



Glacier National Park Vacation Planner

Glacier National Park
Vacation Planner

2008 - Volume I



The Loop on the Going-to-the-Sun Road - photo by David Restivo

What to Expect on the Going-to-the-Sun Road

On July 15, 1933, a marvel of engineering was officially dedicated during a public ceremony atop the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park. The 'Transmountain Road' was officially renamed the Going-to-the-Sun Highway. It is no wonder that upon the road's dedication back in 1933; Glacier National Park's Superintendent Eivind Scoyen described the Going-to-the-Sun Road as, "The most beautiful piece of mountain road in the world."

The construction of the Going-to-the-Sun Road (Sun Road) ushered in a new era of partnerships between federal agencies. In 1926, the Bureau of Public Roads (Federal Highway Administration) signed a formal agreement with the National Park Service that began a working partnership at Glacier that continues to this day in national parks throughout the country.

In the 75 years since its completion, this scenic 'road out of rock' has taken countless tourists and travelers to the heights of Logan Pass and across the Continental Divide. In 2008, the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration will commemorate the vision, hard work, spirit of partnership and overall commitment and dedication to the long-term preservation of this "landmark in the sky."

Now, the Sun Road is being 'reborn.' A comprehensive rehabilitation of this 50-mile National Historic Landmark and Civil Engineering Landmark is bringing much-needed attention to help preserve and protect one of Montana's favorite suns. After engineering and socioeconomic studies, recommendations by the Going-to-the-Sun Road Citizen Advisory Committee and extensive public involvement, a compromise plan was agreed to in 2003 that ensures 'shared use' of the Sun Road by the public and road workers during the busy summer months.

The focus of the 2008 Sun Road rehabilitation will occur between the West Tunnel and Haystack Creek, west of Logan Pass, while other locations will also receive some repairs. From mid-June to mid-September, daytime travelers should expect several short traffic delays for a one-way trip across the entire Sun Road.

Starting Friday, June 13, 2008, the entire Sun Road will be open for the summer season, weather permitting, until the alpine section is closed to through traffic on Monday, September 15, 2008. During this core summer season, short delays should be expected between 6 am and 10 pm. Daytime traffic delays will last approximately 5-10 minutes each for a collective total of no more than 30 minutes. Longer nighttime delays (up to four hours) may occur between 10 pm and 6 am.

When the upper roadway closes to through traffic in mid-September, weather permitting, Logan Pass will remain open from one side until that section closes to motorized vehicles for the winter.

The new (free) shuttle system will operate on the Sun Road from July 1 through Labor Day between the Apgar Transit Center and St. Mary Visitor Center with stops at key visitor facilities, campgrounds and trailheads, including Logan Pass.

Before and after the core summer season, road work will accelerate. For safety reasons - before and after the core summer season - work zones may be closed to all motorized traffic and pedestrian use. When this occurs, portions of the Sun Road will remain open for motorized traffic, while some sections may remain open only for bicycle and hiking use.

For updates and information, visit www.nps.gov/glac or www.GTSRProject.com.

Glacier National Park
West Glacier, MT 59936
406-888-7800



Visit both parks on the World Wide Web. Glacier National Park at www.nps.gov/glac
or Waterton Lakes National Parks at www2.parkscanada.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/

Where to Stay

Lodging

Various accommodations are available within the park. Visitors may choose from rooms in historic grand hotels dating back to the early 1900's, modern motel-type accommodations, rustic cabins, or back-country chalets.

Lodges start to open in late May and some remain open until late-September. Reservations are encouraged! Accommodations fill early, especially for the peak months of July and August.

For lodging and campground accommodations outside the park, check the TravelMT website at www.visitmt.com.

IN-PARK RESERVATIONS INFORMATION

The Village Inn, Lake McDonald Lodge, Rising Sun Motor Inn, Swiftcurrent Motor Inn, and the Many Glacier Hotel are operated by Glacier Park, Inc.

For information and reservations:
**Glacier Park, Inc., P.O. Box 2025
 Columbia Falls, MT 59912,
 (406) 892-2525
www.glacierparkinc.com**

For reservations at the Apgar Village Lodge:

**Apgar Village Lodge, P.O. Box 410
 West Glacier, MT 59936
 (406) 888-5484
www.westglacier.com**

Chalets

Granite Park Chalet, accessible by trail only, operates as a hikers shelter from July through mid-September. Guests provide sleeping bag, water, food, and cooking utensils. Optional linen service is available.

Sperry Chalet, a rustic backcountry chalet, is accessible by trail only. Operates from July through mid-September. Services include overnight accommodations and food services.

For more information and required reservations please contact:
**Granite Park Chalet & Sperry Chalet
 c/o Belton Chalets, Inc.
 P.O. Box 189, West Glacier, MT 59936
 (888) 345-2649
www.sperrychalet.com
www.graniteparkchalet.com**

Campgrounds

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. All campgrounds, except Fish Creek and St. Mary (see chart), are available on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Regulations are posted at each campground. Utility hookups are not provided.

GROUP SITES

Ten group sites at Apgar, and one each at Many Glacier, and Two Medicine campgrounds accommodate parties of 9-24 people. The fee is \$5.00 per person, per night. At St. Mary, one group site is available and may be reserved.

CAMPFIRES

Campfires are permitted only in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where grates are provided. Collecting firewood is prohibited except along the Inside North Fork Road from one mile north of Fish Creek Campground to Kintla Lake, along the Bowman Lake Road, and around back-country campgrounds that permit fires.

HIKER-BIKER CAMPSITES

Sites are available for bicyclists and hikers. These shared sites hold up to eight people. The fee is \$5.00 per person. Sites at Fish Creek and St. Mary may be reserved and have an additional reservation fee.



