

# GLACIER

NATIONAL PARK TRIP PLANNER

Essential  
Tips To  
Plan Your  
Vacation



A Park  
Map



National Park Trips



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Experience Western Montana's mesmerizing landscape, rich history, arts and culture, world-class outdoor recreation and authentic small towns. Glacier Country is a place of adventure. A place to treasure.

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# GETTING THERE

Who doesn't love a good road trip? Head north out of Yellowstone and take this epic route to Glacier National Park.



There's a magical evening light that sweeps across the broad shoulders of Montana's sky. Its radiating pink and purple colors echo off windows of log-hewn cabins, patios of breweries and the sides of aging pickup trucks rattling down lonely roads. Montana artist C.M. Russell captured this magnificent light in his paintings, and it fills the landscape with a peace that seeps into its people like water spilling over a river bank.

Discover Montana's spectacular culture via West Yellowstone, Mont., as you point your wheels north to Glacier National Park. In Big Sky, you'll find adrenaline-filled activities. Farther north, you'll find boom-and-bust stories in Virginia City and Nevada City. Beyond take a dip at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, sift for sapphires in Philipsburg and explore Missoula.

At the park, explore the incredible beauty of Glacier on foot or boat. In 2023 you will need a reservation to access portions of the park during peak hours from May 26 through September 10, 2023. These areas include Going-to-the-Sun Road, Many Glacier, Two Medicine and the North Fork area of the park. Each area has its own separate reservation, which is in addition to your entrance fee. Make yours at Recreation.gov.

After driving Going-to-the-Sun Road to reach the East Entrance, head southeast to Great Falls, home of the C.M. Russell Museum and explore Helena and Bozeman before reaching Yellowstone.







# PARK ENTRANCE PRIMER

There are four main entrances to Glacier National Park, one on its west side and three on the east. The West Entrance and St. Mary Entrance put you on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, the only road connecting the park's west side with its east.

## WEST SIDE

### WEST ENTRANCE

If you're planning on entering the park from the west side, the West Entrance via West Glacier is the place to go. You can reach Lake McDonald, the Apgar Visitor Center, the park's headquarters, and the legendary Going-to-the-Sun Road, which stretches 48.7 miles across the park, connecting the west side to the east side. There are plenty of historic and contemporary lodging and dining options in both Apgar and Lake McDonald.

The closest towns to West Glacier include Columbia Falls, Hungry Horse, Whitefish and Kalispell. From Kalispell, take Hwy. 2 north for 33 miles until you reach West Glacier.

## EAST SIDE

### MANY GLACIER ENTRANCE

At the Many Glacier Entrance on the park's east side, you can access the stunning Many Glacier Valley, home to visitor services, the Many Glacier Hotel and the Swiftcurrent Motor Inn & Cabins. The road dead ends here, so you cannot access Going-to-the-Sun Road

through this entrance. If you are planning on visiting the west side, do not use this entrance.

Built in 1914-15 and part of a 15-year, \$42 million renovation that ended in early 2017, the Many Glacier Hotel is the largest in the park with 205 guest rooms, plus seven family rooms and two suites. The five-story hotel presides over Swiftcurrent Lake in an area known as the "Switzerland of North America."

The Ptarmigan Dining Room was renovated in 2011 to restore its historic features and offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the lounge located in the Ptarmigan Dining Room, you can order locally inspired drinks like the "Trail Crew Mule" that is made with Headframe Spirits High Ore Vodka (out of Butte, Mont.), citrus simple syrup, ginger beer and lime.

There's also the Swiftcurrent Motor Inn & Cabins a mile from the hotel. Choose between rustic cabins and motel inn-style rooms with or without private bathrooms. Beyond enjoy miles of spectacular hiking trails, including one through Ptarmigan Tunnel built to help hikers avoid a treacherous section of trail.

### ST. MARY ENTRANCE

If you are coming from the east and want to drive Going-to-the-Sun Road, head to the St. Mary Entrance. You can visit the St. Mary Visitor Center to see a park film *Land of Many Journeys* or attend ranger-led programs and Native America Speaks programs. It sits on the western edge of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation and is home to St. Mary Lake, a gorgeous turquoise-colored alpine body of water that stretches 10 miles.

St. Mary is just one mile east of the park entrance and offers accommodations like the St. Mary Lodge & Resort where you can choose from 116 guest rooms among six facilities. Stay in a cabin, lodge room, house or motel-style room. Renowned for its huckleberry specialties like Huckleberry Salmon, along with dishes like Bison Stroganoff, the resort's Snowgoose Grill offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. There's also the Mountain Bar and Curly Bear Cafe, along with Glacier Perk Espresso.

