

SUMMER ON THE ICEFIELDS PARKWAY



Grizzly Bear

Wilcox Pass

Athabasca Falls

Coyote

Peyto Lake

Bighorn Sheep

EXPLORE!

Winding 232 glorious kilometres through the heart of Jasper and Banff national parks, the Icefields Parkway has been called one of the world's most scenic drives. Around every corner, the route offers fresh wonders – from waterfalls, pristine lakes and broad sweeping valleys to ancient glaciers flowing down from the rugged mountains. Take your time to experience the many scenic stops, picnic spots and hiking trails along the way.

LOOKING FOR A VIEW FROM THE EDGE?

CHECK OUT THESE ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS:

Athabasca Glacier

A magical area that can be seen from the road, explored with a commercial guide or visited on a special bus tour. **Do not walk on the glacier; crevasses and other hazards can be deadly.**

Crowfoot Glacier

When this glacier was named a century ago, it looked like a three-toed crow's foot. Since then, one toe has melted, and the middle toe is slowly disappearing.

Herbert Lake

A photographer's favourite. The still waters of Herbert Lake provide a perfect panoramic reflection of the stunning Main Range peaks, including Mount Temple. The picnic area provides an ideal place for a picnic stop.

NEED TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS?

TRY ONE OF THESE SHORT STROLLS:

Athabasca Falls

Feel the spray of the Athabasca River as it thunders into the canyon below. Stay behind railings and on designated trails. The rock beyond is slippery and dangerous.

Sunwapta Falls

A torrent of plunging water not far from the highway, Sunwapta Falls are just one of the many waterfalls in Jasper created by hanging valleys.

Bow Summit and Peyto Lake

A short uphill walk from the parking area leads to a view of the glacial-fed, brilliantly turquoise Peyto Lake.

Bow Lake and Bow Glacier

The source of the Bow River, Bow Lake is one of the more scenic and accessible lakes for fishing.

ABOUT THE ICEFIELD

With a total area of 200 km², the Columbia Icefield is the largest mass of glacial ice in the Canadian Rockies. It feeds several large glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia and the Saskatchewan.

WHAT'S A GLACIER?

Glaciers form where more snow falls in winter than melts each summer. As the snow gets thicker and heavier, it compacts into dense glacial ice that slowly flows downhill, like a river of taffy.

GLACIERS AND RIVERS

Water flows to three different oceans from this area, known as a hydrological apex. On the British Columbia side, meltwater flows into the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. On the Alberta side, the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers feed into the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, respectively. These rivers provide fresh drinking water for millions of people, and are crucial to agriculture and countless ecosystems. That's why their source is protected in a national park.