Granite Park Chalet - NPS photo

Campground Information

Estimated Dates	Fee	Sites	Flush Toilets	Disposal Station	Hiker Biker	For Larger RV's and Additional Information
Apgar May - early Sept.	\$20.00	192	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 25 sites have a maximum parking space of 40'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Avalanche June - early Sept.	\$20.00	87	Yes		Yes	The largest 50 sites have a maximum parking space of 26'.
Bowman Lake mid May - mid Sept.	\$15.00	48				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Cut Bank June - Sept.	\$10.00	19				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended
Fish Creek* June - early Sept.	\$23.00	180	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 18 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. 62 additional sites will accommodate up to 27'.
Kintla Lake mid May - mid Sept.	\$15.00	13				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Logging Creek July - early Sept.	\$10.00	8				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Many Glacier late May - Sept.	\$20.00	110	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 13 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Quartz Creek July - early Sept.	\$10.00	7				Campground accessible by dirt road, large units not recommended. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Rising Sun late May - mid Sept.	\$20.00	83	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 10 sites have a maximum parking space of 25'.
Sprague Creek mid May - Sept.	\$20.00	25	Yes		Yes	No towed units Some sites have a maximum parking space of 21'.
St. Mary* late May - Sept.	\$23.00	148	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 25 sites have a maximum parking space of 35'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.
Two Medicine late May - Sept.	\$20.00	99	Yes	Yes	Yes	The largest 13 sites have a maximum parking space of 32'. Primitive camping is available after listed dates.

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds in primitive status have no water available.

***Fish Creek and St. Mary Campgrounds may be reserved through the National Park Service Reservation System.**

Call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov for specific reservation information.

Additional Services and Information

Restaurants

Food service is available at: Eddie's Restaurant in Apgar • Russell's Fireside Dining Room and Jammer Joe's Restaurant & Pizzeria at Lake McDonald • Ptarmigan Dining Room and the Italian Garden Ristorante in the Many Glacier Valley • Heidi's Snack Bar in the Many Glacier Hotel • Two Dog Flats Grill at Rising Sun • Snack Bar at Two Medicine Campstore.

Campstores and Gift Shops

Groceries and gifts are available at: Eddie's Campstore, The Cedar Tree, Schoolhouse Gifts, and the Montana House of Gifts at Apgar • Lake McDonald Lodge Gift Shop and Campstore at Lake McDonald • Many Glacier Hotel Gift Shop and Swiftcurrent Campstore in the Many Glacier Valley • Rising Sun Campstore at Rising Sun • Two Medicine Campstore at Two Medicine.

Cash Machines

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are available at several locations in the park.

Backcountry Guides

Glacier Guides has exclusive rights to offer guided day hikes and backpacking trips into the backcountry. For information contact: Glacier Guides, Inc., Box 330, West Glacier, MT 59936 (406) 387-5555 or (800) 521-7238 www.glacierguides.com

Boat Trips & Rentals

Narrated boat cruises are offered at Lake McDonald, Many Glacier, Rising Sun, and Two Medicine. Optional free guided hikes are offered on some trips. Boat and canoe rentals are also available. For information contact: Glacier Park Boat Company, P.O. Box 5262, Kalispell, MT 59903 (406) 257-2426 www.glacierparkboats.com

Guided Bus Tours and Shuttles

Narrated tours and shuttle services are offered by Glacier Park, Inc. For reservations and information contact: Glacier Park, Inc., P.O. Box 2025 Columbia Falls, MT 59912 (406) 892-2525 www.glacierparkinc.com

Sun Tours offers interpretive tours from late May to mid-October. Tours highlight Blackfeet culture and history relating to Glacier National Park's natural features. For reservation information, contact: Sun Tours, P. O. Box 234 East Glacier, MT 59434 (800) 786-9220 or (406) 226-9220

Horseback Rides

Horseback rides are provided by Swan Mountain Outfitters at the following locations: Apgar, Lake McDonald, and Many Glacier. For information contact: Swan Mountain Outfitters P. O. Box 5081 Swan Lake, MT 59911 1-877-888-5557 (summer) 1-800-919-4416 (winter) www.swanmountainoutfitters.com/glacier

Other Services

Additional services are available in Babb, East Glacier, Essex, Polebridge, St. Mary, West Glacier, and along U. S. Highway 2.

Activities

Hiking

Over half of the visitors to Glacier report taking a hike. That's a lot of hikers, but over 700 miles of trail provide many outstanding opportunities for short hikes, strenuous day hikes, or extended backpacking trips.

Glacier has six self-guided nature trails for those wishing a short walk to explore the park on their own.

Good day hikes are plentiful, and free maps to popular trails are available at park visitor centers. Visitor center bookstores carry a complete line of trail guides, topographic maps, and field guides to aid hikers. Publications are also available by mail. Call the Glacier Natural History Association at (406) 888-5756 or visit www.glacierassociation.org to place an order.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Hikers planning to camp overnight in Glacier's backcountry must obtain a backcountry use permit. Some backcountry permits may be reserved in advance. For information on obtaining a backcountry reservation, check our website at: <http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm>.

Driving

Park roads offer access to some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world. Take time to enjoy the views. If more than four vehicles stack up behind you, please use a pullout to let them pass safely. Be aware of wildlife along the roads, especially at dusk or at night. Animals often dart out in front of vehicles. Children may dart out in front of vehicles as well, so please watch for pedestrians along the road. Obey the posted speed limit.

GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD

Opened in 1932, this 50-mile road combines both history and unparalleled scenery. Lower portions of this scenic route remain open year-round. Due to ongoing road rehabilitation projects, the higher section of the road (over Logan Pass) is not scheduled to open until mid-June and will close for the season in mid-September.

VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

To help reduce congestion, vehicle size restrictions are in effect. Vehicles, and vehicle

combinations, longer than 21 feet (including bumpers) or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors), are prohibited between Avalanche Campground and the Sun Point parking area. Vehicle and vehicle combinations over 10 feet in height may have difficulty driving west from Logan Pass to the Loop, due to rock overhangs. Stock trucks and trailers are able to access Packers Roost and Siyeh Bend.

