



GLACIER
INSTITUTE

Swiftcurrent Motor Inn

**Essentials Glacier
Glacier National Park**

July 20-24, 2026

Swiftcurrent Essentials Glacier



Immerse yourself in the rugged beauty of Glacier National Park's Many Glacier region with this four-day educational adventure based at Swiftcurrent Motor Inn.

Designed for a small group of up to 14 participants, this program combines guided hikes through some of Glacier's most iconic landscapes with expert-led outdoor education.

You'll enjoy hikes to Iceberg Lake and Grinnell Glacier, showcasing dramatic alpine scenery, wildflower meadows, cascading waterfalls, and glacially carved valleys. Along the way, you'll gain insights into the region's unique geology, wildlife, and the impacts of a changing climate.

With hikes ranging from moderate to strenuous, this program offers an enriching and active experience suitable for moderately fit participants.

Evenings allow time to unwind at Swiftcurrent Motor Inn, reflecting on the day's discoveries in comfort and tranquility.

Whether you're new to Glacier or a returning visitor, this program offers a unique way to connect with the park's natural wonders while deepening your understanding of its incredible ecosystems.



Why Choose an Essentials Glacier Package?

These Essentials Glacier packages are developed through a partnership with **Glacier National Park Lodges and the Glacier Institute**. These packages combine the best lodging locations with an exceptional immersive field education experience.

The Glacier Institute is the official education partner of Glacier National Park. The Glacier Institute's mission is to strengthen connections to the natural world through outdoor education.

To learn more about the Glacier Institute, visit our website, glacierinstitute.org.

The Glacier Institute has been delivering immersive educational programs in Glacier National Park for over 40 years. Glacier Institute Outdoor Education Specialists are passionate professionals with extensive training to offer unique and accurate insights into the park's natural and cultural history.

What's Included?

- 4 Night Stay - Swiftcurrent Motor Inn
- Most Meals - Breakfast and dinner at Nell's, to-go lunches
- In-park transportation via a 14-passenger minibus
- Exceptional educational programming with a Glacier Institute Outdoor Education Specialist
- Exclusive Glacier Institute welcome gift
- Use of high-powered scopes and binoculars from Zeiss Optics



Program Itinerary



Day One | Welcome & Orientation

Arrive at Swiftcurrent Motor Inn for check-in at 4:00 p.m. Meet your Outdoor Education Specialist at 6:00 p.m. for an orientation.

Day Two | Iceberg Lake

7:00 a.m.: Start your day with breakfast at Nell's.

8:00 a.m.: Depart for the hike to Iceberg Lake.

Hike: Explore 9.6 miles of breathtaking trail, winding through spruce and pine forests, vibrant alpine meadows, and glacier-carved valleys. Your destination is the stunning turquoise Iceberg Lake, nestled in a dramatic rock amphitheater. Along the way, learn about the area's unique geology, wildflowers, and wildlife from your Glacier Institute guide. You'll enjoy a boxed lunch surrounded by unparalleled views.

4:00 p.m.: Return to Swiftcurrent Motor Inn to relax and unwind.

5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.: Dine at Nell's.



Day Three | Choose Your Own Adventure

On Your Own: Start your day with breakfast at Nell's.

Select the activity that excites you most - a horseback trail ride in Glacier National Park, a boat ride, a relaxing day swimming, or a personal hike. If you're interested in scheduling an activity, this would be coordinated on your own.

4:00 p.m.: Return to Swiftcurrent Motor Inn to relax and recharge.

5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.: Dine at Nell's.



Program Itinerary



Day Four | Grinnell Glacier

7:00 a.m.: Enjoy breakfast at Nell's.

8:00 a.m.: Depart Swiftcurrent Motor Inn for the Grinnell Glacier trail.

Hike: Tackle this 10-mile roundtrip hike through stunning landscapes. Ascend past Swiftcurrent and Josephine Lakes, with opportunities to spot moose, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep. Continue through alpine meadows and rocky terrain to reach Upper Grinnell Lake and the glacier itself, surrounded by towering peaks like Angel's Wing and Mt. Gould. Enjoy a boxed lunch on the trail with spectacular glacier views.

5:00 p.m.: Return to Swiftcurrent Motor Inn where you will bid farewell to your Outdoor Education Specialist.

