

Oh, Ranger!

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

ACTIVITIES SIGHTSEEING

LODGING

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GLACIER NATIONAL PARK















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MONARCH M5

Welcome



■ Contents

On May 11, 1910, Glacier National Park was designated as our nation's 10th national park. Known for its glacier-carved jagged peaks, turquoise and emerald lakes, abundant and diverse plant and animal communities, and U-shaped valleys, Glacier has become an icon due to its many designations.

In 1932, international cooperation between the Rotary Club members of Montana and Alberta convinced the United
States and Canada to join Waterton Lakes
and Glacier National Parks as a symbol
of their longtime friendship. In recognition
of this historic agreement, the parks were
designated Waterton-Glacier International
Peace Park, the world's first international,
transboundary park or preserve. In 1995,
the Peace Park became the world's first
International Peace Park World Heritage
Site. Although administered by two different countries, the parks share a common
boundary and myriad resources.

Glacier National Park encompasses a region of mountains, valleys and prairies in the northwest corner of Montana that abuts Waterton Lakes National Park in southwestern Alberta.

This American Park Network guide to Glacier National Park is provided to enhance your appreciation and enjoyment of this special place. It is made possible by the generous support of the sponsors whose messages appear inside. During your stay, we hope our guide will help you discover the amazing wonders of Glacier National Park and inspire a variety of ideas to make your visit a special one. Inside you will find information about animals in the park, hiking trails, suggestions for different activities, and much more. We hope this little green guide will become as well-used and well-loved as your hiking boots!



Established: Glacier National Park was established in 1910. Waterton Lakes National Park was first called Waterton Lakes Forest Park when it was founded in 1895.

Land Area: Glacier is comprised of 1,600 square miles. Waterton measures 195 square miles.

Lowest & Highest Elevations: Glacier's lowest elevation is 3,150 feet at the juncture of the Middle and North forks of the Flathead River, while its highest elevation reaches 10,479 feet at the summit of Mount Cleveland.

Waterton: 4,050 feet on the Waterton River is the lowest elevation in Waterton, while the highest reaches 9,547 feet at Mount Blakiston.

Plant & Animal Species: There are nearly 1,132 species of vascular plants, including 20 major species of trees, 276 species of birds, 71 species of mammals and 18 native species of native fish.

Hiking: Glacier features more than 730 miles of hiking trails. Waterton boasts more than 120 miles of maintained trails. Horseback travel is allowed on many of these trails.



American Park Network® publishes Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder™, OhRanger.com, and Oh, Rangerl® guides—a collection of visitor guides for public lands all across America—and operates Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi in parks and public lands. American Park Network is an official partner of the National Forest Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Hiking Society and the Student Conservation Association.

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Cover: Bench on the banks of Swiftcurrent Lake, located in the Many Glacier region. Credit: Galyna Andrushko



What's New!

(3)

The Truth About America's Public Lands

"No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong."

- Albert Einstein

I think everyone can agree that Albert was a pretty smart guy. His quote suggests he was also quite open to being proven wrong. Einstein set the bar for both genius and humility by his unyielding embrace of the scientific method.

In a world where information is often clouded by personal perspective, it's crucial that we follow Einstein's lead and proceed with care when it comes to facts and truth. Facts, by definition, are verifiable, objective data - things we can observe, measure and ultimately prove. In the absence of new learning, facts are grounded in evidence that remains constant despite opinion or belief. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines truth as "being in accord with fact or reality." One person's reality may be quite different from another's. Truth, therefore, requires context. If we're open, it's not that hard to see how different life experiences may provide us with wildly different (and subjective) realities.

America's public lands are steeped in both facts and truth. From the geology of the Grand Canyon to the biodiversity in Yellowstone, facts about these places are backed by years of research and scientific study. But the truth of these lands is more complex, it's about the cultural significance they hold, the stories they tell, and the way they connect us to the past and to each another. The truth includes understanding the important role these lands play — for future generations, to native communities, with regard to preservation, as engines of economic development and so

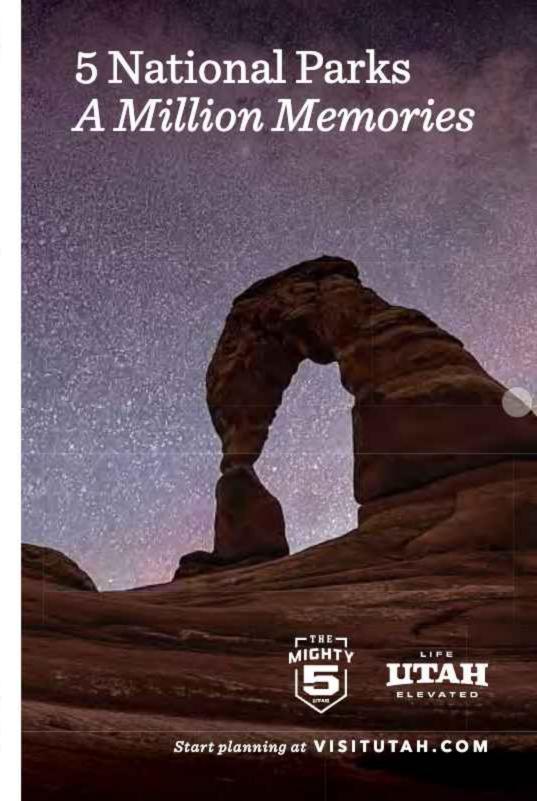
much more. 'Truth' may lead one person to favor mining while another's truth may dictate conservation above all else.

As with many issues, we won't all agree on how to balance facts and truths. Different perspectives exist on how to best utilize public lands. We need to resist the urge to simply dismiss the opinions of others whose views don't align with our own. Facts provide a foundation for understanding, Truth is shaped by personal and collective values. It's essential that we utilize facts in decision-making while, at the same time, embrace the truth in its full complexity. There's never been a better time to commit to listening, remaining open and considering different experiences and values. Only then can we have constructive dialogue that leads us to common ground. The Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service and placed equal weight on conservation as it did recreation, which are often in direct conflict. More than a century later, it's still hard to reconcile such opposing goals... and that's a fact!

Let's approach the stewardship of our public lands with an acknowledgement of facts, a respect for truth and an openness to understanding each other's perspectives, especially when we disagree. Together we can ensure that America's public lands remain a rich resource and a legacy for generations to come!

Since / Presentin

mark@americanparknetwork.com



Plan Your Visit



Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks are open daily, year-round. Most business and services including Glacier's visitor services, hotels, tours and restaurants are available from late May through September.

ENTRANCE FEES

A reservation is required for vehicles entering Going-to-the-Sun Road and the North Fork area between June 13 and September 28. Due to construction in the Swiftcurrent area, personal vehicle access to Many Glacier will be limited from July 1 to September 21, 2025. You will also need a park pass. Digital passes for select federal public lands, including Glacier National Park, are available at recreation.gov/pass or in the Recreation.gov app.

Glacier: Seven-day permits are \$35 per vehicle from May 1 to October 31. The entrance fee is \$20 for bicyclists and hikers, and \$30 for motorcyclists. Reduced rates are offered in the winter. An annual pass to Glacier is \$70. For more information, visit nps.gov/glac.

Waterton: Admission to sites included in the Parks Canada network for youth 17 and under is free, including Waterton Lakes National Park. Entrance fees for adults are \$11 (CAD), seniors are \$9.50 (CAD). For more information, please call (403) 859-5133, or visit parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/visit/tarifs-fees.

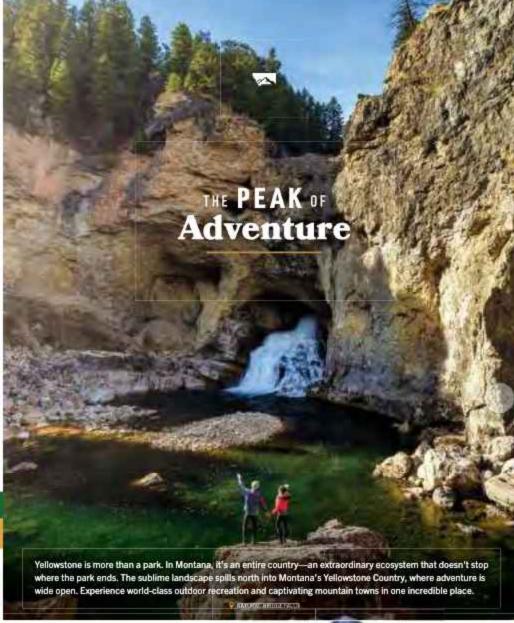
EVERY KID OUTDOORS

Every Kid Outdoors: To help engage our next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, the Obama Administration, in partnership with Federal Land Management agencies launched the Every Kid Outdoors initiative. It provides an opportunity for fourth grade students across the country and their families to experience their federal public lands and waters, discover our wildlife, resources, and history for free. All kids in the fourth grade have access to their

FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES

A federal recreation pass is helpful if you plan to visit many national parks, forests or other federal lands. For information, call (888) 275-8747 or visit store, usgs.gov/pass.

Туре	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80 \$20	General Public Senior (62+)	This one-year pass is available on site, by phone, or online (see above).
Senior Pass	\$80	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID required.
Military Pass	Free	U.S. military members and their dependents	This one-year pass is available on site. ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173) required.
Access Pass	Free	U.5. residents with per- manent disabilities	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID and documentation required.
Volun- teer Pass	Free	250 cumulative volunteer service hours	Inquire locally to obtain informa- tion about this one-year pass.



Get your FREE Ranger Pack that includes a guide, scenic map and more by calling 1.800.736.5276 or going to VisitYellowstoneCountry.com.





GENERAL INFORMATION		
Glacier Waterton	(406) 888-7800 (403) 859-5133	nps.gov/glac parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/ waterton
EMERGENCIES		
Glacier Waterton	911 911	Callers should state that they are calli from Waterton Lakes National Park
EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE		
Glacier Waterton	(406) 888-7800 (403) 859-2636	
GLACIER LODGING RESERVATION	S	
Glacier National Park Lodges ¹ Glacier Park Collection ² Granite Park Chalet	(855) 733-4522 (844) 868-7474 (888) 345-2649	glaciernationalparklodges.com glacierparkcollection.com graniteparkchalet.com
BOAT TOURS		
Glacier (summer) Waterton (summer)	(888) 611-0747 (403) 859-2362	glacierparkboats.com watertoncruise.com
HORSEBACK RIDING-GLACIER		
Summer (mid-May - Sept.) Apgar Corral Lake McDonald Corral Many Glacier Corral West Glacier Corral	(877) 888-5557 (406) 888-5010 (406) 888-5121 (406) 732-4203 (406) 387-4566	swanmountainglacier.com
HORSEBACK RIDING-WATERTON		
Vimy, Lion's Head, Wishbone	(403) 859-2462	alpinestables.com
GUIDED DAY HIKES & BACKPACKI	NG TRIPS	
Glacier Guides (hiking, rafting fishing, and more)	(800) 521-RAFT (800) 521-7238	glacierguides.com
AMERICAN INDIAN INTERPRETIVE	TOURS	
Focus on Blackfeet culture & history relating to Glacier's natural features	(800) 786-9220	suntours.co
AMERICAN INDIAN VISITOR INFO	RMATION	
Blackfeet Nation Three Chiefs Cultural Center	(406) 338-7521 (406) 675-0160	blackfeetnation.com threecheifs.org
TRANSPORTATION		
Red Bus Tours Sun Tours In-Park Shuttle East Side Shuttle	(855) 733-4522 (800) 786-9220 (406) 888-7800 (844) 868-7474	glaciernationalparklodges.com suntours.co nps.gov/glac glacierparkcollection.com

¹ Many Glacier Hotel, Rising Sun Motor Inn & Cabins, Lake McDonald Lodge, Village Inn at Apgar, Swiftcurrent Motor Inn & Cabins, Cedar Creek Lodge

own Every Kid Outdoors pass, by simply visiting everykidoutdoors.gov. The pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle to the park. Get the pass by visiting everykidoutdoors.gov and present it at the park. The Every Kid Outdoors pass is valid until August 31, 2025.

CROSSING THE BORDER

U.S. citizens need proof of identity and citizenship, in the form of a U.S. Passport Book, Enhanced Driver's License, NEXUS Card or U.S. Passport Card when crossing to Canada from Glacier National Park.

Single parents must also provide proof of custody of their children.

A U.S. Resident Alien Card is required for resident aliens (legal residents of the United States who are not U.S. citizens) traveling to Canada by air or land. Contact (506) 636-5064 for information about entering Canada from the United States. Call (406) 889-3865 for information about crossing from Canada into the United States. Special restrictions exist for crossing the border with pets, firewood, alcohol and bear sprays. All firearms must be declared and U.S. registered. Bear spray must include a United States EPA label on the container.

