DAY HIKES IN JASPER NATIONAL PARK

All around you are the natural wonders of Jasper National Park. To explore some of its varied and magnificent beauty, hike the trails described in this folder. Running from short, easy walks to longer uphill treks, these trails take from half a day to a full day. The trail descriptions include trail length, access and an outline of the terrain and features.

Overnight hikes are also available in the park. Before heading out on the backcountry overnight stay, and for information and park use permits at the trail office in the Elkodule Centre.

As exciting possibility on any hike is using some of the wonderful trails in the park. Never forget to wear appropriate dress and be prepared with the right equipment. Check the weather forecast and use the advice on temperature, precipitation, and the snow cover.

ENJOY YOUR HIKE!

JASPER VEGETATION

The following trails are all close to Jasper townsite. Trailheads can be reached by either walking or driving.

The numbers of the trail descriptions correspond with numbers shown on yellow diamond-shaped markers posted along the trails. These markers will help you find your way, especially where trails link in one area.

Old Fort Point Trail

Length — 1.6 km

Trailhead — Across the road from Pyramid riding stables

This loop trail follows the lake district of Pyramid Bench. It begins with a relatively steep climb to Pyramid Bench. On the far west end of town near the mobile home subdivision. Hiking steeply uphill to the upper bench.

The trail continues along the south shore of the lake. It then drops and follows the edge of a draw to another unnamed lake. The trail then skirts above Jasper Park Lodge golf course and heads back to Old Fort Point.

If you have only a short time available, you may cross to Maligne Canyon parking lot and walk down a portion of the canyon trail. An exhibit and interpretive signs provide a visitor's story of the canyon and the river at the Maligne Valley. Try to find a short cut through the trees. Avoid the slippery, sloping river bank.

From the parking lot, the trail climbs to the left across a fairly steep hill. It then widens and, after a short distance, veers to the right. The trail crosses Wabasso Lake trail and a small meadow. The trail circle is a 0.5 km moderate climb.

The return of the trail follows a gentle downhill grade, passing Calgary Lake at km 2.2, the junction Hibernia Lake at km 3, and Maligne Lake at km 24.8. Another 2.6 km brings you to the end of the trail beside the lake.

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This trail is ideal for an easy, short walk. It follows the Maligne Lake, the largest glacier-fed lake in the Canadian Rockies, continuing on to a display at a viewpoint on the first bay. At Maligne Lake Chalet — 3.2 km return.

To reach the lake from Jasper townsite, follow Highway 16 commercial tour boat. The lake's elusive rainbow and brook trout attract novice and expert anglers alike. Day use permits are available at the chalet for $9.00. You may also rent canoes, rowboats, and other watercraft for a nominal charge.

MALIGNE LAKE AREA

**Maligne Lake Trail (east side)** — from the far end of the highest parking lot. This trail leads to a spectacular viewpoint overlooking the valley bottom. Across the lake, the Opal Hills, Maligne Range, and subalpine fir forest and loops back to the chalet. There are many options for exploring the lakeshore. This is a pleasant, easy hike through a lodgepole pine forest. At km 3.2, there is a trail junction to the northeast for about 3 km to the bridge spanning the Athabasca River on the right. After crossing the bridge, the trail joins the Maligne Lake Road 4.5 km to the north end of Maligne Lake.

**Lake Trail (west side)** — far end of the highest parking lot — 8.2 km loop. This trail is ideal for an easy, short walk. It follows the northeastern shore of the lake, passing by the boathouse and leaving exposed a barren landscape, which is only now being colonized by plants and animals. As its name implies, a chance of spotting moose. This trail has no specific destination, but it permits exploration of the northwest shore and the beaches of Maligne Lake. From its starting point, the trail heads down to the lake and past the waterfalls. Farther along, it is more popular with those who enjoy fishing and wildlife. A steep, rocky ridge constituting the upper limits of the subalpine forest into the meadows at the lake's edge. From there, the trail climbs steadily up the mountain wild flowers may be seen there. You may also see mountain goats and elk along this trail.

Follow Path of the Glacier trail and watch for a sign just beyond the end of the pavement that indicates the route branching off to the left which leads to the mountains. This trail goes over a ridge of boulders and is possible for a short distance before switchbacking up through the forest. After crossing the ridge, the trail continues to a viewpoint overlooking the valley bottom. From the viewpoint the trail drops into the valley bottom and returns to the parking lot. Because of the danger of avalanches on Mount Edith Cavell. From there follow a loop through the meadows and return to the parking lot by the same trail.

