

Mission Valley Scenic Drive

People of the Broad Water



4 Days/3 Nights

Gateway City: Kalispell, Montana



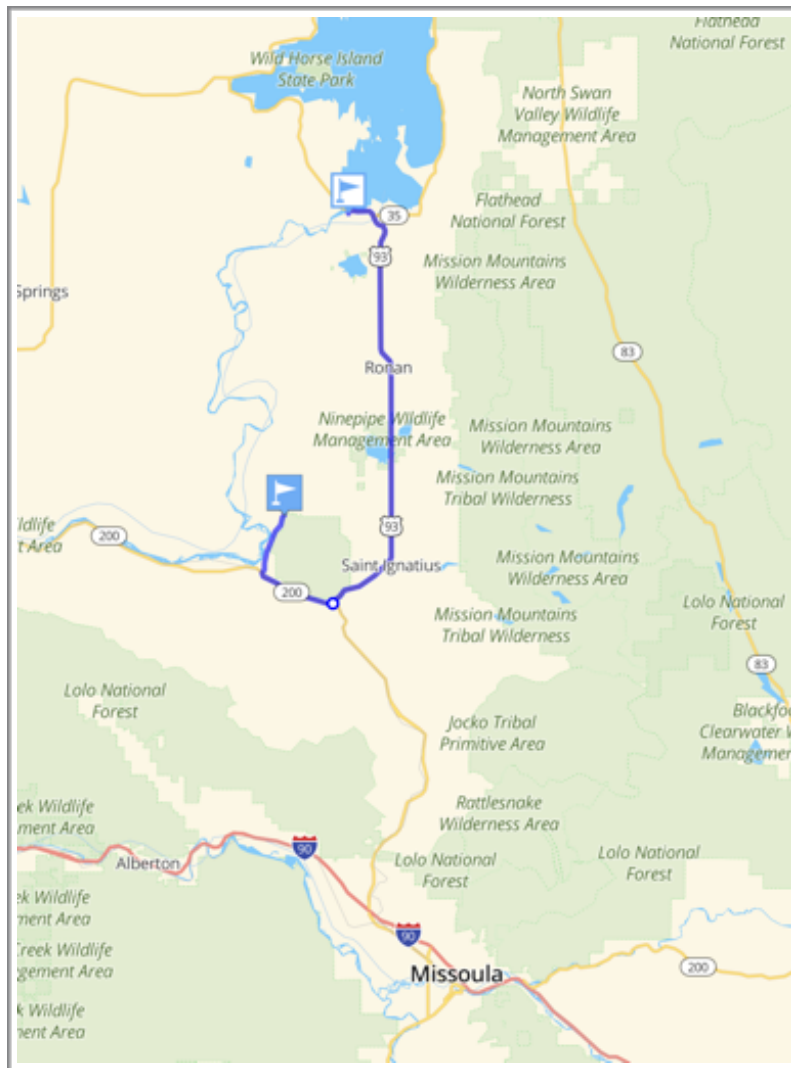
Two Native American tribes, the Salish (Flatheads to the Europeans) and the Pend d'Oreille (French for "hangs from the ears") originally owned 22 million acres of beautiful Northwest Montana land that supported a traditional life of hunting, fishing, and gathering by closely knit families for thousands upon thousands of years. Known as the "People of the Broad Water," the Pend d'Oreille ultimately divided into a lower band known as the Kalispel. The arrival of the Europeans caused dramatic changes and although the introduction of horses brought greater mobility, easier access to hunting and gathering, it also expanded inter-tribal relationships and marriages. The Jesuits, or "Blackrobes" as they were called, brought further changes and finally tribal lands were reduced to the 1.3 million acres of the Flathead Reservation. Despite the losses and change, the tribes began anew, establishing farms and ranches, and rebuilding their lives. In the past several decades, the tribes have developed a sophisticated system of tribal governance and natural resources conservation recognized as some of the best in United States. Passing stories down through the ages has kept their ancient histories, language, and connection to the land alive. Their story is the story of the Mission Valley and one you will learn on this scenic drive.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Kalispell where you can take the Downtown Historic District Walking Tour, and visit the Conrad Mansion Museum and the Northwest Montana History Museum, while staying at the Kalispell Grand Hotel. On Day Two, you'll be heading to Lakeside and Dayton as you travel south on the west side of Flathead Lake. Visit the Mission Mountain Winery and Wild Horse Island (where you'll need to rent a boat) before making your way to Polson at the southern end. After a stay at Kwataqnuk Resort, visit the Miracle of America Museum and the Polson Flathead Lake Museum. Between Polson and St. Ignatius you will be driving the Mission Valley Scenic Byway and further south you can stop at the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge.

