



Glacier Visitor Guide

The official newspaper
of Glacier National Park
Fall, Winter, and Spring
2014/2015



Heaven's Peak

NPS

There's Still Lots to See in the Fall

EVEN THOUGH THE EAST SIDE OF the Going-to-the-Sun Road is closed for the season, visitors can still reach Logan Pass from the west side of the park through Sunday, October 19, 2014, weather permitting. There are other opportunities for exploring the park in your vehicle.

MANY GLACIER

The northeast corner of the park, provides access to spectacular wildlife habitat. Watch along the sides of the road for elk and deer on the drive in. Once you reach the parking area at the end of the road, scan the hillsides for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and

bear. Several hiking trails lead to some of the best fall hiking in the park.

TWO MEDICINE

The southeast corner of the park is a quiet retreat this time of year. Uncrowded trails abound along the lakes and up the mountainsides. The drive to Two Medicine is bordered by some of the best aspen displays in the area.

NORTH FORK

The dirt roads in this area of the park are narrow and dusty, but lead to a more secluded section of the park. A mosaic of

burned and unburned landscapes offer a variety of habitats for wildlife, and visitors are sometimes rewarded with the sounds, and an occasional sighting, of some of the wolves that reside in the park. Moose, elk, deer, and bear also find refuge in this quiet corner of Glacier. Drive slow and be prepared to pull over to allow for oncoming vehicles to pass.

Where ever you drive in the park, please obey all traffic regulations. Use the pullouts provided to allow for other traffic to pass, and please never feed or approach wildlife. Have a safe and enjoyable visit.

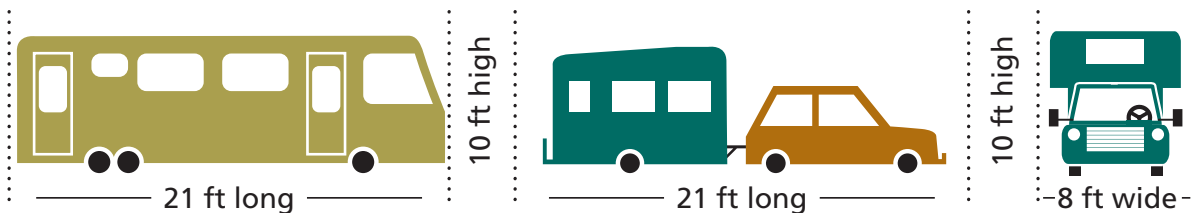


Frosty fall morning

NPS / BILL HAYDEN

Vehicle Size Restrictions on the Going-to-the-Sun Road

Vehicles, and vehicle combinations, longer than 21 feet (including bumpers) or wider than 8 feet (including mirrors), are prohibited between Avalanche Creek and Logan Pass.



Fall color on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River

BILL HAYDEN

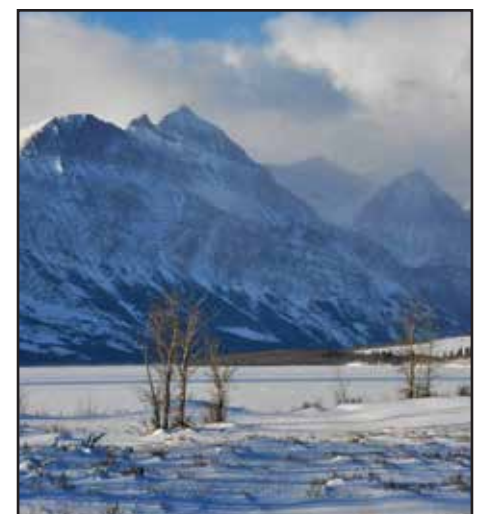


October snow at Logan Pass

NPS / RAY RADIGAN

Services

Remember, visitor services are limited in October through late spring. Multiple campgrounds do remain open, in primitive status (no water), until the end of October.



Red Eagle Mountain

MARK WAGNER

Pages 2 & 3 Winter in Glacier

Glacier's long cold winter can be a harsh time of the year for park wildlife, but it can also be a wonderful time to visit. The entire park takes on a different character. A quiet snowshoe walk or an invigorating cross country ski can reveal a side of the park not often seen by most park visitors. Special precautions are needed however to safely enjoy a winter visit.

Pages 4 & 5 Visiting in the Spring

Glacier's brief springtime is characterized by Pacific weather systems, which bring rain to the valleys and heavy snows to the high country, well into summer. Visiting at this time of year brings special challenges and amazing rewards. Pages four and five highlight special information you will need, to get the most out of a visit this time of the year.

Pages 6 & 7 Wildlife Safety

Glacier is at the core of one of the largest intact ecosystems in the country, providing large undisturbed areas vital for wildlife. Bears are just one of the things that makes Glacier a truly special place. Read the information contained in this guide so that you can visit safely and help us protect these magnificent creatures.

