Crown of the Continent

Welcome to Glacier National Park, one of the crown jewels of the National Park System. The combination of natural wonders, cultural history, and our shared border with Waterton Lakes National Park, in Canada, contributed to Glacier being recognized, worldwide, as a World Heritage Site, a Biosphere Reserve, the World’s first International Peace Park, and the World’s first International Dark Sky Park. No matter how long your visit we hope you discover your own special aspect of this spectacular landscape.

Glacier has a short season and a visit will take a bit of planning. Throughout the summer congestion can be an issue and some areas of the park may have access restricted temporarily due to crowding. The best plan is to get an early start. Parking areas fill early. Unseasonable snowfall or wildfire fires may impact your plans. Have a backup itinerary, in case your first choice is already full or crowded. While in Montana you may wish to visit other, less well known, areas of the National Park System. Check on page 13 for options throughout the state.

Many people are starting to reconsider the way they use social media in wild places; learn more in the side bar to the right.

Help Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Glacier National Park protects the headwaters of North America and preserving the park’s famously clean waters is essential to our mission. All watercraft must be inspected before launching. Motorized or trailered watercraft are prohibited from launching on all waters except Lake McDonald.

Clean Your Boat Inside and Out
Clean all plants, animals, sand, mud, and other debris from your boat, trailer, anchor, boots, and equipment as soon as you leave one body of water. This includes, but is not limited to, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards, and float tubes.

Drain Your Boat Inside and Out
Drain all the water from your boat, including the motor, bilge, live-well, and other compartments before you arrive in the park. Leave the bilge plug out during transport. Do not dump water or organisms from one water body into another.

Dry Your Boat Inside and Out
Dry all compartments and equipment in the sun for at least five days before entering another body of water or use high-pressure, hot (120 to 140 F) water to clean your boat, trailer, waders, boots, and equipment.

In Waterton National Park
Private motorized and trailer launched boats are only permitted on Upper and Middle Waterton Lakes after a 90-day quarantine period evidenced by a seal attached at the Waterton marina. For more information on this program, visit: https://id4waterton.ca/. All non-motorized hand launched watercraft require a self-certification permit available at park offices and at popular launch areas (includes small boats powered by wind or humans, like canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, windsurfers, and rowboats). Flotation devices such as float tubes do not require a permit. Since the permit is a legal requirement, park wardens will check for permits and will take appropriate action as necessary.

In 2018, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Americans called for this legislation to protect the nation’s rivers when they were most vulnerable.

Do you have a permit for that?
Commercial services are carefully regulated in national parks because no one wants to see these wild places overrun with advertising. Product ambassadors, brand influencers, and other marketers need a commercial photography permit.
**Entrance Fees**

**Seven Day Passes**
- Vehicle pass ........................................... $35
- Motorcycle pass ........................................ $30
- Individual pass ......................................... $20

**Annual & Lifetime Passes**
- Glacier Annual Pass ................................... $70
- Interagency Annual Pass .............................. $80
- Senior Annual Pass (62+) .............................. $20
- Senior Lifetime Pass (62+) ............................ $80

**Special Free Passes**
- Access Pass ............................................ Free
- Military Pass ............................................ Free
- (for permanently disabled U.S. citizens)
- Fourth Grade Pass ................................. Free
- (for currently enrolled fourth grade students)
- (for qualifying active duty military and their dependents)

Special fees are charged for commercial vehicles.

 Waterton Lakes National Park, in Canada, has separate entrance fees.

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### Special Fees

- Separate entrance fees.
- Special fees are charged for commercial vehicles.

### Camping Information

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Utility hookups are not available.

**Individual Sites (up to eight people)**

- Most campgrounds operate on a first-come, first-served basis with varying fees (see table). Visitors may make advanced reservations for sites at the Fish Creek and St. Mary Campgrounds and half of the Many Glacier Campground for $23 per night. Reservations may be made through the National Park Service Reservation Service at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

**Group Sites (9 to 24 people)**

- Five of the 10 group sites at Apgar Campground, two group sites at Many Glacier Campground, and one group site at Two Medicine Campground operate on a first-come, first-served basis. These non-reservable group sites are a flat nightly rate of $60. Visitors may make advanced reservations for five of the 10 group sites at Apgar Campground, and the two group sites at St. Mary Campground. There is a flat nightly fee of $65 for group reservation sites. Discounts do not apply for group sites. Group sites can accommodate up to 24 people. Reservations may be made through the National Park Service Reservation Service at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

**Hiker-Biker Campsites**

The park has designated sites for campers arriving by non-motorized means, such as hiking or bicycle (not motorcycles/ motorbikes). There is a $5 per night per person fee ($8 at reservation campgrounds for the first person in the group, $5 for every person in the group after that). Non-related parties may share the site up to the maximum site capacity. Campers arriving by non-motorized means who do not want to share a Hiker/Biker site will be required to move to a regular site and pay the full nightly camping fee.

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### Dates and Hours of Operation

**Apgar Visitor Center**
- May 11–June 7 ................................. 9 am–4:30 pm
- June 8–Sept. 2 ................................... 8 am–6 pm
- Sept. 3–Oct. 14 ............................... 8 am–5 pm

**Logan Pass Visitor Center**
- June 15–Aug. 25 .............................. 10 am–4 pm

**Many Glacier Ranger Station**
- May 26–29 ......................................... 7 am–4 pm

**Park Headquarters (closed holidays)**
- Monday–Friday ................................. 8 am–4:30 pm

**Polebridge Ranger Station**
- May 26–Sept. 2 ................................ 9 am–4 pm
- June 24–June 15 ............................... 8 am–4:30 pm
- June 16–Sept. 2 ............................... 8 am–6 pm
- Sept. 3–Sept. 29 ............................... 8 am–5 pm

**Two Medicine Ranger Station**
- June 1–Sept. 27 ............................... 7 am–4:30 pm

**Backcountry Permits**

Hikers planning to camp overnight in Glacier’s backcountry must obtain a backcountry camping permit. Permits cost $7 per person per night, and are issued no more than 24 hours in advance. Stations may be closed during lunch.

**Apgar Backcountry Permit Center**
- May 1–May 31 ..................................... 8 am–4 pm
- June 1–Sept. 30 ................................. 7 am–4:30 pm
- October 1–October 31 ........................... 8 am–4 pm

**Many Glacier Backcountry Permit Center**
- May 26–Sept. 2 ................................ 7 am–4:30 pm

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### Fishing

A fishing license is not required to fish most waters in the park. The Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River require a State of Montana fishing license. The standard fishing season for all waters in the park is from the third Saturday in May through November 30. Lakes are open year-round. Several bodies of water are either closed to fishing or are catch-and-release only. Use of live bait and lead of any kind is prohibited. For complete regulations, stop by any visitor center or visit online: go.nps.gov/fishing.

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### Accessible Trails

Accessible trails and walking paths help more people explore Glacier National Park. Here are a few suggestions: the Running Eagle Falls Nature Trail, in the Two Medicine Valley; the Trail of the Cedars, at Avalanche Creek; the first 1/2 mile of the Swiftcurrent Nature Trail, in the Many Glacier Valley; and the Animal Superpowers walking path, behind the Logan Pass Visitor Center. For more information, visit go.nps.gov/ accessibility or talk to a ranger.

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### Pets & Service Animals

Pets are permitted in campgrounds, along roads, and in parking areas, but must be on a short leash, not caged. Pets cannot be left unattended, and are not permitted on trails, in the backcountry, or in any building.

