



The official newspaper
of Glacier National Park

Summer 2020

Glacier Safety Guide



Welcome to Glacier National Park, one of the crown jewels of the National Park System. The combination of natural wonders, cultural history, and our shared border with Waterton Lakes National Park, in Canada, contributed to Glacier being recognized, world-wide, as a World Heritage Site, a Biosphere Reserve, the World's first International Peace Park, and the World's first International Dark Sky Park.

We hope you discover your own special aspect of this spectacular landscape.

COVID-19



Glacier is modifying visitor services to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Some facilities and events will be closed or canceled. Please check locally and on the park website for current information and continue to follow CDC guidelines. As circumstances continue to change and we modify our operations as necessary, we thank you for your patience and cooperation. Follow local, state, and national health guidance.

COVID-19 Precautions

Come Prepared



Visitor services are very limited. Expect wait times at the park entrances and parking lots.

Face Coverings



Wearing a face mask or covering is advised in high-visitation areas and inside visitor facilities.

Social Distancing



Maintain a safe distance of six feet (1.8m), especially in high-visitation areas like visitor facilities, popular trails, scenic turnouts, and while viewing wildlife.

Wash Your Hands



Frequent hand washing with soap and water and the use of hand sanitizer is highly recommended.

Sneezes & Coughs



Sneeze and cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.

Face Touching



Touching your face is a hard habit to break. Avoid touching your face and help curb the spread of the virus to your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Self-isolate



If you are sick, do not visit the park. Self-isolate to avoid exposing others.

Help Stop Aquatic Invasive Species



We need your help to keep Zebra Mussels and Quagga Mussels out of Glacier National Park's waters.

All watercraft must be inspected before launching. Motorized boats are subject to a 30-day drying time before launching. When the park reopens in June, Lake McDonald will be the only waters available for motorized or trailered watercraft.

Boat Inspection Locations & Hours

Initially, Lake McDonald will be the only waters available for boating in the park. Later in the summer others lakes may become available for recreational use.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Station is across the street from the Apgar boat ramp and will be open from 9 am to 7 pm.

Inspections are not available this year at Many Glacier, St. Mary, or Polebridge.

Getting an Inspection

All water craft must be thoroughly cleaned before coming to the inspection station, this includes, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards, and float tubes.

As we will not have full staffing this summer, you can expect some delays. We greatly appreciate your patience.

Boaters will be expected to unload and clean their boats without help from park employees. Boaters will remove any personal items they store in the watercraft to prevent inspectors from

having to touch people's personal items. Minimal cleaning of boats may be permitted, but any boats that need significant cleaning will be denied.

Physical distancing guidelines of 6 feet will be maintained.

In Waterton Lakes National Park

For information on boat inspection requirements in Waterton Lakes National Park, visit <https://id4waterton.ca/>.

A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear

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

To be a good guest in bear country, you must never let bears access human food and always stay the proper distance from

bears. To protect human life and property, bears that seek human food must be removed from the park. Please keep all food and garbage stored out of reach of bears at all times.

Our campgrounds and developed areas can remain unattractive to bears if each visitor manages food and trash properly.

Place all trash in designated bear-resistant garbage containers. Following park regulations will help keep the "wild" in wildlife and ensure your safety, as well.

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

What Type of Bear is That?

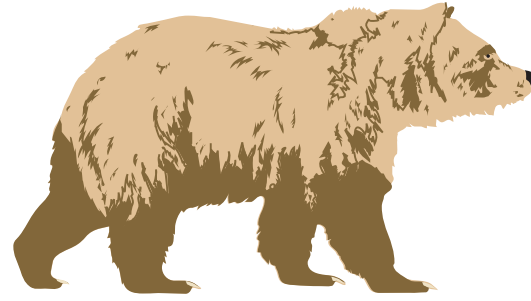
Size and color are not reliable indicators for either species. Black bears may be black, blond, brown, or cinnamon. Grizzlies can be very dark or very light as well.

Grizzly Bear

- Prominent shoulder hump
- Shorter rounded ears
- Face has dished profile
- Front claws ~ 2 to 4" and light in color

Black Bear

- No shoulder hump
- Taller ears
- Straight facial profile
- Front claws ~ 1.5" and dark in color



grizzly



black

Protect Yourself, Protect the Bears



Glacier is one of the few places left to see grizzly bears in their natural, wild habitat. Please help us protect bears by being a good steward of the land.

What if You Encounter a Bear?

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

Hike in Groups

Hiking in groups significantly decreases your chances of having a bear encounter. Check at one of the park visitor centers to see if there are any ranger-led hikes available for you to join. Trail running is highly discouraged.