This is the place to fuel up on gas and stock up on outdoor items. The Trail and Creek Outfitters is the only outdoor specialty shop on the eastern side of Glacier.

### TWO MEDICINE ENTRANCE

Located in the southeast corner of the park, the Two Medicine Entrance area is an often overlooked corner of Glacier. But before Going-to-the-Sun Road opened in 1933, it was the main destination for travelers arriving by train. You can take a boat tour on Two Medicine Lake in the historic boat *Sinopah*, peruse the camp store and gift shop and explore a multitude of hiking trails. The road dead ends at Two Medicine Lake, so you can't reach Going-to-the-Sun Road from here. To access Going-to-the-Sun Road, you have to drive to the St. Mary Entrance about 30 miles north.

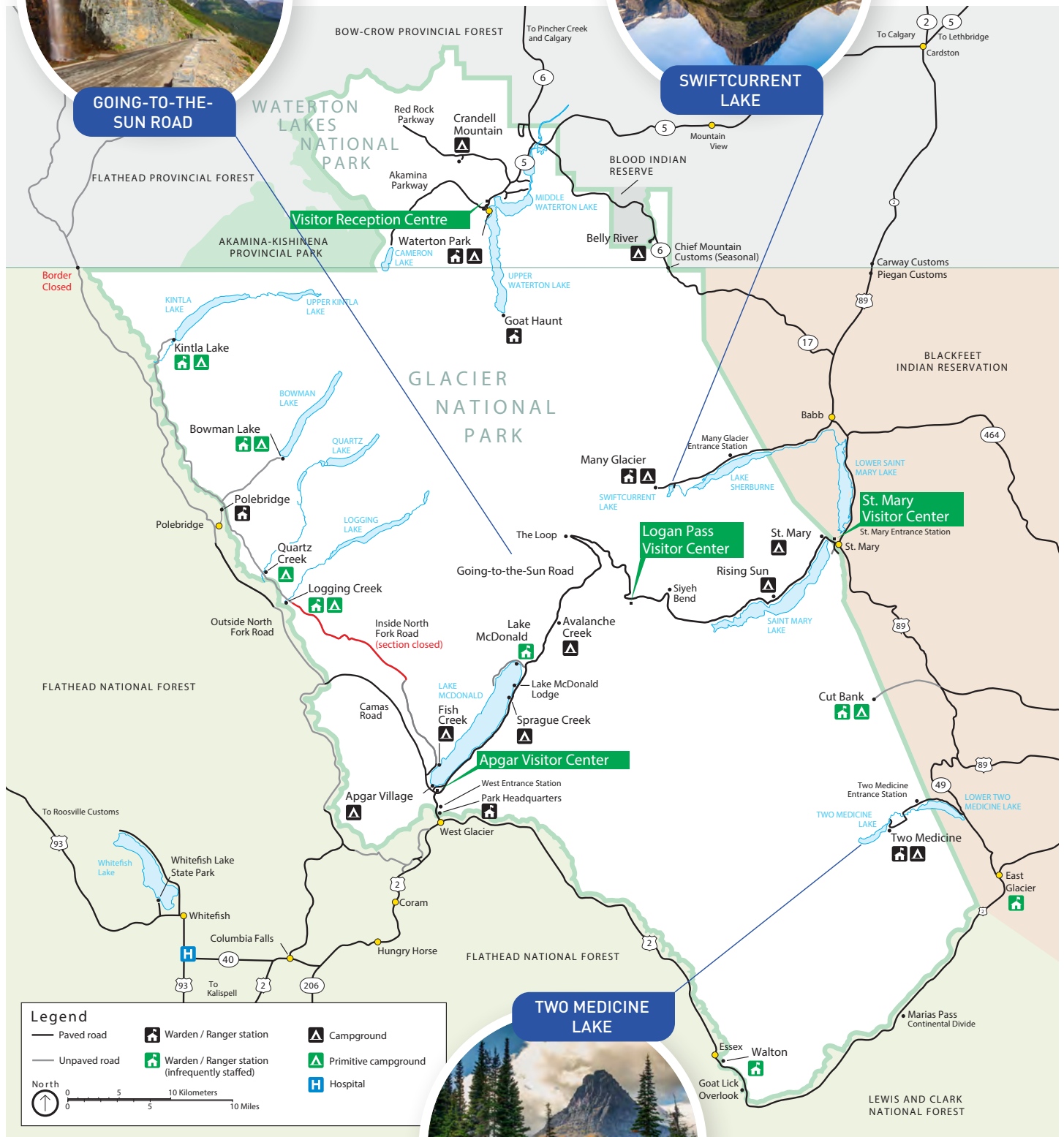
Thirteen miles away from the Two Medicine Entrance is East Glacier Park. It's home to 363 hardy, year-round residents. In summer, this sleepy town wakes up, offering motels, restaurants and shuttle services. You'll discover the 161-room, elegant Glacier Park Lodge built in 1913 here. In the lobby you'll see bark-covered Douglas fir logs stretching up to the ceiling. Along with beautiful gardens, there's a nine-hole golf course and a swimming pool.



GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD



SWIFTCURRENT LAKE



TWO MEDICINE LAKE

Map Courtesy of National Park Service



# GLACIER'S TOP SIX

Here are some of our favorite things to do from hiking to exploring some of Glacier's most iconic treasures.



1

## EAT AT LAKE MCDONALD LODGE

Start the day with a delicious breakfast in Russell's Fireside Dining Room at this historic lodge on the west side.



2

## STOP AT THE CEDAR TREE GIFT SHOP

Shop at the park's largest gift store in Apgar for souvenirs or ice cream. Old-growth cedar trees grow through the floor and ceiling. The trees existed long before the store, so the builders let some stay.



3

## HIKE ON LOGAN PASS

At 6,646 feet, Logan Pass is the inspiring high point of Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Both Hidden Lake Overlook Trail and the Highline Trail leave from here, offering breathtaking opportunities to spot wildlife.





4

## DINE AT MANY GLACIER HOTEL

Head to the historic first-come, first-served Ptarmigan Dining Room. Chefs use locally sourced ingredients whenever possible.

5

## TAKE A RED BUS TOUR

Ride in the world's oldest touring fleet of vehicles. Depart from the east or west sides of the park in these 1930s-era vintage buses with roll-back tops. They accommodate 17 people. Tours last between 2.5 to 8 hours.

6

## RIDE ON A HISTORIC BOAT

Take the oldest wooden boat in Glacier Park Boat Co.'s fleet across Two Medicine Lake and learn about the area's Blackfoot Indian history. When the boat docks on the upper west shore, disembark and hike with a naturalist or on your own to Twin Falls. Catch a different return boat or hike back.

PHOTOS: Lake McDonald Lodge, Logan Pass view of Avalanche Lake, Many Glacier Hotel (Jacob W. Frank), Ice cream (Flickr/flare), Red Bus Tour (NPS/Tim Rains), The Sinopah on Upper Two Medicine Lake (NPS/Bill Hayden)

**NOTE 2023:** Visitors to Glacier National Park will need a reservation to access portions of the park in summer 2023. Make your reservation at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).





## UNDER CANVAS

Recognized as a "Top Resort in the U.S." by *Condé Nast Traveler*, Under Canvas Glacier offers one-of-a-kind outdoor accommodations in the heart of Montana's "Big Sky Country." Located seven miles from Glacier National Park, this beautiful alpine retreat offers easy access to the park's glacial lakes, wildflower-covered meadows, and rugged mountain peaks. Stay in upscale canvas tents—featuring king-sized beds, luxe linens, ensuite bathrooms, and wood-burning stoves—and enjoy the perfect outdoor escape with all the comforts of home.

Visit [UnderCanvas.com](http://UnderCanvas.com)  
Or call 888-496-1148



# WILDLIFE FIELD GUIDE

Keep an eye out for these fascinating animals in Glacier.



## MOOSE

You can spot a male moose easily by its huge antlers that stretch up to six feet. Females don't have antlers. Moose have long snouts, bulbous noses and extra skin under their throats. They are enormous, weighing up to 1,800 pounds. On land they can reach speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. Their hooves are made for snow travel, enabling them to navigate deep powder. They also are good swimmers, paddling several miles at a time.

**SEE THEM:** Moose love watery areas and areas with high grasses, willows and shrubs. Fishercap Lake area is a good place to spot them.



## BLACK BEAR

These omnivores can weigh up to 400 pounds and stretch from two to four feet tall. They can be black, blond or brown, which can lead visitors to misidentify them as grizzlies. In spring, they eat shrubs and new shoots in the forest. Throughout summer and fall, they retreat to higher elevations, chasing berries and trout. Black bears hibernate during winter and mate throughout summer.

