



# Summer on the Icefields Parkway



Wilcox Pass A. ZierVogel Athabasca Falls A. ZierVogel Bow Lake P. Zizka

## 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.

Également offert en français



P. Zizka

## 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 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.



Grizzly bear M. Bradley Bighorn sheep R. Gruys Coyote R. Gruys

## 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

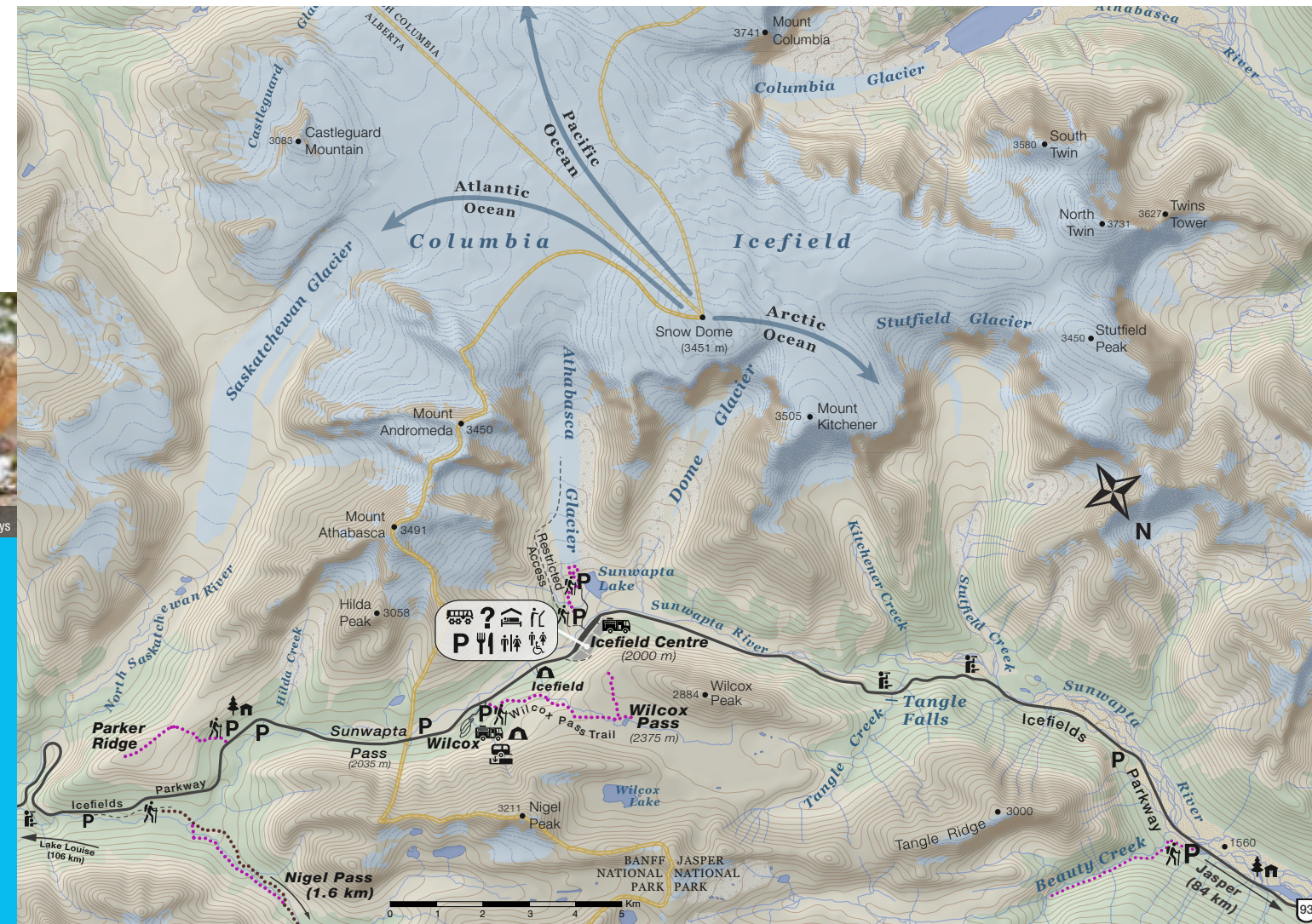
With a total area of 200 km<sup>2</sup>, the Columbia Icefield is the largest mass of glacial ice in the Canadian Rockies. It feeds several large glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia, and the Saskatchewan.

### 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.



## More information

Check the road conditions and the weather forecast before you leave town:

### ROAD CONDITIONS

Call 511  
alberta511.ca

### WEATHER FORECAST

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.