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youtube.com/GlacierNPS



Sunset at Lake McDonald

BILL HAYDEN

Winter Visitor Information

Visitor Center Hours

Headquarters Building - West Glacier
 Monday - Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
 (closed lunchtime and holidays)

Apgar Visitor Center
 Saturdays and Sundays.... 9:00am to 4:30pm
 (closed holidays)

Entrance Fees

7 Day Single Vehicle Pass through April 30 \$15.00
 7 Day Single Person Entry (by foot, bicycle, or motorcycle) through April 30 \$10.00
 Glacier National Park Pass \$35.00
 Valid for 1 year from month of entry.
 The Federal Interagency Pass (\$80), Senior Pass (\$10), Access Pass (free), and Active Military Pass (free) are available at Park Headquarters and the West Entrance Station (when staffed).
 Special fees are charged for commercial tour vehicles.
 Waterton Lakes National Park has separate entrance fees.

Weather

Winter weather in Glacier National Park is unpredictable. Expect numerous overcast or snowy days, especially on the west side of the park, with the possibility of extreme variations in temperature. While daytime temperatures average in the 20s and 30s, it may drop well below zero (0°F). Strong winds are typical on the east side of the park. Wind greatly accentuates the effects of temperature. This chill factor increases the danger of hypothermia and frostbite. Be prepared with proper winter clothing. Elevation, exposure, and wind patterns determine snow accumulation. Snow depths vary, with 2–3 feet common at lower elevations and 1–15 feet in the high country.



Chief Mountain

MARK WAGNER



Frosty whitetail deer

MARK WAGNER

Winter Activities

Winter Camping

FRONTCOUNTRY CAMPING

Although campgrounds are limited during this time of year, self-reliant visitors find a wondrous and peaceful setting in Glacier National Park. Winter camping is allowed in the Apgar Picnic Area (until the Apgar Campground reopens in early May) and in the St. Mary Campground. Between December 1 and March 31, there is no fee for winter camping. No drinking water is available. Instructions for registering your campsite are found on the bulletin board located at the entrance to the campground or camping area. There you will also find information on food storage regulations, water, firewood, and wildlife. Mountain lion sightings have increased in the last few years, and bears may be seen at any time of the year. Read and follow all wildlife precautions.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

A permit is required for all overnight trips in the park's backcountry. From November 20th to May 1st, special backcountry camping regulations are in effect. It is best to call ahead at the main park headquarters number at 406-888-7800 to arrange for a permit.

You may also obtain permits in person at:

Park Headquarters
 Weekdays 8:00am to 4:30pm
 (closed lunchtime and holidays)

Apgar Visitor Center
 Weekends 9:00am to 4:30pm

- Permits may be obtained up to 7 days in advance of your trip.
- Party size is limited to 12 people with a two night limit for any one campsite.
- Wood fires are prohibited in all backcountry areas because dead and down fuel is covered by snow. Self-contained camp stoves are recommended.
- Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of roads, trail corridors, creeks, lakes, or on vegetation emerging from snow cover.
- Use pit toilets where available; otherwise human waste should be disposed of at least 200 yards from lakes, streams, trails, roads, or developed areas. Do not leave or burn garbage (including toilet paper) in the backcountry. Pack it out!



Backcountry skiers

USGS

Skiing

Cross-country skiing is an excellent way to enjoy Glacier National Park. Ski trails and routes throughout the park provide a range of scenery, terrain, and difficulty. For detailed information on routes and winter safety, pick up the *Skiing and Snowshoeing* brochure at Park Headquarters, Apgar Visitor Center, or ranger stations.

Mountain Climbing

Winter weather conditions make climbing very challenging. With the inherent dangers of snow and ice-covered slopes, avalanche danger increases. Register all climbs with a ranger, and ask for the latest information.

Scenic Drives

The Going-to-the-Sun Road is usually plowed from West Glacier to Lake McDonald Lodge and from St. Mary to 1½ miles past the entrance station. All other roads in the park are closed for the season at the park boundary. US Highway 89 provides access to the east side of the park. Blowing and drifting snow are common.

The North Fork Road from Columbia Falls is open for winter travel to the North Fork area and the Polebridge Ranger Station.

Before setting out, check local park conditions by calling 406-888-7800. For statewide road conditions call: 1-800-226-ROAD (7623).



Skiing at Cameron Lake in Waterton Lakes National Park
 ELLEN BLICKHAN

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing provides another means of getting off the beaten path. Routes detailed in the *Skiing and Snowshoeing* brochure are available to snowshoers as well. However, as a courtesy to skiers, snowshoers should maintain a separate track where possible. Guided snowshoe and ski trips in Glacier may be available from private guide services located outside the park. Cross-country skis and snowshoes may be rented in many of the neighboring communities.

Ranger-led snowshoe trips are also available, on winter weekends. See the article on page 3 for details.



Singleshot Mountain

MARK WAGNER

Have You Ever Snowshoed? Join Us!

Explore Glacier National Park on a two-hour ranger-led snowshoe walk and take an intimate look at the park in winter. Search for signs of wildlife, discover the plants and animals of the park, and enjoy the solitude of winter during this unique winter experience.

Rangers offer snowshoe walks on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the winter. Participants should be prepared for a variety of winter conditions by wearing appropriate clothing, dressing in layers,

and bringing water and snacks. Use your own snowshoes or rent snowshoes for a nominal fee at the Apgar Visitor Center. Snowshoe rentals are also available in neighboring communities.

