

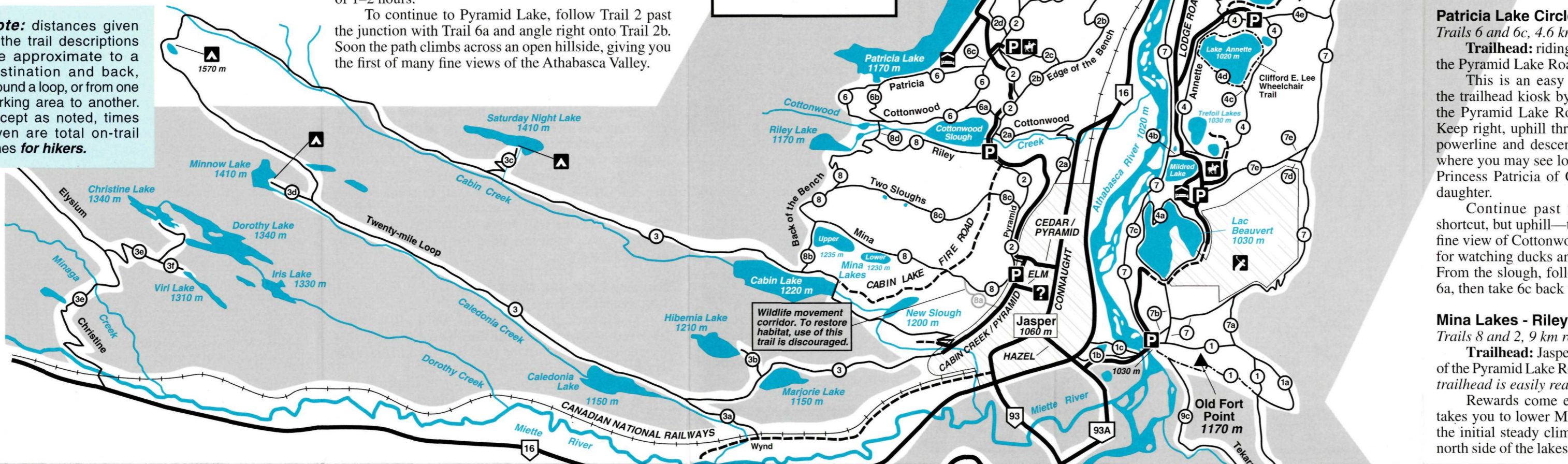
Hike, bike and ride in a great national park

Elk, bison, bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goats and caribou must have established their own pathways in Jasper National Park long before humans arrived in the Canadian Rockies about 11,000 years ago. Aboriginal peoples discovered and used these hoofed-animal trails. In the 1800s, non-native explorers, fur-company employees, railway surveyors and settlers followed.

The park was founded in 1907. Since then, its natural trail network has been expanded and maintained for the benefit of everyone wanting to experience Jasper's wildlands. Whether you're strolling the short Mary Schaffer Loop, hiking all day in the Bald Hills, mountain-biking the Wabasso Trail or riding a horse near Pyramid Lake, there is something in this guide for you.

A few of Jasper's trails are restricted to pedestrians, but much of the network is shared by hikers, mountain-bikers, equestrians and wildlife. We'd like to keep it that way. You can help by following the rules of courtesy and wildlife protection found in the colored boxes in this guide.

Note: distances given in the trail descriptions are approximate to a destination and back, around a loop, or from one parking area to another. Except as noted, times given are total on-trail times for hikers.



This edition of *Summer Trails* was published in 2002. For the latest version, stop by the Park Information Centre. Also available at some local businesses.

Patricia Lake Circle

Trails 6 and 6c, 4.6 km return (2–3 hours)
Trailhead: riding-stables parking area at km 3.5 on the Pyramid Lake Road, or hike Trail 2 from town. This is an easy trail with moderate hills. From the trailhead kiosk by the stables, take Trail 6c across the Pyramid Lake Road to the junction with Trail 6. Keep right, uphill through aspen groves. Pass under a powerline and descend to the shore of Patricia Lake, where you may see loons. Patricia Lake was named for Princess Patricia of Connaught, a governor-general's daughter.

Continue past the junction with Trail 6b—a shortcut, but uphill—to reach Cottonwood Creek and a fine view of Cottonwood Slough. This is a favorite spot for watching ducks and beavers. You may see a moose. From the slough, follow Trail 6 past the junction with 6a, then take 6c back to the stables parking lot.

Mina Lakes - Riley Lake Loop

Trails 8 and 2, 9 km return (3–4 hours)
Trailhead: Jasper Activity Centre lot, near the start of the Pyramid Lake Road. Follow Trail 8 to the left. *This trailhead is easily reached on foot from town.* Rewards come early on this popular trail, which takes you to lower Mina Lake in less than 2 km. After the initial steady climb of 160 m, the trail follows the north side of the lakes (locally pronounced “MINE-uh,”

- ### All trail users please note
- *Share the trail.* Treat other users with courtesy and respect.
 - *Stay on the trail.* Short-cutting and going around mudholes or snow damages trail-side vegetation.
 - Choose a trail that matches your ability. Reading this guide will help, as will asking park staff or outdoor-shop employees.
 - Some trails are restricted to pedestrians only.
 - Creating new trails without authorization is not allowed.
 - Be prepared! Jasper National Park is a wilderness area. *Caution and self-reliance are essential.*

- ### Mountain-bikers —
- Please avoid skidding. Locking your brakes causes severe erosion.
 - When approaching other trail users, slow down. When passing from behind, sound your bike bell or call out well in advance, and ask to pass.
 - *Pedestrians and horses have the right of way.* When horses approach, you should stop, move your bike off the lower side of the trail and wait there until they pass by.

- ### National-park basics
- Motorized vehicles on public roads only
 - Pack out litter
 - Leash your pet
 - Keep food away from wildlife
 - No picking or collecting

significance unknown), where you may see Barrow's goldeneye ducks and loons. Past upper Mina Lake you can shortcut back to town via Trail 8c. To reach Riley Lake, small but scenic, continue on Trail 8, following it along the south shore of Cottonwood Slough. At the junction with Trail 2, turn right to get back to Jasper.

