

Waterton Glacier GUIDE

2008 - Summer Guide to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park

★ Glacier National Park Visitor Guide included inside

It all happened in the 30's...

A student of world events in the 1930s will discover that Mohandas Gandhi was protesting for Indian rights; Adolf Hitler was named dictator of Germany; the chocolate chip cookie was invented; the Lone Ranger debuted on radio; Cardston, Alberta born actress Fay Wray starred in the hit movie King Kong, and construction of the Golden Gate Bridge began. Lost among these large and small world events was the creation of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a place inspired by local people to celebrate peace and friendship between Canada and the United States.

At the first annual goodwill meeting of Alberta and Montana Rotarians, held at the Prince of Wales Hotel on July 4th 1931, participants unanimously approved a resolution to establish an international peace park. This quickly led the U. S. Congress and Canadian Parliament to each create legislation in 1932 establishing the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

This was followed in 1933 by the opening of the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The road ushered in a new era for the Peace Park and helped to create a significant link between the two parks. What once was an area primarily experienced by train and horseback, now became an experience open to the public via their personal automobiles. Increased access to the interior of Glacier National Park drew people from both sides of the border and once here, they discovered that there were two parks to explore, not just one. While the Going-to-the-Sun Road does not directly access Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park, it's not a stretch to say that the road has led millions of visitors over the years to discover both parts of the Peace Park.

Interestingly, one of the early proposed routes for a trans-mountain road through Glacier would have led directly to Waterton, following the current alignment from West Glacier up McDonald creek and then north along

the Waterton River to the community of Waterton. Instead, in 1924 the present route over Logan Pass was selected and work began in earnest to carve out the spectacular mountain road. Construction was completed in 1932, and the next summer a dedication ceremony at Logan Pass honored the challenges faced by the road builders, and established the official name "Going-to-the-Sun Road."

The road proved to be very popular, creating a 25% increase in visitation. This success did not go unnoticed in Waterton Lakes National Park, particularly since, with the economic depression of the 1930s, tourism was declining and many facilities, including the Prince of Wales Hotel, were forced to temporarily close.

A more scenic and direct road link between the two parks, which would be closer to the mountains than the existing route thru Cardston, was considered crucial to tourism in Waterton. So there must have been great joy when, late

in 1933, the Canadian government announced it would fund relief camps in Waterton and one of the main projects would be to build the Chief Mountain International Highway. The next year, the U.S. government let a contract for the grading of the U.S. portion of the highway. Finally, in 1936, the 48 km (31 mile) Chief Mountain International Highway opened. That same summer, the Canadian dedication ceremony for the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park finally took place at the reopened Prince of Wales Hotel.

In 2008 news of conflicts in the Middle East, advances in technology, climate change, and other world events bombard our senses, highlighting how rapidly the world is changing. One constant remains, the peace and friendship between the United States and Canada and the opportunity to come and enjoy this monument to what can be achieved together.



Mt Cannon from the Going-to-the-Sun Road in 1932

George Grant



Chief Mountain looms above the newly created Chief Mountain International Highway

Ray Djuff Collection

Preserving a National Historic Landmark

This summer marks the 75th year that the Going-to-the-Sun Road has snaked along the Garden Wall, providing access to some of the most spectacular scenery on the continent. Seventy five years is a long time and some rehabilitation is needed. Every effort has been made to smoothly incorporate construction into

the main summer travel season, and travelers should encounter only short delays as they traverse this National Historic Landmark road. This rehabilitation effort will maintain the historic integrity of the road and allow future generations to continue the experience that visitors for the last 75 years have enjoyed.



The Going-to-the-Sun Road along the Garden Wall

David Restivo



In 1932, Waterton Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park were officially joined together as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Peace Park celebrates the peace and goodwill existing along the

world's longest undefended border, as well as a spirit of cooperation which is reflected in wildlife and vegetation management, search and rescue programs, and joint interpretive programs, brochures, and exhibits.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park became a World Heritage Site in 1995 - for its scenic values, its significant climate, landforms and ecological processes, and abundant diversity of wildlife and wildflowers.