Meet at the Apgar Visitor Center every Saturday or Sunday, at 10:30 am & 2:00 pm, from January 10 to March 22, 2015.

If you have questions regarding this offering, please call 406-888-7800.



Winter snowshoe hikes

NPS

Avalanches

Avalanches are a real danger in the mountains of Glacier. Please check <http://www.flatheadavalanche.org> for the latest avalanche advisory and weather discussion before entering Glacier's Backcountry.

Whenever possible, avoid areas that cross through or beneath avalanche terrain. Be mindful of changing weather, terrain, and snowpack conditions and be prepared to turnaround at the first sign of instability.



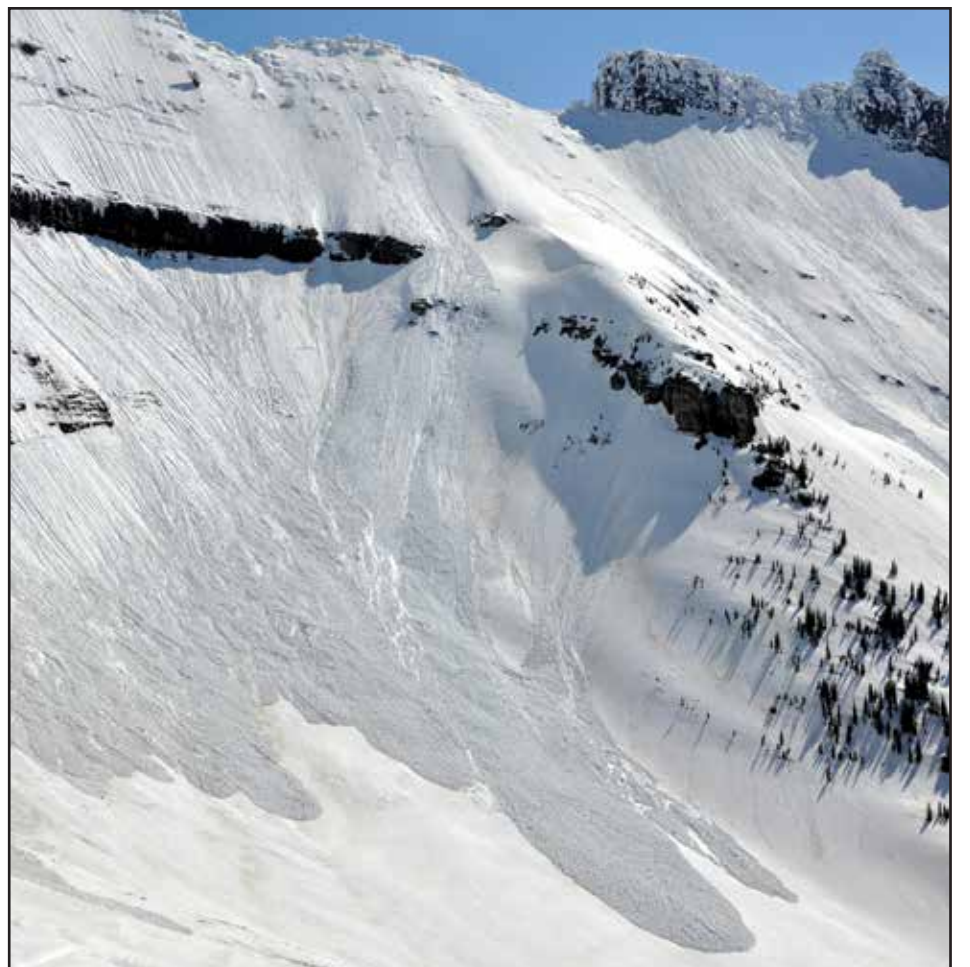
RED FLAGS

- Recent avalanche activity in the area
- Cracking, collapsing snowpack, or whumphing sounds
- Heavy snowfall or rain in the past 24 hours
- Heavy wind loaded slopes
- Rapidly increasing temperature
- Persistent weak layers (check the avalanche advisory)

If you are caught in an avalanche, ditch awkward gear and attempt to escape to the side of the slide or self-arrest on trees or rocks. If you cannot escape, make an air pocket in front of your face with one hand and reach for the surface with the other hand.

Your best chance of survival depends on you and your partners. Be prepared and practiced with your avalanche rescue equipment - probe pole, shovel, and transceiver before heading into the mountains.

Please report any natural or human triggered avalanche activity to a park ranger.



Always use extreme caution in avalanche country

USGS



Winter in the backcountry

USGS

Hypothermia

Hypothermia, the progressive physical collapse and reduced mental capacity resulting from the chilling of the inner core of the body, can occur even at temperatures above freezing. Warning signs include uncontrolled shivering, memory lapses and incoherence, slow or slurred speech, lack of coordination, stumbling, a lurching gait, drowsiness, and exhaustion.

