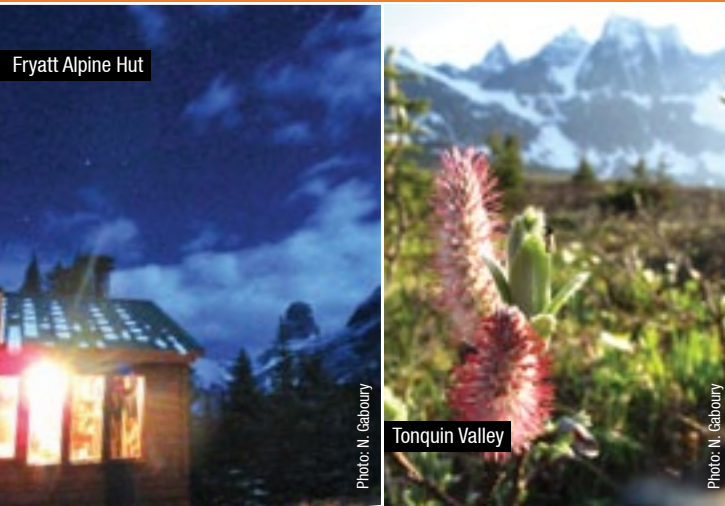


JASPER NATIONAL PARK Backcountry Guide



Backcountry lodges and alpine huts



Skyline Trail Rides
780-852-4215, 1-888-852-7787
or skylinetrail.com

Tonquin Valley Adventures
780-852-1188 or tonquinadventures.com

Tonquin Valley Backcountry Lodge
780-852-3909 or tonquinvalley.com

Alpine Club of Canada
403-678-3200 or alpineclubofcanada.ca

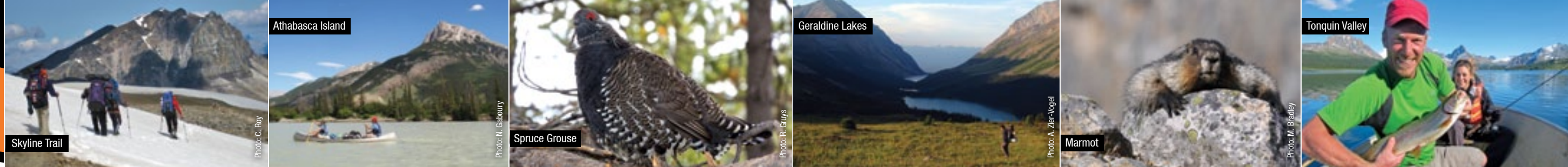


Woodland caribou
The woodland caribou found in Jasper are a threatened species. Less than 100 caribou are left in south Jasper.

What you can do to help woodland caribou:

- Stay on designated trails and if you see caribou give them space.
- Dogs are not allowed in caribou habitat (see map).
- Avoid hiking in caribou habitat during calving season (June – early July) and rut season (late September to early October).

To find out more about caribou conservation in the mountain national parks, visit www.pc.gc.ca/caribou.



Welcome to the backcountry

Jasper National Park is the largest and most northerly of Canada's mountain national parks. It protects over 11,000 square kilometres of the Rocky Mountains, a beautiful and dramatic landscape supporting a rich variety of plants and animals. Many of the park's backcountry trails were established by early travellers including First Nations people, fur traders, explorers and adventurers.

With nearly 1000 km of trails and routes to choose from, backcountry camping is a great way to experience the rugged and untamed wilderness of Jasper National Park. This guide will help you plan a trip that is exciting, safe, and has low environmental impact.

For more detailed backcountry planning and trip information, visit www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry. Before setting out on a trip, check the latest trail conditions at www.pc.gc.ca/jaspertrails

Exploring the backcountry

Travelling with Horses

Park information centres have information about guided day or overnight horse trips in the park. *The Horse Users' Guide* (pc.gc.ca/jasperhorses) provides detailed information to individuals or groups planning a horseback trip. Call the Trail Office to obtain backcountry camping and grazing permits (see Information Sources).

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is permitted only on trails designated for bike use. Refer to the map for trails open to mountain biking.

