BANFF'S BACKCOUNTRY?

THE BANFF BACKCOUNTRY EXPERIENCE

ON THE TRAIL

Managing Human Use

The backcountry has been designed to accommodate a dramatic shift in the way people use Banff’s backcountry. Day use on park trails and into some 13 campsites is permitted in non-vegetated areas. Some use restrictions may be in place. Be sure to check all local regulations. The use of ATVs is not permitted on any trails. If you have specific questions on how Parks Canada is attempting to better manage use in the park, please contact the Banff Warden Office.

Parks Canada continues to evaluate and implement improvements, and rising numbers of park visitors. We also recommend it for solo travellers without a local guide. For those last bits of food waste and pack them out. Use as little toilet paper as possible. Pack used toilet paper out or burn it if the fire hazard is not too great. Be sure to have a comprehensive and accurate description of your route, including side trips. You must report back immediately if a problem arises. If you cannot do this, you must report back immediately after your return to a park Information Centre, or if you are required to leave the park.

Bears

The backcountry of Banff National Park is bear country. Keep your distance. For your safety and to avoid disturbing wildlife, always keep your distance. For your safety and to avoid disturbing wildlife, always keep your distance. For your safety and to avoid disturbing wildlife, always keep your distance.

Voluntary Safety Registrations

If you are participating in backcountry activity and do not have a local contact to leave your detailed travel information with, then you may choose to register at the park at the time you purchase your wilderness pass. A safety registration ensures that, in the case of an emergency, a search will be initiated on your behalf.

Safety registration is recommended for individuals or groups planning backcountry activities in the vicinity of Lake Minnewanka, Lake Louise, the Spray River area, and the Icefields Parkway. We also recommend it for solo travellers without a local guide. For those last bits of food waste and pack them out. Use as little toilet paper as possible. Pack used toilet paper out or burn it if the fire hazard is not too great. Be sure to have a comprehensive and accurate description of your route, including side trips. You must report back immediately if a problem arises. If you cannot do this, you must report back immediately after your return to a park Information Centre, or if you are required to leave the park.

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THE BACKCOUNTRY GUIDELINES

In the more popular areas, you may find maintained trails and designated campsites with amenities like toilets, trash disposal, potable water, and firewood storage. In non-vegetated areas, you are responsible for everything you take into the park. Please pack out your garbage. The backcountry is both unsightly and hazardous. A piece of broken glass or a tiny bit of coal might constitute the sun’s rays enough to start a forest fire. Animals may be disturbed by these activities. Do not dispose of garbage in pit privies or in pit toilets.

Sharing the Trail

Rocks, fossile, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nuts and all other natural features or objects in a national park are protected by law. You can avoid controversy for this regulation. Leave them as you found them for others to enjoy.

Please, Leave no Trace!

Garbage

Wash

Wash will carry away water and produce the gel use of soap to a minimum. Even biodegradable soaps are pollutants. Dispose of grey water on land, a good distance from water sources and campers. Strain out those bits of food waste and pack them out.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted in most backcountry lakes, however, some lakes are catch and release only. A National Park Fishing Permit is required for fishing permits only. These permits must be purchased at park information centres and at several supply points. We recommend that you have a comprehensive and accurate description of your route, including side trips. You must report back immediately if a problem arises. If you cannot do this, you must report back immediately after your return to a park Information Centre, or if you are required to leave the park.

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