

Glacier National Park or Bust!

A road trip shared by Jennifer Parker Sievers, the [Motorcycle Princess](#)

Come share my 11-day, 3700 plus miles, 7 states ride thru two of the West's greatest National Parks. Our goal was to ride Glacier National Park, MT; Beartooth Pass, MT/WY; Yellow Stone National Park WY; the Flaming Gorge, UT; Grand Mesa Scenic Byway, CO; Chief Joseph Hwy, WY; and to stop at 8 Harley-Davidson dealerships along the way.

The Plan. There were 2 of us on this ride. Our plan was a little different. We decided to blast up to Glacier National Park in Northern Montana just 30 miles south of the Canadian border. We rode 1400 miles in 3 days from Chandler, AZ to Columbia Falls, MT; averaging about 475 miles a day. Arizona was 115 degrees on August 29; the day we left. We landed in Columbia Falls Montana {just outside Glacier National Park} on day 3 at 65 degrees. We brought the range of all weather gear: cooling vests, leathers,

chaps, thermals, heated jackets, and heated gloves.

We were worried because a foot of snow had fallen on the Pass of Glacier National Park Thursday late afternoon; but we were lucky because the snow melted the next day. By the time we rode GNP on Sunday, the high of the day was 84 degrees.

Glacier National Park was amazing. We started our day west of the park; leaving out of Columbia Falls. It's a great town to stay in. Then we rode just south of the park along Highway 2; which was an amazing road in itself. We decided to enter on the St. Mary side (East side of the Park) and head west. We entered the park and the Mountain views are beautiful. We pulled over and decided to hike to Bearing Falls, which was only a half a mile. We were in our motorcycle gear but it was so worth it. Beautiful is an understatement.

Then we got back on our bikes and rode to Logan Pass, the highest paved road in Glacier; where there had been

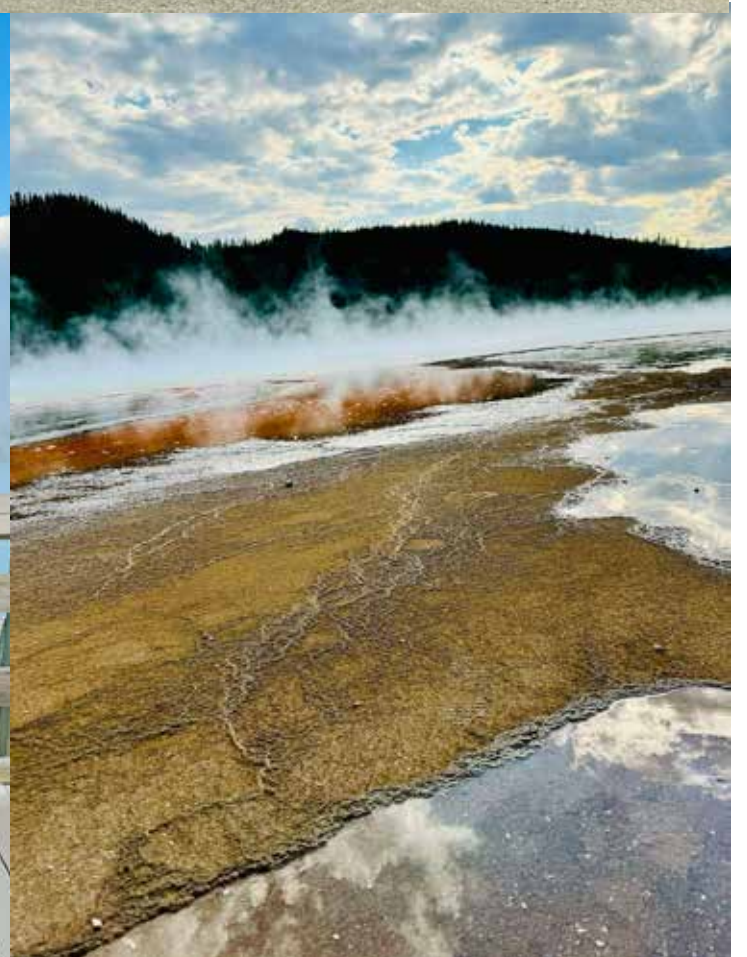
a foot of snow 3 days earlier. Then we rode the rest of the "Going-to-the-Sun" Road to McDonald Lake. We stopped for some yummy lunch sitting outside, which we can't do in September in Arizona, and enjoyed the views of the lake. Then we rode back to Columbia and walked to a fun outside bar and listen to Country music.

The next day was our coldest, riding along the mountain before the sun was upon us in 41 degree weather. I used all my heated gear and all my clothes to stay warm.

Our next big stop was Red Lodge MT. This was my favorite stop. The hotel was amazing and super biker friendly. I highly recommend The Alpine Lodge. You get to park in front of your room and they have a bike wash area with rags. They also offer cooked to order breakfast. This town is the cutest. I want to go back and spend a long weekend there.

The next morning we rode Beartooth Pass and Chief Joseph Highway. Wow!

continues on pg 11



AZ R **Glacier National Park or Bust!**¹
continues from page 10

This ride is so worth it! The views are amazing and the road has great twisties. We came upon multiple little lakes/ponds that were picturesque like we were in a Hallmark movie. Then we turned off to Chief Joseph Highway to Cody WY. We decided to go to Buffalo Bill Museum. Everyone recommended it, so we had to go. It really is a great stop & I highly recommend it. We ended the day just outside of Yellowstone.

The next day we went to Yellowstone and rode the park. This park is amazing and you really need 3 days minimum to see it. I have been before but these areas were new to me: We stopped at Artist Point which was a beautiful view of an amazing falls and then rode the loop to Excelsior Geyser Crater which has beautifully colored pools.

Our next stop was The Flaming Gorge. We rode the west side of the Gorge. The first half was nothing to write home about ... but when we got to the Gorge it was soooooo pretty! There were beautiful red

rock canyons.

We unintentionally ended in Grand Junction CO for the night. When we got to Grand Junction HD we found out that the Rocky Mountain HOG Rally was going on AND our Scottsdale HOG Chapter was there! So we changed our plans and decided to stay the night and hang with our peeps and our favorite HOG Chapter buddy. Pacific Coast HOG out of Huntington Beach was there as well. We had fun with friends.

The next day we rode an absolutely beautiful road ... Hwy 65, the Mesa Grand Scenic Byway. This road starts off riding in a beautiful canyon. Then you ride up into the mountains with twisties. I highly recommend this road. The 2nd to last day we had a nice gentle ride to Telluride. Then we rode along the river on the 145 with nice gentle sweeping turns to Dolores, CO; then on to Durango. Durango is a great town to shop and eat. Then on day 11 we rode home to AZ, September 8. I finally used my cooling vest riding into

the Valley.

Wow, what a fun trip! We averaged 340 miles per day. With the wind in our hair, the rubber on the road, and meeting all the amazing people along the way... I am ready to go again!

Side story:

Day 3 ... We stopped at Copper Canyon HD on a Saturday in Butte, Montana. When I took off my helmet, my earring fell off; falling between the saddle bag and the rear fender. I rolled my bike forward to see if we could find it. When I did, my riding buddy noticed that there was a screw in my tire. We were so lucky to discover this! This was a holiday weekend and we were not going to be by another Harley dealer for 3 days. While we were there, we had the dealer change my tire. \$450 dollars later, but I was safe. We never found my earring but I do believe an angel was looking out for me. I like to think my Dad was watching out for me from Heaven.

