

Trail Bicycling Guide

Jasper National Park



For Free Distribution
Énglément offert en français

Jasper National Park

Box 10, Jasper, Alberta T0E 1E0

Information: 780-852-6176

website: <http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/jasper>

Trail problems? Please report them to any park employee.

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Great mountain biking in a great national park

This guide will help you plan a mountain biking experience that is both rewarding and has the least impact possible on the park's natural habitat and wilderness areas.

Check at a park information centre or warden office for current information on trail conditions, weather forecasts, and special hazards. If you're planning on staying overnight, a mandatory Wilderness Pass can be purchased at any Parks Canada information centre.

Be alert for wildlife. Stop and wait for any animals to move off the trail. All animals in the park are wild and can behave unpredictably. Be especially wary of elk in spring when they are calving and in fall when they are mating.

Cyclists are very susceptible to sudden bear encounters. Use bear bells on your bike and make noise when biking through shrubby areas or approaching corners. Read the park publication **Keep the Wild in Wildlife** to find out what you should do if you encounter a bear.

Recommended Trails

Map 1 Close to Jasper

Trail 8 Mina-Riley Loop - 9 km return *Difficult*

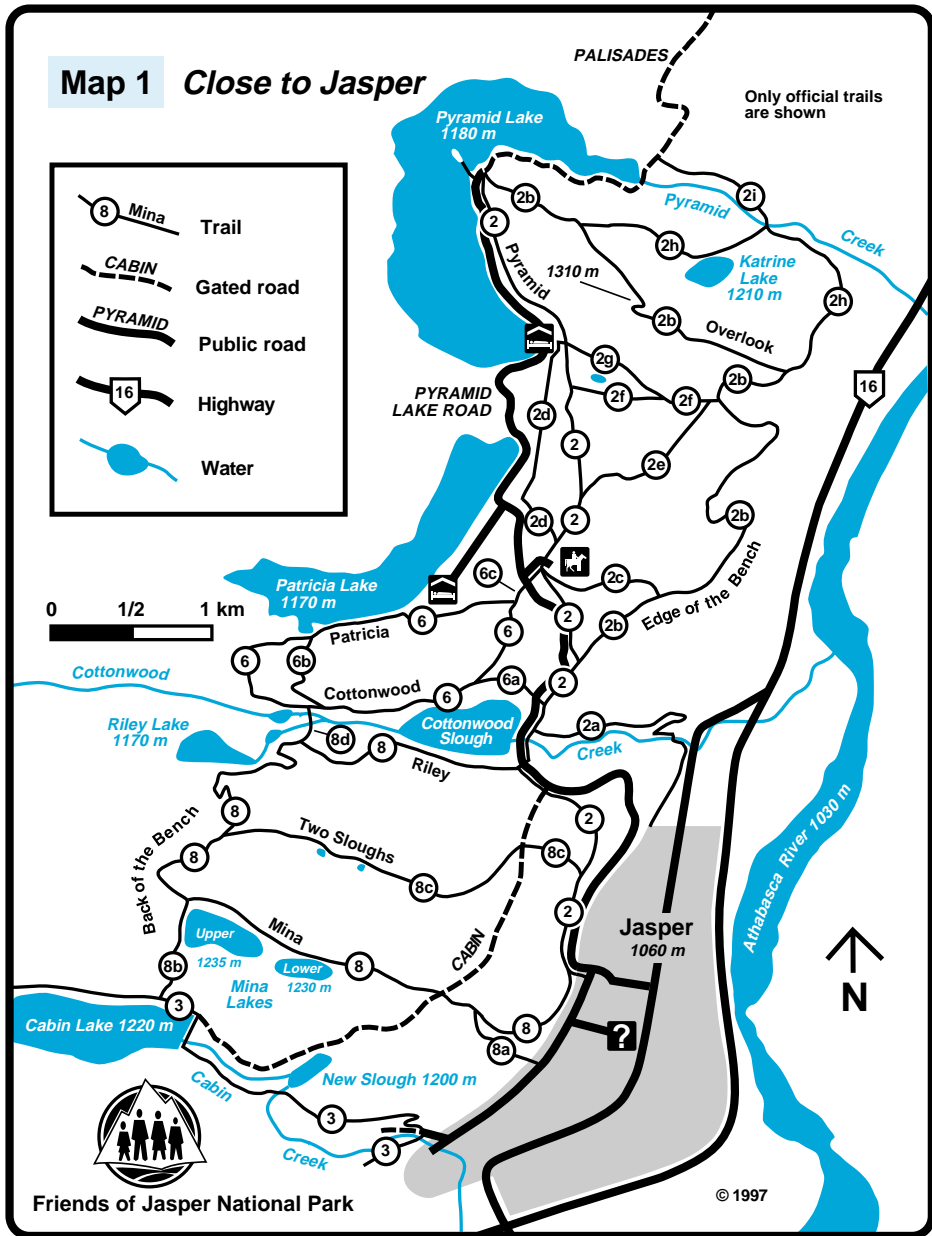
Start at the parking lot opposite the Aquatic Centre. The trail climbs fairly steeply to the left until it intersects Cabin Lake fire road. Cross the road and continue past a large pond to the Mina Lakes. Rootbound and rough sections make this part of the trail challenging. 3.5 km from the lake the trail leads down a very steep hill to Riley Lake. Trail 6 has heavy horse use so return via trail 8 on the south side of the Cottonwood Slough, following trail 2 or the paved Pyramid Lake Road back to town.



