



## A Brilliant Idea

It started as an idea at an annual Rotary International meeting, between clubs in Alberta and Montana, and it didn't take long for the idea to catch hold. In 1932, Waterton Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park were officially joined together as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The Peace Park celebrates the peace and goodwill existing along the world's longest undefended border, as well as a spirit of cooperation which is reflected in wildlife

and vegetation management, search and rescue programs, and joint interpretive programs, brochures, and exhibits.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was further honored in 1995 when it was designated as a World Heritage Site for its scenic values, its significant climate, landforms and ecological processes, and abundant diversity of wildlife and wildflowers.



Upper Waterton Lake and Surrounding Mountains - Parks Canada

## The Pine Balance: A Shared Responsibility



Black Bear Reaching for Cones - Robert J. Weselmann

Pale skin, elongated needles, contorted spines; whitebark pines certainly dress for the role they play as the elders of our forest. Patiently growing over centuries, many of the whitebark pines currently living in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park began their lives over a thousand years ago, long before there ever was such a thing as a peace park, the boundary dividing it, or Europeans in North America.

This keystone species plays a role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem in the peace park. Growing especially well in alpine regions (2000 to 3000 m elevation), where fewer trees compete for the sunlight they depend on; these trees are perfectly adapted to a delicate balance of natural factors. Growing on steep slopes, the roots of the whitebark pine stabilize the soil, decreasing the rate of soil erosion while creating micro-climates wherein neighbouring organisms might thrive. Additionally, the cones of whitebark pines produce nutrient-rich seeds, similar to the pine nuts you might find in a fancy salad, that are an integral food source for

numerous animals in the park, including black and grizzly bears, red squirrels and the Clark's nutcracker. Like the hierarch of a family, these pines create a foundation that supports an ecosystem.

Though renowned for their resilience and longevity, human actions have inadvertently threatened these trees. Whitebark pines are now on the brink of disappearing from the peace park and are threatened across the continent. The synergistic effects of a century of fire suppression, the introduction of an invasive fungus and a spike in pine-beetle populations have all contributed to the rapid decline of the whitebark pine.

The absence of wildfires has tipped the natural balance out of the whitebark pines favour. Whitebark pines need lots of sunlight, which means they depend on the canopy-clearing action of wildfires to establish themselves. Without these clear patches in the forests, whitebark pines are outcompeted by other trees and, as our forests become thicker and thicker, have fewer habitable areas in the park.

A foreign fungus, the white pine blister rust affects the majority of the whitebark pines in Waterton and Glacier. This fungus was transported to North America from Europe when trees unknowingly infected with the fungus were brought over in the early 20th century, which is credited with the wide spread of the infection throughout the continent. Unlike European relatives of the whitebark pine, North American 5-needled pines have no resistance to this infection. White pine blister rust is especially devastating to seedlings and young pines, with little likelihood that infected seedlings will survive to maturity. Considered alongside a spike in population of native pine beetles in the area, insects whose larvae feast on pine bark, whitebark pine populations have been devastated in the International Peace Park. A study conducted in the park spanning 13 years (1996-2009) noted that mortality and blister rust infection in whitebark pines both increased by a staggering 3% with every year.

In response to the alarming mortality and infection rates, a joint effort was initiated to reverse the effects of human impact and restore the pine population

A number of prescribed burns were used to open the canopy and create areas suitable for whitebark pines to grow. The area surrounding Summit Lake, for example, has had a number of plots cleared where whitebark pine seedlings have been planted. These seedlings were grown in greenhouses associated with Glacier's Native Plant Nursery, from seeds collected from healthy whitebark pines in the area. In fact, Waterton and Glacier staff, alongside numerous volunteers have been planting thousands of seedlings over the last five years in areas suitable for whitebark pine habitat. The hope is to tip the balance back in favour of our whitebark pines in the hope of reinstating the natural balance that permits these trees to compete in the wild.

The restoration of the whitebark pine population in the International Peace Park is a high priority for both parks as these fascinating trees are crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Contact the park to see how you can be involved in the restoration project.



Cages Protect Ripening Cones - Parks Canada



Planting Seedlings - Parks Canada



## International Peace Park Hike

Join us in celebrating the long-standing peace, friendship, and cooperative management of our two countries by participating in an International Peace Park Hike. These special two-nation hikes explore the landscape surrounding Waterton Lake and also the political realities of a resource shared by two neighboring parks and countries.

