

Summer 2021

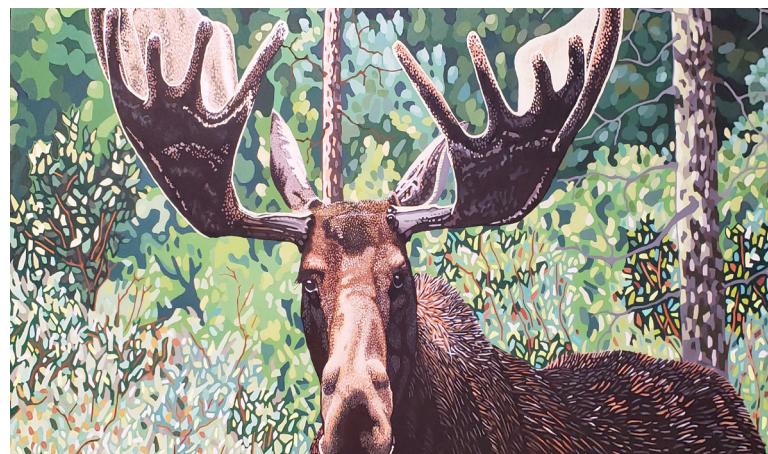


TIME TO TRAVEL - PART 1 U.S.A.

Southern California to Montana
From Los Angeles to Malibu, Newport & Laguna Beach to Whitefish, Montana

LET'S FORGET 2020...TIME TO TRAVEL AGAIN

Most of 2020, I was grounded, not only due to Covid travel restrictions, but an unfortunate “Hit & Run” bike accident on January 12, 2020. So my 2020 was off to a big bang, but unfortunately not the champagne toasting type with fireworks. I was rushed by ambulance to the ER at **Mt. Sinai Hospital** in **Miami Beach** and never left til January 29, 2020. The very last day, the nurses started wearing masks. I asked, “What do you know, that I don’t know?” Well, by mid-March 2020, Americans were finally in the know about this so called Covid pandemic and our borders were shut down to foreigners. By summer 2021, I had the itch to start traveling again when Americans were finally allowed to cross the pond. While all the scenesters were headed to **St. Tropez, Ibiza** and **Mykonos**, I intentionally chose places closer to home that were less crowded and open to the great outdoors. The **Wild West** was ready and waiting for me!



MONTANA CALLING, BUT FIRST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Malibu, Newport Beach & Laguna Beach

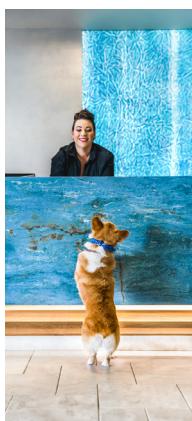
I had never been to **Montana** and received an invitation to a friend’s milestone birthday celebration in **Whitefish**. It sounded like just what the doctor ordered. My flight was taking me through LAX so I decided to do a stopover to see old friends there in **Los Angeles**. I visited a few spots on my radar that I could foresee living in, like **Newport Beach**, **Laguna Beach** or even **Malibu**. In the past, I lived part-time in **West Hollywood** as part of my **NYC, Miami, LA triangle**. Boy has it changed. While LA now has “tent towns” for the homeless, West Hollywood, has a few new slick residential towers and boutique hotels on ‘the strip’. I had a reunion



dinner at the **Sunset Marquis** hideaway celeb hotel with my former cheerleader co-captain, turned soap star friend, **Nancy Lee Grahn** of **General Hospital**. We were the only 2 holdouts not to walk down the aisle to say our “I do’s”. Not sure if it’s a coincidence, but we also look half the age of our high school peers.



I took a day trip to **Malibu** for a nice oceanside lunch with another old friend, **Angela** at **Soho Little Beach House**. What a great seaside setting with yummy food and drinks. Next was a trip south to the upscale beachside towns of **Southern California** to see if it was calling me to move back. It was a **Thelma, Louise** and **Penny** road trip (aka **Cindy Guyer, Romance Queen**, her new puppy, **Penny** and me) for a girl’s weekend. We stayed at the **Balboa Bay Resort** which is an ideal location right on the water with a marina. It’s a **Forbes Four-Star AAA Four-Diamond** waterfront resort in **Newport Beach**. Being a pet-friendly hotel, meant Miss Penny could join us everywhere. We arrived in time for Happy Hour, so we hit the **A+O Bar** for some cool craft cocktails. Mine had some pretty flowers floating on top. For dinner we met up with



another blonde friend, former anchorwoman, **Michele**... 3 blondes are always better than 2. The next morning, I swam laps in the hotel’s nice big pool and had breakfast on the terrace facing the yacht-filled marina. Before leaving, I checked out the **Balboa Bay Resort** condo hotel units for a possible future home away from home for me. Our stay was short and sweet as we had other ports of call in Southern California. We drove to **Laguna Beach** to meet up with a 4th blonde, **Dayna**. We visited some of the other lovely waterfront resorts like the **Montage** with a pretty pool, before heading back to La La Land. **Miss Penny Pincher** was a hit everywhere we went.