Climbing, Mountaineering and Glacier Travel

Mountaineering parties can apply at a Parks information centre to bivouac in non-vegetated areas. Special restrictions may apply. A voluntary safety registration is recommended. Visit pc.gc.ca/mountainsafety for more information.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted in many backcountry lakes. A National Park Fishing Permit is mandatory. Provincial fishing permits are not valid in National Parks. Permits are sold at park information centres and Jasper retail outlets that sell angling supplies. Get a copy of the current Fishing Regulations Summary with your permit. Visit pc.gc.ca/jasperfishing for more information.

Managing Our Use

Humans have an impact in all areas of the park. The backcountry is especially vulnerable to our use. Park management regulations are in place to minimize our environmental impact. They include quota restrictions on trails and campsites, a limit on group size, a permit system and restrictions on special use.

Uniformed Parks staff you encounter in the backcountry may ask to see your Backcountry Camping Permit.



On the trail

Jasper National Park offers a range of backcountry opportunities. Trails and campsites are designated as **semi-primitive**, **primitive** or **wildland**.

Here's what you can expect*:

Semi-primitive	Primitive	Wildland
Receive the highest level of service. Expect windfall to be cleared and bridges, corduroys and signs maintained. Campsites are equipped with cable food-storage, picnic tables, throne pit privies and fireboxes (where fires are permitted).	Receive a lower level of service. Expect windfall to be cleared and bridges to be maintained annually, but may not be maintained prior to your trip. Campsites are equipped with bear poles and pit privies.	Little or no maintenance. Provide opportunities for experienced, self-reliant users to travel and camp in unmaintained areas of the park
You are very likely to meet others on the trail.	More remote. You may meet others on the trail.	Many of these areas are extremely remote.

*While we aim to achieve the above standards, inclement mountain weather and events can considerably change trail, river and campsite conditions instantly. Self-reliance is important in all backcountry areas.

Please leave no trace!

Garbage

Please—Pack it in and pack it out! You are responsible for everything you take into the backcountry and this includes garbage. **Do not dispose of garbage in pit toilets—it may attract animals.**

Shortcutting trails

Shortcutting between trail switchbacks damages both the soil and plant life. This not only ruins the look of an area, but makes it susceptible to further damage by erosion.

Collecting natural or cultural objects

Rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests and all other natural or historical objects in a national park are protected by law. Leave them as you found them for others to enjoy.

Camping

Please camp only at the campsites indicated on your Backcountry Camping Permit and use the tent pads (where provided). Check with park staff for special restrictions.

Washing

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 m away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain out those last bits of food waste and pack them out. Disperse strained water on land.

Campfires

Campfires are a luxury in the mountains and are not permitted in some areas (see map). If you choose to have a fire, use the metal fireboxes provided, keep your fire small and use only deadfall. Tend to your fire at all times and extinguish it completely before you move on. Gas stoves are cleaner and more efficient for cooking. We recommend you use one.

Food storage

To reduce your campsite's attractiveness to bears, **all food, garbage, toiletries and cooking equipment** must be hung from the food storage cables provided at designated campsites. In wildland camping areas, bring bear-resistant containers to store food.

Human waste

Use the pit toilets provided. When there are no facilities nearby, select a spot away from trails, campsites and at least 70 m from water sources. Dig a hole 12 to 16 cm. to the dark-coloured, biologically active soil layer. Loosely fill the hole with soil afterward. Use as little toilet paper as possible.

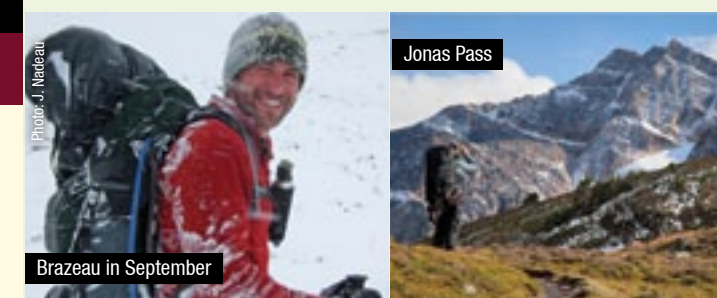


For more information on low impact travel in the backcountry contact: leavenotrace.ca or 1-877-238-9343.