Starting at 10 a.m. from the Bertha Lake trailhead in Waterton Lakes National Park, this 13 km (8 mi) hike along Upper Waterton Lake is jointly led by a Glacier Park Ranger and a Waterton Park Interpreter. Learn about Waterton-Glacier's three international designations and take part in a peace & friendship ceremony as you cross the International

Boundary on your way to Goat Haunt in Glacier National Park, Montana. Return to Waterton is via boat. A fee is charged for the return boat trip and advance reservations are recommended. The boat will have you back to the dock in Waterton by early evening. Each hike is limited to 35 people, so you must pre-register at either the Visitor Centre

in Waterton, (403) 859-5133, or at the St. Mary Visitor Center, (406) 732-7750, in Glacier. Reservations are only accepted for the next scheduled hike. Come prepared with a lunch, water, rain gear, jacket, hat. Wear sturdy footwear. The trail is not difficult, but you will be hiking most of the day. Bring money for the boat. Pets are not permitted.



The International Peace Pavilion at Goat Haunt - David Restivo



Beargrass - Bill Hayden, "Hands across the border" Ceremony - Jeff Yee, The International - David Restivo

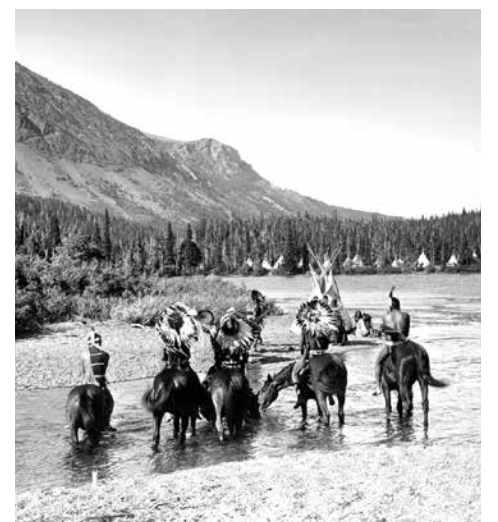


## Discover Our Neighbors' Cultural Heritage

This area holds special appeal for visitors interested in the culture of indigenous peoples. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park lies just west of the Kainai and Piikani Reserves in Canada and borders the Blackfeet Reservation in the United States. People of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, southwest of the park, also have a close association with the park. Take the time to learn about our neighbors.

handcrafts as sales items. The museum is open daily from June through September. Also in Browning, North American Indian Days, the second weekend in July, is a large celebration of Native American culture that includes a parade, traditional dress, and dancing. Visitors are always welcome.

The People's Center and Native Ed-Ventures, for the preservation of Kootenai and Salish Culture, are located near Pablo, Montana. The Center provides educational opportunities, full-day and half-day interpretive tours of the Flathead Indian Reservation, a museum collection, and gift shop. Open daily throughout the summer. Call (406) 883-5344 or (406) 675-0160 for further information.



Blackfeet at Two Medicine - R. E. Marble

Nearby in Browning, Montana, the Museum of the Plains Indian features fascinating exhibits and Native American

Northeast of Waterton, early plains culture is dramatically displayed at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site. This site is open seven days a week in summer. Phone (403) 553-2731 for further information.

## Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park



Calypso Orchid - Bill Hayden

Akamina Kishinena Provincial Park is located in the southeast corner of the British Columbia and borders both Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks. High spacious alpine ridges, deep secluded valleys and windswept passes provide habitat and connectivity to the last self-sustaining grizzly bear population in the United States. Exposed alpine ridges, southern latitude and southern exposure provide winter range for goats and big horn sheep.

The trails and passes of the Akamina-Kishinena used today to cross the axis of the continent, were established and used for many years by the early people's and wildlife travelling between the Flathead Basin and the abundant Great Plains.

Akamina Kishinena is a wilderness area, without supplies or equipment of any kind. All arrangements for supplies and transportation must be made beforehand.

## Accessibility

The Apgar and St. Mary Visitor Centers, the International Peace Park Pavilion, and the Cameron Lake Day Use Area are wheel-chair accessible. A listing of additional facilities and services, accessible to visitors with special needs, is available at visitor centers and entrance stations throughout Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Interpretive programs in Glacier National Park accessible by wheelchair are highlighted in the park's ranger-guided activity guide, available throughout Glacier.