The park's shuttle system offers free transportation along the Going-to-the-Sun Road and tours are available from the companies listed on page 2.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Due to the long, snowy winters and late spring thaw the most productive time for road work is in the summer. For the 2008 season, road work on the Going-to-the-Sun Road will impact summer visitors with short daytime delays of up to 30 minutes total for a one-way trip across the road. Nighttime delays of up to 4 hours are possible throughout the summer.

Biking

Bicyclists are responsible for complying with all traffic regulations and must ride under control at all times. Keep to the right side of the road, riding in single file and pull over if four or more vehicles stack up behind you. During periods of low visibility, or between sunset and sunrise, a white light or reflector visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front and a red light or reflector visible from at least 200 feet to the rear must be exhibited on the operator or bicycle. The more visible you are, the safer you will be! Bicycles are prohibited on all trails. Watch for falling rocks, drainage grates, debris, and ice on the road. Helmets are recommended.

From June 15 through Labor Day, the following sections of the Going-to-the-Sun Road are closed to bicycle use between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.:

From Apgar turnoff (at the south end of Lake McDonald) to Sprague Creek Campground and Eastbound from Logan Creek to Logan Pass.

Allow 45 minutes to ride from Sprague Creek to Logan Creek and three hours from Logan Creek to Logan Pass. **Roads are narrow; please ride safely.**

Boating

Motorized watercraft are permitted on Lake McDonald, Waterton, Sherburne, St. Mary, Bowman, and Two Medicine Lakes. Bowman and Two Medicine Lakes are limited to ten horsepower or less.

To protect nesting Harlequin Ducks, the section of Upper McDonald Creek between Mineral Creek and Lake McDonald is closed to boating and floating.

One U.S. Coast Guard approved, wearable, personal floatation device (per person), of the appropriate size for the intended user, must be carried on board. Personal watercraft (jet skis) are prohibited on all park waters.

Fishing

A license is not required, but there are regulations that need to be followed. The general park fishing season is from the third Saturday in May to November 30. Lakes are open year-round. Several park streams are either closed to fishing or are catch-and-release only. Use of lead weights and sinkers is prohibited. Stop at a visitor center to obtain a copy of the current regulations.

Fishing from mid-channel to the west bank of the North Fork of the Flathead and all of the Middle Fork of the Flathead requires a Montana fishing license. The Blackfoot Reservation, just east of the park, requires their own fishing permit.

Naturalist Programs

Several times daily, in locations around the park, rangers guide easy strolls, short half-day hikes, or vigorous all-day hikes. Each evening, at major campgrounds, the campfire circle is the place to meet for programs on a host of topics to help visitors learn about and enjoy their park. Also, illustrated slide programs are offered nightly at Fish Creek Campground Amphitheater, St. Mary Visitor Center, Lake McDonald Lodge, and Many Glacier Hotel.

The Glacier Explorer, available throughout the park, provides a complete listing of ranger-led activities offered.

Weather

Waterton-Glacier's summer weather is as varied as its landscape. The western valleys generally receive the most rainfall, but daytime temperatures can exceed 90 degrees F. It is frequently 10 to 15 degrees cooler at higher elevations, like Logan Pass. Strong winds and sunny days often predominate on the east side of the park. Overnight lows throughout the park can drop to near 20 degrees F, and snow can fall anytime.

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions and pack accordingly. You may start the day in a T-shirt and shorts, and need a sweater or parka by evening. Dress in layers. Always bring raingear!

Weather Chart

Month	Avg Rain	Avg High	Avg Low
May	2.69"	65 °F	38 °F
June	3.37"	71 °F	44 °F
July	1.92"	79 °F	48 °F
August	1.30"	79 °F	47 °F
Sept	1.68"	70 °F	39 °F

These are 15 year weather averages from West Glacier, MT.



Boarding the DeSmet on Lake McDonald - NPS photo



On the Going-to-the-Sun Road - NPS photo

Raft Trips

Many local rafting companies offer trips on the Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River, immediately adjacent to the park. For information contact the following companies:

Glacier Raft Company, P.O. Box 210
West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 888-5454 or (800) 235-6781
www.glacierraftco.com

Great Northern Whitewater, P.O. Box 270
West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 387-5340 or (800) 735-7897
www.gnwhitewater.com

Montana Raft Company, P.O. Box 330
West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 387-5555 or (800) 521-RAFT
www.glaciergeguides.com

Wild River Adventures, P.O. Box 272
West Glacier, MT 59936
(406) 387-9453 or (800) 700-7056
www.riverwild.com

Entrance Fees

Entrance Fees
Single Vehicle Pass.....\$25.00
Valid for 7 days.
Single Person Entry.....\$12.00
By foot, bicycle, or motorcycle for 7 days
Glacier National Park Pass.....\$35.00
Valid for 1 year from month of purchase.

America the Beautiful - the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass allows entry into all national parks and federal recreation lands, that charge a fee. The cost is \$80.00 and is valid for 1 year from month of purchase. Special fees are charged for commercial tour vehicles.

There is no single fee that covers entrance into both parks. Glacier National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park charge separate entrance fees.

IMPORTANT PARK REGULATIONS

Regulations are designed to protect park resources and preserve the quality of your visit. Park rangers and wardens strictly enforce park regulations.

- Feeding or disturbing wildlife is against park regulations.
- Removal of any natural or cultural feature like flowers, rocks, artifacts, or antlers is prohibited.
- Picking of berries (including huckleberries) is limited to one quart/person/day.
- Picking of mushrooms is prohibited.
- Loaded firearms are not allowed in the park. Unloaded firearms may be transported in a vehicle if the weapon is cased, broken down or rendered inoperable, and kept out of sight.
- Open containers of alcohol in a motor vehicle are prohibited.
- Seat belts, or the appropriate child restraint system, must be worn by all occupants of motor vehicles.

PETS

Pets are permitted in campgrounds, along roads, and in parking areas. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet, under physical restraint, or caged at all times. Pet owners must pick up after their pets and dispose of waste properly. Pets are not to be left unattended and are not permitted on trails, in the back-country, or in any building.

