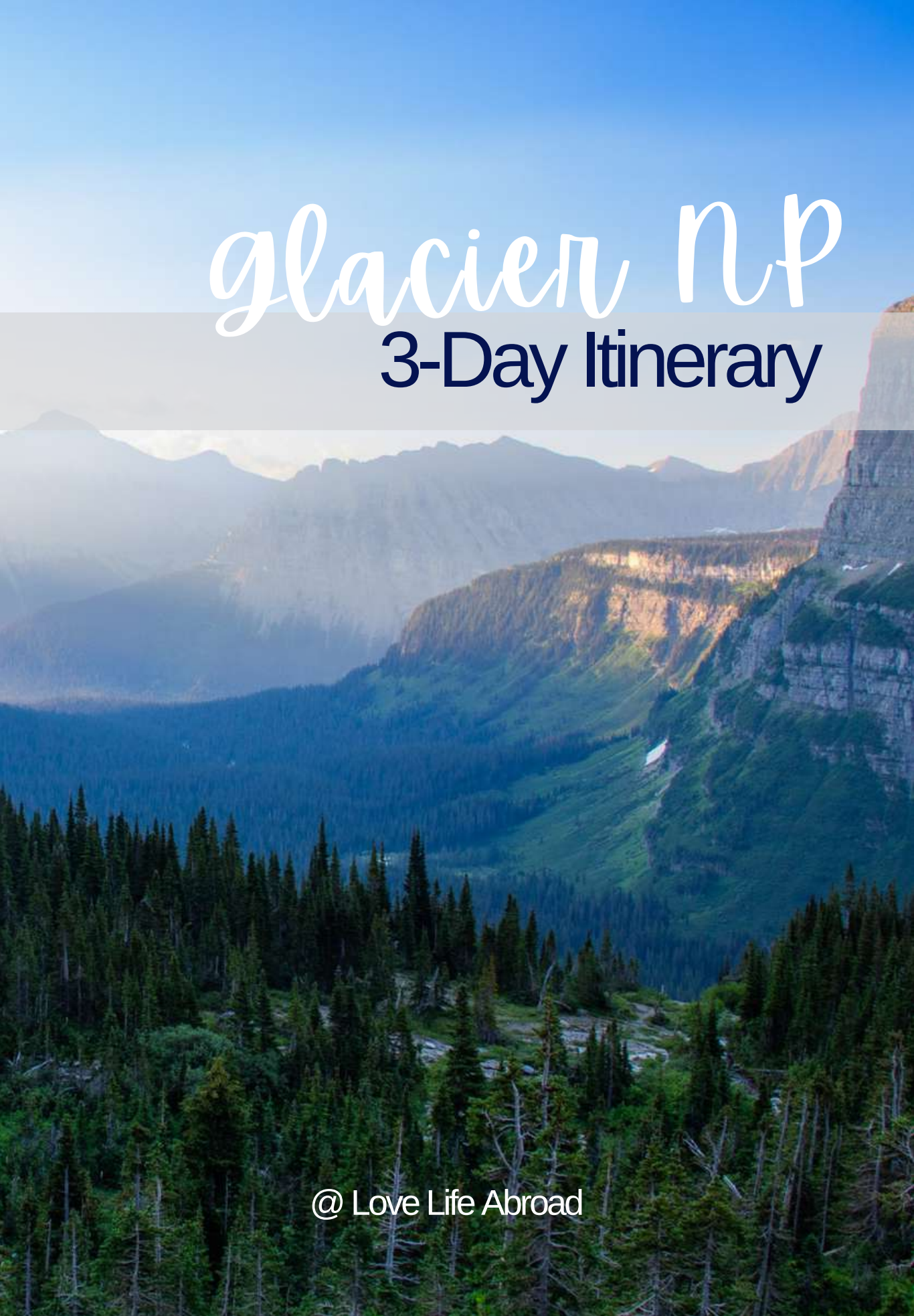

glacier NP
3-Day Itinerary
@ Love Life Abroad

Here is the the perfect introduction to Glacier National Park itinerary for your family. Note that in this itinerary, you'll see you'll be staying near West Glacier on your first night and near St.Mary on your second night.

