

Glacier

NATIONAL PARK • MONTANA

UNITED STATES SECTION—WATERTON-GLACIER
INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK

Glacier National Park, in the Rocky Mountains of northwest Montana, established on May 11, 1910, contains nearly 1,600 square miles of the finest mountain country in America. Among the higher peaks are approximately 50 small glaciers and 200 lakes. Horseback and foot trails penetrate almost all sections of the park.

Glacier forms the United States section of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which was established in 1932 by Presidential proclamation, as authorized by the Congress of the United States and the Canadian Parliament. Administratively, each component of the Peace Park retains its nationality and individuality.

This is a land of sharp, precipitous peaks and knife-edged ridges, girdled with forests. Alpine glaciers lie in the shadow of towering walls at the heads of great ice-carved valleys. Streams flow northward to Hudson Bay, eastward to the Gulf of Mexico, and westward to the Pacific.

Many kinds of wildlife abound in the park. Its rugged wilderness, enhanced by numerous lakes and almost unlimited natural alpine gardens, offers an unexcelled opportunity to enjoy and study nature.

The park has brilliant floral displays near timberline and accessible in such areas as Logan Pass. These plants are fragile and must survive in a severe climate with only a few summer months in which to grow. Some of the plants in these alpine gardens are heather, gentian, beargrass, glacier lily, and stunted trees of subalpine fir.

You can do your part to help save the fragile plant communities by staying on park trails and admiring, but letting the flowers grow.

While valleys on the east bear Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and limber pine, the western valleys have significantly different plantlife, typified by dense forests. These forests consist chiefly of red cedar and hemlock, with intermediate forests of larch, fir, spruce, and white pine.

Beargrass, a characteristic plant of Glacier, grows from the valley floors to the higher slopes. At lower elevations occur such representatives of the Great Plains flora as the pasqueflower, shooting star, Indian paintbrush, red and white geraniums, gaillardia, and asters.

The bighorn, mountain goat, moose, elk, grizzly and black bears, and whitetailed and mule deer exist in as natural a condition as is possible. The beaver, hoary marmot, river otter, marten, pika, and a host of smaller mammals are important members of Glacier's fauna. Those birds attracting the most interest are the osprey, water ouzel, ptarmigan, Clark's nutcracker, thrushes, and sparrows.

Disturbing, injuring, or destroying vegetation, wildlife, rocks, or fossils within the park is not allowed. Hunting with any kind of weapon is not permitted. Firearms may be brought into the park only if they are unloaded and cased, broken down, or otherwise made inoperative.

WHAT TO DO

Learning About Glacier. The park's interpretive program, conducted in several areas of the park from about June 15 through Labor Day, will help you understand and enjoy the wonders of Glacier. These services are free except for the boat rides and for lodging in connection with overnight trips to Sperry and Granite Park Chalets. Schedule leaflets are available at entrance stations, information offices, visitor centers, hotels, and cabin-camp offices.

Hiking. A thousand miles of wilderness trails invite you to explore this paradise for hikers. There are numerous places of interest which can be visited by easy walks, or trips can be made to cover one or more days, with stops planned at camping sites or chalets en route. (Pets are not allowed on trails, nor are they permitted in public eating places, food stores, and designated swimming beaches. They may be brought to Glacier if they are kept under physical control.)

You should carry a topographic map, which shows all streams, lakes, glaciers, mountains, and other principal features. Be certain to observe the following rules: **Register your hiking plans at the nearest ranger station, and let the park rangers know when you have returned or reached your final destination. Stay on the trails.**

Traveling Glacier's roads. Going-to-the-Sun Road (Glacier Route 1), one of the outstanding scenic roadways of the world, connects the east and west sides of the park, crossing the Continental Divide through Logan Pass at 6,664 feet altitude (usually closed by snow from mid-October to early June). The road is about 50 miles long.

If you start on the west side, the road follows the eastern shore of Lake McDonald to the head of the lake, then up McDonald Creek to Logan Pass. Flanking Pollock, Piegan, and Going-to-the-Sun Mountains, it continues through one of the park's most spectacular sections to St. Mary Lake. Skirting the north shore and foot of St. Mary, it joins the Blackfeet Highway on the park's east side.

Blackfeet Highway (Mont. 49 and U.S. 89), along the east side of the park, leads from U.S. 2 at East Glacier Park to the International boundary. Coming from the east, you can turn off U.S. 2 at Browning and take U.S. 89.

