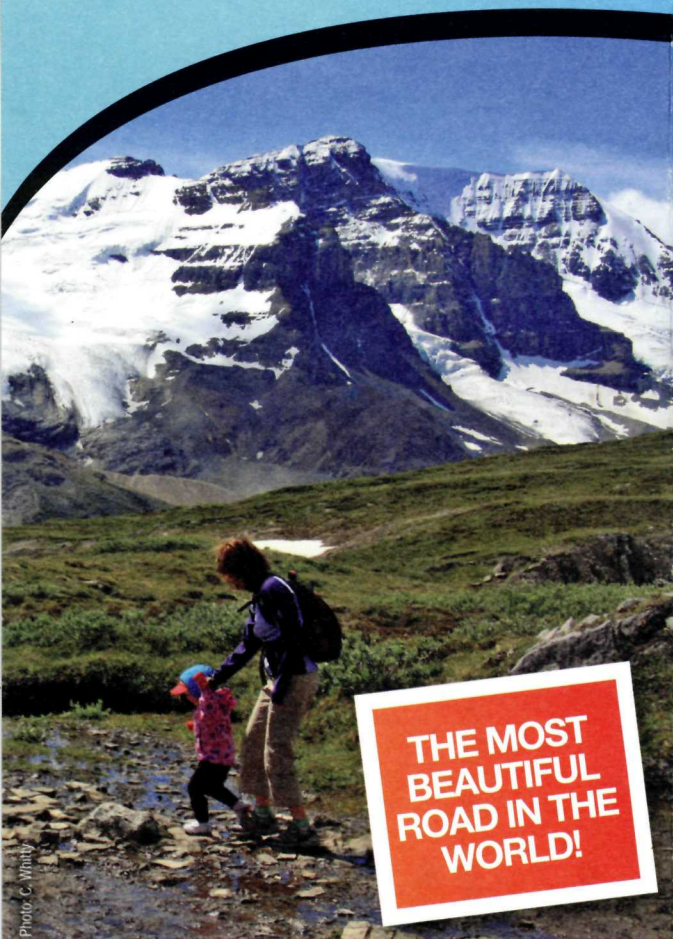
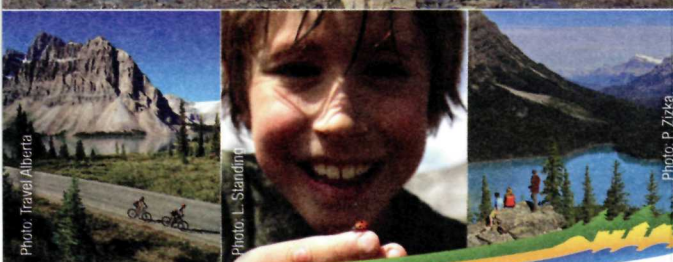


The Icefields Parkway



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROAD IN THE WORLD!



The Most Beautiful Road? Really?

That's what many seasoned travellers have told us, and they're right. How many highways can claim 230 kilometres of continuous World Heritage Site scenery completely protected in two national parks?

Every year, over a million park visitors enjoy the trip between Lake Louise and Jasper. They cover the distance in every conveyance imaginable: cars, trucks, RVs, buses, bicycles... the parkway has been toured by roller blade and unicycle.

From the beginning the parkway has been intended to commemorate Canada's powerful natural landscape. It's a scenic drive, not a transportation corridor. That's why you need a park pass to drive the parkway. Large trucks are banned. The speed limit is leisurely. The pulloffs and picnic areas are many. Enjoy your trip through Banff and Jasper national parks. The inspiring surroundings make this the perfect place to tune in to nature, appreciate it, respect it and pledge to protect it.

Those Who Went Before

Place names along the route recall travellers of earlier eras. Sunwapta is a Stoney word meaning "turbulent river" from the days when only aboriginal peoples moved through these valleys. Athabasca means "the place where the bulrushes grow". Hardisty was a fur-trader; Hector was an explorer. Stutfield was a mountaineer. Wilson and Peyto were horse-party outfitters.