- **First night near the West entrance**: I would recommend either staying in West Glacier, just outside the West entrance or near Apgar Village. Apgar Village is a great hub with visitor centers, lodging, gear rental and restaurants like Eddie's Cafe & Mercantile.

- **Second night near the St. Mary entrance:** I recommend staying in St. Mary or the Many Glacier areas. There are campgrounds and hotels at both locations.

Day 1: Explore Apgar Village and Lake McDonald

Begin your Glacier adventure with a cliché family photo in front of the Glacier National Park sign at the West entrance of the park.

Visitor Center and Lake McDonald

Enter the park and **stop at the visitor center to get the Junior Ranger's booklet for the kids**. Then, slowly start driving along the Going-to-the-Sun road. You'll want to **stop at Lake McDonald Lodge and walk around**. Kids will love throwing colorful rocks in the lake and even going in the water (if there are brave enough… the water is FRREEZING).

Trail of the Cedars Hike

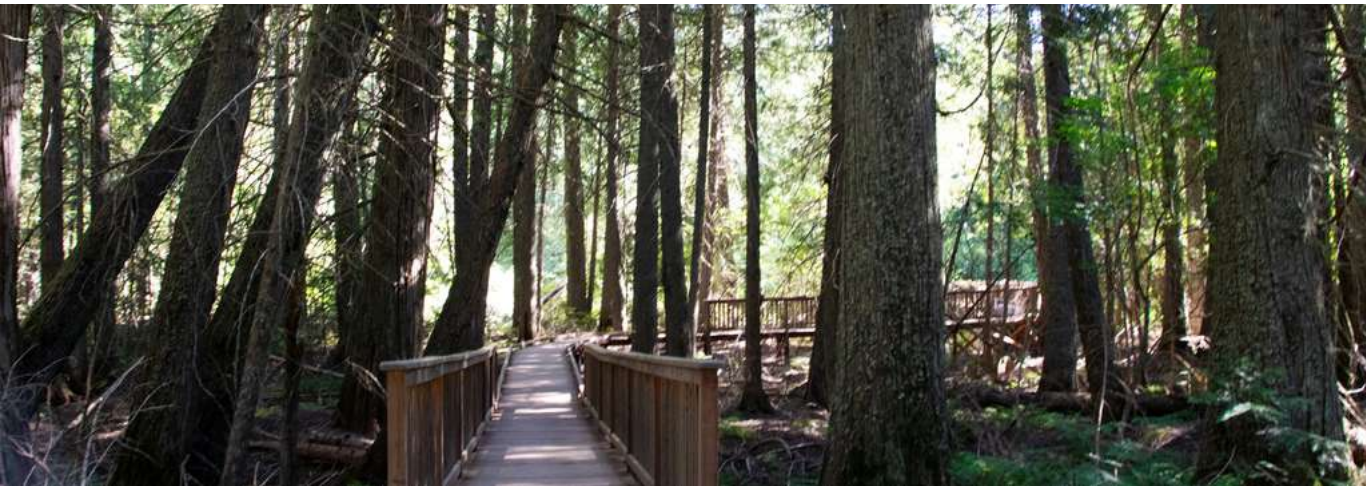
You can continue a bit on the Going-to-the-Sun road and **hike the Trail of the Cedars**. It's a 0.9-mile (1.45-km) easy loop. Be careful, it's an area frequented by grizzly bears. Always carry your bear spray with you, keep your kids close, and make noise.

Don't forget to **check on AllTrails** for more hiking options in Glacier National Park for the family.

Apgar Bike Path

End your day with **a bike ride on the Apgar Bike Path**. It's a 3.0-mile (4.8-km) paved, easy trail. If you don't have your own bike, you can rent one from **Glacier Outfitters**. They offer E-bikes, regular bikes, kids' bikes and child trailers.

You can also look at the sunset at Apgar Village. There's a nice lake access with beautiful views.



Day 2: Discover Logan Pass, Hidden Lake Overlook, and St. Mary

Start your day early to discover the breathtaking Going-to-the-Sun road. The scenic route is a 50-mile-long drive in the mountains.

Going-to-the-Sun Road

The road crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass. It's the highest point on the road at 6,646 feet above sea level.

