Exploring the Park

One of the best experiences in nature is the opportunity to see wildlife at its wildest. In the national parks, you will see many species of wild animals in their natural habitat. These animals are the ambassadors of their environment. It is important to respect them and their habitat so they can live in peace. By observing them, you are playing an important role in the conservation of nature.

While in the Park ...

For information on things to do in the park, view these guides online or pick up a copy at Parks Canada Visitor Centres.

Camping in the Banff Area

Campgrounds and campsite sizes have been designed to make sure you get the most out of your trip and reduce our impact on the environment. In order to be prepared for your camping experience, you should know the legal requirements and the rules and regulations of the area. Be sure to read the park signs and trail maps so you can make the most of your stay in the national park.

Why a BARE campsite?

When people leave their food and animal attractants outside, wildlife can become familiar with human food, and that can affect their health. By keeping a BARE campsite, you are playing an important role in the conservation of nature.

How to keep a BARE campsite:

- Keep all food and animal attractants out of sight and smell. If you can smell it, the animal can smell it.
- Store food and other attractants away from anywhere an animal could reach them.
- Keep animal food out of site and smell.
- Put food containers in a satisfactory condition.

Mammals rely on every part of this landscape for their survival. It is important to protect wildlife populations.

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The Campgrounds

Tunnel Mountain Village II (188 sites)
Located just minutes from town, this campground is perfect for people needing space for larger units (101 sites) or seeking a mountain setting (87 sites). Access to hiking and bike trails and views to Tunnel Mountain.

Johnston Canyon (132 sites)
This campground is a good option for smaller and more authentic camping experiences. Sites are available for tents and small RVs up to 27 feet. It is near the location where the Bow Valley Parkway ends. It provides access to a trailhead for a number of trails in Johnston Canyon and the Icefields Parkway.

Castle Mountain (43 sites)
This campground is small and intimate and offers rustic, no-service camping in a beautiful woodland setting. The Black Tusk and the Icefields Parkway are easily accessible from this campground. Johnston Canyon is also nearby.

Two Jack Main (380 sites)
The tunnel is located at the parking lot of Two Jack Lake, perfect for tents or small RVs (up to 27 feet) and offers a lakeside setting. No camping in the tunnel is available; access to the lake for non-motorized boating.

Two Jack Lakeside (10 sites)
Located just outside of Lake Minnewanka, this no-service campground is beautifully situated on the shores of Two Jack Lake. It is perfect for tents or small RVs (up to 27 feet) and offers a lakeside setting. No camping in the tunnel is available; access to the lake for non-motorized boating.

Tunnel Mountain Village I (818 sites)
Located near town, this campground offers a more traditional camping experience with mountain views, foot paths, and access to biking and hiking trails. This campground is also the only one with firewood permission and has a limited number of large campsites available.

3 Reasons to Camp in Banff National Park

1. Adventurer with Family and Friends: Camping is a great way to visit some of the most beautiful places in the world! Take a hiking trip, go boating, or explore the local wildlife. You can do it all while enjoying the mountain air and camping under the stars.

2. Relocate with Nature: Enjoy the smells and sounds of nature as you breathe in the fresh mountain air and walk among the stars.

3. Walk Through History: The first explorers in Banff set up campsites during long expeditions in the wilderness. You can walk in their shoes by experiencing camping for yourself in one of the park’s designated campgrounds.

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