Taking a service animal into the backcountry requires a safety briefing, obtained at most backcountry permit stations. When visiting froncountry attractions (i.e. Trail of the Cedars, boardwalk section of Hidden Lake Trail, etc.) the safety briefing is recommended, but not required.

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### No Drone Zone

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft (or drone) within the boundaries of Glacier National Park is prohibited and subject to receiving a fine and/or confiscation of your aircraft.

Drones create disruptions for wildlife, encroach on the environmental and scenic values of others, and generate a significant safety concern.

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### Emergency

In an emergency, dial 911 and contact a ranger or other park employee.

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### Firearms

The possession of loaded firearms in Glacier National Park is legal, however, discharging firearms is prohibited. Firearms are prohibited in federal facilities. Learn specifics at: dojmt.gov/ features/frequently-asked-questions/
## Services and Facilities

### Apgar
- **Lodging**: Village Inn Motel \( \text{May 22} \ldots \text{Sept. 30} \) \( \text{Call 855-733-4522 for advance reservations or 406-888-5632 for same day reservations.} \) \( \text{Call 844-868-7474 for reservations.} \)
- **Apger Village Lodge**: May 17 \ldots \text{Sept. 22} \( \text{Call 855-733-4522 for advance reservations or 406-888-5431 for same day reservations.} \)
- **Food Service**: Eddie’s Café \( \text{Mid-May} \ldots \text{Mid-Sept.} \) \( \text{Breakfast, lunch, and dinner} \)
- **Campstore/Gift Shops**: Eddie’s Mercantile \( \text{Mid-May} \ldots \text{Mid-Sept.} \); The Cedar Tree \( \text{May 18} \ldots \text{Sept. 23} \); Schieffelin House Gifts \( \text{Mid-May} \ldots \text{Mid-Oct.} \); Montana House \( \text{Open all year} \)
- **Horseback Rides**: Apgar Corral \( \text{May 18} \ldots \text{Sept. 2} \) \( \text{Call local 406-387-4405 or toll free 877-888-5557 for schedule and information.} \)
- **Boat Rentals**: Glacier Park Boat Co. \( \text{May 25} \ldots \text{Sept. 2} \) \( \text{Small boat rentals including rowboats, paddleboards, canoes, single and double kayaks, and 10hp motors.} \)
- **Outdoor Store**: Glacier Outfitters \( \text{May 1} \ldots \text{Sept. 30} \) \( \text{Gear for water recreation, camping, hiking and fishing, fishing tackle and gifts.} \) \( \text{406-219-7466} \)

### Lake McDonald
- **Lodging**: Lake McDonald Lodge \( \text{May 17} \ldots \text{Sept. 25} \)
- **Food Service**: Russell’s Fireside Dining Room \( \text{June 7} \ldots \text{Sept. 15} \) \( \text{Lunch and dinner} \)
- **Campstore/Gift Shops**: Lodge Campstore \( \text{May 10} \ldots \text{Sept. 25} \) \( \text{Groceries, fishing and camping supplies, firewood, and gifts} \)
- **Scenic Boat Tours**: Glacier Park Boat Co. \( \text{June 1} \ldots \text{Sept. 8} \) \( \text{45 minute narrated tours of Two Medicine Lake begin June 1 at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm. One hour tours at 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm (last rental out at 6:30 pm). Call 406-257-2426 for information.} \)
- **Horseback Rides**: Lake McDonald Corral \( \text{May 25} \ldots \text{Sept. 22} \) \( \text{Call local 406-387-4405 or toll free 877-888-5557 for schedule and information.} \)

### Many Glacier
- **Lodging**: Old Faithful Inn \( \text{June 7} \ldots \text{Sept. 15} \) \( \text{Call 855-733-4522 for advance reservations or 406-732-4441 for same day reservations.} \)
- **Food Service**: formerly the Chalet \( \text{June 7} \ldots \text{Sept. 15} \) \( \text{Breakfast, lunch and dinner} \)
- **Campstore/Gift Shops**: Many Glacier Hotel Gift Shop \( \text{June 7} \ldots \text{Sept. 17} \) \( \text{Groceries, fishing and camping supplies, firewood, and gifts} \)
- **Scenic Boat Tours**: Glacier Park Boat Co. \( \text{June 1} \ldots \text{Sept. 8} \) \( \text{Beginning July 1, an 8 am tour is available. Optional guided hikes to Grinnell Glacier begins mid-July, trail conditions permitting. Rowboat, canoe, and kayak rentals available from 8:30 am to 6 pm (last rental out at 5 pm) between June 8 and June 30. Between July 1 and July 15 rentals are available between 8:30 am and 7 pm. Between July 16 and September 3 rentals are available between 8 am and 7 pm. Between September 4 and September 15 rentals are available between 8 am and 6 pm. Call 406-257-2426 for more information.} \)
- **Horseback Rides**: Many Glacier Corral \( \text{June 8} \ldots \text{Sept. 15} \) \( \text{Call local 406-387-4405 or toll free 877-888-5557 for schedule and information.} \)

### Rising Sun
- **Lodging**: Rising Sun Motor Inn \( \text{June 14} \ldots \text{Sept. 9} \)
- **Food Service**: Two Dog Flats Grill \( \text{June 14} \ldots \text{Sept. 9} \) \( \text{Breakfast, lunch, and dinner} \)
- **Campstore/Gift Shops**: Rising Sun Motor Inn \( \text{June 14} \ldots \text{Sept. 9} \) \( \text{Groceries, fishing and camping supplies, firewood, and gifts} \)
- **Scenic Boat Tours**: Glacier Park Boat Co. \( \text{June 15} \ldots \text{Sept. 15} \) \( \text{Narrator tours of Saint Mary Lake begin June 15 at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm. An 8:30 am tour with a guided hike to Grinnell Glacier begins mid-July, trail conditions permitting. Rowboat, canoe, and kayak rentals available from 8:30 am to 6 pm (last rental out at 5 pm) between June 8 and June 30. Between July 1 and July 15 rentals are available between 8:30 am and 7 pm. Between July 16 and September 3 rentals are available between 8 am and 7 pm. Between September 4 and September 15 rentals are available between 8 am and 6 pm. Call 406-257-2426 for more information.} \)

### Two Medicine
- **Campstore**: Two Medicine Campstore \( \text{May 27} \ldots \text{Sept. 3} \)
- **Scenic Boat Tours**: Glacier Park Boat Co. \( \text{June 1} \ldots \text{Sept. 8} \)

### Other Services
- **Backcountry Lodging (only accessible by trail)**: Belton Chalets, Inc. \( \text{Montana House} \) \( \text{June 29} \ldots \text{Sept. 9} \) \( \text{Granite Park Chalet provides rustic accommodations that include rooms, beds, and a common kitchen. Guests provide their own sleeping bag, water, food, and cooking utensils. Optional bed linen service is available. You may also visit GraniteParkChalet.com for additional information.} \)
- **Backpacking & Hiking**: Glacier Guides, Inc. \( \text{May} \ldots \text{Oct.} \) \( \text{Guided day hikes and backpacking trips into Glacier’s backcountry for one to seven days. Custom guide service trips available. Camping equipment available for rent at their West Glacier office. Call 406-387-5555 or 800-521-RAFT for reservations and information or visit GlacierGuides.com.} \)
- **Bus Tours**: Waterton-Glacier Guide \( \text{3} \)
- **Red Bus Tours**: Glacier Park Boat Co. \( \text{May 18} \ldots \text{Oct. 20} \) \( \text{Call 855-733-4022 for reservations and schedule information.} \)
- **Cash Machines**: Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are available at Apgar, Lake McDonald Lodge, Many Glacier (hotel and motel inn), St. Mary, East Glacier, Rising Sun, and West Glacier.
- **Worship Services**: For a listing of times and locations, please consult a ranger in the campground or at a visitor center.
A Fed Bear Is a Dead Bear

Grizzlies occupy a mere 2% of their former range and wilderness areas like Glacier National Park are essential refuges for their survival. For black and grizzly bears, this is home and we are guests.

