

Parks Parcs
Canada Canada



### **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 crowsfoot. 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?**

### 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 is just one of the many waterfalls in Jasper created by hanging valleys.

### MISTAYA CANYON

Enjoy a short downhill walk and peer down into Mistaya Canyon from the bridge. Witness the power of water sculpting the limestone gorge.

### **BOW LAKE AND BOW GLACIER**

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

### M. Bradley **Bighorn sheep** R. Gruys Coyote

### Wildlife

Wildlife sightings are one of many reasons the Icefields Parkway is known as one of the best drives 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.

### **About the Columbia Icefield**

With a total area of 200 km<sup>2</sup>, the Columbia Icefield is the largest mass of glacial ice in the Canadian Rockies. It feeds several large glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia,

### 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.

weather forecast before you leave town: **ROAD CONDITIONS** Call 511 alberta511.ca

Check the road conditions and the

### **WEATHER FORECAST**

More information

Banff National Park: 403-762-2088 Jasper National Park: 780-852-3185 weather.gc.ca Visit an information centre

Jasper Information Centre: 780-852-6176 Lake Louise Visitor Centre: 403-522-3833 Banff Visitor Centre: 403-762-1550 parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper parkscanada.gc.ca/banff

### **BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION**

Research and plan overnight trips, including potential trail restrictions and closures, avalanche conditions, and mandatory backcountry permits. parkscanada.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry parkscanada.gc.ca/banff-backcountry

### TRAIL REPORTS

parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails parkscanada.gc.ca/banfftrails

### **Supporting parks**

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 Parks Canada Discovery Pass for unlimited access to many of Canada's extraordinary treasures.



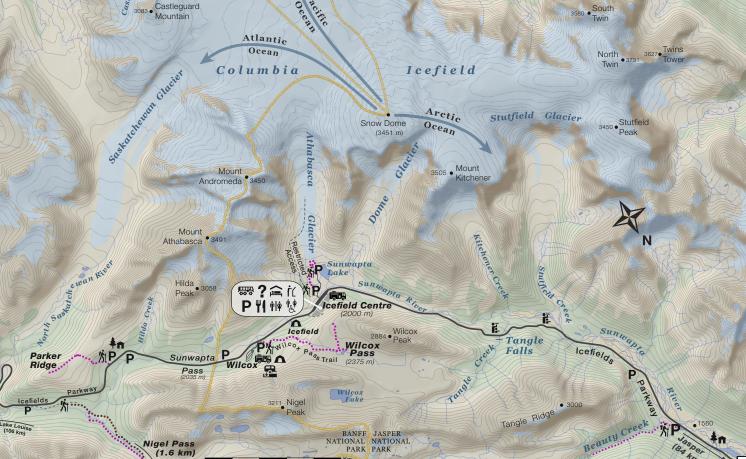
You are welcome to take this brochure home as a souvenir but if you are finished with it, please drop it off at any park information centre where it can be used again.



