

Job Description

Whitefish Outfitters & Tours

Title: Summer Guide: Driving, Hiking, Cycling



Status: FT/Seasonal

Wage: \$120-\$160/trip, 6 to 9 hour days depending on the tour.

- To Note: *We pay per trip. Those rates vary depending on the trip, the guide's level of professional certification, and length of time employed by WF Outfitters. For example, a hiker/biker shuttle in which you transport guests to the park, wait for 4 hours (hike, read, whatever), and then return pays \$120.*

Reports to: Owner, General Manager, Operations Manager
Employees Supervised: Yourself.

About Us

Whitefish Outfitters and Tours is a small, locally owned/managed tour company based in Whitefish, Montana. We pride ourselves in providing world-class experiences for our guests while also providing lucrative jobs for our guides and employees.

We are young and we are growing rapidly. No two days are ever the same. In our peak seasons of May-September, we work hard to ensure the smooth running of daily operations. This means that sometimes your 8-hour day can easily turn into a 10-hour day if that's what is needed.

We limit most guides to a 4-day workweek unless otherwise requested. We need our guides from June through September and understand that it's easy to burn out in a customer-facing role.

Our vehicles are varied- we have Subaru's for small hiking groups, luxury SUV's for smaller tours, and a few 14-passenger transit vans for larger groups and families.

Our guest demographic are typically first-time visitors to Glacier National Park & Whitefish. They have limited outdoor adventure experience, but they're excited to get out and explore..

Job Summary

Our Summer Guides wear many hats. Our most popular tours are the scenic-based driving tours in which guides take guests on a pre-determined route. Along the way, the guide narrates the history of the park, the valley, native history, etc. Every guide will need to "ride along" and train on any driving tour prior to leading that trip. It is up to the guide how many trips they choose to "work." Ideally, all guides opt to learn every tour. It's a great way to diversify so you're not running the same route every day.

Guides are responsible for the safety of their guests, the cleanliness of the vehicles, and the overall trip experience. Guides are expected to show up for their trips dressed in a clean and approachable manner.

General Expectations

- Ensure a safe physical environment for guests. Strive for safety on every trip.
- Foster a supportive work environment and strive for positivity daily.

- Treat guests, coworkers, and management with respect and kindness.
- Maintain open lines of communication with management and coworkers.
- Be honest, do your best.

A Typical Day for a Summer Guide

- Arrive at the guide house 30-45 minutes before departure to get the vehicle ready. Pack a cooler with drinks and a tote with snacks. Make sure the vehicle is clean and gassed up.
- Confirm that you have any required permits, your guide card, and your reservation notes with you. You will need these to enter GNP via the West Entrance.
- Pick up your guests 15 minutes prior to the start time of the tour at their pick-up location (this could be anywhere in the Flathead valley).
 - Please note that pick-ups outside of the “valley” that include more of your time, are charged at a higher rate. You receive part of this higher rate (usually \$25) in compensation on top of the trip rate.
- Take the tour and return the guests safely to their location at the end of the trip.
 - Our tours and shuttles vary in length. Wage is reflected by the difficulty of the trip, your professional certifications, the length of the trip, and the amount of time employed by WF Outfitters.
- Tour rhetoric includes but is not limited to:
 - History of GNP- education/training provided by WF Outfitters
 - Friendly conversation, genuine kindness. This is an EXTREMELY guest facing role.
- After drop-off, gas up the vehicle and spray it down/wash it for the next day’s trip.

The Ideal Candidate

- Has WFR or WFA training (preferred)
 - Required for hiking and cycling guides.
- Extensive outdoor recreation experience- professional or personal.
- Believes in climate change and how we contribute to the global climate agenda.
- Has a passion for Glacier National Park, Montana, the outdoors, geologic history, native history, and more.
- Is a kind person that genuinely enjoys people.
- Is dependable and punctual.
- Takes initiative to learn about the area around them- the Park, the Flathead National Forest, and other tours we offer.
- Is a strategic problem-solver. You can think critically and stay calm in stressful situations.
- A clean driving record is required for this position.

Sample Pay Structure

As stated above, we pay by the trip. Senior Guides are defined as those who have been with us for a calendar year or more. Activity trips pay the same because the minimum qualification are consistent amongst guides.

Gratuity is common in this industry, although not guaranteed.

Trip Title	Type: Shuttle, Scenic Drive, Hike	Your Day/Length: THIS VARIES	New Hire	Senior Guide
West G & Polebridge	Scenic Driving	7 hours	\$140	\$150
Guided Hike	Hike	6-8 hours	\$140	\$140
Bike Shuttle	Shuttle	6 hours- 4 hours of "wait time"	\$120	\$120
Guided Cycling	Bike Tour	8-9 hours	\$160	\$160

Summer 2022 Trips & Tours

Below are brief descriptions of our most popular tours so you're able to familiarize yourself with what we offer. More information can be found on our website.

Scenic Driving Tours

Our scenic driving tours are full day (6-8 hours) experiences that include round-trip transportation, a private guide, and entry into parks. The guide is knowledgeable and well-versed in park history. The group will learn about the formation of the park, the valley, and a variety of other subjects like flora and fauna of the park, native history, and animal habitats.

West Glacier & Polebridge Tour

offered from May 1st through October 31st

Our most popular scenic driving tour lasts 6 hours and includes stops at Hungry Horse Dam & Reservoir, Lake McDonald Lodge, and Apgar Village; before heading north on the North Fork Road to the historic homesteading town of Polebridge. This trip is perfect as an introduction to Glacier National Park. Guests will receive a strong foundation of park knowledge and logistics so they are oriented to the area before (potentially) exploring on their own the next few days.

Guests have the option to get out of the vehicle for a short hike at Demer's Ridge which offers spectacular views of the northwestern mountain boundary of the Park.

East Glacier & Two Medicine Tour

offered from May 1st through October 31st

This is a perfect, "day two" excursion for the group. This trip departs a bit earlier in the morning and lasts 8 hours. This trip also includes lunch. Guests will head directly to the Two Medicine Valley via Highway 2 and Marias Pass. This area is rich in park history and offers spectacular views of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. They will have the option to explore the Two Medicine area on their own before departing to Kiowa junction or Rising Sun Point via the East entrance- as time allows.

Lunch is provided either on the way or via packed sandwiches.

Flathead Lake & Bison Range Tour

offered from May 1st through November

This full day- 8 hour- trip circumnavigates Flathead Lake and heads south to the Bison Range for wildlife viewing. A lunch stop is included on the return. This is perfect for the family looking to "get the most"

from their Montana vacation and features spectacular views around Flathead Lake. We've had great success with wildlife viewing in this area and guests love the trip.

Guided Hiking: Flathead National Forest

offered from May 15th through November as weather permits

Due to the nature of transportation in the area, all hiking trips are considered full-day activities. Our private trips include lunch. The reservation staff makes these arrangements with a local restaurant prior to trip departure. All lunches will be located in the fridge of the guide house.

E-Bike Tours: Spring, Summer, & Fall

offered from mid-April through mid-November

Our E-bike trips are divided between those that operate within GNP and those that operate outside of GNP.

Within the boundaries of GNP we operate:

- Shuttles during Hiker/Biker season that include a bike rental.
- Hiker/Biker private tours.
- Hiker/Biker aggregated tours.
- Summer season GTTS road tours.

Overall, we are able to offer ONE tour per day on any given section of road managed by the park service.