



2016 - 2017

Getting Around Banff National Park

Egalement offert en français

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Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

Canada

P. Zizka



P. Zizka

OUR STORY

In 1883, like Indigenous peoples long before them, three railway workers stumbled across a series of hot springs on the lower shoulder of present-day Sulphur Mountain. No doubt they laid down their shovels and pick axes, removed their dusty clothes and gratefully slid into the waters to soothe their aching muscles. Two years later, as Canada was completing its transcontinental railway, Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, realized a new national dream: the creation of Canada's first national park, which set aside the Cave and Basin hot springs and 26 km² of land as a small protected reserve. More than a century later, the national park draws millions of people each year to experience the staggering natural beauty of Banff and Lake Louise, no less than seven national historic sites and a bounty of wildlife large and small – from iconic grizzly bears to the Banff Springs Snail. With a long history of melding innovative conservation initiatives with spirited adventure, Canada's oldest national park offers mountains of possibilities.

A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Four of the mountain national parks – Banff, Jasper, Yoho and Kootenay – are recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as part of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site, for the benefit and enjoyment of all nations. Among the attributes that warranted this designation were vast wilderness, diversity of flora and fauna, outstanding natural beauty and features such as Lake Louise, Maligne Lake, the Columbia Icefield and the Burgess Shale.



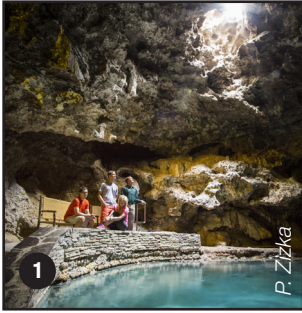
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



• **Canadian Rocky
Mountain Parks**
• inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1984

• **Parcs des montagnes
Rochéuses canadiennes**
• inscrit sur la Liste du
patrimoine mondial en 1984



1 **CAVE AND BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

Nature, culture and history minutes from Banff Avenue. Impressive architecture, bubbling mineral waters, and an underground cave that gave rise to a huge idea, the birthplace of Canada's national parks. Family activities and interactive programs available. (see p. 6)



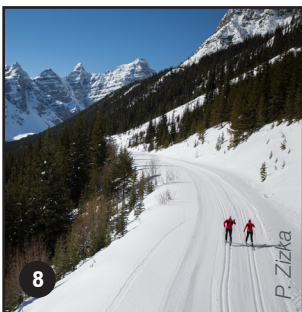
2 **BOW VALLEY PARKWAY (HWY 1A)**

This year-round 48 km scenic drive between Banff and Lake Louise is the place to be for wildlife viewing, picnicking, learning opportunities and hiking trails. Rustic campgrounds, unique cottage accommodations and Johnston Canyon enhance this experience. (see p. 5)



3 **ICEFIELDS PARKWAY**

This world-renowned, 230 km drive through the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks UNESCO World Heritage Site is a must do! The parkway winds through ancient glaciers, dramatic rock spires, emerald lakes, and broad sweeping valleys. (see p. 5)



4 **LAKE MINNEWANKA LOOP**

Visit a cascading waterfall, a glacial lake, remnants of a coal mining town and a scenic canyon. Minnewanka, the largest lake in the park, is ideal for boating, camping, picnicking, road biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing or winter walking. (see p. 6)



5 **BANFF UPPER HOT SPRINGS**

A visit to the upper hot springs is a long-standing tradition. Relax in an outdoor pool with hot, mineral rich water amidst the jagged peaks. Open daily, year round. Day spa, cafe and gift shop on site. (see p. 6)

6 **LAKE LOUISE – THE LAKE**

Victoria Glacier and Lake Louise are the most photographed locations in the Canadian Rockies. This spectacular alpine setting is the hub for iconic hikes, canoeing, horseback riding, climbing, and awe-inspiring scenery. Ideal times to visit are before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m.

7 **BANFF LEGACY TRAIL**

Paved paths and roadways span 26 km from the park's East Gate to the Bow Valley Parkway. Cyclists, strollers, and runners enjoy breathtaking views, picnics, the Banff townsite, Vermilion Lakes, and other popular trails along the way.

