

# WATERTON-GLACIER LOOP

WHITEFISH – FERNIE – SPARWOOD – WATERTON – WEST GLACIER  
APPROX. 725 KM/450 MI



## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fernie – Small Town Charm, Big Mountain Adventure
- Fly-fishing, rafting and mountain biking
- Open Pit Mine Tours Elkford & Sparwood
- Waterton Glacier International Peace Park
- Going-to-the-Sun Road & crossing the Continental Divide
- Wildlife Viewing

A grand loop drive or bicycle ride will take you to two national parks, over the Continental Divide and into some great communities in Alberta, British Columbia and Montana. Year-round, experience a tremendous diversity of scenery, wildlife and history. And during the summer months, you have the option of exploring the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park (U.S.).

If you are a U.S. visitor travelling from the south, you can begin your tour at Columbia Falls with a stop at Montana Free Traders for a cup of their famous coffee. Then travel on to Whitefish. Heading north along Highway 93, pass through the Flathead and Kootenai National Forests,

Stillwater State Forest, then by two beautiful lakes—Dickey and Murphy.

Nearing Canada, the community of Eureka in the Tobacco River Valley offers wonderful walks by the river and Café Jax—stop for a delicious old-time milkshake. Hwy #93 continues across the U.S. / Canada border. Remember that you need a passport card to travel between countries.

Once in Canada, drive through the Ktunaxa Nation Tobacco Plains Reserve and over the deep Elk River canyon. The tiny community of Elko is situated just east of Hwy #3/93. Travel NE on Hwy #3 towards the city of Fernie – watch for Morrissey Road and cross the bridge over the Elk River.

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A short interpretive forest walk takes you through magical black cottonwoods and ancient red cedar.

Fernie is fully encircled by the majestic Canadian Rockies making it a bucket-list location for adventurers and sightseers alike. World-class fly-fishing, thrilling whitewater rafting and over 100 mountain bike and hiking trails complement the eclectic arts community which brings Summer Sunday Socials and the Wapiti Music Festival in August.

The town of Sparwood is a short drive north of Fernie. On display at Sparwood is the world's largest tandem axle dump truck, a larger-than-life mural tour depicting life as it used to be and underground mining artifacts.

Teck Coal offers free tours of open pit mine operations throughout the summer from the Visitor Centres in Elkford and Sparwood. The area's mining heritage continues as you drive east across the Crowsnest Pass. Stretch your legs at Summit Lake before entering the province of Alberta.

At Pincher Creek, take Highway #6 south to Waterton. Waterton Village in the heart of Waterton Lakes National Park is a vibrant centre offering activities, lodging and dining. The park is all about beauty and adventure; it's a rare gem tucked in the Rocky Mountains. Discover the lakes, hikes, wildlife, heritage and culture. Waterton will grab hold of your memory and never let go.

This Loop may continue along Highway #5 to Cardston or south along Highway #17 and #89, and across the international border again to the village of Saint Mary.

The Going-to-the-Sun Road is a spectacular 84 km (52 mi) paved two-lane highway that bisects Glacier National Park east and west. It spans the width of the park, crossing the Continental Divide at 2,000 m (6,646 ft) high Logan Pass.

Scenic viewpoints line the road and it's well worth travelling this road in each direction—the views are very different and equally stunning. Season of operation for this road is June to early-fall and there are vehicle size restrictions.

The route along the perimeter of the park on Highway #2 through East and West Glacier Park is also a great way to wrap up this tour. Located about half way in between these villages is Goat Lick Crossing; an exposed riverbank where mountain goats come to lick the mineral-laden cliffs.

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## KOOTENAY ROCKIES TOURISM

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[www.PowderHighway.com](http://www.PowderHighway.com)  
[www.KootenayGolfDeals.ca](http://www.KootenayGolfDeals.ca)  
[www.KootenayRockies.mobi](http://www.KootenayRockies.mobi)

### Business website:

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