

FAMILY TRAVEL GUIDE

**GLACIER
NATIONAL
PARK**

MONTANA



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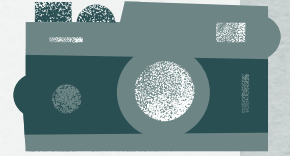
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

The "Crown of the Continent," Glacier National Park has most certainly earned this title, and there are so many reasons why. With the sharp edges of the Continental Divide splitting the park into west and east sides, the dramatic "Going to the Sun Road" slices through the middle, and visitors experience the beauty and grandeur of some of the oldest rocks in North America, while taking in the beauty of the flora and fauna along the way. 700 miles of trails wind through this Northern Montana park, providing every visitor the chance to chart their own path.



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MUST SEE SITES



“ GOING TO THE SUN ROAD”

A drive along this two-lane road is a “must,” and you should plan on an early start, as traffic can build as the day goes on. You can travel from the Northern end of the park at St. Mary’s Lake to the Southern End at Lake McDonald, or vice versa, depending on where you are staying. It takes a good portion of the day to drive the entire length of the road, and back (around 2 hours each way, not including lengthy stops). Keep in mind that there is a length restriction on vehicles, limited to 21 feet and under. We rented a car since our RV could not make the journey (Dollar Rent A Car, East Glacier Village)

THE GLACIERS!

Many say that these snowfields will melt by 2030, so see them while you can! From Going to the Sun Road, the Jackson Glacier Overlook offers the best views of Jackson and Blackfoot Glaciers, and hiking to Grinnell Glacier (or Grinnell Lake, see below for details) is also recommended.

ST. MARYS LAKE OR LAKE MCDONALD

Skip some rocks, or take a boat tour



HIKE RECOMMENDATIONS



HIDDEN LAKE OVERLOOK (2.6 MILES ROUNDTrip, MODERATE, 2H)



This trail departs from the Logan Pass Visitor Center and climbs through alpine meadows. Along the way, you will pass moraines, mountain goats, waterfalls, and bighorn sheep, and finish on top of the Continental Divide, overlooking the bright blue Hidden Lake, tucked within the mountains in the distance.

ST. MARY'S FALLS (2 MILES ROUNDTrip, RELAXED, 1H)



From Going to the Sun Road's east end, the trail to St. Mary's Falls (2 miles roundtrip) descends from the parking lot and across a wooden bridge above the crystal blue waterfall pools.

GRINNELL GLACIER OVERLOOK (7.1 MILES ROUNDTrip, MODERATE, 4H)



If your family doesn't have the legs to hike the entire 11 miles to Grinnell Glacier (RATING: STRENUOUS, TIME: 6 hours), a shortcut is to take the hike to Grinnell Lake, departing from the Many Glacier Hotel, and along Swiftcurrent Lake and Lake Josephine, which allows for fantastic views of Grinnell Lake and the Glacier at the end.

EXPERT TIP: You can take a boat shuttle part of the way back if you buy your ticket in advance at the Many Glacier Hotel, which is helpful when little legs are dragging at the end of the day.

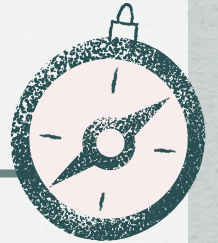
CAN'T MISS ADVENTURES

RED BUS TOUR OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



Highly recommended way to see “Going to the Sun Road” if you don’t have a car, or don’t want to drive the road yourself. Narration provides a rich history lesson for all, and they’ll even take the top down if the weather is nice enough.

HELPFUL HINTS



DON'T FORGET LAYERS!

The weather in Glacier National Park shifts frequently, and snow and rain are not uncommon, even in the Summer. Even when some days look sunny, the snow can “sneak up” on you!

GOING TO THE SUN ROAD IS ONLY OPEN TO VEHICLES FOR A FEW MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR

most commonly from late June until mid-October.

Plan ahead accordingly. Because of this, reservations for the park’s lodges and nearby hotels (and even campgrounds) should be booked at least 12 months in advance. There are also shuttle buses that run along this road if you are open to waiting in between stops.

SHORTEN GRINNELL LAKE HIKE WITH BOAT TRIP

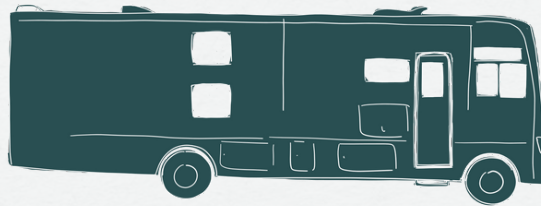
We hiked to Grinnell Lake during our visit (and really, really enjoyed this hike). However, if you are interested in shortening this hike, you should purchase tickets in advance to take the boat ferry from Swiftcurrent Lake back to the Many Glacier Hotel (purchase these tickets at the dock of the hotel). This will allow you to shorten the hike to 7.8 miles, and trim at least 2.5 miles off the return trip. It is still a strenuous hike, but much more do-able for little legs.

RECRETS



NOT HIKING TO GRINNELL GLACIER

We didn't feel our family had the "legs" to complete the 11.2 miles and over 2,100 feet in elevation gain to Grinnell Glacier when we visited, but we would love to return to complete this hike in the future, as it is highly recommended.



READ THE FULL STORY

BLOG POST