8 **MORAINÉ LAKE**

Known as the Valley of the Ten Peaks, this alpine area offers hiking, paddling, and dramatic photographic opportunities. In the winter, the Moraine Lake Road is closed to vehicles and becomes a popular cross-country ski trail. (see p. 7)

9 **VERMILION LAKES DRIVE**

On foot, by bike or by car, explore this year-round 4.3 km paved road offering wildlife viewing, learning opportunities and breathtaking scenery. Relax on the docks and benches and snap a picture of the iconic Mount Rundle. (see p. 6)

10 **GREAT CANADIAN CAMPING**

Camping in the park is as rewarding as its majestic landscapes. Sites range from rustic, treed settings to full service with mountain views. Choose from traditional RV and tented sites to modern A-frame, soft-sided oTENTik or tent-equipped campsites. (see p. 8)

Suggested Itineraries



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HALF-DAY ADVENTURES

HIT THE TOP SPOTS IN TOWN

Start your day with a relaxing soak in the warm mineral waters of the historic Banff Upper Hot Springs. Be inspired on an award-winning tour of the Cave and Basin National Historic Site – The Birthplace of Canada’s national parks. Browse through 5 000 natural history specimens displayed at the Banff Park Museum National Historic Site and then stroll along the trails at the famous Bow Falls.

FOUR EXTRAORDINARY AFTERNOONS

Grab a canoe and explore the wildlife hidden among the marshes at Vermilion Lakes, a magnificent wetland. Hike a switchback trail up Tunnel Mountain for the best views of the Town of Banff. Trek up to the Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site to observe from above, or ride a bike past rivers and valleys on the smoothly paved Banff Legacy Trail.

FAMILY TIME ON MINNEWANKA LOOP

Picnic with the kids by Lake Minnewanka then stroll the twisting shoreline trail to Stewart Canyon. Nearby Johnson Lake is an excellent place to go canoeing and fishing. For a truly Canadian experience, stay overnight in a comfortable Equipped Campsite at Two Jack Main Campground—your tent is ready and waiting.