Glacier is Bear Country



Grizzly - NPS photo

Camping & Bears

Odors attract bears. Our campground and developed areas can remain “unattractive” to bears if each visitor manages food and trash properly. Regulations require that all edibles (including pet food), food containers (empty or not), and cookware (clean or not) be stored in a hard-sided vehicle or food locker when not in use, day or night.

- **Keep a clean camp!** Improperly stored or unattended food will likely result in confiscation of items and/or issuance of a Violation Notice.
- **Inspect campsites for bear sign and for careless campers nearby.** Please notify a park ranger of any potential problems that you may notice.

Roadside Bears

It’s exciting to see bears up close, but we must act responsibly to keep them wild and healthy. If you see a bear along the road, please do not stop. Stopping and watching roadside bears will likely start a “bear jam” as other motorists follow your lead. “Bear jams” are hazardous to both people and bears as visibility is reduced and bears may feel threatened by the congestion. Roadside bears quickly become habituated to vehicles and people, increasing their chances of being hit by motor vehicles. Habituated bears may learn that it is acceptable to frequent campgrounds or picnic areas, where they may gain access to human food. When a bear obtains human food, a very dangerous situation is created that may lead to human injury and the bear’s death. Please resist the temptation to stop and get close to roadside bears – put bears first at Glacier National Park.

*A fed bear is a dead bear!
Please never feed bears or
other wildlife.*

Bear Spray

KNOW HOW TO USE IT

This aerosol pepper derivative triggers temporarily incapacitating discomfort in bears. It is a non-toxic and non-lethal means of deterring aggressive bears. There have been cases where bear spray has stopped aggressive or attacking bears as well as accounts where it has not. Factors influencing effectiveness include distance, wind, rainy weather, temperature extremes, and product formulation and shelf life.

If you carry bear spray, carry it in an easily accessible location, as you may need to get at it quickly. Use it only in situations where aggressive bear behavior justifies its use.

Bear spray is intended to be sprayed towards an oncoming bear. It is not intended to act as a repellent. Do not spray gear or your camp with bear spray. Under no circumstances should bear spray create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for standard safety precautions in bear country.

Be aware that you may not be able to cross the U.S./Canada border with some brands of pepper spray. Canadian Customs will allow the importation of U.S. EPA-approved bear spray into Canada. Specifications state that the bear spray must have U.S. EPA on the label.

- Place all trash in bear proof containers.
- Pets, especially dogs, must be kept under physical restraint.
- Report all bear sightings to the nearest ranger or warden immediately.



Black bear - NPS photo



Grizzly family - video capture by Bob Chinn

Hike Smart-Hike Safe

DON'T SURPRISE BEARS!

Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching, so make noise. Most bells are not enough. Calling out and clapping hands loudly at regular intervals are better ways to make your presence known. Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers.

A bear constantly surprised by quiet hikers may become habituated to close human contact and less likely to avoid people. Don't be tempted to approach or get too close to these bears.

DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS!

You can't predict when and where bears might be encountered along a trail. People often assume they don't need to make noise while hiking on a well-used trail. Some of the most frequently used trails in the park are surrounded by excellent bear habitat. People have been charged and injured by bears fleeing from silent hikers who unwittingly surprised them. Even if other hikers haven't seen bears along a trail section recently, don't assume that bears aren't there.

Don't assume a bear's hearing is any better than your own. Some trail conditions make it hard for bears to see, hear, or smell approaching hikers. Be particularly careful by streams, against the wind, or in dense vegetation. A blind corner or a rise in the trail also requires special attention.

DON'T APPROACH BEARS!

Bears spend a lot of time eating, so be extra cautious when passing through obvious feeding areas like berry patches, cow parsnip thickets, or fields of glacier lilies. Take the time to learn what these foods look like.

Keep children close by. Hike in groups and avoid hiking early in the morning, late in the day, or after dark.

Never intentionally get close to a bear. Individual bears have their own personal space requirements, which vary depending on their mood. Each will react differently and its behavior can't be predicted. All bears are dangerous and should be respected equally.

WHAT DO I DO IF I RUN INTO A BEAR?

A commonly asked question is “What do I do if I run into a bear?” There is no easy answer. Like people, bears react differently to each situation. The best thing you can do is to make sure you have read all the suggestions for hiking and camping in bear country and follow them. Avoid encounters by being alert and making noise.

Bears may appear tolerant of people and then attack without warning. A bear's body language can help determine its mood. In general, bears show agitation by swaying their heads, huffing, and clacking their teeth. Lowered head and laid-back ears also indicate aggression. Bears may stand on their hind legs or approach to get a better view, but these actions are not necessarily signs of aggression. The bear may not have identified you as a person and is unable to smell or hear you from a distance.

BEAR ATTACKS

The vast majority of bear attacks have occurred because people have surprised a bear. In this type of situation the bear may attack as a defensive maneuver.

In rare cases, bears have attacked at night or after stalking people. These types of attacks are very serious because it may mean the bear is looking at you as prey.

If you are attacked at night or if you feel you have been stalked and attacked as prey, try to escape. If you cannot escape or if the bear follows, use pepper spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock. Do whatever it takes to let the bear know you are not easy prey.

IF YOU SURPRISE A BEAR

Here are a few guidelines to follow that may help in a surprise encounter:

- Talk quietly or not at all; the time to make loud noise is before you encounter a bear. Try to detour around the bear if possible.
- Do not run! Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.
- Try to assume a nonthreatening posture. Turn sideways, or bend at the knees to appear smaller.
- Use peripheral vision. Bears may interpret direct eye contact as threatening.
- Drop something (not food) to distract the bear. Keep your pack on for protection in case of an attack.
- If a bear attacks and you have pepper spray, use it!
- If the bear makes contact, protect your chest and abdomen by falling to the ground on your stomach, or assuming a fetal position to reduce the severity of an attack. Cover the back of your neck with your hands. Do not move until you are certain the bear has left.



