



## LOUDOUN COUNTY SENIOR TRIPS PROGRAM



# Montana - Big Sky Country

## Featuring Glacier National Park

September 9th - 15th, 2020

7 Days / 6 Nights

**MONTANA!** The real treasures of this beautiful state are the sweeping vistas, pristine streams, and awe-inspiring mountain peaks. Find out why Lewis and Clark described Montana as “scenes of visionary enchantment”.

Among the prairies, mountain ranges, and ghost towns, expect to see a great variety of two & four legged creatures!

This is a trip you do not want to miss. Come with us and find out why, on this exciting and delightful journey into the Big Sky Country; a true feast for the senses!

### Day One, Wednesday, September 9, 2020 Flight to Montana

Depart via **luxury motor coach** from the **Cascades Senior Center** for an included **United Airlines flight** out of **Dulles International Airport**. Arrive at **Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport** in **Belgrade, MT**, where you'll be met by your **tour escort** and assisted with your hotel transfer to **Helena**. Check in to the **Delta Colonial Hotel** in **Helena** and enjoy a special **Welcome-to-Montana Dinner** at the **Overland Express** restaurant in **Helena** with a free evening to rest. (D)

### Day Two, Thursday, September 10, 2020 Helena, Montana - St. Helena Cathedral

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel. Set out on a **tour of Helena** and ride past the imposing **Montana State Capitol** and historic **Reeder's Alley**. The 19th century buildings were restored to preserve the colorful heritage of Helena's settlement as a **mining mecca**. View **St. Helena Cathedral**, with its beautiful stained-glass windows and imposing spires. Visit the **Helena Historical Society Museum**, offering views into the state's rich past and featuring an impressive exhibit of the art of Montana's famed “**Cowboy Artist**” **Charles M. Russell**. Stop mid-day at **Last Chance Gulch**, where gold was first discovered in Helena, and is now home to shops and eateries. Enjoy **lunch on your own** while visiting. Afterwards, embark on a **scenic afternoon cruise** past wooded slopes and rugged rock formations along the **Gates of the Mountains Waterway**, named by Lewis and Clark, and where towering walls of limestone stand guard over the river, and bighorn sheep and mountain goats still scamper in the rocks high above. Enjoy a uniquely memorable “**Montana pitchfork fondue**” dinner at picturesque **Kleffner Ranch**, then return to your hotel in **Helena** for the evening. (B, D)

**Day Three, Friday, September 11, 2020 Lincoln, Montana - Glacier National Park**

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel prior to **checking out**. Traverse along the wide open and rugged landscapes of **Seeley and Swan Valleys**, en route to beautiful **Flathead Valley** and **Glacier National Park**. Stop in **Lincoln, Montana** for an opportunity to shop for local treats such as buffalo jerky and a variety of huckleberry products. Enjoy your **included lunch at a local Seeley Lake restaurant** featuring views that may very well include a deer or two. Travel on through **Kalispell** to scenic **Flathead Valley**; just west of the Continental Divide in the rugged **Rocky Mountains**, it's your **gateway to Glacier National Park**. Check in to **Grouse Mountain Lodge** in **Whitefish**. Explore, shop, and **dine on your own** in the charming town of **Whitefish**. (B, L)

**Day Four, Saturday, September 12, 2020 Whitefish, Montana - Flathead Valley**

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel. Travel a short distance to **Big Mountain**, with the option of taking the ski lift or the gondola up to the mountaintop and take in its incredible 360-degree panoramic views of **Flathead Valley**. From this "top of the world" vantage point you'll be able to see peaks of the **Canadian Rockies** to the north as well as **Glacier National Park**. Continue to scenic **Bigfork** with time for browsing and **lunch on your own**. Head into **Kalispell** to visit the **Conrad Mansion**, the most beautifully preserved pre-1900 mansion in Montana, and experience the elegance of a bygone era. When Charles Conrad arrived in the **Flathead Valley** in 1891, this lovely town with its tree-lined streets was still but a dream. This evening you'll be **welcomed by cowboys at a real Montana ranch**, and, for those interested, set out on an optional guided horseback ride for a nominal fee. Enjoy a **family style dinner included** here at the **Lonesome Dove Ranch**, prepared by owners **Hal and Sharon** and their staff. Return to your hotel in **Whitefish** for the night. (B, D)

**Day Five, Sunday, September 13, 2020 Whitefish, Montana - Scenic Adventure**

Enjoy **breakfast** at the hotel before departing for a ride through **West Glacier** to **Glacier National Park**. Transfer to an authentic 1933 **Red "Jammer" Bus** for an adventurous ride to the peak of **Glacier National Park** along the famed **Going-to-the-Sun Road**. This **scenic 1932 highway** clings to the edge of the world as the iconic bus makes its way up through cedar forests and windswept alpine tundra. Return to **Lake McDonald Lodge** for time to enjoy **lunch on your own**, lounge on the veranda enjoying the scenery, and visit the unique gift shop. Embark this afternoon on a **gentle scenic adventure** as you float along the **crystal-clear waters** at the **Middle Fork of the Flathead River**. Enjoy a fitting end to the day with **dinner grilled** by your **float tour guides** while admiring the majesty of **Glacier National Park**. Return to your hotel in **Whitefish** for the night. (B, D)

**Day Six, Monday, September 14, 2020 Whitefish, Montana - Glacier Park Lodge**

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel prior to checking out. Travel through the lower section of spectacular **Glacier National Park**. Arrive at **Glacier Park Lodge** in **East Glacier**. Take time to wander through this historic lodge, built over a century ago on land purchased from the **Blackfoot Nation**. The 60 immense timbers supporting the Lodge are over **600 years old**, and the Blackfeet were amazed at the powers of the "Great Spirit" as they watched the massive lodge take shape. Journey on to visit a **Hutterite Colony** for a unique afternoon. You'll begin with a **homestyle lunch included** that's cooked and served by the women of the colony and hear about the Hutterites and their way of life. This exclusive experience provides you the opportunity to talk to and learn from those who live here. **Hutterites live a communal lifestyle**, sharing their possessions in a **quiet and peaceful existence**. They're happy to share stories about themselves as they show you their community, a memorable highlight of your Montana tour. Travel back to **Helena**, where you'll check in to the **Delta Colonial Hotel**. Enjoy a **farewell dinner included** to fully round out your time in the **Big Sky Country**. (B, L, D)

**Day Seven, Tuesday, September 15, 2020 Helena, Montana - Breakfast and Depart**

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel prior to **checking out**. Travel back to the **Montana airport** with fond new memories of your **Big Sky Adventure**. Arrive back at Dulles International Airport and depart via **motor coach** to the Cascades Senior Center. (B)

**DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$3426 Member / \$3471 Non-Member**  
**SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$4350 Member / \$4395 Non-Member**  
**Payable in Six Equal Installments**

**Tour Includes:**

*Round-trip Airfare to Montana;*  
*Airport Transfer Service from Cascades Senior Center to Washington Dulles International Airport; and return*  
*Full-Time Transportation Service while in Montana;*  
*Hotel Accommodations for Six (6) Nights;*  
*Six (6) Breakfasts, Two (2) Lunches, and Five (5) Dinners;*  
*Admissions and guide service as stated in the itinerary*  
*Luggage handling: 1 suitcase per person.*

**Contact: Senior Trips (571) 258-3050 or (571) 258-3051**

**Important Note: This is an active trip, it requires extensive walking. Extensive walking may include walking over uneven terrain, walking distances of 1/4 to 3/4 of a mile at a time and long periods of standing. Some days may be long.**