To be a good guest in bear country, you must never let bears access human food and always stay the proper distance from bears. To protect human life and property, bears that seek human food must be removed from the park. Please keep all food and garbage stored out of reach of bears at all times.

Our campgrounds and developed areas can remain unattractive to bears if each visitor manages food and trash properly. Place all trash in designated bear-resistant garbage containers. Following park regulations will help keep the “wild” in wildlife and ensure your safety, as well.

Please report all bear sightings immediately. For more information, stop by any visitor center, attend a ranger-led program, or visit online at: go.nps.gov/bearcountry.

Protect Yourself, Protect the Bears

Hike in Groups
Hiking in groups significantly decreases your chances of having a bear encounter. If you are looking for hiking company, be sure to look at the Ranger-led Activity Schedule to see if there are any ranger-led hikes available for you to join. Trail running is highly discouraged.

Secure Food & Garbage
Never leave food, garbage, or anything used to prepare, consume, store, or transport food unattended. Other items to secure include: toiletries, cosmetics, and pet food. Anything with a strong odor must be stored in a vehicle, hard-sided camper, food locker, or hung when not in use, day or night.

Carry Bear Spray
And know how to use it! This aerosol pepper spray temporarily incapacitates bears and is the most effective deterrent. Bear spray should not create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for practicing standard safety precautions in bear country.

Be Bear Aware
Environmental factors like wind speed and direction may prevent a bear from being aware of your presence. Look for scat or tracks. Take notice if you are hiking near an abundance of bear foods, near running water, through thick vegetation, etc.

Make Noise
Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching. Most bells are not enough. Call out and clap at regular intervals as a better way to make your presence known. If you cannot see around a corner, then neither can a bear, so make noise to avoid surprising a bear.

What if You Encounter a Bear?
If a bear or other animal is moving in your direction on a trail, get out of its way and let it pass. Move away from the bear without running. If moving away appears to agitate the bear, stop and talk quietly to the bear. Continue to move away as the situation allows. Do not drop food or gear to distract the bear.

25 YARDS (23 METERS)

Approaching, viewing, or engaging in any activity within 25 yards of bears or wolves, or within 25 yards of any other wildlife is prohibited. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to improve your view. Keep the animal’s line of travel clear, and move away if wildlife approaches.

100 YARDS (91 METERS)

If you see a bear along the road, do not stop near it. If you wish to view the bear, travel at least 100 yards and pull over in a safe location. Roadside bears quickly become habituated to traffic and people, increasing their chances of being hit by vehicles.

4 Waterton-Glacier Guide
Top Strategies for Viewing Wildlife

Let Wildlife be Wild
Please take the time to learn about the wildlife and respect their need for undisturbed space. While some animals appear to tolerate people, approaching too close can disturb them from feeding areas or travel routes. Keep the animal’s line of travel or escape route clear and move away if wildlife approaches you. Because park animals are wild, they remain unpredictable, and may strike out without warning. Animals may be hit by cars if they hang around parking lots and roads, and habituated animals often have to be relocated or killed.

Try the Rule of Thumb
Hold your hand straight out in front of you with your thumb up, like a hitchhiker. If your thumb does not completely cover the wildlife you are observing then you need to move farther away. If an animal is ever in distress or changing their behavior in anyway because of you, then you need to give it more space. Results may vary and the regulation is always 25 yards from most wildlife and 100 yards from bears and wolves.

Bring Your Binoculars
Binoculars, telephoto lenses, and spotting scopes are the secret strategy to great wildlife watching. Giving your eyes a boost will take your wildlife viewing opportunities from good to great.

Avoid Traffic Jams
Have you ever been jammed up in traffic? “Animal jams” occur when many people stop along the road to view wildlife. In their excitement, some folks forget they need to be aware not only of safety concerns related to wildlife, but also traffic hazards.

Don’t contribute to the jam! Slow down and pull over safely, and only in designated areas. Remain in your vehicle, safe from wildlife and traffic, and move on in a short time so others can watch. If you are too close to an animal, on a hill, curve, or in heavy traffic, drive by slowly and avoid stopping.

Four Tips to Survive Summer Smoke

It is unlikely you came to Glacier to experience the effects of wildfire. Whether you see fire and smoke, closed roads and trails, or recently burned forests, wildfire may be part of your park experience. This is especially true during the dry summer days of mid-July through mid-September. The park works hard to prevent fires from ruining your visit, but emergency situations can develop.

Use these four tips to enjoy your Glacier trip despite the smoke.

First, consider your health and try to limit your exposure to smoke. Choose less strenuous activities, and understand that children and the elderly are particularly sensitive to smoke in the air.

Second, time it right. On smokey days, views of scenery will often be better just after sunrise and worse mid-day. Check visibility on our webcams!

Third, when the grand vistas are too smokey, visit a historic lodge, hike to a waterfall, or seek other “close-ups” of Glacier’s beauty. Visitor centers can help you find an opportunity that works for you.


Top Nine Hazards to Watch Out for

1. Falling
Many accidents occur when people fall after stepping off trails or roadsides, or by venturing onto very steep slopes. Stay on designated trails and do not go beyond protective fencing or guard rails. Supervise children in such areas. At upper elevations, follow trails carefully.

2. Drowning
Use extreme caution near water. Swift, cold glacial streams and rivers, moss-covered rocks, and slippery logs are dangerous. Avoid wading in or fording swift streams. Never walk, play, or climb on slippery rocks and logs, especially at dawn and dusk. When boating, do not stand up or lean over the side, and always wear a life jacket.

3. Snow and Ice
Snowfields and glaciers can present serious hazards. Snow bridges may conceal deep crevasses on glaciers or hidden cavities under snowfields. These bridges may collapse under the weight of an unsuspecting hiker. Use extreme caution when crossing steep snowfields on trails and in the backcountry.

4. Weather
Glacier’s summer weather is as varied as its landscape. Even when temperatures reach the 80s and 90s, it can cool down into the 40s at night. 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 and always bring rain gear.

5. Hypothermia
Freezing temperatures can occur in Glacier’s high country any month of the year. If you plan to head for higher elevations, avoid making assumptions based on low elevation weather. Layer with synthetic or wool clothing as a base layer, and eat high-energy foods throughout the day.

6. Mountain Lions
Never hike alone. Make noise often and keep children close to you at all times. If you encounter a lion, do not run. Talk calmly, avert your gaze, stand tall, and back away. If an attack seems imminent, stand your ground. Lions may be scared away by being struck with rocks or sticks, or by being kicked or hit.

7. 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.