Grizzly - video capture by Bob Chinn

Wildlife Hazards

Glacier provides a wonderful opportunity to view animals in their natural setting. Along with this opportunity comes a special obligation for park visitors. With just a little planning and forethought, visitors can help ensure the survival of a threatened or endangered species.

Always enjoy wildlife from the safety of your car or from a safe distance. Feeding, harassing, or molesting wildlife is strictly prohibited and subject to fine. Bears, mountain lions, goats, deer, or any other species of wildlife can present a real and painful threat, especially females protecting their young.



Bighorn ram - photo by David Restivo



Mountain lion - NPS photo

Mountain Lions

A glimpse of one of these magnificent cats would be a vacation highlight, but you need to take precautions to protect you and your children from an accidental encounter. Don't hike alone. Make noise to avoid surprising a lion and keep children close to you at all times. If you do encounter a lion, do not run. Talk calmly, avert your gaze, stand tall, and back away. Unlike with bears, if attack seems imminent, act aggressively. Do not crouch and do not turn away. Lions may be scared away by being struck with rocks or sticks, or by being kicked or hit.

Lions are primarily nocturnal, but they have attacked in broad daylight. They rarely prey on humans, but such behavior occasionally does occur. Children and small adults are particularly vulnerable. Report all mountain lion encounters immediately!

Rodents & Hantavirus

Deer mice are possible carriers of Hantavirus. The most likely source of infection is from rodent urine and droppings inhaled as aerosols or dust. Initial symptoms are almost identical to the onset of flu. If you have potentially been exposed and exhibit flu-like symptoms, you should seek medical care immediately.

Avoid rodent infested areas. Camp away from possible rodent burrows or shelters (garbage dumps and woodpiles), and keep food in rodent-proof containers. To prevent the spread of dust in the air, spray the affected areas with a water and bleach solution (1½ cups bleach to one gallon of water).

Giardia

Giardiasis is caused by a parasite (*Giardia lamblia*) found in lakes and streams. Persistent, severe diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and nausea are the symptoms of this disease. If you experience any symptoms, contact a physician. When hiking, carry water from one of the park's treated water systems. If you plan to camp in the backcountry, follow recommendations received with your permit. Bring water to a boil or use an approved filter.



McDonald Creek - photo by David Restivo



St. Mary Falls - photo by David Restivo

Personal Safety

Mountainous Terrain

Many accidents occur when people fall after stepping off trails or roadsides, or by venturing onto very steep slopes. Stay on designated trails and don't go beyond protective fencing or guard rails. Supervise children closely in such areas. At upper elevations, trails should be followed carefully, noting directions given by trail signs and markers.

Snow and Ice

Snowfields and glaciers present serious hazards. Snowbridges may conceal deep crevasses on glaciers or large hidden cavities under snowfields, and collapse under the weight of an unsuspecting hiker. Don't slide on snowbanks. People often lose control and slide into rocks or trees. Exercise caution around any snow or icefield.

Rivers and Lakes

Use extreme caution near water. Swift, cold glacial streams and rivers, moss-covered rocks, and slippery logs all present dangers. People have fallen victim to these rapid, frigid streams and deep glacial lakes. Avoid wading in or fording swift streams. Never walk, play, or climb on slippery rocks and logs, especially around waterfalls. When boating, don't stand up or lean over the side, and always wear a lifejacket.

Drowning

Sudden immersion in cold water (below 80°F, 27° C) may trigger the "mammalian diving reflex." This reflex restricts blood from outlying areas of the body and routes it to vital organs like the heart, lungs, and brain. The colder the water, the younger the victim, and the quicker the rescue, the better the chance for survival. Some cold-water drowning victims have survived with no brain damage after being submerged for over 30 minutes.

REVIVAL PROCEDURE:

- Retrieve victim from water without endangering yourself.
- Prevent further body heat loss, but do not rewarm.
- Near-drowning victims may appear dead. Don't let this stop you from trying to revive them! If there is no pulse, start CPR regardless of the duration of submersion.
- Delayed symptoms may occur within 24 hours. Victims must be evaluated by a physician.



Always use extreme caution in and around water - photo by David Restivo

Park Partners



Forest discoveries - photo by Glacier Institute

The Glacier Institute

The Glacier Institute serves as an educational leader in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem, of which Glacier National Park is the heart. With something for all age groups, The Glacier Institute provides programs to learn about and enjoy the natural world through hands-on experience. Course activities consist of field classes, expeditions, and outdoor-based opportunities that emphasize the interrelated nature of life.

Summer field courses can be as diverse as grizzly bear ecology, alpine and prairie flower identification, learning to capture Glacier National Park through photography or water color painting, or learning the culture of the Blackfeet Indians.

For a Summer Catalog or for information, please contact:
The Glacier Institute
 P.O. Box 1887, Kalispell, MT 59903
www.glacierinstitute.org
 (406) 755-1211

Glacier National Park Associates

The Glacier National Park Associates is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that assists with trail work, historic log structure preservation, and other projects that the park does not have adequate funding to complete. Volunteers complete at least one major project yearly, involving several days in the backcountry.

The Associates manage the Backcountry Preservation Fund. Contributions from backcountry users to the fund are used to purchase supplies and materials ranging from bear-proof boxes to computer equipment. The fund also supports a backcountry ranger intern who works for 12 weeks in the park's backcountry.

Donations and members are welcome.

Glacier National Park Associates
 Box 91, Kalispell, MT 59903
www.nps.gov/glac/supportyourpark/glacierassociates.htm
 (406) 387-4299

Glacier Natural History Association

Bookstores in Glacier National Park visitor centers are operated by the Glacier Natural History Association (GNHA). This non-profit organization works with the National Park Service to assist Glacier's educational and interpretive activities, cultural programs, and special projects related to visitor services. A percentage of proceeds from book sales are donated to the park each year.

GNHA has bookstores in eight locations: Apgar, Logan Pass, and St. Mary Visitor Centers, and Polebridge, Two Medicine, Many Glacier and Goat Haunt Ranger Stations, and the Apgar Backcountry Permit Center.

