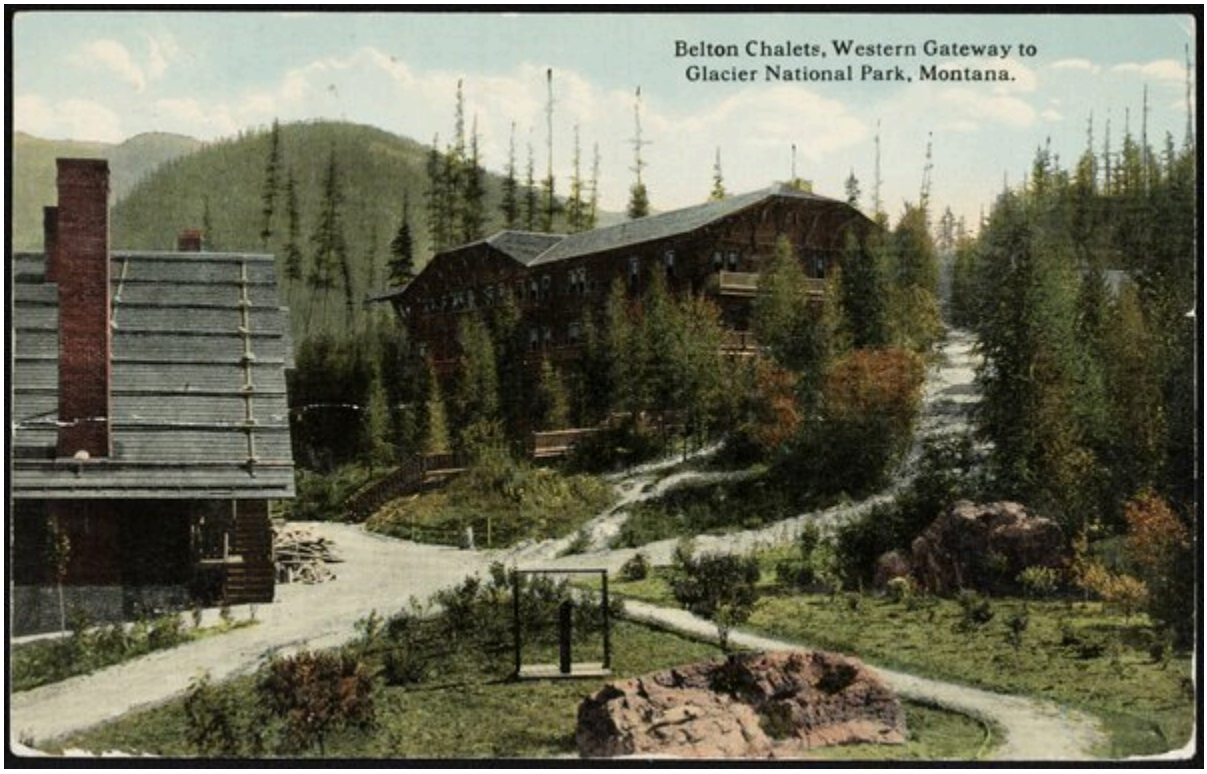