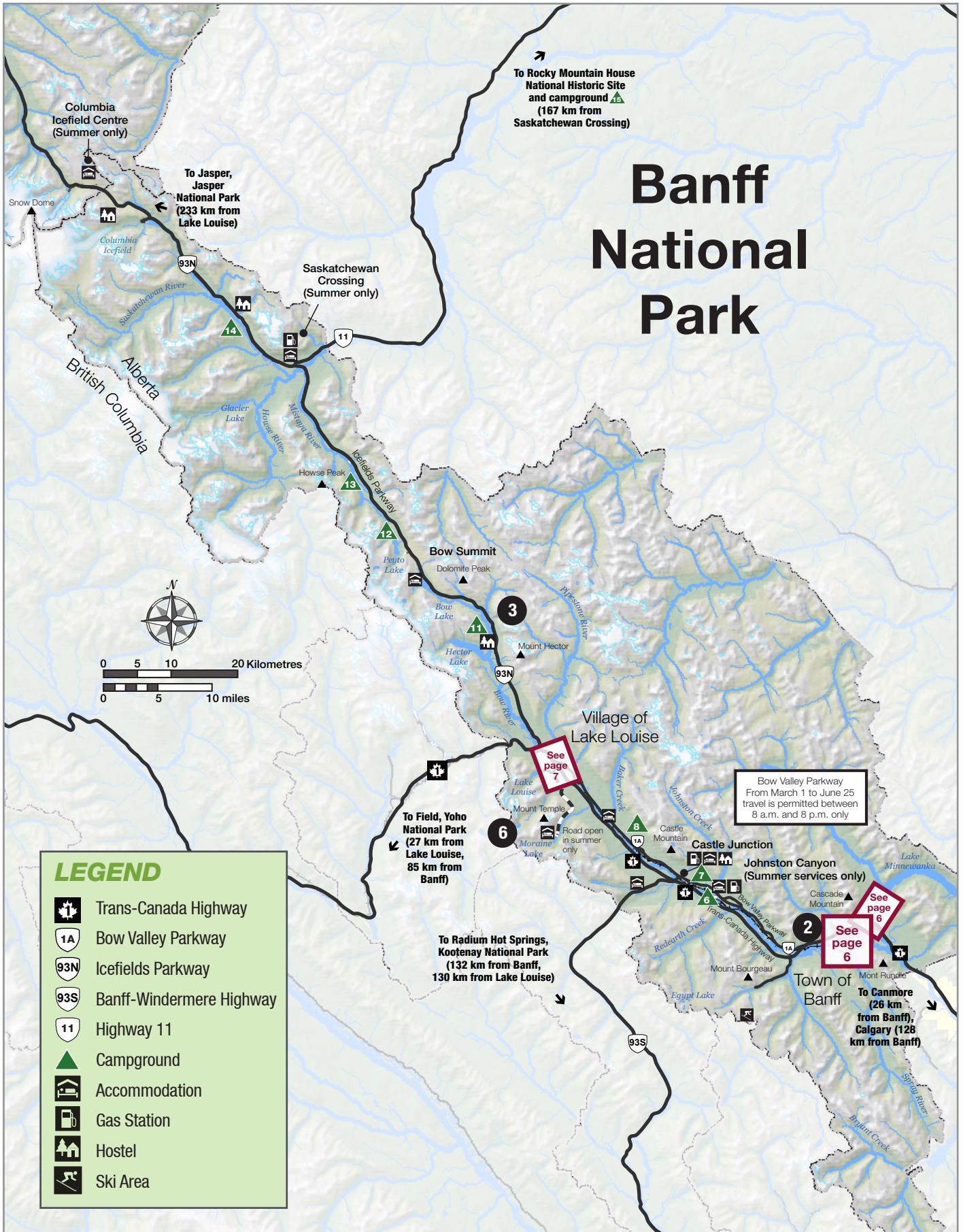
A FULL DAY OF FUN

TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE

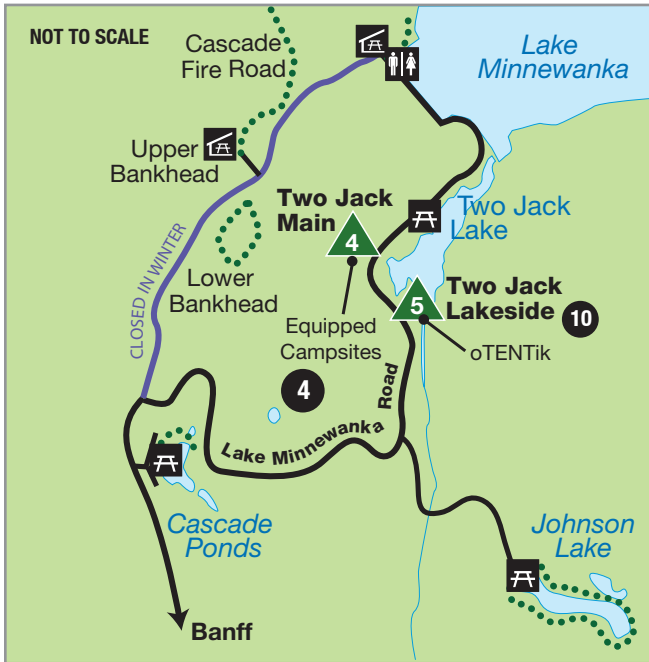
Drive the Icefields Parkway (93N) past 100 glaciers, sparkling waterfalls and turquoise lakes on your way from Lake Louise to Jasper. Hike to view ancient ice at Parker Ridge and Bow Glacier Falls. Snap unforgettable panoramas at Crowfoot Glacier and Peyto Lake viewpoints – and a photographers’ favourite, Herbert Lake. Try a unique adventure: take the David Thompson Highway (Hwy 11) to Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site to explore the historic fur-trading fort during the day and sleep in tipis and trapper’s tents at night.

BANFF’S UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

A slow, scenic drive along the Bow Valley Parkway winds through wildflower meadows, sun-speckled forests and the multi-tiered pinnacles of Castle Mountain. Walk among waterfalls in the summer and on glittering ice in the winter at Johnston Canyon. Experience iconic Lake Louise from a canoe on still water, by bike on the Bow River trail, or from above at two historic teahouses surrounded by glaciers. In the winter, play on skates, skis and snowshoes. From Lake Louise, it’s a short trip up to Moraine Lake to photograph the glowing blue-green water surrounded by the Valley of the Ten Peaks.



Maps



It's just easier.

Enjoy your visit to downtown Banff even more. Park your car or RV, and walk or bicycle around town. Most shops, cafes and attractions are within a 10-minute walk.

The town can be a busy place and significant traffic congestion delays do occur. If you are heading to the gondola, hot springs, Cave and Basin or other attractions over the Bow River bridge, take Roam public transit. It's just easier.

