

# SKYLINE

*An exceptionally beautiful backpacking route: the highest trail in Jasper National Park.*

Photo: R. Bray

## SEMI-PRIMITIVE

- 44.1 km, 2-3 day hike
- Elevation from Maligne Lake: 1410 m gain, 1928 m loss
- Maximum elevation: 2510 m

### The details

With almost 25 km of this trail hiked above treeline, the Skyline is Jasper’s highest and possibly most scenic trail. The high elevation allows for amazing views that extend over much of the park, encompassing vast meadows, windswept ridges, and the chance to spot wildlife in the distance. Crossing three mountain passes, the Skyline Trail offers a variety of flora, fauna and scenery unique to Jasper National Park. Be prepared for all weather conditions, and check current conditions before setting off. Snow can fall any time of the year, and the section of trail called “the Notch” can be impassable early in the season.

### What you need to know

The Skyline Trail is Jasper’s most popular backcountry hiking trail, so we recommend booking well in advance. This trail can only be hiked in the summer months, typically between July 1 and October 1.

### Special Considerations

The Skyline Trail has an escape route which can be used during poor weather or if the Notch is impassable. The Wabasso Trail is a long, rough 15-km trail with a steep descent of 1100 m, which starts at the Curator campground and ends on the Icefields Parkway, 14 km south of Jasper. There is cell reception at the Wabasso trailhead. Do **not** use the Watchtower trail as an escape route. **Be prepared for all weather conditions when hiking the Skyline Trail, as sudden weather changes can occur.**



No fires permitted.



No bikes permitted between Maligne Lake and Signal Fire Road.



Caribou range. Dogs are not allowed.



Photo: R. Bray



Photo: C. Roy

## SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

The recommended direction to hike the Skyline is from south (Maligne Lake) to north. Most hikers walk the Skyline Trail in 2-3 days, although one can spend an extra day to explore the alpine areas along the way. Hikers need to consider weather conditions and high altitudes when planning their length of stay.

### OPTION 1 : 1 NIGHT

Start at Maligne Lake and hike 20 km to Curator Campground. The following day, hike the 24 km out to the north trailhead on Maligne Lake Road.

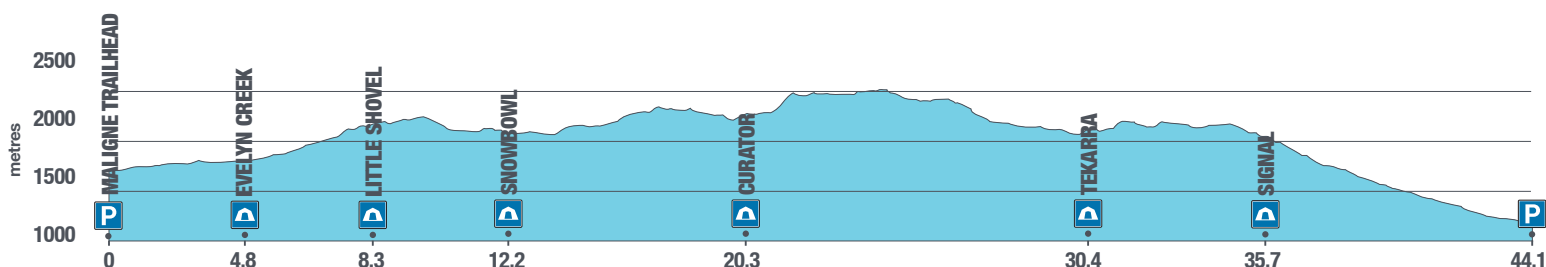
### OPTION 2 : 2 NIGHTS

Start at Maligne Lake and hike 12 km to Snowbowl Campground. The following day hike 18 km to Tekarra Campground. The third day will be a 14-km hike out.







