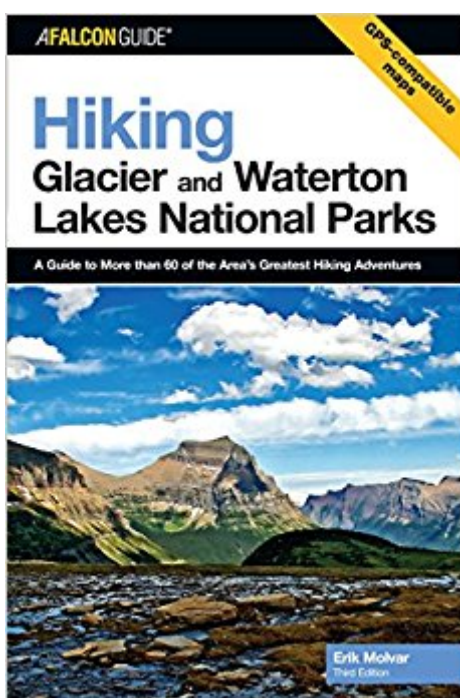


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Hiking Glacier And Waterton Lakes National Parks, 3rd: A Guide To More Than 60 Of The Area's Greatest Hiking Adventures (Regional Hiking Series)



Synopsis

This comprehensive guide covers more than 850 miles of trails.

Book Information

Series: Regional Hiking Series

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: FalconGuides; 3rd edition (January 1, 2007)

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Customer Reviews

For more than twenty-five years, FalconGuide[®] has set the standard for outdoor recreation guidebooks. Written by top outdoors experts and enthusiasts, each guide invites you to experience the endless adventure and rugged beauty of the great outdoors. Discover the wonder of these two spectacular parks as Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks leads you along 850 miles of trail - from short nature hikes to backcountry treks. Veteran hiker Erik Molvar provides all the information you need to get the most out of hiking this International Peace Park with its glistening glaciers, scenic lookouts, peaceful lakes, and remote wilderness. Look inside to find: Hikes suited to every ability
Accurate directions to the trailhead and detailed trail descriptions
GPS-compatible maps
Mile-by-mile directional cues
Difficulty ratings, average hiking times, best hiking seasons, and more

Veteran author and backcountry explorer Erik Molvar discovered backpacking while working on a volunteer trails crew in the North Cascades of Washington. He is the author of more than a dozen FalconGuides for such places as Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Olympic National Park, Zion and Bryce Canyon National Park, as well as Colorado's Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness.

I do a lot of hiking in the national parks and rely on Falcon Guides for good trail information. I have the first edition of the Glacier/Waterton guide so I thought I would get the latest edition for a recent trip. I still like this edition, but I agree with some other reviewers that there are some disappointments. Gone are the elevation profiles (which give you a snapshot of the gain and loss for the hike). As also mentioned, now several trails are combined on one map (GPS-compatible). That actually proves useful when several trails are part of a larger trail system (e.g., the Grinnell Complex), but this can be confusing for other trails (not to mention a little harder to find the maps for individual trails). The first edition didn't have an index, so having one here is a plus (even if, as someone else mentioned, it's not as good as the second edition's). The third edition also has a nice trail comparison (though it should have distances) indicating which trails have waterfalls, lakes, meadows, etc. This edition also has several more pages of general information than the first edition, and descriptions of two additional trails. Although most of the trail descriptions seem to be the same as the first edition, the pictures accompanying them are new (though still not that great because they are in black and white). On the whole, I recommend this book if you don't have an earlier edition. If you have the first or second edition you can probably get by with them if you also check other sources for updated park information (such as the free shuttle on the Going-to-the-Sun Road).

I purchased the Kindle edition just before heading out to Glacier in 2012. I referenced the guide frequently in planning our hikes, but I found the 4th edition (available in the national park but not through at the time) to be far superior. The graphics in the Kindle edition are poor and the maps difficult to read (low resolution). Unlike this edition, the 4th edition includes color maps and photographs, as well as elevation profiles. If you're heading to Glacier in 2012, hold off on purchasing this now and get the 4th edition in the park. If you're only interested in easy to moderate day hikes under 10 miles round trip, check out Falcon Guide's Best Easy Day Hikes (Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks) by Erik Molvar. I also recommend the Moon Glacier National Park Handbook by Becky Lomax.

After using Falcon's Yellowstone guidebook to successfully plan and hike a 75-mile route through Yellowstone last year, I assumed that this book would be equally useful for planning our upcoming Glacier backpacking trip. I was wrong. This book is oriented almost entirely to casual dayhikes plus a few overnights. There is one small section in the back of the book relegated to "extended trips," with one or two paragraphs at most describing the longer treks that most backpackers are interested

in. There is a complete lack of mileage data, elevation profiles, and detailed "trail beta" that I had hoped to find. Don't use this book to plan a backpacking trip that's more than an overnight trip! C'mon Falcon, let's get some real useful data in here so it can be used to actually plan a trip longer than 2 days!

excellent guide to an extensive area, we had a great time on many of the trails, so if one is closed or the weather not favorable, one has a many alternatives to chose from. Listing of difficulty levels, and descriptions are very good.

Went went on several hikes listed in the book in a recent trip to Glacier. It is pretty informative, but there were a couple of shortcomings. The description for the location of trailheads could have been a little better and the description of some of the hikes we went on were a little vague. Overall, still a good book and would recommend to anyone wanting to hike in Glacier.

Glacier National Park is for hikers. The drive-through approach along the historic and spectacular Going to the Sun Highway is wonderful and memorable (and can be done with the efficient shuttle system), but the real action is provided by getting into the backcountry. It is truly the "last best place"! We have been visiting the Park every year since 1974, and this guide has become our trusted advisor for planning day hikes and overnight trips. During the summer, a copy is kept at our bedside in order to plan new ventures. Glacier can be a challenging park to hike with rapid weather changes and highly varied terrain. We view this guide as important to survival as gore tex, first aid, water bottles and broken-in footwear.

Worth buying, but the pictures aren't great. Also, much of the information is subject to weather so you might be better off just calling the visitor center/ranger station. Good book though if you already have trails in mind and just want some more information/maps.

very good from what i've seen so far. i would have liked to have the approximate time of the hike included.

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