Wheelchair accessible trails include the Trail of the Cedars, Running Eagle Falls, and a portion of the Swiftcurrent Nature Trails in Glacier, and the Linnet Lake, Kootenai Brown, and Townsite trails in Waterton Lakes.

### Park Elevations:

Lake McDonald	3150 ft. 960m
Logan Pass	6640 ft. 2024m
Many Glacier	4900 ft. 1494m
Polebridge	3600 ft. 1097m
St. Mary Lake	4500 ft. 1372m
Two Medicine	5150 ft. 1570m
Waterton	4200 ft. 1280m



Accessible Boardwalk on the Trail of the Cedars - Bill Hayden





*“As part of a Canada-wide system of national parks, Waterton Lakes represents the southern Rocky Mountains natural region - “Where the Mountains Meet the Prairie.”*

*Shaped by wind, fire, and water, Waterton remains for all time a place of spectacular natural beauty - a Canadian legacy of mountains, lakes, prairies, forests, alpine meadows and wildlife.”*

## Scenic Drives and Attractions

### The Entrance Road

These 8 kilometres (5 miles) provide magnificent views that beautifully illustrate the park’s theme, “where the mountains meet the prairie.”

Colourful prairie flowers and grasses, and the glittering blue chain of the Waterton Lakes are set against a mountain backdrop. The sight of the historic Prince of Wales Hotel National Historic Site, on a knoll above the lakes, indicates you will soon arrive at our lakeside community.

### The Chief Mountain Highway

The Chief Mountain Highway is the primary route between Waterton Lakes and Glacier national parks. From the border crossing, the road traverses fields and forests, dotted with wetlands created by Crooked Creek and marked by the 1998 Sofa Mountain Fire. It then descends to the grasslands near Maskinonge Lake, passing a viewpoint which gives a magnificent vista of the Front Range of the Rockies and Waterton Valley.

### The Red Rock Parkway

Red Rock Parkway meanders over rolling prairie and through the Blakiston Valley. It ends at the strikingly coloured rocks and cascades of Red Rock Canyon, a distance of 15km (9 miles). The drive features views of magnificent mountains, including Mt. Blakiston, the park’s highest peak.

### The Akamina parkway

This route begins near the Townsite and runs for 16km (10 miles) along the Cameron Valley. Points of interest include the site of western Canada’s first producing oil well, the Oil City site, and scenic Cameron Lake.

## Wildlife and Wildflowers

Bear, deer, elk, and bighorn sheep can be seen throughout the park, particularly in prairie areas. Sheep and deer frequent the townsite. Fall is probably the best time for wildlife watching. The larger animals come down from their summer ranges and waterfowl are on their migratory routes through the park.

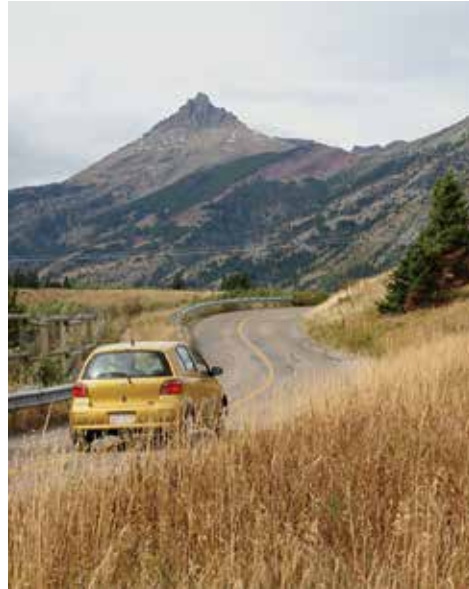
## Services and Activities

### Lodging

The Aspen Village Inn (888) 859-8669 • Bayshore Inn & Convention Centre (888) 527-9555 • Bear Mountain Motel (403) 859-2366 • Crandell Mountain Lodge (866) 859-2288 • Northland Lodge (403) 859-2353, off-season (403) 653-4275 • Prince of Wales Hotel - in Canada phone (403) 859-2231; in U.S. (406) 892-2525 • Waterton Glacier Suites (866) 621-3330 • The Waterton Lakes Resort (888) 985-6343

### Private Campgrounds

Crooked Creek Campground (403) 653-1100 • Great Canadian Barn Dance (866) 626-3407 • Waterton Springs Campground (403) 859-2247



Heading into Waterton - Parks Canada photo

### Cameron Falls

Located in the community, this picturesque waterfall is created as Cameron Creek falls into Waterton Valley.