8. Ticks
Ticks are most active in spring and early summer. Several serious diseases, like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, can be transmitted. Completely remove attached ticks and disinfect the site. If rashes or lesions form around the bite, or if unexplained symptoms occur, consult a physician.

9. Giardia
When hiking, use a water filter to treat any natural water. Giardiasis is caused by a parasite found in surface water. Persistent, severe diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and nausea are the symptoms. If you experience symptoms, contact a physician.

Smoke from the 2018 Hoeve Ridge Fire. Keep in mind that fire and smoke can be hard to predict and flexibility will be key to making the most of your visit to the park.

Approaching bears and wolves within 100 yards and all other wildlife within 25 yards, by foot or by car, is unsafe for the animals, dangerous to you, and illegal.

Give Wildlife a Brake!

Let Wildlife be Wild

Try the Rule of Thumb

Bring Your Binoculars

Avoid Traffic Jams

Four Tips to Survive Summer Smoke

Top Nine Hazards to Watch Out for

Walking on frozen lakes or rivers is dangerous.

Steep snow and ice are dangerous and require proper gear and training.
Driving & Bicycling Information

Expect Delays on Glacier’s Roads this Summer

With construction delays possible across the park, Glacier is a park best visited with a backup plan ready.

Many park roads, including the Going-to-the-Sun Road, will receive a protective coating this summer to extend the life of the road.

Typically, pavement preservation is done every seven years. The treatment will protect the $200 million investment in the Going-to-the-Sun Road, including preserving significant roadbed and pavement work that was undertaken over the last decade.

In the fall of 2019, night work for pavement preservation is planned to begin on September 2 on the Going-to-the-Sun Road with traffic control and intermittent night closures. A full closure will likely be in place from September 16-29 between Avalanche Creek and Logan Pass. Logan Pass will remain accessible from the St. Mary Entrance during this time period.

The road is anticipated to reopen in its entirety on September 30, 2019. The road’s routine winter closure is scheduled this year for October 21, 2019, weather dependent.

Bicycles Limited to Specific Trails

Bicyclists must comply with all traffic regulations and ride under control at all times. Keep to the right side of the road, ride in single file, and pull over if four or more are behind you.

You may encounter gravel surfaces in construction areas. Park roads are extremely narrow in many places. Watch for falling rocks, drainage grates, debris, and ice on the roads.

During periods of low visibility or between sunset and sunrise, a white light or reflector visible from at least 200 feet to the rear must be displayed. A white light or reflector visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front and a red light or reflector (including mirrors) are prohibited on most trails.

Wearing helmets and carrying bear spray are recommended. For more information visit: go.nps.gov/bike

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

- Eastbound and westbound from the Apgar turnoff to Sprague Creek Campground.
- Eastbound (uphill) from Logan Creek to Logan Pass.

Riding from Sprague Creek to Logan Pass takes about 45 minutes, and from Logan Creek to Logan Pass takes about 3 hours.

Free Shuttle Service

A free shuttle system is available to locations on Going-to-the-Sun Road between the Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers. A map to shuttle stop locations is on the Points of Interest page.

Parking areas throughout the park, and especially at Logan Pass and Avalanche Creek, are often full from early-morning through late-afternoon. The shuttles are an excellent way to visit the park without the hassles of finding an open parking space. Park shuttles also routinely fill to capacity so plan your day accordingly.

Shuttle service starts operation July 1 and continues through Labor Day, September 3. A modified schedule may continue to operate past Labor Day. Daily service begins at 7 am and ends at 7 pm. The last shuttles of the day depart Logan Pass Visitor Center at 7 pm and make stops at all locations on the return trip.

Vehicles are recommended. For more information visit: go.nps.gov/bike

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

- Eastbound and westbound from the Apgar turnoff to Sprague Creek Campground.
- Eastbound (uphill) from Logan Creek to Logan Pass.

Riding from Sprague Creek to Logan Pass takes about 45 minutes, and from Logan Creek to Logan Pass takes about 3 hours.

Vehicle Size Limits

There are size restrictions on the upper portion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Between Avalanche Creek and Rising Sun, vehicles and vehicle combinations longer than 21 ft. (including bumpers) and/or wider than 8 ft. (including mirrors) are prohibited on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Vehicles over 10 feet in height may have difficulty driving west from Logan Pass due to rock overhangs.

Stock trucks and trailers may access Packers Roost from the west side of the park and Syph Bend from the east side of the park.
Going-to-the-Sun Road Points of Interest

**Apgar Village**
Lodges, gift shops, and food service make Apgar the hub of activity on the west side.

**Apgar Visitor Center**
Offers information services, serves as the shuttle hub for the west side of the park, and houses a Glacier National Park Conservancy store.

**Apgar Campground**
Largest campground in the park and makes a great base camp for explorations of the west side of Glacier.

**Lake McDonald Lodge**
Reminiscent of a Swiss chalet with a hunting lodge atmosphere. Boat tours, horseback rides, and dining are also available.

**McDonald Creek Overlook**
It looks placid and calm for most of the summer, but early season visitors may see a thundering torrent carrying trees and boulders.

**Avalanche Creek**
Explore the cedar-hemlock forest by hiking on Trail of the Cedars Nature Trail or to Avalanche Lake, where you can have a picnic at one of the most popular sites in the park.

**West Tunnel**
Imagine the time and manpower it took to bore through 192 feet of mountain using 1926 technology.

**The Loop**
The only switchback on the road affords a scenic view of Heavens Peak and an up-close look at the aftermath of the Trapper Fire of 2003. A strenuous 4-mile one-way hike to Granite Park Chalet begins here.

**Bird Woman Falls Overlook**
Plunging water cascades 492 feet from the hanging valley between Mt. Oberlin and Mt. Cannon.

**Weeping Wall**
A gushing waterfall in spring, the flow is reduced to a mere trickle in late summer. Roll up your windows (as you pass by) to keep dry.

**Big Bend**
one of the most spectacular views from the road. Park and take in the views of Mt. Cannon, Mt. Oberlin, Heavens Peak, and the Weeping Wall.

**Triple Arches**
This architectural and engineering marvel is best seen by eastbound travelers.

**Oberlin Bend**
A short boardwalk offers views of the road as it winds across the landscape below the Garden Wall. Don’t be surprised if you see mountain goats.

**Logan Pass**
Arrive early or late to find a parking spot along the Continental Divide where you can observe alpine meadows filled with wildflowers, mountain goats, big-horn sheep, and marmots. The popular Hidden Lake and Highline Trails begin here. The Logan Pass Visitor Center also has a Glacier National Park Conservancy store.

**Lunch Creek**
Surrounded by carpets of wildflowers in the summer, Lunch Creek flows down a natural rock staircase from the striking backdrop of Pollock Mountain.

**East Tunnel**
This was one of the most difficult challenges of constructing this road. This 408-foot tunnel through Piegan Mountain often has waterfalls cascading down the portal.

**Siye Bend**
Located at a prominent bend, the Siye Bend shuttle stop marks the transition between the higher elevation subalpine vegetation and the forests of the east side. Several hikes begin here.

**Jackson Glacier Overlook**
Stop here for the best view of a glacier from the road.

**Gunsight Pass Trailhead**
This strenuous trail ascends to the Continental Divide and offers hikers and backpackers access to subalpine lakes, the historic Sperry Chalet complex, and unparalleled mountain vistas.

**St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop**
This stop accesses a hike down to the valley floor. The trail crosses the stream below the roaring St. Mary Falls and continues on to Virginia Falls.