Across the river

These trail routes lie on the east side of the Athabasca River, across from town. Reach them by going east on Highway 93A to the Moberly Bridge, or south on Highway 93A for 0.6 km, then left to cross the river on the Old Fort Point bridge.

Old Fort Point Loop

Trail 1, 3.5 km return (1–2 hours)
Trailhead: From town or from Highway 16, follow Highway 93A to the Old Fort Point/Lac Beauvert access road. Turn left, cross the Athabasca River on the old iron bridge, then park in the lot on the right. Distance to the trailhead from town: 1.6 km.

Old Fort Point is a prominent bedrock hill standing 130 m above the river. Rounded on its south side, cliffy on its north side, Old Fort Point is a classic *roche moutonnée*: a bedrock knob shaped by glaciers. The loop trail over the top is steep in places, but it provides an excellent view of Jasper and its surroundings.

The name “Old Fort” probably refers to Henry House, a North West Company cabin built near here in 1811, now gone but commemorated as a National Historic Site.

The quickest route to the big view at the top of the hill is up the stairs that start by the cliff. (The stairs lead to a Canadian Heritage Rivers plaque about the Athabasca.) But it's a steep climb. Instead, we recommend the wide, easy path that begins behind the trail information kiosk. Follow Trail 1 up a short hill and on through the woods.

At 1.3 km you climb a very steep section—30 m of elevation gain in a short distance—beside an outcrop of the oldest rock in Jasper National Park. The layer is Precambrian, about 750 million years old. Take a close look at this unusual rock. It's *breccia*, made of angular chunks of pink limestone.

Here's what you can see from the top of Old Fort Point on a good day, viewing clockwise: Mt. Edith Cavell (always snow-streaked) to the south, The Whistlers (mountain with the tramway terminal near the top) to the southwest, the valley of the Miette River leading west toward Yellowhead Pass and B.C., the town of Jasper across the Athabasca River, the reddish quartzite of the Victoria Cross Range to the northwest beyond the town (the peak with a microwave relay station on top is Pyramid Mountain), Lac Beauvert and Jasper Park Lodge to the north (other lakes visible northward: Annette and Edith), the gray limestone of the Colin Range to the northeast, rounded Signal Mountain and the cliffs of Mt. Tekarra to the east, and to the southeast, Mt. Hardisty (sloping layers) and Mt. Kerkeslin (layers bowed gently down).

Jasper Park Lodge to Maligne Canyon

Trails 7e and 7, 7 km one way (2–3 hours)
Trailhead: Visitor parking at Jasper Park Lodge. This is a long route, mainly in the woods, with a fair bit of uphill. It's used mostly by cyclists. From the northeast corner of the parking lot, follow the yellow “7e” markers to the junction with Trail 7. Three kilometres of easy walking or cycling through a mixed forest of lodgepole pine, spruce and old-growth Douglas-fir brings you to a marsh near a junction with the Lake Edith gated road. Stay on Trail 7 as it swings right and begins the climb to the upper parking lot at Maligne Canyon.

From Maligne Canyon, cyclists can use Trail 7h to bypass the hiker-only section of Trail 7. Horses should take Trail 7f. Both can rejoin 7 and follow it to Sixth Bridge. The route loops back to Jasper Park Lodge along the Athabasca River. Total loop distance: 16 km.

Maligne Canyon

Trails 7g and 7, 2.1 km one way (1–2 hours)
Trailhead: Fifth Bridge, 8 km east of Jasper via Highway 16 and the Maligne Road.

The Maligne Canyon section of Trail 7 provides the best views of Jasper's famous limestone gorge. Cross the suspension bridge over the Maligne River and keep right at all intersections as you work your way up the canyon, gaining 100 m. (You can start at the top and walk *down* the canyon trail, but the views are better if you're facing up-canyon.) Water gushes from springs along the way; interpretive signs explain how Maligne Canyon is connected to Medicine Lake, 15 km away, by a cave system.

Keep right at Second Bridge, leaving Trail 7 to follow the short un-numbered interpretive path past the spectacular waterfall at the head of the canyon to the main parking lot.

Looking for a paved path?

Lake Annette Loop (Clifford E. Lee Wheelchair Trail)

Trail 4b, 2.4 km
Trailhead: take Highway 16 east for 1.9 km and turn right onto the Maligne Road. Angle right onto Lodge Road, then turn left at the sign for Lake Annette. Keep right at major intersections to reach the western parking lot for the Lake Annette picnic area. The trail begins on the right side of the lot.

This short loop trail is paved and mostly level, designed especially for wheelchair use. Bicycles are not allowed. There are wheelchair-accessible toilets at two locations, and there's a shelter halfway round the loop. Signs placed at wheelchair height explain the scenery.

Close to Jasper

The trail routes described below are on the **Pyramid Bench**, a lake-dotted terrace adjacent to Jasper.

If you have no transportation, please note that these trails are easily reached on foot from town.

Cottonwood Creek and Pyramid Lake loops

Trails 2 and 2a, 3.8 km return (1–2 hours) or 2 and 2b, 17.4 km return (5–7 hours)
Trailheads: Jasper Activity Centre parking lot (in town, near start of Pyramid Lake Road), Cottonwood Slough parking lot (2 km up Pyramid Lake Road), Pyramid Stables (3.5 km) or Pyramid Lake (end of road).

From town, Trail 2 begins with a steady climb of 60 m onto the Pyramid Bench, with a good view of the town along the way. Crossing the gated road to Cabin Lake, Trail 2 continues to the Cottonwood Slough parking lot and crosses the Pyramid Lake Road. Shortly past Cottonwood Creek, you reach a junction with Trail 2a. Turning right onto 2a takes you back to the north end of town along the creek, for a short walk of 1–2 hours.

To continue to Pyramid Lake, follow Trail 2 past the junction with Trail 6a and angle right onto Trail 2b. Soon the path climbs across an open hillside, giving you the first of many fine views of the Athabasca Valley.

South of town

To reach these trails, take Highway 93 (the Icefields Parkway) south toward Lake Louise.

Valley of the Five Lakes

Trails 9a and 9b, 4.2 km return (2–3 hours)
Trailhead: 9 km south on Highway 93.