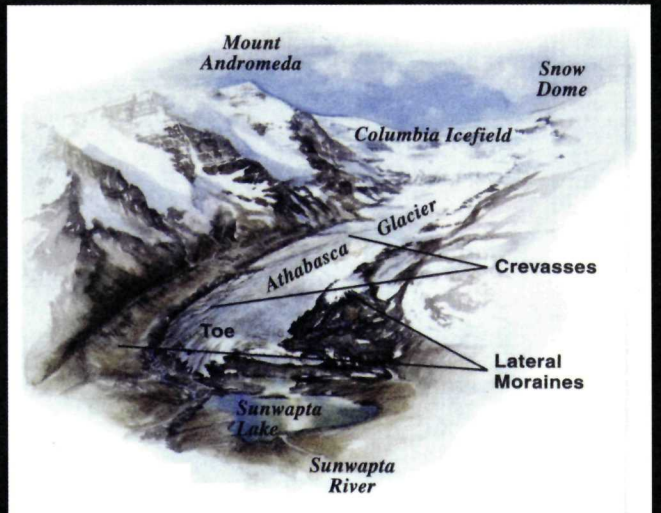
Glaciers...The Cold Facts

Well-named, the Icefields Parkway passes within viewing distance of seven icefields (large upland glaciers) and about 25 smaller but still notable glaciers. The centrepiece is the Columbia Icefield, largest in the Rocky Mountains with an area of about 200 km². Aboriginal peoples may have viewed the Columbia Icefield centuries before Europeans came to the area but the first recorded view was awarded to mountaineers Norman Collie and Hermann Woolley. On their ascent of Mount Athabasca in 1898, Collie wrote...

A new world was spread out at our feet: to the westward stretched a vast icefield... bending over in those unknown valleys glowing with the evening light...



Glaciers form from layers of snow that remain after each summer's melt. The delicate snowflakes gradually change to hard, interlocking ice crystals. Some glacial ice in the Rockies is hundreds, possibly thousands, of years old. Beneath the crushing weight of its surface layers, a glacier becomes elastic and flows slowly downhill like a river of taffy. The Athabasca Glacier moves forward 15–20m per year in the lower part but much faster, up to 127m per year, in the upper part where it tumbles down from the Columbia Icefield like a waterfall of ice. At the lower end of a glacier, the ice melts back while the glacier moves forward. During hot, dry summers the rate of melting increases and the glacier melts back faster than the forward ice flow, so the toe retreats. In a period of cool, cloudy summers, the rate of melting decreases and the toe gains ground. The glacier advances.



Road Builders

In 1931, the government of Canada put hundreds of unemployed men to work in building mountaineer A.O. Wheeler's "wonder trail" through the heart of the Canadian Rockies. The men were paid twenty cents a day. Using picks, shovels and horses—for mechanized equipment the crews had only a few small tractors—these hardy folks hacked a single-lane



gravel track from Lake Louise to Jasper. The "B-J" ("Banff-Jasper") road opened quietly in 1940, while the country was at war. With the auto-tourist boom of the 1950s and 1960s came widening, paving and realignment. The official name is now "The Icefields Parkway."



Bear!

Grizzlies, black bears, coyotes, wolves, elk, deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep...you are travelling right through their habitat so there's a good chance of seeing these animals from the parkway. This means it's important to drive very carefully: scan for animals at roadside; be extra cautious at sunrise and sunset, when animals are most active and respect the park's slower speed limits (70–90 km/h).

If you come across a traffic jam caused by roadside wildlife, please slow down and be alert to traffic in front of and behind you. Never stop in the middle of the road and pull over onto the shoulder only if it is safe to do so.

Keep the Wild in Wildlife!

When animals get used to humans, they lose their wildness. Too many people harass park animals unintentionally by getting too close and pursuing them for photos. Please keep your distance. How close is too close? Stay back at least 30 metres (the length of three buses) from most animals and stay in your vehicle if you see a bear. National parks are here to protect wildlife, not to stress these magnificent residents. The best thing you can do for the animal? Take a quick look and keep driving.

Never, ever feed wildlife. Human food isn't good for them. But they'll hang out on the highway to get it, with predictably fatal results. Feeding wildlife is unlawful in national parks.



A Snapshot Of Mountain Life

The Icefields Parkway climbs from the low valleys nearly to treeline, so you'll get a good look at all three life zones in the Canadian Rockies: the meadowy, piney montane valley floor around Jasper, elevation 1000–1500m; the thick spruce and fir forests of the subalpine zone, elevation 1500–2200m, and the treeless alpine zone above 2200m, which the parkway almost reaches at Bow Summit and Sunwapta Pass.

Here's how you can tell when you're passing from montane elevations up to subalpine elevations and back. Watch for aspens: whitebarked trees with small leaves that tremble in the slightest breeze. Aspens are common at montane elevations but they don't grow higher up, in the subalpine forest.