**SEE THEM:** Black bears live throughout the park. Look for them in forested areas where they like to dwell. Maintain at least 100 yards between you and a bear and always carry bear spray.



## GRIZZLY BEAR

Grizzlies, also known as "brown bears," weigh up to 700 pounds. They have a distinctive hump between their shoulders that black bears do not have. They have shorter ears and a longer snout than black bears. Grizzlies disseminate huckleberry seeds via their scat and till soil for glacier lilies.

**SEE THEM:** Grizzlies live throughout the park, eating berries, parsnip thickets and glacier lilies. On the east side, some spend spring in valleys and then go up to the high country for summer. Others spend the entire summer in meadows and aspen groves, heading higher to hibernate.



## MOUNTAIN GOATS

As Glacier's official symbol, mountain goats are covered with two layers of wool that enable them to withstand temperatures that dip to -50F. They have large hooves and rough pads to scale steep, rugged slopes. Both males and females have black horns and long faces with fur hanging off their chins. Females, called "nannies," live with children and females. Males live apart in groups of 2-3. They can jump nearly 12 feet.

**SEE THEM:** Look for them on rocky slopes and high meadows. They lick salt near trails. See them at Logan Pass, Sperry/Gunsight, Hidden Lake, Iceberg Lake and Grinnell Lake areas.



## BIGHORN SHEEP

Traveling in groups, bighorn sheep are built for spending long winters at high elevation. Born with rough split hooves, they climb up steep, rocky terrain to escape predators. Males, also known as "rams," have larger horns that can weigh up to 30 pounds. Females, referred to as "ewes," have horns that never form more than half a curl. Bighorn sheep eat grasses and shrubs. In fall, rams compete for ewes by butting each other for up to 24 hours at a time.

**SEE THEM:** See them on the Logan Pass (even in the parking lot) and on the grassy slopes of mountain sides and high alpine meadows.



## LYNX

This rare cat with long-ear tufts is a threatened species in the Lower 48 but can be spotted in Glacier. It's larger than a house cat, weighing around 20 pounds. Its large, wide furry feet help it travel easily through snow. Its back legs are larger than its front legs. Its fur is usually gray in winter and light brown in summer. Lynx dine on snowshoe hares, birds and rodents. They are primarily solitary animals and den in fallen trees and rock ledges.

**SEE THEM:** Lynx prefer dense forests but hunt at higher elevations with more open spaces, so keep your eyes peeled for these elusive cats.



# INSIDER'S TIPS

From what to pack to entrance fees, here's the scoop.



## ONLINE

Visit [YellowstonePark.com](http://YellowstonePark.com) to find out where to stay and what to do during your vacation. Interested in exploring other national parks? Check us out at [NationalParkTrips.com](http://NationalParkTrips.com).



## OUTSIDE+ MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of Outside+ to get access to a year of Gaia GPS Premium for trail maps to build trip plans with weather and topo overlays, plus get exclusive content online and on Outside TV. Learn more at [MyYellowstonePark.com/OutsidePlus](http://MyYellowstonePark.com/OutsidePlus).

## PACKING LIST

- ☐ Refillable water bottles or a hydration system
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Clothing layers to accommodate temperature fluctuations of 30-40 degrees in one day.
- ☐ A sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- ☐ Rain jacket & bug spray
- ☐ Sturdy hiking boots
- ☐ Daypack

Learn more at [MyYellowstonePark.com/park/what-to-pack](http://MyYellowstonePark.com/park/what-to-pack).



## GLACIER ENTRANCE FEES\*

Buy your pass at a park entrance station, purchase a digital annual pass at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or order one at [REI.com](http://REI.com). You'll need a separate reservation for several areas of the park May 26 through Sept. 10, through [Recreation.gov](http://Recreation.gov).

**\$35**

fee for a seven-day vehicle pass

**\$70**

cost of a Glacier annual pass

**\$80**

price for the America the Beautiful annual pass for all national park sites

**\$80**

one-time fee for the Senior Pass (citizens 62 and up)

**\$0**

cost of a Military Pass (active military) and Access Pass (permanently disabled U.S. citizens)

\*Fees subject to change

## SOCIAL

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There's so much to enjoy in summer at The Pine Lodge on Whitefish River. With a location just minutes from downtown Whitefish and proximity to Glacier National Park, you can experience so much.

