

# Glacier

NATIONAL PARK • MONTANA

UNITED STATES SECTION—WATERTON-GLACIER  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-483-434/37  
REVISED 1972

## 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.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

A ruggedly beautiful wilderness in the Rocky Mountains bordering Canada, this park of nearly 1,600 square miles is famous for its glaciers, lakes, wildflowers, and wildlife. Horseback and foot trails invite hikers and riders to venture far from the roads to enjoy alpine gardens, mountain goats, and solitude.

Glacier National Park, set aside in 1910, constitutes the United States section of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which was established in 1932 by Presidential proclamation, as authorized by the Congress, 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 evergreen forests and luxuriant wildflower meadows. 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.

The park's brilliant floral displays begin in early spring and progress up the mountainside as the snow recedes, culminating in the unrivalled alpine summer show. They are most accessible near Logan Pass, along Going-to-the-Sun Road. These high-altitude wildflowers must survive in a severe climate with only a few summer months in which to grow. Some plants to look for in the alpine gardens are heather, gentian, beargrass, glacier lily, and stunted subalpine fir.

You can do your part to help preserve the park's fragile plant communities by staying on the trails. Admire the flowers—but do not pick them.

The eastern slopes, more exposed to cold winds and receiving less moisture, have open forests of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and limber pine. The western slopes, benefiting from warmer, moister Pacific winds, have a significantly different vegetation, typified by denser forests, chiefly of redcedar and hemlock, and intermediate forests of larch, fir, spruce, and white pine.

Beargrass, a beautiful, showy member of the lily family and a characteristic plant of Glacier, provides a spectacle beginning in June on the valley floors and reaching the higher slopes in August. At lower elevations occur representatives of the Great Plains flora—pasqueflower, shooting star, Indian paintbrush, red and white geraniums, gailardia, and asters.

Wildlife abounds in Glacier. Here the bighorn, mountain goat, moose, wapiti (American elk),

grizzly and black bears, and white-tailed and mule deer live in a natural environment relatively untouched by man. The beaver, hoary marmot, river otter, marten, pika, and other smaller mammals are important members of Glacier's fauna. Among the more noticeable birds 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 permitted. Hunting with any weapon is not permitted. Firearms brought into the park must be cased, broken down, or otherwise made inoperative.

## WHAT TO DO

**Learning About Glacier.** Park naturalist programs, conducted in several areas of the park from about mid-June through Labor Day, will help you understand and enjoy the wonders of Glacier. Services are free except for boat rides and lodging in connection with overnight trips to Sperry and Granite Park Chalets. Naturalist program schedules are available at entrance stations, information offices, visitor centers, hotels, and cabin-camp offices.

**Hiking.** More than 700 miles of back-country trails invite you to explore this paradise. Numerous places of interest can be visited by easy walks or by trips of one or more days with stops at camping sites or chalets. For safety, carry a topographic map which shows all streams, lakes, glaciers, and mountains; stay on the trails; register your hiking plans at the nearest ranger station; let a park ranger know when you have returned or reached your final destination.

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

Starting on the west side of the park, 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 Blackfoot Highway on the park's east side.

Blackfoot 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 Brown-ing 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, and from U.S. 89 into Many Glacier Valley (Glacier Route 3). A narrow dirt road provides access to Cut Bank Valley.

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. Glacier's roads are not high-speed highways. They are designed so you can enjoy nature as you drive. Observe the speed limits—45 miles an hour, unless otherwise posted. 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 quite narrow. Campers and other vehicles more than 8 feet wide are not allowed on park roads. Vehicles, including mirrors or extensions, wider than 8 feet or vehicles in a combination of units longer than 30 feet are prohibited on Going-to-the-Sun Road between Avalanche and Rising Sun Campgrounds.**

Trailers may be parked temporarily at Rising Sun on the east side or in regular campgrounds on either side of the park while you drive to the other side and return. However, before July 1 and after August 31, vehicles with maximum length of 35 feet and a width of 8 feet may travel Sun Road over Logan Pass.

**Fishing and Boating.** Eastern brook trout and the native cutthroat trout are most abundant in the many streams and lakes. In larger lakes, you might catch a mackinaw or Dolly Varden weighing as much as 30 pounds. A license is not required. Motorboats are restricted to lakes reached by designated public roads. Before fishing or boating, obtain a digest of regulations at park headquarters, entrance stations, ranger stations, visitor centers, and information desks.

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND FACILITIES

**Camp** only in designated campgrounds, which are often full during July and August. The campgrounds have fireplaces, tables, sanitary facilities, and running water.

Trailer space is provided in all campgrounds except Sprague Creek. There are no utility connec-

tions. The dirt road from Fish Creek Campground to Kintla and Bowman Lake Campgrounds (North Fork area) is too narrow for trailers and camper pickups. Before traveling this route, check with a park ranger.

In campgrounds, build fires only in the fireplaces provided. Before camping in the back country, secure a campfire permit from park headquarters. *Pour water on your fire before you leave.*

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 in the park and at locations adjacent to it. Accommodations in the park are operated by Glacier Park, Inc. Information on rates, seasons, types of accommodations, and services may be obtained by writing to Glacier Park, Inc., (May 15 to September 15) East Glacier Park, MT 59434; (September 15 to May 15) P.O. Box 4340, Tucson, AZ 85717. Reservations are advised; deposits are required.

**Chalets** are for the use of back-country travelers from July 1 through Labor Day. Sperry Chalets are reached by trail only and are 6.5 miles from Lake McDonald Lodge; Granite Park Chalets are 7.6 miles from Logan Pass. Reservations required; contact Belton Chalets, West Glacier, MT 59936.

## ANIMALS

**All animals native to the park are wild and are harmless at a distance, but they are dangerous when approached or startled. Please—for your protection—do not offer food to bears or other animals; never get between an adult animal and her young; always keep a safe distance; make some noise when you travel the 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 using a small bell or whistle, or by talking or singing loudly.**

**Pets must be kept under physical control at all times. They are not allowed on trails or in public dining areas.**

## 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 airline service.