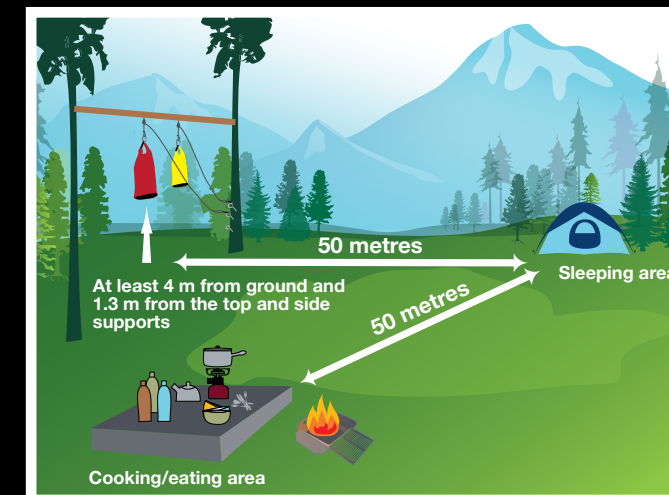
Checklist

- Select a trip which best suits your party's abilities and experience, interests, equipment and the time you have available.
- Familiarize yourself with the trail you have selected. This includes using additional reference guides and topographic maps.
- Obtain a Backcountry Camping Permit from a Park Information Centre.
- Check trail conditions and weather prior to departure.
- Be prepared to be self-sufficient during inclement and rapidly changing mountain conditions by packing the right clothing and camping gear.
- Let a friend or family member know about your travel plans – or use Parks Canada's safety registration service.
- Check the trailhead kiosk prior to your hike. It contains valuable information about closures and warnings.

For further details on PLANNING YOUR TRIP visit pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry.



How to properly store your food



Safety

Playing it safe

All outdoor activities involve some degree of risk. Rapidly changing weather, steep, rugged or unfamiliar terrain, avalanches (at any time of year), cold, swift-flowing streams, canyons, rapids and waterfalls, glacial crevasses, falling rocks and wild animals are all backcountry hazards visitors may encounter. Caution and self-reliance are essential.

Water

Giardia lamblia is a parasite carried by humans and some domestic and wild animals. These parasites can occur in any surface water in the park and may contaminate the water supply. Boil your drinking water or purify it with a water filter or iodine tablets.

Wildlife

Never forget that park animals are wild and can be dangerous. Any animal can become aggressive if it feels threatened, so keep your distance – 30 metres from most animals, and at least 100 metres from bears.

Bears

Both black and grizzly bears are of special concern to backcountry travellers. Learn more about how to reduce the risk of bear encounters by reading the wildlife safety brochures available at park information centres or on the web at pc.gc.ca/jasper-bears.

Dogs

Wild animals see dogs as either prey or predator. They can provoke confrontations with wildlife and affect your safety. This is why dogs must be kept on leash while in a national park. Please note that dogs are not allowed in some backcountry areas to protect caribou.

Remember - YOU are responsible for your own safety.

Two-Day Trips

Saturday Night Lake Loop Semi-Primitive

24 km Elevation gain/loss: 786 m
Maximum elevation: 1640 m

This well-marked trail, beginning and ending in the Jasper townsite, is on a plateau all below timberline, making it a good selection for the novice or early season hiker.

TRAILHEADS: Townsite - Junction of Cabin Creek Dr. and Patricia St.

MAPS: NTS Jasper 83D/16, Gemtrek Best of Jasper National Geographic Jasper South.

Jacques Lake Semi-Primitive

12 km one way Elevation gain: 90 m
Maximum elevation: 1540 m

This unique trail travels through a narrow mountain valley, skirts four lakes and crosses a watershed - all in less than 13 km and with little change in elevation. A good choice for novice hikers. Camping is not permitted at Beaver Lake.

TRAILHEAD: South end of Medicine Lake, 28 km from Jasper townsite

MAPS: NTS Medicine Lake 83C/13, Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, National Geographic Jasper South.

Big Bend Primitive

7.8 km one way Elevation loss: 37 m
Maximum elevation: 1400 m

Rolling along the upper Athabasca Valley, this trail follows a wide, well-packed fire road that is easily traversed on foot or bike. Make a day of it, or stay overnight at Big Bend Campground.

TRAILHEAD: Sunwapta junction, 54.5 km south of Jasper townsite

MAPS: NTS Athabasca Falls 83C/12, Fortress Lake 83C/5, Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, National Geographic Jasper South.

Sharing the Trail



Hikers, horse parties and mountain bikers often share trails and campsites in certain parts of the park. Respect for others can go a long way toward reducing conflicts. Make noise if you are travelling quickly or silently, move off the trail to allow larger parties to pass, and avoid sudden movement around horses as they may spook.