PARK ENTRANCES

Glacier: Glacier's main entrances,
West Glacier and St. Mary, are located at
either end of Going-to-the-Sun Road. Enter
the eastern areas of the park from U.S. 89
or State Highway 49. Western areas are
accessed from U.S. 2.

Waterton: The only entrance is located on the park's northeast edge. To reach Waterton from the United States, take



I Glacier Park Lodge, Motel Lake McDonald, Prince of Wales Hotel, St. Mary Village, Grouse Mountain Lodge, Appar Village Lodge & Cabins, West Glacier Village, West Glacier RV Park, Belton Chalet



A free shuttle is available along Going-tothe-Sun Road during the Spring and Summer seasons on a first-come, first-served basis.

Shuttles are wheelchair-accessible.

Smoking, pets and open alcohol containers are prohibited. Bear spray must be safely secured to prevent accidental discharge.

Most shuttles have bike racks.

The shuttle will stop at the following locations: Apgar Visitor Center, Sprague Creek Campground, Lake McDonald Lodge, Avalanche Creek, Logan Pass (transfer stop), Jackson Glacier, Sun Point, Rising Sun, Rising Sun Boat Dock and the St. Mary Visitor Center. To reach Logan Pass, visitors must transfer at Sun Point.

For a shuttle map and updates, please visit nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/shuttles.htm.

WEST SIDE SHUTTLE

Glacier National Park Lodges provides passenger and luggage transportation from the West Glacier Train Station to Lake McDonald Lodge and Village Inn. This shuttle runs from May 16 to October 2, 2025. Shuttles must be booked in advance due to limited seating. One-way fee is \$16/adult and \$8/child under 13. For more information, call (855) 733-4522 or visit glaciernationalparklodges.com/ red-bus-tours/shuttles.

EAST SIDE SHUTTLE

Glacier Park Collection offers a shuttle service between Glacier Park Lodge, Two Medicine, and St. Mary Visitor Center.

Seating up to 13 on a space-available basis, it connects guests to the NPS shuttle on the Going-to-the-Sun Road as well as the shuttle to Many Glacier operated by Glacier National Park Lodges. GPC's shuttles operate May through September. Reservations are not accepted (walk-in only). One-way fee is \$25 to \$50 per person. For more information, call (844) 868-7474 or visit glacierparkcollection.com.

A shuttle between St. Mary Visitor
Center (just outside the East Entrance)
and Many Glacier Hotel/Swiftcurrent
Motor Inn & Cabins is offered by Glacier
National Park Lodges, connecting St. Mary
with the free NPS shuttle system. This
shuttle runs from July 1 to September 29.
Reservations are not accepted (walk-in
only). Capacity is limited to 10 seats on
a space-available basis. One-way fee
is \$16/adult and \$8/child under 13. For
more information, call (855) 733-4522
or visit glaciernationalparklodges.com/
red-bus-tours/shuttles.

MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND RODEOS.

THE REST IS

HISVORY

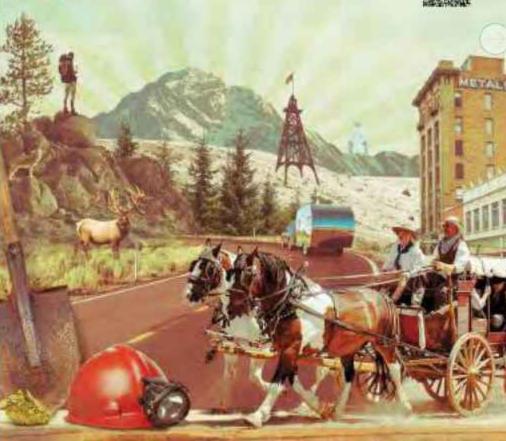
Explore the diverse landscape between Yellowstone and Glacier national parks.





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Route 17 (Chief Mountain International Peace Parkway) through the Chief Mountain customs port, northwest of Babb, or follow U.S. 89 north to Cardston, Alberta, through the Piegan customs port. From Cardston, follow Alberta Highway 5 west to the park entrance. Visitors coming south from Calgary follow Alberta Highways 2, 3 and then 6 for approximately three hours. Winter conditions close the Chief Mountain customs station and parkway from October to mid-May.

GETTING THERE

Air: The closest airport to Glacier is Glacier Park International Airport near Kalispell, Montana, 30 miles west of the park's west entrance. It's serviced by Alaska, Allegiant, United, American, Sun Country and Delta. Allegiant, United, Delta and Alaska airlines fly into Great Falls, Montana, which is 138 miles from East Glacier, Those flying into Canada can land at Lethbridge, Alberta, which is 80 miles northeast of the Waterton entrance, or Calgary, Alberta, 165 miles to the north.

Bus: Greyhound bus lines serve Kalispell and other communities nearby. For more information, call (800) 231-2222 or visit greyhound.com. The Mountain Climber bus service is available from Kalispell in the summer (ADA accessible); call (406) 758-5728 or visit flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/mountain-climber.

Glacier Park Collection's East Side Shuttle offers services to a few locations along the east side of the park; reservations highly recommended. For more information, call (844) 868-7474; glacierparkcollection.com.

Rental cars: Rental cars are available on the Montana side in Browning, Columbia Falls, East Glacier, West Glacier (seasonally), Great Falls, Kalispell, Whitefish, as well as in Lethbridge and Calgary in Canada.

Train: Amtrak's historic Empire
Builder travels between Chicago,
Illinois; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle,
Washington. It follows the southern
border of Glacier National Park, making

stops in East Glacier, Essex, West Glacier and Whitefish. For more information, call (800) 872-7245 or visit amtrak.com.

PARK SHUTTLE

A free shuttle is available along Goingto-the-Sun Road from July 1 through Labor Day. Shuttles are wheelchair accessible. The hiker-biker season allows recreational access for hikers and bikers beyond vehicle gate closures on Going-to-the-Sun Road prior to the road opening for the season. The Hiker-biker shuttle service schedule has not been released for 2025. For updates, visit nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/shuttles.

TOURS

Sightseeing Interpretive Tours:

Let the drivers of the Red Bus Tours do the navigating while you take in the sights of Glacier National Park. Glacier National Park Lodges offers visitors narrated tours in vintage sedans.
Reservations can be made by calling
(855) 733-4522; stopping by any hotel
glaciemationalparklodges.com/red-bus-tours
or stopping by any hotel.

For over 75 years, Glacier National Park's fleet of 33 Red Buses have been providing visitors unparalleled experiences. Considered by many to be the oldest fleet of touring vehicles around, the Red Buses are as much a part of Glacier National Park as are the mountains they scale. The drivers of the Red Buses are affectionately called "Jammers" by the locals; a name that carries over from the days when the buses had standard transmissions and the drivers could be heard "jamming" the gears as they drove up and down the rugged mountain highway. The Jammers' sharp eyes are also trained to spot wildlife. Red Buses help to reduce emissions by carpooling and because most buses run on



clean burning propane. The combination helps keep Glaciers air as pure as possible. Reservations are encouraged prior to arrival.

Sun Tours: Join one-day Blackfeet interpretive tours over the Going-to-the-Sun Road. Tours depart from Browning, East Glacier, St. Mary, and West Glacier during peak season. For more tours, see the American Indians in Montana sidebar in the "History & Culture" chapter. For reservations, call (800) 786-9220.

ROAD INFORMATION

Roads and highways to Glacier and Waterton are generally well-maintained and at least partially open for vehicles much of the year. Most roads are clear in late spring, summer and fall, however construction projects can cause delays. In 2025, construction in the Swiftcurrent area will restrict personal vehicle access into Many Glacier. Before you visit, please check nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/projectwork.htm for the most up-to-date information.

Regardless of construction on Goingto-the-Sun Road, access to Logan Pass ends every year no later than the Monday following the third full weekend of October, weather permitting. Note: Severe winter weather events can close access to Logan Pass earlier than presumed dates. In winter, Glacier is open, although not always easily accessible by motor vehicles.

The Going-to-the-Sun Road is plowed from the West Entrance to Lake McDonald, but beyond Lake McDonald is regularly closed due to weather. Other park roads may be accessed only by cross-country skis or snowshoes. Snowmobiles are not allowed in the park. Current road conditions are available for Glacier at nps.gov/glac. You can obtain up-to-date road conditions by contacting the Montana Traveler Information System. Call (800) 226-7623 or visit mdt.mt.gov. The toll-free number also provides current park road information.

The road to Waterton Park is plowed all winter. The **Akamina Parkway** is normally plowed to provide access to skiing opportunities in the Cameron Lake area. For up-to-date information in Alberta, call **511** or visit **511.alberta.ca**.

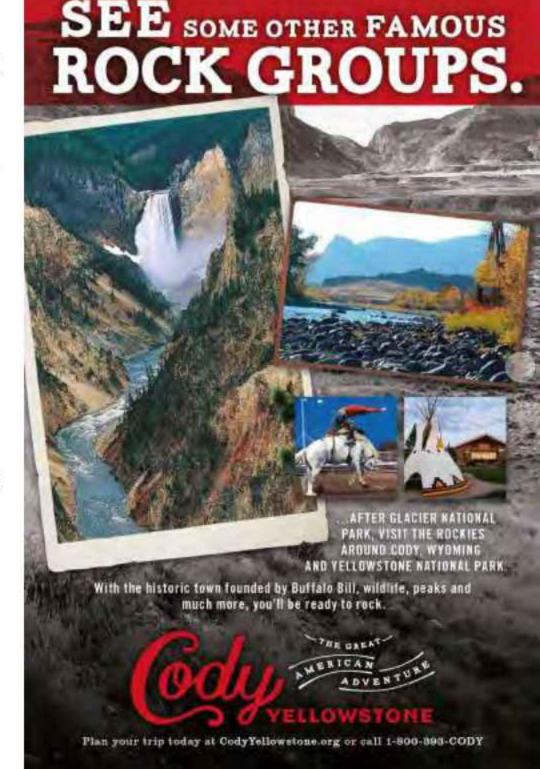
WEATHER

Mountain weather is fickle, so there's a chance for bright sunshine or snow every day of the year in Glacier and Waterton. Snow is not uncommon during summer.

Although the days may get very warm (July's average high is 79°F, maximum is 99°F), temperatures may dip to around 45°F after the sun goes down. Late spring to early fall is the most popular time to see the region, although many visitors enjoy winter treks as well. September is a popular month because the weather is still comfortable, autumn colors emerge and the summer crowds are gone. Packing extra layers is the key to a comfortable visit regardless of season.

GLACIER VISITOR CENTERS

When you arrive, stop at a park visitor center to become acquainted with the diversity of the region. Staff members will be available to answer questions and provide services such as backcountry trail information. Visitor centers have sales outlets for park publications and provide restrooms and water fountains. Glacier National Park information desks at park lodges and motels provide information



about dining, lodging and tours. The Crown of the Continent Discovery Center, a mile and a half from the entrance at West Glacier, offers extensive information about the history, recreational opportunities, cultural heritage and environmental significance of the entire Crown of the Continent region.

Glacier National Park Headquarters:

The headquarters—located just before the entrance station at West Glacier—houses the park's main offices. It is open year-round, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call (406) 888-7800.

Apgar Visitor Center: This center is near the foot of Lake McDonald on the west side, two miles inside the park. It offers exhibits on Glacier's plants and animals, and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. mid-May through mid-October and on weekends only the rest of the year.

Logan Pass Visitor Center: Perched atop Logan Pass on the Going-to-the-Sun Road at the Continental Divide, the Logan Pass Visitor Center features exhibits on alpine zone plants and animals, and a sales outlet for park publications. It is open daily during peak season. Please note that there are neither telephones nor food services at Logan Pass.

Many Glacier Ranger Station: The Ranger Station can be found adjacent to Many Glacier Campground. It has maps and publications for sale. Note: The many Glacier Ranger Station will be closed in the 2025 season due to a utility update project.

Polebridge Ranger Station: Just off the outer North Fork Road in the park's northwest region, the Polebridge Ranger Station also has maps and publications for sale. It is open from late May to mid-September.

St. Mary Visitor Center: Situated near St. Mary Lake, this centrally located visitor center features exhibits of the American Indian perspectives of the area we now call Glacier National Park. The center is open from late May through early October.

Two Medicine Ranger Station: Located west of the Highway 49 turnoff near East Glacier in the park's southeast corner. Publications and maps are available for sale. It is open from late-May to late September.