The five small lakes are the highlights of this outing, which is a popular family hike. Trail 9a begins with an easy walk through a forest of lodgepole pine, reaching a boardwalk across the Wabasso Creek wetlands in the first kilometre. Watch for beavers. Beyond, the trail climbs across a flowery meadow to a junction. Continue on Trail 9a to reach Fifth Lake, with its small island and nesting loons. Watch for 9a markers leading left toward Fourth Lake, Third and Second, each a different depth and thus a different hue of bluegreen. Between Second and First lakes turn left onto Trail 9b and follow it to close the loop. Or keep going north to Old Fort Point, 10 km farther via trails 9a, 9 and 1, mostly in the woods. **Note:** Trail 9 is heavily used by cyclists.

Wabasso Lake or Wabasso - Five Lakes

Trail 9, 6.2 km (half-day) or 11 km (full-day)
Trailhead: 14.6 km south on Highway 93.

This trail crosses several low ridges, with a fine view from the last ridge across the Athabasca Valley to Mt. Edith Cavell and the reddish quartzite peaks north of it. Wabasso Lake was created by beavers. You can see their long, high dam at the northeast corner of the lake.

For a longer walk, follow Trail 9 around the lakeshore and 6 km north along grassy Wabasso Creek to the junction with Trail 9a (Five Lakes). It's less than a kilometre back to the highway from here.

Cyclists: a local favorite ride is to do Trail 9 in its entirety, from Wabasso Lake to Old Fort Point, 21 km.

West and southwest

West of Jasper, the Miette River borders a continuation of the Pyramid Bench, with more lakes.

Caledonia Lake and the Twenty-mile Loop

Trail 3, 4.2 km to Caledonia Lake and back (2–3 hours) or 24.6 km total (7–9 hours)
Trailhead: along Cabin Creek Road near the west end of Jasper, watch for an unpaved road branching to the right. The trailhead kiosk is a short way up, by the gate.

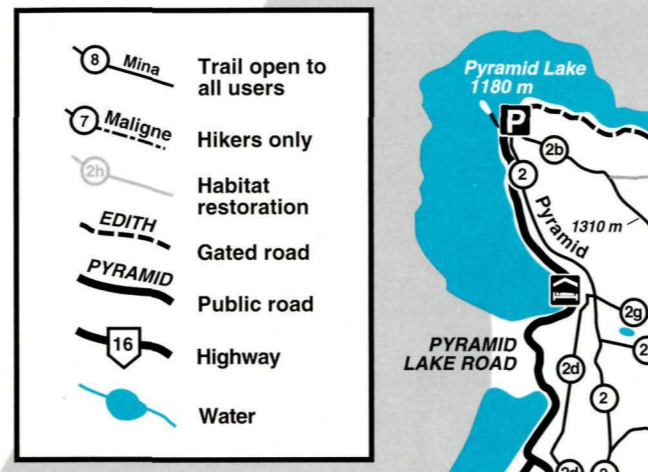
Trail 2b follows the edge of the Pyramid Bench for 2 km. You may see bighorn sheep grazing on the grassy slopes below you. The forest is mostly old-growth Douglas-fir, an evergreen easily identified by its furrowed bark.

After the junction with Trail 2h, Trail 2b begins a steady climb of 120 m along a wooded ridge with

openings that offer exceptional views. This scenic section is known as the “Pyramid Overlook.” The trail descends to the Pyramid Lake parking lot, where it rejoins Trail 2.

For the return leg of the loop, follow Trail 2 beside the Pyramid Lake Road. The path goes behind a motel and through the woods for 1.5 km to the complicated