Carry Bear Spray

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

Make Noise

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

Secure Food & Garbage

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

Be Bear Aware

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



Berries (like service berries and huckleberries) are a major component of a bear's diet. If you are hiking in areas with good bear food be sure to make noise and make your presence known.



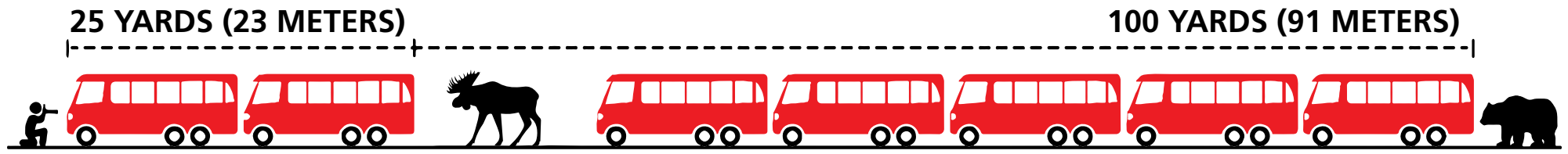
How Close is Too Close?

Approaching, viewing, or engaging in any activity within 100 yards of bears or wolves, or within 25 yards of any other wildlife is prohibited. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to improve your view. Keep

the animal's line of travel clear, and move away if wildlife approaches.

If you see a bear along the road, do not stop near it. If you wish to view the bear,

travel at least 100 yards and pull over in a safe location. Roadside bears quickly become habituated to traffic and people, increasing their chances of being hit by vehicles.



A good pair of binoculars can greatly enhance your wildlife viewing opportunities.



Top Strategies for Viewing Wildlife



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

Let Wildlife be Wild

Please take the time to learn about wildlife and respect their need for undisturbed space. While some animals appear to tolerate people, approaching too close can disturb them from feeding areas or travel routes. Keep the animal's line of travel or escape route clear and move away if wildlife approaches you.

Because park animals are wild, they remain unpredictable and may strike out without warning. Animals may be hit by cars if they hang around parking lots and roads, and habituated animals often have to be relocated or killed.

Try the Rule of Thumb

Hold your hand straight out in front of you with your thumb up, like a hitchhiker.

If your thumb does not completely cover the wildlife you are observing then you need to move farther away. If an animal is ever in distress or changing their behavior in any way because of you, then you need to give it more space. Results may vary and the regulation is always 25 yards from most wildlife and 100 yards from bears and wolves.

Bring Your Binoculars

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

When photographing wildlife, use a telephoto lens to maintain the required safe distance. Many visitors enjoy not

photographing wildlife at all and simply savoring their views with binoculars.

Avoid Traffic Jams

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

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

Top Nine Hazards to Watch For



Steep snow and ice are dangerous and require proper gear and training.

1. Falling

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

2. Drowning

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

3. Snow and Ice

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

4. Weather

Summer weather is as varied. Even when temperatures reach the 80s and 90s, it can cool down into the 40s at night. Prepare for a variety of weather conditions and pack accordingly. You may start the day in a t-shirt and shorts, and need a sweater or parka by evening. Dress in layers and always bring rain gear.

