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 among 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.

The Pine Balance: A Shared Responsibility

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 larva feed 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.
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) 752-7776, 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.

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. Nearby in Browning, Montana, the Museum of the Hlñíci Indian features fascinating exhibits and Native American handicrafts as sales items. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 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.

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.

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.

Accessibility

The Apgar, Logan Pass, and St. Mary Visitor Centers, the International Peace Park Pavilion, and the Cameron Lake Day Use Area are wheelchair 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 Lintel Lake, Kootenai Brown, and Townsend trails in Waterton Lakes.

The Waterton-Glacier Guide is a joint publication between Waterton Lakes National Park of Canada & Glacier National Park in the United States.


**Scenic Drives and Attractions**

Over the next five years, Parks Canada will invest $2.6 billion to rehabilitate infrastructure assets within national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas across Canada. This historic investment supports conservation while promoting visitor experience and making our infrastructure safer and more appealing to visitors.

When visiting Waterton Lakes National Park, you may encounter one or more construction zones or reduced services while we complete this important work. Please plan ahead before you travel to avoid inconvenience. Regular updates will be issued as information is confirmed. Please consult the Waterton Lakes National Park website at: pc.gc.ca/waterton for the latest updated information and a map of projects that may impact your visit.

**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 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 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**

Closed May 16 - November 2016 Due to the construction at Cameron Lake Day-Use Area, the Akamina Parkway will be closed to all traffic, including pedestrians and cyclists. Beginning in June, Parks Canada will provide a shuttle service for hikers to safely access trailheads for the duration of the work. Regular updates on work as it progresses will be communicated on the park website.

**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 1949 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.

**Cameron Falls**

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

**The Maskinonge**

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.

**Wildlife & Flowers**

Bear, deer, elk, and Big horn sheep can be seen throughout the park, particularly in prairie areas. Fall is 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.

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.

**Other Services**

Clothing and gift shops, bookstores, grocery store, movie rentals, liquor store • a variety of cafes, restaurants, lounges and dining rooms • sporting supplies • service station • boat tours, bike and boat rentals • hiking tours, a horse riding facility • three churches • cash machines • art gallery • a health and recreation centre, 18-hole golf course, tennis court, ball diamond and playgrounds.

**Entrance Fees**

(subject to change)

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**Camping**

**Auto Camping**

Waterton’s three campgrounds provide almost 400 campsites.

• The Townsite Campground has 297 sites, including 94 fully-serviced. Fees vary depending on the service provided. Fees permitted in picnic shelter stoves. Most sites are reservable. Call (403) 737-3783 or visit: reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca.

• The Crandell Mountain Campground has 129 semi-serviced sites, five tips, and is located 6km up the Red Rock Parkway.

• Belly River Campground, located on the Chief Mountain Highway, has 24 unreserved sites. Reservations can be made in advance for the group sites at Belly River Campground. 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 2 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.

**Other Information**

The Waterton Lakes Visitor Centre

Waterton Lakes National Park

Box 200

Waterton Park, Alberta T0K 2M0

Phone (403) 859-5133

Visit Waterton Lakes National Park online at: pc.gc.ca/waterton

**View From the Top - Parks Canada photo**

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.

“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.”

**Park Regulations**

- Leave rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests, and other natural archaeological objects undisturbed as others may 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.
- Motorcycleists must wear a helmet.

**Lodging**

• The Aspen Village Inn (888) 859-8669

• Bayside Inn & Convention Centre (403) 527-9535

• 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) 862-2925

• 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 (403) 340-2400

• Waterton Springs Campground (403) 859-2247

**Hiking**

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.
Crossing The Border

What You Need

All travelers crossing the border must present documents that are Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHITI) 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.

* For a list of states and provinces who currently issue Enhanced Drivers Licenses, please visit 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.

Goat Haunt Travel

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 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 townsites. 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 are subject to change and travelers should check to be sure about crossing times.

- Rooiville ................................ open 24 hours west of the park on Highway 89, north of Whitefish, MT and south of Fernie, B.C.
- Piegan/Carway .......................... 7 am–11 pm east of the park at the joining of U.S. Highway 89 with Alberta Highway 2
- Chief Mountain
  May 15–May 31 ............ 9 am–6 pm June 1–Sept. 1 ............. 7 am–10 pm Sept. 2–Sept. 30 ............... 9 am–6 pm October 1 ............ closed for season