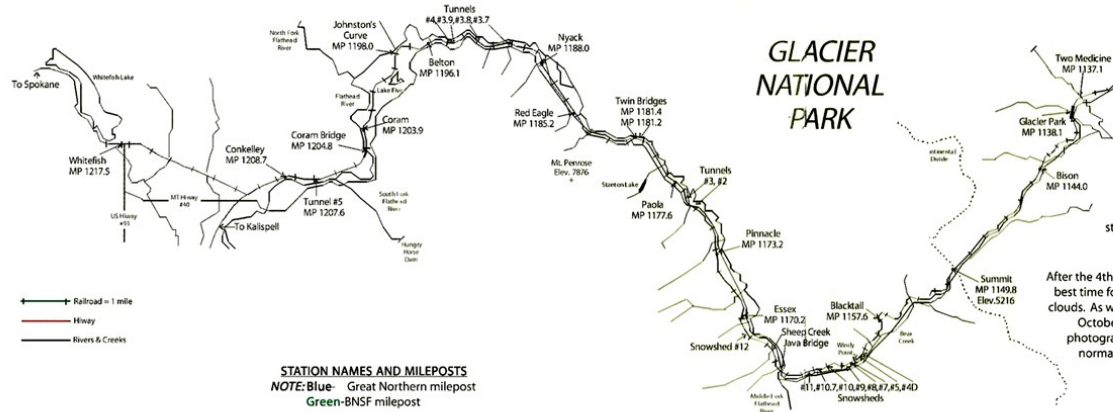


# The Railfan's Essential Photographic Guide to Marias Pass

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**STATION NAMES AND MILEPOSTS**  
NOTE: Blue - Great Northern milepost  
Green - BNSF milepost

MP 1219.2	MP 1217.5	WHITEFISH	MP 1188.3	MP 1188.3	MOCCASIN CREEK	MP 1165.2	MP 1165.2	JAVA EAST	MP 1144.0	MP 1144	BISON
MP 1215.0	MP 1212.8	HALF MOON	MP 1188.0	MP 1188.0	NYACK	MP 1163.8	MP 1163.8	Nimrod	MP 1143.0		Buelow
MP 1211.6	MP 1211.6	COLUMBIA FALLS	MP 1185.8	MP 1185.8	RED EAGLE WYE	MP 1163.4	MP 1163.4	SNOWSHED #11			Pershing
			MP 1185.2	MP 1185.2	RED EAGLE	MP 1162.8	MP 1162.8	SNOWSHED #10.7			Catacart
			MP 1185.2	MP 1185.2	RED EAGLE	MP 1162.4	MP 1162.4	SNOWSHED #10			Arkwold
MP 1209.6	MP 1208.7	CONKLEY	MP 1181.4	MP 1181.4	TWIN BRIDGES	MP 1161.4	MP 1161.4	SNOWSHED #9	MP 1142.0		RISING WOLF
	MP 1207.6	TUNNEL #5	MP 1180.0		HIDDEN LAKE	MP 1161.0	MP 1161.0	SNOWSHED #8			Lubec
MP 1204.8		CORAM BRIDGE			Garry	MP 1160.5	MP 1160.5	SINGLESHOT	MP 1140.5		Talbott
MP 1204.5	MP 1203.9	CORAM	MP 1179.1		Stanton Creek Bridge	MP 1160.3	MP 1160.3	SNOWSHED #7 & 7A	MP 1138.2	MP 1138	MIDVALE CREEK
			MP 1177.6	MP 1177.6	PAOLA	MP 1160.3	MP 1160.3	TUNNEL #1.5	MP 1138.1	MP 1138	GLACIER PARK
MP 1202.0		LAKE FIVE	MP 1176.7	MP 1176.7	TUNNEL #3	MP 1159.9	MP 1159.9	SNOWSHED #5 & 6			East Glacier
			MP 1176.2	MP 1176.2	TUNNEL CREEK BRIDGE	MP 1159.7	MP 1159.7	SNOWSHED #4D	MP 1137.1	MP 1137	TWO MEDICINE BRIDGE
MP 1199.0		Miles	MP 1174.0		TUNNEL #2	MP 1159.4	MP 1159.4	SNOWSHED #4C			Midvale
		Grizzly	MP 1173.7	MP 1173.7	PAOLA CREEK BRIDGE	MP 1158.5	MP 1158.5	TUNNEL #1	MP 1133.9		SNOWSHED #2
MP 1196.1	MP 1196.1	BELTON	MP 1173.2	MP 1173.2	PINNACLE	MP 1157.6	MP 1157.6	BLACKTAIL	MP 1131.8	MP 1131	SPOTTED ROBE
	MP 1194.5	TUNNEL #4	MP 1172.9	MP 1172.9	ESSEX PIT	MP 1157.2	MP 1157.2	MARIAS			Kilroy
	MP 1194.0	TUNNEL #3.9	MP 1169.2	MP 1170.2	ESSEX	MP 1152.2	MP 1152.2	WILSON	MP 1129.0		TRIPLE DIVIDE
MP 1193.5		SILVERTIP	MP 1168.5	MP 1169.5	SNOWSHED #12	MP 1149.8	MP 1149.8	SUMMIT	MP 1126.0		Durham
	MP 1192.5	TUNNEL #3.8	MP 1166.7	MP 1169.0	SHEEP CREEK BRIDGE	MP 1145.0	MP 1145.0	PIKE	MP 1124.6		SNOWSHED #1
	MP 1191.2	TUNNEL #3.7	MP 1165.5	MP 1166.1	JAVA WEST				MP 1123.9	MP 1123	BROWNING
MP 1191.0		OUSEL CREEK BRIDGE	MP 1165.3	MP 1165.3	MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD						
MP 1188.6	MP 1188.6	GREAT BEAR CREEK									
MP 1188.5		Sheldon									

