

## Flathead National Forest Hikes

Flathead National Forest stretches along the west side of the Continental Divide from the US Canadian border south for approximately 120 miles. Nearly half of the Flathead's 2.3 million acres is designated wilderness and is a haven for wolves, peregrine falcons, bald eagles and grizzly bears. Grizzlies occupy 87 percent of forest lands.

There are almost 2,100 miles of foot and horse trails including 70- to 100-mile loops leaving from Holland Lake just east of Montana Hwy. 83.

A major attraction in the forest is the Chinese Wall, a thousand-foot-high and 12- mile-long limestone escarpment that forms the boundary between the Flathead and Lewis and Clark national forests and is part of the stunning, million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness.

There are 219 miles of wild and scenic rivers in Flathead including the North, Middle and South forks of the Flathead River providing some of Montana's best whitewater rafting. In addition, nearby is Flathead Lake offering water sports, cruises, boating, fishing, shopping and of course more hiking.

### Forest Contact Information

<b>Flathead National Forest</b> Supervisors Office 1935 3rd Ave. E. Kalispell, MT 59901 (406) 758-5200	<a href="#"><u>Hungry Horse &amp; Glacier View Ranger Districts</u></a> P.O. Box 190340 8975 Highway 2 East Hungry Horse, MT 59919 (406) 387-3800
<a href="#"><u>Tally Lake Ranger District</u></a> 1335 Highway 93 West Whitefish, MT 59937 (406) 863-5400	<a href="#"><u>Swan Lake Ranger District</u></a> 200 Ranger Station Road Bigfork, MT 59911 (406) 837-7500
<a href="#"><u>Spotted Bear Ranger District</u></a> P.O. Box 190310 Hungry Horse, MT 59919 (406) 758-5376	

## Hiking Trails

The following list of trails is based on [USDA Forest Service's](#) information. We tried to highlight those considered exceptionally scenic or that have unique features, but there are many more hikes in these areas.

Trail	Easy Moderate Difficult	Elev. Gain in feet	Description	Directions	Distance in miles (one way)
<b>Alpine Tr. #7</b>	D	3500	Several day backpacking trip with outstanding panoramic views of northwestern Montana and Flathead Lake from a ridgeline trail. Black bears and grizzlies inhabit this area. There is water at many places along the trail. There are several places to camp along the trail, including Doris, Jenny, and Lamoose Lakes.	Access is at Strawberry Lake, Bond Creek Tr (below) <b>OR</b> Columbia Mtn. Trailhead -drive east of Columbia Falls on U.S. Highway 2, turn east at Highway 206 (from Bigfork). Shortly after the junction and 3.5 miles from Columbia Falls, turn right off US 2 on an unmarked dirt road just past the House of Mystery for 0.2 mile. The trailhead is on your left.	20.5
<b>Glacier View Ranger District</b>					
<b>Mt. Hefty #15</b>	D	3260	Great views of Glacier Nat'l Park and Canada		8.8
<b>Whitefish Divide Tr.#26</b>	D	varies	Views of Flathead Valley, Cabinet Mountains and Glacier NP	Big Creek Rd #316	40
<b>Ralph Thayer Memorial (National Recreation) Tr. #26</b>	D	varies	Views of Flathead Valley, Cabinet Mountains and Glacier NP. Part of Whitefish Divide Trail.	Big Creek Rd #316	17
<b>Mt. Thompson-Seton Tr.#28</b>	D	3120	Outstanding views in all directions, third highest peak in district	Whale Creek Road #318 & 1674	12.2

