



Trail Information Summary – Jasper National Park

Please note:

- Park Use Permits are required for all overnight backcountry trips. They are available at the trail office in the park Information Centre in Jasper and, during the summer months, at the Icefield Centre.
- Camping is permitted at designated sites only.
- Fires are permitted only in metal fireboxes – since firewood may be scarce it's a good idea to carry a stove. Please check on restrictions before your departure.
- Please read and abide by the suggestions outlined in the two folders, **You Are In Bear Country** and **Backcountry User's Guide**.
- For more detailed trail information you may want to consult **The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide** by Brian Patton and Bart Robinson, published by Devil's Head Press, Canmore, Alberta.

TWO - DAY HIKES (round trip less than 34 km)

1. **SATURDAY NIGHT LAKE LOOP** – 27.4 km. Elev. gain 640 m. Max. elev. 1700 m. A good novice trail on a plateau, beginning and ending in the Jasper townsite. The route is all below timberline with no high viewpoints. Campsites are at Saturday Night Lake, High Lakes and Minnow Lake. Seasonal fishing in all lakes except Cabin Lake. Map: Jasper 83D/16.
2. **JACQUES LAKE** – 12.9 km one way. Elev. gain 60 m. Max. elev. 1555 m. The trailhead is at the south end of Medicine Lake, 28 km from Jasper townsite. An easy hike, the trail leads to the campsite at the far end of Jacques Lake. Camping is not permitted at Beaver Lake. Seasonal fishing is allowed in all lakes and streams. Map: Medicine Lake 83C/13.
3. **SECOND GERALDINE LAKE** – 6 km one way. Elev. gain 400 m. Max. elev. 1875 m. Access to the trailhead is from the Geraldine fire road, just north of Athabasca Falls on Highway 93A. The parking area is 6 km up the fire road. You'll reach the only campsite at the far end of the second lake after a steep and rugged climb. Rewarding views of lakes and waterfalls. Map: Athabasca Falls 83C/12.
4. **WATCHTOWER BASIN** – 11 km one way. Elev. gain 670 m. Max. elev. 2075 m. Trailhead is about 19 km from Jasper townsite on the Maligne Road. A relatively steep climb leads to an alpine meadow. Hikers must ford a small creek to reach the campsite. Map: Medicine Lake 83C/13.
5. **FORTRESS LAKE** – 15.3 km to Athabasca River crossing then 7 km to Fortress Lake. Elev. gain nil. Max. elev. 1370 m. Trailhead is at Sunwapta Falls, about 55 km south of the townsite on Highway 93. The trail travels through valley-land to an unbridged crossing of the Athabasca River. Forging on foot is difficult and not recommended

until late August when the river level has dropped. Maps: Athabasca Falls 83C/12, Fortress Lake 83C/5.

THREE - DAY HIKES (round trip 34 - 50 km)

6. **MALIGNE PASS** – 48 km. Elev. gain 680 m. Max. elev. 2235 m. Trailheads are at Maligne Lake (50 km from Jasper townsite) and at km 72 on Highway 93 south. The trail tends to remain wet throughout the season but all major crossings are bridged. The pass area is a lovely alpine meadow, but the remainder of the trail lies in heavy timber. Some horse use. Maps: Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Southesk Falls 83C/11, Athabasca Falls 83C/12.
7. **SKYLINE** – 45 km. Elev. gain 1380 m. Max. elev. 2490 m. Trailheads are at Maligne Lake (50 km from Jasper townsite) and near Maligne Canyon (about 12 km from town on the Maligne Road). Snow in higher areas may remain until mid-July. While the route passes through some wet and boggy areas, its entire length is very scenic. Since most of the trail is above treeline, firewood is unavailable and use of a stove is necessary. Regular horse use in July and August. Maps: Medicine Lake 83C/13, Jasper 83D/16.
8. **TONQUIN VALLEY** – 42 km. Elev. gain 700 m. Max. elev. 2160 m. Trailheads are at km 12.7 on the Cavell Road and at km 6.3 on the Marmot Basin Road. This is a beautiful alpine region although in rainy seasons the trail is wet and muddy. Wood supply is limited so a stove is recommended. There are several good day hikes in this area. Seasonal fishing is permitted in Amethyst and Moat Lakes. Regular horse use during July and August. Maps: Amethyst Lakes 83D/9, Jasper 83D/16.
9. **FRYATT VALLEY** – 20 km one way. Elev. gain 760 m. Max. elev. 1980 m. Access to the trailhead is via Highway 93A and the Geraldine fire road, just north of Athabasca Falls. The trailhead is about 2 km up the fire road. The first 10 km are very flat with all of the elevation gain occurring after Fryatt Creek campsite. Camping is not allowed at Fryatt Lake and fishing is poor. Map: Athabasca Falls 83C/12.
10. **FRYATT HUT** – located 1.6 km past the last campsite on the Fryatt Valley trail. To reach the hut, follow a steep, rugged trail up the headwall for a vertical gain of about 180 m. The upper valley has an excellent variety of terrain for day hiking and climbing. Tenting is not permitted near the hut or in the upper valley. Hikers will find a Coleman stove and lantern at the hut but must provide their own white gas and matches. Map: Athabasca Falls 83C/12.
11. **MERLIN** – 45 km. Elev. gain 780 m. Max. elev. 1920 m. Trailheads are at km 28 on the Maligne Road and also at km 22 on Highway 16 east. The trail is in a predominantly wooded valley but is high-lighted by two isolated mountain passes. Maps: Medicine Lake 83C/13, Miette 83F/4, Snaring 83E/1.

