

Glacier Itinerary – August 2017

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Hindsight

We chose to fly into Spokane because we booked flights early and weren't sure if Glacier would have enough to fill our time, in hindsight we would have flown closer to Glacier.

We were too late to book hotels inside the park, we should have tried to book these a lot earlier.

During the summer peak the park gets very busy and the parking lots fill quickly (especially Logan Pass), there is a free park shuttle through the park, which is dependable but slower than the car.

Friday - August 4th - Flight to Spokane

Arrive Spokane WA late, get the rental car and head to the hotel.

Hotel: Red Lion River Inn - 700 N Division St, Spokane, WA, 99202

Saturday - August 5th - Spokane > Glacier

- Walked along the river to see the falls & ate breakfast at [Couple of Chefs](#).
- Walked back to the hotel with full stomachs and packed the car.
- Drove around the [City Drive](#) for an hour or so.
- Headed towards Glacier NP on the southern route towards St. Regis.

Hotel: Great Northern Resort - 12127 HWY 2 E, West Glacier, MT 59936

Sunday - August 6th – Red Bus Tour

- Breakfast at West Glacier, then headed into the park.
- Took the [Red Bus Tour](#) through the park, we did the “*Crown of the Continent*” tour which took all day. This was a good way to get an overview of the park.
- Hung out at the lake near [Lake McDonald Lodge](#) for the evening, building rock towers and skipping stones.

Monday - August 7th

- Got stuck not being able to park at Logan pass this morning.
- Stopped at Lunch Creek and took a small hike up Lunch Creek.
- Parked at Sun Point and hiked to Baring Falls.
- Played on a snow, and in the flowers on the way back to the hotel.
- Took a float raft trip down the Flathead River (with dinner), this was super relaxing and a great way to spend the afternoon, food on the river bank was awesome.
- Played family volleyball at the hotel as the sun went down.

Tuesday - August 8th

- Checked out of the hotel and headed early (to ensure parking) to Logan Pass.
- Relaxed/slept in the car for a while due to the foggy start to the day.
- Hiked along the Hidden Lake overlook trail, saw bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and marmots along the trail.
- Hiked from the overlook all the way down to the lake, this was a steep hike. Dipped our feet in the lake to cool off and headed back up towards Logan Pass.
- Stopped at the gift store at Logan Pass then took the free shuttle to the St. Mary Falls stop.
- Hiked to St. Mary Falls, then headed further along the trail up to Virginia Falls.
- Drove to Waterton (Alberta, Canada), checked into the hotel for the night. Ate dinner at Zum's restaurant.

Hotel: Bear Mountain Motel - Mt View Rd, Waterton Park, AB T0K 2M0, Canada

Wednesday - August 9th

- Ate a nice breakfast at [Waffleton](#), and got some advice from the friendly staff about where to visit while in Waterton.
- Walked to Cameron Falls which is in town and pretty close to the hotel.
- Hiked to Bertha Falls, recent bear sightings on this trail meant that we sang while we hiked.
- After leaving the falls we headed back down the trail to the lake in town and a few of us took a dip in the cool water, then walked along the beach.
- [Wieners of Waterton](#) for lunch, hot dogs, poutine, & sweet potatoes.
- Drove up to Red Rock Canyon and walked/waded up the beautiful canyon.
- Headed back towards the hotel and stopped on a beach near to the [Prince of Wales Hotel](#) to build structures out of driftwood.
- Took a look around the Prince of Wales Hotel, which looks a lot better from far away.

Thursday - August 10th

- Drove to Cameron Lake walked around a little.
- Saw a bear while we were heading back to the USA, headed for the [Many Glacier Hotel](#).
- Rented boats and spent an hour on Many Lake, some of us getting wet.
- Headed out on the hike to Grinnell Lake, saw deer, moose and signs of bears (more singing). After reaching the lake the weather turned a little ominous so we headed back to the Many Lake Hotel, walking quickly, singing loudly (100 bottles of beer on the wall).
- Great dinner at [Two Sisters Café](#) before heading to our Tiny House Village for the night.

Hotel: St Mary Lodge – Tiny House Village

Friday - August 11th

- Checked out of the hotel and headed into the park.
- We parked at McDonald Lake Hotel and caught the shuttle to Logan Pass.
- Hiked along the Highline trail for about three miles before turning around (the full trail is 11.2 miles).
- Had a hard time getting a shuttle back down to McDonald Lake due to some fire evacuations in the park.
- Left the park and headed to the hotel for the night.

Hotel: Ninepipes Lodge - 69286 Highway 93, Charlo, MT, 59824

Saturday - August 12th – Glacier > Spokane

- Ate breakfast at a truckers café, headed to the [National Bison Range](#).
- Drove around the 19 mile range seeing all of the animals.
- Started driving back towards Spokane and stopped at the [Coeur d' Alene's Old Mission state park](#).
- Stopped for a few hours at Coeur d' Alene where the kids played in the lake.
- Back at Spokane we waited for our late and long flight home (via Chicago).