

**Epic** rides are long, very difficult rides. They appeal to accomplished cyclists who, as the Mountaineer guide to Oregon cycling nicely phrases it, "... rarely if ever meets a hill too high or a ride too long." These are the rides many of us dream about, rides requiring being very fit and having great riding skills. These are rides with big rewards accompanying big outputs of energy. We hope you find the few featured Epic rides at least fun to read about. With any luck you'll find them rewarding to ride.

175 *Classic Rides Oregon : The best road biking routes.* Jim Moore. The Mountaineers Books. 2012.

**HBC GREAT RIDES**

**West Glacier to East Glacier**

Contributed by: Don Harris

**Length:** 80.5 miles

**Cumulative Elevation Gained & Lost:** 8,136 feet

**Starting Point:** West Glacier, W. Glacier Mercantile

**Ending Points:** East Glacier, Amtrak Stn (Cycling finish, bike boxes available, Embark Amtrak), Whitefish (Disembark Amtrak, unload bikes)

**High Point:** 6,646 feet (Logan Pass)

**Low Point:** 3,164 feet (Flathead Riv bridge near W. Glacier)

**Road Surface:** Paved

**Difficulty:** Epic

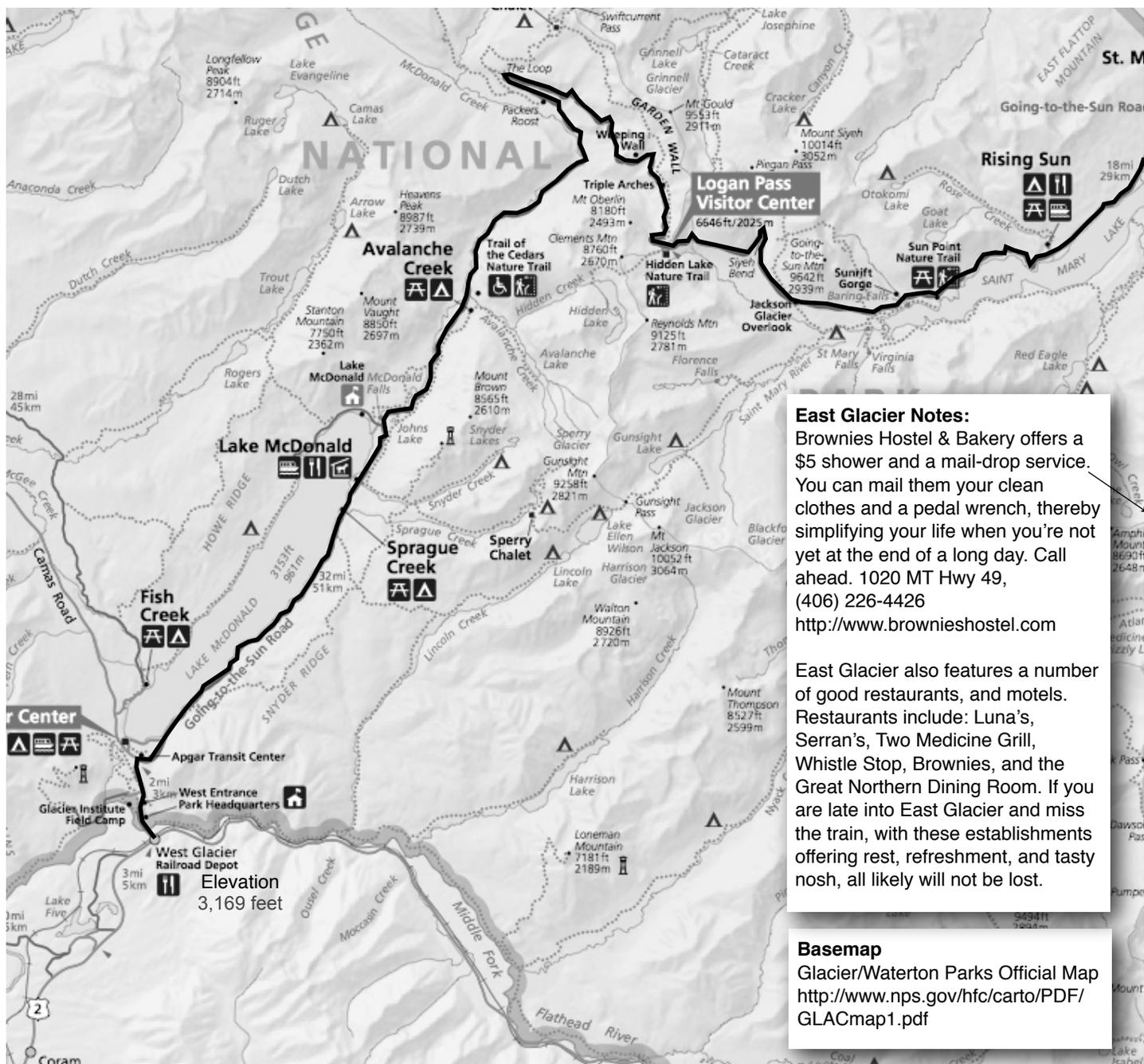
**Best Season:** Mid-summer, early fall

**Ride With GPS:** <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/3577375>

**West Glacier to East Glacier Narrative:**

The route begins in West Glacier, crosses Glacier Park's Logan Pass on the Going-To-The-Sun Road with its jaw-

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**East Glacier Notes:**  
Brownies Hostel & Bakery offers a \$5 shower and a mail-drop service. You can mail them your clean clothes and a pedal wrench, thereby simplifying your life when you're not yet at the end of a long day. Call ahead. 1020 MT Hwy 49, (406) 226-4426 <http://www.brownieshostel.com>