MOUNT EDITH CAVELL AREA

**Cavell Meadows** — from the parking lot at the upper end of Mount Edith Cavell Road. This short loop trail passes through a portion of the upper meadows of Cavell Creek that was covered in snow as recently as the turn of the century. Along the way a series of signs will mark the route of how the glacier traveled. Leaving exposed a barren horizon, which in turn is being colonized by plants and trees. From the end of the parking lot a stony trail to the grassland that was presumably protected by the side of the valley. Just beyond the point where the meadow ends, a steep incline offers a good point to watch for moose. Before the viewpoint the trail descends into the valley, Angel Glacier sits high on the side of Mount Edith Cavell. From there along Highway 93 A to the Mount Edith Cavell trailhead.

After crossing the bridge, the trail joins the Maligne Lake Road 4.5 km to the north end of Maligne Lake.

**Cavell Minister of Supply and Canada

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For an excellent view of Saskatchewan Glacier, follow the well-maintained trail as it switchbacks up to the top of the hill. The total elevation gain is 275 m. During mid-summer, a variety of wildflowers bloom in the alpine meadows, which are also range for mountain goats. Please follow the established pathway; shortcutting the trail results in irreparable damage to delicate alpine vegetation and can lead to erosion of the thin soil cover.

**Nigel Pass**

*Length — 6.1 km one way*

*Trailhead — To reach the trailhead, travel 12 km south of the Icefields Centre on Camp Parker access road which is on the left side of the parkway. Park on the road, but please do not block the pass.*

This trail goes through subalpine meadows, offering views of Mount Athabasca, Parker Ridge, Nigel Pass and Mount Saskatchewan. After a short walk along the road, the trail cuts on the right and leads gently down toward Nigel Creek. From here, the trail gradually opens up into meadows. The final kilometre to the pass has a total elevation gain of 275 m. An optional 0.3 km walk farther along the trail leads to the south fork of Brazeau River and a view into Brazeau Valley.

**Panther Falls**

*Length — 6.8 km one way*

*Trailhead — 12.9 km south of the Icefields Centre at the parking lot on the left side of the parkway.*

From the lower corner of the parking lot, there is an excellent view of Redhead Falls across the valley. A short downvalley walk leads to Nigel Creek Canyon and overlooking Panther Falls. An alternative route from the upper corner of the parking lot provides a slight overlook of the canyon and falls. Because neither viewpoint is fenced, exercise extreme caution when wandering.

**North Saskatchewan Riverheadwaters**

*Length — 1.1 km one way*

*Trailhead — on the right side at the big bend in the highway, 16 km south of the Icefields Centre.*

The starting point for the North Saskatchewan River's eastern journey to Hudson Bay is the focal point of this trail. The trail starts at the edge of the forest across the gravel road. Walking through the trees, you may see the entire North Saskatchewan River drooping into a 50 m gorge carved through the alpine area. Here, during mid-summer, a variety of wild flowers bloom in the alpine meadows. Please follow the established pathway; shortcutting the trail results in irreparable damage to delicate alpine vegetation and can lead to erosion of the thin soil cover.

**Saskatchewan Glacier**

*Length — 1.8 km one way*

*Trailhead — on the old concrete bridge, 16.8 km south of the Icefields Centre on the south side of the parkway, just past the big bend in the highway.*

From beside the bridge, you may see the entire North Saskatchewan River drooping into a 50 m gorge carved through the alpine area. Cross the old concrete bridge on foot and take the trail through the trees to the right; do not follow the gravel road. After a 1.6 km walk, the trail joins up the old fire road and continues as a wide path along the south side of the Saskatchewan River. The trail continues by passing south of the Saskatchewan River along the gravel fan for approximately 6 km to the tree of the glacier.

**Beaury Creek — Stanley Falls**

*Length — 3.2 km one way*

*Trailhead — 3.2 km north of the Icefields Centre.*

Touring past the Stuffield Glacier viewpoint toward Jasper, look for a side road on the right side of the highway. Walk along the dike, to the old Banff-Jasper Highway and turn to the right. Near the remains of the old bridge, the trail continues as a forested walk along a deep canyon, passing across several small creeks before reaching Stanley Falls.

**COLUMBIA ICEFIELD VICINITY**

Rugged mountain terrain and alpine vegetation make the area around Columbia Icefield especially rewarding for hikers. The best area that shows off the northern portion of Jasper National Park and the southern region of Banff National Park. For reference, all distances to and from the Icefields Centre are given from the Icefield Centre, 104 km south of Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway (Highway 93).