



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, Montana 59936



Thank you for your interest in obtaining a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) to conduct guided bicycle tours in Glacier National Park during the 2015 season.

Past CUA Holders may notice that the application process has been modified. Changes include a fee increase and the addition of an Application Form required by our Washington Office. If you wish to obtain a permit for the 2015 season, please read all the conditions of the CUA carefully. Please save the CUA PDF and Application form PDF to your computer, complete all required fields, print, and mail to the address below. If you prefer to have this information mailed to you, please feel free to call our office at (406) 888-7858 to request a hard copy. The Application Form must be completed, signed, and a hard copy of the CUA (with original signature) returned with the required payment and insurance documentation prior to **May 1, 2015**. A checklist of required documentation is included on page 6 of the Application Form, for your convenience. Please ensure that **all** items listed on the checklist are included with your application. We are unable to accept credit card payments; payment by check must accompany your application. **Please do not return partially completed application packets.**

Application packages received after May 1, 2015, but before July 1, 2015, will be processed; however a \$100 late processing fee must accompany the application. **No late applications will be processed after July 1.** We require a minimum of 15 business days to process applications.

In the past, there has been interest in guiding CUA participants on hikes as part of Guided Bicycle Tour services in Glacier National Park. This authorization does not allow your organization to lead commercially guided hikes. We have, however, identified certain stops and short walks in the park on which a commercial operator may accompany their clients without having it classified as a commercially guided hiking activity. These stops and short walks are identified on Appendix III of the CUA. No additional fees may be charged to your clients for this activity. Please keep in mind that these are the only trails or hikes where you may lead your clients without using the services of our commercial hiking guide concessioner, Glacier Guides, Inc. Glacier Guides, Inc. can be reached at (406) 387-5555 if you would like to arrange for their services.

As restrictions on commercial tour and transportation access on the Going-to-the-Sun Road apply, many of these sites will only be accessible to your group during your bicycle ride across the Going-to-the-Sun Road. If you wish to take your clients to these sites on layover days, these services must be provided by one of our concessioners (Sun Tours or Xanterra). Transportation of your clients across the road in a vehicle is not permitted. The only vehicular use of the Going-to-the-Sun Road allowed under the terms of the Commercial Use Authorization is for a bicycle tour support vehicle.

A major rehabilitation program on the Going-to-the-Sun Road is expected to continue for the next several years. Across-the-park travel will not be possible on the Going-to-the-Sun Road (GTSR) before June 19 or after September 20 due to construction closures. Full opening of the GTSR to the public by June 19 is dependent on weather, snow and road conditions. Delays and restricted travel times may affect your group's travel across the GTSR.



As in past summers, construction will be encountered along the GTSR. Summer 2015 rehabilitation efforts are focused on the east side of the GTSR. Sections of the road are narrow and have steep drop offs in addition to winding curves and limited long-range visibility. Long sections of unpaved roadway will be encountered until paving is completed late in the season. Bicyclists on road bikes may find the unpaved surface difficult to ride and may need to be shuttled in support vehicles. Due to the narrow width of the road, construction areas are one lane of traffic adjacent to active construction, and one-way traffic is guided through the construction area by pilot cars or controlled by traffic lights. Between traffic queues, contractors utilize both lanes of the roadway to accelerate production and allow them to complete necessary work. Road contractors have noted that some cyclists have a hard time keeping up with pilot cars, especially when traveling uphill. The contractor is not at liberty to extend the traffic delays to allow slower cyclists more time to travel through the construction zones. Please plan accordingly, and advise your clients not to stop in the traffic control areas. Hazards that may be encountered include rough road surfaces, sections of gravel, rough crossings, construction material along the roadway, narrow sections of road, and parked or moving equipment limiting visibility.

A copy of last year's *Glacier Visitor Guide* is posted at:

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/upload/gvg-web-2014.pdf>. This publication provides important information regarding safety and resource concerns which we ask you to share with your clients. You will find current bicycle regulations outlined on page four. The 2015 *Guide* should be available in May. We encourage you to visit the park's website in advance of your departure for up to date park information.

Requirements outlined in the Commercial Use Authorization should also be shared with your clients by your guides. Please ensure your guides make all of your clients aware of all park regulations, restricted areas and their responsibilities in Glacier National Park. Please emphasize that bicyclists must ride in groups of no more than four riders, must be spaced approximately one-quarter mile apart, must always ride single file, and if more than four vehicles are following a bicycle rider or group of riders, the riders are to safely pull to the side and allow the vehicles to pass. In addition, please ensure they are aware of the challenges of adhering to these requirements in the traffic control areas of the construction. As we are not able to participate in your group orientations, it is your responsibility to share our concerns and ensure their cooperation. Violations of these requirements or regulations could result in citations being issued to individuals or revocation of your Commercial Use Authorization.

If you plan to conduct business on any adjacent Flathead National Forest or Blackfeet Tribal land, you will need to contact them directly for information on their requirements.

We recognize this application process can be confusing and would be happy to answer any questions you have regarding the authorization or the requirements. Please contact Jean Tabbert at (406) 888-7858 if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Return completed packages to:

U.S. Mail:

Glacier National Park
Concessions Office
Attn. Jean Tabbert
P.O. Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936

Fed Ex:

NPS HQ Concessions Office
Attn. Jean Tabbert
1 Going-to-the-Sun Road
West Glacier, MT 59936