WATERTON VISITOR CENTRES

Waterton Lakes Visitor Centre: The original 1958 visitor center was lost in the Kenow Fire in 2017. A new, larger visitor center is open year-round and offers maps, brochures, permits, backcountry reservations, up-to-date park information, weather, trail, avalanche and road reports, interpretive exhibits and events, at Block 39 along Windflower Avenue, close to the entrance of the Townsite Campground. For questions, call (403) 859-5133.

Cameron Lake and Red Rock Canyon:

These unstaffed interpretive exhibits are found on Akamina Highway and Red Rock Canyon Road, respectively. Red Rock Canyon features an easy 20-minute loop trail where you can view colorful rock formations.

Waterton Lakes National Park Headquarters: Waterton's headquarters can be found five miles from the entrance. Please call (402) 859-5133 for more informa-



tion. It is open weekdays during the winter for information.

VISITOR SERVICES

Duty-free: American citizens who have visited Canada for more than 48 hours, and have claimed no exemptions during the last 30 days, may bring back up to \$400 worth of duty-free Canadian purchases. They must be for personal use or for gifts only. For more information on crossing from Canada into the United States, call (406) 889-3865. For information on crossing into Canada from the United States, call (506) 636-5064, or visit watertontourism.com/plant-your-trip/getting-here.

Speed limits: Canada uses the metric system, so be aware of speed limits when driving in Waterton. Speed limits are 25 to 45 mph on Glacier National Park roads unless otherwise posted.

Money: Both U.S. and Canadian dollars are divided into 100 cents, but exchange rates vary daily. You can convert money at banks near Glacier National Park and in the Townsite of Waterton. Visit watertonpark.com/information/travinfo.htm for more information.

BANKS

U.S. institutions serve Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Kalispell, Whitefish and Browning. ATMs are available in St. Mary, Columbia Falls, East Glacier, West Glacier, Hungry Horse, Coram and Waterton Townsite, and area campstores and lodges. For currency exchange, go to Tamarack Outdoors located at 214 Mt View Rd, Waterton Park, AB TOK OC3, Canada or the aforementioned U.S. banks. All Waterton merchants accept U.S. currency.

CAMPING SUPPLIES & GROCERIES

Supplies such as food, firewood, fuel, camping gear and first-aid kits are sold at camp stores in Apgar, Lake McDonald, Two Medicine, Rising Sun and Swiftcurrent. Stores in Waterton Townsite and the gateway communities of Babb, Browning, St. Mary, East Glacier, West Glacier and Polebridge also carry supplies.

EMERGENCIES & MEDICAL SERVICE

First-aid services are available at all visitor centers and ranger and warden stations. In Glacier and Waterton, call **911** for immediate help regarding all emergencies. Callers in Waterton should state that they are calling from Waterton Lakes National Park.

For medical treatment on the west side of Glacier, contact Logan Health Medical Center, (406) 752-5111, Logan Health Whitefish Hospital, (406) 863-3500, or the clinic in West Glacier, (406) 888-9924, which operates only during the summer months.

At Browning, on the east side of Glacier, Blackfeet Community Hospital will treat non-tribal persons on an emergency basis only; call (406) 338-6100. Kalispell and Great Falls provide helicopter medical teams in emergencies. In Canada, full hospital facilities are available in Cardston, (403) 653-5234, or Pincher Creek, (403) 627-1234.

GIFT SHOPS

Postcards and souvenirs are sold at hotels, gift shops and restaurants, as well as in nearby gateway communities. For collectibles, regional products and eco-tourism information, stop by The Trail of the Great Bear Gift Shop and Travel Centre in Waterton, or the Crown of the Continent Discovery Center in West Glacier. Books and maps are sold at Logan Pass Visitor Center, as well as at the Apgar, Many Glacier, Polebridge and St. Mary visitor centers and ranger stations.

LOST & FOUND

Report or drop off lost and found items at any Glacier visitor center—call (406) 888-7800. In Waterton, drop off found items at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police building during the summer, or call (403) 859-2044. During the off-season, drop off found items at park headquarters.

VEHICLE SERVICE & REPAIRS

More complicated repairs can be handled in Columbia Falls (20 miles southwest of West Glacier), in East Glacier and at Waterton Townsite. If your car breaks down on a park road, contact a park ranger or warden, or call one of the main park numbers: (406) 888-7800 in Glacier and (403) 859-5133 in Waterton.

ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES & SERVICES &

Park facilities accessible to visitors with different abilities are indicated throughout this guide by the & symbol. Many public facilities are wheelchair-accessible. Visitors with mobility impairments may need assistance to reach facilities during winter because of frequent heavy snows.

Services: The park switchboards can receive calls from telephone devices for the hearing-impaired (TDDs). To contact Glacier, call (406) 888-7806. There are CDs that narrate most major park routes at gift shops. All self-guided trails include printed brochures or signs for interpreting points of interest.

Trails: Trail of the Cedars at Avalanche Campground-five miles up Going-to-the-Sun Road from Lake McDonald Lodge-is designed for all



people to navigate. Other accessible trails include Swiftcurrent Lake Trail, the Oberlin Bend overlook near Logan Pass and the Goat Lick Overlook along Highway 2 in Glacier, and the Linnet Lake and Townsite loop trails in Waterton. To the east, there is a wheelchair-accessible trail in Two Medicine Valley which provides access to Running Eagle Falls. The trail is signed with messages regarding the importance of this place in Blackfeet culture.

Lodging: Most hotels and visitor facilities in Glacier and some in Waterton are wheelchair-accessible.

American Indian Interpretive Tours:

Bus tours highlighting Blackfeet culture and history in relation to Glacier's natural features are available. Depart from East Glacier, West Glacier, St. Mary, Apgar Village and Browning. Spring and fall tours are also available. Call (800) 786-9220 or visit suntours.co for more information. Museums: The Stumptown Historical Society, located in the heart of Whitefish, explores the area's logging and railroad history. The Museum of the Plains Indian, located in Browning, displays richly varied arts of Northern Plains Tribal peoples.

Camping: Campgrounds at Fish Creek, Apgar, Sprague Creek, Avalanche, Two Medicine and Waterton Townsite has accessible sites and accessible restrooms. Roads through most campsites are paved, but wheelchair passage on foot trails may require assistance. Note: Two Medicine is closed for the 2025 season.

For a listing of the accessible facilities and services in the park, visit nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.

A free brochure, is available in the park. You can also consult "Easy Access to the National Parks," which is available in most bookstores.

Lodging & Dining



Glacier National Park's two main concessioners are Glacier Park Collection and Glacier National Park Lodges, operated by Xanterra Travel Collection. Due to Glacier's short season, it is recommended that you make reservations at any lodging six months to a year in advance, particularly for July and August. Rooms may become available due to cancellations, but call early to secure your stay. For more information about restaurants, accommodations and tours, stop at information desks located in the park hotels and inns. A C indicates that reservations are required. Glacier has two backcountry chalets to which visitors can hike for overnight accommodations. Both are operated by Belton Chalets, Inc.

Located in East Glacier, the Glacier Park Lodge's lobby is lined with impressive gigantic Douglas-fir trees. This majestic lodge has 161 rooms, an outdoor swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, pitch-and-putt, lounge, gift shop and offers easy access to Red Bus Tours and horseback tours. The Great Northern Dining Room (③⑥&) offers a full breakfast buffet and serves å la carte comfort food with a Montana flare. Lunch is not served in the dining room. Empire Bar (⑤⑥) has a well-stocked bar and is a popular gathering place for lunch. Open May 30 through September 22. For more information, visit glacierparkcollection.com or call (844) 868-7474.

Many Glacier Hotel (shown) is the largest lodge in the park and features stunning views of Swiftcurrent Lake. Thanks to major renovations, the hotel also has a snack bar and lounge, gift shop, and nightly entertainment. Glacier Park Boat Company tours and horseback rides from Swan Mountain Outfitters can be booked here. Ptamigan Dining Room (③④①) serves continental and American cuisine with dramatic views of Many Glacier's towering peaks. Swiss and Interlaken Lounges (⑥①), located on the lobby level, have well-stocked bars. Open June 5 through September 29. For more information, call (855) 733-4522 or visit glaciernationalparklodges.com.

Rising Sun Motor Inn & Cabins is situated along the Going-to-the-Sun Road in St. Mary Valley, surrounded by soaring mountain peaks. It has 72 cabins and motor inn rooms, as well as a campstore and gift shop. Two Dog Flats Grill (3 9) serves classic American cuisine. For more information, call (855) 733-4522 or visit glaciernationalparklodges.com.

Prince of Wales Hotel sits on a promontory and features huge picture windows overlooking the string of mountains ringing Waterton. In addition to 86 rooms, the property features a lounge; English-style tearoom; gift shop; and easy access to golf, horseback rides and boat tours. The Royal Stewart Dining Room (300 C) serves fine English and continental cuisine. The Windsor Lounge (30) features traditional English fare and a full bar. Open May 12 through September 18. For more information, call (844) 868-7474 or visit glacierparkcollection.com.

Lake McDonald Lodge, Cabins & Suites is one of the finest examples of Swiss chalet architecture. A short walkway leads from the hotel to the Lake McDonald shore. There is a gift shop and campstore on premises and easy access to Red Bus Tours, boat tours by Glacier Park Boat Co. and horseback rides from Swan

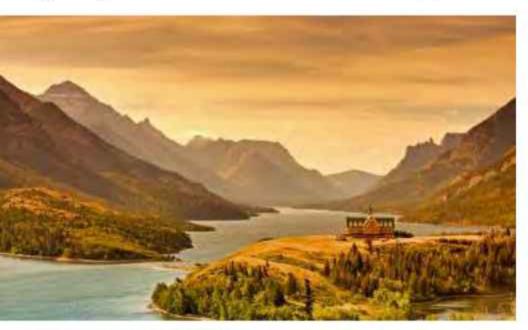
Mountain Outfitters. Russell's Fireside
Dining Room (③ ④ ④) serves wild game,
as well as more familiar dishes. Lucke's
Lounge (④ ④) serves local micro brews
and an extensive bar menu. Jammer
Joe's Grill & Pizzeria (④ ④) serves pizzas, salads and sandwiches. Open May
16 through October 2, 2025. For more
information, call (855) 733-4522 or visit
glaciernationalparklodges.com.

Apgar Village Lodge & Cabins is set amidst the old growth cedars along the southern end of Lake McDonald and the shores of McDonald Creek, Most of the 48 rustic cabins have a private kitchen. The units have electric heat, televisions and shower stalls as well. It is open from May 9 to September 28. For more information, please call (844) 868-7474 or visit glacierparkcollection.com.

The Village Inn at Apgar, situated along the southern shore of Lake McDonald, boasts breathtaking views of Lake McDonald Valley and the Continental Divide. Open May 21 through October 8, it offers access to gift shops, horseback rides from Swan Mountain Outfitters and boat rentals. Visit glaciernationalparklodges.com or call (855) 733-4522 for more information.

West Glacier Village offers budget-friendly and comfortable motel and cabin accommodations, and an RV park for an enjoyable stay on the western entrance to Glacier National Park. Open May 9 through September 28. Please call (844) 868-7474; glacierparkcollection.com.

Swiftcurrent Motor Inn & Cabins is one mile from the Many Glacier Hotel and a stone's throw from the Iceberg Lake trailhead, one of the most dramatic and popular hikes in the parks. The property



offers several accommodation optionsfrom basic motel rooms to private cabins.
There is also a campstore, token-operated laundry, and public restrooms and showers. Nell's (③④⑤&) offers casual dining located in Many Glacier Valley, about a mile from Many Glacier Hotel. The menu features breakfast served all day, local Montana fare and pizza to go. & For more information, visit glaciernationalparklodges.com or call (855) 733-4522. Note: This location is closed for the 2025 season for improvements.

Granite Park Chalet is a National Historic Landmark constructed by the Great Northern Railway in 1914. Granite Park Chalet open June 30 to September 12 currently operates as a self-service hiker hostel; rooms hold up to six. Reservations are required; linen service and retail menu are optional and for an extra fee. For more information, visit graniteparkchalet.com or call (888) 345-2649.

The Sperry Chalet operates July 11 through September 12. Reached only by trail, this historical complex requires reservations for its 17 private guest rooms and offers only a meal plan. For information, call (888) 345-2649 or visit sperrychalet.com.

St. Mary Village, at Glacier's east entrance on Going-to-the-Sun Road, provides a combination of natural beauty and modern comforts. The resort boasts an array of unique dining venues, a gift shop, grocery store, espresso bar, gas station, sporting goods store, satellite TV and Wi-Fi in the lobby of the main lodge. Snowgoose Grille & Mountain Bar (③ ⑤ ①) has an extensive menu and dramatic park views. Open May 23 through September 29. Call (844) 868-7474 or visit glacierparkcollection.com for information.