### The Bison Paddock

The Bison Paddock, near the north entrance to the park off Highway 6, features a small herd of plains bison, maintained to commemorate the larger herds that once roamed freely in this area. The bison can be seen while driving a narrow road through the paddock. Please do not leave your vehicles. The road is not suitable for vehicles with trailers.

### The Maskinonge Lake

The park’s diversity of habitats is home to a great variety of birds; over 250 species have been identified in Waterton. The Maskinonge area, located near the park entrance, is particularly rich in bird life.

An abundance of wildflowers can be seen in the park. In spring and early summer, prairie wildflower displays are particularly rich. In late summer, wildflowers continue to bloom at the higher elevations.

## Camping and Hiking

### Auto Camping

Waterton’s three campgrounds provide almost 400 campsites.

- The Townsite Campground has 237 sites, including 94 fully-serviced. Fees vary depending on the service provided. Fires permitted in picnic shelter stoves. Most sites are reservable. Call (877) 737-3783 or visit: reservation.parksCanada.gc.ca
- The Crandell Mountain Campground has 129 semi-serviced sites, five tipis, and is located 6km up the Red Rock Parkway.
- Belly River Campground, located on the Chief Mountain Highway, has 24 unserviced sites. Reservations can be made in advance for the group sites at Belly River. Call (403) 859-5133 for information.

### Backcountry Camping

An overnight wilderness pass is mandatory and can be purchased at the Visitor Centre. A per-person fee is charged for those 16 years and older. Passes are issued up to 24 hours in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (403) 859-5133.

Wilderness campground use and group size is applied to minimize impact on the land, and maximize your wilderness experience.

Waterton’s nine designated wilderness campgrounds offer dry toilets and surface water supply. Some have facilities for horses.

### Hiking the Trails

There are 200km (120 miles) of trails in Waterton Lakes National Park. They range in difficulty from a short stroll to steep treks of several days duration. Trails are provided for a variety of users, including hikers, horse riders, and bicyclists. Watch for information signs at the trail head for the type of use permitted. Trails in Waterton also lead to extensive trail systems in Montana’s Glacier National Park and in British Columbia’s Akamina-Kishenina Provincial Park.



View From the Top - Parks Canada photo

## Entrance Fees

(subject to change)

	Daily	Annual	National
Adult	\$7.80	\$39.20	\$67.70
Senior	\$6.80	\$34.30	\$57.90
Youth	\$3.90	\$19.60	\$33.30
Family	\$19.60	\$98.10	\$136.40