Map 1 Trails near Jasper

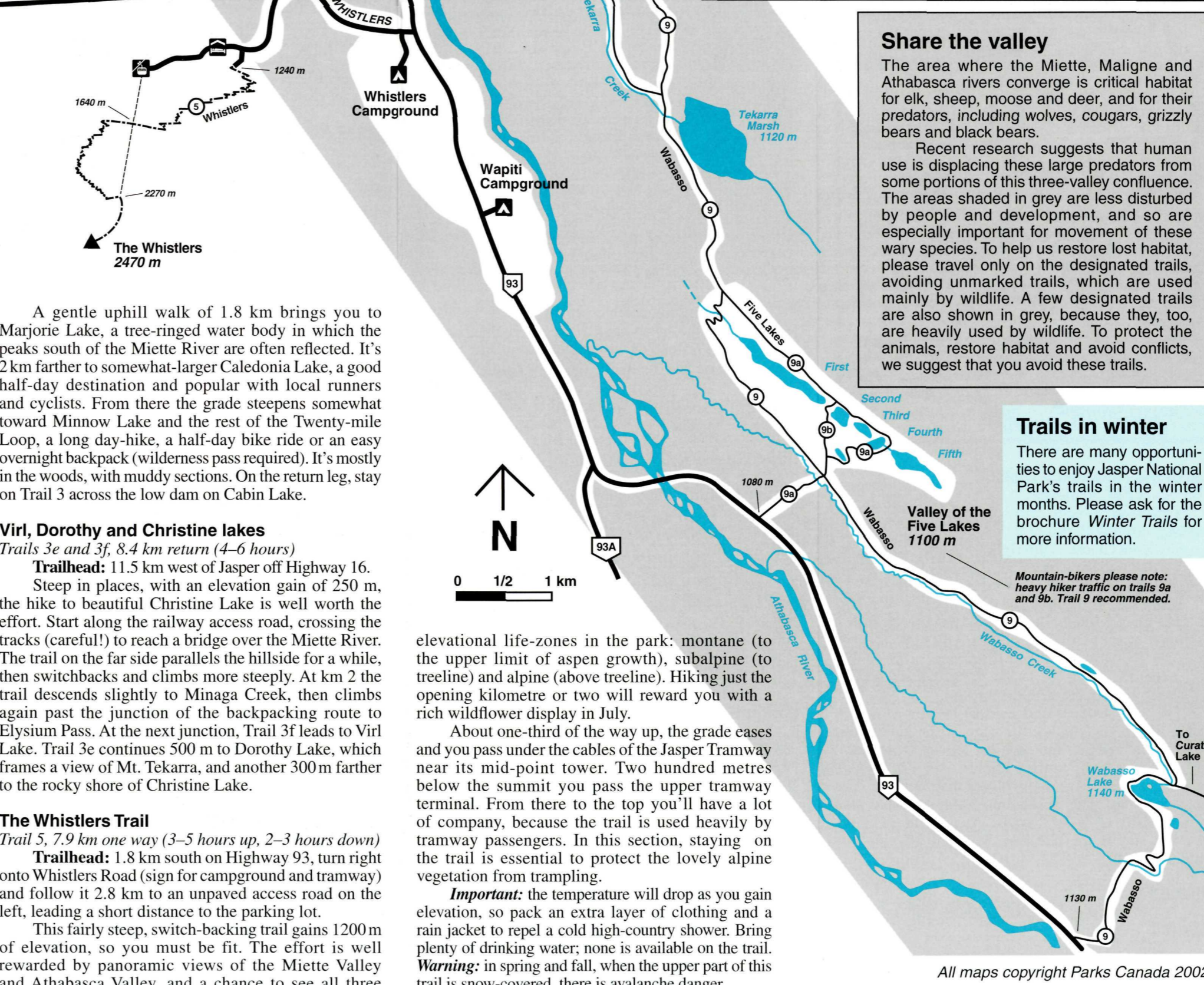


Palisades Fire Road: 10.8 km to excellent valley overlook. Long, steep climb. Bikes permitted.

Wildlife movement area: To restore habitat, use of the trails shown in grey is discouraged.

Wildlife movement corridor: To restore habitat, use of this trail is discouraged.

Signal Mountain Fire Road: Bikes permitted on first 8.5 km. Long, steep climb.



Share the valley

The area where the Miette, Maligne and Athabasca rivers converge is critical habitat for elk, sheep, moose and deer, and for their predators, including wolves, cougars, grizzly bears and black bears.

Recent research suggests that human use is displacing these large predators from some portions of this three-valley confluence. The areas shaded in grey are less disturbed by people and development, and so are especially important for movement of these wary species. To help us restore lost habitat, please travel only on the designated trails, avoiding unmarked trails, which are used mainly by wildlife. A few designated trails are also shown in grey, because they, too, are heavily used by wildlife. To protect the animals, restore habitat and avoid conflicts, we suggest that you avoid these trails.

Trails in winter

There are many opportunities to enjoy Jasper National Park's trails in the winter months. Please ask for the brochure *Winter Trails* for more information.

Mountain-bikers please note: heavy hiker traffic on trails 9a and 9b, Trail 9 recommended.

elevation life-zones in the park: montane (to the upper limit of aspen growth), subalpine (to treeline) and alpine (above treeline). Hiking just the opening kilometre or two will reward you with a rich wildflower display in July.

About one-third of the way up, the grade eases and you pass under the cables of the Jasper Tramway near its mid-point tower. Two hundred metres below the summit you pass the upper tramway terminal. From there to the top you'll have a lot of company, because the trail is used heavily by tramway passengers. In this section, staying on the trail is essential to protect the lovely alpine vegetation from trampling.

Important: the temperature will drop as you gain elevation, so pack an extra layer of clothing and a rain jacket to repel a cold high-country shower. Bring plenty of drinking water; none is available on the trail. **Warning:** in spring and fall, when the upper part of this trail is snow-covered, there is avalanche danger.

Map-signs and trail markers

To help you find your way around the town-area trail network, the Friends of Jasper National Park have provided **map-signs** at trail intersections. These signs show you exactly where you are. They are oriented such that you are looking north when standing directly in front of one.

To make extra sure you don't take a wrong turn, the Friends have also installed **numbered trail markers** at each intersection. Just look around and find the yellow marker with the number of the trail you want. You'll also find these handy trail markers at intersections with animal trails and unofficial trails, and at other places where it might be easy to lose your way.

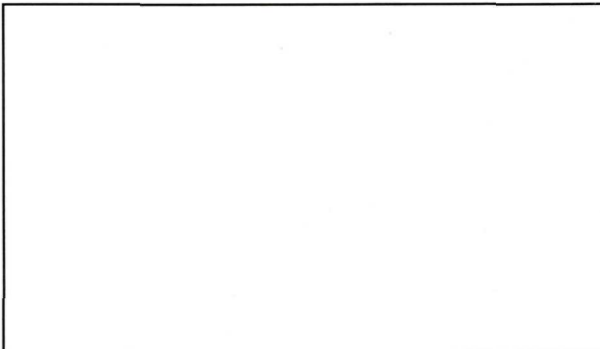
If you see a damaged sign, please report it at the Park Information Centre in Jasper.

Jasper National Park of Canada
Box 10, Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0
Information: 780-852-6176
www.parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper

Trail problems? Please report them to any park employee.

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Design, writing, maps and layout by Ben Gadd



Mountain-bikers please note: trails on this side of the brochure are not open for cycling. But there are other out-of-town places where you can ride. Ask at the Park Information Centre in Jasper, or at the park-information desk at Icefield Centre.

Map 2 Mt. Edith Cavell

The Cavell area offers fragrant subalpine forest, new growth where a glacier recently retreated from the valley, flowery alpine meadows, and spectacular views of Mt. Edith Cavell and the Angel Glacier.

To get to the trailheads, go 7 km south of Jasper on Highway 93 and turn right onto Highway 93A. Travel 5.4 km and turn right onto the Cavell Road. The 12-km road is narrow and has tight switchbacks that are unsuitable for trailers (drop-off area at the start) and large motor-homes. En route, pull-offs offer views of the lush Astoria Valley and the glaciers at its head.

Warning: throughout the Cavell area, hikers should stay on the trails and away from the cliffs, where there is danger from falling boulders and avalanches of snow and ice. Do not approach the Angel Glacier. House-size blocks of ice crash down.

Path of the Glacier Loop

1.6 km return (1–2 hours)

Trailhead: end of the Cavell Road.

This short, well-used trail takes you toward the great north face of Mt. Edith Cavell, across a rocky landscape recently covered with glacial ice. Signs explain how the area is now being recolonized by plants and animals.