The Belton Chalet in West Glacier offers accommodations May 9 through October 12. It has beautifully restored lodge or garden-surrounded cottages, which offer privacy for groups or romantic retreats. There is a gift shop, day spa, reading and writing area, shuffleboard, ping pong, complimentary coffee and tea, board games, books and puzzle library. Belton Grill Dining Room (①) makes fresh fare with local ingredients. Belton Tap Room (①) offers fine wine, spirits and Montana-made beer. For more information, call (844) 868-7474 or visit glacierparkcollection.com.

Located 10 miles inside Glacier National Park's west entrance, Motel Lake McDonald is nestled near the shores of the largest lake within the park, 300 yards from Lake McDonald Lodge. The 27 rustic-yet-welcoming rooms feature modest amenities and cozy accommodations, each with its own private bathroom. For more information, visit glacierparkcollection.com or call (844) 868-7474. The motel is open May 23 to September 21.

West Glacier RV Park boasts fully equipped pull-through sites up to 80' and modern cabins near the park. Call (844) 868-7474 or visit glacierparkcollection.com.

■ Park Regulations & Safety

Enjoy a safe visit and help protect the parks' natural features by adhering to the following park regulations:

LITTER

Pack out all you pack in and please recycle when possible. It is illegal to litter or feed the animals in the parks.

PETS

Pets must be leashed and under the owner's control at all times while in the parks. They are allowed, but not encouraged, on Waterton trails. Pets are prohibited on all Glacier trails (except paved bike trails at Apgar Village), in park hotels (except for designated guide, service, and/or hearing companion animals) and anywhere in the backcountry. Kennels are available in Columbia Falls, Kalispell, Cut Bank, Pincher Creek and Cardston.

VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

Vehicles crossing Logan Pass between Avalanche and Rising Sun must be no more than 8 feet wide (including mirrors) and 21 feet long. Vehicles in excess of 10 feet in height need to exercise caution to avoid hitting rock overhangs. Oversize vehicles and commercial trucks must cross the Continental Divide by way of U.S. Highway 2.

BICYCLING

Glacier does not allow bicycle traffic on sections of Going-to-the-Sun Road, along Lake McDonald, between Apgar and Logan Pass eastbound and westbound from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily between May 24 and September 8. Bicycle travel is prohibited on all Glacier hiking trails except for one paved path near Apgar and two unpaved paths near West Glacier. Waterton has four hiking trails that permit bicycle travel. Note: Check with park rangers for updates on any pavement preservation projects affecting Going-to-the-Sun Road.

FIREARMS

Federal law allows people (who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state and local laws) to legally possess firearms within Glacier National Park. The law does not change prohibitions on the use of firearms in national parks; hunting and recreational use of firearms are still prohibited.

Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park.

HIKING

Please stay on established trails. Taking shortcuts destroys fragile, high-altitude vegetation and causes erosion.

STEWARDSHIP

It is illegal to collect cultural and natural artifacts—and features like wildflowers, antlers and rocks—in the parks.

STAYING SAFE

As in any mountainous area, an understanding of alpine weather, terrain and hazards is necessary. The following are a few tips to make your visit a safe one.

ALTITUDE

Because Glacier and Waterton are several thousand feet above sea level. come prepared with appropriate footwear, high SPF sunscreen and appropriate clothes for every day of the year. The higher altitude increases the amount of ultraviolet light reaching your skin. The thin air can adversely affect even the strongest of individuals. Better safe than sorry!

DRIVING

Be alert while driving in the park-wildlife feed along roadsides and sometimes jump in front of cars. Mountain roads are narrow and occasionally littered with fallen rock. Watch for drivers who may stop to avoid hazards, view wildlife or take pictures. The Blackfeet Reservation is open range for livestock. Be alert for all animals on roadways east of the park.

HANTAVIRUS & RODENTS

Deer mice are possible carriers of hantaviruses. Initial symptoms are almost identical to the onset of flu. Avoid exposure by avoiding rodent-infested areas. If you have potentially been exposed and exhibit flu-like symptoms, seek medical care immediately.

HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition occurs when the body is so chilled it can no longer warm itself, It can happen even on a cool summer day when you are tired and wet. Warning signs include shivering and disorientation. Seek shelter and raise your body temperature by drinking warm liquids. Be sure during this time to monitor breathing. When traveling in the backcountry, carry clothes for layering.

TICKS

While they are difficult to see, always keep an eye out for ticks. These arachnids can carry a variety of diseases, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. If bitten, check for a rash in the area and watch for flu-like symptoms. If they appear, consult a doctor immediately.

WATER HAZARDS

Drowning is tied with hiking and climbing accidents as the number one cause of death in Glacier. Use extreme caution near water. Visitors should be aware of extreme low-temperature water danger, Visitors should also guard against giardiasis, caused by a parasite (giardia lamblia) found in lakes and streams. Persistent, severe diarrhea; abdominal cramps; and nausea are symptoms of this disease. Hikers and backpackers are urged to filter or treat water taken from park lakes and streams.

WILD ANIMALS

All wildlife should be considered dangerous. Glacier and Waterton are home to grizzlies, black bears, wolves, wolverines, mountain goats and mountain lions. All bears, mountain goats and mountain lions are extremely dangerous and should be avoided. Feeding or harassing animals is strictly prohibited by law.

PACKING ESSENTIALS

Don't hit the trail without:

- Topographic map and compass + GPS
- · Flashlight or headlamp
- · Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat
- · High-energy food and plenty of water
- · Appropriate clothing and extra layers
- Waterproof matches
- First Aid Kit + Whistle
- Sturdy footwear

■ Sights To See



Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks are a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds!

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

APGAR

Lake McDonald is one of the most scenic lakes in the park. It is also the longest and deepest. Immense glaciers carved the 10-mile-long, 464-foot-deep lake. The Kootenai people called it "Sacred Dancing Lake" and performed ceremonies on the shore. Guided boat tours, Red Bus Tours, horseback riding, fishing and recreational boating are popular activities at the lake.

LOGAN PASS

Straddling the Continental Divide, this 1.5-mile (one-way) mountain pass to the overlook crosses the Hanging Gardens of Logan Pass, an area filled with lush meadows of wildflowers and surrounded by jagged peaks. There is about a 500-foot increase in elevation. Note that the Logan Pass section of Going-to-the-Sun Road is usually open from mid-June through the third weekend of October, weather permitting. Updates about roads, hiker/ biker, and plow status can be found at nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/directions.htm

Other popular stops near Logan Pass include Oberlin Bend, Weeping Wall, Big Bend and Haystack Creek to the west, and the East Side Tunnel, Siyeh Bend, Jackson Glacier Overlook and Sun Rift Gorge to the east.

MANY GLACIER

Visitors can enjoy boat cruises, horseback rides and trails while exploring this glacial

valley of creaking glaciers and icebergfilled lakes

The 5.5-mile (one-way) Grinnell Glacier Trail from Many Glacier Hotel brings hikers to one of the most visible glaciersfor now-in the park. Along the way, it passes beautiful mountain views and vibrant wildflower displays. Hikers can ride the Many Glacier tour boats along Swiftcurrent and Josephine lakes, or take a horseback ride for part of the trail's length. Note: personal vehicle access to Many Glacier is limited in 2025 due to construction in the Swiftcurrent area.

Although Iceberg Lake's glacier disappeared long ago, the body of water still delights visitors with a flotilla of icebergs that sometimes remain into July and August. The lake lies at the base of a 3,000-foot sheer cliff. Its freezing waters have long been rumored to be home to Montana's fur-bearing trout. It is reached via a 4.8-mile (one way) trail from Swiftcurrent Motor Inn & Cabins in Many Glacier, Note: Swiftcurrent Motor Inn & Cabins are closed in 2025 for improvements and access to Many Glacier is limited.

TWO MEDICINE

Many believe the park's most dazzling colors of rock and foliage are in Two Medicine Valley near East Glacier. Here, mountains of red, yellow and green stone encircle lakes filled with fish. Because of the way valleys curve and twist in the Two Medicine area, hikers often

laud it for containing the most dramatic

collection of trails and viewpoints.



The name is reported to have been derived from the name "Two Medicine Lodge Creek," so called because at one time there were two "medicine lodges" located on either side of the creek.

Running Eagle Falls, near Two Medicine Lake, is also known as "Trick Falls." One waterfall tumbles over a cliff and another pours out of a huge hole in the cliff wall. Later in the season, the upper fall dries up, leaving the lower fall apparently springing from solid rock. There is a wheelchair-accessible loop with interpretive trail signs explaining its significance to the Blackfeet culture. &

WATERTON LAKES

CAMERON LAKE

Visit Cameron Lake in Waterton for a better understanding of the unusual aspects of this mountainous region. Trail and road signs and a visitor center explain how plants and animals adapt to environments that change within just a few thousand feet in elevation.

CRYPT LAKE

Newsweek magazine once rated the Crypt Lake Trail the best in Canada. A popular way to start the trip is to take a tour boat down Waterton Lake to the trailhead. The trail then ascends 5.4 miles past waterfalls into the mountains. An enlarged natural tunnel in the cliff leads to Crypt Lake itself, hidden behind mountain walls.

THE RED ROCK PARKWAY

The narrow Red Rock Parkway travels 9.3 miles up the Blakiston Valley through rolling grasslands and ends at **Red Rock Canyon**. The parkway is the best place to see where Waterton's classic prairie meets mountain landscape. At the end of the parkway, a short, self-guided trail loops around the canyon. In June, the wildflower and wildlife viewing is great along the road.

History & Culture



From prehistoric days to the present, the area's claim to fame has been its beauty and its trade routes. The American Indians knew the region's passes and trails, and used them to journey from one hunting ground to another. The eastern prairies of Montana and Alberta were home to great herds of **American bison**. Bison were a primary food source to many of the region's American Indians, who also fished and hunted other animals in the mountains.

The Blackfeet people of the northern plains dominated "The Backbone of the World" long before any European explorer confronted the area now known as the Rocky Mountains. The Blackfeet were aggressive and protected their east-slope bison hunting grounds from incursion by the western tribes of the Kalispell and Kootenai, and interlopers from the south such as the Crow, Sioux and Assiniboine.

These other tribes visited the mountains of Glacier and Waterton as well, since many of them venerated the spirits of creation, weather and knowledge believed to be living there.

The mountains also contained routes these tribes could cross on their own buffalo expeditions. The Blackfeet, in turn, chased the hunters back over the passes when they found them, or crossed the passes themselves to raid and intimidate their neighbors.

AMERICAN INDIAN BELIEFS

The region's American Indians believe that spiritual beings (or values) live in every feature of the land. Animals not only symbolize characteristics—such as gossip in the raven or strength and wisdom in the grizzly bear—but are also the embodiment of spirits who can teach those qualities



AMERICAN INDIANS IN MONTANA

Consider taking a guided tour of a reservation to learn more about local American Indian culture. Tours offered by Blackfeet Historical Tours go to old bison jumps, the sites of old camps and other historic sites of the Blackfeet Nation. For more information, call any of the following phone numbers:

Blackfeet Historical Tour Heart Butte, MT: (406) 450-8420

Blackfeet Nation Office Browning, MT: (406) 338-7521

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Pablo, MT: (406) 675-2700

to humans. As a Blackfeet elder said, everything under the sky has a voice to speak with and knowledge to tell.

Thus, according to many tribes' philosophies, humans are just one instrument in an ongoing orchestra of life. They are responsible for keeping themselves in tune and playing correctly. To that end, almost every aspect of tribal life has a spiritual ritual attached to it, from the way a tipi is set up to the way a hunter requests an animal's forgiveness before he kills it to feed his family.

Because the mountains of Glacier and Waterton are thought to be home to spirits, members of many area tribes journey there on vision quests. **Chief Mountain**, in the northeast corner of Glacier, was—and still is—widely revered as the home of powerful medicine. Its authority is easy to recognize, given its unusual appearance. It stands in the prairie away from the rest of the mountains, like a warrior chief leading his tribe to the rising sun.

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Alberta, Canada: (403) 553-2731

Museum of the Plains Indian Browning, MT: (406) 338-2230

Sun Tours (American Indian Interpretive Tours)

East Glacier, MT: (800) 786-9220

Bus tours highlight Blackfeet culture and history in relation to Glacier's natural features. Tours Depart East Glacier, West Glacier, St. Mary and Browning areas. Four season is May 15-September 30, daily, suntours.co.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN EXPLORERS ARRIVE

Many French and English (and even a few Spanish) trappers passed through the Glacier and Waterton area in the late 1700s, seeking furs and trade routes. British trapper **David Thompson** is generally credited as the first European to record his impressions of the area in the 1780s. Of the towering Rocky Mountains, he wrote, "Their immense masses of snow appeared above the clouds and formed an impassable barrier even to the Eagle."