From there, you'll be exploring the story of the Native Americans in the area. St. Ignatius was the first settlement of the "Blackrobes" in the area, and their original Mission is open for touring, as is the Three Chiefs Culture Center Museum and Fort Connah Historic Site, built by the Hudson Bay Trading Company in 1846. After a stay at Bear Spirit Lodge, you'll be headed for Missoula where you can take the Downtown Missoula Historic and Art Walking Tour, visit the Montana Natural History Center, the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, before taking the Riverfront Walking Trail and staying at the Blue Mountain Bed and Breakfast. We wish you safe passage if you're traveling another Montana Scenic Drive, or a safe and pleasant journey home.



DAY ONE



Kalispell

Kalispell was platted by Charles Conrad when he realized the railroad was going to come through. Named the Salish word for “flat land” or prairie above the lake, Kalispell became a division point for the railroad between St. Paul, MN and Seattle. Soon after “the iron horse snorted through” the remaining buildings from a neighboring town gone bust were moved to Kalispell on log rollers. The first brewery was established in 1894, and today local craft breweries produce more than 40 varieties of ales and lagers made with Montana-grown malts, hand-picked local hops, huckleberries, and Flathead cherries.

Downtown Historic District Walking Tour

Take a walk past buildings from the 1890s and early 1900s including the Conrad Mansion, the Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell Grand Hotel, and the Northwest Montana History Museum. The tour includes Main Street and First Avenue East from Depot Park on Center Street, south to the 400 block. Near the tour route, St. Matthew’s Catholic Church, dating from 1910, remains the city’s most commanding Gothic landmark. 602 South Main Street, 406-752 678



Conrad Mansion Museum

The residence of Charles Conrad sits proudly on three landscaped acres atop a bluff overlooking the valley. The shingle-style Norman building, a revivalist version of vernacular architecture in Normandy, France, is surrounded by large ever-blooming flower beds that provide constant color during the summer season, plus hedges, evergreens, and lawns.

330 Woodland Avenue, Kalispell, MT 55901, 406-755-2166, self-guided and docent led tours offer year around, May 15-Oct 15, docent led tours 11AM and 1PM. Adults \$20

Northwest Montana History Museum

Housed in the restored Central School building, this museum features exhibits about history of the Northwest Montana region and Flathead Valley including artifacts, documents, and photographs that tell the story of Big Sky Country. In addition to permanent exhibits, rotating curated exhibits are presented throughout the year.

124 Second Avenue East, Kalispell, MT 55901, 406-756-8381, M-F 10AM-5PM, Sat 10AM-3PM, Adults \$5



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Kalispell Grand Hotel 100 Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-755-8100

The Grand was one of the first hotels built on the frontier and the only one remaining in Kalispell. It hosted the well to do at double the going rate for running water, door locks, and wake-up calls.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Hops Downtown Grill 121 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-755-7687 Try the bison burger and other interesting tastes.

The DeSoto Grill 227 First Street West, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-314-6095 Great food and great service.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Art Galleries

Montana Modern Fine Art 127 South Main Street, 406-755-5321, **Sassafras Arts, Crafts**

and Antiques 120 South Main Street, 406-752-2433 and **Paint, Metal and Mud** 8 First Street East, Suite 104, 406-755-8886

Western Outdoors 48 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT, 59901, 406-756-5818

Featuring more than 2,500 boots and 1,500 hats.

Bear Country Gallery 4054 US Highway 93 South, Kalispell, MT 59901, 406-752-6735

Flair Gifts and Cards 123 Main Street, Kalispell, MT, 55901, 406-407-7210

DAY TWO

Lakeside

Lakeside has had many names over the years, first Stoner, after the founder, next named Chautauqua, by Methodists seeking to establish a religious outpost, Lacon, and finally Lakeside, in 1920, when a nearby town of the same name went bust.

Dayton

Located on the west shore of Flathead Lake, the consistent winds of Dayton Bay make it the perfect location for a day of sailing.

Mission Mountain Winery

Sip the magnificent wines from the first bonded winery in Montana, located on the shore of beautiful Flathead Lake. The winery offers outdoor service of flights of award-winning wines, wine by the glass, bottles to go, and limited indoor service. 82420 US Highway 93 Dayton, MT 59914, 406-849-5524 Daily Noon-5PM





Wild Horse Island

You have to rent a boat to get to Wild Horse Island, covered with old growth Ponderosa pine forest. Early morning visitors will witness eagles diving for fish. Additionally, the island is home to wild horses brought by Native Americans to keep them from being stolen, bighorn sheep, mule deer, songbirds, waterfowl, bald eagles, and falcons. There is a day use entrance fee.