Start at the far end of the parking lot, by a display about Edith Cavell herself, and take the short stairway up to the trail, which is paved at the beginning. It climbs steadily for half a kilometre to a junction near the end of the pavement. Continue straight ahead to Cavell Pond, which laps the ice of the Cavell Glacier. You may see icebergs that have fallen into the water. Across the valley the Angel Glacier rests her wings in the cirque between Mt. Edith Cavell (left) and Sorrow Peak (right). Follow the trail back along Cavell Creek to the parking lot.

Cavell Meadows Loop

8 km return (3–6 hours), elevation gain 400 m

Trailhead: see Path of the Glacier, previous item.

Take this moderately steep but well-graded trail to see classic examples of upper-subalpine forest, treeline

Map 4 Columbia Icefield

For these hikes, travel 90–120 km south from Jasper along Highway 93, the Icefields Parkway. There are no gas stations between Jasper and Saskatchewan Crossing (154 km south of Jasper), so be sure you have enough fuel.

Highlights along the way: Athabasca Falls, 31 km from Jasper; Goats and Glaciers Viewpoint, 38 km; Sunwapta Falls, 55 km; Bubbling Springs Picnic Area, 60 km; Tangle Falls, 99 km.

Rugged mountain terrain and alpine vegetation make the area around the Columbia Icefield exceptionally beautiful, but temperatures are cool and winds are often strong. Showers of cold rain are frequent, and wet snow is always a possibility, even in midsummer. Be sure to pack an extra sweater, gloves, and a jacket with a hood.

Beauty Creek and Stanley Falls

6.4 km return (2–3 hours)

Trailhead: 90 km south of Jasper, one-half kilometre past Beauty Creek Hostel, look for a small pulloff and hiker sign on the left (east) side of the highway.

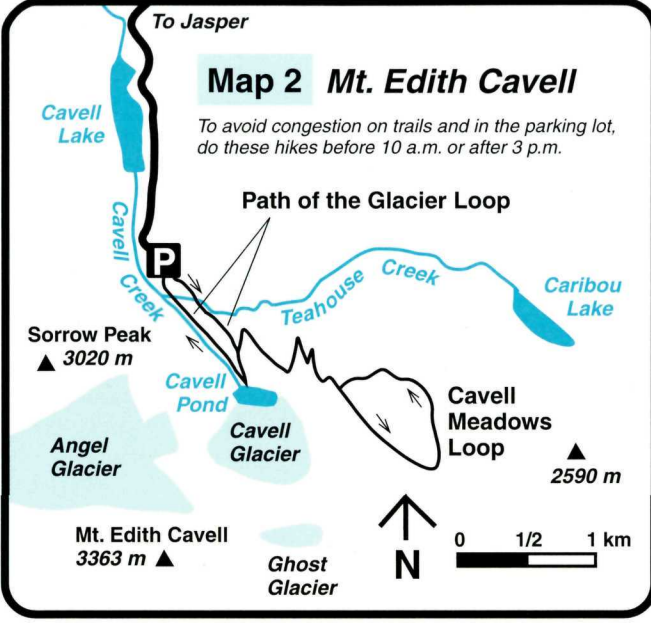
The trail follows a low dike across a wet area to the old, torn-up Banff–Jasper Highway, completed in 1940 and since realigned. Turn right and follow the old route until you reach a bridge abutment, where a rough trail branches to the left and continues along the narrow, deep limestone gorge of Beauty Creek. **Caution:** no guardrails! The trail passes by seven small waterfalls before reaching Stanley Falls, which is higher. If you see a little grey bird jumping in and out of the cold glacial water, it’s an American dipper.

Athabasca Glacier Forefield

2 km to the toe of the glacier and back (30–60 minutes)

Trailhead: 105 km south of Jasper, directly across from the Icefield Centre building, turn right onto the Athabasca Glacier access road. Park soon after, where the road turns right again, in a small lot by a gate.

The trail crosses the “forefield” of the glacier: the barren area exposed by glacial melt since the mid-1840s. It’s a strange landscape of bare rock, boulders and moraines. Conditions are extreme here, but hardy alpine plants have gained a foothold. Please help to protect them by staying on the trail. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket for crossing this rocky, breezy terrain. Be prepared to turn back: meltwater streams flow across the trail, and on warmer days they can get large enough to cause problems.



vegetation and the alpine region beyond. Along the way there are spectacular views of Angel Glacier.

The upper section of the trail is often wet and easily damaged in early summer—travel not recommended—but by mid-July you can usually count on a colorful display of mountain wildflowers. **Important:** stay on the trail, so you don’t damage the fragile tundra.

Follow the Path of the Glacier Loop to the end of the paved portion, turning hard left soon after onto the route to the meadows. Where the trail follows the edge of the bouldery moraine, watch for little gray pikas and chipmunk-like golden-mantled ground squirrels among the rocks. The trail levels out at treeline, angles left and loops back down to rejoin itself at the edge of the forest.

Map 3 Maligne Lake

At Maligne Lake you can walk the lakeshore, enjoy a forest trail or hike to the top of an easy peak. From Highway 16, turn onto the Maligne Road 1.9 km east of Jasper. The lake is at road’s end, 47 km from town. Check your fuel gauge; there are no gas stations on this road.

Opal Hills Loop

8.2 km return (4–6 hours)

Trailhead: turn left into the first parking area at the lake, then left again and uphill to reach the farthest of the three lots. The trail begins at the northeast corner.

Hikers work hard along this trail, gaining 460 m of elevation in only 3 km, but they are rewarded with spectacular views of the Maligne Valley and an abundance of alpine wildflowers.

A short distance from the parking lot the trail crosses a large, wet meadow containing several mounds. Each of these was originally a large limestone boulder, now completely shattered by freezing and thawing of water drawn up into cracks in the rock.