## BEWISE BEWARE BE SAFE

Here are a few handy hints

Beware of the bears! Yes, grizzly and black bears are quite common in the Marias Pass region. The best deterrent is to be aware and always carry pepper spray where easily accessible to use if attacked. On a hip belt is the best "quick-draw" location.

Mosquitoes and other biting insects can be a problem on the west side of the pass. Use an insect repellent of choice (the wind blows too hard on the Eastside).

Be aware that all property along railroad right of way is private property. Due to increased pedestrian traffic in the Marias Pass corridor the BNSF has announced a "zero tolerance" policy toward trespassers. If you trespass be prepared to suffer consequences. This booklet should be helpful in finding safe locations along the highway or from Glacier Park to photograph trains. View this situation not as a limitation but as a way to stretch your creativity. Consider a long lens, 300mm or longer- Don't just think photo-think ART!

"If you don't like the weather in Montana - just wait 30 minutes." Old Montana Proverb  
After the 4th of July thru the end of August Marias Pass is most pleasant. During these summer months the best time for cloud-free photography is before one in the afternoon, as the mountains produce their own clouds. As with most places, expect rainy or cloudy days anytime, especially in the month of June. May and October sometimes bring the heaviest snow storms, which can close the highway, but make for great photographs if you are staying in Essex. Avalanche season is late January / February, when the railroad normally runs snowplow trains. Fall colors in Marias Pass usually peak the first two weeks of October.

Remember, *be wise-beware-be safe* and have a good time.  
The best images you take home will probably be your memories.

Foreman's Train Location

ALL CONCERNED

DATE: OCT 8 1959

TO: ALL CONCERNED

FROM: NIMROD

RE: WESTWARD TRACK BETWEEN EAST CROSSOVER ESSEX AND PINNACLE BEING USED AS SINGLE

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## GN Foreman's Train Location-October 8, 1959

This is a copy of Great Northern line-up from Essex, depicting a typical traffic day along Marias Pass.

Consider these interesting details:

Trains #3 & #4 in 1959 were the "Western Stars" Train #31 is the west bound "Empire Builder" freight trains, this time running in two sections.

Work extra R-5 is a rail detector.

Note the prevalence of F-units-466D, 454D, 462D, 460A are F-7 "A"-units, with the 262B being a F-3 "A" unit.

353C & 351A are GN class P-3 passenger engines Numbers 729 and 669 are GP9's.

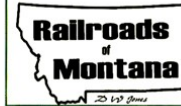
This line-up was written before Nimrod was changed to Java.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU GET INSIDE

- A railroad/highway map including major trackside milepost locations
- 1962 Great Northern track grade profile from Whitefish - Browning
- Thirty full color thumbnails of easy to get photo-ops
- Comprehensive list of milepost locations and station names
- Railway changes through the years
- BNSF scanner frequencies...PLUS THESE HANDY PHOTO HINTS

THE RAILFANS  
**Essential**  
photographic  
GUIDE TO  
**MARIAS PASS**

- Cameras take photos vertical as well as horizontal
- Use a tripod and smaller f-stops for sharper photos
- For bluer sky and whiter clouds-try a polarizing filter
- Be prepared -check out and know your equipment
- If the sky is blank & featureless - crop subject tightly
- Not all days are sunny - shoot in bad weather
- Silhouette subject against dawn or twilight sky
- Think - light-texture-color-lines-shapes in composition
- Research the subject - get local information
- Clean your lens!
- Hold autofocus cameras diagonal to achieve quick focus



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