GNHA members receive a 15% discount on items purchased at any of their stores, through their mail order business, and at many other national park visitor centers. Membership information is available at sales locations and by contacting:
Glacier Natural History Association
 Box 310, West Glacier MT 59936
www.glacierassociation.org
 (406) 888-5756



Hidden Lake Overlook - photo by Bill Hayden

Trip Planning Aids

A number of publications available through the Glacier Natural History Association will help you in planning your trip. The following selections are just a few of the many publications available. Contact GNHA to order these or other publications or maps.

Glacier, The Story Behind the Scenery

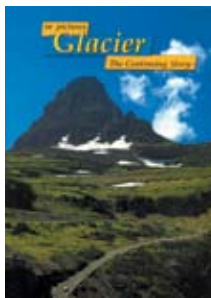
Kathleen Ahlenslager

Dazzling photography and a fact-filled text make this a favorite with visitors to Glacier. Covers a broad spectrum of topics including geology, diverse flora and wildlife, and a history of man in Glacier. Companion volume to Glacier, the Continuing Story. 48 pages - \$9.95

Glacier, The Continuing Story

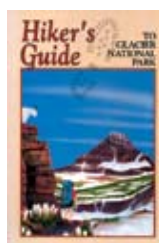
Cindy Nielsen

A glorious full-color photographic tour of Glacier National Park. Showcases Glacier's spectacular scenery and its abundant wildflowers and wildlife. The interpretive text offers just enough information to satisfy a newcomer's curiosity. 48 pages - \$9.95



Hiker's Guide to Glacier National Park

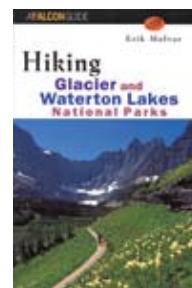
This guide profiles 25 of Glacier National Park's best hikes that are guaranteed to lure you into the backcountry. Includes natural history tidbits and trail maps. Ranging from easy to strenuous, this handy book has something for everyone. 110 pages - \$10.95



Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks

Erik Molvar

Detailing more than 50 backcountry outings ranging from 2 miles to 38 miles; this guide gives mile-by-mile descriptions, maps, photographs, and trail profile graphs. Ranging from easy to strenuous, this handy book has something for everyone. 215 pages - \$15.95



Trails Illustrated Topo Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks

This topographic map features wildlife descriptions along with general backcountry information on both parks. Approximate scale 1:143,000. Two detail maps focus on the Many Glacier and Two Medicine areas. Approximate scale 1:84,000. Waterproof and tearproof. 26' x 33' \$9.95

Road Guide, Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks

Thomas Schmidt

This compact book navigates motorists anywhere they can drive in Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks. Names the mountain peaks you'll drive past and mentions the wildlife that may cross your path. Contains easy-to-read maps and wonderful historic photographs. 96 pages - \$8.95

The Glacier National Park Fund

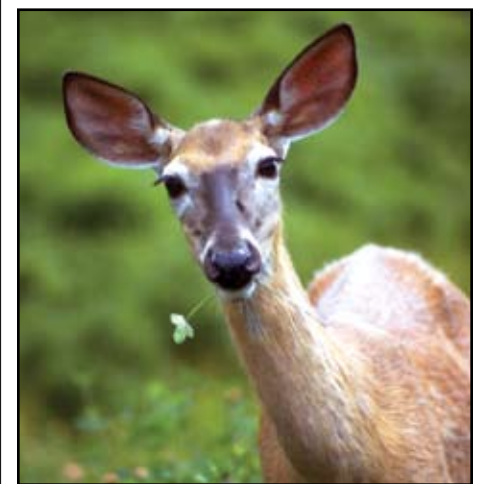
The Glacier National Park Fund is an affiliate of the National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service. Donations support various projects that benefit environmental, education, historic building restoration, wildlife research, endowing the historic fleet of red buses and backcountry trails and facilities.

The Glacier National Park Fund supports the outstanding natural beauty and cultural heritage of Glacier National Park for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations by fostering public awareness and encouraging private philanthropy.

For more information contact:
The Glacier National Park Fund
 P. O. Box 5600

Whitefish, MT 59937
 406-862-6110

www.glacernationalparkfund.org



Mule Deer - photo by David Restivo

Information on Areas Surrounding the Park

National Parks

Big Hole National Battlefield

(406) 689-3155

Bighorn Canyon Natl. Recreation Area

(406) 666-2412

Fort Union Trading Post Natl. Historic Site

(406) 572-9083

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

(406) 846-3388

Little Bighorn Battlefield Natl. Monument

(406) 638-2621

Nez Perce National Historical Park

(208) 843-2261

Yellowstone National Park

(406) 344-7381

National Forests

Flathead National Forest

(406) 758-5204

Kootenai National Forest

(406) 293-6211

Lewis & Clark National Forest

(406) 791-7700

Travel Montana

For a complete listing of accommodations and services throughout the State of Montana, visit Travel Montana's website.
www.visitmt.com
 (800) 847-4868

Blackfeet Indian Reservation

Immediately east of Glacier National Park lies the home of the Blackfeet Nation. Visit their official website.
www.blackfeetnation.com

Montana Chambers of Commerce

Glacier-Waterton Visitors Association

P.O. Box 96, West Glacier, MT 59936

Flathead Convention & Visitor Association

www.fcvb.org

(800) 543-3105

Bigfork, MT

www.bigfork.org

(406) 837-5888

Columbia Falls, MT

www.columbiafallschamber.com

(406) 892-2072

Cut Bank, MT

(406) 873-4041

Kalispell, MT

www.kalispellchamber.com

(406) 758-2800

Whitefish, MT

whitefishchamber.com

(406) 862-3501

Alberta Information

Travel Alberta

For a listing of accommodations and services throughout the Province of Alberta, visit Travel Alberta's website.

www.explorealberta.com

(800) 661-8888

Alberta Chambers of Commerce

Calgary, Alberta

www.calgarychamber.com

(403) 750-0400

Lethbridge, Alberta

www.lethchamber.org/activiti.htm

Waterton Park, Alberta

www.watertonchamber.com

(403) 859-2252



“As part of a Canada-wide system of national parks, Waterton Lakes represents the southern Rocky Mountains natural region - where “the Mountains Meet the Prairie.”