LEWIS & CLARK

These intrepid explorers' famous expedition across the American West took them very near Glacier in 1806. Captain Meriwether Lewis took three men with him to find the headwaters of the Marias River on the east side of the Rockies. The weather was overcast and they had little idea of what lay around them. The clouds blocked their view of Marias Pass-the lowest crossing of the Continental Divide

between Canada and New Mexico. Had they found it, they would have simplified their journey over the mountains.

Other Europeans and Americans traveling the area in the early 1800s were mostly fur trappers seeking beaver skins for fashionable top hats. Blackfeet raiding parties from the east-slope tribe protected their valuable lands by attacking neighboring tribes and the occasional foreign traveler.

To the north, John Palliser's 1858 British expedition was scouting a route to the Pacific Ocean for the Hudson's Bay Company. Lieutenant T. W. Blakiston penetrated the Waterton area and began bestowing names, including Waterton Lakes, in honor of English naturalist Charles Waterton. Although Waterton never visited the lakes, his reputation for bold and eccentric globe-trotting lent the area an exciting aura.

THE RIDE OF THE

Hints about a perfect mountain pass to run a railroad over the Rockies kept explorers searching Glacier for a number of years. Although many of the region's American Indians knew the location of Marias Pass, it was not well-known by American explorers because the Blackfeet guarded it closely. Railroad scouts asked American Indian guides for clues and were generally led over safer, but steeper, mountain routes.

In the 1850s, Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens—hoping to pacify the area's residents so his explorers could find a railroad right-of-way—started to negotiate treaties with the various tribes.

A PASSAGE WEST

In 1889, an explorer for the **Great**Northern Railway named John F. Stevens finally figured out where the vital Marias

Pass lay. Marias was important because it is the lowest mountain pass between Canada and Mexico, its low altitude and easy grade made it perfect for trains to cross the Continental Divide.

Stevens' good fortune was at the expense of the Blackfeet who, by the 1880s, were devastated by smallpox epidemics and frequent persecution by the U.S. government. The railroad line crossed the mountains in 1891 and spawned numerous work camps. Two of them eventually became the towns of Belton (West Glacier) and Midvale (East Glacier).

THE BLACKFEET

Word finally began to spread about the plight of the Blackfeet. With the last bison in the area killed in 1882, there was rampant starvation on the Blackfeet Reservation during the winters of 1883 and 1884. James Willard Schultz, an American who had long traveled with the Blackfoot tribe and had become a full member of one band, decided to help his friends. He wrote to George Bird Grinnell, the influential editor of Forest & Stream magazine. Through his magazine and powerful government friends, Grinnell helped increase government aid to the Blackfeet.

Grinnell was introduced to the area by Schultz and declared it "The Crown of the Continent." Visiting many times between 1880 and 1900, he initiated the movement to declare the area a national park. Grinnell is celebrated today as the "Father of Glacier National Park."



FOOL'S GOLD

As more Americans and Canadians became aware of the area, rumors spread about vast gold, copper and oil deposits in Glacier. Prospectors rushed in, drilled oil wells and sunk mine shafts. Despite the feverish interest, prospectors found no commercial quantities of oil or minerals.

NATIONAL PARK STATUS

By the turn of the century, 10 years of active lobbying by George Bird Grinnell created the momentum needed to make Glacier a national park and attracted the attention of the U.S. Congress. On May 11, 1910, President Taft signed the bill creating 1,600-square-mile Glacier National Park. Glacier's first superintendent, William Logan, spent that first summer attempting to control numerous forest fires.

Across the border, thanks to the efforts of conservationist Frederick Godsal, the Canadian Parliament approved Waterton Lakes Forest Park in 1895. Later, it was renamed Waterton Lakes Dominion
Park. Timber and mining interests there
diminished the park to just 13.5 square
miles. Then, in 1914, a reorganization of
the Canadian forest preservation system
resulted in the expansion of the park to
almost 500 square miles. Reshuffling of
government boundaries changed the park's
size three more times, eventually placing
the park at its current 195 square miles.

THE PARKS TODAY

In 1995, Waterton-Glacier was named the world's first international peace park World Heritage Site. This designation honors parks for their outstanding natural and cultural values.

Recognizing that Glacier and Waterton are not self-contained ecosystems, park managers work together to protect the parks and help shape the growth of surrounding communities. Administrators for both parks maintain a spirit of cooperation unusual between government bureaus, let alone separate countries. Together, they are setting an impressive example for the future.



AMERICAN INDIANS TODAY

The American Indian tribes of Montana and Alberta actively maintain their ancient cultures and traditions while finding ways to keep in step with today's society.

THE RESERVES

The Blackfeet Nation in Montana borders nearly all of eastern Glacier National Park, while the Blood Indian Reserve in Canada lies east of Waterton Lakes National Park. The Piegan Reserve lies north of Waterton near Pincher Creek. To the southwest, the Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai covers 1.2 million acres and surrounds half of Montana's largest natural lake, Flathead Lake. Nine other tribes have or share reservations within Montana and make up about nine percent of the state's population.

MAKING A LIVING

These tribes are working to improve their lives through community and education projects that have been initiated to ensure that residents of reservations receive training and opportunities for jobs in the area to help support the local economy. One such program—developed through the coordinated efforts of the Blackfeet Tribe, Glacier Park Inc. (GPI) and area colleges—provides education and training in the hospitality industry, along with opportunities for graduates to work at GPI facilities. In addition, the work of local American Indian artisans is featured in many GPI gift shops.

PRESERVING CULTURE & TRADITION

Preserving culture is another important goal for the region's American Indians.



Programs such as the one at the Piegan Institute in Browning near East Glacier rediscover the original Blackfeet languages considered to be the glue holding their traditions together. The Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning exhibits a world-renowned collection of ancient and modern American-Indian art and artifacts. The Three Chiefs Cultural Center in St. Ignatius offers exhibits about these tribes' cultural traditions. The World Heritage Site, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, is located in Alberta and recalls how American Indians hunted bison before horses and rifles.

Cultural traditions are maintained through special events such as the Blackfeet's North American Indian Days, and the Blackfeet's Heart Butte Society Celebration; and the Salish-Kootenai's big festivals, including the Arlee Powwow, traditionally taking place the first week in July.

Preservation



Waterton-Glacier International Peace
Park was recognized as a Biosphere
Reserve in 1976 and designated again
as the Waterton-Glacier International
Peace Park World Heritage Site in 1995.
This lofty title means several things. The
world's first international peace parks hold
unparalleled resources, they are in nearly
pristine environmental condition and they
need protection to stay that way.

ALPINE PROTECTION

The combination of high altitude, harsh weather and heavy visitor traffic are a recipe for the destruction of a delicate ecosystems. Much of the soil that produces the park's wildflowers is only a few inches thick. In places such as Logan Pass, where thousands of hikers go daily, indiscriminate wandering tramples and destroys the thin matrix of vegetation that makes Hanging Gardens famous.

To protect fragile soil and plants, park trail crews built a boardwalk that spans part of the 1.5-mile trail leading from the visitor center to Hidden Lake Overlook, one of the most popular sights in the park. Temporary restrictions are implemented each summer to limit off-trail travel that can seriously damage fragile alpine flowers as snow melts and plants emerge. Don't be a meadow stomper! Tread lightly, whether walking or skiing on nature trails or on backcountry trails. Do not walk in areas closed to foot traffic.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire is an essential natural process that revitalizes forests. It creates new meadows for grazing wildlife, removes choked undergrowth from wooded areas and fertilizes certain soil types. As a result of fire management, vegetation build-up has been reduced in developed areas.

To protect campgrounds, hotels and other developed areas in the park, the NPS and Parks Canada use predictive modeling to gauge a fire's potential to burn out of control and determine when and how suppression actions should occur. Human-caused fires are suppressed, except for prescribed fires set by park specialists to burn designated areas for specific objectives.

Once a forest fire is controlled, park workers may spend more time eliminating the scars of suppression-fire lines-than they did fighting the actual blaze. This is a relatively recent change in fire management practices. Though not all impacts of a wildfire are desirable, they are often a natural and healthy component of the ecosystem. You can spot the location of recent fires on park roads and trails now carpeted by an abundance of native wildflowers. grasses, shrubs and untold numbers of tree seedlings-the start of a new, younger forest. Young and old trees and a variety of other vegetation create a diverse and healthy ecosystem for both plants and animals.

RECENT LARGE FIRE SEASONS

In 2006, during an extensive dry and warm period, the Red Eagle Fire started south of St. Mary Lake. Despite suppression efforts, the fire traveled almost seven miles in just a few hours, leaving the park boundary and crossing U.S. Highway 89 just south of St. Mary. In total, it burned just over 34.000 acres of land.

Then in 2017, Glacier's Sprague Fire made headlines. Lightning struck near the Gunsight Trail in mid-August, devastating the Sperry Chalet. It continued until October, affecting nearly 17,000 acres. Another one, the Kenow Fire, affected nearly 40 percent of Waterton. Much of the west side of the park was closed through 2019 to rehabilitate.

The Howe Ridge Fire started on August 12, 2018, and caused the Lake McDonald Lodge and the entire North McDonald corridor to evacuate within 24 hours of the start of the fire. Several structures were lost.

PLANT MANAGEMENT

Glacier's native plant restoration crews have been hard at work restoring vegetation to disturbed parklands. Crews revegetate approximately five to eight acres each year, including front and backcountry campgrounds, roadsides and other areas of high visitor use. Scores of high school students help with projects each year and volunteers are always welcome. Visitors can take a tour of the park's native plant nursery.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

Park rangers and wardens have the constant duty of asking visitors not to feed wildlife. Safety warnings, animal life histories and explanations of park regulations are part of the rangers' guided walks and evening programs that help educate visitors. Park rangers and wardens also try to inform the animals. Requiring visitors to keep their food in animal-proof containers teaches wildlife that free meals will not be available at campgrounds. Bear management personnel use horns, cracker

shells and other annoyances to haze bears away from human developments.

PLEASE RECYCLE

Recycling receptacles are available in both parks for some materials and there are trash bins for other refuse. The National Park Service, Glacier National Park Lodges, Glacier Park Collection and Parks Canada conduct in-house recycling programs for wastepaper and other recyclables.

A PLAN FOR GLACIER'S FUTURE

The National Park Service prepares and releases a variety of planning and environmental documents to help guide management of park resources, manage increasing visitor use and expand the life of the park. These documents are available to the public online and are regularly updated. Access them by visiting nps.gov/glac/parkmgmt/planning.htm.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATES

This nonprofit organization educates visitors about the park's resources, raises funds for projects and assists park management with volunteer services on various trail clearing and other rehabilitation projects.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK LICENSE PLATE

Montana residents can buy Glacier National Park vanity plates, featuring a photo of Lake McDonald. Each is \$45 (additional fee to renew) and \$25 goes to the Glacier National Park Conservancy, supporting projects in Glacier preservation, education, research and celebrations. For more information, call (406) 892-3250 or visit glacier.org.

Things To Do



SPRING, SUMMER & FALL

PARK PROGRAMS

Glacier: Free evening talks, slide shows and guided walks and astronomy programs are among the many park programs that will pique your curiosity about Glacier's cultural, natural and historic wonders. Park ranger naturalists lead free walks and day hikes on popular trails, interpreting each area's plants and animals, and recalling native tales. Please call (406) 888-7800 or visit nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/calendar.htm.

Waterton: Various interpretive and educational programs are offered at Waterton. These include theater programs, children's programs and guided tours. Some programs require a fee. Ask for more information at the Waterton Visitor Centre, or call (403) 859-5133.

There are also options for scenic cruises from May to early October. A shuttle can take you from Upper Waterton Lake to the Crypt trailhead for \$32 (CAD). For more information, call (403) 859-2362; watertoncruise.com

BUS TOURS

Take a ride back in time while you view the sites of Glacier National Park in style on one of the historic Red Buses. These vintage motor coaches, built by the White Motor Company, travel over the Going-to-the-Sun Road and link all of the park's hotels and inns. These bright red coaches have roll-back canvas tops offering spectacular views.

To book a Red Bus Tour and let Glacier National Park Lodges do the driving, visit glaciernationalparklodges.com or call (855) 733-4522. Reservations are highly recommended.

Sun Tours provides American Indian interpretive tours that highlight Blackfeet culture and history in relation to Glacier's natural features. They depart from East Glacier, West Glacier, St. Mary and Browning. For more information, call (800) 786-9220 or visit suntours.co.