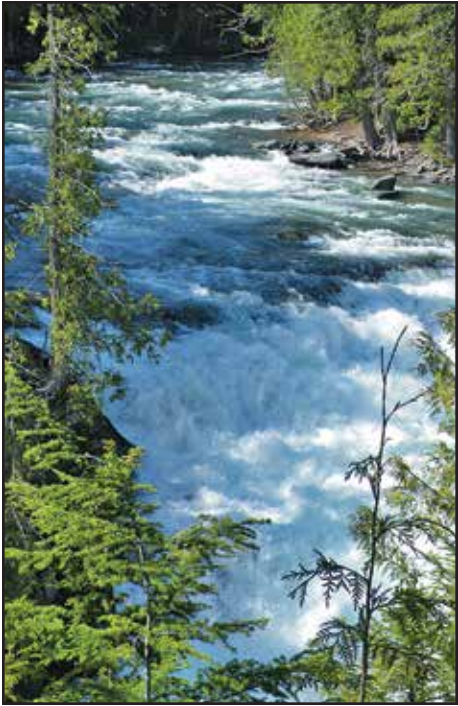
- Drinking plenty of fluids and wear water-resistant clothing or clothes that wick moisture away from the body.
- Minimize wind exposure.
- Get victim into dry clothes, build a fire for heat, keep victim awake, and give warm non-alcoholic drinks.
- In more serious cases, undress victim and yourself, and get into sleeping bag making skin-to-skin contact.
- Seek professional help immediately.



Elk in Big Prairie in the spring

BILL HAYDEN

Spring Visitor Information



Be careful! Spring creeks run full.

BILL HAYDEN

Entrance Fees

7 Day Single Vehicle Pass starting May 1 \$25.00
 7 Day Single Person Entry (by foot, bicycle, or motorcycle) starting May 1 \$12.00
 Glacier National Park Pass \$35.00
 Valid for 1 year from month of entry.
 The Federal Interagency Pass (\$80), Senior Pass (\$10), Access Pass (free), and Active Military Pass (free) are available at Park Headquarters and the West Entrance Station (when staffed).
 Special fees are charged for commercial tour vehicles.
 Waterton Lakes National Park has separate entrance fees.

Fees subject to change Summer 2015

Weather

Spring weather in Glacier National Park is unpredictable. Expect numerous overcast days with the occasional snow storm. While daytime temperatures average in the 40's and 50's, it may drop well below freezing, especially at night. Strong winds are always typical on the east side of the park. Rain is common, and wet clothes and wind greatly accentuates the effects of temperature. This chill factor increases the danger of hypothermia. Be prepared with proper clothing. Snow may remain in the high country well into summer and in shaded areas of the valleys as well. Often winter remains in the park long after spring arrives elsewhere.

Visitor Center Hours

Apgar Visitor Center
 Saturdays and Sundays.... 9:00am to 4:30pm
 (closed holidays)
 Starting in May 16 the visitor center will be open 7 days per week.

Headquarters Building - West Glacier
 Monday-Friday..... 8:00am to 4:30pm
 (closed lunchtime and holidays)



An April day near Two Medicine

BILL HAYDEN

Spring Activities

Spring Camping

FRONTCOUNTRY CAMPING

Most campgrounds in Glacier open in late May and June. The Apgar Campground opens in early May. Until open for the season, primitive camping is permitted at the Apgar Picnic area and St. Mary Campground. Some additional campgrounds may allow primitive camping before the regularly scheduled opening date. Between December 1 and March 31, there is no fee for camping. After March 31, primitive camping is \$10.00 per night.

Campsites are limited to 8 people and 2 vehicles per site. Campfires are permitted only in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where grates are provided. Collecting firewood is prohibited except along the inside North Fork Road from Dutch Creek to Kintla Lake, along the Bowman Lake Road, and in the vicinity of St. Mary Campground. Only dead and downed wood may be collected in these places.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Winter backcountry camping regulations remain in effect until May 1. After May 1, refer to the *2015 Backcountry Camping Guide*, which is available online or at visitor centers.

Mail-in reservation requests (for trips starting between June 15 and October 31) for the permit lottery are accepted from January 1 through April 15. Later requests are filled on a space available basis.



Biking on the Going-to-the-Sun Road

NPS

Scenic Drives

Lower portions of Going-to-the-Sun Road are open all year. Starting in April, additional roads start to open, as weather permits. The upper portion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road is generally not fully open until late-June, however roads into Many Glacier, Two Medicine, and Bowman (just north of Polebridge), as well as Camas Road, offer outstanding opportunities for scenic drives and wildlife viewing. Late season snows can cause temporary road closures. Icy roads are common, especially early in the morning. Check at visitor centers or rangers stations for local road and weather conditions.

Bicycling

Bicycles are allowed on roadways, bike routes, and in parking areas. They are not allowed on trails. Observe all traffic regulations. Keep to the right side of the road and ride in single file. Pull over if four or more vehicles stack up behind you. During periods of low visibility, a white light, visible from a distance of at least 500 feet (152 m) to the front, and a red light or reflector, visible from at least 200 feet (61 m) to the rear, are required. Attach a bright flag on a pole and wear light-colored clothing. The more visible you are, the safer you will be! Watch for falling rocks, drainage grates and culverts, wildlife, and ice on roads. Once plowing of the Going-to-the-Sun Road begins, lower sections of the road may be opened to bicycle traffic before they are opened to vehicles. Check at Park Headquarters or a visitor center for current road status.