FOUR - DAY HIKES (50 - 80 km round trip)

12. **FIDDLE RIVER** – 35 km one way. Elev. gain 750 m. Max. elev. 2120 m. The trail begins behind the pool building at Miette Hotsprings (60 km from the townsite). It is relatively primitive and has few bridged crossings. Some short sections of trail may be very muddy. Beyond Whitehorse Pass a well-defined trail continues down to Cadomin on the forestry trunk road. Map: Miette 83F/4.
13. **POBOKTAN-BRAZEAU-NIGEL** – 72 km. Elev. gain 750 m. Max. elev. 1950 m. Trailheads are about 72 km and 112 km south of Jasper townsite on Highway 93. The trail passes through extensive alpine meadows and two major passes. Seasonal fishing may be good in Brazeau Lake. Snow levels may hinder travel until mid-July. Some horse traffic. Maps: Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Columbia Icefield 83C/3.
14. **JONAS PASS** – 48 km. Elev. gain 932 m. Max. elev. 2460 m. Trailheads are the same as for Poboktan-Nigel-Brazeau. No camping is allowed in Jonas Pass – campsites are located at the beginning and end of the 20 km pass section. Some horse traffic. Maps: Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Columbia Icefield 83C/3.

A series of 12 small loose-leaf maps of the Great Divide Trail, at a scale of 1:50,000, is also available. These 12 maps have detailed trail descriptions of the Skyline, Maligne Pass, Poboktan-Brazeau-Nigel loop and Jonas Pass trails. They are sold for 50 cents each at the trail office.

SEVEN - DAY HIKES (round trip 80 - 100 km)

15. **ATHABASCA PASS** – 51 km one way. Elev. gain 560 m. Max. elev. 1800 m. Access to the trailhead is via Highway 93A and the Moab Lake fire road. Park at the Moab Lake parking lot, about 6.4 km up the fire road. The trail follows the Whirlpool River valley, the traditional route of early fur traders. Large gravel flats and glaciers dominate the scenery in sections. All major crossings are bridged. Some horse traffic. Maps: Athabasca Falls 83C/12, Amethyst Lakes 83D/9, Athabasca Pass 83D/8.

16. **MOOSEHORN** – 62 km. Elev. gain 650 m. Max. elev. 1800 m. Trailhead is on the Celestine Road, 1.5 km beyond the bridge over the Snake Indian River, 48 km from Jasper townsite. There is one-way traffic only on the Celestine Road so please check at the trail office to find out the times scheduled for in-bound and out-bound traffic. The trail runs parallel to the Athabasca River to the entrance to the Moosehorn Valley. From the Moosehorn Lakes to Wolf Pass the trail may be indistinct and hikers have several options. After Wolf Pass the trail joins the North Boundary Trail just north of the Willow Creek junction. Some horse traffic. Maps: Snaring 83E/1, Miette 83F/4, Rock Lake 83E/8.

TEN - DAY HIKES (round trip approx. 200 km) These are wilderness hikes that, because of the distances involved, require careful planning.

17. **NORTH BOUNDARY** – 185 km. Elev. gain 1055 m. Max. elev. 2019 m. Trailheads are at Celestine Lake parking lot (limited access), 53 km from Jasper townsite, and at Mount Robson service area, 88 km west on Highway 16. The trail is well marked and all major river crossings are bridged. A variety of side trips are possible. Some horse traffic. Maps: Snaring 83E/1, Rock Lake 83E/8, Blue Creek 83E/7, Twintree Lake 83E/6, Mt. Robson 83E/3.
18. **SOUTH BOUNDARY** – 176 km. Elev. gain 790 m. Max. elev. 2255 m. Trailheads are at Medicine Lake (28 km from townsite) on the Maligne Road and also at Camp Parker (at km 112 on Highway 93). The trail is well marked and all major crossings are bridged. A few side trips are possible. Some horse traffic. Maps: Columbia Icefield 83C/3, Sunwapta Peak 83C/6, Job Creek 83C/7, George Creek 83C/10, Southesk 83C/11, Mountain Park 83C/14, Medicine Lake 83C/13.

Topographical maps are sold in the park at \$3 each. To order by mail, please send a postal or money order or certified cheque in correct Canadian funds, made out to the Receiver General for Canada to:

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