BACKPACKING & GUIDED DAY HIKES

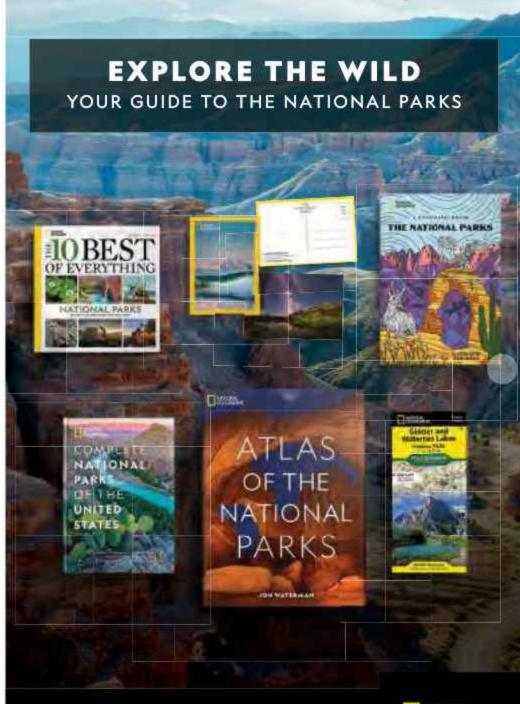
Guided backpacking and day-hiking park tours can be arranged from mid-May through September. Visit Glacier Guides Inc. at glacierguides.com or call (406) 387-5555 for more information. Please also see the "Walking & Hiking" chapter.

FIELD SEMINARS

Glacier Institute offers half-day to multiday classes on topics such as art, history, geology and natural science. College credit can be arranged for many courses. Waterton Natural History Association also offers several special educational programs in the summer. Contact Glacier Institute at the Waterton Natural History Association at (406) 755-1211, or visit glacier institute.org for more information.

BICYCLING

Bicycling is a popular way to tour Glacier and Waterton. Cyclists should be aware that park roads are winding and narrow, and have limited shoulder space. At











Glacier, during busy summer months (May 24 through September 8) and the most congested hours of the day (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.), bicycles are not permitted along Lake McDonald, from Apgar to Logan Pass, eastbound or westbound. A fee is charged when entering the park via bicycle. Please check at a visitor center for more information.

BOATING

Boats generally operate from mid-May to October with park interpreters on board for many of the trips. Tours average one hour, round-trip. For more information, please contact Glacier Park Boat Company at (406) 257-2426 or visit glacierparkboats.com.

M.V. International is the flagship of the Waterton Inter-Nation Shoreline Cruise Company Ltd. on Waterton Lake. This 72-foot ship was built in 1927 to complement the Prince of Wales Hotel. One of the routes includes a stop at the Crypt Lake trailhead, the start of one of Canada's most famous day hikes. The Waterton Lake trip usually takes about two hours. Contact Waterton Inter-Nation Shoreline Cruise Company Ltd. (in summer) at (403) 859-2362 or visit watertoncruise.com.

Rent small boats at Lake McDonald,
Apgar, Two Medicine, Many Glacier and
Cameron Lake. Keep alert for changes in
wind and weather, and head to shore if
you see a storm on the horizon. Although
both parks have patrol boats, lake water is
extremely cold and lakeshores are often
empty, making it difficult to find help in an
emergency. Personal watercrafts (Jet Skis®,
Wave Runners®, etc.) are not allowed in
either park.

FISHING

Whitefish, Kokanee salmon, Arctic grayling and five kinds of trout are examples of fish that can be found in park waters. Please note that all bull trout caught in Glacier and

Waterton must be immediately released to help protect this endangered species from extinction. Also, the use of lead-free fishing sinkers or jigs is required in both parks. A fishing license is not necessary to fish at Glacier, but anglers should be familiar with park regulations and limits. Pick up a copy of Glacier's fishing regulations at any entrance station or visitor center. The North and Middle Forks of the Flathead River, which border the park, are subject to Montana State fishing regulations and do require a license. In Waterton, anglers need to obtain a Canadian National Parks angling license. It costs \$46.25 (CAD) for a one-year permit or \$13.50 (CAD) for a day pass. (Prices are subject to changes in currency exchange rates).

GOLF

At over 3,000 feet above sea level, golf takes on a whole new dimension. Duffers can nail the long drives within Waterton Park and in East Glacier and West Glacier just outside the park. Call Glacier Park Lodge Golf Course at (406) 226-5642 for information about golfing in East Glacier; call the Northwest Montana Golf Association at (406) 756-4549 for information about golfing in northwest Montana; and for Waterton golf information, call (403) 859-2114.

HORSEBACK RIDING

For updated information on guided horseback riding and drop camp services, contact Swan Mountain Outfitters, the exclusive providers of trail rides in Glacier National Park. Call (406) 387-4405 or visit swanmountainglacier.com.

Day rides are offered out of three in-park locations: Apgar, (406) 888-5010;

Lake McDonald and Many Glacier, (877) 888-5557. Day rides, dinner rides

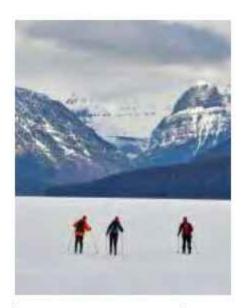
and overnight trips are offered out of West Glacier. Call (406) 387-4566. Horse rides lasting from one hour to a full day are also available through outfitters in East Glacier. Alpine Stables in Waterton will also board horses overnight. Alpine Stables provides guided horse tours in Waterton in summer; call (403) 859-2462 for more information. Call (877) 888-5557 or (403) 653-2089 in the off-season. Riders may also bring their own horses into the parks, although horses are prohibited in some areas. Inquire at the backcountry permit office for details.

RIVER RAFTING

The Middle and North Forks of the Flathead River provide a range of rafting adventures. The Middle Fork along Glacier's southern border contains some excellent white water. The North Fork bordering Glacier to the west has both fast and calm water. It's popular for all-day sightseeing tours as it meanders past Glacier's Livingston Mountain Range, Several rafting companies provide trips of varying lengths, including Kicking Horse Whitewater, (877) 344-7238; Great Northern Whitewater, (800) 735-7897; Glacier Guides Inc., (406) 387-5555; and Wild River Adventures, (800) 700-7056. You can also bring your own raft or boat to run the rivers. Stop in at Hungry Horse Ranger Station on the Flathead National Forest near West Glacier or call (406) 387-3800 for information.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

In Glacier, look for marmots, deer, gray jays, ravens, raptors and countless songbirds. Logan Pass is a prime spot for mountain goats, while Many Glacier Valley and Waterton are home to bighorn sheep. The Goat Lick turnout along U.S. Highway 2 on Glacier's southern border



is a common spot to see mountain goats and an occasional elk. Two Dog Flats near St. Mary Lake and the forests around West Glacier are prime elk and coyote habitat. Always maintain a safe distance from wildlife.

WINTER

Glacier's winter recreation opportunities are diverse, with trails and routes available for all skill levels. Ski and snowshoe rentals can be found at various private businesses in surrounding communities, but there are no rental opportunities in the park. Guided snowshoe hikes are offered on the weekends from early January through mid-March. To preserve the winter solitude, snowmobiles are not permitted in either park.

VISITOR SERVICES

The parks' major hotels are closed during winter but West Glacier, Essex, Kalispell, East Glacier, Browning, Columbia Falls, Whitefish and Cut Bank host winter enthusiasts. Please call Glacier Country at (800) 338-5072 or

visit glaciermt.com for more information. Winter lodging is available at: Waterton Lakes Lodge, (888) 985-6343; Crandall Mountain Lodge, (866)859-2288; and Waterton Glacier Suites, (403) 859-2004. Winter camping is available at Glacier's St. Mary Campground and Apgar picnic areas. Backcountry permits are available in advance for up to seven nights. Winter camping and winter backcountry permits are free. Waterton also has winter camping at the Pass Creek picnic area.

ROAD & WEATHER CONDITIONS

Going-to-the-Sun Road from West Glacier to Lake McDonald Lodge and the east entrance to St. Mary Campground is open all year and (weather permitting) is plowed during winter, as is the main road to Waterton. Akamina Parkway is plowed to Little Prairie. U.S. 2 and 89 are plowed as well and allow some access to Glacier's remote southern boundary, St. Mary Valley, Two Medicine Valley and Many Glacier Valley. Current road status is available at nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/directions.htm.

SNOWSHOEING & CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Snowshoers and skiers can enjoy the long, gentle stretches of road on the eastern and western sections of Goingto-to-the-Sun Road, the Camas Road and the road into Two Medicine Valley. In Waterton, routes from the Little Prairie picnic area, which has washrooms and a kitchen shelter are great for families and novice skiers. The rolling terrain is not difficult and is very scenic, particularly at Cameron Lake. More experienced skiers can look to the parks' interiors, like around Avalanche Lake, Bowman Lake and Many Glacier Valley.

■ Walking & Hiking



The parks are best experienced on foot. Only on the trail can you truly appreciate the mountains for their beauty and power. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, there's a trail for you.

HIKER SAFETY

Mountain hiking requires you to follow a few common sense tips:

- Bring proper gear. Bring rain and sun protection (year-round), sturdy footwear, a first-aid kit with blister treatments and maps.
- Don't go alone. Glacier is bear and mountain lion country. Solo hiking and backpacking is strongly discouraged. If you must, let someone know when and where you are going, and when you plan to return. Please see the section on bears for more information.
- Rock climbing is not recommended due to the unstable, crumbly nature of the park's ancient sedimentary rock.
- Know your limitations. If the trail is steep, figure another hour for every 1,000 feet of elevation.
- Carry water. Streams and lakes may carry Giardia lamblia protozoans, making water unsafe to drink unless boiled, chemically treated or filtered.
- Know where you're going. Check in with a ranger for directions before starting out.

BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

A backcountry permit is required for all overnight backcountry camping. A permit can be obtained at recreation.gov or from: the Apgar Backcountry Permit Center; the St. Mary Visitor Center; Many Glacier, Two Medicine or Polebridge Ranger Stations; or the Waterton Lakes Visitor Recreation Centre for trips starting in Chief Mountain. At Glacier, there is a \$10 permit fee, plus \$7 per person per night fee May through October. Call (406) 888-7800 out-of-season; call (406) 888-7859 in season, or visit nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm.

At Waterton, a backcountry permit is available for \$13.50 (CAN) per person per night for adults, free for children 5 and under. To make a reservation, visit reservation.pc.gc.ca or call (403) 859-5133.





TRAILS OF GLACIER & WATERTON LAKES

Trail Trailhead	Description	Round-Trip Distance Time	Difficulty Elevation Gain
Trail of the Cedars Avalanche Campground	A pleasant stroll through the old-growth cedar-hemlock forest along Avalanche Creek. &	0.7-mile loop 30 minutes	Easy Level
Swiftcurrent Nature Trail Grinnell Glacier Trailhead	Travels around the lake offering great views of Grinnell and Salamander glaciers and Mount Gould Grinnell Point.	2.5-mile loop 2–3 hours	Easy Level
Red Eagle Lake Trail St. Mary 1913 Ranger Station	This old buffalo hunter's route stretches behind the St. Mary Lake Mountains to a network of passes through the peaks. Note: This area burned during the Red Eagle Fire (2006). The scenery has changed, but one can see fire ecology firsthand.	15 miles all-day to over- night trip	Easy 200 feet
Highline Trail Logan Pass to Goat Haunt	Parallels the Garden Wall, along the Continental Divide. Experienced hikers can travel the 39.5-mile route north from Logan Pass to Waterton Townsite. Concession boat available at Goat Haunt.	7.6 miles to Granite Park Chalet; 24.4 miles from Granite Park to Goat Haunt	Moderate Varies
Cracker Lake Trail Many Glacier Hotel	Winds through open grasslands and then enters Canyon Creek, where the cliffs of Mount Siyeh rise 4,100 feet straight up.	12.2 miles	Moderate 1,400 feet
Grinnell Glacier Trail Grinnell Glacier Trail- head or Many Glacier Hotel	Fascinating walk through several of Glacier's climate zones, culminating with a sweeping view over Grinnell Lake and the Garden Wall, ending at the glacier's icy remnants.	5.3 miles one-way	Strenuous 1,600 feet
Crypt Lake Trail Crypt Landing	Starts with a ferry ride across Upper Waterton Lake. Winds through mountain forest, waterfalls, boulder-strewn landscapes, and both countries. Ends at the stunning Crypt Lake. Note: requires navigating a ladder and narrow tunnel.	10.8 miles	Strenuous 2,300 feet
Vimy Ridge Trail Wishbone Trailhead	First four miles wind along the Wishbone Trail through aspen groves and fields of wildflowers. Relatively level until Vimy Ridge Trail begins—all elevation gain takes place in last three miles, leading to a spectacular view of Vimy Peak	7 miles day hike	Easy to Strenuous 3,400 feet
Linnett Lake Loop Trail	Across from the park ranger station, this relatively flat trail winds around the peaceful Linnett Lake, with grand views of Mount Crandell, Vimy Peak, and the Prince of Wales Hotel in the background, The surrounding forest calms the area winds.	0.6 miles	Easy

■ Nature & Wildlife



Glacier is home to at least 1,132 species of vascular plants, 20 different tree species, 93 woody shrubs or vines and 892 types of herbaceous (non-woody) plants. These numbers include 127 non-native species. In addition to vascular plants - those with tissues that transport water and minerals - the park also has over 858 species of mosses and lichens and more than 200 species of fungi. Seventy-one vascular and 42 non-vascular plant species found in Glacier Park are listed as "sensitive" by the State of Montana.