Hiking

Spring is a dynamic time in Glacier with trail and snow conditions changing daily. Hiking opportunities vary from year to year depending on the winter snow pack. In the spring, the short lower elevation trails are generally the first ones that can be hiked. Plowed sections of the Going-to-the-Sun Road beyond the vehicle closures can offer scenic walks as well. Mid-elevation trails can be snow covered into June and high elevation trails melt out as late as the end of July. Please check with the visitor centers or Park Headquarters for current conditions.

Birding

One of the bonuses available to visitors this time of year is the abundance of bird life. You may spot dozens of species migrating through and others who have newly arrived at their park nesting grounds.

Westside forests, eastside meadows, higher elevation tundra, and brushy or wetland areas parkwide provide habitat for a variety of bird life. If you're interested in what's been spotted here over the years, pick up a free bird checklist from one of the park's visitor centers or a ranger station.



Grouse

NPS

Fishing

The general park fishing season is from the third Saturday in May, through November 30. Lake fishing is open all year.

No fee or license is required to fish within the park, but anglers must stop at a ranger station, visitor center, or boat dock to obtain current regulations.



Plowing the road is delicate and dangerous work

USGS



Starting to plow the road

USGS

Opening the Going-to-the-Sun Road

ONE SURE SIGN OF SPRING IS THE start of the annual plowing of the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The first of April marks the target date for the start of plowing. Often plowing proceeds quickly on the lower stretches of road along McDonald Creek and St. Mary Lake. However, several avalanche paths cross these sections of roadway, and in the past, crews have discovered huge amounts of snow and rock and trees piled up on the road from winter slides.

Once cleared, lower stretches of the road may be opened to hikers and bikers to enjoy the Going-to-the-Sun Road without cars. As the crews plow further up the road, additional sections are opened, first as hiking and biking routes, and later to cars.

The steep, upper sections of road, on either side of Logan Pass, provide the most challenges for the crews. This section traverses 70 avalanche paths, making the work difficult and very dangerous. Avalanche spotters constantly monitor the slopes and radio any signs of moving snow to the plow operators at once. Some days

crews encounter new slides blocking their way home, as slides continue to release behind them over areas already plowed.

It has been many decades since any fatalities have occurred plowing the road, but it is a constant threat. If the weather is overcast or rainy, and the spotters can't see the slopes above the road, crews do not work. Safety of the equipment operators is of paramount concern.

Park road crews always find different challenges from one year to the next, as they continue up the road. A few years ago when the plows reached the area called "Big Bend," an enormous mountain of snow covered a vast stretch of the road. Sometime earlier that winter, a series of unseen avalanches released at the same time creating a snow drift that was upwards of 60 feet deep in places. It took almost two weeks to plow through a section of road that took less than a day the year before. The final obstacle in opening the road is the Big Drift. This windblown snowdrift, just east of Logan Pass, is usually 60-70 feet deep or more. Plumes of snow shooting up from

the rotary plows make an impressive sight, as the crews nibble at the drift from both sides. After several days of exacting work, the plows reach the roadbed and the crews from both sides of the park meet. After a few more days of installing removable guard rails and final cleanup, the road can be opened for the summer season once again.

Plowing the Going-to-the-Sun Road can take two months or more. For the next few years road rehabilitation crews will be following closely behind the plows to accomplish much of their work, prior to the busy summer season. The entire road generally opens to traffic in late June.

It's sometimes hard for people to understand the magnitude of the task the road crew undertakes or the snow conditions they encounter in the high country. The original construction of the road was a major engineering feat. Maintaining the road and opening it each spring remains a continual challenge for park crews today.



Still plowing

NPS

Pets

Pets are allowed in developed areas, frontcountry campsites and picnic areas, along roads, and in boats on lakes where motorized watercraft are permitted. Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet, under physical restraint or caged at all times, including while in open-bed pickup trucks. Pets are not to be left tied to an object when unattended. Pet owners must pick up after their pets and dispose of waste in a trash receptacle. Owners must not allow a pet to make noise that is unreasonable.



Enjoying the breeze

BILL HAYDEN



Spring Beauty

BILL HAYDEN

Glacier is Bear Country



Grizzly bear

NPS

Roadside Bears

It's exciting to see bears up close, but we must act responsibly to keep them wild and healthy. If you see a bear along the road, please do not stop. Stopping and watching roadside bears will likely start a "bear jam" as other motorists follow your lead. "Bear jams" are hazardous to both people and bears as visibility is reduced and bears may feel threatened by the congestion. Roadside bears quickly become habituated to vehicles and people, increasing their chances of being hit by motor vehicles. Habituated bears may learn that it is acceptable to frequent campgrounds or picnic areas, where they may gain access to human food. When a bear obtains human food, a very dangerous situation is created that may lead to human injury and the bear's death. Please resist the temptation to stop and get close to roadside bears—put bears first at Glacier National Park.