5. Hypothermia

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

6. Mountain Lions

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

7. Hantavirus

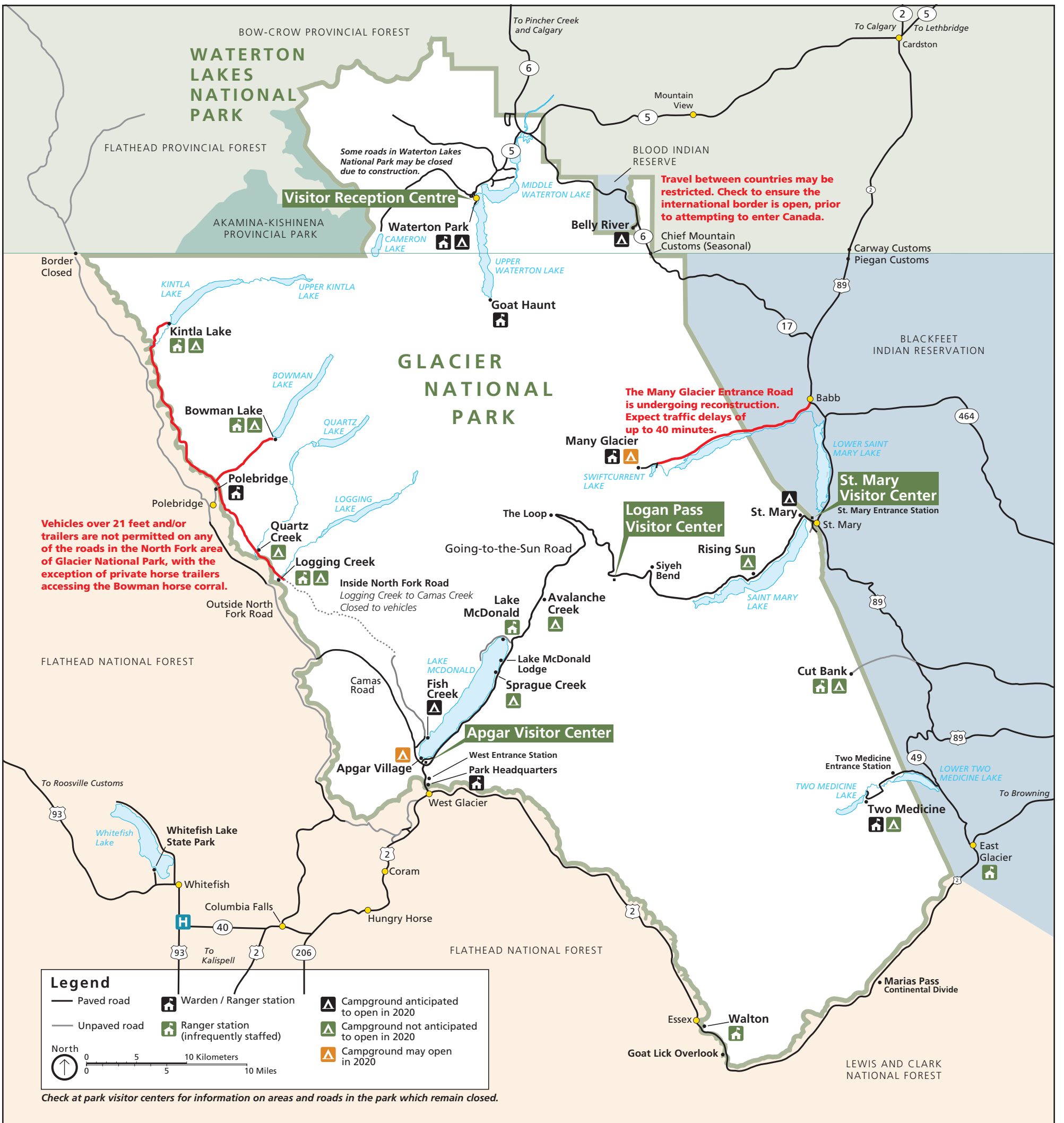
The most likely source of infection is from rodent urine and droppings inhaled as aerosols or dust. Initial symptoms are almost identical to the onset of flu. If you have potentially been exposed and exhibit flu-like symptoms, you should seek medical care immediately.

8. Ticks

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

9. Giardia

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



Crossing the Border

At the present time the border between Canada and the United States remains closed. It is anticipated to open later in June. Please check prior to attempting to travel to Canada.

What You Need

Crossing the border requires documents that are Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative compliant.

- US citizens must present a US Passport, Enhanced Drivers License*, US Passport Card, or NEXUS Card.
- Citizens from countries other than Canada or the United States must present a valid passport and a current I-94 or an I-94W. I-94 forms are available at the Port of Entry for \$6. US currency and all major credit cards are accepted. Canadian currency is not accepted.

- US Resident Aliens must present a US Resident Alien Card.
- Canadian citizens must present a Canadian Passport, Enhanced Drivers License*, or NEXUS Card.

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

Border Crossing Dates and Times

Times are subject to change and travelers should check before attempting to cross.

- **Roosville**..... open 24 hours West of the park on Highway 93.
- **Piegan/Carway** 7 am–11 pm East of the park at the joining of U.S. Highway 89 with Alberta Highway 2
- **Chief Mountain**
June 1–Sept. 1 7 am–10 pm
Sept. 2–Sept. 30 9 am–6 pm
October 1 closed for the season

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Want Glacier to Feature You?

Post about conservation, Leave No Trace, or safety and help support the mission of the National Park Service. Use #ProtectGlacier on posts about these topics and we might feature you. Consider the negative impact a location geotag may have on a sensitive environment before posting.

What do Your Images Portray?

Please be cautious about posting images of dangerous activities without context.

Do You Have a Permit for That?

Product ambassadors, brand influencers, and other marketers need a commercial photography permit.



This publication and other critical park projects would not be possible without your donations to the Glacier National Park Conservancy.