

## road conditions



**There is no road maintenance on the Icefields Parkway from 3:30 pm to 7:00 am** during the winter months (November to April).

**The parkway is not “salted” as most transportation corridors are, it is left as a “compact snow” road.**

During long periods of stable weather, even smooth sanded compact snow can result in poor driving conditions.

**Road reports are based on the worst condition that a driver may encounter over the road’s entire 230 kilometre length.** As in any mountain environment, weather can change very quickly, often changing the road conditions.

**Driving conditions are subjective:** your experience, tires and speed are all factors that can change “good” winter driving to “poor”. Drivers should travel based on comfort level and within the confines of their experience and equipment.

**There is no cell phone coverage on the Icefields Parkway and, during the winter months, there is no gas available.**



## plan ahead

**Check the road conditions** and the weather forecast before you leave town.

### ROAD CONDITIONS:

- Banff 403-762-1450 • Jasper 780-852-3311**
- [www.ama.ab.ca](http://www.ama.ab.ca)
  - [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)
  - **Visit an information centre**

### WEATHER FORECAST:

- Banff 403-762-2088 • Jasper 780-852-3185**
- [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)
  - [www.theweathernetwork.com](http://www.theweathernetwork.com)
  - **Visit an information centre**

**Tell someone your route**, when you are leaving and when you plan on arriving.

**Have a safety kit in your vehicle** that includes: cell phone, water, energy bars, candles, extra clothing and blankets.

See table below for payphone locations along the Parkway. **Dial 911 in case of emergency.**



## payphones

	Km from Jasper	Km from Lake Louise	Metres from Road
Beckers Lodge	4	226	50
HI-Athabasca Falls Hostel	32	198	0
Kerkeslin	34	196	200
Honeymoon Lake	50	180	500
Bubbling Springs	60	170	0
Sunwapta Station	72	158	0
Jonas Creek	77	153	50
HI-Beauty Creek Hostel	85	145	0
Icefield Centre (bottom of stairs)	103	127	200
Icefield Campground	104	126	150
Wilcox Creek	106	124	500
Saskatchewan River Crossing Station	156	74	0

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Jasper  
National Park  
[parks.canada.gc.ca](http://parks.canada.gc.ca)

# WINTER ON THE Icefields Parkway





## welcome

The Icefields Parkway has been called one of the most beautiful roads in the world. After all, how many highways can claim 230 kilometres of continuous World Heritage Site scenery completely protected in two national parks?

### A valid national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway. Why?

The Icefields Parkway was built to showcase Jasper and Banff national parks' powerful natural landscape. It's a scenic drive, not a transportation corridor. That means the cost to maintain it and to keep it safe is borne by Parks Canada. Revenue from park pass sales help with this cost. Plowing, sanding and avalanche control are just some of the winter services your fees provide.



## caribou watch



Along the Icefields Parkway there's a 20 km stretch of road that runs right through the heart of winter caribou habitat. As one of Canada's species-at-risk, the Jasper herd of Woodland caribou represents a last stand for this wonderful animal in the mountain parks. You can help. Please "drive for wildlife" by keeping within the speed limit.

## winter camping

### Mosquito Creek Campground

(24 km north of Lake Louise)

### Wapiti Campground (4 km south of Jasper)

Hardy campers who wish to stay in the Columbia Icefields area are permitted to tent at the **Wilcox Pass Trailhead**.

**NOTE:** This site is unmaintained during the winter. No water, garbage collection or maintenance services are offered. Please pack-out what you pack in and be aware that snowfall may impact access to privies. Fires are not permitted. After a snowfall, parking areas are plowed only after all roads are cleared. Campers should be prepared with shovels.

### All campgrounds are self-registration.

The Wilcox Trailhead site requires a bivy permit. Call 780-852-6176 for information.

### winter stops

	Km from Jasper	Km from Lake Louise
Valley of the Five Lakes	9	221
Athabasca Falls Ski Area	30	200
HI-Athabasca Falls Hostel	32	198
Goat and Glaciers Viewpoint	37	193
Mushroom Peak	84	146
HI-Beauty Creek Hostel	85	145
Stutfield Glacier	94	136
Tangle Falls	96	134
Athabasca Glacier	103	127
Wilcox Pass	106	124
HI-Hilda Creek Hostel	111	119
Parker Ridge	112	118
Weeping Wall	124	106
HI-Rampart Creek Hostel	142	88
Howse Pass	154	76
Peyto Lake	190	40
Bow Lake	196	34
HI-Mosquito Creek Hostel	206	24



## driving safety



- ▶ Keep your gas tank and windshield washer fluid full.
- ▶ Allow yourself at least twice the normal braking distance on wet or slick surfaces.
- ▶ Posted speed limits are designed for ideal road conditions; slow down when driving on snow, ice, slush or wet surfaces.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when approaching highway maintenance equipment like snow plows, salt and sand trucks. Never pass on the right.
- ▶ Low beam headlights are more effective than high beams in fog or heavy snow.
- ▶ Check your tire pressure regularly. Tires lose pressure in colder conditions.
- ▶ Using four-wheel drive does not necessarily provide better traction for cornering or braking on slippery roads.
- ▶ Do not use cruise control or overdrive in snow, ice, slush or rain. Both cruise control and overdrive can result in an unexpected gear shift causing a loss of traction.
- ▶ Watch for black ice in shaded areas, on bridge decks, and at intersections.