Parks Canada thanks the Friends of Jasper National Park for permission to include their townsite-area trail maps

Friends of Jasper National Park

Box 992, Jasper, AB T0E 1E0 • 780-852-4767 • friends@incentre.net



Trail Bicycling Code of Ethics

Trails

Cycle only on designated trails.

Other Users

Treat other trail users with courtesy, especially on downhill stretches. Slow down when approaching blind spots. Use a bell or call out to alert other users and wildlife to your presence.

Wet Trails

Stay on the trail. Riding around mud holes damages trailside vegetation.

Your Ability

Choose a trail that matches your abilities. Park staff or staff at bike shops can help you choose a trail within your abilities.

Dogs

Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. This is often awkward and uncomfortable for both the rider and animal. Consider leaving your pet at home or with friends.

Map 2 Across the River

Trail 7 Athabasca River Trail - 23 km return
Easy-Intermediate

Starting at Old Fort Point the trail goes behind the golf course at Jasper Park Lodge. The first 12 km have some uphill sections, especially as you near Maligne Canyon. Bicycles are not allowed between the first and fifth bridges on the self-guided trail at Maligne Canyon. Either use the high trail (7h) above the canyon or bike down the road, cross Fifth Bridge and pick up trail 7g on the far side. Turn left onto Sixth Bridge and continue along the road to where trail 7 reappears. From here the trail runs beside the Athabasca River back to Old Fort Point, or you can return to Jasper along Highway 16 by crossing the Moberly Bridge.

Map 3 South of Town

Trail 1, 9 Old Fort Point to Valley of the Five Lakes - 11.2 km one way
Intermediate

Take trail 1 around the backside of Old Fort Point or walk your bike up the stairs and along the trail to the junction with trail 9c. The trail follows rolling terrain with some rocky and rootbound sections to the junction of trails 9 and 9a. Go left for scenic views of the lakes (lots of hikers - slow down!), or right to bypass the lakes. All trails join together at the Wabasso Lake trail junction, before the slough. Cross the boardwalk to continue on to the Icefields Parkway (Highway #93). To continue to Wabasso Lake (8.1 kms further) follow the trail to the left of the slough.

