

# Visitor Guide





## Welcome

The winter season in Jasper National Park is a beautiful time to visit. With scenery encompassing snow-covered mountain peaks and lightly snow dusted forests, the landscape is a winter wonderland awaiting adventure.

From snowshoeing and cross country skiing to fat biking, the options for winter activities are endless. In fact, the sky is the limit when it comes to winter fun as Jasper National Park is the second largest dark sky preserve on the planet. Most nights you can look up and see billions of stars dancing overhead.

What makes any season in Jasper National Park even more special is the land's rich indigenous heritage. We respectfully acknowledge that Jasper National Park is located in Treaty Six and Eight territories as well as the traditional territories of the Beaver, Cree, Ojibway, Shuswap, Stoney and Métis Nations. We mention this to honour and be thankful for their contributions to building our park, province and nation.

We wish you a warm winter welcome and hope that you enjoy your visit!

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## **Directory**

PARKS CANADA JASPER INFORMATION CENTRE 500 Connaught Drive 780-852-6176

HOURS

Starting Nov. 1 • Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day

parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper

JASPER TRAIL CONDITIONS REPORT parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails

TOURISM JASPER

780-852-6236 • jasper.travel

FRIENDS OF JASPER NATIONAL PARK
Maps and guide books:

780-852-4341 • friendsofjasper.com

PARKS CANADA RESERVATION SERVICE 1-877-737-3783

parkscanada.gc.ca/reservation SOCIAL MEDIA



**J**asperNP

**GENERAL** 

**Jasper weather:** 780-852-3185

weather.gc.ca

Road conditions: 511

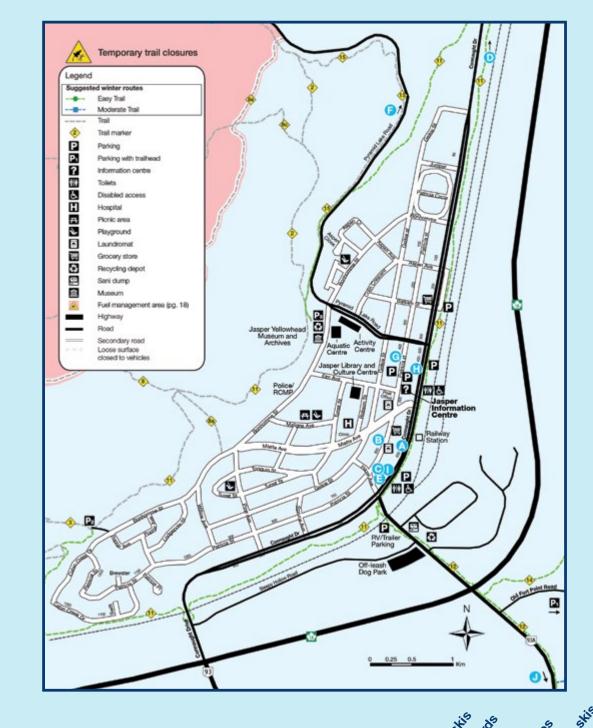
alberta511.ca • drivebc.ca

**EMERGENCY** 

**Dial 911** 

Cell phones are not always reliable.

780-852-3100 (satellite phone)



#### **Gear Rentals EDGE CONTROL** 626 Connaught Dr. 780-852-4945 THE BENCH BIKE SHOP 606 Patricia St. 780-852-7768 **GRAVITY GEAR** 625B Patricia St. 780-852-3155 ✓ ✓ JASPER PARK LODGE 1 Old Lodge Rd 780-852-3301 PURE OUTDOORS 632 Connaught Dr. 780-852-4717 PYRAMID LAKE RESORT Pyramid Lake Rd 1-888-852-7737 SOURCE FOR SPORTS 406 Patricia St. 780-852-3654 **TOTEM SKI SHOP** 408 Connaught Dr. 780-852-3078 ✓ $\checkmark$ $\checkmark$ ✓ ✓ ✓ VICIOUS CYCLE 630 Connaught Dr. 780-852-1111 ✓ MARMOT BASIN 1 Marmot Basin Rd 780 852 3816

## **Jasper National Park**



The best way to experience this incredible landscape is to take a day and explore each of its top 4 winter regions.