Polson

Polson was platted in 1909 when the harbor was dredged to allow economic activity on the southern end of Flathead Lake. A school, hospital and several businesses had opened within two years. The railroad came through in 1918 and Lake County was created in 1923. The town grew during the 1930s when dry-land farmers leaving the dust bowl, relocated to Montana.

Miracle of America Museum

The largest and most diverse museum in Montana, dedicated to American history, includes a Pioneer Village featuring 42 historic buildings constructed between 1890 and 1960, that were moved to the site. The Outdoor Sculpture Gallery specializes in whimsical artistic renderings using discarded and repurposed items.

36094 Memory Lane, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-6804, Daily 9AM-5PM, Adults \$10

Polson Flathead Lake Museum

The Polson Flathead Historical Museum features a collection of artifacts from the Salish and Kootenai Tribes, a stagecoach, chuckwagon, horse drawn buggies and fire engines, a pioneer home interior from a 1910 homestead, Calamity Jane's saddle, and more.

708 Main Street, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-3049, 10AM-4PM





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Kwataqnuq Resort and Casino, 49708 US Highway 93, Polson MT, 59860, 406-883-3636
Located on the shore of Flathead Lake with views of the Mission Mountains, the resort provides an authentic experience congruent with the beautiful surroundings and spectacular vistas. Select from the 107 newly removed spacious and comfortable guest rooms.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Finley Point Grill 35427 MT Highway 35, Mile Marker 6, Polson, MT 59860, 406-887-2020
Great steakhouse and pub with a multitude of selections.

Destination Distinctive Retail

HandMADE Montana 212 Main Street, Polson, MT 59860

Crow's Nest Gallery 214 Main Street, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-2488

Sandpiper Art Gallery 306 Main Street A, Polson, MT 59860, 406-883-5956

DAY THREE

Pablo

Pablo is the headquarters for the Flathead Reservation named for Michel Pablo, a Flathead Chief, rancher, and stockman who was responsible for saving bison from extinction.

Pablo National Wildlife Refuge

Shaped by glacial activity approximately 12,000 years ago, the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge is a 2,500-acre glacial terminal moraine with small wetlands, marshes, and grasses that support abundant waterfowl including mallards, northern shovellers, gadwalls, redheads and ruddy ducks, song sparrows, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, and ring-necked pheasants. Common mammals here include muskrats, striped skunks, mink, field mice, and meadow voles.

Turn west on Reservoir Road, 3 miles south of Polson and travel west for 1-1/2 miles, 406-644-2211

Flathead Indian Reservation

Even though the Reservation is home to the Salish and Kootenai tribes, their 1.2-million-acre reservation is also a fascinating archaeological site. There is evidence that Native Americans lived here for some 14,000 years, even though it wasn't until the 1700's that the Kootenai, Salish, and Pend d'Oreille began to share common hunting grounds in the area.



St. Ignatius

Rich in history and native culture, St. Ignatius offers beautiful views of the Mission Valley. The town was all but wiped out by raging forest fire in 1909, leaving only the bank, a store and a hotel still standing. The community gradually rebuilt to what you see today.



St. Ignatius Mission

Built in the early 1890's, the mission, which attracted priests from other areas where they had not worked out, features 58 original paintings by Brother Joseph Carignano on the walls and ceilings. These include two of the most special, the Salish Lord and Lord's mother in Native American form. The original log home that served as the Sisters' residence is also still standing.

300 Bear Track Avenue, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-745-2768 Open daily for private worship, Summer, 9AM-7PM, Winter 9AM-5PM, Sunday Mass 9:15AM

Three Chiefs Culture Center Museum and Gift Shop (Formerly The People's Center)

Gallery exhibits, short term displays, history presentations and the continued practicing of traditional events are used to share the histories and lifeways of the tribes. Begin your tour with "The First Sun: the Beginning," the largest exhibit in the main hall.

77579 US Highway 93, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-675-0160, M-Th 8AM-5PM, F 9AM-5PM

Fort Connah Historical Site

One of the three original buildings at Fort Connah used by the Hudson Bay Trading Company from 1846 to 1871, it is believed to be the oldest standing building in Montana. Another cabin moved to the property which houses historical artifacts and displays, along with another 1870s log cabin replicate the buildings that once made-up the trading post.

71450 US Highway 93 North, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-676-5541 or 406-644-2882 Visit by appointment only.





Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Bear Spirit Lodge 38712 St Mary's Lake Road, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-745-3089

Feed your spirit at this peaceful Montana Bed and Breakfast, located in the foothills of the magnificent Northern Rocky Mission Mountains of Western Montana.

Destination Distinct Dining

Post Creek 44 Bar, Steak, and Tap House 73124 US Highway 93, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-745-3018 American steakhouse with BBQ.

Old Timer Café 278 Mountain View Drive, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-745-3240 American diner.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Allard's Stage Stop, Candy Store, Gift Shop, Jam Factory, and Lodge 77579 US Highway 93, St. Ignatius, MT 59865, 406-745-2951

DAY FOUR



Missoula

C. P. Higgins and Francis Worden opened a trading post on the Blackfoot River in 1869, that was followed by the arrival of the Mullan Road connecting Fort Benton with Walla Walla, Washington. Fort Missoula was opened in 1877 to protect the growing community. The arrival of the railroad in 1883, along with the Missoula Mercantile Company, made the city a trading center. The University of Montana opened in 1895. Missoula's location within a heavily forested area made logging the mainstay industry until the mid-1970s. Saws could be heard over two miles away on a clear summer night.

Downtown Missoula Historic and Art Walking Tour

Learn more about Missoula on the downtown walking tour, which has one of the largest collections of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the country. Locations like the Atlantic Hotel and the Diner Café, with huge historic neon signs, that have long been repurposed, peacefully coexist with the 1910 Missoula County Courthouse and the 1909 Palace Hotel. The downtown partnership has funded over 20 works of public art that appear along the route.

Montana Natural History Center

The Montana Natural History Center features displays of the flora and fauna, ecosystems, and geology in the state, including the Montana Ecosystem, The Magic Planet, a Naturalist Forest Station, Glacial Lake Missoula, Explore Fossils, Explore Geology, and the outdoor Nature Adventure Garden.

120 Hickory Street, Suite A, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-327-0405, T-F 9AM-5PM, Sat Noon-4PM, Adults \$4

Montana Museum of Art and Culture

Located on the University of Montana campus, this museum now has 11,000 pieces including works by Rocky Mountain artists, historic European works, along with collections from Southeast Asia, American Impressionists, contemporary Native American artists, ceramics, and public art sites across the campus. European masters include Rembrandt, Delacroix, Boucher, Piranesi, and Daumier, along with 20th century artists, Miro, Toulouse-Lautrec, Chagall, Dali, Picasso, Remington, Merritt Chase, and Andy Warhol.

Across from the Adams Center off East 6th Street. University of Montana Campus. 406-243-2019. Tu-Sat Noon-6PM. Free, donations accepted.





Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

Fort Missoula was established by the US Army in 1877 to protect settlers in the region. Nearly 100 years later, the Historical Museum encompasses 32 acres with over 20 historic structures and a collection of nearly 50,000 artifacts.

3400 Captain Rawn Way, Missoula, MT 59804, 406-728-3476 M-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun Noon-5PM

Riverfront Walking Trail

The riverfront walking trail along the Clark Fork River takes you past McCormick Park, the Old Milwaukee Depot, John H. Toole Park, and other scenic and historic treasures in Missoula.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Blue Mountain Bed and Breakfast 6980 Deadman Gulch Road, Missoula, MT 59804, 406-203-3187 The gardens here frame breathtaking views of the Bitterroot River. Elegant breakfasts go along with the Inn's lovely décor. Guest rooms have private baths with jetted tubs, air conditioning and amenities, plus Wifi.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Catalyst Café 111 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT, 59802, 406-542-1337
American cuisine café.

Scotty's Table 131 South Higgins Avenue, Unit P3, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-549-2790 Fine dining in Missoula.

Tamarack Brewing Company 231 Front Street West, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-830-3113
American pub and bar, vegetarian and vegan options.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Missoula Art Galleries

The Artists' Shop 127 North Higgins, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-543-6393

Missoula's premiere co-op fine craft gallery. M-F 10AM-6PM, Sat-Sun 10AM-5PM

Dana Gallery 246 North Higgins Avenue, **Murphy-Jubb Fine Art** 210 North Higgins Avenue, Suite 300, **Radius Gallery** 114 East Main Street and **The Art Hang-up** 839 South Higgins Avenue

Lake Missoula Tea Company 136 East Broadway, Missoula, MT, 59801, 406-926-1038 Teas from around the world, including blends made in small batches.

Hometana 312 North Higgins Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-224-4166

Ducrey Chocolate Maker 311 East Front Street, Missoula, MT 59801, 406-218-7396