

Logistical options for Missouri River – Lolo Trail Combo

1. Fly into Great Falls, MT and out of Missoula, MT. (usually the most costly, but most time efficient option)
Fly into Great Falls by mid-day, arrange for one-way car/van rental for the whole trip to be dropped off in Missoula. Explore Great Falls on day of arrival L&C Interpretive Center, Charles M. Russell Art Museum, the Great Falls of Missouri on the way to Fort Benton.
-Arrive Fort Benton, check into hotel of choice, attend the LCTA pre-trip meeting, have dinner. Day 1 of trip: we pick you up in Fort Benton and provide everything from there for the Missouri River section – transportation to and from Fort Benton and all meals beginning with day 2 lunch and ending with day 4 lunch.
-Return to Fort Benton you can be on your way towards Missoula and the Lochsa Lodge. We usually recommend leaving Fort Benton and at least staying the night in Great Falls to get you that much closer to Missoula.
-Free travel day you have the option of taking 2 different routes to Missoula/Lochsa Lodge 1.) Hwy 200 via Lincoln where you can do a hike to Lewis & Clark Pass, where they crossed the continental divide eastbound – drive time is 3 hours WITHOUT stops
2.) I-15/Hwy 12 via Helena and take motor boat tour through the Gates of the Mountains on the Missouri river – drive time is 3.5 hours WITHOUT stops
TIP: Leave enough time for above mentioned activity and a stop at Travelers Rest State Park in Lolo, MT 7 miles west of Missoula on the way to Lochsa Lodge and a stop at Lolo Pass, 12 miles before Lochsa Lodge
-Arrive Lochsa Lodge in time for dinner and have lodging arranged at Lochsa Lodge for evening prior to the Lolo Trail hiking trip.
-Begin hiking Lolo Trail. We provide transportation based out of Lochsa Lodge, all meals & camp from day 1 lunch to day 3 lunch.
-Return to Lochsa Lodge, we recommend returning to Missoula for lodging, return rental car/van and if needed stay in Hotel with free airport shuttle for departure from Missoula. Plan for dinner in Missoula, see recommended dining & lodging.
2. Fly into and out of Missoula. Same info as above begin and end in Missoula. Depending on arrival time and how much you want to explore in Great Falls, **you need to arrive a day early** and do the 4-5 hour drive from Missoula to Fort Benton so you have time to explore L&C sites in Great Falls. This option takes more time, but allows you to take both travel routes between Great Falls & Missoula (I-15/Hwy 12 one way and Hwy 200 one way described above)
3. Fly into and out of Great Falls. Same info as above, begin and end in Great Falls. With this option you would want to **add your extra day at the end** allowing you to return to Great Falls after Lolo Trail to depart.

Preference will depend on where you can get the best flight and car rental options. I believe there will be more choices in/out of Missoula, but many of the fare are unpredictable and based supply & demand at the time you secure your reservation.