



Glacier National Park

Includes »

Sights.....	179
Driving.....	184
Day Hikes.....	186
Overnight Hikes.....	193
Biking.....	196
Other Activities.....	197
Tours.....	199
Sleeping.....	201
Eating.....	204
Drinking & Entertainment.....	205
Shopping.....	205
Information.....	205
Getting Around.....	206
Around Glacier National Park.....	206

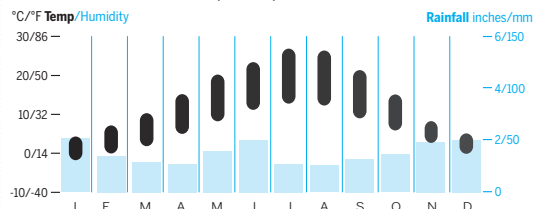
Why Go?

Few of the world's great natural wonders can compete with the US national park system, and few national parks are as magnificent and pristine as Glacier. Created in 1910 during the first flowering of the American conservationist movement, Glacier ranks among other national park classics such as Yellowstone and Yosemite. Perennial highlights include its quartet of historic 'parkitecture' lodges, the spectacular Going-to-the-Sun Rd and a rare fully intact pre-Columbian ecosystem. This is the only place in the lower 48 states where grizzly bears still roam in abundance and smart park management has kept the place accessible yet, at the same time, authentically wild. Among a slew of other outdoor attractions, the park is particularly noted for its hiking, wild-life spotting, and fishing and boating lakes.

Although Glacier is popular, few people stray far from the Going-to-the-Sun Rd and almost all visit between June and September. Choose your moment and splendid isolation is yours.

When to Go

West Glacier, MT (USA)



Best Hikes

- » Carthew-Alderson Trail (p213)
- » Highline Trail (p189)
- » Iceberg Lake Trail (p191)
- » Crypt Lake Trail (p214)
- » Dawson-Pitamakin Loop (p191)

Best Places to Stay

- » Many Glacier Hotel (p204)
- » Glacier Park Lodge (p222)
- » Sperry Chalet (p193)
- » Izaak Walton Inn (p222)
- » Prince of Wales Hotel (p217)

May-June The thaw begins and lower altitude destinations attract the intrepid and hardy.

July-August Peak summer when most trails and all park facilities are open.

September Less crowds, quieter campgrounds and a reliable weather window before the first snows.

Entrances

Glacier National Park has six official entrance gates. The two busiest are the West Entrance, just north of West Glacier, and the East Entrance, near St Mary at the opposite end of the iconic Going-to-the-Sun Rd. The other entrances are the Camas Creek Entrance and the Polebridge Ranger Station, both off the Outside North Fork Rd on the park's western side, and the Two Medicine Entrance (on Two Medicine Rd, west of Hwy 49) and the Many Glacier Entrance (on Many Glacier Rd, west of US 89) over on the eastern side.

Boards at entrances indicate which park campgrounds are open or full.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK HIKE

A unique opportunity to visit two parks – and two different countries – in one day, the International Peace Park Hike leads participants on a free guided 13.7km (8.5-mile) walk alongside twinkling Upper Waterton Lake, from Waterton Townsite in Canada to Goat Haunt in Glacier National Park in the US. Led by a duo of rangers from both nations, hikers follow a gently undulating path south through sun-dappled forest and scenic shoreline, to the unguarded border. Arriving at Goat Haunt late afternoon, you are first required to show your passport to special customs rangers. After that you are free to soak up the impressive mountainscape and examine exhibits in a small 'peace pavilion' at the boat dock. When making your reservation you will have assured passage on the 5:25pm boat back to Waterton (adult/child C\$24/12).

The International Peace Park Hike departs Waterton at 10am every Saturday from early June to late August. Places are available for up to 30 people, but reserve beforehand at the Waterton Visitor Centre (p220) as the hike is perennially popular.

When You Arrive

- » Glacier National Park is open year-round. Entry per car, or RV, costs US\$25. People arriving on foot, bicycle or motorcycle pay US\$12 per person. Both tickets are valid for seven days. Entrance fees are reduced in winter. Fees for Glacier do not include entrance to Waterton Lakes National Park.
- » Staff at the entrance stations hand out free detailed Glacier-Waterton maps, a quarterly newspaper and the *Glacier Explorer*, a schedule of events and activities, including ranger-led day trips.

PLANNING TIP

Backcountry camping permits (US\$5 per adult per night) can be purchased from the **Apgar Backcountry Office** (☎7am-5pm May-late Oct) in Apgar Village. The office can also make reservations.

Fast Facts

- » Area: 4046 sq km (1562 sq miles)
- » Highest elevation: 3190m (10,466ft)
- » Lowest elevation: 980m (3215ft)

Reservations

Glacier National Park operates 13 campgrounds. Sites at Fish Creek and St Mary Campgrounds can be **reserved** (☎800-365-2267; www.recreation.gov) up to six months in advance; and at Apgar up to a year in advance. All other campgrounds are first-come, first-served.

Resources

- » Glacier National Park: www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm
- » Glacier Park Inc: www.glacierparkinc.com
- » Parks Canada: www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/index.aspx