<b>Review Mtn. Tr. #113</b>	D	2641	Great views of Glacier Nat'l Park and Canada	Trail Creek Rd. #114 Tuchuck Campground	8.7
<b>Coal Ridge Tr. #239i</b>	D	2500	Good views, old fire lookout	Coal Creek Rd #317B	3
<b>Moose Peak Tr. #250</b>	M	1876	Moose peak, Moose Lake, outstanding views	Big Creek Road #316, 315 & 5207	3
<b>Smokey Range (Nat'l Recreation Tr.) #270</b>	M	1996	Views of Flathead Valley, Cabinet Mountains and Glacier NP. Reaches Standard Peak	Canyon Creek Rd. #316	10.3
<b>Link Lake #372</b>	S	2050	Link Lake where there is fishing and camping. Lake Mtn where the trail goes along the ridge top and provides great views. If you want to continue the trail reaches Nasukoin Mtn	Upper Whitefish Rd. 18 Mi. from Olney, left on Shorty Creek Rd. #589 1.5 mi. to road closure <b>OR</b> N. Fork Rd. for 40 mi. N of Columbia Falls, left Red Meadow Cr. Rd., 10 mi to Shorty Creek Rd. and 1.5 mi. to road closure	6
<b>Huntsberger Lake Tr. #374</b>	M	1100	Good views of the lake & surrounding area	Whale Creek Road #318 & 1674	6.1
<b>Nasukoin Mountain Tr. #375</b>	D	1986	Reaches the highest peak in the district, good views in all directions	Red Meadow Creek Rds. #115 & 589	5.8
<b>Hungry Horse Ranger District</b>					
<b>Great Northern Mtn.</b>	Great views of Hungry Horse Reservoir, Glacier NP & Middle Fork Divide. There are no designated trails but two principal routes. The first along Hungry Horse Reservoir on the East Side Rd. cross Hungry Horse Creek and make a left at the first rd., park at the bridge-.5 miles. Hike uphill from the bridge, north of the creek. As you near the head of the creek, the path will become clear as it runs along the crest of the ridge leading to the top of Great Northern. This is 7-8 miles with an elevation change of 4577 feet.				7-8
	The second trail starts with the Stanton Creek Trail. A couple miles past the Stanton Lake you enter a cirque basin . Stay north of the creek hike to the Middle Fork Divide and up to Great Northern. This trail is 8 miles with an elevation change of 4980 feet.				8
<b>Columbia Mtn. Tr. #51</b>	D	4100	Views of Big Mountain, White Mountain Range and the Flathead Valley. Also of Glacier NP, Great Northern Mountain and Great Bear wilderness from the top.	Hwy 2 N. of Columbia Falls to trailhead on NW side of Columbia Mtn. at North end of Berne Rd.	5

<b>Baptiste L.O. Tr. #63</b>	M	2720	Views of Hungry Horse Reservoir and Jewel Basin	From Martin City drive south on the east side of the reservoir for 37 mi. , east on Logan Creek Rd. # 1632, park at next intersection #570	7
<b>Spotted Bear Ranger District</b>					
<b>Gunsight Peak Trail #43</b>	M	2400	Ridges that overlook the Spotted Bear River and Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness areas.	From S. fork of Flathead River, Rd #38 to Spotted Bear River Rd. #568 for 13.5 mi. Trail head is on south side of road.	7.5
<b>Bruce Creek Trail #82</b>	M	2200	High alpine scenery including mountains along the Swan Divide and Upper Bunkcreek drainage. Access to Alpine Tr #7.	W. side of S. Fork Flathead River Rd. #895 to Meadow Creek Rd. #2826 2.8 miles to Addition Creek-Bruce Creek Rd #2827 to end of the road (stay on main rd. at fork)	7.9
<b>Spotted Bear Lookout Tr. #84</b>	D	3530	Spectacular views of Bob Marshall Wilderness, Glacier NP, Jewel Basin & Hungry Horse Reservoir	By Spotted Bear ranger Station	7
<b>Spotted Bear Schafer Tr. #84</b>	M	1500	Spectacular views of Bob Marshall & Great Bear Wilderness and Spotted Bear River.	From S. fork of Flathead River, Rd #38 to Spotted Bear River Rd. #568 for 7.4 mi. to Big Bill Rd #9856 to the end.	5.5
<b>Swan Lake Ranger District</b>					
<b>Strawberry Lake Trail #5</b>	D	1500	Ridges and high county offering views of Spotted Bear River Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness areas. Strawberry Lake and access to Alpine Trail #7 which accesses Jewel Basin	Take Foothills Rd, N. of Bigfork, east on Road 5390 and go to the end.	3