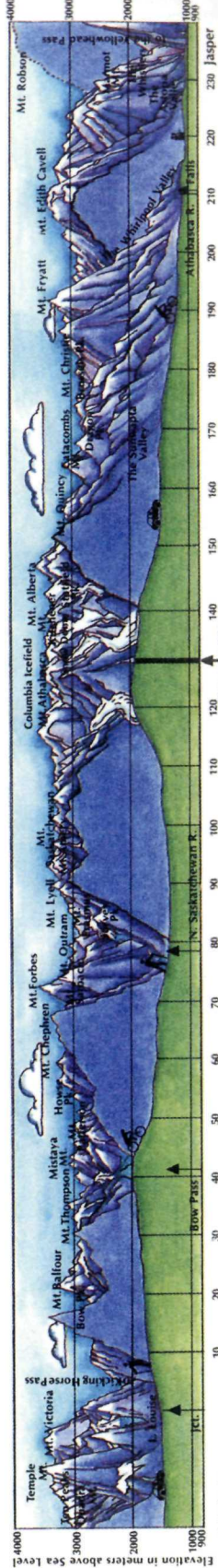
Few park visitors realize how much of the Canadian Rockies is at or above the treeline: about half. Life is harsh up there on the tundra, where the wind seldom stops and snow can fall in mid-summer. Yet for many mountain animals the alpine zone is home. You may see marmots in the meadows, pikas in the boulderfields and ptarmigans almost anywhere that's high and wild. If many visitors underestimate the extent of the alpine life zone, many more overestimate the extent of the montane life zone. It represents only about 5–10 percent of the mountain parks. Yet these valley floors are critical habitat for elk, deer, bighorn sheep, wolves and other animals. Now where do you suppose we have built our roads, railways and towns in the

Rockies? Yes, in that scarce montane habitat. These days, we must be extra-careful in how we share it with the other living things that depend on it for survival.

Winter Safety

Top up your tank before driving the parkway in winter. From mid-November until mid-March there is no fuel available between Jasper and Lake Louise and traffic is light. Proper tires are important. Bring warm clothing in case of breakdown and check the road reports before you leave; snowslides can cause closures. There is no patrol or maintenance after 4:30 pm in the winter.

In case of emergency, call 911 from any public phone (see map for phone locations along the route).





the coolest summer attraction

Travel onto the surface of the spectacular Athabasca Glacier on a specially designed Ice Explorer. Open mid-April to mid-October. Located on the Icefields Parkway - just 1 hour from Jasper and 2.5 hours from Banff.

columbia icefield
glacier adventure

EXPLORE Book your ticket today!
ExploreRockies.com | 1.877.423.7433



Icefields Parkway Points of Interest

KM FROM JASPER	KM FROM TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY	Points of Interest
0	230	JASPER TOWNSITE ? 🏠 🚰 📞 RCMP
2	228	▲ Whistlers (May to October) 📞 🏠 Jasper International 🚃 Jasper Tramway (April to November)
4	226	▲ Wapiti (Summer and Winter) 📞
6	224	Junction with Highway 93A Access to: Marmot Basin Ski Area, Mount Edith Cavell Road (mid June to mid October: viewpoints, hiking, 🏠, 🚰, Tonquin Valley) and ▲ Wabasso. Rejoins parkway at Athabasca Falls.
9	221	🚰 Valley of Five Lakes 📞
14	216	🚰 Wabasso Lake
25	205	🚰 Whirlpool Valley, Mount Hardisty, Mount Kerkeslin and Mount Edith Cavell
27	203	🚰 Horseshoe Lake
30	200	Athabasca Falls 🚰 📞 Junction with Hwy 93A
32	198	🏠 Athabasca Falls 📞
34	196	▲ Mount Kerkeslin 📞
37	193	🚰 Goats and Glaciers
38	192	🚰 Mount Fryatt
41	189	🚰 Mount Christie
49	181	🚰 Mount Christie
50	180	▲ Honeymoon Lake
52	178	🚰 Buck and Osprey Lakes 📞
54	176	Sunwapta Falls Junction 📞 Services: 🏠 (mid-May to mid-Oct) Road to Sunwapta Falls: 15 minute walk to lower falls 🚰 📞
60	170	🚰 Bubbling Springs 📞
72	158	🚰 Poboktan Creek 📞
74	156	Jonas Creek Rockslide
77	153	▲ Jonas Creek 📞
84	146	🚰 Mushroom and Diadem Peaks
85	145	🏠 Beauty Creek 📞
87	143	🚰 Beauty Creek
94	136	🚰 Stutfield Glacier
96	134	🚰 Tangle Falls. Watch for sheep!
97	133	🚰 Sunwapta Canyon, Mount Kitchener
103	127	ICEFIELD CENTRE (Apr 15 to Oct 15) Services: Parks Canada Information and Exhibits, Brewster Ice Explorer tours and guided icewalks ? 🏠 📞 ▲ (RV only)
104	126	▲ Columbia Icefield 📞
106	124	▲ Wilcox Creek 📞 🚰 Wilcox Pass
108	122	Sunwapta Pass Boundary between Banff and Jasper national parks
111	119	🏠 Hilda Creek
112	118	🚰 Parker Ridge
116	114	🚰 Nigel Pass
117	113	🚰 Bridal Veil Falls
117	113	🚰 North Saskatchewan River, Cirrus Mountain
119	111	🚰 Saskatchewan Glacier
124	106	🚰 Weeping Wall
129	101	🚰 Alexandra Trail, Castleguard Meadows, Thompson Pass
131	99	🚰 Coleman Creek
137	93	🚰 Sunset Pass and Sunset Lookout
140	90	🚰 Mounts Amery and Saskatchewan
142	88	▲ Rampart Creek 🏠
152	78	🚰 Glacier Lake
153	77	Saskatchewan Crossing Services (mid-March to mid-November): 🏠 📞 📞 Junction with David Thompson Highway (# 11)
154	76	🚰 Howse Pass
156	74	🚰 Saskatchewan Crossing
159	71	🚰 Mistaya Canyon, Sarbach Lookout, Howse Pass
173	57	▲ Waterfowl Lake 🚰 Chephren Lake, Cirque Lake
174	56	🚰 Waterfowl Lakes, Mts. Chephren and Howse
182	48	🚰 Snowbird Glacier
190	40	Turnoff to Bow Summit area 🚰 Peyto Lake
193	37	🚰 Bow Glacier 🚰 Bow Glacier Falls Turnoff for services: 🏠 📞
196	34	🚰 Bow Lake 🚰
197	33	🚰 Crowfoot Glacier 🚰 Helen and Katherine Lakes, Dolomite Pass
206	24	▲ Mosquito Creek 🏠 🚰 Molar Pass
212	18	🚰 Hector Lake
214	16	🚰 Hector Lake
227	3	🚰 Herbert Lake
230	0	Junction: Trans-Canada Highway and Icefields Parkway LAKE LOUISE : 2 km (? 🏠 🚰 📞 RCMP) BANFF : 59 km