Map 4 West of Town

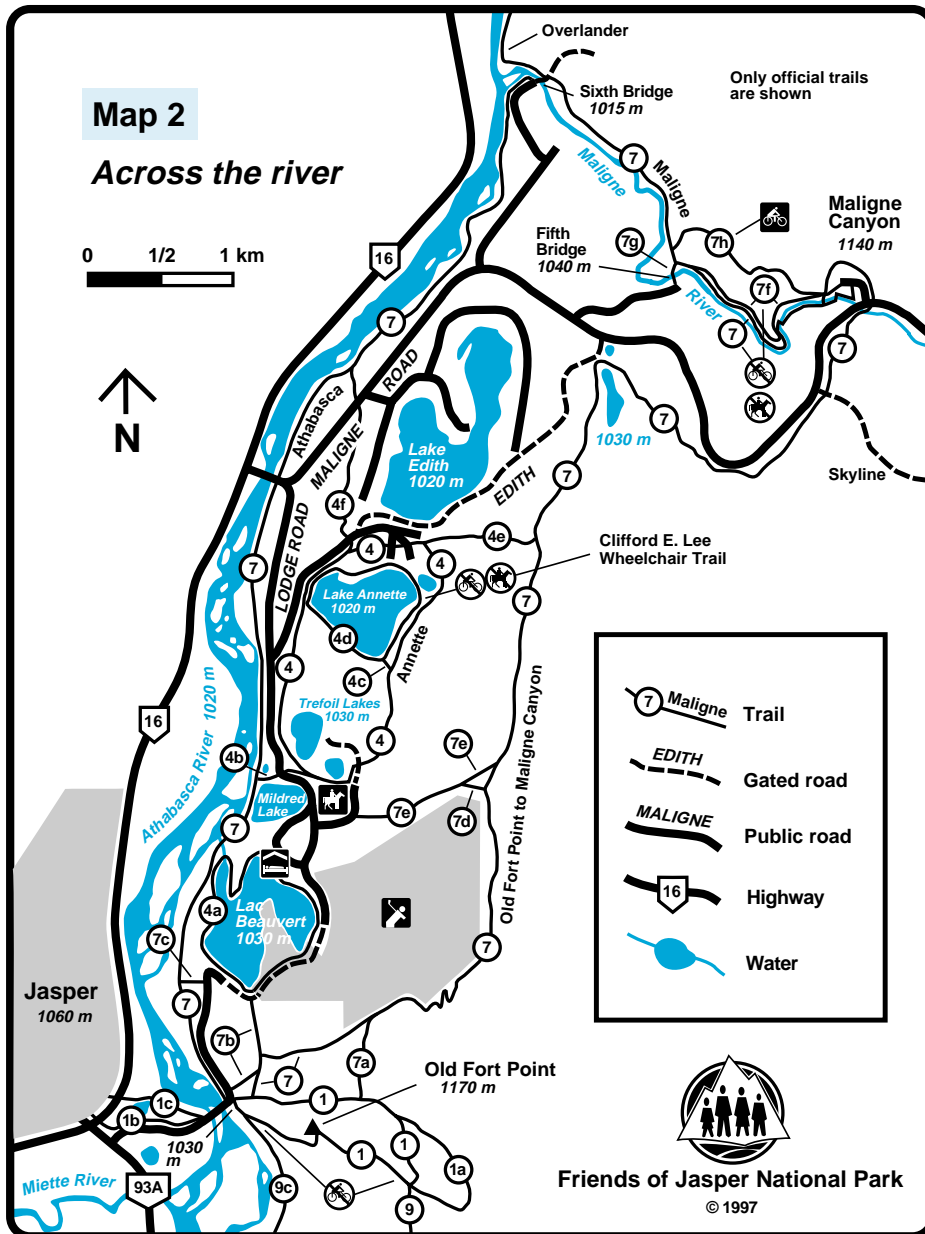
Trail 3 Saturday Night Loop - 27.4 km return *Difficult*

The trailhead is at the west end of town just before the Cabin Creek West subdivision. Take the left trail leading from the parking lot near the water reservoir road. The trail starts uphill and then follows a low ridge with occasional views of the Miette and Athabasca Valleys. Past Caledonia Lake the grade is gentle and winds through a dense forest. The trail gets steeper as it heads up to High Lakes. From here to Saturday Night Lake are some swampy sections, but beyond that to Cabin Lake is easy travelling through open forest. Continue along the fire road to the junction with Pyramid Lake Road and turn right to return to Jasper.

Other Trails in the Park

The Overlander Trail - 14 km one way *Easy/Intermediate*

The trailhead is 20 km east of Jasper townsite on Highway 16. Look for the marked trailhead at the second parking lot where the highway crosses the Athabasca River. The trail parallels the Athabasca River offering excellent views and a nice spot at the ruins of the historic Moberly buildings. This area often floods in the spring resulting in sandy sections. Some tricky sidehill riding near the northern starting point. Near the end of the trail take a right-hand fork which crosses a small, bridged creek. Continue along the edge of the river to the junction of the Maligne and Athabasca rivers at the Sixth Bridge picnic area.