Picturesque Chief Mountain Road branches from U.S. 89 at Kennedy Creek, leading around the base of Chief Mountain and across the international boundary to Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada. Hard-surfaced branch roads lead from Mont. 49 into Two Medicine Valley (Glacier Route 2), and from U.S. 89 into Many Glacier Valley (Glacier Route 3). A narrow dirt road provides access to Cut Bank Valley (Glacier Route 5).

U.S. 2 follows the southern boundary of the park between the villages of East Glacier Park and West Glacier, a distance of 57 miles.

A narrow dirt road (Glacier Route 7) from Appar follows the North Fork of the Flathead River to Bowman and Kintla Lakes.

Glacier's roads are not high-speed highways, but are instead designed so that you can derive the fullest enjoyment of the park's scenic beauty as you drive them. You are therefore urged to observe the speed limits: 45 miles an hour, unless otherwise posted; 1½-ton trucks or over, 35 miles an hour. Keep gears meshed and out of overdrive on grades. Vehicles pulling trailers should use lower gear on grades. Vehicles are not allowed on trails.

Some of Glacier's roads are narrower than those to which you may be accustomed. For this reason, campers and other vehicles more than 8 feet wide are not allowed on park roads. Trailers more than 19 feet long are not allowed on Going-to-the-Sun Road between Avalanche and Rising Sun Campgrounds.

Fishing. Many streams and lakes in Glacier are inhabited by fish, and a license is not required! Eastern brook trout and the native cutthroat trout are the most abundant. In larger lakes, a mackinaw or Dolly Varden weighing 30 pounds is a possibility. All fishing must conform to park regulations; stop at park headquarters, an entrance station, a visitor center, or an information office and get a digest of these regulations before you fish.

Boating and water skiing. The park's lakes invite you to boat; however, motorboats are restricted to lakes reached by designated public roads. Water skiing is permitted on Lake McDonald and St. Mary Lake only. A digest of boating regulations can be obtained at park headquarters, entrance stations, ranger stations, visitor centers, and information desks.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND FACILITIES

Camping is popular at Glacier. The National Park Service maintains campgrounds, with fireplaces, tables, sanitary facilities, and running water. Campgrounds are often full during July and August. Check with a park ranger.

Trailer space is available in all campgrounds except Sprague Creek, but there are no utility connections. The dirt road from Fish Creek Campground to Kintla and Bowman Lake Campgrounds (North Fork area) is too narrow for large house trailers; before attempting this route check with a park ranger.

Fires must be built in fireplaces provided in developed campgrounds. If you are going to camp in the back country, get a campfire permit from park headquarters. *Pour water on your fire to make sure it is out before you leave.*

Camping in developed campgrounds is limited to 14 days during July and August. A digest of camping regulations is available at park headquarters, entrance stations, ranger stations, visitor centers, and information desks.

Hotels, lodges, and cabins are available, both inside the park and at convenient locations adjacent to it. Accommodations inside the park are operated by Glacier Park, Inc.; you can obtain information on rates, seasonal opening and closing, types of accommodations, and services by writing Glacier Park, Inc., from May 15 to September 15, at East Glacier Park, MT 59434; from September 15 to May 15, at 1735 East Fort Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ 85717. *Reservations are advised; deposits are required.*

Chalets are for the use of hikers and horseback parties from July 1 through Labor Day. Reached by trail only, Sperry Chalets are 6.5 miles from Lake McDonald Lodge; Granite Park Chalets, 7.6 miles from Logan Pass.

ABOUT WILD ANIMALS

All animals in the park are *wild* and are harmless at a distance, but they are dangerous when approached or startled. Please—for your protection—never offer food to bears or other animals; never get between an adult animal and her young; always keep a safe distance; be noisy on trails.

To avoid startling the grizzly bear in the back country, hikers should use various methods of creating noise to make their presence known, such as rocks in cans, using a small bell or whistle, or loud talking or singing.

HOW TO REACH GLACIER

The park is on U.S. 2 and 89 and near U.S. 91 and 93. Buses connecting with transcontinental buslines at Great Falls and Missoula stop twice daily at West Glacier and East Glacier Park. A main transcontinental rail line serves the park. Both Great Falls and Kalispell have scheduled airline service.

ADMINISTRATION

Glacier National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is West Glacier, MT 59936, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

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