BEARS

Glacier provides the core of one of the largest remaining grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states. Look for bear signs like overturned or torn apart logs, excavated burrows, broken branches, claw marks and hair on trees, scat (droppings) or tracks. Be cautious and alert. Make loud, irregular noise by talking or singing to avoid surprising bears. Hikers in bear country should carry bear spray, have it within reach and know how to use it.

DON'T FEED THE BEARS

A fed bear is a dead bear. When bears are accustomed to eating human food and garbage, their role in the environment changes. They can become aggressive intruders who must be killed if they become a threat. To protect yourself and the bears:

- Never leave food, trash or other scented items unattended.
- Store all food, trash and odorous items in storage boxes where provided, sealing items in air-tight containers to minimize odors. Store grocery bags, garbage and

- scented articles like soap, sunscreen, hair spray and toothpaste. Clean fire grills and picnic tables after use.
- Follow all park rules on bear-proofing your food. For more information about bear safety, ask at any visitor center.

IF YOU SEE A BEAR

If you spot a bear, **do not approach it.**Female bears with cubs or bears defending a carcass are especially dangerous.

Do not run or make abrupt movements. Bears are hunters and instinctively chase anything that flees. A bear may "bluff charge" and stop short of touching you. If possible, stay still until the bear calms down, then slowly back away. If you cannot detour, wait until the bear moves away from your route. If the bear knocks you down, curl into a ball and protect your stomach and neck.

Report bear sightings to a park ranger. The safety of others may depend on it!



→ WATCHABLE WILDLIFE









BIGHORN SHEEP

Can often be spotted walking along the Going-to-the-Sun Road, but typically inhabit steep, high mountain terrain. They have adapted well to their habitat and are extremely agile and nimble. Bighorns are primarily grazers, feeding in meadows, open woodland and alpine tundra. • Weight 99-297 lbs. • Length 5-6.5 ft. • Active year-round.

MOOSE

Moose are reclusive by nature and rarely seen by visitors, your best shot at spying one is at dawn or dusk. They are the largest members of the deer family. Bull moose have large claw-shaped antlers, which distinguish them from cows, which have none. They are excellent swimmers. • Weight 700-1,400 lbs. • Size 6-9 ft. long. • Active year-round.





FIK

Or wapiti, is the second largest member of the deer family and inhabits forest and forest-edge communities. They feed on grasses, plants, leaves, bark and lichens and are active at dusk and dawn. Bull elk have large antiers they shed annually and engage in ritualized mating behaviors during the rut. • Weight 450-1,090 lbs. • Size 6.5-10 ft. long. • Active year-round.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

With their shaggy, white wool coats and black horns, mountain goats beautiful, distinctive animals perfectly engineered for steep, rocky terrain—they usually live at altitudes up to 10,000 feet! These herbivores subsist on grasses, sedges, herbs, lichen and other plant matter. • Weight 101-225 lbs. • Length 40-64 in. • Active year-round.





HOARY MARMOT

Live in subalpine meadows and alpine tundra. These rodents whistle a high-pitched call when disturbed. Every morning, these creatures visit each other's burrows. During hibernation, a marmot's heartbeat slows from 130 to four beats per minute. • Weight 6-20 lbs. • Size 15-30 in. long • Active year-round.

WOLVERINE

The largest land-dwelling member of the weasel family, wolverines (gulo gulo) are incredibly strong for their size and have been known to kill much larger prey. They don dark-brown fur that retains little water so it's relatively resistant to frost. Wolverines also give off a strong, extremely unpleasant odor. • Weight 22-36 lbs. • Length 2-3 ft. • Active year-round.

Glacier has two types of auto campgrounds: Class A (accessed by paved road, running potable water, flush toilets and offering waste disposal) and Class B (accessed by gravel road, outdoor toilet facilities). Some Class B campgrounds have potable water from a water pump; however, some Class B campgrounds and primitive campsites have no water. Water is obtained from lakes, rivers and streams and should be treated, filtered or boiled. A few sites are open year-round at Apgar and St. Mary for primitive camping, but no services are available in the winter. There are no hookups at Glacier campgrounds. Waterton provides a range of campsites, from fully serviced sites with full hookups (water, sewer and power) to primitive sites with basic services, such as picnic tables, potable water and toilets (chemical/pit).

Backcountry campgrounds (operated on an online reservation or walk-up basis) are reachable by hiking trails or, in some cases, by private boats. Additionally, Swan Mountain Outfitters can provide drop camp services to backcountry locations if the trip is approved in advance by the NPS. Food poles and food preparation areas are available for every campsite.

REGULATIONS

Backcountry permits are required for backcountry camping and fees are charged at both parks. (Glacier does not charge permit fees for winter camping.) The advance reservation system offers earlier reservation submittal dates, more choices to customize itineraries, and a first come, first-served reservation system. All reservations requests must be submitted online on the Recreation.gov website prior to arrival.

Each application will have a non-refundable \$10 processing fee. The camping fee is \$7 per person per night. In Waterton Lakes, a Wilderness Use Permit is required for overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits are available at the visitor center. There is no charge for children aged 5 and under. Annual wilderness passes may be purchased and are valid for backcountry camping at all national parks in western Canada. Reservations must be paid for at the time of booking by credit card. Permits must be picked up at the visitor reception center no sooner than 24 hours in advance of the start date of the trip. For more information. visit pc.gc.ca. Reservations are available for wildemess campsites. A non-refundable reservation fee is charged. Reservations for backcountry trips may be made 90 days in advance. For more information, call the visitor center at (403) 859-5133.

At Glacier, **campfires** are allowed in designated fire pits only (subject to weather conditions). At Waterton, campfires are prohibited in most backcountry campgrounds. In extreme fire-hazard conditions, the parks may request (or require) that campers use portable cook stoves.

Gathering firewood is prohibited in most areas at Glacier and in Waterton's campgrounds. Firewood is available for sale at camp stores throughout Glacier.

Store food in car trunks, bear-proof lockers at campgrounds and picnic areas, as well as on bear posts in the wild. Unattended food and containers can be confiscated and fined. Remember it is for your safety and the safety of the bears.

CAMPGROUNDS

Many campgrounds in Glacier are available by reservation, typically six months in advance. Avalanche, Two Medicine, and Many Glacier Campgrounds will require advance reservations. Check Recreation.gov for information and availability or call (877) 444-6777. A limited number of Glacier campsites are available for bicyclists and pedestrians (58 per person). In Glacier, check at campgrounds or ranger stations or call (406) 888-7800. In Waterton, check at the visitor center or call (403) 859-5133. For more information on camping in Glacier, visit nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/camping.htm.

Campground* &	Open	Sites	RV Sites/ Maximum RV Length	Flush Toilets	Disposal Station	Shower
APGAR* &	Year Round. Primitive comping from late fall to early Spring.	194	25 sites 40 feet	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lake McDonald's south shore along Going-to-the Sun Road.	(Year-roond; primitive camp	ng in the spri	ig and fall-\$20 fee; free in winte	m)		
AVALANCHE* &	Mid July to Mid Sept.	67	50 sites 26 fest	Yes	Yes	- No
Seven miles north of Lake McDona	ld Lodge along Going to the Su	n Road at Aval	anche Creek:			
BOWMAN LAKE	Mid May to Early Sept	48	RVs nat recommended	No	Yes	No
Six miles northeast of Polebridge on	lakeshore. (Primitive camping may	be available b	efore and after listed dates; \$15 fe	e)		
CUT BANK	Late May to Mid Sept.	14	RVs not recommended	No.	No	No
Eighteen miles south of St. Mary. (P	nmitive camping only.)					
FISH CREEK* &	Mid May to Eurly Sept.	116	18 stes 35 feet	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lake McDonald's southwestern sh	ord.		1.		11	
KINTLA LAKE	Early May to Early Sept.	13	Ris not recommended	No	Visi	No.
Faurteen miles north of Polebridge	on lakeshore. [Primeive camping	may be avail.	ble before and after listed dates;	\$15 fee.)		
LOGGING CREEK	Late June to Late October	15	RVs not recommended	No	No	No
Eight miles south of Polebridge.	(Frimitive camping only.)	70.000.0	The same was a second		11 1.700	
MANY GLACHER CLOSED 2025	Early June to mid-Sep- tember. Primitive camp- ing from mid-September to-October 31	109	13 sites 35 feet	Tes	Yes	Yes
Next to Swiftcurrent Motor Inn.						
QUARTZ CREEK	Late June to Late October	7	Ws not recommended	No	No	No
Six miles south of Polebridge.	(Primitive camping only; may t	fose earlier du	r to weather.)			
RISING SUN	Early June to Early Sept.	84	10 sites 21 feet	Ses	Yes	Yes
Six miles west of St. Mary entrance	along Going to the Sun Road, n	ere St. Mary L	ián.			
SPRAGUE CREEK*	Late May to late Sept.	25	No towed vehicles	Yes	Yes	No.
One mile south of Lake McDonald I	Lodge along Going to the Sun A	oad, on the lat	ie. (9 miles from West Glacies.)			
ST. MARY*	Year Round	148	22 sites 40 feet	Yes	Yes	Yes
Licated one mile from St. Wary entran	on along Going to the Sun Road. (Y	nemunt 520	primitive camping fee in fall; free in	winter)[Season	ul Amenities	111
TWO MEDICINE*	Early June to Mid-October	100	10 sites 1 35 feet	Yes	Yes	No

Eastern end of Two Medicine Lake. (Primitive camping until late October, unless closed by snow; \$20 few.)

Campground	Open	fee Persite [†]	Number of Sites	Hash Toilets	Bout Access	Station	Kitchen Shelters	Shower
BELLY RIVER**	Mid-May to early Sept.	\$19.75	- 24	Yes	No	No	Ves:	No
Three miles from U.SCanada Chief Mi	ountain customs port.							
CRANDELL** CLOSED 2025	Mid May to mid Sept.	\$21.50	129	Yes	No	Yes	Vrs	No
Seven miles off Canadian Route 5, on f	led Back Parkway.							
TOWNSITE** &	Early April to mid-Oct.	\$25.542.50	246	Yes	No-	Yes	Yes	Ves

In the town of Waterton, (Reduced services after early Sept.)

For additional RV Information, visit gocampingamerica.com. *Fees are in Canadian dollars. (Fees subject to change.)

* National Recreation Reservation System campground. ** For reservations, visit reservation.pc.gc.ca or cab (817) 737-3783.



insure your investment

Do you really need RV insurance on your travel trailer?

As RVers, we know the allure of the open road and the freedom it offers. However, with freedom comes responsibility, including the important decision of securing insurance.

What is RV insurance?

RV insurance is designed to cover various types of RVs, including travel trailers, toy haulers, motor homes, fifth wheels, and camper vans. While liability insurance is not required for most travel trailers, having RV coverage could benefit you and your adventures.

How can RV insurance protect you?

- Protection against accidents: May provide financial protection for repair costs, medical expenses, and liability in case of an accident.
- Coverage for theft and vandalism: Could help with repairs or replace your trailer with less out-of-pocket expenses if it's lost or stolen.
- Natural disasters and weather events: May cover the cost of damage from storms, floods, or other natural disasters.

Is your travel trailer covered under your home or auto insurance?

While your home or auto policy can protect your trailer in certain instances, it can also leave you with gaps in your coverage. For example, your auto policy may only cover your trailer while you're on the road, not if you're parked or at a campsite. The same goes for home insurance—if you're on your home's property it might be covered, but damage from a storm at a campground wouldn't be.

What specialized coverages does Progressive offer?