ATTENTION!

Caribou next 20 km Caribou sur 20 km

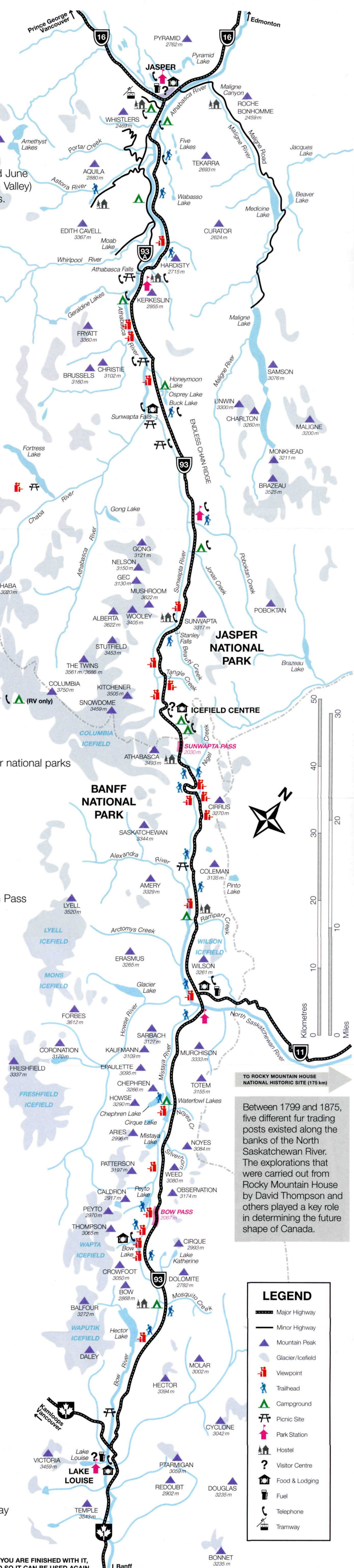
Park roadways intersect important travel corridors for wildlife. You can help prevent road kills by **driving for wildlife**:

- Stay alert and scan the road ahead.
- Look for shining eyes at night.
- When you see one animal, watch for others.
- Obey posted speed limits. They usually indicate animal crossing areas.
- Pay special attention during dawn and dusk.

Between 1799 and 1875, five different fur trading posts existed along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. The explorations that were carried out from Rocky Mountain House by David Thompson and others played a key role in determining the future shape of Canada.

LEGEND

- Major Highway
- Minor Highway
- Mountain Peak
- Glacier/Icefield
- Viewpoint
- Trailhead
- Campground
- Picnic Site
- Park Station
- Hostel
- Visitor Centre
- Food & Lodging
- Fuel
- Telephone
- Tramway



YOU ARE WELCOME TO TAKE THIS BROCHURE HOME AS A SOUVENIR BUT IF YOU ARE FINISHED WITH IT, PLEASE DROP IT OFF AT ANY PARK INFORMATION CENTRE OR CAMPGROUND SO IT CAN BE USED AGAIN