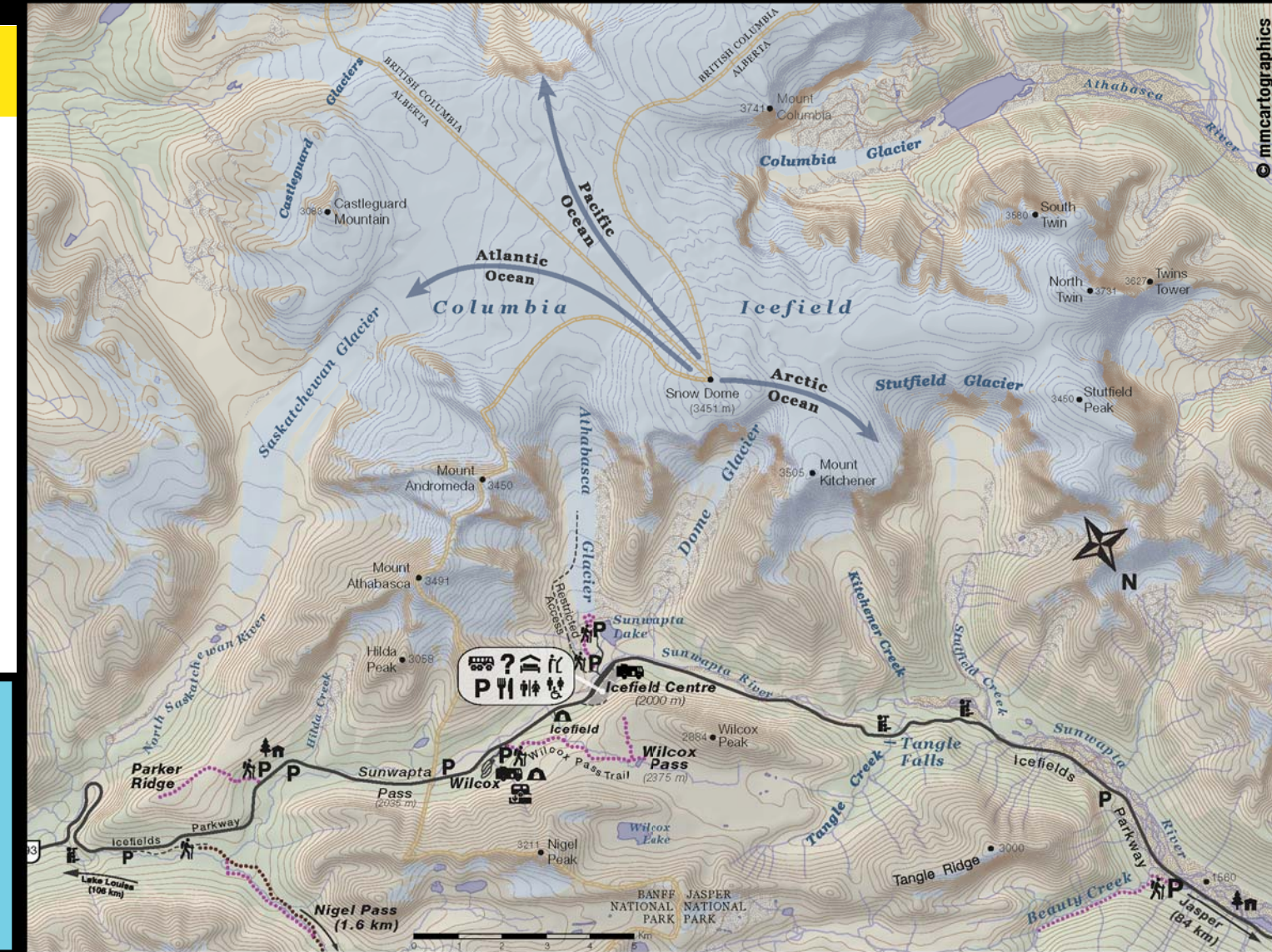


Mountain Goat

WILDLIFE

Wildlife sightings are one of many reasons the Icefields Parkway is known as the best drive in the world. Bears, sheep, wolves and even elusive caribou are often spotted on the roadsides—keep your eyes open and drive slowly, especially early morning and evening.

NEVER APPROACH OR FEED WILDLIFE.



MORE INFORMATION

JASPER INFORMATION CENTRE: 780-852-6176

LAKE LOUISE VISITOR CENTRE: 403-522-3833

BANFF VISITOR CENTRE: 403-762-1550

pc.gc.ca/jasper

pc.gc.ca/banff

CHECK THE ROAD CONDITIONS AND THE WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOWN:

ROAD CONDITIONS: Call 511 • alberta511.ca

WEATHER FORECAST

Banff 403-762-2088 • Jasper 780-852-3185

weather.gc.ca • Visit an information centre

BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION

Research and plan overnight trips, including potential trail restrictions and closures, avalanche conditions and mandatory backcountry permits.

pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry

pc.gc.ca/banff-backcountry

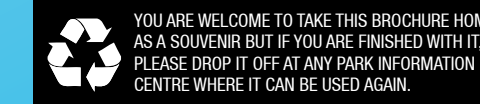
TRAIL REPORTS

pc.gc.ca/jaspertrails

pc.gc.ca/banfftrails

YOUR PARKS PASS

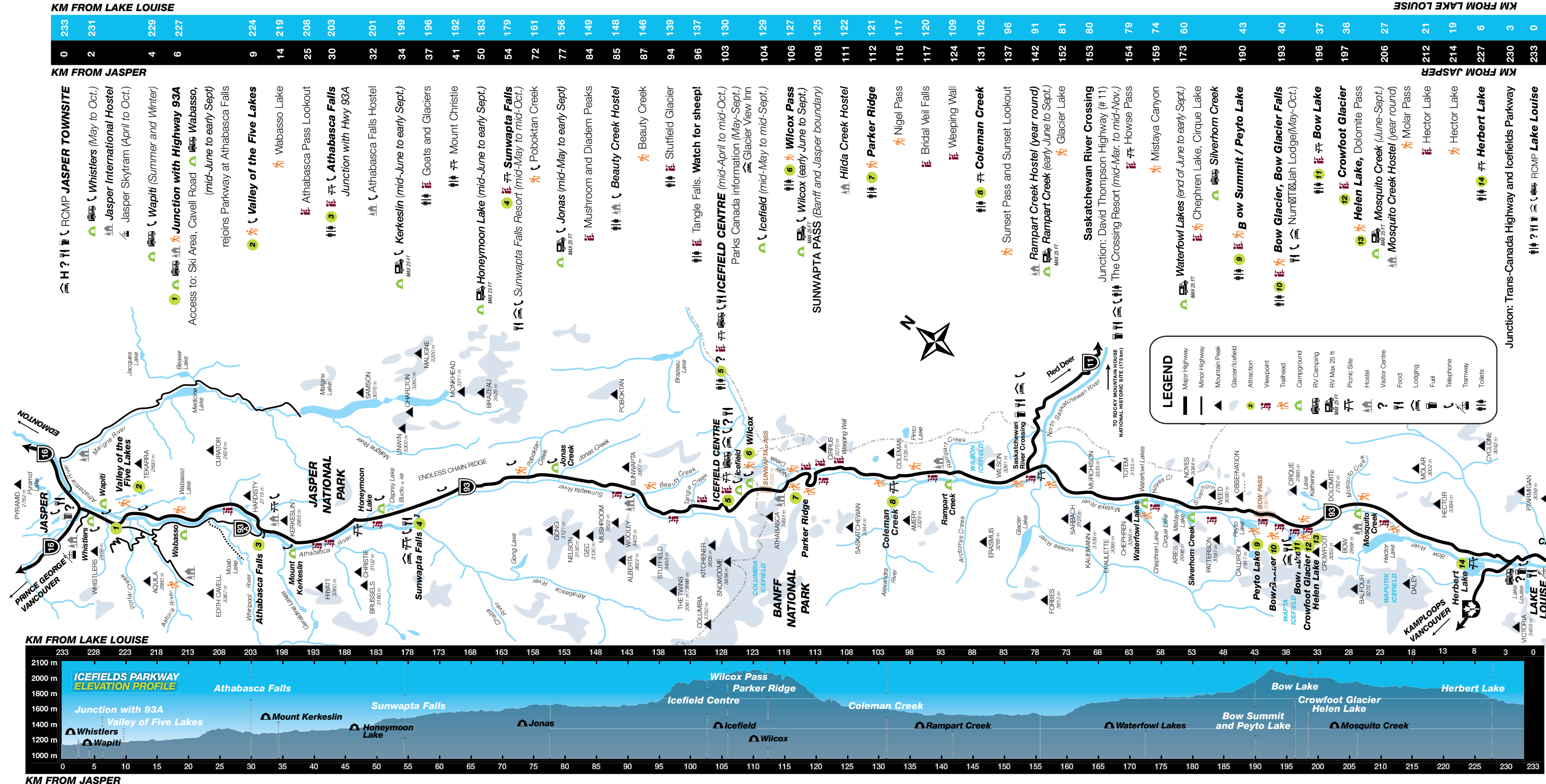
The Icefields Parkway was built by Parks Canada as a scenic drive to showcase the powerful natural landscape of Jasper and Banff national parks. A valid national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway. Revenues from pass sales support maintenance, plowing, sanding and avalanche control. If you're a frequent visitor to Canada's national parks and historic sites, consider purchasing a Discovery Pass for unlimited access to many of Canada's extraordinary treasures. Details and fees are listed at: pc.gc.ca/jasperfees.



© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada
Catalogue No: R64-442/2015E
ISBN: 978-1-100-25779-2

Également offert en français

THE ICEFIELDS PARKWAY Driving Guide



LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

STEP INTO THE WILD WITH ONE OF THESE CLASSIC DAY HIKES:

Valley of the Five Lakes
 4.5 km loop; 66 m elevation gain/loss; 2 hours
 Trailhead: 9 km south from Jasper on Highway 93
 Five small, brilliantly blue-green lakes are the highlights of this outing, considered a local family favourite.

Wilcox Pass
 2.4 km (1 hr) return to first viewpoint, 8 km (2-3 hrs) return to the pass
 Trailhead: 3 km south of Icefield Centre at Wilcox Campground
 Rise quickly above treeline to the expansive meadows of this glacier-carved landscape.

Parker Ridge
 5.4 km return; 250 m elevation gain/loss; 3 hr round trip
 Trailhead: 9 km south of the Icefield Centre
 After a series of switchbacks you'll be rewarded with dramatic views of the Saskatchewan Glacier.

Helen Lake
 6.0 km one way; 455 m elevation gain; 4 to 5 hr round trip
 Trailhead: across from Crowfoot Glacier Viewpoint
 A breathtaking lake in a valley abounding with alpine wildlife and grand vistas.

TIME FOR LUNCH?

Coleman Creek
 Sit next to the edge of the water and listen to the relaxing gurgle of the river. Look for mountain goats on the cliffs.

Bow Lake
 Enjoy your lunch at one of the most breathtaking lakes in the Rockies. The vibrant blue colour set against a magnificent mountain backdrop is sure to dazzle you.

Photo: R. Guys