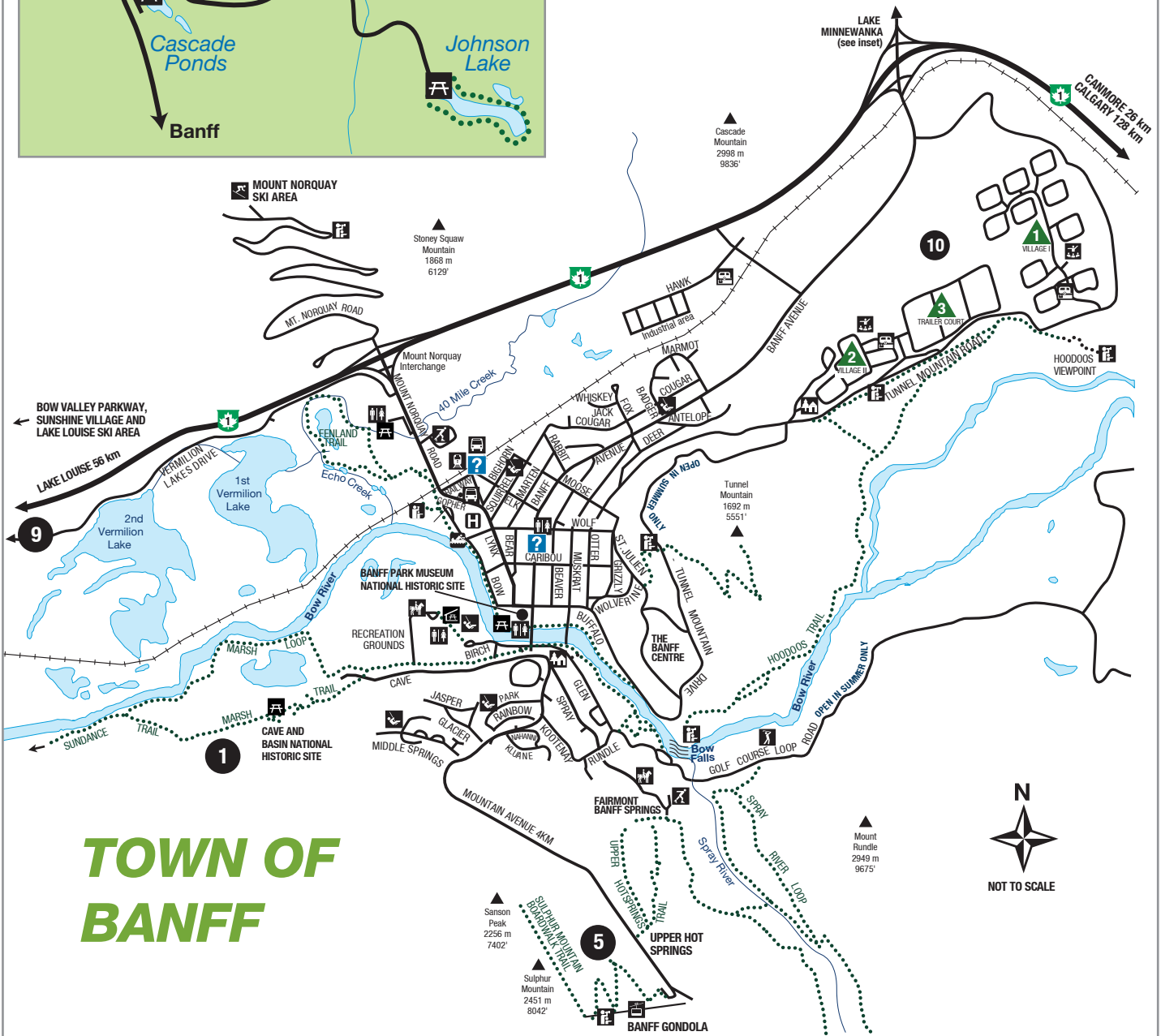
Find parking at:
banffparking.ca

Catch the next bus at:
roomtransit.com

Check traffic conditions at:
banff.ca/traffic.com



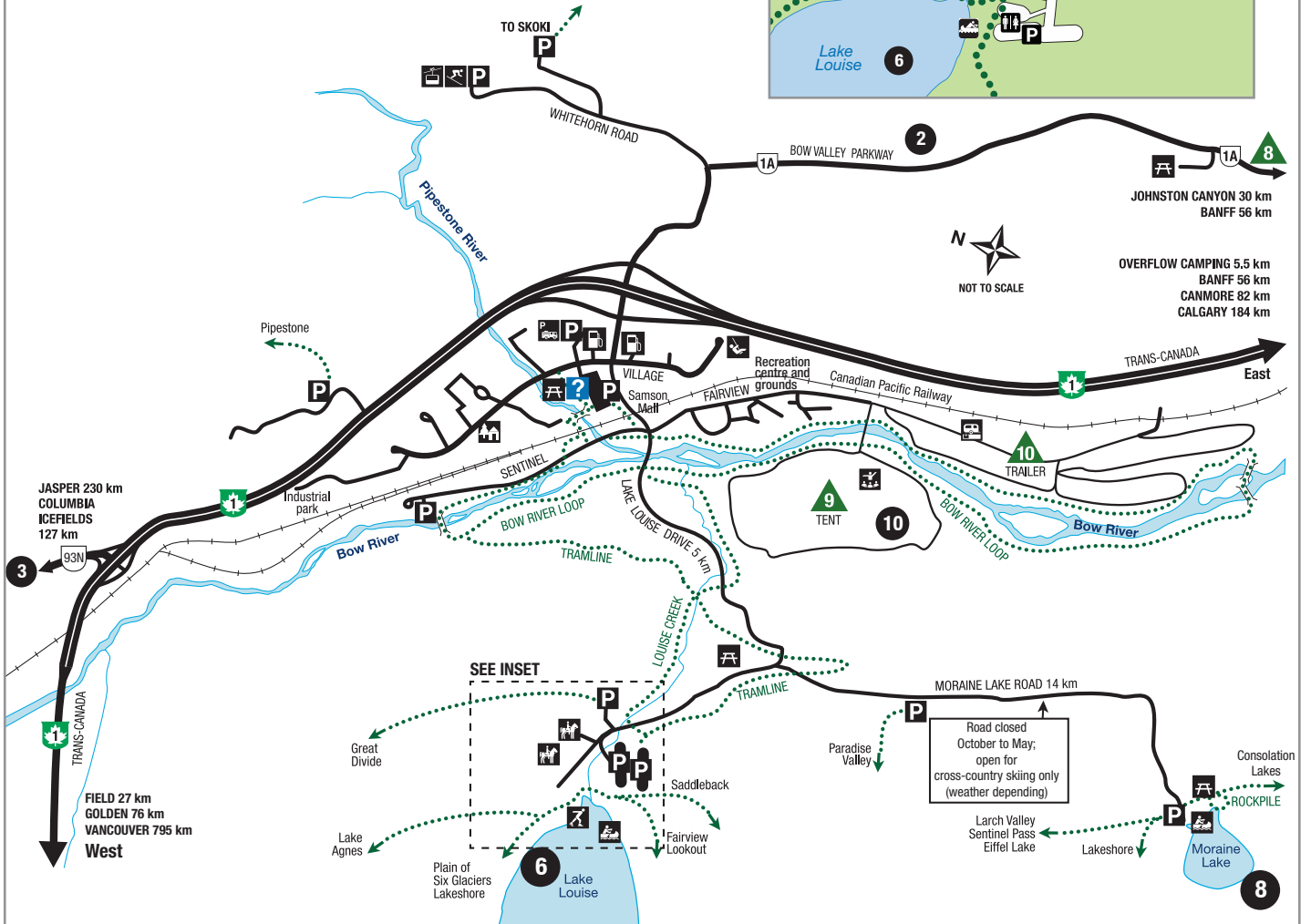
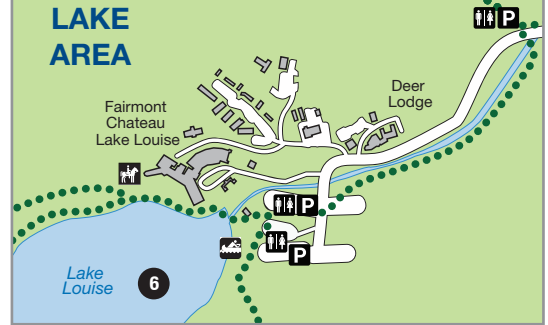
[@Banff_Town](https://twitter.com/Banff_Town)



VILLAGE OF LAKE LOUISE

Ideal times to visit are before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m.