Discover Our Neighbors' Cultural Heritage

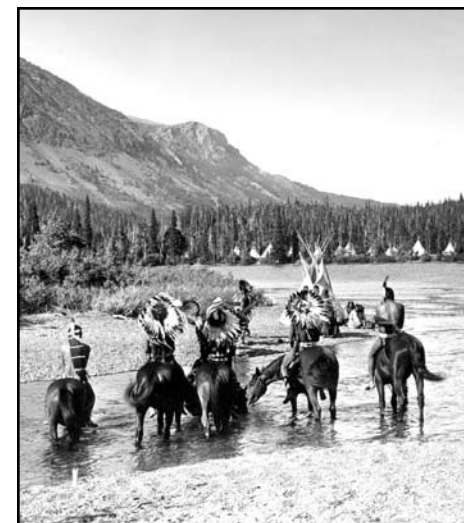
This area holds special appeal for visitors interested in the culture of indigenous peoples. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park lies just west of the Kainai and Piikani Reserves in Canada and borders the Blackfeet Reservation in the United States. People of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, southwest of the park, also have a close association with the park. Take the time to learn about our neighbors.

Nearby in Browning, Montana, the Museum of the Plains Indian features fascinating exhibits and Native

American handcrafts as sales items. The museum is open daily from June through September. Also in Browning, North American Indian Days, the second weekend in July, is a large celebration of Native American culture that includes a parade, traditional dress, and dancing. Visitors are always welcome.

Northeast of Waterton, early plains culture is dramatically displayed at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site. This site is open seven days a week in summer. Phone 403-553-2731 for further information.

The People's Center and Native Ed-Ventures, for the preservation of Kootenai and Salish Culture, are located near Pablo, Montana. The Center provides educational opportunities, full-day and half-day interpretive tours of the Flathead Indian Reservation, a museum collection, and gift shop. Open daily throughout the summer. Call 406-883-5344 or 406-675-0160 for further information.



Blackfeet at Two Medicine

R. E. Marble



Beargrass

Bill Hayden

International Peace Park Hike

Waterton-Glacier became the world's first International Peace Park in 1932. Join us in celebrating our 76th year of friendship and cooperative management by participating in an International Peace Park Hike. These special hikes are held every Wednesday and Saturday in July and August. Starting at 10 a.m. from the Bertha Lake trailhead in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, this 14 km (8.7 mi) hike along Upper Waterton Lake is jointly led by Canadian and American park interpreters.

Learn about Waterton-Glacier's three international designations and take part in a peace & friendship ceremony as you cross the International Boundary on your way to Goat Haunt in Glacier National Park, Montana. Return to Waterton via boat. A fee is charged for the return boat trip and advance reservations are recommended. The boat will have you back to the Waterton townsite dock by 6 p.m. Each hike is limited to 35 people, so you must pre-register at either the Visitor Information Centre in Waterton (403-859-5133) or at the St. Mary Visitor Center (406-732-7750) in Glacier. Reservations are only accepted for the next scheduled hike (open on Saturday for Wednesday hikes; open on Wednesday for Saturday hikes).

Come Prepared

- Bring a lunch, water, rain gear, jacket, hat.
- Wear sturdy footwear.
- The trail is not difficult, but you will be hiking most of the day.
- Bring money for the boat.
- Pets are not permitted.



"Hands across the border" ceremony on the International Peace Park Hike

Jeff Yee



The "International" provides return transportation for International Peace Park Hike participants

David Restivo

Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park



Fleabane

David Restivo

Nestled in the far southeast corner of British Columbia and adjacent to both Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks is a spectacular natural gem, the Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park. Visitors can access the east boundary of the park via an old trail built in the 1920's between the Akamina Parkway and the Flathead River Valley. The short 1.5 kilometer easy to moderate grade offers wilderness enthusiasts opportunities to hike, mountain bike, camp, horseback ride (permit required) or seek solitude on a multi-day backpacking trip. This wild treasure is Waterton-Glacier's brilliant western neighbor.

