



Glacier National Park

The Oregon S2000 Owner's Forum: [HTTP://OREGON.S2KI.COM](http://OREGON.S2KI.COM)

This 3-day, 4-state drive will take you to the visually outstanding **Glacier National Park** in **Montana**. You will travel to the **Tri-Cities** and then on through **Spokane** and **Coeur d'Alene**. You will cross the upper section of **Idaho** and then **Montana** on your way to **Glacier Park**.

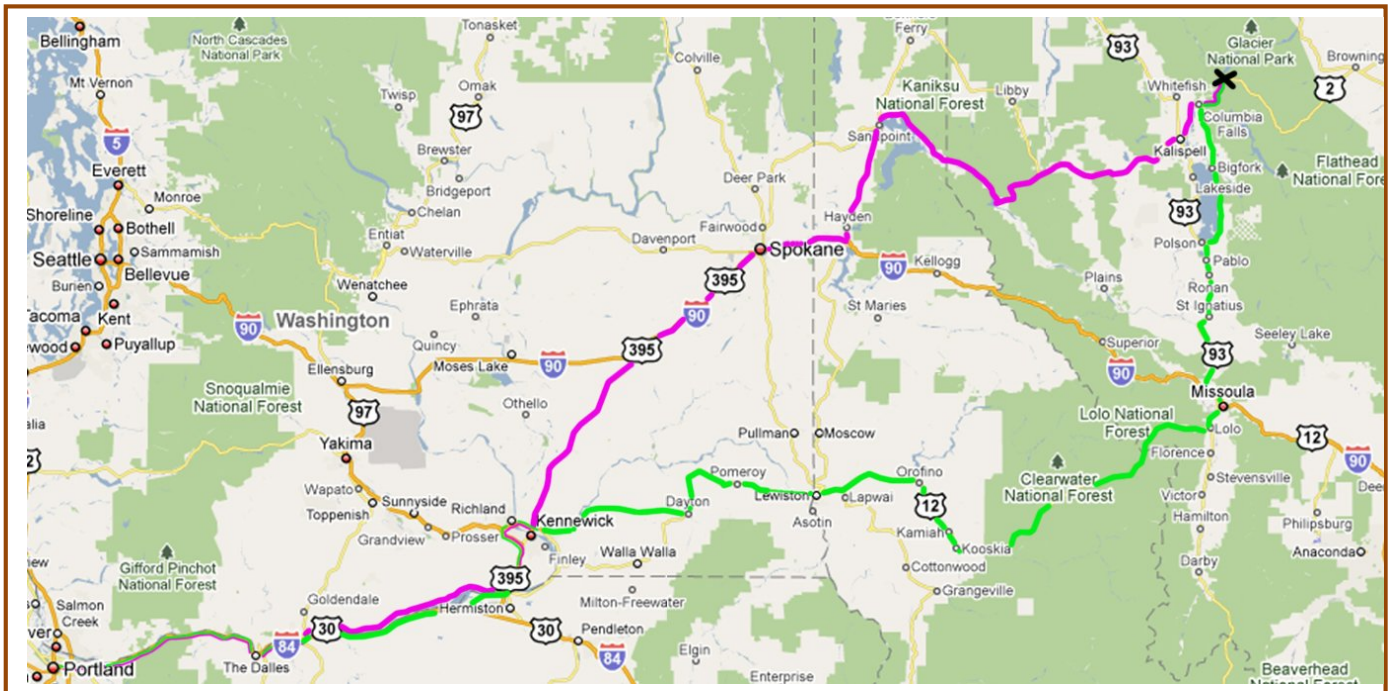


Driving = 50% 1, 25% 2 and 25% 3



Scenery = 5

Total Driving Time: 22 Hrs / 1472 Miles




Portland to West Glacier - Driving Time: 8 Hrs. 30 Mins. / 598 Miles

Find your way to *I-84* eastbound.




Zero your odometer trip gauge as you pass by the **Troutdale Exit #17** – (the mileage points are based on this). Proceed east on *I-84*. Take **Exit #104** to *Hwy. 97 North* (**mile 87.6**). Cross over the **Columbia River** and turn **right** / east on *Hwy. 14*.

Take the **left** ramp to *I-82 North / Hwy. 395 North* (**mile 170.8**).