LAKE AREA



LEGEND

- Trans-Canada Highway
- Icefields Parkway
- Trail

SERVICES

- Bus Station
- Campground
- Gas Station
- Hospital
- Hostel
- Parking
- Police
- RV Parking
- Sani Dump
- Train Station
- Visitor Centre
- Washroom

THINGS TO DO

- Attraction
- Canoeing
- Exhibit
- Golf
- Gondola
- Horse Riding
- Lookout
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Skating
- Ski Hill
- Theatre

Where to Camp

Campgrounds	Full Hook-up	Electrical	Sani Dump	Flush Toilets	Pit Toilets	Showers	Firepit	Cooking Shelter	Drinking Water	Equipped Campsites	oTENTik	Tipis/Trapper Tents	Interpretive Programs	Disabled Access	Open Dates	Sites
1 Tunnel Mt. Village I			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑				☑	☑		May 12– Oct 3	618
2 Tunnel Mt. Village II		☑	☑	☑		☑		☑	☑			☑	☑		Closed for summer 2016	0
3 Tunnel Mt. Trailer	☑		☑	☑		☑		☑				☑	☑		May 12 – Oct 3	321
4 Two Jack Main			☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	EC					Jun 23 – Sep 6	380
5 Two Jack Lakeside				☑		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑		☑		May 12 – Oct 3	74
6 Johnston Canyon			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		May 26 – Sep 26	132
7 Castle Mountain				☑			☑	☑	☑				☑		May 26 – Sep 12	43
8 Protection Mountain				☑			☑	☑	☑				☑		Closed for summer 2016	0
9 Lake Louise Tent			☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑		May 30 – Sep 27	206
10 Lake Louise Trailer	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	☑				☑	☑		Open year round	189
11 Mosquito Creek					☑		☑	☑	☑						Jun 1 – Oct 10	32
12 Silverhorn					☑		☑								Closed for summer 2016	0
13 Waterfowl Lakes			☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑			☑			Jun 24 – Sep 5	116
14 Rampart Creek					☑		☑	☑	☑						Jun 1 – Oct 10	50
15 Rocky Mountain House NHS - Historic Forts					☑		☑	☑		EC	☑	☑			May 9 – Sep 30	43

Highlighted campgrounds may be reserved.

PLANNING TO CAMP IN ANOTHER NATIONAL PARK? BOOK ONLINE OR CALL AHEAD FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS.

Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay and Waterton Lakes national parks offer extraordinary camping experiences, ranging from full-service RV sites to rustic settings. Many campsites can be reserved and most fill up quickly. Call ahead or go online for recommendations and availability of campsites, oTENTik and Equipped Campsites.

1-877-RESERVE OR RESERVATION.PC.GC.CA

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Parks Canada offers a variety of pristine backcountry settings to choose from. Contact a Parks Canada Visitor Centre for information, bookings and your backcountry permit. (see p. 11)



MOUNTAIN SAFETY



Unpredictable mountain weather can change road and trail conditions instantly and wildlife can be anywhere, at any time. These simple precautions will help ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

- Check road and trail conditions prior to heading out.
- Obey speed limits and watch for wildlife on the roadside.
- Stay on designated roads, trails and other hardened surfaces.
- Keep a 'Bare' campsite. Visit parksCanada.gc.ca/bare-campsite.
- Make noise on the trails and let wildlife know you are coming.
- Research and plan overnight trips including potential trail restrictions and closures, avalanche conditions and mandatory backcountry permits. Visit avalanche.pc.gc.ca for safety tips.
- Let someone know your travel plans; cell phones are not reliable in the wilderness.
- Keep clear of cliffs, ledges and fast moving water.



PARK REGULATIONS

Following park regulations while enjoying the national parks will help protect the visitor, the land, and the wildlife:

- Keep pets on a leash and under control at all times. Please collect and properly discard of pet feces.
- Take only photographs. It is illegal to pick flowers, mushrooms, cut down trees, branches, remove cultural artifacts or otherwise cause damage to natural objects or living things.
- Be considerate of your neighbours. Liquor consumption is prohibited in public places, day-use areas, and during set periods in campgrounds. Respect quiet hours and liquor bans in campgrounds.
- Stay out of closed areas. Area closures or activity restrictions are implemented when visitors are at risk or when wildlife requires additional protection. Signs indicate the areas impacted.
- Be careful with fire. Fires are permitted only in designated areas with fireboxes or fire pits. Extinguish fires completely. Do not use deadwood, bark or branches for fuel.
- Buy fishing permits. Anglers require a national park fishing permit, available at Parks Canada visitor centres. Provincial licenses are not valid in national parks.
- Going boating? Motors are not allowed on most lakes.
- Motorized off-road travel is not permitted.



THE CANADA NATIONAL PARKS ACT

Park Wardens are responsible for enforcing park regulations as required by the *Canada National Parks Act*. To report park violations, call 24 hours, 7 days per week:

1-888-927-3367 (Banff, Yoho, Kootenay and Waterton Lakes)

1-877-852-3100 (Jasper and Mount Revelstoke & Glacier)

Visit parksCanada.gc.ca/mtnregulations

Violators will be charged, be required to appear in court, and could pay fines of up to \$25 000.





