

Hiking

Glacier National Park is routinely rated as the ultimate hiker's park. With more than 730 miles of trails and stunning scenery it's easy to see why. Still, Glacier isn't the only place to hike. **The Jewel Basin** is a locals' favorite on the east side of Flathead Lake just a short 15-20 minute drive from Mystic Mountain. Further south, you can rent a boat and head out to Wild Horse Island for a hike and views you won't soon forget. Or, head west and discover the Cabinet Mountains. Point is, you pick your direction and let your wanderlust and feet take over.

Glacier National Park has been named as the best place to backpack in the U.S. Beautiful trails, jaw-dropping views around every corner, glaciers that twinkle on distant peaks, dramatic waterfalls and rare wildlife all await. Our top five hikes include the wheelchair accessible Trail of the Cedars, Avalanche Lake, Hidden Lake, the Highline Trail and the dramatic Dawson-Pitamakan Loop.

The Jewel Basin is only a short 20 minute drive from Mystic Mountain but miles away from civilization. A day hiker's paradise, the Jewel's 25 lakes stud its 35 mile, well-marked trail system. Mount Aeneas, its highest point, can be tackled in a day — 8 miles round-trip. Download a [PDF hiking map](#) of the Jewel Basin.

Swan River Nature Trail Or the Wild Mile— Bigfork's 2-mile long, flat and easy gravel trail looks down upon the Wild Mile of the Swan River. Head into town from Montana 35 on Grand Drive and keep going straight past Electric Avenue and the Bigfork Inn. The trailhead's at the top of the short hill. Have lunch or dinner in town afterwards.

Lone Pine State Park is the biggest little park in Northwest Montana. Just six miles from town are six miles of developed trail where hikers and mountain bikers can choose from steady and steep to easy cruises through wooded terrain. You'll find fantastic views at the top and a Visitor Center with full-service restrooms, drinking fountains and a gift shop; along with a wheelchair accessible interpretive loop. 406-752-5501.

Iven Herron Memorial Park's single track mountain bike and hiking paths break away into the [Foy's to Blacktail Trails](#) Project, an ambitious and extensive trail system linking to the Forest Service lands surrounding Blacktail Mountain.

Danny On Memorial Trail — Dramatic panoramas unfold along this trail that leads to the 7,000 summit of **Big Mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort**. Choose from routes 3 to 6 miles in length. Ride the gondola or chairlift up and hike down to the Village, or hoof it up the mountain and reward yourself with a cold drink at the Summit House before taking a ride back down.

TRAIL GUIDES