**Sunrift Gorge**
A spectacular view of a water-carved gorge is only a 75-foot walk. Look for dippers, slate gray birds, often sighted foraging in the creek for aquatic insects.

**Sun Point**
Enjoy an expansive view of St. Mary Lake from the former site of the Sun Point Chalets. The chalets are gone, but hiking trails, a picnic area, and shuttle stop make for a pleasant stop.

**Wild Goose Island**
One of the most iconic views in the park, tiny Wild Goose Island offers a striking counterpart to the majestic peaks in the background.

**Golden Staircase**
This large pullout offers views of Saint Mary Lake, as well as an opportunity to marvel at the skill of the workers who designed and built the road.

**Rising Sun**
Boat tours allow visitors to experience towering mountain peaks from a perspective not available on the road. Groceries, dining, lodging, and camping are also available.

**Two Dog Flats**
This native grassland community is a great place to stop and look for wildlife and take in an epic view.

**St. Mary Campground**
St. Mary Campground is the largest campground on the east side of Glacier National Park and is conveniently located approximately one half mile from the St. Mary Visitor Center.

**St. Mary Visitor Center**
Offers informational services, a backcountry permit desk, an auditorium with park films shown throughout the day, exhibits, on-site interpretive programs, and a Glacier National Park Conservancy store. It also serves as the shuttle hub for the east side of the park.
Lake McDonald Valley Hike Suggestions

Less Challenging Hikes

Highlighted here in green, these hikes are generally shorter with less elevation change. Trail surfaces vary from paved, compacted, or boardwalk surfaces to natural trail surfaces with rocks, roots, mud, and occasionally small streams or snow that must be traversed. These trails are not easy for everyone, please consider weather, elevation, and other factors before deciding to hike.

1. Apgar Bike Path 1.5 mi. 16 ft. 0 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: Apgar Visitor Center Plaza Sections are wheelchair accessible.

2. Fish Creek Bike Path 1.1 mi. 88 ft. 91 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: 0.1 mi. north of Lower McDonald Creek Bridge. Girt Road.

3. Hoe Lake 1.6 mi. 347 ft. 123 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: 5.5 mi. north of Fish Creek Campground. Inside North Fork Rd.

4. Johns Lake Loop 2.0 mi. 230 ft. 236 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: Johns Lake Trailhead. 1.3 mi. north of Lake McDonald Lodge.

5. Oxbow Trail 1.1 mi. 83 ft. 106 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: Apgar Visitor Center Plaza, or Lower McDonald Creek Bridge.

6. Rocky Point 0.9 mi. 224 ft. 179 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: 0.2 mi. north of Fish Creek Campground. Inside North Fork Rd.

7. Trail of the Cedars 0.9 mi. 83 ft. 83 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: Avalanche Creek. 0.5 mi. north of Lake McDonald Lodge.

8. Avalanche Lake 2.3 mi. 741 ft. 275 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: Trail of the Cedars Trailhead. Avalanche Creek.

9. Fish Lake 2.9 mi. 1,327 ft. 385 ft.
   - Trailhead Information: Sperry Trailhead. Across from Lake McDonald Lodge road entrance.

10. Lake McDonald West Shore (a) 7.0 mi. 1,040 ft. 983 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: (a) 0.2 miles north of Fish Creek Campground. Inside North Fork Rd.
    - (b) 3 miles west on North Lake McDonald Road.

11. Apgar Lookout 3.6 mi. 1,966 ft. 107 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Turn 0.5 mi. north of the West Entrance and continue 2.4 miles on Quarter Circle Bridge Road.

    - Trailhead Information: Huckleberry Mt. Trailhead. Gams Road.

13. MT Brown Lookout 5.1 mi. 4,380 ft. 132 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Sperry Trailhead. Across from Lake McDonald Lodge road entrance.

    - Trailhead Information: Sperry Trailhead. Across from Lake McDonald Lodge road entrance.

15. Sperry Chalet 6.3 mi. 3,593 ft. 284 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Sperry Trailhead. Across from Lake McDonald Lodge road entrance.

16. Trout Lake 3.9 mi. 2,204 ft. 1,432 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Trout Lake Trailhead. 1.4 miles west on North Lake McDonald Road.

Challenging Hikes

Highlighted here in orange, these hikes are longer with moderate elevation change. The trail surfaces vary from paved, compacted, or boardwalk surfaces to natural trail surfaces with rocks, roots, mud, and occasionally small streams or snow that must be traversed. These trails are not easy for everyone, please consider weather, elevation, and other factors before deciding to hike.

17. Baring Falls 0.3 mi. 50 ft. 115 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Sunrise Gorge

18. Beaver Pond Loop 3.3 mi. 418 ft. 395 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: 1913 Ranger Station. Turn 0.2 mi. east of St. Mary Entrance.

19. Red Rock Falls 1.9 mi. 267 ft. 105 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Swiftcurrent Trailhead. West end of Swiftcurrent Motor Inn parking lot.

20. Saint Mary Falls (a) 0.8 mi. 58 ft. 205 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: (a) Saint Mary Falls Shuttle Stop
    - (b) Saint Mary Falls Trailhead
    - (c) Via concessioner boat from Rising Sun

21. Sun Point Nature Trail (a) 0.9 mi. 163 ft. 284 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: (a) Sun Point Picnic Area
    - (b) Sun Point Picnic Area

22. Sunrift Gorge 0.1 mi. 65 ft. 0 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Sunrift Gorge

23. Swiftcurrent Lake Trail 2.6 mi. 298 ft. 296 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Grinnell Glacier Trailhead, or the Many Glacier Hotel First 0.25 mi. from other trailhead is wheelchair accessible

24. Aspulkan Falls 0.8 mi. 651 ft. 91 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: 1.1 mi. east of Many Glacier Hotel

25. Florence Falls 5.0 mi.
    - Trailhead Information: Gunflint Pass Trailhead. 0.1 mi. west of Jackson Glacier Overlook.

26. Grinnell Lake (a) 3.6 mi. 351 ft. 325 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: (a) Grinnell Glacier Trailhead or the Many Glacier Hotel
    - (b) Via concessioner boat from Many Glacier Hotel

27. Pumpernickel Falls 2.6 mi. 995 ft. 260 ft.

28. Virginia Falls (a) 1.5 mi. 291 ft. 263 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: (a) St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop
    - (b) St. Mary Falls Trailhead
    - (c) Via concessioner boat from Rising Sun