G. Twomey

MEET PARK INTERPRETERS

Want to discover more about the uniqueness of the area's natural and cultural heritage? Friendly and knowledgeable interpreters are here to share the stories of the special places protected by Parks Canada.

Look for interpreters at campgrounds and popular day-use areas throughout the summer, and at national historic sites during various times of the year.

Check parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-interpretation for more information on interpretive experiences in Banff National Park and national historic sites.

WILDLIFE VIEWING TIPS

The best chance of observing wild animals is by giving them space to feed, rest and keep their young safe. Help keep them wild:

- **Stay at least three bus lengths (30 metres) away** from elk, deer and bighorn sheep.
- **Stay at least ten bus lengths (100 metres) away** from bears, cougars and wolves.
- **Never feed or approach wildlife.**
- **Keep pets under control and leashed** at all times.
- Keep children in sight and within close reach at all times.
- **Carry bear spray when out on the trails.** Keep it accessible and know how to use it.

For further information pick up a copy of *Keep the Wild in Wildlife* brochure at a Parks Canada Visitor Centre.

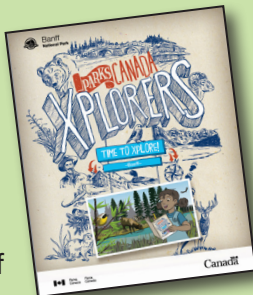
To report wolf, bear and cougar sightings call 403-762-1470.



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HEY KIDS AGED 6-11!

Check out Parks Canada's Xplorers booklets filled with fun activities to do while visiting. In Banff National Park there are five different booklets to complete: Banff National Park, Icefields Parkway, Cave and Basin, Banff Park Museum and Rocky Mountain House national historic sites.



M. Cheniak

CELEBRATING CANADA

#ShareTheChair



CANADA 150

CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY: COME TO THE PARTY!

In 2017, Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Parks Canada will be hosting special events and enhanced programs at national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas across the country. Plan to visit a national park in 2017.

parkscanada.gc.ca

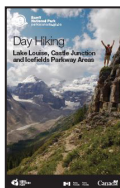
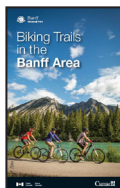


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WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BANFF NATIONAL PARK?

Visit facebook.com/BanffNP or twitter.com/BanffNP

These and more detailed brochures are available online or for pick-up at a Parks Canada Visitor Centre.



WANT MORE INFORMATION ON OTHER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARKS?

BANFF

Banff Visitor Centre: 403-762-1550
Lake Louise Visitor Centre: 403-522-3833
pc.gc.ca/banff