*A fed bear is a dead bear!
Please never feed bears or
other wildlife.*

Bear Spray

KNOW HOW TO USE IT

This aerosol pepper derivative triggers temporarily incapacitating discomfort in bears. It is a non-toxic and non-lethal means of deterring aggressive bears. Bear spray has proven to be effective for fending off threatening and attacking bears, and for preventing injury to the person and the animal involved.

Bear spray is intended to be sprayed towards an oncoming bear in an expanding cloud. It does not have to be aimed at the bears face and can be fired from the hip. Be sure to remove the zip-tie securing the safety clip before heading out on the trail. Bear spray is not intended to act as a repellent. Do not spray gear or your camp with bear spray. Under no circumstances should bear spray create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for standard safety precautions in bear country. Environmental factors, including strong wind and heavy rain, can reduce the effectiveness of bear spray.

Canadian Customs will allow the importation of bear spray into Canada, as long as it's labeled for use on bears rather than "animals".

Camping & Bears

Odors attract bears. Our developed areas can remain unattractive to bears if each visitor manages food and trash properly. Regulations require that all edibles (including pet food), food containers (empty or not), and cookware (clean or not) be stored in a hard-sided vehicle or food locker when not in use, day or night.

- Keep a clean camp! Improperly stored or unattended food will likely result in confiscation of items and/or issuance of a Violation Notice.
- Inspect campsites for bear sign and for careless campers nearby. Please notify a park ranger of any potential problems that you may notice.
- Place all trash in bear proof containers.
- Pets, especially dogs, must be kept under physical restraint.
- Report all bear sightings to the nearest ranger or warden immediately.



Camping at Apgar

NPS / TOM GRAY



Black bear

NPS



Video capture of grizzly family

© BOB CHINN

Hike Smart, Hike Safe

DON'T SURPRISE BEARS!

Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching, so make noise. Most bells are not enough. Calling out and clapping hands loudly at regular intervals are better ways to make your presence known. Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers.

A bear constantly surprised by quiet hikers may become habituated to close human contact and less likely to avoid people. Don't be tempted to approach or get too close to these bears.

DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS!

You can't predict when and where bears might be encountered along a trail. People often assume they don't have to make noise while hiking on a well-used trail. Some of the most frequently used trails in the park are surrounded by excellent bear habitat. People have been charged and injured by bears fleeing from silent hikers who unwittingly surprised them along the trail. Even if other hikers haven't seen bears along a trail section recently, don't assume that bears aren't there.

Don't assume a bear's hearing is any better than your own. Some trail conditions make it hard for bears to see, hear, or smell approaching hikers. Be particularly careful by streams, against the wind, or in dense vegetation. A blind corner or a rise in the trail also requires special attention.

DON'T APPROACH BEARS!

Bears spend a lot of time eating, so be extra cautious when passing through obvious feeding areas like berry patches, cow parsnip thickets, or fields of glacier lilies. Take the time to learn what these foods look like.

Keep children close by. Hike in groups and avoid hiking early in the morning, late in the day, or after dark.

Never intentionally get close to a bear. Individual bears have their own personal space requirements, which vary depending on their mood. Each will react differently and its behavior can't be predicted. All bears are dangerous and should be respected equally.

WHAT DO I DO IF I RUN INTO A BEAR?

A commonly asked question is "What do I do if I run into a bear?" There is no easy answer. Like people, bears react differently to each situation. The best thing you can do is to make sure you have read all the suggestions for hiking and camping in bear country and follow them. Avoid encounters by being alert and making noise.

Bears may appear tolerant of people and then attack without warning. A bear's body language can help determine its mood. In general, bears show agitation by swaying their heads, huffing, and clacking their teeth. Lowered head and laid-back ears also indicate aggression. Bears may stand on their hind legs or approach to get a better view, but these actions are not necessarily signs of aggression. The bear may not have identified you as a person and is unable to smell or hear you from a distance.

BEAR ATTACKS

The vast majority of bear attacks have occurred because people have surprised a bear. In this type of situation the bear may attack as a defensive maneuver.

In rare cases, bears have attacked at night or after stalking people. These types of attacks are very serious because it may mean the bear is looking at you as prey.

If you are attacked at night or if you feel you have been stalked and attacked as prey, try to escape. If you cannot escape or if the bear follows, use bear spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock. Do whatever it takes to let the bear know you are not easy prey.

IF YOU SURPRISE A BEAR

- Stop and assess the situation. Is it a black bear or grizzly bear? Does it have cubs? Is it aware of your presence?
- If the bear appears unconcerned or unaware of your presence, take this opportunity to quietly leave the area. Do not run! Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.
- If the bear approaches or charges you, stop. Stand your ground. Speak to it in a calm voice.
- If it's a grizzly and is about to make contact, play dead. Lie on the ground on your stomach and cover your neck with your hands.
- If a bear attacks and you have bear spray, use it!
- Most attacks end quickly. Do not move until the bear has left the area.
- If it's a black bear fight back. Defensive attacks by black bears are very rare.



Video capture of grizzly

© BOB CHINN

Wildlife Hazards

Glacier provides a wonderful opportunity to view animals in their natural setting. Along with this opportunity comes a special obligation for park visitors. With just a little planning and forethought, visitors can help ensure the survival of a threatened or endangered species.