For more information contact:
BC Parks, 205 Industrial Road G,
Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 7G5
(205) 489-8540 Fax: (250) 489-8506
www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks

Accessibility

The Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers, the International Peace Park Pavilion, and the Cameron Lake Day Use Area are wheel-chair accessible. A listing of additional facilities and services, accessible to visitors with special needs, is available at visitor centers and entrance stations throughout Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Interpretive programs in Glacier National Park accessible by wheelchair are highlighted in the park's ranger-guided activity guide, available throughout Glacier.

Wheelchair accessible trails include the Trail of the Cedars and the Running Eagle Falls Nature Trail in Glacier, and the Linnet Lake Trail and Waterton Townsite trail in Waterton.

Visitors sensitive to altitude should be aware of the following park elevations:

Lake McDonald	3150 ft.	960 m
Logan Pass	6640 ft.	2024 m
Many Glacier	4900 ft.	1494 m
Polebridge	3600 ft.	1097 m
St. Mary Lake	4500 ft.	1372 m
Two Medicine	5150 ft.	1570 m
Waterton	4200 ft.	1280 m



Accessible boardwalk on the Trail of the Cedars

David Restivo





Wildlife Watching

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is a meeting place. The unique geography and climate of this borderland has created diverse communities that include 1200 plant species, more than 250 kinds of birds, and 70 different mammals. This is also a meeting place for visitors from around the world who converge on these mountains every summer for inspiration, recreation, and wildlife viewing.

The overlap between humans and wildlife presents challenges and opportunities. Everyone enjoys seeing bears, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats, but we need to recognize that our presence can negatively affect these animals and often disrupts their daily activity patterns. This disruption can happen on trails or along roads where

'animal jams' often develop. These are particularly hazardous as large animals become habituated to the presence of vehicles and crowded roads create traffic safety issues.

Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks both have special programs aimed at minimizing human impacts on wildlife. In Waterton, a crew of students is hired each summer to respond to 'animal jams'. Their first response is to handle safety and traffic congestion concerns and ensure visitors keep a safe distance from wildlife. They also provide information about how to behave around wildlife in ways which are safer for both people and the animals. Look for them and their mobile exhibit at popular day use areas.

A new program at Glacier will also aim at keeping visitors and animals at a safe distance from one another while providing wildlife information. The Watchable Wildlife Program will include designated viewing areas along the Many Glacier road and park staff with spotting scopes to help you find wildlife along the mountainsides of the valley.

We want your experience with wildlife to be appropriate and respectful. How can you help? Please follow the Four "R's" of ethical wildlife viewing:

RESPECT wildlife and their habitat. While we are the visitors, the animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find the food, shelter, and water they need for their survival.

RESIST the temptation to approach wildlife. If your presence changes an animal's behavior, you are too close. Read and follow the wildlife advice provided in the Visitor Guide and by park staff.

RESPONSIBLE visitors use binoculars or a telephoto lens to observe an animal's normal behavior. It's a special experience to view wildlife being wild.

REMINDE others of their ethical responsibility when approaching or photographing wildlife. Help protect the natural wonders of Waterton-Glacier for the future.

I Just Saw...

...a mule deer or a white-tailed deer?



White-tailed deer fawn

David Restivo



White-tailed deer

David Restivo



Mule deer doe and buck



Parks Canada

Do a tail check! The mule deer has a black-tipped white tail. The white-tailed deer has a triangular brown tail, which is snowy white beneath. White-tails often flip up their tails to show the startling white when they are alarmed. The bucks of both species of deer have antlers, which they grow and shed within a year.

...a coyote or a wolf?



Coyote

David Restivo



Wolf

NPS

Coyotes, far more common in the park than wolves, are about one third smaller than the average wolf. They carry their bushier tails low when running, while wolves tend to hold their tails straight out. Coyotes tend to have a foxier look than wolves (slender muzzle, large pointed ears).

...a chipmunk, golden-mantled ground squirrel, or a Columbian ground squirrel?



