

Glacier September 2023

August 28:

Fly into Glacier National Park Airport in Kalispell Montana – 2.5 hours to The Cottages at Glacier

Delta – leaves Phoenix at 6am, arrive 1254pm – 2.5 hour layover in SLC

Kevin/Paul arrive at 12:39pm

AVIS CAR RENTAL RESERVATION – 8/28 12pm – 9/9-12pm

Confirmation: 04068958US5 – Standard SUV

- Get to Cottage via Going to the Sun Road (**enter after 3pm without permit – you do not have one this day**). Enter at West Glacier. Going to the Sun Road is only 50 miles but takes 2 hours to drive.
 - Stop in West Glacier at the Guides store on the way to pick up hiking poles for the week (reserved)- \$10/person/day – *As of 8/15/2023 – everyone bringing their own poles so don't need this.*
- Note—There is a supermarket right near Cottage (St. Mary Grocery) – that looks to be great for snacks, basic food and drinks – you may be able to just get away with going here and then going out to dinners.

Meals you will be at this location for:

- Breakfast for 4 days – 8/29-9/1
- Lunches to pack for day hikes for 4 days – 8/29-9/1
- Dinners for 4 nights – 8/28 – 8/31
 - Note there are a few restaurants near cottage (within 5 miles):
 - Rising Sun Pizza – Dinner everyday but Wed.
 - Snowgoose Grille – Open everyday 7am-9pm
 - Johnson's Café – open breakfast, lunch dinner

Lodging:

The Cottages at Glacier – **Reserved**

300 Going-to-the-Sun Road East

St Mary, MT 59417

--Cottage has: Full Kitchen, Gas Grill, Jacuzzi, Washer/Dryer, lunch bags/foil/paper products

Glacier September 2023

August 29:

DAY HIKE –Highline Trail 11.4 miles. Park at Logan pass (start) then get shuttle back to car at end.

**Note---Parking lots get VERY busy for day hikes. Get there by 7am or earlier to make sure you can park.

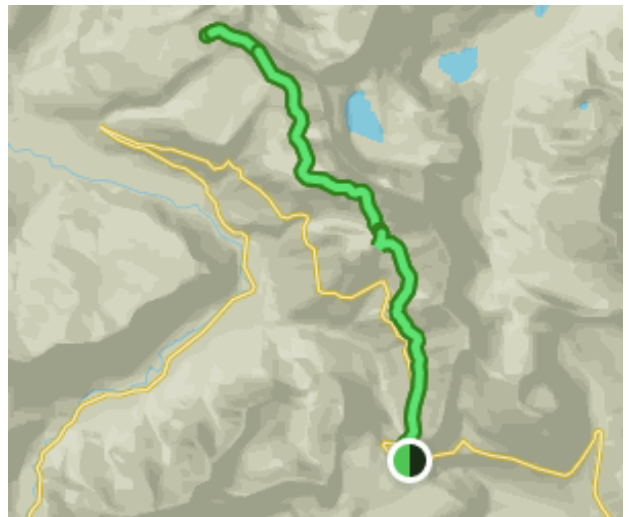
Going to the Sun Road Permit ✓
Many Glacier Road Permit ✓

Shuttles begin at 8am and close at 5:20pm.

Drive Rental Car (35 min) and Park at Logan Pass Parking area:

Parking lot time: Fills up by 7am, get there around 6:00am. No official parking lot times are listed on the website but numerous hikers reported staying as late as 1:00am

- Do the Highline-Loop combo, which begins at the Logan Pass parking area and ends at The Loop, then catch a shuttle back to Logan Pass. (Shuttles operating between Avalanche Creek and Logan Pass run approximately every 15 to 30 minutes. Travel time is an estimated 50 minutes. Shuttle buses are small 12-15-passenger buses (Sprinters).



Hike Details:

Miles: 11.6 miles one-way + 4 additional miles to get to The Loop and shuttle back to car

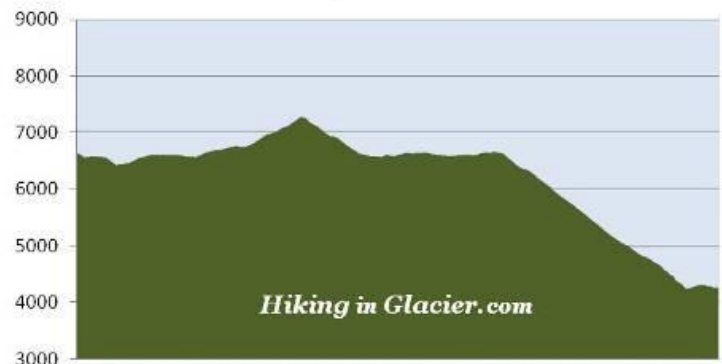
Elevation Gain: 800 ft

Elevation Loss: 3000

Length of time: 5 to 7 hours

Note: Mostly downhill hike. Take the eastbound shuttle to get back to Logan Pass. The faster we hike the less time we spend waiting in line for a shuttle. Trail can be closed due to grizzly bear activity for updates see [here](#).