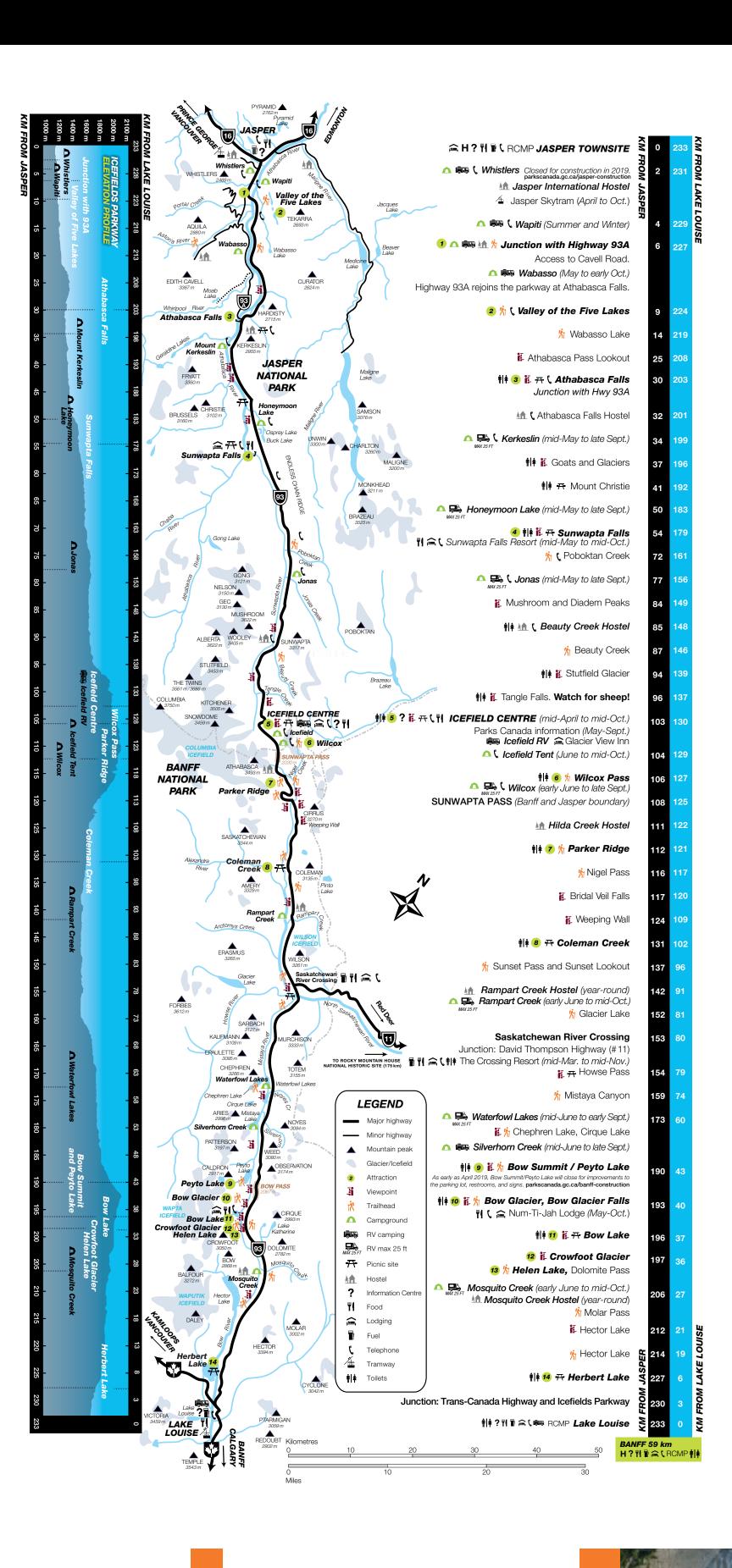
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and the Saskatchewan.



### THE ICEFIELDS PARKWAY DRIVING GUIDE



### Time for lunch?

alpine wildlife and grand vistas.

A breathtaking lake in a valley abounding with

6.0 km one way; 455 m elevation gain; 4 to 5 hr round trip

Trailhead: across from Crowfoot Glacier Viewpoint

5.4 km return; 250 m elevation gain/loss; 3 hr round trip

Trailhead: 9 km south of the Icefield Centre

with dramatic views of the Saskatchewan Glacier.

After a series of switchbacks you'll be rewarded

PARKER RIDGE

2.4 km (1 hr) return to first viewpoint, 8 km (2-3 hrs) return to the

Trailhead: 3 km south of Icefield Centre at Wilcox Campground

meadows of this glacier-carved landscape. Rise quickly above treeline to the expansive 4.5 km loop; 66 m elevation gain/loss; 2 hours

Trailhead: 9 km south from Jasper on Highway 93

WILCOX PASS

highlights of this outing, considered a local Five small, brilliantly blue-green lakes are the Step into the wild with one of these classic day hikes:

VALLEY OF THE FIVE LAKES

## Visit one of our scenic picnic sites:

Sit next to the edge of the water and listen to the relaxing gurgle of the river. Look for mountain goats COLEMAN CREEK

on the cliffs.

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

# \_ooking for adventure?