Chipmunk

NPS



Golden-mantled ground squirrel

NPS



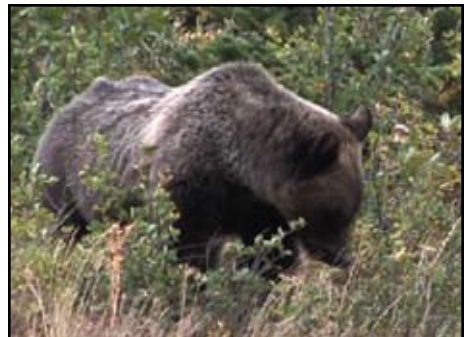
Columbian ground squirrels



David Restivo

The always lively golden-mantled ground squirrels and chipmunks both have stripes on their back/sides, but the chipmunk is easily recognized with its extra 'speed stripes' on its face. Chipmunks are also much smaller than golden-mantled ground squirrels. Columbian ground squirrels have no stripes and are more frequently seen in meadows and along roadsides. Please resist the urge to feed these bold, engaging rodents.

...a grizzly bear or a black bear?



Grizzly bear

Bob Chinn



Black bear

Stephen Harrington



Black bear

Bob Chinn

Both black and grizzly bears come in a variety of colors. Black bears are more common. They have a longer face and much shorter claws. Grizzlies have a prominent hump on their shoulder (because they dig more for their food), larger claws and ears, and a rounder, dished face. While black bears are better climbers, don't assume grizzlies can't climb trees. Both bears are found throughout the park and mainly eat plants.

...a mountain goat or a bighorn sheep?