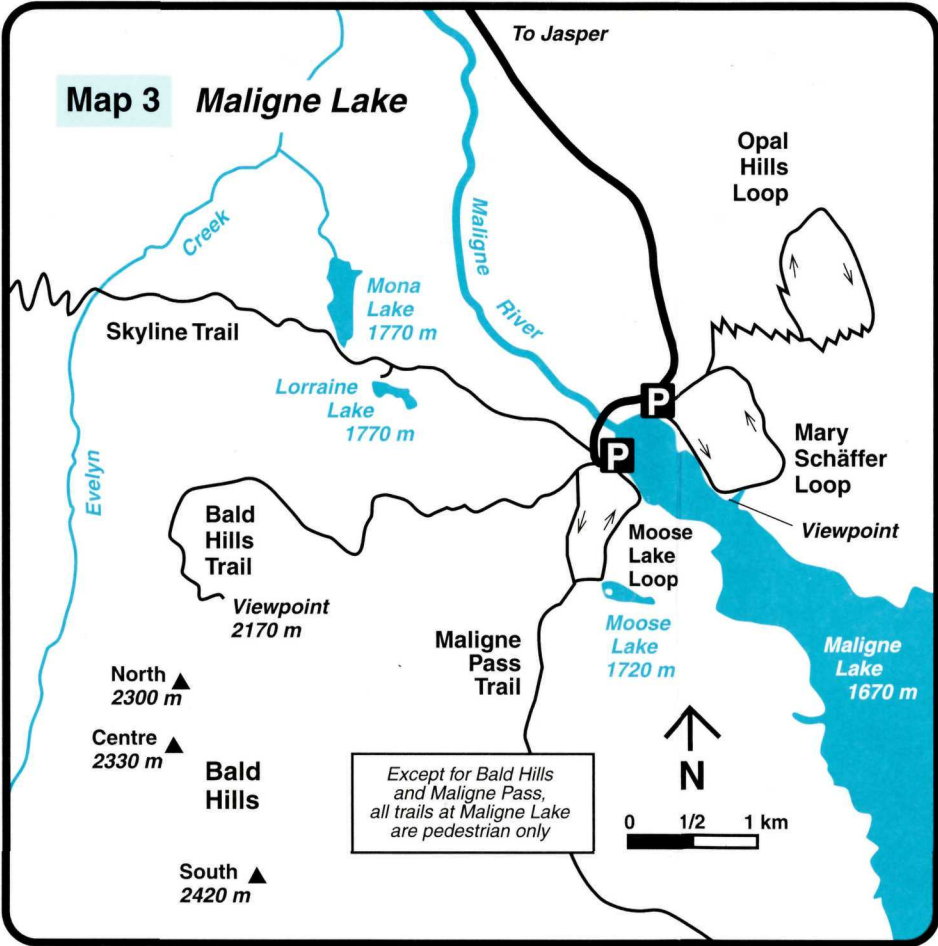
The trail climbs steeply for 1.5 km through a forest of lodgepole pine to a junction. Take the left branch (less steep) through forest and flowery subalpine glades to treeline, where the trail flattens past two hill-side piles of landslide debris from Opal Peak above. Listen for the trilling of Brewer’s sparrows, which nest in the willows here. Beyond the second pile the trail loops back to the right and steeply down to reach the junction.

Attention history buffs

Mary Schäffer Loop (“Lake Trail”)

3.2 km return (1–2 hours)

Trailhead: turn in at the first parking lot at Maligne Lake. Take any path down to the shore and follow the paved trail left.



Drinking water

Carry at least a litre of safe drinking water on any hike, two litres or more if you are going to be out all day. Tap water from Jasper is safe.

Surface water is often contaminated with *Giardia*, an intestinal parasite that can cause serious health problems. Heating water to the boiling point will kill the organism. Or use a pump-filter certified to block *Giardia* cysts.

Fishing

If you plan to fish in the park, you need a Parks Canada permit, available for a fee at information outlets, warden offices and tackle shops in Jasper. A copy of the fishing regulations summary is provided with each permit.

This trail is an easy stroll. In its first kilometre it passes Curly Phillips’s historic boathouse (interpretive sign) and reaches a viewpoint that features a set of interpretive panels about Mary Schäffer, famous for her explorations in the Canadian Rockies. In 1908 she and her guides arrived at Maligne Lake by following a map drawn for her by Stoney tribesman Samson Beaver. Outside native circles, the lake was unknown.

Leaving the shoreline, the trail passes through lichen-rich stands of pine, spruce and fragrant subalpine fir as it loops back to the parking lot.

Bald Hills

10.4 km return (4–6 hours)

Trailhead: pass by the first turnoff to the lake, go past the buildings, cross the Maligne River, go to the end of pavement and turn left into the large parking lot. The trail, which was once a “fire road” (route to a fire lookout), is the gated track heading right where you turned left into the lot. **Note:** *horses use this trail.*

The elevation gain of nearly 500 m is well worth the effort required. The trail climbs steadily through

an open forest of lodgepole pine. At km 3.2, keep left (uphill, fairly steep) rather than taking the flat trail branching right.

At the end of the old fire road (elevation 2170 m, once the site of a lookout station at treeline), you get a panoramic view of Maligne Lake, with triangular Samson Peak (3077 m) obvious partway down the far shore, and (counterclockwise), Leah Peak (2810 m), reddish-brown Opal Peak (2740), the gray Queen Elizabeth Range, the Maligne Valley, the brownish Maligne Range and, close by, the northernmost of the Bald Hills.

A path continues southward to the foot of this small, rounded mountain, then ascends steeply to the summit, elevation 2300 m. Look for hardy high-alpine flowers blooming on the stony tundra. Extensive alpine meadows to the south are very flowery in late July and early August. You may see caribou, which are easier to spot when they are standing on a snowbank to avoid the bugs.

Moose Lake Loop

2.6 km return (1–2 hours)

Trailhead: start on the Bald Hills Trail (see previous item), then branch left after 200 m onto the Maligne Pass Trail toward Moose Lake.

This trail stays in the woods, but the landscape is fascinating: little hills and hollows among the overgrown debris of a huge landslide. Thousands of years ago, half a billion cubic metres of rock fell from the ridge on the other side of Maligne Lake, blocking the valley and enlarging the lake considerably to its present size. The mossy, lichen-encrusted boulders seen along the trail—a natural rock garden—are part of the slide heap. Dark-brown hair lichens adorn the bare branches of lodgepole pines.

After a short section over relatively level terrain, turn left off the Maligne Pass Trail to reach Moose Lake, which lies in a hollow in the rockslide debris. From the lake the trail continues gently downhill to Maligne Lake. Keep left along the shore to return to the parking lot.

Lorraine Lake and Mona Lake

5 km return (2–3 hours)

Trailhead: park as per the Bald Hills Trail, described previously, but take the obvious trail entering the woods 50 m *right* of the Bald Hills Trail. This is the **Skyline Trail**; you hike to the lakes along it.