Continue on Hwy. 395 through **Kennewick** and **Pasco**. At **Ritzville (mile 273.7)** stop for fuel . [GPS: Bob's Chevron Food Mart address is 101 West Galbreath Way, Ritzville WA]

Leaving **Ritzville**, follow the signs to *I-90 East*. Continue on *I-90* through **Spokane** and into **Idaho**. At **Couer d'Alene** you might want to stop for lunch (**mile 366.7**).

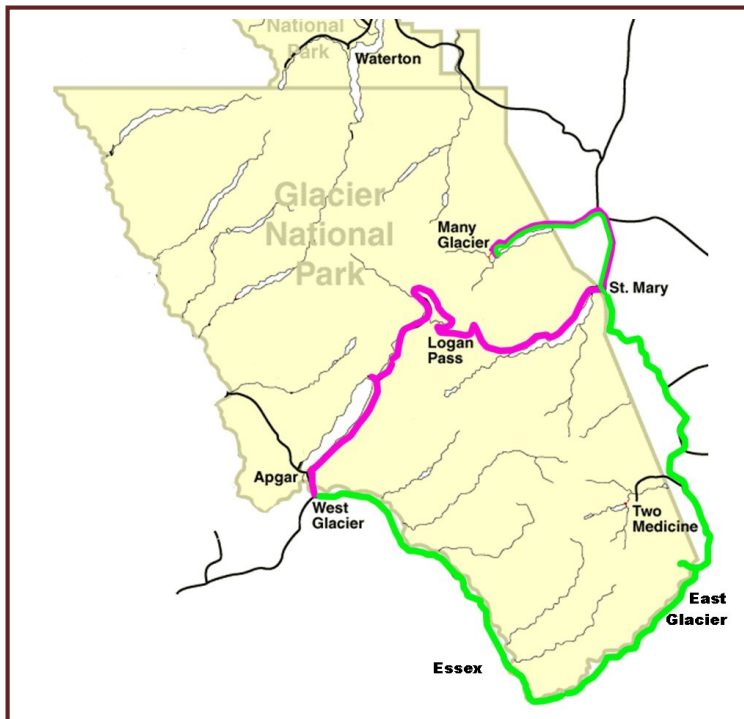
Leave **Couer d'Alene** on Hwy. 95 North. Arrive **Sandpoint** at **mile 412.8**. Follow the signs to Hwy. 200 (**mile 414.3**). As you enter **Montana (mile 447.5)** move your watch forward one hour to **Mountain Time**. Continue on Hwy. 200 to **Trout Creek (mile 476.8)**. Refuel here . [GPS: Trout Creek Cenex address is 2800 Mtn. Hwy. 200, Trout Creek MT]

Depart **Trout Creek** the way you came in – head west on Hwy. 200. At (**mile 478.2**) turn **right** / east on *Blue Side Road / Vermillion River Road*. At **mile 273.7** turn **left** / north on *Silver Butte Pass / NF 148*. NF 148 becomes *Silver Butte Rd*. At **mile 505.8** turn **right** / east on Hwy. 2.

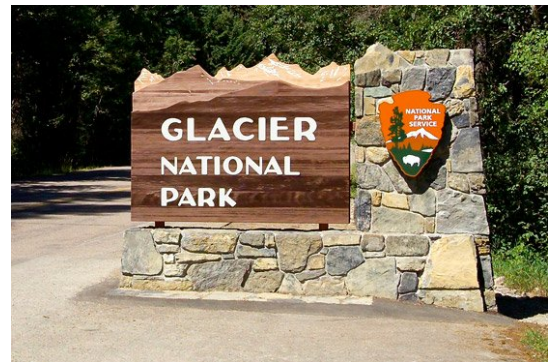
Continue on Hwy. 2 through **Kalispell** and **Columbia Falls**. At **mile 598** arrive at **West Glacier** and find your motel. [GPS: West Glacier address is 12544 Highway 2 East, West Glacier, MT]

The premier drive in **Glacier Park** is the “**Going-To-The-Sun-Highway**”. It starts at **West Glacier** and heads up into some very spectacular mountains. You'll be doing that tomorrow. The reason it is suggested that you get a motel in **West Glacier** is so you will be close to the park entrance for that drive. More motels are available at **East Glacier** and at **Essex**. There are also a number of historic lodges in the park itself.