Trail distances (in km)

	<b>Maligne Lake</b>							
<b>Evelyn Creek</b>	4.8	<b>Evelyn Creek</b>						
<b>Little Shovel</b>	8.3	3.5	<b>Little Shovel</b>					
<b>Snowbowl</b>	12.2	7.4	3.9	<b>Snowbowl</b>				
<b>Curator</b>	20.3	16.5	13	9.1	<b>Curator</b>			
<b>Tekarra</b>	30.4	26.1	22.6	18.7	9.6	<b>Tekarra</b>		
<b>Signal</b>	35.7	30.8	27.3	23.5	14.3	4.8	<b>Signal</b>	
<b>Signal Trailhead</b>	44.1	39.3	35.8	31.9	22.8	13.2	8.5	<b>Signal Trailhead</b>

Elevation profile



## Campground information

CAMPGROUND	DESCRIPTION	# OF SITES	FIRE PIT	UTM
<b>Evelyn Creek</b> (Elevation: 1824 m)	A small, quiet campground by a creek, good for hikers getting a late start in the day.	4		11U 452481- 5843006
<b>Little Shovel</b> (Elevation: 2233 m)	A campground with beautiful views over Maligne Lake and the Bald Hills, situated below Little Shovel Pass. This campground is great for campers who want to avoid the busier Snowbowl Campground.	8		11U 450945- 5842879
<b>Snowbowl</b> (Elevation: 2094 m)	Popular campground located in a spectacular meadow, sheltered by trees, with easy access to water.	8		11U 447486- 5844389
<b>Curator</b> (Elevation: 2070 m)	Popular with hikers taking 2 days to hike the Skyline Trail. This campground is situated 0.8 km off trail and 1.2 km from spectacular Curator Lake.	8		11U 442160- 5848882
<b>Tekarra</b> (Elevation: 2062 m)	A beautiful campground with great views, located next to a fast moving creek.	8		11U 437972- 5855684
<b>Signal</b> (Elevation: 2014 m)	A quiet campground at the top of the Signal Fire Road. There are great views over Jasper and surroundings from the hills above the campground.	8		11U 433941- 5858434



### Directions to Trailhead

#### Maligne Trailhead (south)

Take Highway 16 east towards Edmonton. Two km from Jasper, turn right across the bridge onto Maligne Road. Continue for 46 km south on the Maligne Road to Maligne Lake. Continue on the road past the chalet and across the bridge to the parking lot on the west side of the lake. The trailhead is on the right-hand side of the road, just before you reach the parking lot.

#### Signal trailhead (north)

Drive 8 km south on the Maligne Lake Road. Parking area is on the right.



### SAFETY

You are responsible for your own safety. Be prepared for extreme weather and mountainous terrain. Cell phone coverage is unavailable in most areas.

### TRAIL REPORT

Before leaving, check the Jasper National Park trail report for up-to-date conditions at [www.pc.gc.ca/JasperTrails](http://www.pc.gc.ca/JasperTrails).

### TRAIL INFORMATION

780-852-6177  
[pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry)