Three Day Trips

Skyline Semi-Primitive

44 km Elevation gain from Maligne Lake: 1410 m and loss: 1928 m. Maximum elevation: 2510 m
Caribou range – dogs not allowed

A classic Rockies trail, most of it above treeline. The high elevation allows for panoramic views that extend over much of the park, encompassing vast meadows, windswept ridges and the chance to spot wildlife in the distance.

NOTES: No fires. Use of a stove is mandatory. Snow may remain in higher areas until mid-July. Recommended travel between July 1 and September.

TRAILHEADS: Maligne Lake (50 km from Jasper townsite) and just before Maligne Canyon (about 8 km from Jasper on the Maligne Road). Recommended direction is from Maligne Lake to Maligne Canyon.

MAPS: NTS Medicine Lake 83C/13, Athabasca Falls 83C/12, Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, National Geographic Jasper South.

Semi-Primitive

Tonquin Valley Loop

43 km Elevation gain from Astoria trail: 1053 m and loss: 1293 m. Maximum elevation: 2210 m
Caribou range – dogs not allowed

The Tonquin Valley's scenery is unrivalled. This is one of Canada's premiere alpine regions, a unique combination of rugged peaks, ghostly ice and fertile lakes. There are several excellent day hikes in the area.

NOTES: No fires. Use of a stove is mandatory. Recommended travel between July 1 and September. Regular horse use during July and August and rain can make trails muddy and challenging for hikers.

TRAILHEADS: Km 12.7 on the Cavell Rd (Astoria trail) and at km 6.3 on the Marmot Basin Rd (Portal Creek trail).

MAPS: NTS Amethyst Lakes 83D/9, Jasper 83D/16, Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, National Geographic Jasper South.

Semi-Primitive

Fryatt Valley

21 km one way Elevation gain: 690 m
Maximum elevation: 2040 m

The Fryatt Valley trail is long, and the final climb up the Headwall to the upper valley is one you won't soon forget. But this tiny hanging valley tucked into one of Jasper's great mountain ranges is a jewel that rewards all your efforts. Biking allowed to lower Fryatt campsite. Alpine hut must be booked in advance (see Information Sources).

TRAILHEAD: Km 2.0 of Geraldine road, off Hwy 93A just north of Athabasca Falls.

MAPS: NTS Athabasca Falls 83C/12 Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, National Geographic Jasper South.

Information

Parks Canada Trail Office
JASPER TOWNSITE INFORMATION CENTRE
500 Connaught Dr. • 780-852-6177

Wilderness Passes, safety registrations (in person only), trail reservations/information. jnp.info@pc.gc.ca • pc.gc.ca/jasper

Weather forecasts 780-852-3185 • weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca

Winter avalanche information 1-800-667-1105
pc.gc.ca/avalanche

Trail conditions 780-852-6177 • pc.gc.ca/jaspertrails

Park safety information • pc.gc.ca/mountainsafety

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911.
Cell phone reception outside of the Jasper townsite is unreliable.

Additional Contacts
PARKS CANADA INFORMATION, ICEFIELD CENTRE
(mid-May to early Sept) 780-852-6288 • jasper.icefield@pc.gc.ca
Wilderness Passes, safety registrations (in person only), trail information. 103 km south of Jasper on the Icefields Parkway.

Public Safety Office 780-852-6155
Information on mountaineering, ice climbing, public safety.

Parks Canada – General inquiries
1-888-773-8888 (Canada) 613-860-1251 (international)
information@pc.gc.ca • pc.gc.ca

Friends of Jasper National Park 780-852-4767
Retail outlet at the Parks Canada information centre in Jasper.
friends@icentre.net • friendsofjasper.com

Mt. Robson and Hamber Provincial Parks
Ph (250) 566-4325 (year round) 566-9174 (summer)
Reservations: 1-800-689-9025 • bcparcs.ca

Four Day Trips

Brazeau Loop Semi-Primitive

79 km Elevation gain/loss-clockwise loop: 1912 m
Maximum elevation: 2475 m
Caribou range – dogs not allowed

The "grand tour" of the southern ranges, this circuit includes one of the park's largest backcountry lakes and an extraordinary alpine traverse with glaciated peaks, lush wildflowers and a variety of wildlife. The trail passes through extensive alpine meadows and three passes.

