

Wildlife

Although the mountains are generally a harsh place for wildlife to live, the Bow Valley Parkway sits at a lower elevation on the sunny side of the valley, making it prime habitat. Here, water is abundant, winter snows are shallow and the warmth and lushness of summer produces diverse vegetation.

Keep a sharp eye on the roadside slopes! Year-round, you may see elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mule deer and wolves, while summer provides you with a rare opportunity to see black bears and grizzly bears.



For additional information about the Bow Valley Parkway, contact one of our visitor centres or visit us online at www.parkscanada.ca/banff.

Banff Visitor Centre

224 Banff Avenue, Town of Banff
Phone: 403.762.1550
Email: banff.vrc@pc.gc.ca

Lake Louise Visitor Centre

Village of Lake Louise, next to the Samson Mall
Phone: 403.522.3833
Email: ll.info@pc.gc.ca

Wildlife Safety

When viewing wildlife:

- Respect the slower speed limits to keep animals safe from collisions.
- Be mindful of stopping suddenly on the road. Pull over where it is safe to do so, use your hazard lights, and avoid creating “wildlife jams” by promptly moving on.
- Keep a respectful distance from wildlife; observe and photograph from the safety of your car. Never approach or feed wildlife.



Banff
National Park
parkscanada.gc.ca



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

Winding its way through sun-speckled forest, the Bow Valley Parkway provides visitors with a scenic, convenient and leisurely route between Banff and Lake Louise, and a quieter alternative to the Trans-Canada Highway.

Open year-round, 48 kilometres of paved road showcase interesting roadside pull-offs and superb views, from flower-filled meadows to the multi-tiered pinnacles of Castle Mountain. The rich habitat here also makes it one of Banff’s best locations to see wildlife!

Whether you want a scenic excursion, a delicious meal in a quaint bistro, or a place to spend the night, the Bow Valley Parkway is always worth the visit.



Canada

Did you know that the Bow Valley Parkway was the original road linking Banff and Lake Louise in the early 1900s?

Activities and Sightseeing

Driving or cycling the Bow Valley Parkway is a great experience unto itself. Enjoy outdoor activities and roadside pull-offs that make this alternate route unique:

- Interpretive displays and marked pull-offs provide the chance to discover more about the landscape, wildlife and history of Banff National Park.
- Scenic viewpoints, open meadows and picnic areas provide opportunities to appreciate the landscape, see wildlife, and relax along the way.

- Remnants of the 1993 prescribed burn demonstrate the importance of fire to forest health and the regeneration of important ecosystems.
- Johnston Canyon is a natural attraction for year-round enjoyment, featuring a powerful, thundering canyon in summer and stunning frozen waterfalls in winter.
- Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and camping! Inquire at Parks Canada's Visitor Centres for trail guides and brochures.

Did you know that the Bow Valley Parkway is also a continuation of the Banff Legacy Trail linking Banff and Lake Louise as a cycling route?




Services and Amenities

Visitors exploring the Bow Valley Parkway will find everything they need to stay and explore longer!

- Accommodations include modern campsites and some of Banff's oldest and most traditional lodging.
- Dining options range from grab-and-go snack bars to cafes to charming bistro-style dining rooms.
- Additional amenities include a gas station, liquor and grocery store and various gift shops.



The parkway is open year-round! During the spring (March 1 to June 25) when the habitat in this area is crucial to the health and survival of wildlife, the 17-kilometre eastern section, between the Trans-Canada Highway/Bow Valley Parkway interchange and Johnston Canyon Campground is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. only. After these hours, visitors requiring access to services and amenities must use the Trans-Canada Highway (#1) at Castle Junction. See  on map.