The trail climbs gently for 2 km through a lodgepole-pine forest, then a *short spur* leads to Lorraine Lake on the left. If you continue one-half kilometre along the Skyline, you will meet another spur trail that

leads to Mona Lake on the right. Both these lakes lie in hollows in landslide debris (see Moose Lake Loop, previous item).

If you’re after a longer walk, Evelyn Creek is 2.4 km farther. There are picnic tables on the other side of the bridge. Beyond the creek, the trail switchbacks up to treeline and reaches Little Shovel Pass at km 10.3.

Wildlife

You will almost certainly see wildlife on your outing. Birds, squirrels, deer, elk, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, bears, coyotes—the list of possibilities is long.

Are the larger animals dangerous? Any animal can be aggressive if it feels threatened. Stay at least 50 m away from female elk in the spring calving season and male elk in the fall rutting season, and at least 100m away from bears. (Ask at the Park Information Centre for the free booklet *Bears and People.*)

Never approach or feed a park animal. It could hurt you, and, in one way or another, feeding will usually kill it. Feeding wildlife is unlawful.

Animals are used to seeing people on the trails described in this brochure. If an animal knows where to expect you, there’s a better chance that it will not react aggressively when you encounter it.

But if you’re not on the trail—if you’re short-cutting through the woods, say—then you may startle an animal such as a bear. This is a dangerous situation. For your safety, and to give the park wildlife enough room to carry on their lives, **stay on the trails.**

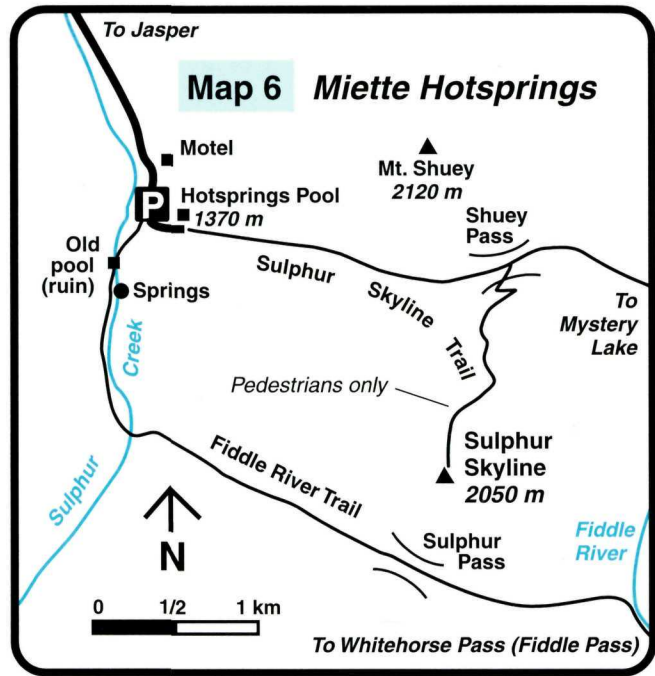
Horses

Yes, you can take your horse for day-rides in Jasper National Park. Private horse travel is permitted throughout the park, except in picnic sites, campgrounds or camping facilities accessible by motor vehicle or for hikers only, in public-use areas within the town of Jasper, and on certain trails.

Please refer to the map on the other side of this guide for trails closed to horses in the town area. For more information about riding, please ask for the *Horse-user’s Guide* at the Park Information Centre.

leads to Mona Lake on the right. Both these lakes lie in hollows in landslide debris (see Moose Lake Loop, previous item).

Bighorn sheep are present in the pool area all summer long. They are used to being around people. Feel free to observe and photograph the sheep, but don’t feed them.



Sulphur Pass via Fiddle River Trail

5.2 km return (2–3 hours)

Trailhead: as you enter the parking lot for the pool, note the small picnic area on the right. Park at the far end of it, where a paved trail angles gently down to Sulphur Creek.

The path leads 500 m to the old pool building, now a ruin. Walk through the ruin and continue up the creek 200 m to the hot springs themselves, where the sulphurous water comes out of the rock. Interpretive signs here explain how the springs work. Farther on, the trail crosses the creek—sometimes impassable at high water—and climbs 150 m to the pass, which offers a break in the forest and a fine wildflower display.

You can extend your day-hike beyond the pass, where the trail drops steeply down to the Fiddle River, but the route is mainly a back-packing trip.

Sulphur Skyline

9.6 km return (4–6 hours)

Trailhead: park in the pool lot and walk up the steps toward the entrance, where there is a passenger drop-off loop. A wide paved path branches from the loop, leading uphill past the trailhead information kiosk.

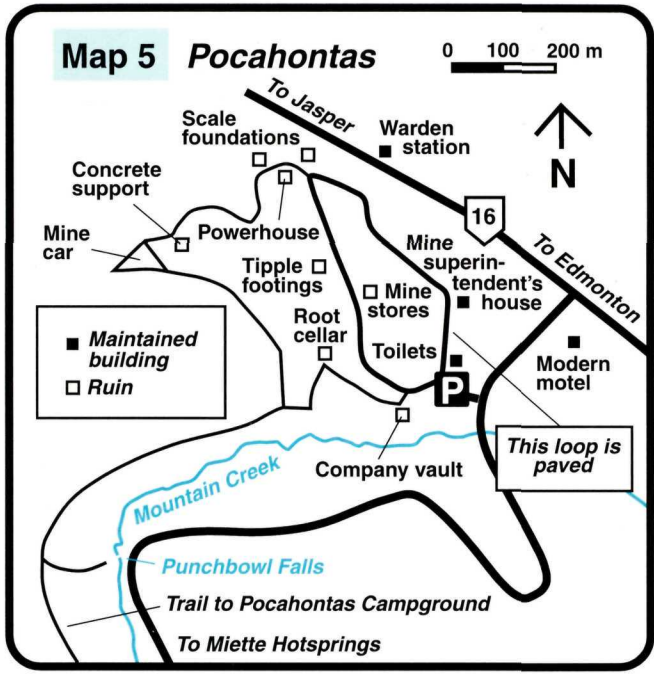
This trail is very popular, so it’s important to follow the established pathway. Short-cutting damages the delicate alpine vegetation and leads to erosion of the thin soil cover, especially in spring, when the trail may be closed.