#### 1. AROUND TOWN

You don't have to go far beyond the Jasper townsite to find winter adventure. The Pyramid Lake area is a winter oasis for cross-country and skate skiing, snowshoeing, fat biking and spectacular skating. Winter trail walks begin right from the edge of town; head up onto Pyramid Bench or explore across the Athabasca river. The trail from Red Squirrel (14) to Big Horn (13) is a fantastic fat biking route.

#### 2. MALIGNE VALLEY

One of the most stunning areas in Jasper National Park is the Maligne Valley. The frozen waterfalls and ice formations in Maligne Canyon make it a magical place to explore and a popular ice climbing destination. Take in the pristine winter vistas further up the valley at Medicine and Maligne Lakes. Then bundle up for a stroll on the Mary Schäffer Trail along Maligne Lake.

#### 3. HIGHWAY 93A

Situated along this peaceful road are several picturesque cross-country skiing destinations for all levels of experience. Ski along the rolling hills of the Whirlpool Trail to Moab Lake, or stop at the halfway point at the Red Chairs along the Whirlpool River. Looking to snowshoe? Try the 6 km Athabasca Falls Loop featuring spectacular views of Mount Kerkeslin along the river.

Valemount Kamloops Vancouver

#### 4. ICEFIELDS PARKWAY AND AREA

**Prince George** Fort St. James Prince Rupert

Winding 232 glorious kilometres through the heart of Jasper and Banff national Parks, the Icefields Parkway has been called one of the most scenic drives in the world. Glaciers, viewpoints and frozen waterfalls can be found along this route. Don't forget to find the Red Chairs along the Wilcox Pass trail!

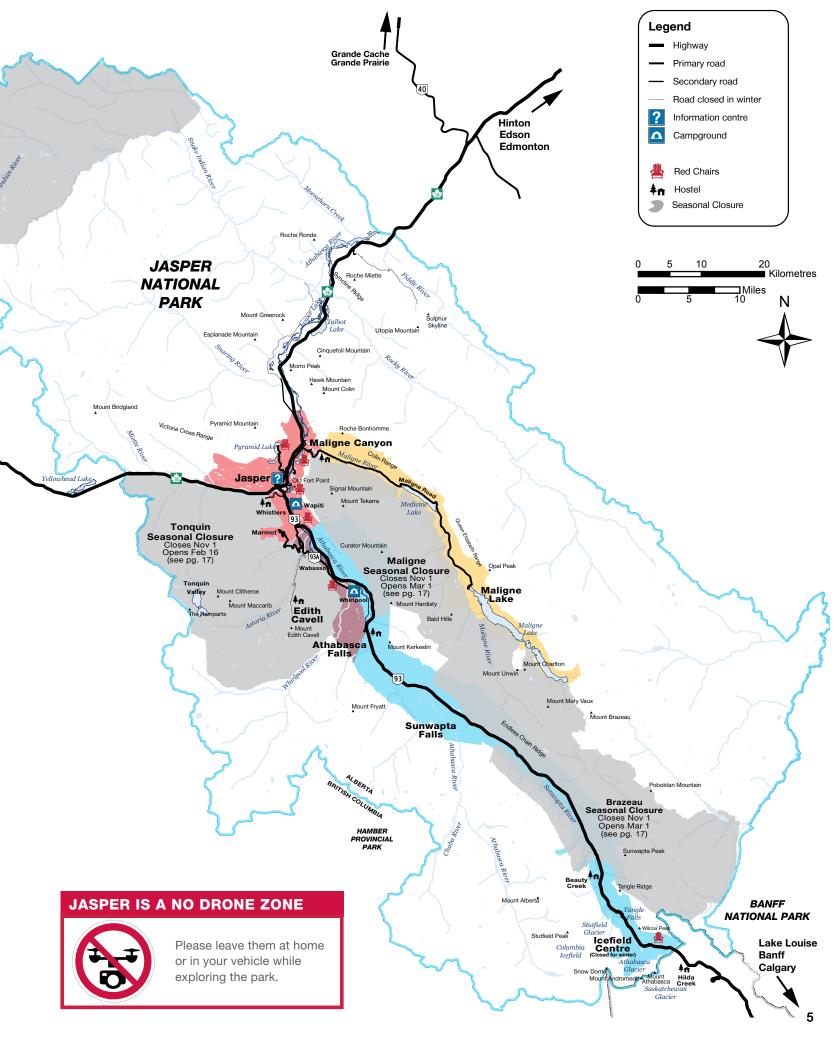
#### JASPER NATIONAL PARK Discover winter accessible sets of **RED CHAIRS** Red Chairs in the following regions:

Scope out these picture perfect locations at: parkscanada.gc.ca/jasperredchair #sharethechair

- Around Town
- Icefields Parkway
- Highway 93A



**North Boundary** Seasonal Closure



## **Around Town**

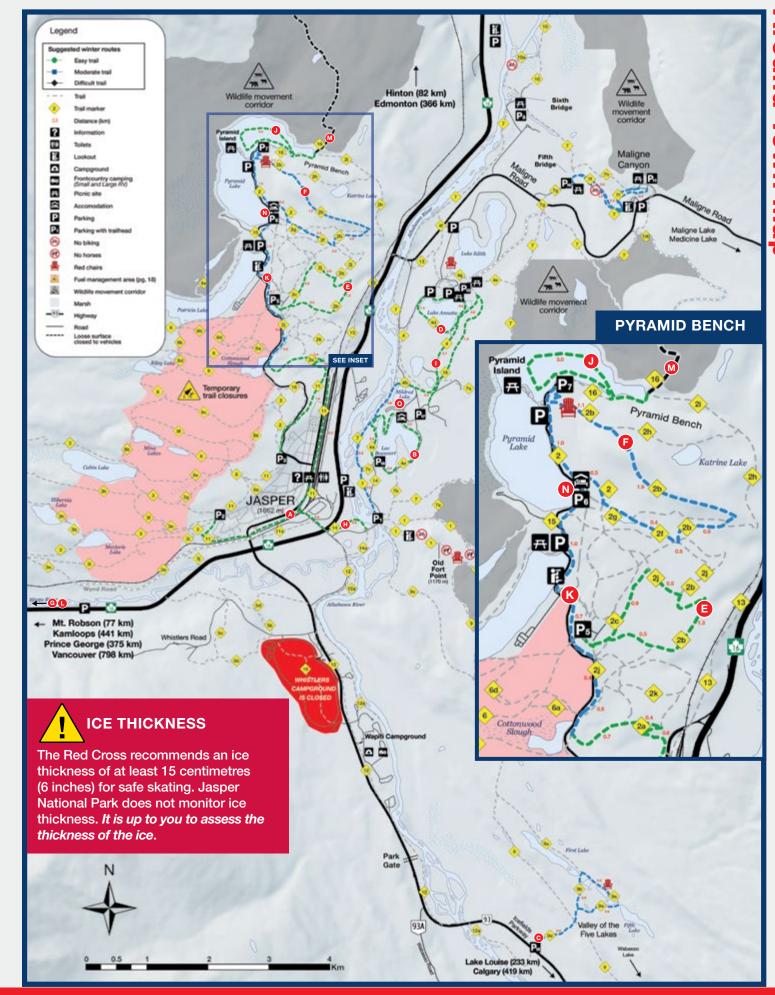
Trail and Activities	Distance	Description						
WINTER WALKING								
A Jasper Discovery Trail	8.3 km loop	An interpretive loop trail around the perimeter of town.						
B Lac Beauvert Loop	3.5 km loop	This flat loop around Lac Beauvert begins at Jasper Park Lodge.						
C Valley of the Five Lakes 9a 9b	4.6 km loop	Follow Trail 9a and loop back on 9b. Watch for steep/slippery sections.						
D Lake Annette	2.4 km loop	An open meadow beside beautiful Lake Annette is your launch point for many winter walking opportunities.						
<b>SNOWSHOEING</b>								
Edge of the Bench 2) 2b	4.2 km return	This loop offers spectacular valley views. P₅						
F Overlook Trail 2b2f 29/2	6 km loop	Steep at first, this trail provides tremendous views of the valley. P7						
G Dorothy, Virl and Christine Lakes	8.6 km return	Steep in places, this forested trail has great lake views.						
FAT BIKING								
Red Squirrel to Lake Mildred	12.7 km loop	Follow Hazel Ave across Hwy 16. Take Red Squirrel then Trail 7 along the river. Loop back on Trail 4b and Red Squirrel.						
Woodpecker	4.4 km loop	Flat packed by Jasper Park Lodge, this gentle loop travels from the lodge to Lake Annette and back.						
Pyramid Lake Loop*	4.4 km return	A perfect option for those new to fat biking, or just looking for beautiful views.						
K Pyramid Trail	10.8 km return	This mainly flat packed trail steadily climbs to beautiful Pyramid Lake.						
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING								
Pipeline	11 km return	Gentle terrain with subtle ups and downs.  2 4 km on Hwy 16 W						
M Pyramid Fire Road	16.8 km return	Rolling terrain becomes steep and steady after 3 km, gaining 920 m in elevation. Pr Final 900m is						
Pyramid Lake Loop*	4.4 km return	A groomed loop on Pyramid Lake for those new to cross- country skiing or just looking for beautiful views.						
<b>ICE SKATING</b>								
N Pyramid Lake		Groomed by Pyramid Lake Resort; enjoy skating on iconic Pyramid Lake with exquisite Pyramid Mountain as your backdrop.						
Mildred Lake		Bask in spectacular mountain views as you glide along the Jasper Park Lodge groomed skating oval at Mildred Lake.						