NOTES: Snow levels may hinder travel until mid-July. No fires at Jonas Cutoff ▲23. Campsites are located at the beginning and end of the 20 km pass section. Horse use prohibited in Jonas Pass.

TRAILHEAD: 112 km south of Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway-Nigel Creek.

MAPS: Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Columbia Icefield 83C/3, Gemtrek Columbia Icefield (southern portion only), National Geographic Jasper South.

Poboktan - Jonas Pass Semi-Primitive

53 km to Nigel Creek, one way Elevation gain: 1686 m and loss: 1340 m. Maximum elevation: 2470 m
Caribou range – dogs not allowed

A shorter alternative to the Brazeau loop, This is an impressive hike with over 13 km of travel above treeline. Good views and prime habitat for park wildlife including hoary marmot and woodland caribou. See notes for Brazeau loop above.

TRAILHEAD: Sunwapta patrol station, 72 km S of Jasper townsite on Icefields Parkway.

MAPS: NTS Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Columbia Icefield 83C/3, National Geographic Jasper South.

Seven Day Trip

Athabasca Pass Wildland

98 km return Elevation gain: 843 m and loss: 311 m, from Moab Lake road, one way.
Maximum elevation: 1755 m

This remote historic trail follows the Whirlpool River valley, the traditional route of early fur traders crossing the Rocky Mountains. Large gravel flats and glaciers dominate the scenery in sections. Most major crossings are bridged as you climb toward Athabasca Pass National Historic Site. Some horse traffic.

NOTE: Bikes allowed to Tie Camp.

TRAILHEAD: Km 6.4 of Moab Lake road, off Highway 93A south

MAPS: NTS Athabasca Falls 83C/12, Amethyst Lakes 83D/9, Athabasca Pass 83D/8, Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, National Geographic Jasper South.

Ten Day Trips

North Boundary Wildland

179 km Elevation gain: 2688 m and loss: 3122 m, from Celestine Road to Berg Lake trailhead.
Maximum elevation: 2019 m

North Boundary country possesses its own unique brand of beauty – a wilderness of broad valleys and distant views that is inhabited by an array of wildlife. The trail is rugged in places although most major river crossings are bridged. Some horse traffic. Very remote, trail is maintained infrequently.

TRAILHEADS: end of Celestine Road, 53 km from Jasper townsite; Rock Lake, 32 km from Hwy 40 to Grande Cache; and at Mount Robson, 88 km west of Jasper townsite on Highway 16.

MAPS: NTS Snaring 83E/1, Rock Lake 83E/8, Blue Creek 83E/7, Twintree Lake 83E/6, Mt. Robson 83E/3, National Geographic Jasper North.

South Boundary Wildland

113 km Elevation gain: 1315 m and loss: 1606 m, from Nigel Pass to Rocky Pass.
Maximum elevation: 2255 m

This high country trek travels through lowland forest and over two alpine passes. Most major water crossing are bridged but the smaller streams may require fancy footwork. Much of this trail is very remote.

NOTES: Due to a recent landslide and post-fire deadfall, the trail between Jacques Lake and Grizzly Campground is very difficult to navigate. Travel through this area is not recommended. Beyond Brazeau Lake, trail is maintained infrequently. Overlappers popular Brazeau loop trail. Check on campsite availability.

TRAILHEADS: Rocky Pass via Hwy 40, 77 km SE of Hinton. Nigel Pass: 112 km from Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway.