Nigel Pass

14.4 km return (full-day hike)

Trailhead: 12 km south of the Icefield Centre, park at the start of a gated road on the left (east) side of Highway 93. Please do not block the gate.

After a short walk downhill along the road, the trail branches to the right and crosses Nigel Creek. From there you pass through subalpine forest, cross several shrubby avalanche tracks—no danger in summer—and reach meadows that offer views of Mt. Athabasca, Parker Ridge, Nigel Peak and Mt. Saskatchewan. The final kilometre to the pass is fairly steep; total elevation gain for the day is 320 m. If you walk a half-kilometre beyond the pass, you are rewarded with a fine view eastward into the Brazeau River back-country.



More park history!

Map 5 Pocahontas

You can journey back to the park’s early days while enjoying an easy stroll along the interpretive trails at Pocahontas, near the eastern park boundary along Highway 16.

Warning!

Unless you are with a professionally guided group, **stay within the safe, fenced-in area of the Athabasca Glacier.** Over the years several people have died from falling into crevasses. These deep, ice-cold cracks in the glacier lie hidden below a thin covering of snow that may collapse under a person’s weight. Millwells—places where meltwater plunges down deep vertical shafts in the ice—are slippery around their entrances and extremely dangerous. Glacier travel outside the safe area should be attempted only by experienced and properly equipped mountaineers.

To avoid an impassable canyon on the Sunwapta River north of the Athabasca Glacier, aboriginal families and later travellers on horseback used this bypass route, now named for early Rockies climber Walter Wilcox.

The first kilometre of the trail is fairly steep, but it gets easier as you cross the treeline and reach the wide-open pass area. Watch for bighorn rams in the flowery meadows. A side trip of 200 m across the tundra to the left (west) will take you to a grand view of (left to right), Mt. Athabasca, Mt. Andromeda, the Athabasca Glacier, Snow Dome, the Dome Glacier and Mt. Kitchener. **Note:** the pass area can be snowy until late July.

Most hikers go no farther than the summit marker, but good route-finders can follow the indistinct, boggy trail northward. Keep to the left, along the base of Wilcox Peak, until you descend steeply past two small ponds, after which the trail improves. It follows the valley of Tangle Creek down to Highway 93 at the Tangle Falls parking area, 96 km south of Jasper.

Parker Ridge

5.2 km return (2–3 hours)

Trailhead: 8.8 km south of the Icefield Centre on Highway 93, past Hilda Creek Hostel. Look for the hiker sign at the large parking lot on the right.

This well-defined trail switchbacks 275 m up a moderate grade to the top of a tundra-clad ridge above the treeline. Keep going over the top and slightly down the other side for a remarkable eagle’s-eye view of the Saskatchewan Glacier. In good weather the source of the glacier is visible off to the right: the southern part of the Columbia Icefield and Castleguard Mountain (3077 m). Across the glacier the highest summit is Mt. Saskatchewan (3342 m). From mid-July to mid-August you’ll see blue alpine forget-me-nots and cushions of pink moss campion on Parker Ridge. Mountain goats use the area.

leads to Mona Lake on the right. Both these lakes lie in hollows in landslide debris (see Moose Lake Loop, previous item).

If you’re after a longer walk, Evelyn Creek is 2.4 km farther. There are picnic tables on the other side of the bridge. Beyond the creek, the trail switchbacks up to treeline and reaches Little Shovel Pass at km 10.3.

Safety

The park is managed as a natural area, and hazards that are part of the wilderness are also part of the park. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety, so please be careful.

Approach new places and new activities cautiously. Hike with companions. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Bring enough food and water. Pack extra clothing in case the weather changes. Carry this guide with you.

For more information about public safety, consult park staff.

Transportation

Jasper National Park is a big place, and there isn’t much public transportation. Fortunately for hikers who don’t have a car or a bicycle, the Pyramid Bench area has many fine hikes from trailheads right at the edge of town. For the more distant trailheads, you may be able to arrange for drop-off and pick-up by one of the local transport companies. Call the Park Information Centre at 780-852-6176 for information and schedules.

Information, maps and guidebooks

You can buy detailed topographic maps, trail guides and natural-history books at the **Friends of Jasper National Park** non-profit sales outlet in the Park Information Centre in Jasper. These sales support Parks Canada through park-related projects such as the directional map-signs posted throughout the town-area trail network. The guide you are holding was partially funded by the Friends of Jasper National Park.

For more information about the park, visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov.

If you’d like to reach the summit of a peak, take this challenging trail. The total elevation gain is nearly 700 m. You climb steadily across on open mountainside for 2.2 km to Shuey Pass, elevation 1815 m, where the trail splits. Take the right branch. The trail switchbacks up, angles across another open slope and arrives at the treeline, where you pass a large boulder of white quartzite—a glacial erratic that was carried all the way from the Jasper area during the ice ages. Here the well-graded trail becomes a steep, stony path. Keep going; you’ll reach the summit of the mountain, elevation 2050 m, sooner than you might think. Guard your lunch here. The golden-mantled ground squirrels that live among the summit rocks are very bold!

The view is spectacular. To the east you can see right over the mountain front and across the foothills. The gravely valley of the Fiddle River winds to the southeast; Utopia Mountain (2563 m) and other gray limestone peaks of the Miette Range are close by to the south and west, and the great cliffs of Ashlar Ridge line the valley to the north.

Caution: this area is well-known for afternoon thunderstorms. Start early, and stay below the treeline if the weather looks threatening.

Protecting alpine flowers

The alpine climate is harsh, and survival is difficult for the unique plants that live here. When hiking in the high country, please take special care to stay on the trails at all times, even if it means going the long way around or stepping in mud or snow.

For more information about the park, visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov.



Founded in 2001, the Jasper Trail Stewards group includes avid trail users, park staff and researchers. The idea is to tap local knowledge and experience, to combine that with wildlife research results and park-management goals, and to provide everyone with good trail experiences—while maintaining the health of the park, which is part of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site. For more information about the stewards, contact Parks Canada at 780-852-6162.