Elk - Parks Canada photo



Bighorn Sheep - Parks Canada photo

## Park Regulations

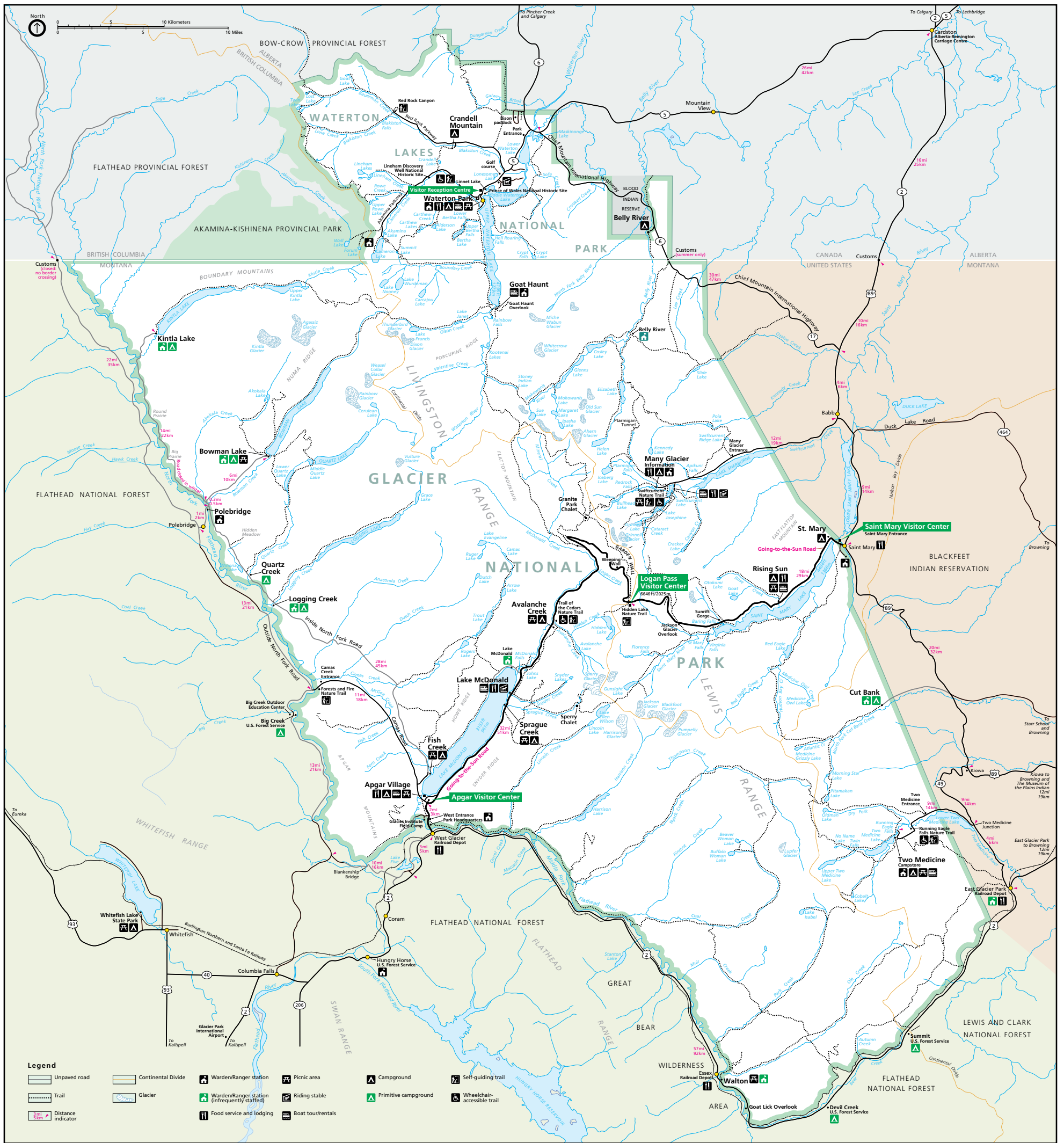
Leave rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests, and other natural and historic objects undisturbed so that others may discover and enjoy them. Removal of such objects is subject to fines.

- It is unlawful to feed, entice, or touch park wildlife.
- Pets must remain on a leash at all times while in the park. Pets, on a leash, are allowed on trails in Waterton Lakes National Park.
- Camping is permitted only in designated areas, as marked by signs.
- Collection of dead or downed wood is not allowed.
- A national park fishing permit is required in Canada’s national parks.
- Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.

### For Additional Information

the Waterton Lakes Visitor Centre  
Waterton Lakes National Park  
Box 200  
Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0  
Phone (403) 859-5133

or visit Waterton Lakes National Park online at: [pc.gc.ca/waterton](http://pc.gc.ca/waterton)



## Crossing The Border

### What You Need

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

- U.S. Citizens must present a U.S. Passport, Enhanced Drivers License\*, U.S. Passport Card, or NEXUS Card
- U.S. Resident Aliens must present a U.S. 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 U.S. 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](http://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 (800) 320-0063; and if crossing from Canada to the USA, call (406) 889-3865.

### Travel To, From, and Through Goat Haunt

Travel between Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada and the Goat Haunt Ranger Station, either by boat or by foot on the Waterton Lake Trail, will require an official government issued photo identification card for U.S. or Canadian citizens or permanent residents. All others must carry a valid passport.

Persons seeking to travel beyond the Goat Haunt Ranger Station into the United States must present documents that are Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative compliant.

The Goat Haunt Port of Entry will operate between 10:30 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. No entry into the United States past the Goat Haunt Ranger Station will be authorized outside of the port's hours of operation. Hikers traveling north into Canada from the United States are required to contact the Chief Mountain Port of Entry upon their arrival at the Waterton townsite. Information on contacting the Port of Entry is available at the Waterton Lakes Visitor Centre or the Waterton Station of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

### Border Crossing Dates and Times

Times listed are the schedule that has been followed in the recent past. They are subject to change and travelers should check to be sure about crossing 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 a.m. to 11 p.m.**  
east of the park at the joining of U.S. Highway 89 with Alberta Highway 2
- **Chief Mountain**  
5/15 to 5/31 ..... 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
6/1 to 9/1 ..... 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
9/2 to 9/30 ..... 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
October 1 ..... closed for season