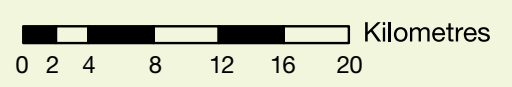
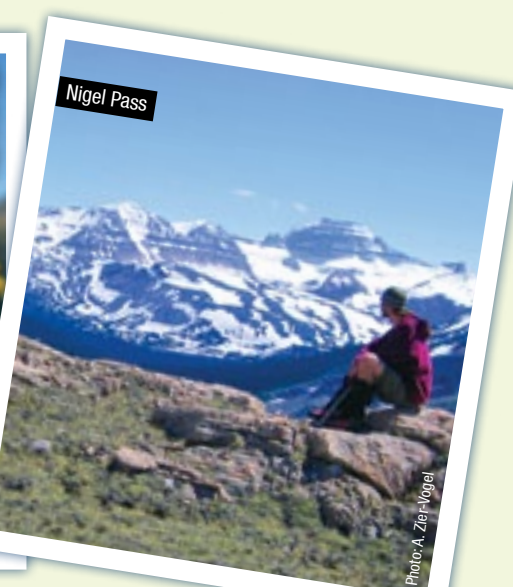
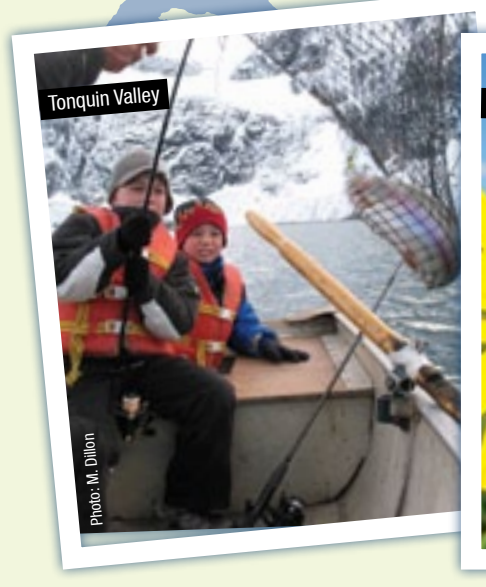
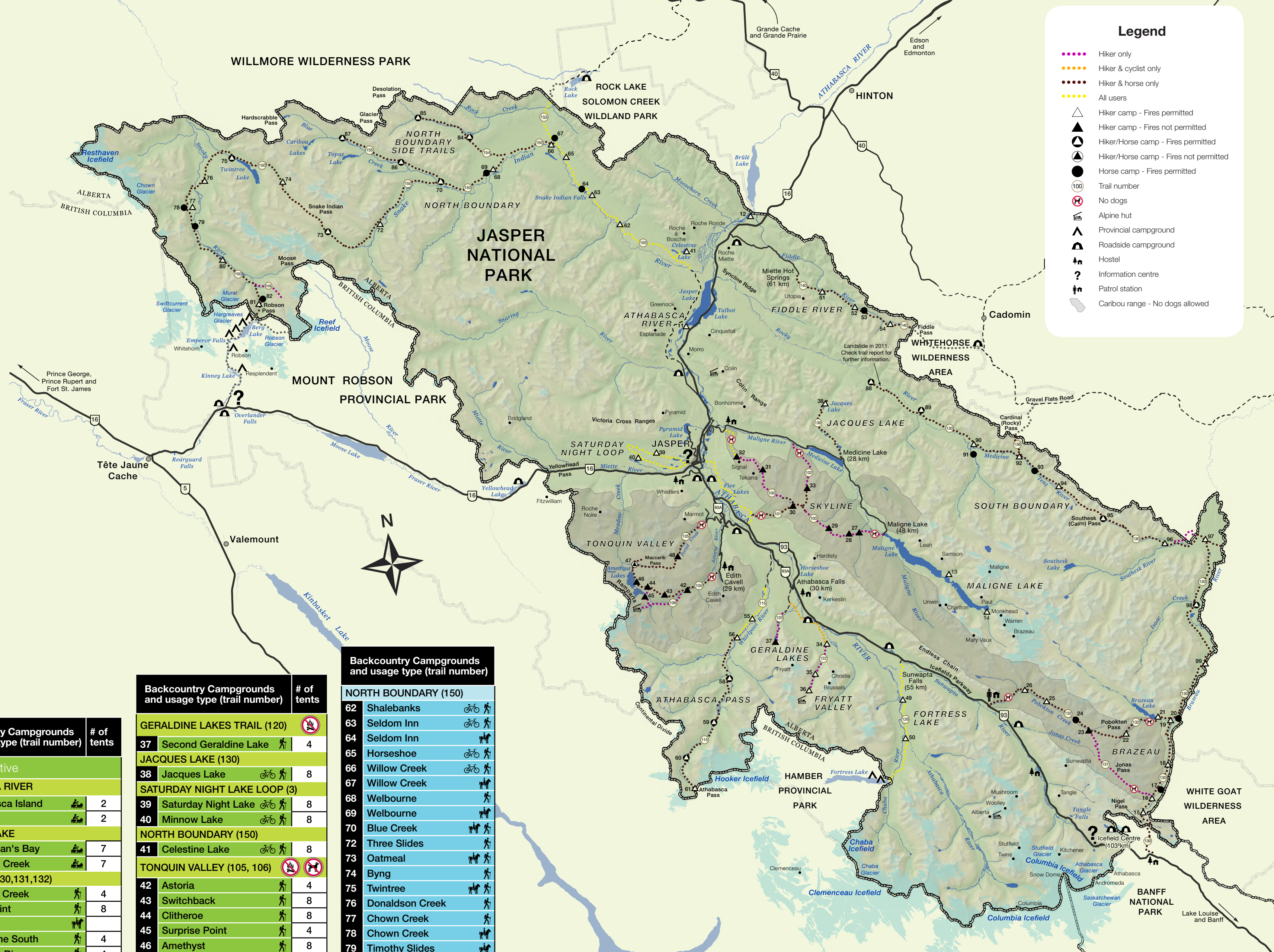
MAPS: NTS Columbia Icefield 83C/3, Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Job Creek 83C/7, George Creek 83C/10, Southesk 83C/11, Mountain Park 83C/14, National Geographic Jasper South.