WHITEFISH ANYONE?

Glacier National Park, Whitefish Mountain Resort, The Firebrand & The Lodge at Whitefish Lake

The **Montana** mountains were calling...time to leave my LA pitstop and fly from LAX to **Glacier Park International Airport**. I always love visiting a new destination. And **Whitefish** certainly did not disappoint. **Aspen** - been there done that, many a times... but in Whitefish I was a virgin. It’s the gateway to **Glacier National Park** which is nicknamed **“Crown of the Continent”** and considered a global treasure. This quaint mountain town is a nature-lover’s dream with spectacular sites just about everywhere you turn. I decided to split my stays between the town, lake and mountaintop for a little diversity and varying perspectives.



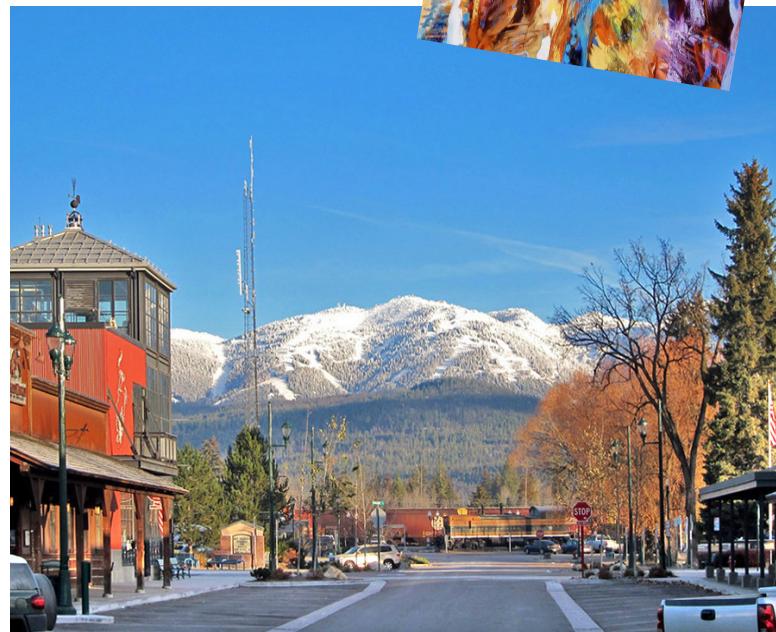


Firebrand Hotel

Upon arrival, I checked into **The Firebrand Hotel** right smack dab in the middle of **Whitefish**. The brick exterior opens into a lobby with granite stone and massive timbers along with metal and glass plus western touches. The huge fireplace is a focal point by the bar/restaurant area. This boutique hotel has contemporary rooms, some with fireplaces, a rooftop lounge



with a jacuzzi, gym and spa. They also have the best Happy Hours in town offering up crazy prices for tasty appetizers and cool cocktails. I worked my way thru the menu over my 2-night stay trying all the specials including delish duck wings with huckleberry sauce and an out-of-this-world huckleberry frozen mud pie. I swore I was only going to take a bite, but ate the whole darn thing! **Huckleberries** are the local wild berries indigenous to this region. I strolled around town which is really only a couple blocks long and wide, with a main street in the middle. It's full of cute stores, galleries, restaurants, saloons and gear shops to get you ready for the great outdoors. It's a must to have a locally roasted Montana cup of Joe at one of the coffee shops and a huckleberry pie at **Loula's Café**, the local favorite for breakfast. I took a hop, skip and jump over to the historic **Great Northern** train station depot and locomotive (listed on the Historic National Record) and chatted up a volunteer chap and heard a few good stories and learned about the logging history of Whitefish.

