

Glacier National Park

August 11-18, 2015

Glacier National Park is named for its prominent glacier-carved terrain and remnant glaciers descended from the ice ages of 10,000 years past. Bedrock and deposited materials exposed by receding glaciers tell a story of ancient seas, geologic faults and uplifting, and the movement of giant slabs of the earth's ancient crust overlaying younger strata. The result of these combined forces is some of the most spectacular scenery on the planet. Glacier National Park's varied climate influences and its location at the headwater of the Pacific, Atlantic and Hudson Bay drainage have given rise to an incredible variety of plants and animals. Over 70 mammals including the grizzly bear, wolverine, gray wolf and lynx call Glacier home. More than 270 species of birds visit or reside in the park, including harlequin ducks, American dippers and golden eagles. Join Sarett naturalists Dianne and Mindy to explore this truly amazing national park.

August 11, Tuesday, 5:00 am Depart Sarett Nature Center for Kalamazoo Airport

Delta Flight 3834 Kalamazoo Minneapolis 735A 810A

Delta 2365 Minneapolis Kalispell 1140A 137P

After arriving in Kalispell, Montana, we'll pick up our rental vans and head to our lodging at the Rising Sun Motor Lodge. Rising Sun Cabins will be our home for the next seven nights. Located on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, adjacent to beautiful St Mary Lake, we will be greeted with breathtaking views of the lake and surrounding rugged glacier peaks. Hiking trails, the beautiful lake, a gift shop, camp store and restaurant are all conveniently located within walking distance.

August 12, Wednesday, **ST MARY LAKE AND ST MARY FALLS**. After breakfast we will explore St Mary Lake with a boat trip. This 1 1/2 hour gentle tour gives views from the water not visible from the road. We will see the famed Wild Goose Island, Sexton Glacier, tiny islands, and beautiful mountain sides. Included is a short 15-minute easy walk to Baring Falls. The boat will also drop us off at the head of the lake for a 3 mile round trip moderate hike to St Mary Falls. We will then rejoin the boat for the relaxing ride back. (If you don't feel like doing the 3 mile hike, you can ride the boat back and we will all join up together later in the day.) Picnic lunch included. Breakfast and Dinner on your own.

August 13, Thursday, **RED BUS** day. Get ready for an exciting day. Our good friend and fellow naturalist, Lisa Hudnutt, is a Red Bus Driver and Nature Interpreter, and will give an extraordinary tour today of The Going to the Sun Road. The famous Red Buses serve as an ideal way to see and learn more about Glacier National Park.

In fact, the vintage 1930's buses are part of the human history and heritage of the park. As much of the park's scenery is vertically oriented, the roll-back tops are perfect for providing full views of the stunning mountains, and the area's signature Big Sky. Lisa is a seasoned park veteran, who is there because she loves the park and enjoys sharing the park with visitors. Sarett's whole group will fit nicely into one bus. The 50 miles road (one way) shows off some the most spectacular scenery in the park. The highest elevation is at Logan Pass at 6,646 feet where we will look for Mountain Goats and Big Horn Sheep. There will be plenty of stops for the picture taking and learning. We'll be carrying our picnic lunch with us giving us the flexibility for the best possible day. We'll be able to view three glaciers as we munch on our lunch at Lake McDonald before returning on The Going to the Sun road to our cabins. Breakfast and Dinner on your own. Sarett will provide a picnic lunch.

August 14, Friday, **MANY GLACIER AND ICEBERG LAKE**. Today will be a hiking day to a favorite place of Dianne's during a past trip to Glacier. Our destination will be Iceberg Lake. This 9.7 mile round trip is worth every step. The outstanding views, alpine lake, Ptarmigan Wall and alpine fields of wildflowers will make this hike one for the memory bank. We will take it slow and enjoy the scenery and the wildflowers. Lisa is also planning on joining us so we will have a local

expert along to guide us. We will carry our picnic lunch. There are many options for this day if you think the mileage is a bit much. You can start the hike and return on the same trail. There are trails and things to do at our lodging but the wildflower display on Iceberg Lake Trail is worth the extra effort.

August 15, Saturday, **WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK, CANADA.** Today we'll cross the Canadian border to visit Waterton Lakes National Park. Waterton was Canada's 4th national park. In 1932, Glacier and Waterton Parks formed the International Peace Park as a symbol of peace and goodwill between Canada & the USA. We can spend our day with an easy walk through a pretty forest to Blakiston Falls, or we will go flower watching along Bertha Trail, we could throw in a little bird watching at the Maskinonge and we will learn about the unusual red and green rocks of Waterton. (They are shaly siltstone called arguillite. The red rocks contain oxidized iron; the green rocks contain an unoxidized iron.) We are also planning a scenic boat cruise enjoying some of the most spectacular mountain scenery the Rocky Mountains have to offer. View majestic towering cliffs, unique geological formations, beautiful waterfalls, snow clad mountain peaks and The International Peace Border. Have your camera ready for the photographic and wildlife stops. Bald eagle, bear, moose, deer, big horn sheep and mountain goats are often seen. We will make it a full day before returning to our Rising Sun Cabins. Picnic lunch included. ***You will need a valid passport or enhanced drivers license for crossing the border. If you do not have a passport or enhanced drivers license and do not want to obtain one, you could stay at the Rising Sun Cabins area and enjoy the hikes and the scenery right at our lodging.