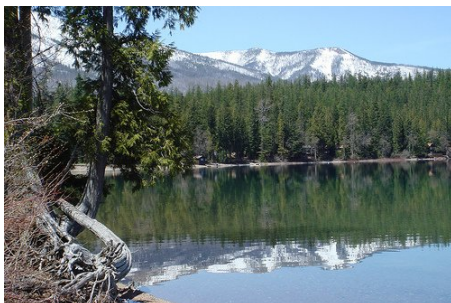
Your day to explore the park –



Enter the park at **West Glacier**. The fee is **\$25** for car and occupants.



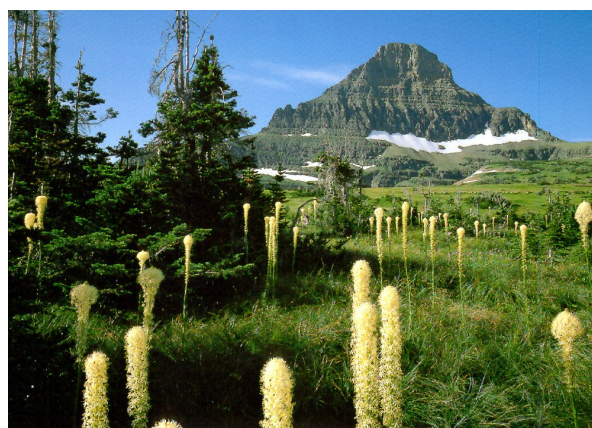
Head northeast on the **Going-To-The-Sun-Highway**. You will pass by **Lake McDonald** on your **left**. Stop by at the **Lake McDonald Lodge** to see the sights (**mile 11**):



From here you will start a long climb up out of the valley and along scenic views of the mountains and glaciers below. Be sure to stop at the viewpoints along the way – you will have plenty of time. Near the top of the climb you will come to **The Weeping Wall**:



Eventually you will reach the summit of **Logan Pass (mile 32.3)**. There is a nice visitor center here with hiking trails, benches to look out at the valley below, and a place to rest. The parking lot fills up fast, though.

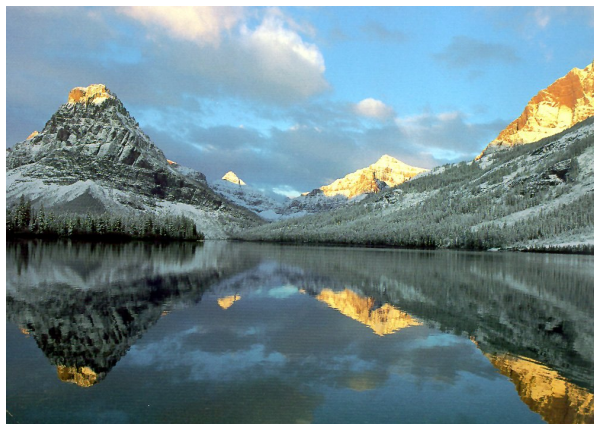


Once over the pass you will drive by the very beautiful **St. Mary Lake (with Goose Island)** (**mile 44.4**):



At (**mile 50.4**) you will exit the park and turn **left** / north on *Hwy. 89*. You will travel up the eastern side of the park, but there is no shortage of spectacular scenery:

Two Medicine Lake:



Bearhat Mountain:



Chief Mountain:



Hidden Lake:



Glacier Mountain:



At **Babb (mile 59)** turn **left** / west on *Many Glacier Road*. This will take you to the **Many Glacier Lodge (mile 71.3)**. You are apt to see wildlife along here.

Many Glacier Lodge at Swift Current Lake:



The lodge interior:



View of Mt. Grinnell from the lodge:



The **Many Glacier Lodge** is a great place to have lunch and enjoy the view.



Leaving **Many Glacier**, return to **Babb** and *Hwy. 89*. Turn **right** / south. At **mile 111.3** turn **right** on *Hwy. 49*. At **mile 123.9** turn **right** on *Hotel Drive* and proceed to the **Glacier Lodge**. This is the final historic lodge that should not be missed.

Return to *Hwy. 49*. At **mile 126** turn **right** / south on *Hwy. 2*.