Always enjoy wildlife from the safety of your car or from a safe distance. Feeding, harassing, or molesting wildlife is strictly prohibited and subject to fine. Bears, mountain lions, goats, deer, or any other species of wildlife can present a real and painful threat, especially females protecting their young.



Brown colored black bear

BILL HAYDEN



Mountain lion

NPS

Mountain Lions

A glimpse of one of these magnificent cats would be a vacation highlight, but you need to take precautions to protect you and your children from an accidental encounter. Don't hike alone. Make noise to avoid surprising a lion and keep children close to you at all times. If you do encounter a lion, do not run. Talk calmly, avert your gaze, stand tall, and back away. Unlike with bears, if attack seems imminent, act aggressively. Do not crouch and do not turn away. Lions may be scared away by being struck with rocks or sticks, or by being kicked or hit.

Lions are primarily nocturnal, but they have attacked in broad daylight. They rarely prey on humans, but such behavior occasionally does occur. Children and small adults are particularly vulnerable. Report all mountain lion encounters immediately!

Rodents & Hantavirus

Deer mice are possible carriers of 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.

Avoid rodent infested areas. Camp away from possible rodent burrows or shelters (garbage dumps and woodpiles), and keep food in rodent-proof containers. To prevent the spread of dust in the air, spray the affected areas with a water and bleach solution (1½ cups bleach to one gallon of water).

Giardia

Giardiasis is caused by a parasite (*Giardia lamblia*) found in lakes and streams. Persistent, severe diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and nausea are the symptoms of this disease. If you experience any symptoms, contact a physician. When hiking, carry water from one of the park's treated water systems. If you plan to camp in the backcountry, follow recommendations received with your permit. Bring water to a boil or use an approved filter.



Whitetail deer

© BILL HAYDEN

Tips for Fun and Safe Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife sightings most often occur early in the morning and early evening.

Use binoculars for greater visibility.

Keep your distance and never approach wildlife. For a better picture, photograph wildlife with a telephoto lens such as a 100-400.

Flash photography may disrupt wildlife and/or trigger stressful behavior. Turn off your camera's flash.

Obey park speed limits. Wildlife may be on or just off the road. Be cautious driving around blind curves.

Feeding wildlife is prohibited in Glacier National Park. Enjoy your snack as they enjoy theirs.

Please be considerate. For many visitors, this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Glacier National Park. Please do not interrupt other visitors as they experience the park.

Keep Your Distance

Deer, Mountain goat, Elk, Bighorn sheep, Moose, Wolf, Wolverine, Coyote, Mountain Lion



Wolf walking along a road

NPS / DAVID RESTIVO



Mountain goat at Logan Pass

NPS / DAVID RESTIVO

Personal Safety

Mountainous Terrain

Many accidents occur when people fall after stepping off trails or roadsides, or by venturing onto very steep slopes. Stay on designated trails and don't go beyond protective fencing or guard rails. Supervise children closely. At upper elevations, trails should be followed carefully, noting directions given by trail signs and markers.

Snow and Ice

Snowfields and glaciers present serious hazards. Snowbridges may conceal deep crevasses on glaciers or large hidden cavities under snowfields, and collapse under the weight of an unsuspecting hiker. Don't slide on snowbanks. Exercise caution around any snow or icefield.

Rivers and Lakes

Use extreme caution near water. Swift, cold glacial streams and rivers, moss-covered rocks, and slippery logs all present dangers. People have fallen victim to these rapid, frigid streams and deep glacial lakes. Avoid wading in or fording swift streams. Never walk, play, or climb on slippery rocks and logs, especially around waterfalls. When boating, don't stand up or lean over the side, and always wear a lifejacket.