29. Hidden Lake Overlook 1.3 mi. 608 ft. 128 ft.
    - Trailhead Information: Behind Logan Pass Visitor Center
or boardwalk surfaces to natural trail surfaces with rocks, highlighted here in orange, these hikes are longer with moderate elevation change. The trail surfaces vary from paved, compacted, mud, and small streams or snow that must be traversed. These trails are maintained, but may have substantial snow or water hazards, especially in the early season. These hikes take considerable time, energy, and trip planning. Please consider weather, elevation and other factors before deciding to hike.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Distance (one way)</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
<th>Elevation Loss</th>
<th>Trailhead Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cracker Lake</td>
<td>5.8 mi.</td>
<td>1,978 ft.</td>
<td>958 ft.</td>
<td>South end of Many Glacier Hotel parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Park Chalet</td>
<td>(a) 7.6 mi.</td>
<td>2,137 ft.</td>
<td>210 ft.</td>
<td>(a) Highline Trailhead, across from the Continental Divide sign at Logan Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 7.7 mi.</td>
<td>2,587 ft.</td>
<td>840 ft.</td>
<td>(b) Swiftcurrent Trailhead at Many Glacier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) 4.2 mi.</td>
<td>2,663 ft.</td>
<td>251 ft.</td>
<td>(c) The Loop Trailhead on the Going-to-the-Sun Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grinnell Glacier Viewpoint</td>
<td>(a) 5.1 mi.</td>
<td>2,596 ft.</td>
<td>1,015 ft.</td>
<td>(a) Grinnell Glacier Trailhead, or Many Glacier Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 4.5 mi.</td>
<td>2,461 ft.</td>
<td>871 ft.</td>
<td>(b) Via concession boat from Many Glacier Hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Gunsight Lake                                   | 6.2 mi.            | 1,139 ft.      | 1,061 ft.      | Gunsight Pass Trailhead. 0.1 mi. west of Jackson Glacier Overlook.
| Hidden Lake                                      | 2.5 mi.            | 639 ft.        | 921 ft.        | Behind Logan Pass Visitor Center                          |
| Iceberg Lake                                    | 4.8 mi.            | 1,765 ft.      | 624 ft.        | Iceberg-Plamgran Trailhead. Behind Swiftcurrent Motor Inn. |
| Otokomi Lake                                    | 5.5 mi.            | 2,497 ft.      | 548 ft.        | West end of Rising Sun Campsite parking lot               |
| Piegans Pass                                    | (a) 4.5 mi.        | 1,895 ft.      | 170 ft.        | (a) Piegans Pass Trailhead. Sylh Bend.                    |
|                                                 | (b) 8.3 mi.        | 3,346 ft.      | 723 ft.        | (b) South end of Many Glacier Hotel parking lot           |
| Red Eagle Lake                                  | 8.1 mi.            | 1,004 ft.      | 800 ft.        | 1913 Ranger Station. Turn 0.2 mi. east of S. Mary Entrance. |
| Slys Pass                                       | (a) 4.6 mi.        | 2,362 ft.      | 108 ft.        | (a) Piegan Pass Trailhead. Sylh Bend.                    |
|                                                 | (b) 5.5 mi.        | 3,525 ft.      | 199 ft.        | (b) Swiftcurrent Gorge                                   |
| Swiftcurrent Pass                               | 6.9 mi.            | 2,553 ft.      | 310 ft.        | Swiftcurrent Trailhead. West end of Swiftcurrent Motor Inn parking lot. |

**Very Challenging Hikes**

Highlighted here in red, these very challenging hikes often cover large distance and have considerable elevation gain. The trails are maintained, but may have substantial snow or water hazards, especially in the early season. These hikes take considerable time, energy, and trip planning. Please consider weather, elevation and other factors before deciding to hike.

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<th>Elevation Loss</th>
<th>Trailhead Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appostolki Falls</td>
<td>0.7 mi.</td>
<td>209 ft.</td>
<td>39 ft.</td>
<td>Mt. Henry Trailhead. 0.3 mi. east of the Two Medicine Ranger Station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster Falls</td>
<td>1.3 mi.</td>
<td>197 ft.</td>
<td>85 ft.</td>
<td>South Shore Trailhead. Behind the Two Medicine boat rental office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise Point</td>
<td>0.6 mi.</td>
<td>88 ft.</td>
<td>84 ft.</td>
<td>South Shore Trailhead. Behind the Two Medicine boat rental office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running Eagle Falls</td>
<td>0.3 mi.</td>
<td>47 ft.</td>
<td>8 ft.</td>
<td>Running Eagle Falls Trailhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Falls</td>
<td>(a) 3.6 mi.</td>
<td>485 ft.</td>
<td>381 ft.</td>
<td>(a) North Shore Trailhead. Loop B of Two Medicine Campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 1.0 mi.</td>
<td>129 ft.</td>
<td>36 ft.</td>
<td>(b) Via concessioner boat near South Shore Trailhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster Park</td>
<td>1.9 mi.</td>
<td>801 ft.</td>
<td>101 ft.</td>
<td>South Shore Trailhead. Behind the Two Medicine boat rental office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockwell Falls</td>
<td>3.3 mi.</td>
<td>537 ft.</td>
<td>284 ft.</td>
<td>South Shore Trailhead. Behind the Two Medicine boat rental office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Two Medicine Lake</td>
<td>(a) 4.7 mi.</td>
<td>761 ft.</td>
<td>510 ft.</td>
<td>(a) North Shore Trailhead. Loop B of Two Medicine Campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 2.1 mi.</td>
<td>417 ft.</td>
<td>170 ft.</td>
<td>(b) Via concessioner boat near South Shore Trailhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt Lake</td>
<td>5.6 mi.</td>
<td>1,617 ft.</td>
<td>223 ft.</td>
<td>South Shore Trailhead. Behind the Two Medicine boat rental office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Dawson Pass and Pitamakan Pass can be combined to form an 18.8 mile loop.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Name Lake</td>
<td>4.9 mi.</td>
<td>1,300 ft.</td>
<td>520 ft.</td>
<td>North Shore Trailhead. Loop B of Two Medicine Campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Point</td>
<td>3.8 mi.</td>
<td>2,259 ft.</td>
<td>134 ft.</td>
<td>Mt. Henry Trailhead. 0.3 mi. east of the Two Medicine Ranger Station.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glacier National Park Volunteer Associates

Volunteering throughout the Park since 1989

The Glacier National Park Volunteer Associates (GNPVA) is a non-profit, all-volunteer park partner with no paid staff. GNPVA’s efforts highlight their primary purpose of bringing together people interested in the proper care, protection, management, and preservation of Glacier National Park. Last year the Volunteer Associates contributed over $14,000 toward improvements from June 15 through August 25. We have also contributed over $14,000 toward improvements to the interior of the Nature Center and to the staffing needs.

Our classrooms are the mountain trails and vast river basins that are home to more than 1,100 species of vascular plants, 278 species of birds, and nearly 71 species of mammals. Our instructors are recognized experts in their fields, published authors, wildlife biologists, college professors, naturalists, and teachers. We host one, two, and three-day outdoor educational workshops and youth camps which immerse our participants in Glacier’s stunning and stimulating environment.

The Apgar Nature Center will be open for its ninth summer between June 15 and August 25.

A Sampling of our 2018 Field Courses

Just for Kids

- Young Naturalist Days
  - Children ages 6-11 can join a Glacier Institute naturalist every Friday for a six-hour hands-on course. $35/child.

- Big Creek Youth Science Adventure Camps
  - Join us at our Big Creek Site for multi-day camps that blend hiking, recreation, and education to create lasting memories. Camps are for children ages 7-16.

Personalized Educational Outings

- Families and groups, join us for a private guided educational tour of Glacier National Park! Your personalized educational outing will include instruction, a personal educator, and transportation in a Glacier Institute vehicle.

- Choose from these educational outings:
  - Glacier, Goats, and Going-to-the-Sun
  - Avalanche Lake and Trail of the Cedars
  - Wildlife Wanderings Along the Continental Divide
  - Grinnell Glacier Hike
  - A Postcard Trip of Siyeh Pass Loop
  - Rockwell Falls Hike

- Advance Reservations Required:
  - Daily summer/fall rates: $425, Group size: 1-6 participants

- Courses offered: June - September

Apgar Nature Center Relies on GNPVA Volunteers

GNPVA staffs and coordinates the scheduling at the Apgar Nature Center, which is entering its ninth summer season of daily operations, from June 15 through August 25. We have also contributed over $14,000 toward improvements to the interior of the Nature Center and to the staffing needs.