Shaped by wind, fire and water, Waterton remains for all time a place of spectacular natural beauty - a Canadian legacy of mountains, lakes, prairies, forests, alpine meadows and wildlife.”

Scenic Drives and Attractions

THE ENTRANCE ROAD

These 8 kilometres (5 miles) provide magnificent views that beautifully illustrate the park's theme, “where the mountains meet the prairie.”

Colourful prairie flowers and grasses, and the glittering blue chain of the Waterton Lakes are set against a mountain backdrop. The sight of the historic Prince of Wales Hotel National Historic Site, on a knoll above the lakes, indicates you will soon arrive at our lakeside townsite.

THE AKAMINA PARKWAY

This route begins near the townsite and runs for 16km (10 miles) along the Cameron Valley. Points of interest include the site of western Canada's first producing oil well, the Oil City site, and scenic Cameron Lake.

THE RED ROCK PARKWAY

Red Rock Parkway meanders over rolling prairie and through the Blakiston Valley. It ends at the strikingly coloured rocks and cascades of Red Rock Canyon, a distance of 15km (9 miles). The drive features views of magnificent mountains, including Mt. Blakiston, the park's highest peak.

THE CHIEF MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY

The Chief Mountain Highway is the primary route between Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks. The highway climbs from the grasslands near Maskinonge Lake to a viewpoint giving a magnificent vista of the Front Range of the Rockies and Waterton Valley. Enroute to the border crossing, the road traverses fields and forests, dotted with wetlands created by Crooked Creek.



Arrowleaf balsamroot - photo by Parks Canada



Entering Waterton - photo by Parks Canada

CAMERON FALLS

Located in the townsite, this picturesque waterfall is created as Cameron Creek falls into Waterton Valley.

THE BISON Paddock

The Bison Paddock, near the north entrance to the park off Highway 6, features a small herd of plains bison, maintained to commemorate the larger herds that once roamed freely in this area. The bison can be seen while driving a narrow road through the paddock. Please do not leave your vehicle. The road is not suitable for vehicles with trailers.

THE MASKINONGE LAKE

The park's diversity of habitats are home to a great variety of birds; over 250 species have been identified in Waterton. The Maskinonge area, located near the Park Entrance, is particularly rich in bird life.

WILDLIFE AND WILDFLOWERS

Bears, deer, elk, and bighorn sheep can be seen throughout the park, particularly in prairie areas. Sheep and deer frequent the townsite. Fall is probably the best time for wildlife watching. The larger animals come down from their summer ranges and waterfowl are on their migratory routes through the park.

Wildflowers can be seen in the park at almost any season except winter. In spring and early summer, prairie wildflower displays are particularly rich. In late summer and early fall, wildflowers are blooming at the higher elevations.

Camping and Hiking

AUTO CAMPING

Waterton's three campgrounds provide almost 400 campsites.

- The Townsite Campground has 238 sites, including 95 fully-serviced. Fees vary depending on the service provided. Fires permitted in picnic shelter stoves. Some sites are re-servable. Call 1-877-737-3783 or visit the website address below and follow the links.
- The Crandell Mountain Campground has 129 semi-serviced sites, and is located 6km down the Red Rock Parkway.
- Belly River Campground, located on the Chief Mountain Highway, has 24 unserviced sites. Reservations can be made in advance for the group sites at Belly River. Call (403) 859-2224 for information.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

An overnight wilderness pass is mandatory and available from the Visitor Reception Centre. A per-person fee is charged for those 16 years and older. Passes are issued up to 24 hours in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. Some wilderness sites will be available through advance reservations, according to established guidelines. Call (403) 859-5133.

A quota system for wilderness campground use and group size is applied to minimize impact on the land, and maximize your wilderness experience.

Waterton's nine designated wilderness campgrounds offer dry toilets and surface water supply. Some have facilities for horses.

HIKING THE TRAILS

There are 200km (120 miles) of trails in Waterton Lakes National Park. They range in difficulty from a short stroll to steep treks of several days duration. Trails are provided for a variety of users, including hikers, horse riders, and bicyclists. Watch for information signs at the trail head for the type of use permitted. Trails in Waterton also lead to extensive trail systems in Montana's Glacier National Park and in British Columbia's Akamina-Kishenina Provincial Park.



Carthew-Alderson Trail - photo by Parks Canada



Bighorn sheep - photo by Parks Canada

Park Regulations

Leave rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests, and other natural and historic objects undisturbed so that others may discover and enjoy them. Removal of such objects is subject to fines.

- It is unlawful to feed, entice, or touch park wildlife.
- Pets must remain on a leash at all times while in the park. Pets, on a leash, are allowed on trails in Waterton Lakes National Park.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas, as marked by signs.
- Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.
- Collection of dead or downed wood is not allowed.
- A national park fishing permit is required in Canada's National Parks.

Waterton Lakes National Park Services and Activities

Lodging

The Aspen Village Inn 1-(888) 859-8669 • Bayshore Inn & Convention Centre (403) 859-2211 • Bear Mountain Motel (403) 859-2366 • Crandell Mountain Lodge (403) 859-2288 • Kilmorey Lodge 1-(888) 859-8669 • Northland Lodge (403) 859-2353, off-season (403) 653-4275 • Prince of Wales Hotel - in Canada phone (403) 236-3400; in U.S. (406) 892-2525 • Waterton Glacier Suites (403) 859-2004 • The Waterton Lakes Lodge (403) 859-2151 or 1-(888) 985-6343

Lodging

The Aspen Village Inn 1-(888) 859-8669 • Bayshore Inn 1-(888) 527-955 • Crandell Mountain Lodge (403) 859-2288 • Bear Mountain Motel (403) 859-2366 • Kilmorey Lodge 1-(888) 859-8669 • Northland Lodge (403)