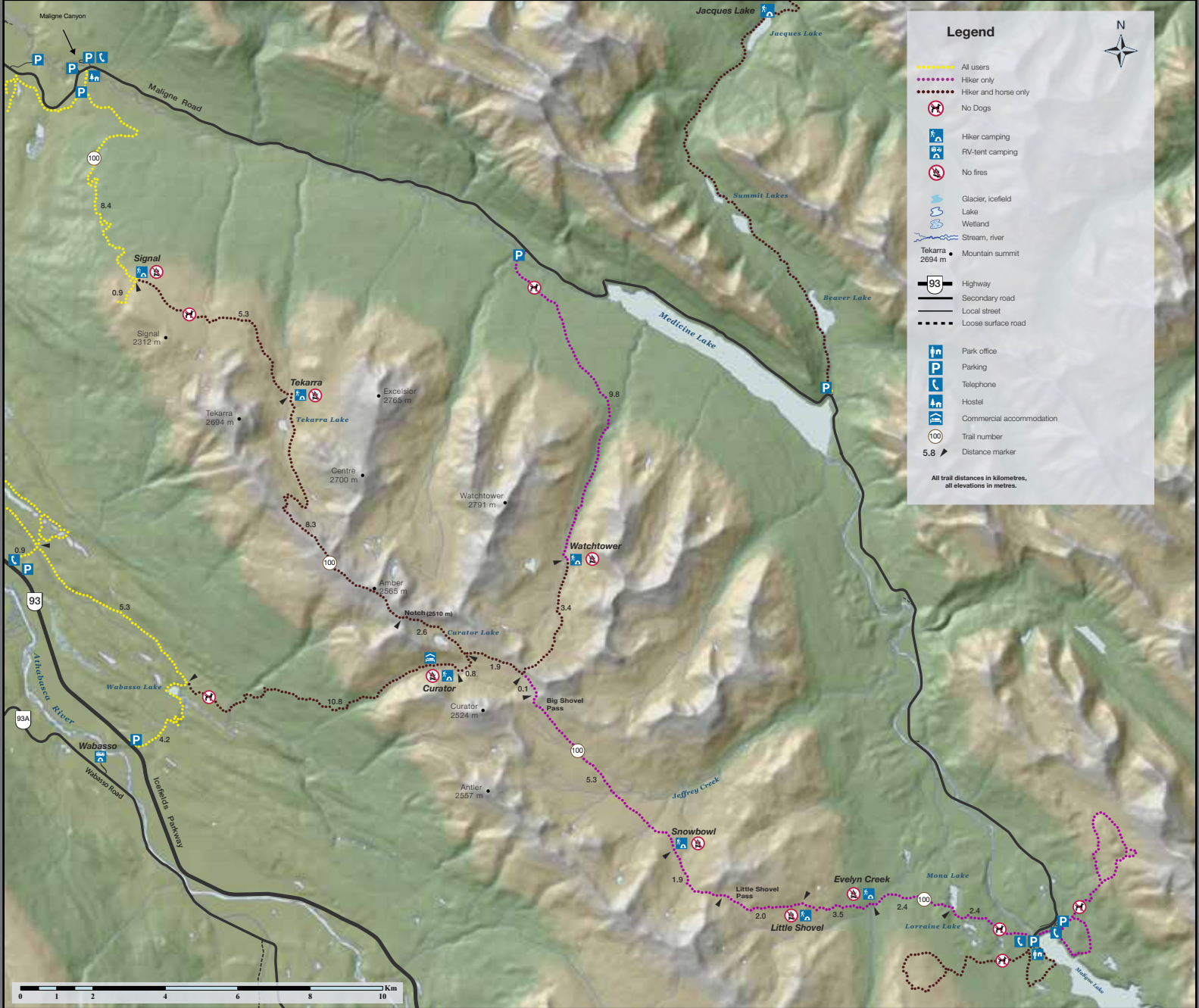
### RESERVATIONS

1 877-737-3783  
[pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry)

### EMERGENCY

call 780-852-3100  
or 877-852-3100





Maps, GPS data and elevations are provided for reference purposes only. Maps are not meant for navigation. Parks Canada Agency (PCA) makes no guarantees, representations or warranties respecting these data, either expressed or implied. PCA assumes no responsibility for damages or other liabilities due to the accuracy, availability, use or misuse of the information herein provided.

# LEAVE NO TRACE

Photo: R Bray



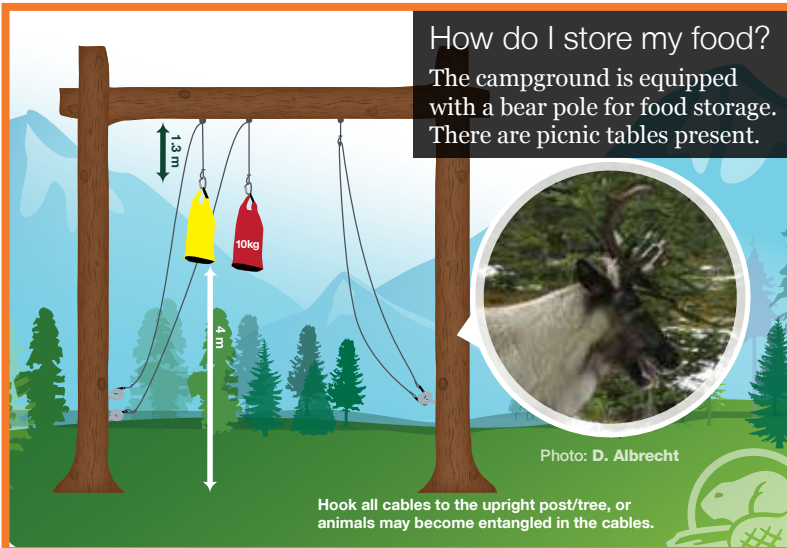
## FOOD STORAGE

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 campsites.