It's important to know that **the speed limit is 25 mph, and there is only one lane each way**. Patience is important. It can also get really busy in the summertime. Also, driving the Going-to-the-Sun road with an RV or trailer longer than 21 feet is not recommended.

Logan Pass and Hidden Lake Overlook Trail

Take your time along the road and stop at the many viewpoints. You can **pack a lunch and do a picnic at Logan Pass**. Don't forget to stop at the Logan Pass visitor center.

Then, it's time for a memorable family hike to the **Hidden Lake Overlook**. This 3.0-mile (4.8-kilometer) round-trip trail begins at Logan Pass. It offers breathtaking views of alpine meadows, jagged peaks, and the beautiful Hidden Lake.

Watch for potential wildlife encounters, as you may spot mountain goats, bighorn sheep, or even a bear in the distance. Remember to follow park guidelines and maintain a safe distance from any wildlife you encounter.
We didn't get to hike the Hidden Lake trail since a section was closed due to bear activity. We still walked a bit along the boardwalk and admired the view. It's simply beautiful.

Continue towards St. Mary

When you're ready, continue on the Going-to-the-Sun road toward St. Mary, where you'll stay for the night.

Stop at **St. Mary Falls Overlook**. You can also do St. Mary and Virginia Falls trail to see St. Mary Falls and Virginia Falls. It's a 2.9 mile (4.7 km) out-and-back easy trail where you can admire both waterfalls.



Day 3: Unveil the Beauty of Many Glacier and Swiftcurrent Lake

On your last day in Glacier National Park, you'll venture around Swiftcurrent Lake and Many Glacier.

Swiftcurrent Nature Trail

You can start by hiking the Swiftcurrent Nature Trail. It's a perfect hiking trail for families. This 2.6-mile (4.8-kilometer) loop around Swiftcurrent Lake offers relatively flat terrain, gorgeous scenery, and possible wildlife sightings.

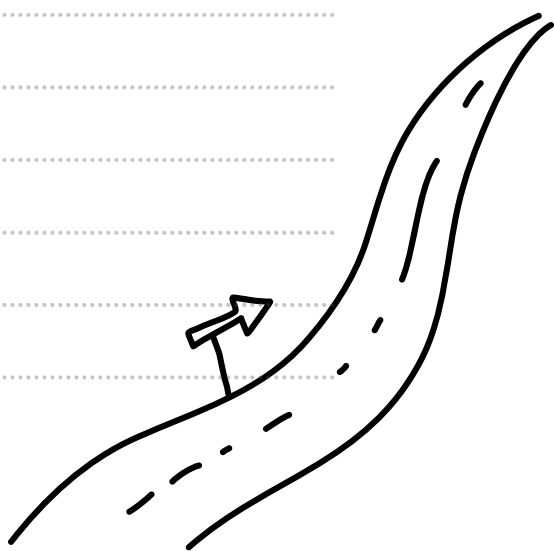
Many Glacier Boat Tour

Then, take the Many Glacier boat tour to see Grinnell Lake. The boat tour goes to Swiftcurrent Lake and Lake Josephine. It's only a 0.9-mile (one-way) hike to reach the lake from the boat dock. Otherwise, it's a 7.1-mile loop from Many Glacier Inn if you don't take the boat.

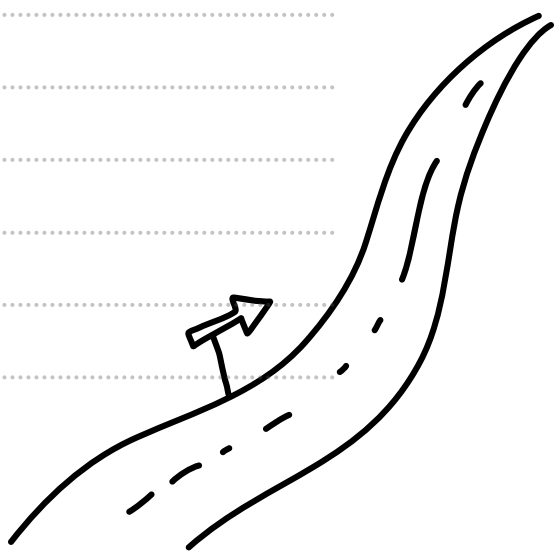
If you do the Many Glacier boat tour, you'll also see Lake Josephine.