Highline Loop Elevation Profile



On day one of the self hike day, when doing the High line trail take the steep trail to the grannel glacier overlook it is worth the extra hike to see the view.

Lodging:

The Cottages at Glacier – Reserved

Glacier September 2023

August 30

DAY HIKE - Grinnell Glacier – (near Many Glacier).

Going to the Sun Road Permit ✓

Many Glacier Road Permit ✓

Parking lot time: No listed parking lot opening. Hikers report parking lot filling up by 8am most days.

Drive rental car to Many Glacier Hotel (36min drive). Hike the 5.5 miles out to the peak of the Grinnell Glacier and then back track the 3.6 miles to the Many Glacier Boat Shuttle utilizing a One-Way returner trip. This allows us to skip the drawn-out boat tour early in the morning and get a head start on the trail before others. When returning we can still take advantage of the boat shortcut on the way back and cut about 2 miles off our return. SEE NOTES BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS . If boat is full, just hike back.

Extra notes:

- **WILDLIFE CLOSURE:** This area is subject to closures due to wildlife activity. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

Boat Shortcut Option:

Hike: Utilizing the One-Way Shuttle

Miles: 5.5 miles out to trail end +3.6 miles back to boat shuttle: 9.1 miles total

Elevation Gain: 1840 ft

Highest Elevation: 6516

Time it takes: About 4 h to Grinnell Glacier and 1 h 30 min to boat shuttle: 5 h 30 min total

Boat logistics:



“Boat saves miles, but it saves flat miles, not difficult ones. Taking the boat also forces you to start later and then hike with crowds” – Scott Nolan (commentor on all trails) – **Suggest to not wait for boat**

- **Reserve One-way boat ride, we can purchase tickets online (<https://reserve.glacierparkboats.com>) or over the phone (406-257-2426) months in advance.** Pricing: \$19.05 One-Way Return Trip
- **Boat shuttles return at 9:45am, 11:45am, 1:45pm, 2:45pm, 3:45pm, 5:30pm**
- For boat returns the last boat back leaves at 5:30pm, also can hike the additional 2 miles back to Many Glaciers Hotel.

Glacier September 2023

Lodging: The Cottages at Glacier – [Reserved](#)

August 31

DAY HIKE plan – St Mary's Falls and Virginia Falls
[Going to the Sun Road Permit](#) ✓

Drive straight to the parking lot right by the trail head (23 min drive). Park in the lot with only 15 spots so good idea to get at it early and beat the crowd. Relatively short hike with views of the beautiful mountains and three waterfalls No official parking lot time openings arrive as early as possible to secure one of the 15 spots

Commute:

-Drive from Lodging to Saint Mary's Falls Parking Lot (23 min)

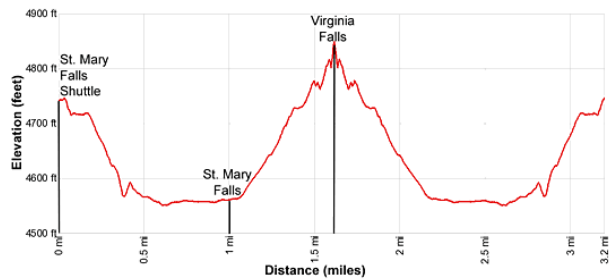
Hike Details:

Miles: 2.9 miles out and back

Elevation Gain: 1840 ft

Highest Elevation: 6516

Time it takes: About 1 h and 19 m



- Takes you close to multiple waterfalls quickly, there are three
- Downhill, no shade first 1mi in burned area to St. Mary. Moderate, muddy, some shade to Virginia. Both pretty falls. Pretty lake early. Beautiful mountain views and fall foliage. Must-do with excellent payoff for low effort.

Lodging: The Cottages at Glacier – [Reserved](#)

Glacier September 2023

September 1:

½ DAY HIKE and then head back to West Glacier (2 hours via Going to the Sun Road)

Going to the Sun Road Permit ✓

Hidden Lake Trail

For the last day/half day hike I would recommend the Hidden Lake Trail (3 mile). It's described as the Glacier "classic short hike" and offers 360 panoramic view of the area.

Its roughly a 35 minute drive from the lodging to the Trail head. It is advised to park at the Logan Pass Visitor Center. The parking lot will usually fill up by 8:30 am.