## HUMAN WASTE

Use the pit toilet 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 into the dark-coloured, biologically active soil layer. Loosely fill the hole with soil afterward. Use as little toilet paper as possible.



## 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.



## CAMPING

Please camp only at the campsites indicated on your Backcountry Camping Permit and use the tent pads.



## 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.



## 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

Fires are not permitted.



## WATER

Boil or treat all drinking water.



## 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.



# EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

## Have you got it?

This is a list of suggested equipment for Jasper's backcountry trails. Visit [www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry](http://www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry) for a comprehensive list. Mountain weather is unpredictable; be prepared for winter conditions at any time of the year. Snow may persist in high mountain regions into the summer and avalanche danger may occur in any season. This equipment list does not account for the special knowledge and equipment required to travel in avalanche terrain.

CLOTHING	SHELTER	OTHER ESSENTIALS	OPTIONAL
Long underwear	Tent with waterproof fly	Wilderness pass	Binoculars
Wool sweater, down vest or fleece jacket	Food should include enough for an extra day	Bear spray and the knowledge to use it	Altimeter
Raingear - pants and jacket, gaiters	Water filter, purification tablets or extra fuel for boiling your water	Topographic map	Field guide(s)
Hat and gloves / mittens	Waterproof bag to store food at campgrounds	Compass	GPS
Boots with ankle support and good soles		Waterproof matches and/or lighter	SPOT™ Device or satellite phone
Sandals or runners for fording streams and at camp		Insect repellent	
Extra warm clothes in waterproof bag		Flashlight and extra batteries	
		First aid kit	
		Signaling device (whistle or mirror)	
		Toilet paper	
		Rope- approx. 8 metres. A throw bag works well	
		Waterproof bags for all gear	

## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

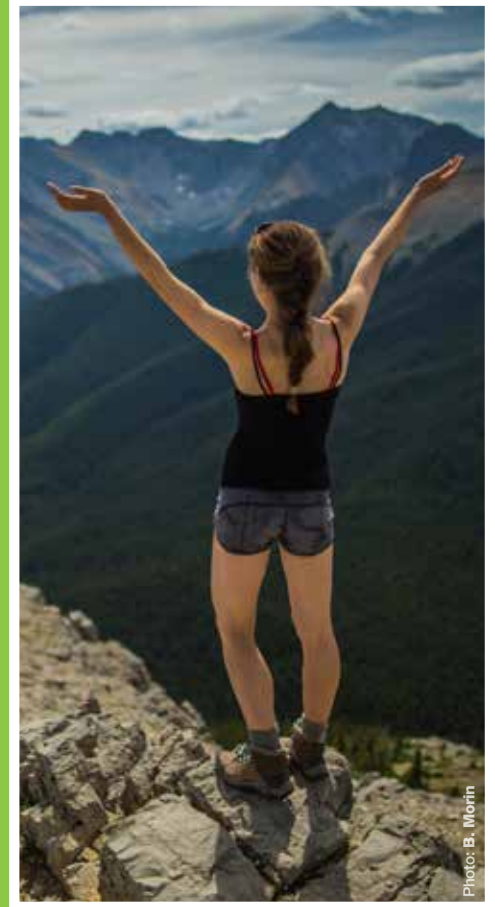


Photo: B. Morin

 [facebook.com/JasperNP](https://facebook.com/JasperNP)

 [twitter.com/JasperNP](https://twitter.com/JasperNP)

#JasperNP

## MAPS

NTS  
Medicine Lake 83C/13  
Athabasca Falls 83C/12

Gemtrek  
Jasper and Maligne Lake

National Geographic  
Jasper South

For more information on low impact travel in the backcountry, contact:

[leavenotrace.ca](http://leavenotrace.ca)  
1-877-238-9343



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Également offert en français

## Backcountry camping permits

**A backcountry camping permit is mandatory for all overnight trips. It can be obtained by visiting [pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry), by calling 1-877-737-3783 or by visiting the Jasper Information Centre.**