflowers abound in summer, and we may see the delicate Baker's mariposa lily, purple bee balm and flowering bear grass.

Later this afternoon, aboard the M/V International on Upper Waterton Lake, cruise south to Goat Haunt, Montana, at the lake's end point just over the U.S. border. This historic vessel first began taking visitors to admire the views of waterfalls and sheer mountain cliffs in 1927. As we ply the sparkling blue waters, look for bears, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and bald eagles. Once we return to our hotel, opt to wander around the small townsite with your camera, looking for deer and bighorn sheep that often graze upon the lawns in the soft evening light.



Day 7: Waterton / Glacier National Park—Logan Pass / East Glacier

After a final morning in Waterton Lakes, return to the American side of this International Peace Park via the Blackfoot Reservation on the park's eastern edge. Then it's time to climb to the alpine heights once more as we reach Logan Pass on the Continental Divide. On top, we work on alpine photography, capturing both the grandness of the landscape with wide-angle shooting and the delicate details of the mountain's composition. Walk the Hidden Lake Overlook Trail over tundra thick with white bear grass, glacier lilies and other wildflowers. Look for abundant wildlife, including bighorn sheep and the shaggy white mountain goat that is the Glacier Park's emblematic animal. Listen for the whistle of hoary marmots darting among the rocks, and keep your telephoto handy as we look for black bears and grizzlies feeding among the bushes in avalanche chutes.

Descend to spend two nights in East Glacier, the eastern gateway to the park, where the sacred lands of the Blackfoot Nation stretch from the rolling prairie to the towering peaks of the Continental Divide. For millennia, the Blackfoot people have revered this landscape as a place of deep spiritual significance, honoring the region as "the Backbone of the World." In 1910, President William Taft established Glacier National Park, preserving 1 million acres as part of America's collective national heritage.

Day 8: Sunrise Photography in Two Medicine Valley / Blackfoot Cultural Presentation

Rise early to greet the dawn as we head out to capture the alpenglow on Two Medicine Lake and the peaks that ring it. Spend the morning exploring more of the region, then delve deeper into the natural and cultural history of Glacier and the Two Medicine Valley with a member of the Blackfoot Nation this afternoon. Our guest speaker meets our group at Running Eagle Falls, a place significant to the tribe, to share the cultural heritage of the Blackfoot people who have been integrated with this landscape for centuries. We also drive over a portion of the Blackfoot Reservation today, admiring the multicolored rock layers of the mountain walls as we learn about the Blackfoot Nation's ancient connection to this land and its creatures. Wildlife abounds here, including moose, elk and deer that graze on tall grasses in sunny meadows, plus mountain goat and bighorn sheep, grizzly and black bear, gray wolf, lynx, mountain lion and wolverine. By late afternoon, return to East Glacier where we gather for a farewell dinner.

Day 9: Kalispell / Depart

Although the photo component of our journey has come to an end, anticipation builds to review, edit and share your images. This morning we drive from Glacier National Park to Kalispell, where we meet departing flights this afternoon. Following Highway 2, our scenic route skirts the south side of the park, passing through Essex, a historic stop on the Great Northern Railway line between West and East Glacier where trains took on additional coal and water. Our journey concludes at Glacier Park International Airport in Kalispell.



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Accommodation Details:

Summit Mountain Lodge

Glacier Park Lodge

Bayshore Inn

Prince of Wales Hotel

Many Glacier Hotel

The Village Inn

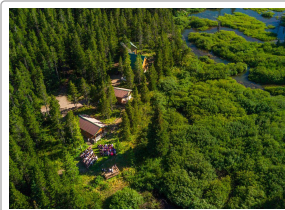
Lake McDonald Lodge

The Firebrand Hotel

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/us-national-parks-tours/glacier-waterton-photo-expedition/accommodations/

Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition Accommodations

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Summit Mountain Lodge

Located in a quiet, private setting just outside East Glacier Park village, this family-owned rustic retreat offers cozy individual cabins surrounded by dense forest and wildlife.



Glacier Park Lodge

Steeped in the history and culture of the Great Northern Railway, this early 20th-century national park hotel exudes rustic grandeur, with 40-foot-tall Douglas fir posts supporting its soaring lobby.



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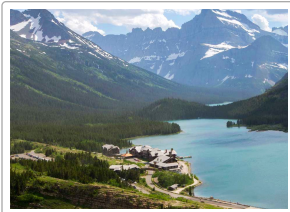
Bayshore Inn

The Bayshore Inn is the only Waterton Lakes National Park hotel located right on the shore of Waterton Lake, framed by striking mountain peaks on either side.



Prince of Wales Hotel

Perched regally on a bluff overlooking Waterton Lake, this 1927 hotel built by the Great Northern Railway is a Canadian icon—reminiscent of a magnificent Swiss chalet and harking back to a gracious bygone era.



Many Glacier Hotel

This magnificent Swiss chalet-style lodge on Swift Current Lake was built by the Great Northern Railway in 1915, with expansive decks surveying a grand panorama of dramatic peaks and hanging glaciers.