5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.: Reflect on your adventure during dinner at Nell's.



Day Five | Departure

Pack your bags and enjoy a final morning at Swiftcurrent Motor Inn. Check-out is by 11:00 a.m.



Frequently Asked Questions



IS THERE AN AGE REQUIREMENT?

Yes, this program is for adults only. All participants must be over 18.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Much of the program time will be spent outdoors, and participants should be prepared for various mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are essential. Summer temperatures can range from below-freezing in the mornings to 85° Fahrenheit in the afternoons. Layering garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide clothing choices.

The Outdoor Education Specialist will carry a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

HOW FIT DO I NEED TO BE?

- Participants should be prepared to hike up to 10 miles in a day with elevation gains of up to 2,000 feet. Depending on the group's pace and preferences, hikes may be shortened to prioritize educational quality.
- The Glacier Institute follows a strict hike as a group policy, ensuring all participants stay together for a safe, engaging, and enriching educational experience.
- Participants should be prepared for changing environmental conditions that may exasperate existing health conditions. Please make considerations for elevation, seasonal allergies, and air quality due to fires and bring any necessary medications.



Frequently Asked Questions



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE:

- **What do the vehicles look like?**
 - They are 2016 Ford Transit Vans that seat a max of 15 people.
- **What are the staff's qualifications?**
 - Our staff arrive each season with tremendous passion and diverse backgrounds. They immediately undergo an intensive three-week training period, during which they become Certified Interpretive Guides and Montana Master Naturalists.
- **Am I guaranteed to go on the hikes listed in the itinerary?**
 - We will do our best to follow the itinerary that was crafted for this trip. However, Glacier National Park occasionally closes trails for weather, trail conditions, wildlife, or fires. In the case of a closure, we will find another suitable location to explore.

WHAT WILL I EAT?

- **Breakfast 7:00 am daily, Nell's.** First-come, first-served, Swiftcurrent Motor Inn front desk will provide a coupon for the cost of the meal and gratuity.
- **Lunch will be boxed and ready for each day's adventure.** Please complete a form with the dining room the night before. Lunches can be picked up by 7 am.
- **Dinner 5-9:30 pm daily, Nell's.** Reservations not accepted; first-come, first-served. The Swiftcurrent Motor Inn front desk staff will provide you with a coupon for the cost of the meal and gratuity.
- ***Please discuss any dietary restrictions with the dining staff, they will make all possible efforts to accommodate your needs.***



Terms & Conditions

Itineraries are subject to change. Unforeseen cancellations of Program activities due to inclement weather or mechanical difficulties will be supplemented with extended touring routes or alternative activities. Refunds will not be issued for canceled activities.

Rates include taxes, fees, and gratuity, with the exception of the NPS Entrance fee, which must be paid upon entering the National Park. Rates, taxes, and fees are subject to change and based on approved local, state, and NPS fees at the time of the session date.



Deposit/Refund Policy:

The following policies apply to Glacier Institute Lodging & Learning packages. If you cancel:

- 60 days or more prior to the start of your package, 100% of your payment will be refunded.
- 30 days or more prior to the start of your package, 50% of your payment will be refunded.
- If you cancel fewer than 30 days before the start of your program, your full payment will be forfeited.
- Please call the Central Reservations Office at 855-SEE-GLACIER (855-733-4522) to cancel.

We recommend the purchase of travel insurance to help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip due to unforeseen circumstances.

About The Glacier Institute

The Glacier Institute, a nonprofit and the official education partner of Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest, is a trusted leader in outdoor education. With over 40 years of experience, we offer immersive, expert-led programs that foster deeper connections to the natural world while cultivating critical thinking and understanding.

Our week-long courses provide in-depth, hands-on learning guided by seasoned educators and topic experts. Participants gain more than knowledge—they leave with a renewed perspective and a profound appreciation for the environment.

As a nonprofit, we're dedicated to making outdoor education impactful and accessible, ensuring every experience is both meaningful and transformative. When you join a Glacier Institute course, you'll gain skills, insights, and memories that will stay with you long after you leave the trail.



“We only protect what we love, we only love what we understand, and we only understand what we are taught.”

Jacques-Yves Cousteau