A Banff Heritage Discovery Drive

Welcome to the Bow Valley Parkway— one of Banff National Park’s most naturally and historically rich areas.

Here you’ll discover the heart of Banff National Park at your own pace.

The scenic drive between Banff and Lake Louise is your gateway to mountains of exploration—wildlife viewing, camping, hiking trails, cycling, interpretive panels, hostel and cottage accommodations surrounded by unparalleled views.

The Bow Valley Parkway traverses the montane—the place where people and wildlife meet. This small but vital area is the base camp for cultural, historical and natural discovery. It’s also the same place many animal species, including grizzly bears and wolves, call home.

Having undisturbed access to this ecologically rich area in the spring is crucial to the health and survival of the park’s wildlife.

To ensure the parkway remains a place for people and a place for nature, we ask visitors to voluntarily refrain from using the eastern section of the parkway between the Fireside day-use area and Johnston Canyon Campground, from March 1 to June 25, from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily.
Voluntary Seasonal Travel Restriction to protect wildlife:
From Trans-Canada Highway 1A east entrance to Johnston Canyon Campground (17 km)
March 1 – June 25, **6 p.m. to 9 a.m.**

Please use the Trans-Canada Highway (#1) and Castle Junction to access accommodations and businesses during these hours.