Last year, a record-setting 13,000 visitors enjoying the Nature Center, served by 27 volunteers who contributed 745 total hours.

Second Intern Added to Ranger Intern Program

For 22 years the Richard and Sue Schubert Intern Program, again funded by the Schubert family, has funded a backcountry ranger intern, in memory of their son Taggart. Taggart worked as a summer intern in Glacier’s backcountry and died in a climbing accident while ascending Mt Jackson, in 1993.

In 2019, a second position, a Winter Wilderness Intern, will be added to the GNPVA Backcountry Ranger Intern Program, again funded by the Schubert family.

Our partnership with the Schubert family is funding a second backcountry ranger intern this year. GNPVA PHOTO

Staffed by GNPVA volunteers, the Apgar Nature Center has been inspiring young visitors for nearly a decade.

Stay Connected

- Website: www.glacierinstitute.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/glacierinstitute
- Instagram: @glacier_institute
- Phone: 406-755-1211, email: register@glacierinstitute.org
- Website: glacierinstitute.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/glacierinstitute
- Instagram: @glacier_institute

For additional information about GNPVA, visit gnpva.org and facebook.com/GNPVA/
The Glacier Conservancy invests in K-12 and adult education to grow the next generation of Glacier stewards.

Funding for preservation protects habitat, supports historic structures and helps maintain over 700 miles of trails.

The Glacier Conservancy supports world-class research and science exploring the park’s wildlife and alpine landscapes.

**EDUCATION**

**PRESERVATION**

**RESEARCH**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**ADD ON FOR GLACIER**

Add $1 or more to your bill at participating hotels and businesses to support critical projects in Glacier National Park.

**BECOME A FRIEND OF GLACIER**

With a donation of $35 or more you receive a Friends of Glacier Passport which includes more than $500 of coupons for lodging, restaurants and activities.

**MONTHLY GIVING**

For as little as $10 a month, you can make a significant impact in caring for Glacier. Your monthly support will help immediate park needs.

**SHOP OUR PARK STORES**

100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO GLACIER

**GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**

**St. Mary**
Visitor Center
late-May - early-Oct.

**Logan Pass**
Visitor Center
Road Opening - Sept. 29 daily

**Apgar**
Visitor Center
mid-May - mid-Oct.
Winter - weekends only

**West Glacier**
Belton Train Station
Open year-round

**Highway 2**

St. Mary
Logan Pass
Apgar
West Glacier

**DONATE AND LEARN MORE AT GLACIER.ORG**

The Glacier National Park Conservancy is the official fundraising partner for Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park Conservancy
P.O. Box 2749
402 9th Street West
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

406.892.3250
glacier.org

**Waterton-Glacier Guide**

The Glacier Conservancy invests in 2018 funded over 60 projects totaling $2.3 million in aid to Glacier National Park
Losing a Namesake

For generations, water from Glacier National Park’s ice has sustained the American way of life. Irrigation water for agriculture, rivers and streams for wildlife and hydropower, lakes and reservoirs for recreation, and drinking water all come from glaciers—but that is changing. As the climate warms and glaciers recede, the store of water that nourishes the continent is diminishing. The future of glaciers in the park depends on a global effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Will the park’s glaciers exist for the next generation to enjoy? It depends on how and when we act.

Leading the Way

Glacier National Park is committed to reducing its contribution to a warming climate. Solar arrays and hydropower help provide electricity throughout the park. Improvements to the recycling program are being made. More efficient LEDs are replacing wasteful light bulbs. Glacier’s employees can reduce their own carbon emissions by riding the employee shuttle or biking to work everyday. The park’s staff continues to educate visitors about how individual and collective action taken today will affect the preservation of the glaciers for future generations.

How to Help

You can easily reduce your carbon emissions while visiting the park and at home. Transportation to and within the park is Glacier’s largest source of greenhouse gases. Try carpooling or use our fare-free shuttles, bring your bike, or explore on foot. Turning off your engine, rather than idling your vehicle, can greatly reduce your carbon emissions. Idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more greenhouse gases compared to restarting your engine. In the park and at home, reducing your food waste and eating a plant-rich diet can make a big difference.

Current Condition of the Park’s Ice

The park had 35 named glaciers in 1966. By 2015, nine of those were already inactive. Snow avalanches, ice flow dynamics, and variations in ice thickness cause some glaciers to shrink faster than others, but one thing is consistent—all the glaciers have receded since 1966. The grey shapes below illustrate the glaciers’ 1966 size and the black shapes show their area in 2015. The park has a few more unnamed glaciers that are not included in this chart.

See for Yourself

Most of the park’s glaciers are tucked into shadowy niches high along the Continental Divide, cloaked by semi-permanent snowfields. Still, a few glaciers can be seen from the road, a few others can be seen from a short hike, and others can be studied up close after a strenuous hike. The best time to see the glaciers is in late August and early September, when most of the winter’s snow has melted away. Visit our website or ask a ranger for more information.

Grinnell Glacier in 1910 by Morton J. Elrod, K. Ross Toole Archives

Grinnell Glacier in 2017 by Lisa McKeon, USGS
Big Hole Battlefeld
In August of 1877 over 800 nimí·pu· (Nez Perce) were passing peacefully through the Bitterroot Valley. On August 9, gunshots shattered a chilly dawn on a sleeping camp of Nez Perce. By the time the smoke cleared on August 10, almost 90 Nez Perce were dead along with 31 soldiers and volunteers. This park honors all who were there.

Fort Union Trading Post
Between 1828 and 1867, Fort Union was the most important fur trading post on the Upper Missouri River. Here, the Assiniboine and six other Northern Plains Indian Tribes exchanged buffalo robes and smaller furs for goods from around the world, including cloth, guns, blankets, and beads. The post annually traded $100,000 in merchandise.

Lewis and Clark Trail
Between May 1804 and September 1806, 31 men, one woman, and a baby traveled from the plains of the Midwest to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. In their search for a water route to the Pacific Ocean, they opened a window into the west for the young United States. The trail passes through 11 states including Montana.

Little Bighorn Battlefeld
This area memorializes the U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne in one of the Indians’ last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. Here, on June 25 and 26 of 1876, 263 soldiers, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer and attached personnel of the U.S. Army, died fighting several thousand Sioux and Cheyenne warriors.

Nez Perce
Established in 1965, Nez Perce National Historical Park consists of 38 sites, which tell the story of the nimí·pu· (Nez Perce). The sites are spread over the traditional homeland of the nimí·pu· in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. In Montana, staff are located at Big Hole National Battlefield and at the Bear Paw Battlefield.

MONTANA’S NATIONAL PARKS
We encourage you to visit our neighboring National Park sites throughout Montana. Often less crowded, these parks offer spectacular scenery while preserving Montana’s rich cultural history.

Yellowstone
Over half of the world’s geysers are preserved here. They are the main reason the park was established in 1872 as America’s first national park. A mountain wilderness, home to grizzly bears, wolves, and herds of bison and elk, the park is the core of one of the last, nearly intact, natural ecosystems in the Earth’s temperate zone.