**YOUR BEST VACATION? IT'S FOUND IN WHITEFISH.**



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# WHERE TO STAY

Inside the park are eight different lodging options. They range from rustic bunkhouses only accessible by foot to a grand historic lodge.

## WEST SIDE

### Apgar Village

#### VILLAGE INN AT APGAR

Two miles into the park lies the Village Inn at Apgar. Built in 1956 but renovated in 2015, every room in the two-story building offers breathtaking views of Lake McDonald. Its starting room price is a little more expensive than the Apgar Village Lodge & Cabins. On the first floor, you'll find one-bedroom, full-kitchen units. Upstairs, one-to-three bedroom units accommodate up to six people. None has kitchen units. There are family and ADA units. Make reservations at [GlacierNationalparkLodges.com](http://GlacierNationalparkLodges.com) or 855-733-4522.

#### APGAR VILLAGE LODGE & CABINS

Just two miles into the park is Apgar Village Lodge & Cabins. The least inexpensive option is the motel-style rooms that feature a private bathroom and one-to-two

queen-sized beds. Or opt for a cabin with or without a kitchen. Cabins with fully equipped kitchens have a living/dining area and various room and bed arrangements. Family cabins are the most expensive option with a fully-equipped kitchen and a loft sleeping area. Make reservations at [GlacierParkInc.com/lodging](http://GlacierParkInc.com/lodging) or 888-435-0270.

### Lake McDonald

#### LAKE MCDONALD LODGE

Ten miles from the West Glacier Entrance lies Lake McDonald Lodge, a rustic but elegant Swiss-style hotel built on the eastern shores of Lake McDonald in 1913. With spectacular views and an oversized lobby fireplace, it has 82 guest rooms in the three-story main lodge, separate cabins, the dormitory-style Snyder Hall and the Cobb House, which has three suites. Renovated in 2015, the main lodge rooms have 1-2 queen beds and private baths. The cabins also were renovated in 2015. Make reservations at 855-733-4522 or [GlacierNationalparkLodges.com](http://GlacierNationalparkLodges.com).

### MOTEL LAKE MCDONALD

Sharing majestic views with Lake McDonald Lodge is the Motel Lake McDonald. The motel does not have the weight of early park history infused in its architecture like its historic neighbor. But it offers an affordable alternative with its two 1950s-style, two-story buildings. The second floor is accessible by an outdoor staircase. All rooms have one or two double beds and some are ADA accessible. Make reservations at [GlacierParkInc.com/lodging](http://GlacierParkInc.com/lodging) or 888-435-0270.

### Backcountry or Bust

#### SPERRY CHALET

Accessible only by trail, Sperry Chalet was built in 1913 but destroyed by wildlife in August 2017. In January 2020, after renovations, it reopened to reservations for the summer. At the chalet, you can leave the cooking to chalet staff. There are beds with warm blankets but no running water or electricity. Make reservations at [sperrychalet.com](http://sperrychalet.com) or 888-345-2649.

### GRANITE PARK CHALET

Accessible by foot, the Granite Park Chalet was built in 1914-15 and has no electricity, no running water, no chef and no heat. Order linens to avoid hauling up your sleeping bag. Make reservations at [graniteparkchalet.com](http://graniteparkchalet.com) or 888-345-2649.

## EAST SIDE

### On Going-to-the-Sun Road

#### RISING SUN MOTOR INN & CABINS

Built in 1940, the Rising Sun Motor Inn & Cabins are located along Going-to-the-Sun Road six miles west of St. Mary Visitor Center. Choose between the Store Motel Room, Cabin Room or Motor Inn Room. All have private bathrooms. Make reservations at [GlacierNationalparkLodges.com](http://GlacierNationalparkLodges.com) or 855-733-4522.

### Many Glacier

#### MANY GLACIER HOTEL

There's only one road to this hotel, and it is accessed from the park's east side. Built in 1914-15 and part of a 15-year, \$42 million renovation that ended in early 2017, Many Glacier Hotel is the largest hotel in the park with 205 guest rooms, plus seven family rooms and two suites. The five-story hotel presides over Swiftcurrent Lake. Make reservations at [GlacierNationalparkLodges.com](http://GlacierNationalparkLodges.com) or 855-733-4522.

#### SWIFTCURRENT MOTOR INN & CABINS

Choose between rustic cabins and motel inn-style rooms with or without private bathrooms. Beyond enjoy miles of spectacular hiking trails. Make reservations at [GlacierNationalparkLodges.com](http://GlacierNationalparkLodges.com) or 855-733-4522.