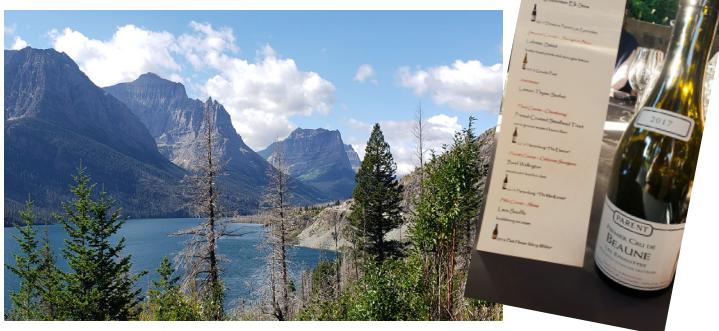


Firebrand Hotel video: <https://vimeo.com/644645389>

Huckleberries video : <https://vimeo.com/645070139>

Birthday Celebrations & Glacier National Park

We had a welcome dinner hosted by the **Bday boy Terry**, for all the out-of-towners at a stylish Mexican spot called **Jalisco Cantina** just on the outskirts of town. Carb loading was a good idea because on Friday, bright and early, we were headed to **Glacier National Park** which has 700 miles of hiking trails. Some of us drove in the birthday boy's military-like silver hummer along the super scenic "**Going to the Sun Road**", a National Historic Place. The sites were absolutely breathtaking with photo ops at every turn. We finally entered the park and took a lunch break feasting on Bison burgers. Then, more lakes, waterfalls and jagged mountains, but no grizzlies crossed our path. We got home in time to 'clean up nicely' for the big birthday bash, a 5-course wine dinner at the **Iron Horse Golf Club**. It was a festive occasion for a true Renaissance Man who turned 75 going on 55. He had traveled cross-country on his **Harley** to get to the party on time. Toasts were heart-felt and well deserved for this self-made, entrepreneurial success of a great man!



Jalisco Cantina Wine Dinner video: <https://vimeo.com/645072827>

Glacier National Park Waterfall video: <https://vimeo.com/645347779>



The Lodge at Whitefish Lake

For the weekend, I changed hotels and moved to **The Lodge at Whitefish Lake**, a sister property to The Firebrand. It's like a return to summer camp or your favorite childhood lake lodge. It is Montana's only **AAA four-diamond rated resort**. It's inspired by the grand lodges of days gone by. With the pristine lake as my backyard and fireplace in my suite, I was off to a good start. But The Lodge offers so much more. I was greeted by a big stuffed grizzly in the lobby and a baby stuffed bear on my bed to keep me company. I loved the outdoor pool for my daily laps with the tiki bar within reach to grab a few cocktails at sunset. Boat rentals go from paddle to power including pontoon cruisers, ski/pleasure boats, jet skis, kayaks, paddleboards and complimentary canoes. Evenings can even include S'mores by the fire. Who said you couldn't go back to summer camp as an adult?



The Lodge at Whitefish Lake video: <https://vimeo.com/644645765>

Whitefish Lake Sunset Video: <https://vimeo.com/645348205>



Whitefish Lake

I took a long walk along a meandering river full of paddleboarders. Then I hiked up a hill and when I got to the top, to my surprise, I saw the most majestic sight of all, **Whitefish Lake** glistening like glass before my very eyes! It was a wow factor moment for sure. Mystical, magical Whitefish Lake which is 7 miles by 2.5 miles and 222 feet deep, is home to **Whitefish Lake State Park** and **City Beach**. Who knew you can go to the beach in the middle of the mountains of Montana?

River Paddleboarders: <https://vimeo.com/645246614>

Whitefish Lake video: <https://vimeo.com/645071146>



Whitefish Mountain Resort

For my final few nights, I moved to the birthday boy's mountainside condo in **Whitefish Mountain Resort**. Here is home to the ski slopes with 3000 acres, 105 runs, 14 lifts and 320 inches of snowfall annually. There's certainly room for all from the Base elevation of 4,464 feet to the Summit at 6,817 feet. In winter snowy mountains full of '**snow ghosts**' abound, while in summer when I was there, mountain bikers and zipliners were zipping past me. I took a gondola up to the top to catch an aerial view of Whitefish Lake and the surrounding area. On my way down, I hiked the popular **Danny On Path** back to the Base lodge. It's nice to take time to smell the flowers once in while in life, and breathe in fresh mountain air and "exhale".

Whitefish Real Estate

For anyone interested, my friend's **Whitefish Mountain Resort 4-bedroom condo is for sale off-market**. It is chock-full of some special furniture pieces he personally designed and Rocky Mountain décor along with a great big fireplace and outdoor deck with a firepit below. It is a short walk to the chairlifts so basically ski-in, ski-out and about a 15-minute drive to the town of Whitefish.

Whitefish Mountain Resort Condo for Sale video:

<https://vimeo.com/645354160>



Whitefish Homes

I wanted to check out the local real estate, so I took some side streets lined with waterfront homes of all sorts from modern to woodsy. I even spotted an un-shy deer and her doe raiding a flower pot for lunch. I could hear boats buzzing about behind on the lake.

Contemporary A-Frame Home video:

<https://vimeo.com/645074990>



**Cheers,
Hope Gainer**

President, Hope International
Global Luxury Marketing
Global Luxury Real Estate
+1.305.785.5501

<https://hopeinternationalproperties>
<https://hopeinternationalmarketing>

**HOPE
INTERNATIONAL**

**I left the mountains of Montana, just in time to board a flight across the pond. Europe was calling. Stay tuned.*