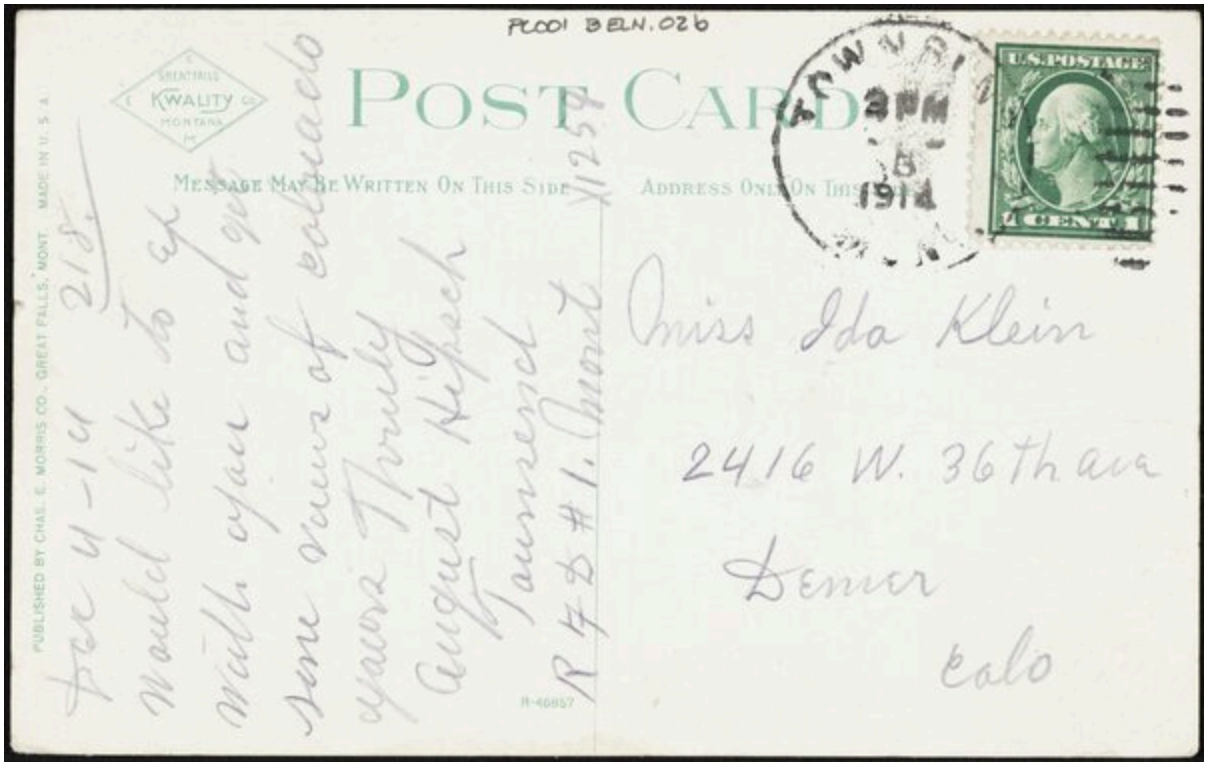
Postcards in Glacier National Park