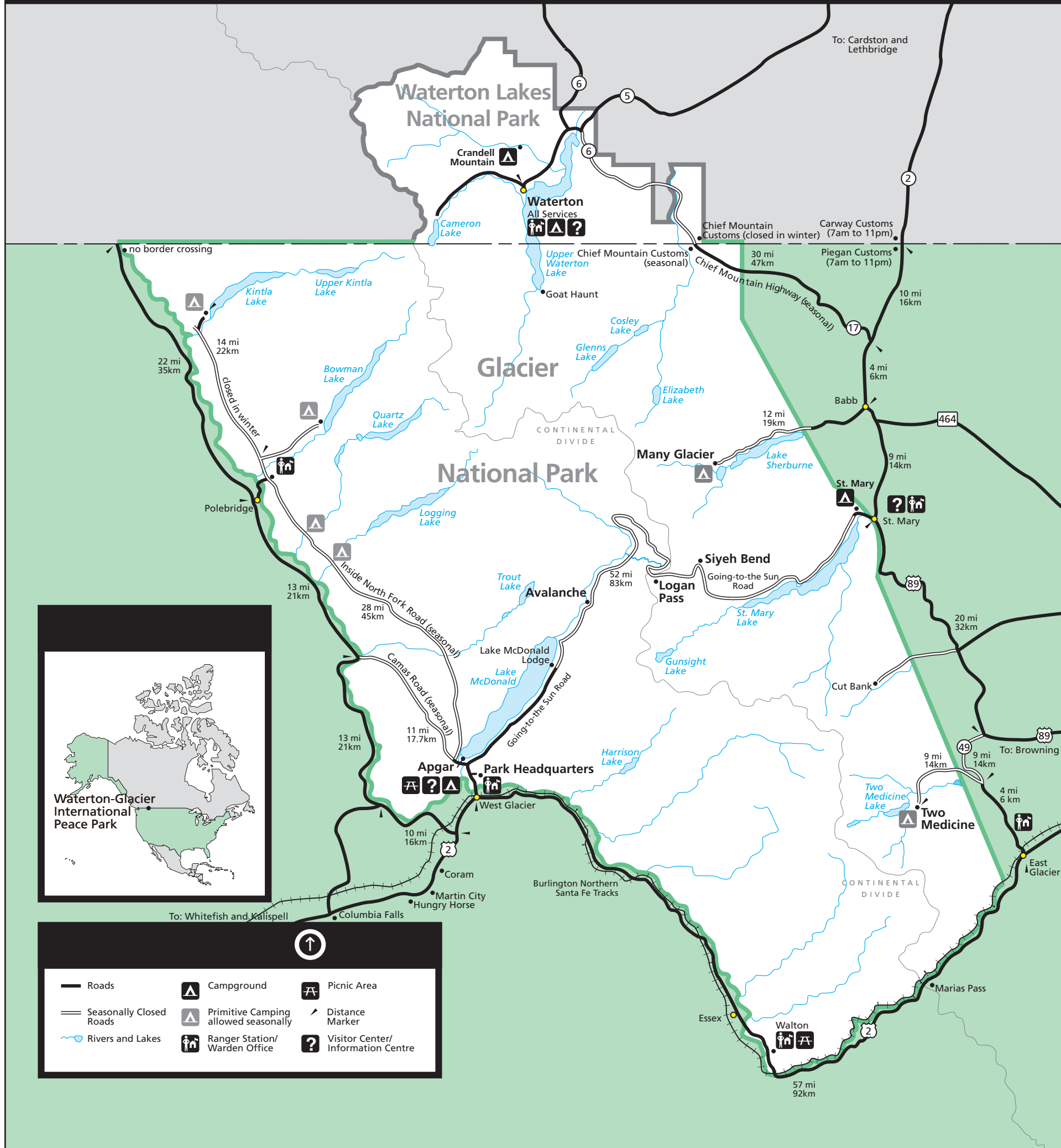
Drowning

Sudden immersion in cold water (below 80°F, 27° C) may trigger the "mammalian diving reflex." This reflex restricts blood from outlying areas of the body and routes it to vital organs like the heart, lungs, and brain. The colder the water, the younger the victim, and the quicker the rescue, the better the chance for survival. Some cold-water drowning victims have survived with no brain damage after being submerged for over 30 minutes.

REVIVAL PROCEDURE:

- Retrieve victim from water without endangering yourself.
- Prevent further body heat loss, but do not rewarm.
- Near-drowning victims may appear dead. Don't let this stop you from trying to revive them! If there is no pulse, start CPR regardless of the duration of submersion.
- Delayed symptoms may occur within 24 hours. Victims must be evaluated by a physician.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park



Park Regulations

It is your responsibility to know and respect park regulations. Violations are punishable by fines up to \$5,000.00 and/or six months in jail. Park regulations are strictly enforced.

- Pets must be on a leash, and are not permitted on trails or anywhere off roadways. Roads not open to vehicles, but open to hikers are considered trails. You may not ski with your pet.
- Feeding or disturbing wildlife is prohibited.
- It is illegal to remove any natural or cultural feature including plants, rocks, artifacts, driftwood, or antlers.
- Open containers of alcohol in a motor vehicle are prohibited.
- All food and utensils must be properly stored to protect wildlife.
- Hunting is not allowed in Glacier.
- The fishing season for all waters in the park is from the third Saturday in May through November 30, with some exceptions. Please obtain Glacier's current *Fishing Regulations* prior to fishing.



Early snow on McDonald Creek BILL HAYDEN

Border Crossing

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

- US Citizens must present a US Passport, Enhanced Drivers License*, US Passport Card, or NEXUS Card
- US Resident Aliens must present a US Resident Alien Card
- Canadian citizen must present a Canadian Passport, Enhanced Drivers License*, or NEXUS Card
- Citizens from countries other than Canada or the United States must present a valid passport and a current I-94 or an I-94W. I-94 forms are available at the Port of Entry for \$6.00 US currency and all major credit cards are accepted. Canadian currency is not accepted.

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

Special restrictions apply when crossing the border with pets, defensive sprays, alcohol, firewood, and purchases. All firearms must be declared. For more information on crossing from the USA to Canada, call 1-800-320-0063; and if crossing from Canada to the USA, call 1-406-889-3865.

Border Crossing Dates and Times

Roosville..... open 24 hours
West of the park on Highway 93, north of Whitefish, MT and south of Fernie, B.C.

Piegan/Carway 7 am to 11pm
East of the park at the joining of US Highway 89 with Alberta Highway 2

Chief Mountain
Closed until mid-May 2015