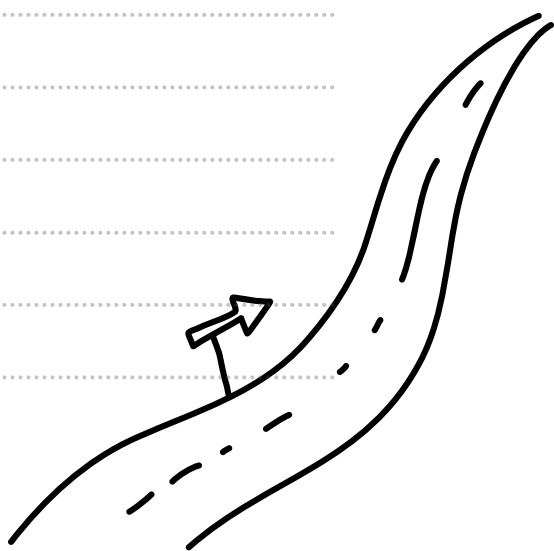
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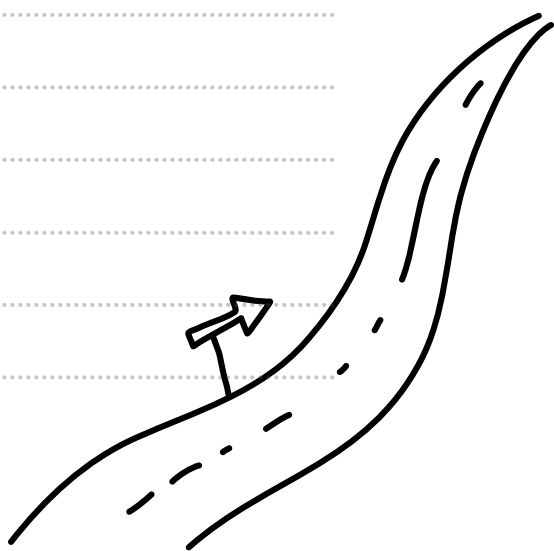
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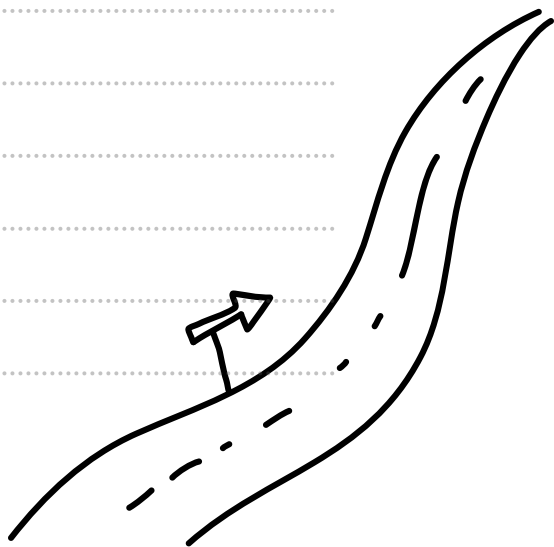
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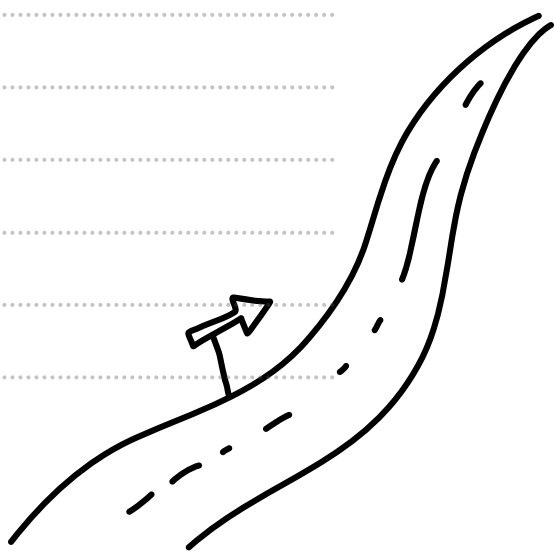
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Emilie is the founder of Love Life Abroad, a website dedicated to road trips and outdoor adventures with kids in Western Canada and USA.

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