August 16, Sunday. **LOGAN PASS AND ALPINE EXPLORING.** We will experience the Going to the Sun Road again as we head to Logan Pass. We will explore the alpine area with a gentle, level walk on Highline Trail. Alpine wildflowers, wildlife and majestic vistas will be today's goals. Picnic lunch included.

August 17, Monday. **TWO MEDICINE LAKE AND TWIN FALLS.** Today we will explore a quieter corner of the park - Two Medicine Lake area. A short, very scenic boat ride will drop us off for a 1.8 round trip walk to Twin Falls. We'll stroll through the forest and sweeping alpine meadows to see the double cascading waterfalls. The walk has a slight 25 foot elevation gain. We can enjoy the relaxing boat ride back to our vehicles or the more adventuresome can walk back

along the lake to the vehicles. (3.5 miles) There will be a picnic lunch and many stops to enjoy scenic views, wildlife, wildflowers and what ever else we want.

August 18, Tuesday. **HOMEWARD BOUND.** We can take a leisurely morning to absorb all our final views of this magnificent park. Our return flights are: Delta 2365 Kalispell-Minneapolis 2:25 pm –6:03 pm and Delta 3835 Minneapolis-Kalamazoo 7:30 pm - 9:59 pm. We should arrive back at Sarett by midnight with tremendous memories.

Cost per person, double occupancy: \$2,450.00

Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 is now being accepted to hold your position on this limited tour. Deposit can be refunded, less \$50, if we are able to fill your spot. Many people have expressed interest in this trip. We have reservations for 14 participants and 2 naturalist/drivers. Please send in your deposit immediately so that you will not be disappointed. Please make your check payable to: Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor MI 49022.

Final Payment will be due June 15, 2015. If you cancel after June 15, only amounts recoverable (less deposit) can be refunded. Trip Insurance is recommended.

Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance is always advisable.

Included in this Cost:

*Round trip transportation to and from Kalamazoo Airport from Sarett Nature Center

*Flights on Delta Airlines from Kalamazoo to Kalispell, Montana and return

*Transportation throughout the tour in 12 passengers vans

*Park Service Entrance Fees at Glacier National Park and Waterton National Park

*Accommodations for 7 nights at Rising Sun Motor Cabins (all with private facilities)

*Red Bus Tour with Lisa Hudnutt

*6 Picnic Lunches are included (Breakfast and Dinners are on your own)

*St. Mary's Lake Boat Tour, Waterton Boat Cruise, and Two Medicine Boat Cruise

*Services of Sarett naturalist/guides/drivers/lunch providers

Travel Requirements: The itinerary includes entering Canada by vehicle for a day. To enter Canada, you must present a valid Passport or an Enhanced Drivers License.

Baggage: Each tour member is allowed one suitcase and one carry-on.

*There is a \$25 charge for the first check bag.

*You are allowed to carry-on one bag and one personal item free of charge. Carry on baggage may not exceed 45 linear inches in combined length, width and height including any handles and wheels. Baggage must fit easily in the Carry-on Baggage Check. They also have to be able to fit in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of you. Please visit the Delta Airline website for more details.

*Once we are in Montana, we only have to have the luggage in the vans getting from the airport to the cabins and the return on the last day.

Pre-trip Information: Yes, we do have one rather long hike planned. Walking sticks are helpful as is preparing for this hike by getting out this summer and hiking. :)

Responsibility: It is clearly understood that Sarett Nature Center will provide interpretive services on this trip and is in no way whatsoever responsible for the operations of the airlines, local agents, and other transportation companies. The Sarett Nature Center shall not be liable for any injuries, damages, losses, accidents, expenses, delays or

irregularities, which are beyond their control. Nor can they accept responsibility for unexpected transport delays and changes resulting from strikes, and other causes, nor liability for additional expenses or loss of time incurred by tour participants resulting therefrom. On advancement of deposit to Sarett Nature Center, the depositor agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions here mentioned. Sarett Nature Center naturalists reserve the right to adjust the itinerary due to weather conditions, wildlife sightings, road conditions, and etc. We want to make the best possible and safest adventure.