This will take you around the southern edge of the park. You will cross the **Continental Divide** at **Marias Pass**. Watch for mountain goat along this road. There are goat viewing areas along the way you can stop at.




Back at **West Glacier (mile 181)** find your motel and then dinner.

West Glacier to Portland - Driving Time: 10 Hrs. 15 mins. / 693 Miles

Leaving **West Glacier** at **6:30 am MT** will put you back into **Portland** between **6:30** and **7:00 pm PT** depending on your stops along the way.



Zero your odometer trip gauge as you leave West Glacier. (the mileage points are based on this).

Head south/west on *Hwy. 2*. 7 miles from **West Glacier** is **Coram, MT**. Stop here for gas . [**GPS:** *Glacier Center* address is 10049 US Hwy 2, Coram, MT]

Continue on *Hwy. 2*. At **Columbia Falls**, turn **left** / south on *Hwy 26 (mile 14.8)*. At **mile 24.5** turn **left** / east on *Hwy. 35*. This will take you along the east side of beautiful **Flathead Lake** all the way to **Polson (mile 69.5)**.



At **Polson** turn **left** / south on *Hwy. 93*. Continue south on *Hwy. 93* to **Lolo (mile 145.8)**.

At **Lolo**, turn **right** / west on *Hwy. 93 / Hwy. 12*. This will take you up over **Lolo Pass (mile 178.4)** and into **Idaho**. Now this isn't just any road across **Montana**! Here's a sign to get your blood pumping:



Hwy. 12 is rated an **8.8** on a scale of **1 to 10** by the motorcycle groups. No tight hairpin curves, but broad sweeping curves you can take at speed – one after another for 77 miles. And you thought the trip back home was going to be boring!

Move your clock back one hour at **Lolo Pass** as you go back to **Pacific Time**. At **mile 279.6** you will arrive in **Kooskia**. Refuel here . [**GPS:** *Sunset Mart* address is 101 Main Street, Kooskia, MT]


Continue west/north on *Hwy. 12*. At **mile 353** you will arrive in **Lewistown**. This is probably a good place to grab lunch.

Continue west on *Hwy. 12*. As you leave **Lewistown** you will enter **Washington**. At the quaint town of **Waitsburg (mile 430.5)** keep **straight** / west on *Hwy. 124*.

Eastern Washington Palouse:



At **Kennewick (mile 475.2)**, turn **right** / north on *Hwy. 12* which becomes *I-182*. Take **left Exit #12A** to *Hwy. 395 South (mile 481.8)*. After crossing the river take the **left** ramp to *I-82 / Hwy. 395 South (mile 489.6)*.

At **Exit #131 (mile 508.5)** take the ramp to *Hwy. 14* west. Continue on *Hwy. 14* to the intersection with *Hwy. 97 (mile 588)*. Take *Hwy. 97* south and cross the **Columbia River** to **Biggs Junction**. Refuel at **Biggs Junction** . [**GPS: Biggs Junction Chevron** address is 91504 Biggs Rufus Hwy, Wasco, OR]

Continue west on *I-84* to **Portland (mile 693)**.

NOTE: The very essence of **Glacier Park** is the *Going-To-The-Sun-Highway*. This is the road that crosses the park and gives you those majestic views. This road is only open from Mid-June to Mid-September – weather permitting.

The road is undergoing reconstruction – a big project. This reconstruction will not be complete until 2020! During this time there will be delays, but are limited to no more than 30 minutes. Of course you can always get out and gawk at the scenery during these times so it isn't all bad.

Glacier National Park: **\$25.00** per car and occupants

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>

http://www.glacierparkmagazine.com/glacier_park_photos/glacierparkphotos.html

West Glacier Park Motels: **\$75** to **\$195** per night

www.kayak.com or:

<http://www.nationalparkreservations.com/glacier.htm>

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g60832-West_Glacier_Montana-Hotels.html

Essex Motels:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-q45160-d620030-Reviews-Half_Way_Motel-Essex_Montana.html

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-q45160-d78983-Reviews-Izaak_Walton_Inn-Essex_Montana.html

This is merely a suggested drive. You can shorten it – lengthen it – reverse it – modify it – deviate from it or just stay home and detail your car.

Enjoy and Drive Safely!

S2Ki Oregon -



The fun starts here!

Revised 1/1/2010