Backcountry Campgrounds and usage type (trail number)	# of tents
Semi-primitive	
ATHABASCA RIVER	
11 Athabasca Island	2
12 Brûlé	2
MALIGNE LAKE	
13 Fisherman's Bay	7
14 Coronet Creek	7
BRAZEAU (130,131,132)	
15 Boulder Creek	4
16 Four Point	8
17 Cline	8
18 Wolverine South	4
19 Brazeau River	4
20 Brazeau Meadows	8
21 Brazeau Lake	8
22 John-John	4
23 Jonas Cutoff	8
24 McCready	4
25 Waterfalls	4
26 Poboktan	4
SKYLINE (100, 101, 102)	
27 Evelyn Creek	4
28 Little Shovel	7
29 Snowbowl	7
30 Curator	7
31 Tekarra	7
32 Signal	4
33 Watchtower	4
FRYATT VALLEY (122)	
34 Lower Fryatt	4
35 Brussels	8
36 Headwall	8

Backcountry Campgrounds and usage type (trail number)	# of tents
GERALDINE LAKES TRAIL (120)	
37 Second Geraldine Lake	4
JACQUES LAKE (130)	
38 Jacques Lake	8
SATURDAY NIGHT LAKE LOOP (3)	
39 Saturday Night Lake	8
40 Minnow Lake	8
NORTH BOUNDARY (150)	
41 Celestine Lake	8
TONQUIN VALLEY (105, 106)	
42 Astoria	4
43 Switchback	8
44 Clitheroe	8
45 Surprise Point	4
46 Amethyst	8
47 Maccarib	4
48 Portal	8
Primitive	
FORTRESS LAKE (126)	
49 Big Bend	4
50 Athabasca Crossing	4
FIDDLE RIVER (140)	
51 Utopia	4
52 Slide Creek	4
53 Slide Creek	4
54 Whitehorse	4
Wildland	
ATHABASCA PASS (115)	
55 Whirlpool	4
56 Tie Camp	4
58 Middle Forks	4
59 Scott Camp	4
60 Kane Meadows	4
61 Athabasca Pass	4

Backcountry Campgrounds and usage type (trail number)

NORTH BOUNDARY (150)	
62 Shalebanks	4
63 Seldom Inn	4
64 Seldom Inn	4
65 Horseshoe	4
66 Willow Creek	4
67 Willow Creek	4
68 Welbourne	4
69 Welbourne	4
70 Blue Creek	4
72 Three Slides	4
73 Oatmeal	4
74 Byng	4
75 Twintree	4
76 Donaldson Creek	4
77 Chown Creek	4
78 Chown Creek	4
79 Timothy Slides	4
80 Wolverine North	4
81 Adolphus	4
82 Adolphus	4
84 Little Heaven	4
85 Spruce Tree	4
86 Ancient Wall	4
87 Natural Arch	4
SOUTH BOUNDARY (130, 135)	
88 Grizzly	4
89 Climax Creek	4
90 Rocky Forks	4
91 Rocky Forks	4
92 Medicine Tent	4
93 Medicine Tent	4
94 La Grace	4
95 Cairn Pass	4
96 Cairn River	4
97 Southesk	4
98 Isaac Creek	4
99 Arête	4



THIS IS NOT A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP. IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR ROUTE FINDING.