Bighorn Canyon
The wild landscape of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area offers visitors unparalleled opportunities to immerse themselves in the natural world and experience the wonders of this extraordinary place. Bighorn Canyon showcases an astounding diversity in ecosystems, wildlife, and more than 10,000 years of human history.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch
Wide open spaces, the hard-working cowboy, his spirited cow pony, and vast herds of cattle are among the strongest symbols of the American West. Once the headquarters of a 10 million acre cattle empire, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site preserves these symbols and commemorates the role of cattlemen in American history.
An International Peace Park

It started as an idea at an annual Rotary International meeting, between clubs in Alberta and Montana, and it didn’t take long for the idea to take hold. In 1932, the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States officially joined Waterton Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park 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 that is reflected in wildlife and vegetation management, search and rescue programs, and joint interpretive programs and brochures.

Both Waterton and Glacier have been designated Biosphere Reserves, and jointly as a World Heritage Site, for scenic values, significant climate, ecological processes, and abundant diversity of wildlife and wildflowers. In the fall of 2016, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park became the world’s first trans-boundary International Dark Sky Park. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is the only park in the world to hold all four designations.

Heritage

This area can enrich cultural understanding of indigenous peoples. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park lies just west of the Kainai and Piikani Reserves in Alberta, 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.

Browning

In nearby Browning, Montana, the Museum of the Plains Indian features fascinating exhibits and Native American handicrafts as sales items. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from June through September. On the second weekend in July in Browning, North American Indian Days is a large celebration of Native American culture that includes a parade, traditional dress, and dancing.

Alberta

Northeast of Waterton, early plains culture is dramatically displayed at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site. This site is open daily throughout the summer. Call (403) 553-2731 for further information.

Flathead Lake

The People’s Center for the preservation of Kootenai and Salish Culture is located near Pablo, Montana south of Flathead Lake. The Center provides educational opportunities, a museum collection, and gift shop. Open daily throughout the summer. Call (406) 675-0160 for further information. The Standing Arrow Powwow is held in Elmo, MT on the third week in July.

Goat Haunt Services Not Available this Summer

Goat Haunt will not have an operational water or hydroelectric power system for at least a portion of the summer as a result of staffing shortages. Until water systems and restroom facilities are operational, tour boat landings will not be possible due to the need to reduce human waste impacts. Backcountry users can still hike through Goat Haunt. This summer the Goat Haunt Shelters backcountry campground will be closed.

Waterton Lake - Connecting Two Nations

As you cruise the surface of Waterton Lake, the spectacular wild landscape of these two national parks surrounds you. Gliding along you may spot a bear meandering on the lakeshore or a moose lifting its head above water to stare at your boat. Eagles and osprey fly overhead and occasionally crash into the water, snagging trout in their talons. On the trip down the eight mile long lake it’s almost impossible to tell where the United States begins and Canada ends, except for one reminder. About four miles down-lake a 20-foot-wide swath on the mountains becomes visible, marking the international boundary between the United States and Canada. By treaty, the boundary “slash” is maintained and cleared the entire length of the international border by the International Boundary Commission. While this political marker is visible to us, it goes unnoticed by the plant and animal species that make the Peace Park their home.

Wildlife travel freely between the two nations and seeds of all kinds are transported by wind and wing and fur. This free-flow of species across the border is one reason for the rich biological diversity found here. Preserving this important international travel corridor affords a great integrity to the area’s natural resources. Together the parks protect over 1760 square miles of the Rocky Mountains, and form the core of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.

Waterton-Glacier Guide
Plan Ahead to Have the Best Trip to Waterton Lakes National Park in 2019. Plan your visit at parkscanada.gc.ca/waterton-construction. Construction is taking place this summer to improve infrastructure and reopen areas affected by the 2017 Kenow Wildfire.

### Waterton Lakes National Park Lakeside Community

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

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**Scenic Drives and Sightseeing**

**The Entrance Road**
These 8 km (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 community.

**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.

**The Red Rock Parkway**
Parks Canada expects the Red Rock Parkway, Red Rock Canyon Day Use Area, and hiking trails in the area will open in spring 2019. Non-motorized access may be available when it is safe to do so. The Akamina Parkway is closed to motor vehicles in 2019. Check website for current status.

**The Akamina Parkway**
Access for non-motorized use may be permitted when it is safe to do so. The Akamina Parkway is closed to motor vehicles in 2019. Check website for current status on non-motorized access.

**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.

**Cameron Falls**
Located in the community, this picturesque waterfall is created as Cameron Creek falls into Waterton Valley. Work to repair the wildfire-damaged Cameron Falls viewpoints begins in mid-May and is scheduled for completion by mid-July 2019.

**Wildlife and Wildflowers**
Beasts, deer, elk, and bighorn sheep can be seen throughout the park, particularly in prairie areas. Sheep and deer frequent the community. 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.

An abundance of wildflowers can be seen in the park. In spring and early summer, prairie wildflower displays are particularly rich. In late summer and early fall, wildflowers are blooming at the higher elevations.

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**Camping and Hiking**

**Auto Camping**
Waterton’s campgrounds provide over 260 campsites.
- The Townsite Campground has 237 sites, including 94 fully-serviced. Fees vary, depending on the service provided. Fees permitted in picnic shelter stoves. Parks Canada is rehabilitating the campground with construction taking place in spring and fall 2019. Reservations recommended. Call 1 877-737-3783 or visit: www.reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca.
- The Chandlend Mountain Campground along the Red Rock Parkway is closed in 2019 due to damage from the 2017 Kenow Wildfire.
- Belly River Campground, located on the Chief Mountain Highway 26 km (16 miles) from the community, has 24 unserviced sites. Reservations can be made in advance for the group sites at Belly River. Call 403-859-5133 for information.

**Private Campgrounds**
Crooked Creek Campground 403-653-1100
Great Canadian Barn Dance 403-626-3407

**Park Regulations**
- Lowa rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests, and other natural and historic objects undisturbed so others may enjoy them. Removal of such objects is subject to fines.
- It is unlawful to feed, entice, or touch park wildlife.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas, as marked by signs.
- Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.
- 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.
- Collection of dead or downed wood is not allowed.
- A national park fishing permit is required in Canada’s national parks.
Crossing the Border

What You Need
All travelers crossing the border must present documents that are Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant. These documents include:

- US Resident Aliens must present a US Resident Alien Card.
- Canadian citizens must present a Canadian Passport, Enhanced Drivers License*, or NEXUS Card.
- Citizens from countries other than Canada or the United States must present a valid passport and a current I-94 or an I-94W. I-94 forms are available at the Port of Entry for $6.

For a list of states and provinces who currently issue Enhanced Drivers Licenses, please visit: www.getyouhome.gov

Special restrictions apply when crossing the border with pets, defensive sprays, alcohol, firewood, and purchases. All firearms must be declared. For more information on crossing from the USA to Canada, call 800-320-0063; and if crossing from Canada to the USA, call 406-889-3865.

Border Crossing Dates and Times
Times are subject to change and travelers should check to be sure about crossing times.

- Roosville...............open 24 hours
- Piegan/Carway .......... 7 am–11 pm
- Chief Mountain
  May 15–May 31...................9 am–6 pm
  June 1–Sept. 1.............7 am–10 pm
  Sept. 2–Sept. 30..........9 am–6 pm
  October 1..................closed for season

The border swath between the United States and Canada as seen from Waterton Lake.