Other Services Include:

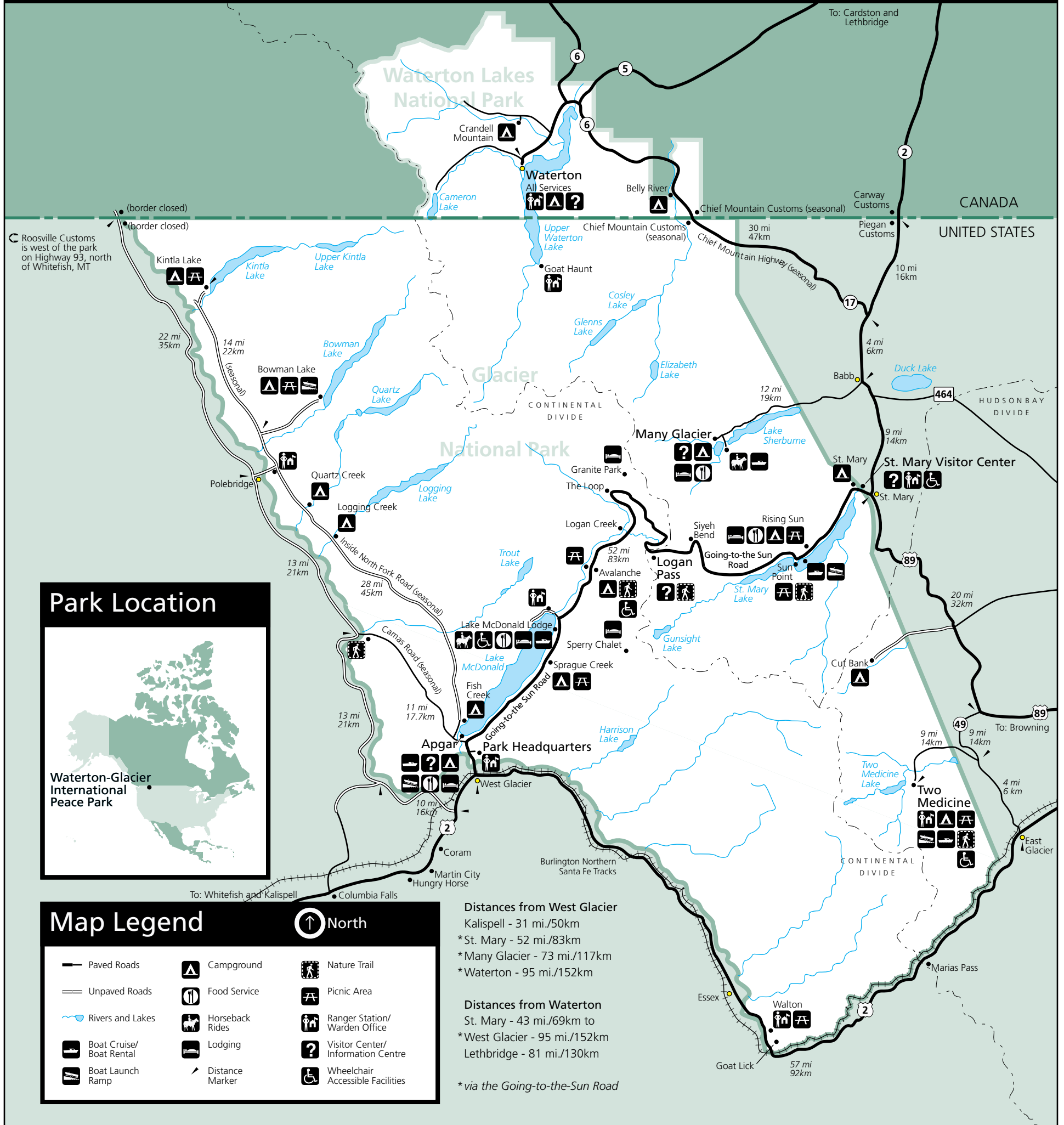
• Clothing and gift shops, bookstores, movie rentals, liquor stores • a variety of cafes, restaurants, lounges and dining rooms • sporting supplies and hardware • service station • boat tours, bike and boat rentals • hiking tours, a horse riding facility • four churches • cash machines • art galleries • a movie theatre, health and recreation centre, 18-hole golf course, tennis court, ball diamond and playgrounds.

For Additional Information

Contact Park Headquarters at: Information Waterton Lakes National Park Box 200 Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0 Phone (403) 859-2224

or visit Waterton Lakes National Park on the internet at: www.pc.gc.ca/waterton

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park World Heritage Site



Additional Information

Crossing the Border?

At press time there was a possibility that passports would be required for everyone crossing the United State/Canada border. Currently travelers should have two forms of identification (one of which must be a federal, provincial or state issued picture identification), along with a birth certificate, passport or other credible proof of citizenship. 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. Special restrictions exist on crossing the border with pets, defensive sprays, alcohol, firewood, and purchases. All firearms must be declared! For specific requirements on crossing the border from the United States into Canada, call (250) 887-3413. For information on crossing from Canada into the United States, call (406) 889-3865.

Travel To/From/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 report to Park Rangers at Goat Haunt for 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 Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. For more information, please contact the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in advance of any trip at (403) 653-3535.

Border Crossings Adjacent to the Park.

Roosville open 24 hours
 Piegan/Carway 7 a.m. to 11p.m.
 Chief Mountain
 May 15 to May 31 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 June 1 to Sept. 15 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 Sept. 16 to Sept. 30.... 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Accessibility

A listing of Glacier's facilities and programs accessible to visitors with special needs is available at visitor centers and entrance stations, or you may request a copy by contacting Glacier National Park.

The Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers, the Trail of the Cedars, Running Eagle Falls Nature Trail, the International Peace Park Pavilion, the Linnet Lake Trail (near the town of Waterton), the Waterton Townsite Trail, and the Cameron Lake Day Use area are all accessible by wheelchair.

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
 Walton 3900 ft. 1189 m
 Waterton..... 4200 ft. 1280 m