Glacier National Park, Montana

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Glaciers are generally a minimum of 25 acres in size. In 1850, approximately 150 glaciers were present in what is now Glacier National Park, and most were still present when the park was established in 1910. In 2010, the U.S. Geological Survey reported that only 25 of the park's glaciers were larger than 25 acres. While the impact of this glacial retreat on the park's ecosystems is still uncertain, scientists say that native plant and animal species could suffer due to a loss of habitat. Glacial retreat—and the resulting reduction of seasonal melting—could also lead to an increase in forest fires.
Where to Stay: Helping visitors appreciate the beauty and importance of the precious ice masses is the Resort at Paws Up, a 37,000-acre working cattle ranch in western Montana. Choose from 28 luxury homes or 30 luxury tents as a home base for visits to Glacier National Park and other outdoor adventures. This summer, the resort will also launch a new campsite along the Blackfoot River, which will feature North America’s only three-bedroom canvas tents. Each of its 984- to 1,220-square-foot tents will offer a king-size bed, a bathhouse with heated floors and granite counters, and a private deck overlooking the river. (pawsup.com)