Trail Bicycling Code of Ethics

Horses

Horses have the right of way. In encounters with horse parties, dismount and stand a few feet off the trail (preferably on the downhill side) until the party has passed. When approaching from behind, stay a few metres back to avoid being kicked. Let horse riders know of your presence and wait for their instructions before you pass.

Be Prepared

Bicycles can take you further into the backcountry than you can walk in a day. You are responsible for your own safety.

Litter

Don't litter! If you pack it in please pack it out.

Bears

Cyclists are very susceptible to sudden bear encounters. Use bear bells on your bike and make noise when biking through shrubby areas or approaching corners. Read the park publication **Keep the Wild in Wildlife**.

Fortress Lake Trail - 25 km one way

Easy-Intermediate

Start at Sunwapta Falls and follow an old fire road. Travel is excellent as far as the Athabasca Crossing suspension bridge, 16 km along, though views are limited. Biking beyond the suspension bridge is not recommended but you can hike the remaining 9 km to Fortress Lake. Forging the Chaba River to get to the lake is best in spring and fall when water levels are low. Camping is available at designated campsites along this trail.

Summit Lakes Trail - 5 km one way Jacques Lake - 13 km one way

Easy-Intermediate

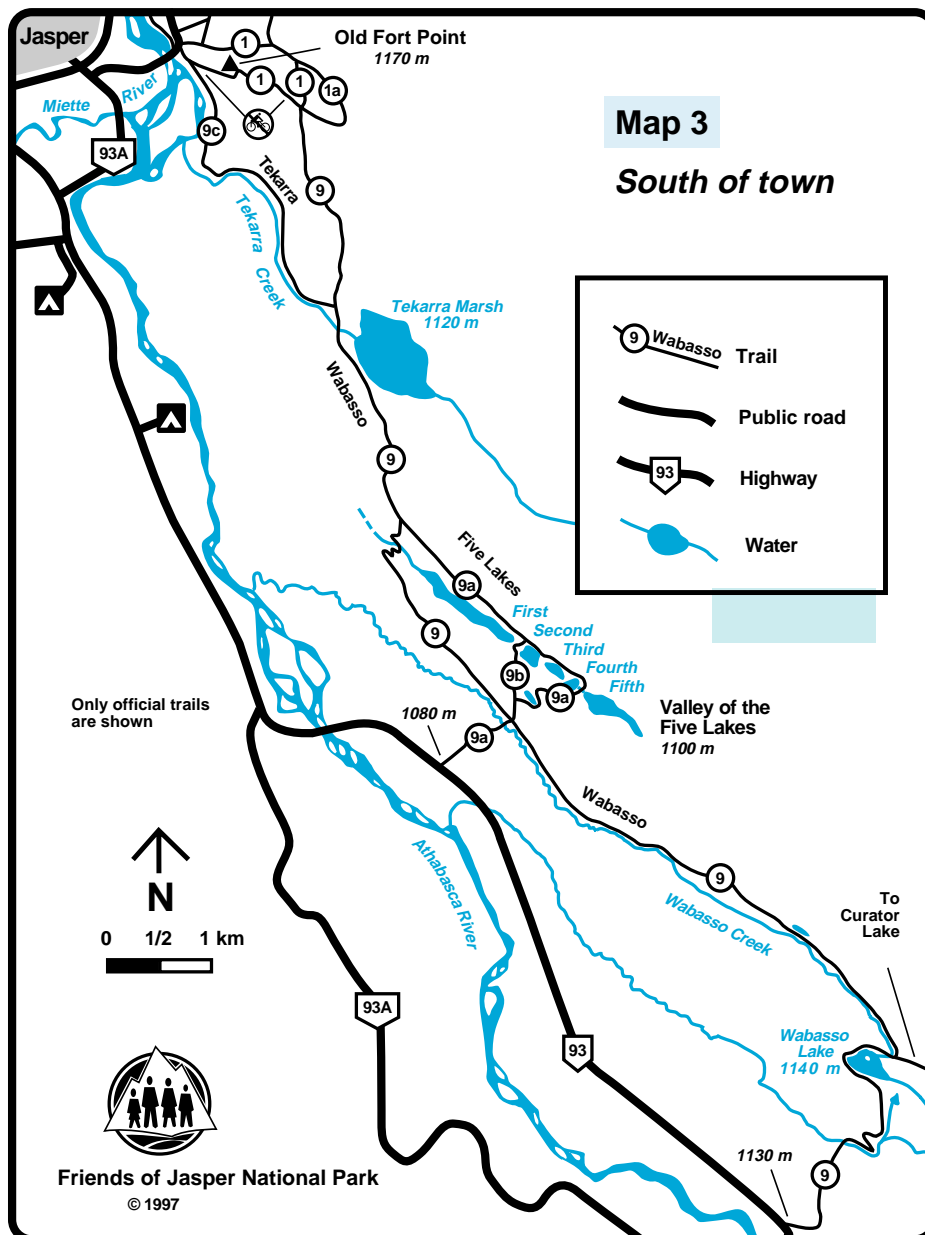
The trail starts at the south end of Medicine Lake, at the Beaver Lake Picnic area and follows a lushly