East Glacier also features a number of good restaurants, and motels. Restaurants include: Luna's, Serran's, Two Medicine Grill, Whistle Stop, Brownies, and the Great Northern Dining Room. If you are late into East Glacier and miss the train, with these establishments offering rest, refreshment, and tasty nosh, all likely will not be lost.

**Basemap**  
Glacier/Waterton Parks Official Map <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/carto/PDF/GLACmap1.pdf>

Disclaimer of Liability. Cycling is an inherently dangerous activity. Traffic, road, harsh weather, facility closures, et cetera all change and present hazards. Cyclists are responsible for their own safety and well-being. The author or Helena Bicycle Club are not liable for injuries or damages which arise in conjunction with using this map and guide. Be prepared and ride safely.

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dropping scenery, drops down into east-side St. Marys, and then heads south to East Glacier via Kiowa Junction.

This summer-only ride is rated 'epic' for good reason. It is a long ride with a huge amount of climbing. You'll cross the continental divide. Additionally, you'll need to move along smartly, since (as a day ride) due to Park regulations, you must crest Logan Pass by 11:00 a.m. and arrive at the East Glacier Amtrak station by late afternoon to box your bike and grab a train.

You'll want to start your ride by 6:00 a.m. to give yourself enough time to crest the Pass before 11 a.m. Bicyclists currently must pay \$12 for a 7 day park entrance permit. From the Glacier NP website:

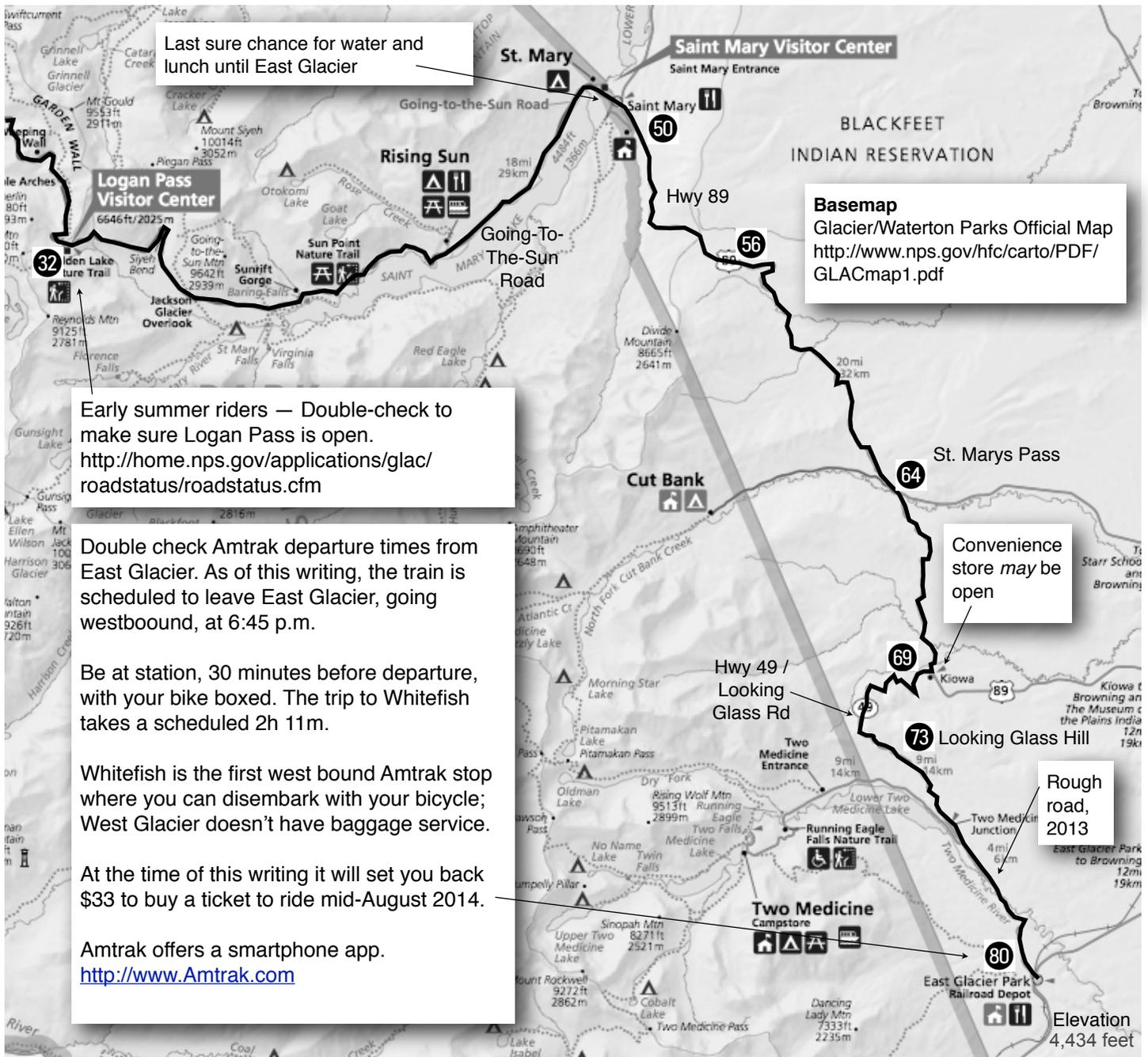
"For safety and to ease congestion, restrictions are in effect on sections of the Going-to-the-Sun Road, from June 15 through Labor Day:

- From Apgar Campground to Sprague Creek Campground bicycles are prohibited, both directions, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- From Logan Creek to Logan Pass east-bound (uphill) bicycle traffic is prohibited between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Start early! It takes about 45 minutes to ride from Sprague Creek to Logan Creek and about three hours from Logan Creek to Logan Pass."

In addition to Logan Pass, you'll cycle over 6,015 foot St. Marys pass at Mile 56, Looking Glass Pass, a 5,849 foot high point near Mile 73, and several other big bumps as you cruise down the east side of the Park.

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Don't mistake Logan Pass as the end of your climbing; fully half of your day's 'up' waits for you after you leave St. Mary for East Glacier.

This is a long trip with some big gaps between C-stores; pack plenty of water and food. Be prepared for traffic, wet, cold, and headwinds. Before you ride, check the weather forecast all along the route, particularly over Logan Pass and down the east side of the Rockies.

By crossing Logan Pass early, you'll likely find traffic benign. You will likely find lots of traffic between St. Marys and Kiowa Junction, with narrow or no highway shoulders.

If you are traveling as a group, you will want to leave a car in Whitefish (17.5 miles west of West Glacier), or have one rider debark in West Glacier and drive to Whitefish to pick up the bikes and the rest of the crew. There is limited parking at both the West Glacier and Whitefish Amtrak Stations.

At the Amtrak station in East Glacier, buy a box for your bike, and box it up. You will need to turn your handlebars and remove your pedals — bring tools and tape. Bike boxes, available at the station (double check) are \$15, and checking a bike (no tandems) is just another \$10. You might want to verify the station has boxes available.

If you get a chance to do this ride, have a great time and be sure to thank Don for sharing this epic treasure.

Mile	Directions
0	Leave West Glacier headed east on Going to the Sun Road
2	Turn right following Going to Sun Rd
32	Logan Pass (10 m. of steady climb)
50	St. Marys. Turn right on US 89 South
56	St. Marys Pass (6 m. of steady climb)
69	Kiowa Junction. Slight right onto State 49, Looking Glass Hill
73	Looking Glass Pass (3.5 miles climb)
80.5	East Glacier Amtrak Station, 400 Highway 49 North

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Glacier Park Summer Brochure  
<http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/upload/WGG-2013-Web-2.pdf>

Glacier County Map, MDT (big file)  
[http://mdt.mt.gov/other/county\\_maps/GLAC\\_CS.PDF](http://mdt.mt.gov/other/county_maps/GLAC_CS.PDF)

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Helena Bicycle Club  
 PO Box 4682, Helena, MT 59604