Banff Lake Louise Tourism: 403-762-8421
banfflakelouise.com

JASPER

Jasper Information Centre: 780-852-6176
pc.gc.ca/jasper

Tourism Jasper: 780-852-6236
jasper.travel

KOOTENAY

Kootenay Visitor Centre: 250-347-9505
pc.gc.ca/kootenay

Tourism Radium/Radium Chamber of Commerce:
1-888-347-9331
tourismradium.com

YOHO

Yoho Visitor Centre: 250-343-6783
pc.gc.ca/yoho

Tourism Golden: 1-800-622-4653
tourismgolden.com
field.ca

MOUNT REVELSTOKE AND GLACIER

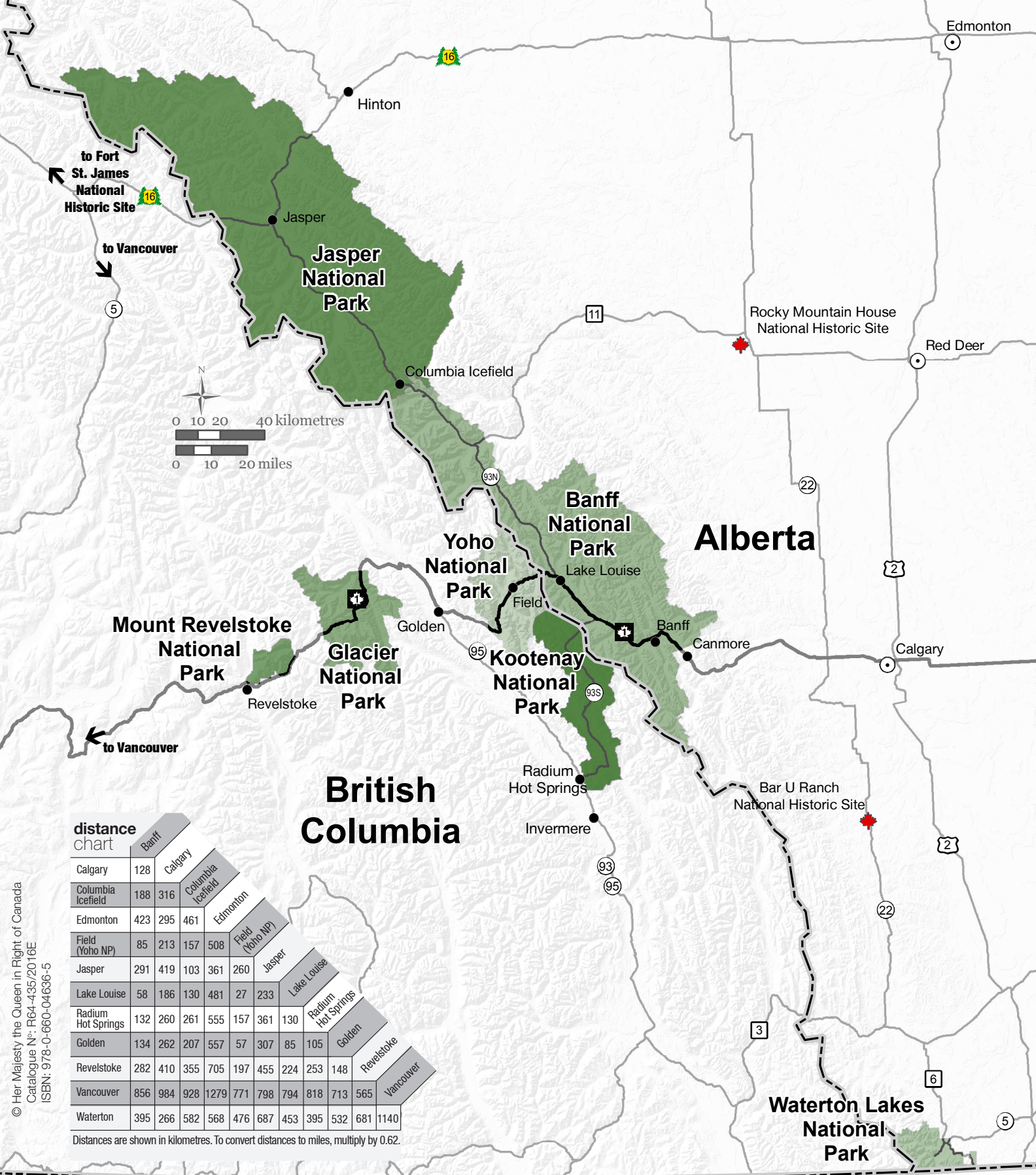
Rogers Pass Discovery Centre: 250-837-7500
pc.gc.ca/glacier • pc.gc.ca/revelstoke

Tourism Revelstoke: 1-800-487-1493
seerevelstoke.com

WATERTON LAKES

Waterton Lakes Visitor Centre: 403-859-5133
pc.gc.ca/waterton

Waterton Chamber of Commerce
mywaterton.ca

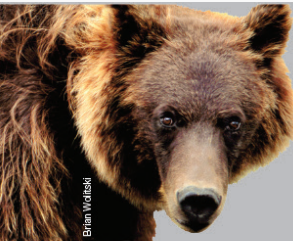


distance chart

	Banff	Calgary	Columbia Icefield	Edmonton	Field (Yoho NP)	Jasper	Lake Louise	Radium Hot Springs	Golden	Revelstoke	Vancouver
Calgary	128										
Columbia Icefield	188	316									
Edmonton	423	295	461								
Field (Yoho NP)	85	213	157	508							
Jasper	291	419	103	361	260						
Lake Louise	58	186	130	481	27	233					
Radium Hot Springs	132	260	261	555	157	361	130				
Golden	134	262	207	557	57	307	85	105			
Revelstoke	282	410	355	705	197	455	224	253	148		
Vancouver	856	984	928	1279	771	798	794	818	713	565	
Waterton	395	266	582	568	476	687	453	395	532	681	1140

Distances are shown in kilometres. To convert distances to miles, multiply by 0.62.

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Please slow down, for your safety and ours.



FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911 (Police, Fire and Ambulance)

Road Conditions: call 511 (AB)
 1-800-550-4997 (BC)

Cell phone coverage is not reliable in all areas of the mountain parks.