Hike:

Miles: 5.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 1325 ft

Highest Elevation: 7152 ft

Time it takes: 2 h 58 m

Notes about hike: on the Hidden lake is start of floral park scratch hidden lake continue avalanche lake overlook through and do floral park sherry glacier to speedy chalet. Hike Down to lake McDonald lodge Catch bus back Logan pass .. Secret floral park connecting three hikes. Go into the park



Dinner Options NEAR West Glacier:

- Heavens Peak Montana Kitchen, West Glacier – Open Thurs-Mon 5-9pm
- Stonefly Lounge (9 miles from West Glacier)

Groceries: Canyon Foods Supermarket in Hungry Horse, MT (12 miles from West Glacier)

Lodging:

Glacier Guides Lodge in West Glacier– **Reserved (2 rooms, 2 ppl/room)**
120 Highline Blvd
West Glacier, MT 59936

Glacier September 2023

September 2:

Going to the Sun Road Permit ✓

Call Glacier Guides to check in for hike tomorrow – 406-387-5555.

Drive into WhiteFish Montana to explore (30 miles)

- Whitefish Options
 - Viking Creek Preserve Trail (Behind The Lodge at WhiteFish Resort)
 - Ziplining in Whitefish mountain resort
<https://skiwhitefish.com/zip-line-tours/>
 - Gondola up to the Summit and have lunch up there at The Summit House – leaves from Whitefish Mountain Resort also
<https://skiwhitefish.com/scenic-lift-rides/>
 - **Must go to Sweet Peaks Ice Cream and get Honey Cinnamon Flavor!**

Or a hike in Whitefish:

Lion Mountain Trail, Whitefish

Ranked the #1 short hike in Whitefish, MT. Generally considered an easy route, the trail offers a nice stroll through the woods of Whitefish. Perfect for a late afternoon/evening hike.

Hike Details:

Miles: 2.6 mile

Elevation gain: 351 ft

Highest Elevation: 3,585 ft

Time it takes: Easy route 1 h 6 m

See above for dinner options near West Glacier

Lodging:

Glacier Guides Lodge in West Glacier– **Reserved (3 rooms, Paul/Kevin Share)**

120 Highline Blvd

West Glacier, MT 59936

Glacier September 2023

September 3rd – 8th:

Guided Hike begins at 830am from their office: [11970 US-2, West Glacier, MT 59936](#)

Can leave car there at their office.

5 night/6-day trip

4 tents rented and hiking poles for duration of guided trip ✓

Camp Spots: Cosley Lake, the head of Glens Lake, Kootenai Lake, Fifty Mountain and Flattop Mountain.

9/3: We'll depart in our van and head to the trailhead at Chief Mountain customs. About a 2.5 hour drive. Hike 8 miles to Cosley Lake. The first part is downhill and then there is not much elevation gain.

9/4: Hike from Cosley Lake to Glens Lake Head. 4 miles with little elevation gain. If you'd like we can do an optional side hike to Bear Mountain. O hike to Glens Lake, set up camp at Glens Lake and if energy permits head to less hiked area around Margaret Lake.

9/5. Hike from Head of Glens over Stony Indian Pass. (Elevation gain about 2000 feet). Then drop down into Waterton Valley (elevation drop of 1800) and camp at Kootenai Lakes.

Mileage this day about 11.5 miles.

9/6. Hike from Kootenai Lakes to Fifty Mountain. Gradual climb gaining about 1800 feet. Total miles this day is 8.3 miles. This is on the Highline trail.