Created by: Katie Haas



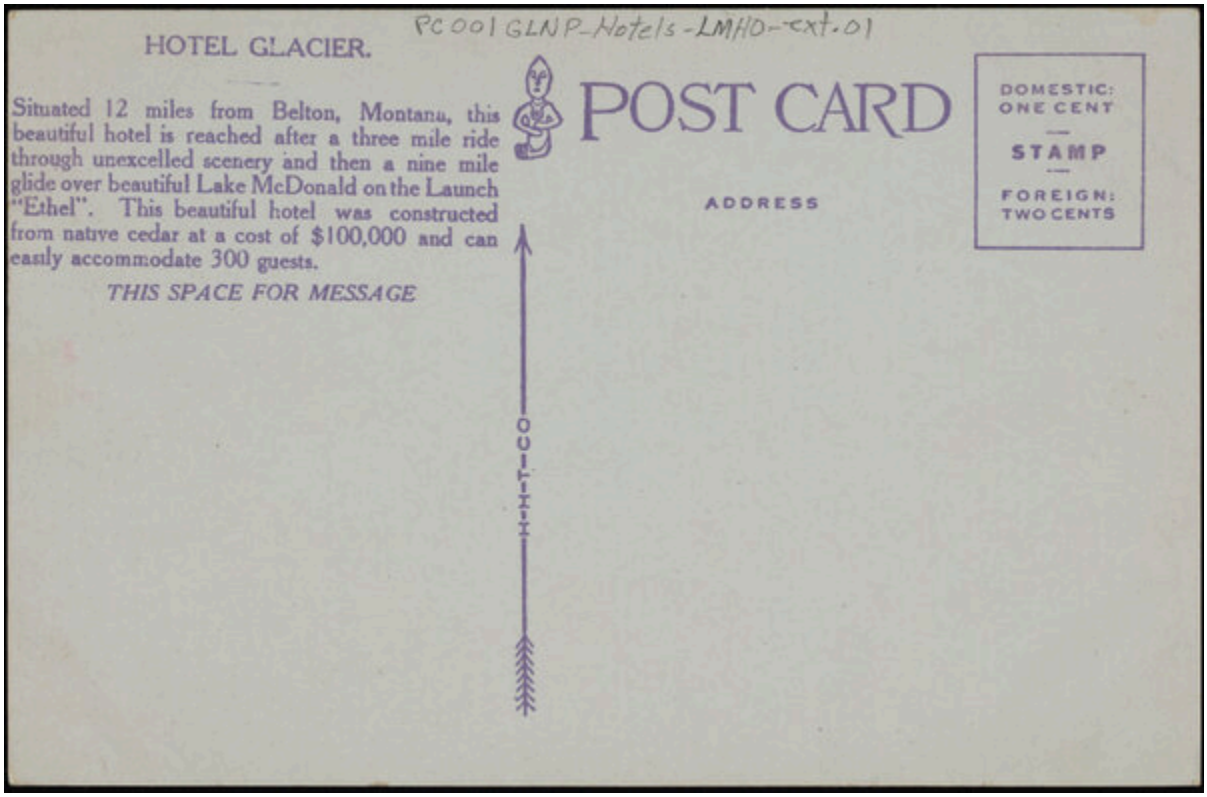


[Postcard from Belton Chalets 1911-1914]

Morris, Charles E., 1876-1938, Belton Chalets, Western Gateway to Glacier National Park, Montana. (Between 1911-1914). Montana History Portal, accessed 27/09/2026.

View of the Belton Chalets in Belton, Montana, or present-day West Glacier, Montana. Published by Chas. E. Morris Co., Great Falls, Mont. Verso has a handwritten message signed by August Hipsch and addressed to Miss Ida Klein, 2416 W. 36th Ave., Denver, Colo.





[Postcard from Hotel Glacier, 1914-1930]

4001. Hotel Glacier, Lake McDonald, Montana. Glacier National Park.
Unidentified photographer, 4001. Hotel Glacier, Lake McDonald, Montana. Glacier National Park. (Between 1914-1930). Montana History Portal, accessed 27/09/2026.

View of the Lake McDonald Lodge and the shoreline of Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, Montana, with tourists standing on a dock near a boat on the lake. Published by H.H.T. Co. Verso has a printed description of the hotel.

Contextual Paragraph

Glacier National Park was initially marketed as “America’s Switzerland.” Accommodations were designed to emulate a Swiss style, located approximately a horse ride away from each other and varied from canvas tents to ornate hunting lodges. Tourists from around the world came to the park to visit and see the grand mountains, lakes, and places that they often could just read about in the newspapers. The people that developed Glacier National Park lodges had a vision to being tourism to the park, and today these historic lodges and sites still remain. These two different places are both located on the West Side of Glacier and housed tourists as they visited the park.

Key Questions

1. What is the same about these two buildings?
2. How might a guest travel to each of these accommodations?
3. What about these buildings might mirror a Swiss Chalet?
4. What “curb appeal” do these buildings provide? Why might you choose to stay there?
5. Who might these postcards be sent to and who from?
6. Which accommodation would you choose to stay in and why?
7. How might these buildings provide comfort to a tourist visiting them?

Assessment

1. How do these accommodations bridge modern society and the allure of wilderness?
2. What else would you like to learn about the Hotel Glacier and the Belton Chalet? Why?
3. What was the impact of tourism on Glacier National Park in the past when these lodges and chalets were first put in place? How is that different or alike today?