

2-Day Biking Trip Plan in Montana



This itinerary packs a weekend full of breathtaking landscapes, challenging rides, and the best of Montana's hospitality. Follow this guide for an unforgettable biking adventure in Montana!

Day 1: Whitefish Trail & Stay in Whitefish

- **Start Early (7:00 AM):** Leave from Missoula, MT. Drive to Whitefish, MT. The drive is roughly 3 hours and 30 minutes (about 200 miles).
- **Arrive (10:30 AM):** Start your biking adventure at the Whitefish Trail. Park at the Lion Mountain Trailhead.

Biking Duration: Allocate 4 hours to fully enjoy the Whitefish Trail, including breaks. This should give you enough time to cover the main loop and enjoy the views at the scenic overlooks.

- **Lunch (2:30 PM):** After biking, head to downtown Whitefish for lunch.

Recommendation: Jersey Boys Pizzeria for a quick and satisfying meal. It's a 15-minute drive from Lion Mountain Trailhead.

- **Explore Downtown Whitefish (3:30 PM - 5:00 PM):** Spend some time walking around, maybe even dip your toes in Whitefish Lake at City Beach if the weather permits.
- **Check-in and Rest (5:30 PM):** Book your stay at The Firebrand Hotel in downtown Whitefish. Offers secure bike storage and a cozy place to rest.
- **Dinner (7:00 PM):** Eat at Casey's in Whitefish. Known for its elk chili and a great selection of local beers. It's within walking distance from The Firebrand Hotel.

Day 2: Going-to-the-Sun Road & Departure

- **Early Morning (6:00 AM):** Check out of The Firebrand Hotel. Drive to Glacier National Park to bike the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The drive is approximately 40 minutes (25 miles) to the West Glacier entrance.

Check park opening times and if biking is allowed on Going-to-the-Sun Road during your visit. Some parts of the year, the road is open to bikers and hikers only, usually early morning or late evening.

- **Start Biking (7:00 AM):** Begin your journey on Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Biking Duration: Plan for 4-5 hours of biking. This includes stops for photos, rest, and to simply enjoy the views. The distance you cover will depend on your pace and how far into the road you wish to go.

- **Lunch and Rest (12:00 PM):** After returning from your ride, have lunch at Lake McDonald Lodge. Enjoy the views of Lake McDonald and refuel with a hearty meal.
- **Departure (1:30 PM):** Begin your journey back to Missoula. If you have time and energy, make a quick stop at the National Bison Range for a scenic drive and a chance to see some wildlife. It's a slight detour but well worth it. Expect an additional hour for this detour.
- **Arrive Back in Missoula (6:00 PM):** Depending on stops and exact route, expect to get back to Missoula by early evening.

Key tips:

- **Packing List:** Helmet, biking gear, water, snacks, sunscreen, first-aid kit, camera, and bear spray (for trails).
- **Preparation:** Confirm trail and park conditions before departing. Glacier National Park has specific timings for cyclists on Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- **Accommodation:** Book The Firebrand Hotel in advance to secure your stay.
- **Dining:** Reservations are recommended for Casey's, especially if visiting during peak seasons.