<b>Sixmile Trail #10</b>	D	3400	Excellent views ending on Sixmile Peak and access to Alpine Trail #7 which accesses Jewel Basin	Hwy 83 to Road 9508, 4 miles and the trailhead is on the north side of the road	5.5
<b>Bond Creek Trail # 21</b>	D	2400	Views from Bond Lake and Tinkus Lake is one mile further. Both lakes have fishing. There is a waterfall about midpoint of the trail	Hwy 83 one mile south of Swan Lake	6 mi. (8 mi to Alpine trail #7)
<b>Holland Gordon Trail #35</b>	D	2600	Good scenery along the trail. It provides access to the Bob Marshall Wilderness so it is heavily used.	Hwy 83 to Rd. 44 to 44a then follow signs to Owl Packer Camp	9
<b>Peter's Ridge # 37</b>	D	1900	Excellent valley views	Foothills Rd, N of Bigfork to Rd 5385 to Rd 5388	3
<b>Holland Lookout Tr. # 42</b>	D	4000	Excellent views of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Mission Mountains Wildness and Glacier NP	At the end of Holland Lake Rd #44 take trail #415 1.5 miles and this trail will take off to the north.	3.5
<b>Holland Creek Tr #48</b>	D	4000	Reached by the East Holland Connector Tr. #415. Views from Holland Lookout site of Bob Marshall Wilderness, Mission Mtns., Glacier NP and Swan Valley.	Holland Lake Rd 7 mi. S of Condon then Holland Lake Campground Rd. to the end	6
<b>Beardance Trail #76</b>	M	2200	Views of Flathead Valley and Flathead Lake	Mile marker 23 on Hwy 35, 8 miles from Bigfork	5.5
<b>Estes Lake Trail #96</b>	M	400	Fishing and swimming at the lake. The lake is on state land so you must obtain a State Recreation Permit to use it.	Hwy 209, turn at the Fire Hall on South Ferndale Dr, straight 2 mi to Crane Mtn Rd #498 for 2.2 mi to the Estes Lake Tr. sign.	2
<b>East Foothill Tr. #192</b>	M		Reached by the East Holland Connector Tr. #415. Passes Lower and Upper Rumble Lake and a 900 ft. waterfall between them and a steep ridge on the south side of the upper lake reaches Holland Peak with views of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Mission Mountains Wildness, Swan Valley, Swan Peak and Glacier NP	Holland Lake Rd 7 mi. S of Condon then Holland Lake Campground Rd. to the end	7

<b>Crane Creek Tr #314</b>	M	400	Views of Flathead Valley and Flathead Lake	Mile marker 23 on Hwy 35, 8 miles from Bigfork	2
<b>Phillips Creek Tr.#373</b>	D or E see directions	1200 ft or 150 ft.- see directions	Excellent views of Flathead Lake	Mile marker 23 on Hwy 35, 8 miles from Bigfork- <b>DIFFICULT</b>  Rd #398 past 3 mile marker trail is on west side of road- <b>EASY</b>	3
<b>Holland Falls Tr. #416</b>	E	200	Goes to a 50 foot waterfall	Hwy 83 to Rd. #44, follow signs to Hollow Lake Lodge. The trailhead is at the road's end	1.5
<b>Echo Broken Lake/Wolf Creek Trails #544</b>	D	3600	wildlife, creeks and views	2 miles up Noisy Creek (Jewel Basin) Rd. Trailhead is on the right side of the road.	11-12 mi.
<b>Tally Lake Ranger District</b>					
<b>Ingall Mtn-Sylvia Lake Tr. # 171</b>	M	940	Alpine views	Rd. 538B 42 mi. from Whitefish	11.5
<b>Stove Pipe Canyon #196</b>	E	400	Canyon leading to Tally Lake	Rd. #2924 on E side of Tally Lake 10 mi. from Whitefish	1
<b>Elk Mtn. Tr. #252</b>	M	1600	Scenic views, leads to the top of Elk Mountain	End of Rd #113 35 mi. from Whitefish	9
<b>Ashley Mtn. #310</b>	M	500	Alpine views from the top of Kootenai and Flathead Forests	Rd. junction #9784 & Rd. 9601 42 miles from Whitefish	4

<b>Danny on Nature Tr. #370</b>	M to D	<p>A variety of trails with exceptional views. Sweeping vistas and wildflowers. The entire hike is 5.6 mile or choose from any of three shorter hikes. Flower Point Loop Hike-Loop trail that begins and ends at the 7000 foot summit. It is 3.8 miles long &amp; elevation gain is 600 feet.</p> <p>East Rim Loop- One mile and elevation gain is 400 feet.</p> <p>Village to Summit House Hike- Top of the mountain from the village, 3.8 miles &amp; elevation gain is 2300 feet. You may take the chairlift down for free.</p> <p>Village to Summit House Hike via Flower Point - goes to Flower Point along the higher elevations, 5.6 miles, elevation gain is 2300 feet.</p>		Base of Big Mountain Ski Resort 8 miles from Whitefish	Various
<b>Tally Lake Mtn-Ashley Tr. #800</b>	D	2900	Alpine views, Tally Lake	Rd. junction #913, 0.2 mi. from Tally Lake Campground 20 mi. from Whitefish	20
<b>Finger Lake Tr # 802</b>	M	1800	View of a long thin lake lined by cliffs	Stillwater campground	1.5
<b>Wall Lake Tr #803</b>	M	500	Reaches Wall Lake	Off Finger Lake Trail	1.5
<b>Bowen Lake Trail #253</b>	E	-	Small marsh lake with waterfowl	Forest service Rd. 9806	.6
<b>East Rim Trail</b>	E	400	Views from the summit of Big Mtn of Flathead Valley. Wildflowers in June to Sept.	Summit of Big Mtn.	.4
<b>Lagoni Lake Tr #811</b>	E	-	Reaches Lagoni Lake	Upper Stillwater campground	1