The Village Inn

Built in 1956 and recently renovated, The Village Inn in the heart of Apgar is a quaint and classic national park lodge with a prime location on the southern shore of Lake McDonald.



Lake McDonald Lodge

Backed by dense forest on the shore of crystal-clear Lake McDonald, this beloved national park hostelry comprises a cozy 1913 hunting lodge, a scattering of rustic lake cottages, and a classic motel.



The Firebrand Hotel

Bringing a new level of luxury to mountain town of Whitefish, this stylish boutique hotel blends contemporary sophistication and rustic details in a chic alpine-modern meld.



A Peerless, Personalized Photography Adventure

In wide-open, vast landscapes like Glacier-Waterton, getting the image comes down to commitment. And that's what we provide, ensuring you get exceptional opportunities for the shots you covet. We know you will appreciate the Nat Hab difference!

1 Why Do It Yourself? Choose Our Hassle-Free Approach

Planning your own trip means countless hours of wrangling questions, doing research and scrambling for reservations. Then comes the endless driving around, pondering where to go and what to do. It's a time-consuming and stressful process. With us, all that legwork and guesswork vanish! Tapping our years of expertise, you'll have a vastly superior photography experience.

2 Photograph Nature Up Close in Very Small Groups

In our intimate group, with just five guests per vehicle (and no more than 10 total), each with a naturalist Photo Expedition Leader, you'll find a superior experience of nature. We have the flexibility to move quickly to areas where wildlife has recently been spotted and to access more remote areas that even small buses cannot reach.

3 Bespoke Adventure: Hidden Sites Away from Crowds

Our carefully crafted itinerary unveils secret corners of Glacier's varied landscapes, often bypassed by large tour groups and little known to individual travelers. Drawing from our guides' extensive knowledge of the area, we get you to prime wildlife viewing locations and scenic vistas where crowds are minimal.

4 Every Guest Gets a Window Seat

In our spacious private vans, accommodating just five guests per vehicle (dividing our group of 10 into two vans), every traveler gets a window seat for effortless photography and wildlife observation, even while we're on the move. And ample space ensures you can travel comfortably with all your photography equipment.

5 The Finest Photo Expedition Leaders

Nat Hab's reputation hinges on the caliber of our guides. Whether you're a novice seeking comprehensive photography instruction, an intermediate in search of valuable tips, or an expert photographer looking for a shooting companion, our Expedition Leaders are prepared to help you get the shots you covet. They are also highly trained naturalists, so you get the best of both realms of expertise.



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6 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Adventure

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, stating clearly that we will meet the lofty expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. We think this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

7 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

8 Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!





Make It Private with Your Family or Friends

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

Please note that on Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 5 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$9595
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Glacier & Waterton Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

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2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 29, 2025	Jul 7, 2025	Wildflower Season
Jul 17, 2025	Jul 25, 2025	Wildflower Season

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 28, 2026	Jul 6, 2026	Wildflower Season
Jul 8, 2026	Jul 16, 2026	Wildflower Season
Jul 18, 2026	Jul 26, 2026	Wildflower Season



Pricing

2025 Prices

▶ Photo Expedition Price

\$9595 - \$9895 (includes special photo permits)

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$1995.

Deposit: \$500 per person.

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

2026 Prices

▶ Photo Expedition Price

\$9995 - \$10295 (includes special photo permits)

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$1995.

Deposit: \$500 per person. Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.



Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local staff, transportation in **Nat Hab's North America Safari Cruisers** and other vehicles, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), optional travel protection and medical evacuation insurance.

Physical Requirements

Moderate

This adventure does not require a particularly high degree of physical fitness, and included hikes are easy to moderate in terms of physical exertion. However, please be aware that hiking is the main activity on this trip, with two or three excursions per day taking place at an altitude of 4,000-7,000 feet above sea level. In order to participate, travelers should be able to walk unassisted for at least three miles over rough terrain and inclines, with some gain in altitude (no more than 600 feet) required in certain locations. Our days generally start quite early and are very full with activities, including a few long drives. Note that all hikes/activities are completely optional, and travelers should only participate in those activities in which they feel comfortable. While travelers are not required to participate in all activities, should you opt out of the day's scheduled activities, we cannot always guarantee that alternatives will be available. Those travelers who would like to take longer or more strenuous hikes may have opportunities to do so at their leisure.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who



may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

This exhilarating adventure explores one of North America's most magnificent natural areas, exploring readily accessible parts of Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes that are nonetheless often missed by the casual tourist—with views that are typically enjoyed only by hardy backcountry hikers! It sometimes happens that we cannot book specific dates with the national park hotels until August, for the following year. Trip dates listed are thus likely to change slightly and will be confirmed at that time. Depending upon availability, itineraries may run in a different order.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

We recommend that you arrive in Kalispell by 4 pm on Day 1 in order to join your group orientation at the hotel at 5 pm. You are free to depart any time after 12:30 pm on the final day.



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.