Mountain goat

David Restivo



Bighorn ewe

NPS

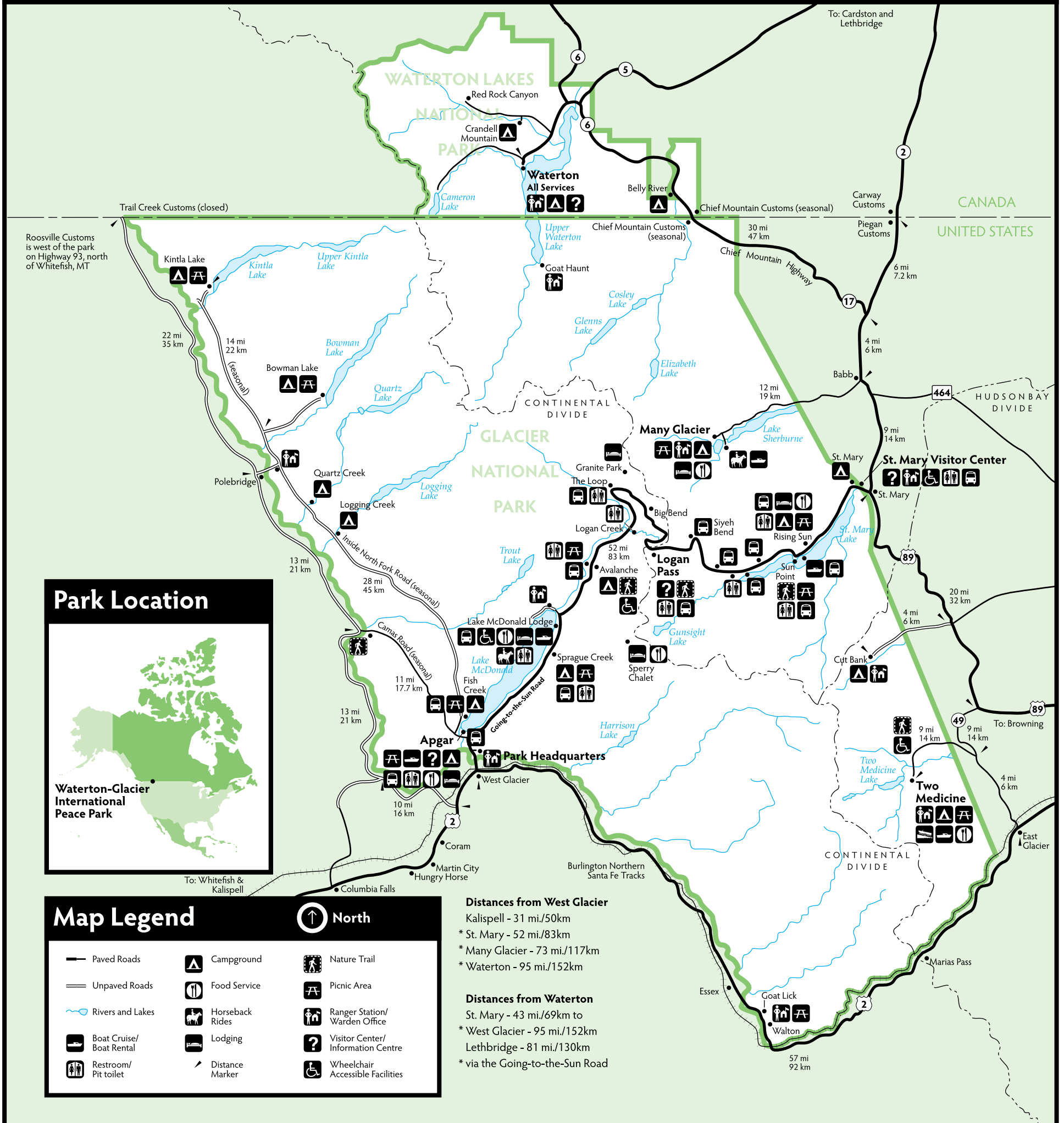


Bighorn ram

David Restivo

Bighorn sheep are brown with a white rump and have rough, brownish horns. Female bighorns are often mistaken for mountain goats. Mountain goats are white and their straighter horns are shiny black. Horns on both animals are permanent features on both males and females, and can be used to gauge their age. Bighorn sheep are more commonly seen in Waterton and mountain goats are more commonly seen in the alpine areas of Glacier.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park World Heritage Site



Crossing the Border?

Travellers must have a birth certificate and driver's license, or a passport. Single parents must have proof of custody of their children. Citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada are required to have a passport and visa (if required). Resident aliens must have a permanent resident card. International travellers (not including U.S. and Canadian citizens) must have a current I94 form to cross into the United States. It is available at the Port of Entry for \$6.00 US. They will accept U.S. currency and all major credit cards. Canadian currency is NOT accepted.

Special restrictions apply when crossing the border with pets, defensive sprays, alcohol, firewood, and purchases. All firearms must be declared. For the most recent information and other specific requirements on crossing the border from the United States into Canada call 1-800-320-0063; for information on crossing from Canada into the United States call 1-406-889-3865.

Border Crossing Dates and Times

Roosville.....open 24 hours
west of the park on Highway 93, north of Whitefish, MT and south of Fernie, B.C.

Piegan/Carway..... 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
east of the park at the joining of U.S. Highway 89 with Alberta Highway 2

Chief Mountain

- 5/15 to 5/31 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- 6/1 to 9/1 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- 9/2 to 9/30 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- October 1 closed for season



Canadian and U. S. flags at Logan Pass Bill Hayden

Travel To, From, and Through Goat Haunt

People in tour boats and private boats arriving from Waterton Lakes National Park to Goat Haunt are not required to clear Customs and Immigration unless they travel beyond the immediate shore area of the Ranger Station. Those returning on the same boat will not be considered to be seeking admission into the United States.

All hikers crossing the International Boundary from Canada are considered to be applying for admission to the United States, and are required to immediately report to the Goat Haunt Ranger Station for Customs and Immigration inspection.

Only citizens of Canada and citizens or Legal Resident Aliens of the United States of America, who have cleared customs and immigration at the Goat Haunt Ranger Station, will be allowed to travel into the United States beyond Goat Haunt.

There are restrictions on all backcountry travel from the United States into Canada, within the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. For more information, please contact the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in advance of any trip at 1-403-653-3535 or 1-403-653-3009.

Customs information was current at the time of publication, but may change. Call the numbers listed for specific information.



The "International" on Waterton Lake Parks Canada