vegetated valley 5 km to the first Summit Lake. To Beaver Lake there is virtually no elevation gain so the trail is suitable for family groups. Beyond Summit Lakes to Jacques Lake the trail can be very muddy if there's been a lot of rain. Hardy bikers can take the South Boundary Trail to the Rocky Pass exit. Camping available at designated campsites.

Geraldine Lookout - 8 km one way

Easy-Intermediate

Start just off Highway 93A on the road to Geraldine Lakes trailhead. This rough road is open to cars. Those looking for a longer day trip can continue past the gate 2.5 km further along the old fire road to the Geraldine look-out and get good views of the lower Whirlpool and Athabasca Valleys. Or you can continue by foot along the market trail to the first Geraldine Lake.



Map-signs and trail markers

To help you find your way around the townsite-area trail network, the Friends of Jasper National Park have provided **map-signs** at trail intersections. These signs show you exactly where you are.

The map-signs have also been oriented correctly, so that if you stand directly in front of a map-sign, you are facing north.

This means that a trail shown as branching to the left on the map-sign will actually be to your left, and a trail shown as branching to the right will be to your right. A trail shown as branching toward the upper part of the map-sign will be ahead of you, and a trail shown as branching to the lower part of the map-sign will be behind you.

To make extra sure you take the right branch, 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 townsite information centre.

Fryatt Trail - 11.4 km one way

Easy

Start 2 km up the Geraldine Fire Road at the parking lot for the Fryatt Valley. The trail passes through a moderately dense forest with very little elevation gain for the first 8 km. Some small creek crossings must be negotiated. From the lower Fryatt campsite you can continue another 10 km to the upper Fryatt Valley on foot.

Snake Indian Falls (North Boundary Trail to Rock Lake Exit) - 48 km one way

Easy-Intermediate

Drive along the time restricted Celestine Lake Road past Snaring Campground 21 km. Bike past the gate, across the Snake Indian Bridge and 6 km to the junction with Celestine Lake and the North Boundary Trail. A well-graded gravel road leads 22 km to Snake Indian Falls. Caution: watch for wash-outs and depressions where culverts have been removed. One km beyond the falls the road becomes a well-traveled trail to the Willow Creek area and the Rock Lake exit.

Palisades Lookout - 10.8 km one way

Pyramid Fire Road - 11 km one way

Intermediate-Difficult

Start at the very end of Pyramid Lake Road. This is a grueling ride for the harder mountain biker. To go to the Palisades Lookout, take the junction to the right at kilometre 10.8. The left junction leads to the base of Pyramid Mountain. Bring water.

Whirlpool Fire Road - 11.5 km one way

Easy

From Highway 93A take Moab Lake turnoff and drive to Moab Lake parking area. From here it is 8.5 km to the end of the fire road. You can hike or bike another 3 km from here to Tie Camp.

Signal Mountain Fire Road - 10 km one way

Intermediate-Difficult

The marked trailhead for Signal Mountain is 10 km up the Maligne Lake Road. Like the Palisades Fire Road, this is a grueling ride for the more energetic mountain biker. The road switchbacks continuously over an elevation gain of 980 m. Bring water. Bikes are not allowed on the Skyline Trail, only on the fireroad.