Progressive offers a variety of specialized coverages that aren't included on a standard auto insurance policy like

- Roof Protection Plus*: Covers repairs or replacements for RV roofs, including if the cause is wear and tear.
- Pest Damage ProtectionSM. Covers the cost of repairs from pest infestations."

Confidence on the road

Having RV insurance gives you confidence you're protected no matter where you roam. From remote national parks to bustling campgrounds, RV insurance ensures you have the support and financial protection you need if something goes wrong.

While insurance for your travel trailer may not be legally required, it's a crucial investment in protecting your RV, finances, and peace of mind.

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. and affiliates Product features are subject to policy terms and conditions and may not be available in all states or for all vehicles and coverage selections.

'Available for RVs less than 6 years old, and a \$250 deductible applies to any claim. Scan to get a quote in as little as 4 minutes.

Go to progressive.com to learn more.



Photography



■ Just For Kids



Exploring our national and state parks is one of the best ways to reconnect with nature—and bringing along a camera or binoculars can elevate your experience. Whether you're a seasoned photographer, a casual wildlife or bird watcher, or a first-time visitor hoping to spot something special, a few tips can help you get the most out of your time on the trail.

Photography isn't just snapping images—
it's a way to tell a story, capture fleeting
moments, and preserve the atmosphere of
a place. In our parks, images can reflect the
splendor of a landscape, the subtle beauty
of wildlife, or the unbridled energy of a waterfall. Whether you're aiming to document
your journey, make art, or simply share your
experience with others, thoughtful technique
makes a big difference. To get the most out
of your park visit:

- Time it right: Shoot during golden hours (early morning or late afternoon) when the light is soft and warm. Avoid harsh midday sun when shadows are strongest.
- Pack light but smart: A mirrorless or DSLR camera with a wide-angle lens for landscapes and a zoom for wildlife covers most situations. Bring extra batteries!
- Use a tripod: For steady sunrise or night shots, use a lightweight tripod for better stability.
- Compose carefully: Follow the "rule of thirds" to add depth to your images.

A good pair of **binoculars** is the perfect companion for your trip-they don't just bring distant wildlife into view-it enhances your awareness of your surroundings, helps you spot elusive creatures, and allows you to witness natural behaviors without threatening them. Whether you're birding, watching predators from afar, or scanning the treetops for movement, using binoculars skillfully can turn a simple hike into a rich, immersive experience. Here's how to get the most from them:

- Choose the right specs: An 8x42 pair offers a great balance of magnification, brightness, and stability for most users.
- Adjust for your eyes: Use the center focus wheel and diopter ring to fine-tune clarity.
- Stabilize your view: Rest your elbows on a surface or use a trekking pole for added support.
- Scan with purpose: Look for movement or color changes in the landscape. Animals are often camouflaged and reveal themselves through motion.

To protect both the environment and wildlife, always stay on marked trails to avoid damaging fragile ecosystems. Give animals plenty of space by using zoom lenses or binoculars, and follow all park regulations regarding restricted areas and seasonal closures. Moving quietly and minimizing noise not only reduces stress on wildlife but also increases your chances of witnessing natural behaviors without human interference.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Using cameras and binoculars encourages observation and you'll begin noticing subtle things—a fox's behavior at dusk, the changing texture of bark in different light, or a flash of color in the canopy. These tools sharpen your senses and help you build a stronger connection with the outdoors.

From photographing fog rolling through a valley to spotting a hawk soaring overhead, the combination of thoughtful observation and the right gear brings national and state park adventures to life. Glacier and Waterton are brimming with activities for children of all ages. Here are some ideas to make their time in the parks even more memorable.

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Glacier's visitor centers offer several programs geared toward kids. Check with ranger staff for information about how to become a Junior Ranger.

TAKE A HIKE

Self-guided trails are perfect for families, especially those ranging in length from a quarter to two miles. Let your child guide the way and reads the exhibits. Family-friendly nature trails in Glacier include Trail of the Cedars near Avalanche Campground, Sun Point along St. Mary Lake and Swiftcurrent Lake at Many Glacier. Hidden Lake Overlook at Logan Pass is also a good choice for families with children. In Waterton, options include Linnet Lake, Red Rock Canyon, Bear's Hump and Lower Bertha Falls trails.

GO ON A RANGER-LED TOUR

Take advantage of naturalist-led day programs and evening campfire talks, which are offered mid-June through September. Pick up a schedule at a visitor center or from a park ranger.

GO FOR A HORSEBACK RIDE

Swan Mountain Outfitters offers guided horseback rides from three locations within the park, as well as from the Crown of the Continent Discovery Center in West Glacier, where they also have a pizza place and an ice cream parlor. The age limit is 7 years old and a maximum weight is 225 pounds.

HIT THE LAKES

The Glacier Park Boat Company offers guided tours from several locations. You can also fish for trout, whitefish and grayling. Rent boats at Lake McDonald, Apgar, Many Glacier, Two Medicine and Cameron Lake (if accessible). Fishing equipment can be rented in Cameron Lake and gateway communities, or purchased at camp stores in the park.

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL CULTURES

Stop at the Apgar Visitor Center to see the Apgar Nature Center, which has numerous child-friendly exhibits and activities. Here kids can create a puppet show, sculpt a moldable landscape, and learn about plants and animals through hands-on activities. At Glacier, children can also learn about American Indians at the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, go to the Museum of the Plains Indian or take a trip with Sun Tours.

TAKE A RED BUS TOUR

Glacier National Park Lodges offers **Red Bus Tours** from several locations within the park.

Kids and adults will love this unique and educational way to experience the park.

BECOME A JUNIOR JAMMER

Check with your Red Bus driver or at Lake McDonald Lodge or Many Glacier Hotel transportation desks for information about how to become a Junior Jammer.

If You Only Have A Day

Glacier and Waterton's mountains and valleys are an adventurer's paradise.

SADDLE UP!

Horseback trail rides are guided in multiple locations by Swan Mountain Outfitters. One-hour, two-hour, half-day and full-day rides are available at the following locations: Apgar, (406) 888-5010; Lake McDonald, (844) 868-7474; Many Glacier (844) 868-7474; and West Glacier, (406) 387-4566.

GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD

This paved, two-lane **National Historic Landmark** extends 50 miles, joining many park highlights into one picturesque drive. Travel the road during early morning and early evening to enjoy less traffic, optimal wildlife viewing and the best light for photography.

RED BUS TOUR

Take a ride back in time while you view Glacier's sites in style on one of the historic Red Buses. These vintage motor coaches, built by the White Motor Company, travel over the Going-to-the-Sun Road and link most hotels and inns within the park. These bright red coaches have roll-back canvas tops, allowing for spectacular views. To book, contact Glacier National Park Lodges: call (855) 733-4522 or visit glaciernationalparklodges.com.

SURF OR TURF

Several trailheads and two boat tours can be accessed from **Going-to-the-Sun Road.** Hour-long cruises on Lake McDonald and St. Mary Lake feature expert commentary. Trails range from the 50-foot walk to Sunrift Gorge to the 32-mile Highline route from Logan Pass to Waterton Lake/Goat Haunt Ranger Station.

Waterton Lake cruises are an excellent way to experience the International Peace Park. Tour boats ferry between the two parks and two countries. The boats dock below the great north face of Mount Cleveland, the highest cliff wall in the continental U.S. Some tour boats stop at the Crypt Lake trailhead, which leads to a 5.4-mile hike past waterfalls and to a natural tunnel through a glacial cirque concealing the lake. Explore the Goat Haunt area, with its trails leading into wildlife-rich forests. Exhibits at Goat Haunt and Waterton Marina focus on the International Peace Park.

RUN FOR THE BORDER

Travel the Chief Mountain International Peace Parkway from Many Glacier to Waterton and to see what geologists call the Lewis Overthrust. Waterton's compact size makes it a perfect place for auto touring. For an outdoor break, look for one of the five sets of red Adirondack chairs in scenic locations or stop at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Sit down and stay a while!





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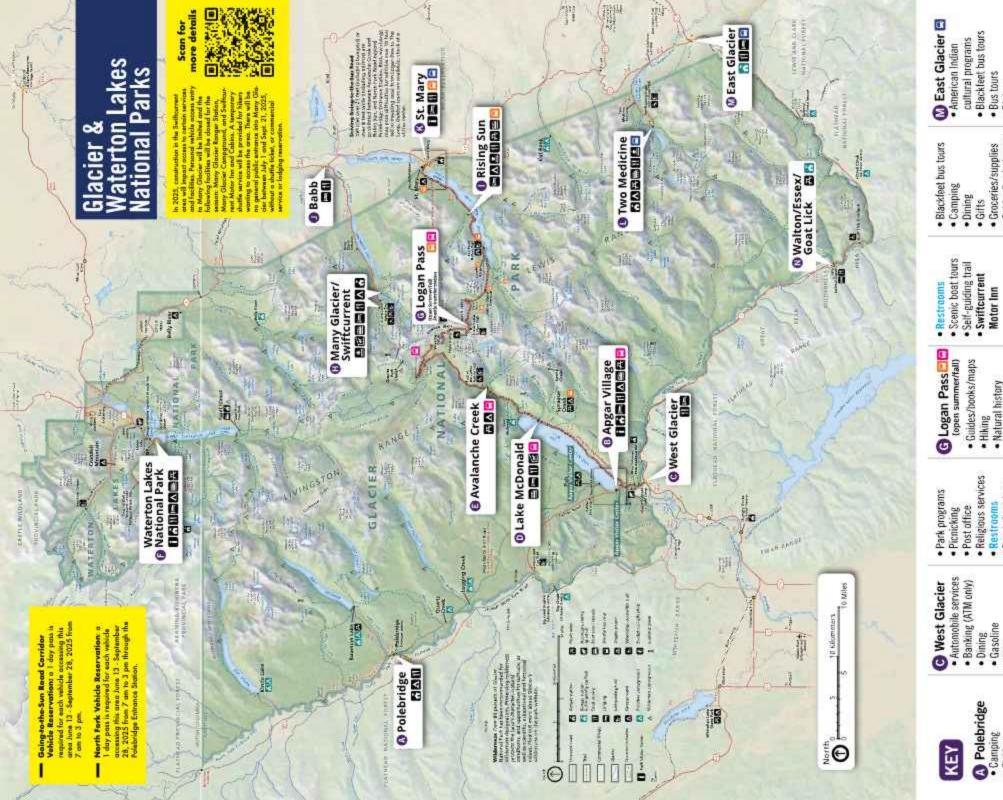
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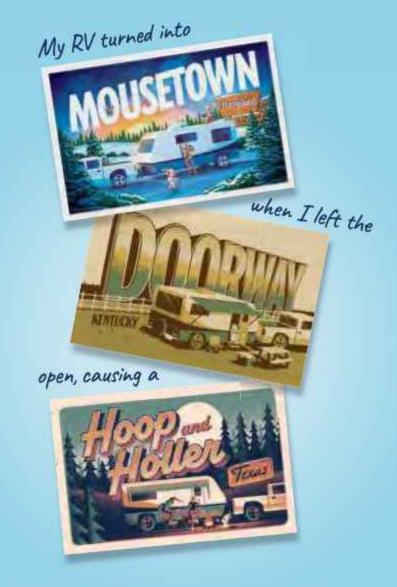
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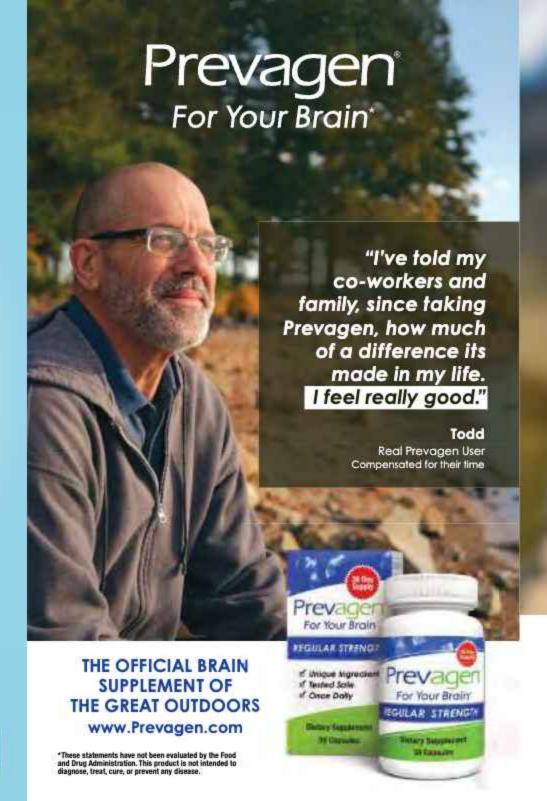
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