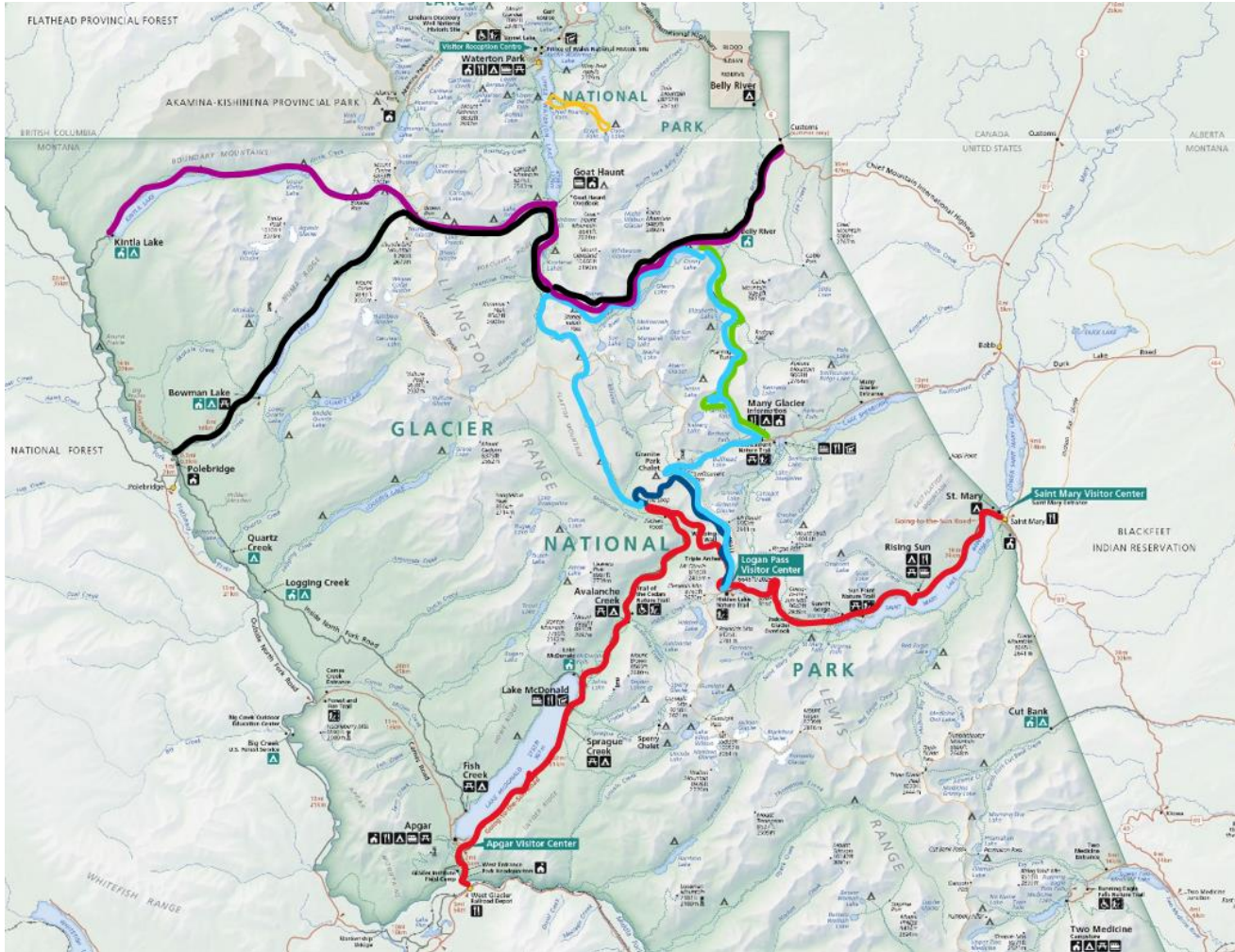
9/7 Hike from Fifty Mountain to Flattop Mountain. Not much elevation gain/drop. Mileage is 6.3. Maybe head to Sue Bench overlooking Sue Lake that morning before heading to Flattop.

9/8. Hike form Flattop Mountain down to Packers Roost. Trailhead is along the Going to the Sun Road just below the Loop. This day is 5.7 miles and you are dropping about 2200 feet.

Drive from the trailhead to our headquarters will be about 40 minutes. Be back around 4 or 5 PM..

Glacier September 2023

Side note: On the days with less mileage there is opportunity for side hikes. On day 2 hiking up to Bear Mountain and back would add 3 miles. Or if you choose to head to Margaret Lake instead that would add about 4 miles. From Fifty Mountain campground to Sue Lake overlook it would add about 2 miles round trip. This itinerary offers plenty of options to add mileage on the day you want to add mileage or you can just relax and enjoy the views.



September 8th:

Return at 530pm

Lodging:

Stay at Glacier Guides Lodge in West Glacier for 1 night – **Reserved (3 rooms, Paul/Kevin share)**

Sept 9th – Fly back to Phoenix:

30 minutes to airport from West Glacier – Return Car.

Delta – 5:10am depart Kalispeli Airport -- Arrive 8:52am – 1 hour 20 min. in SLC

Kevin/Paul depart at 5:30am

Glacier September 2023

Shuttle Info:

<https://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/upload/GTSR-Shuttle-Map-5-2022.pdf>

- No Express Shuttle Service available.
- Shuttles arrive approximately every 40 minutes between Apgar Visitor Center and Avalanche Creek, approximately every 15 minutes between Avalanche Creek and Logan Pass, and approximately every 25 minutes between St. Mary Visitor Center and Logan Pass.
- Last departures
 - Last departure from Logan Pass to Apgar Visitor Center is 5:00 pm.
 - Last departure from Logan Pass to St. Mary Visitor Center is 5:00 pm.
 - Last shuttle service from The Loop to Logan Pass departs at 4:20 pm