<sup>\*</sup> Grooming on the lake is dependent on ice and snow conditions.

## **Free Programs**

Parks Canada interpreters are offering guided snowshoe hikes at Pyramid Lake P<sub>7</sub> on Friday evenings of the following weekends: January 11, 18, 25, and February 15. Programs do not require advance registration and snowshoes are provided. Please see parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper-interpretation for more information or stop by the town information centre.

■ Easy Moderate ◆ Difficult ◆ Most Difficult





Trail and Activities	Distance	Description						
₩ WINTER WALKING								
A Maligne Canyon 7 71	Varied distances	Several route options along the top of the canyon.  Caution: slippery trail						
SNOWSHOEING								
B Medicine Lake	Varied distances	Make your own trail along the shoreline from the Medicine Lake northern viewpoint.						
Beaver or Summit Lakes 39	4 or 10 km return	This forested trail begins at the Jacques Lake trailhead.						
D Mary Schäffer Loop 21	2.9 km loop	A beautiful loop with a scenic viewpoint looking down Maligne Lake. P Maligne Lake						
■ Moose Lake Loop	2.7 km loop	This gentle trail rolls over the top of an ancient rockslide.  Bald Hills						
Dupper Moose Loop	6 km loop	Steep in places, this trail starts in the forest and finishes along the shore of Maligne Lake. P Bald Hills						
G Hidden Cove	8 km return	Travel along the lakeshore to the Hidden Cove Campground. Ensure safe ice conditions. This route is popular with skiers too. P Bald Hills						

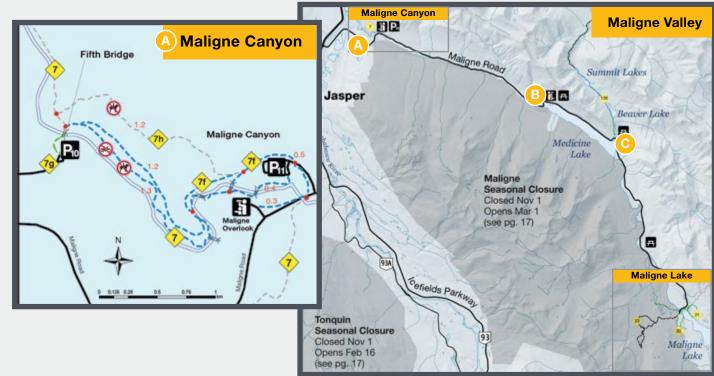
### **FEATURED ACTIVITIES**

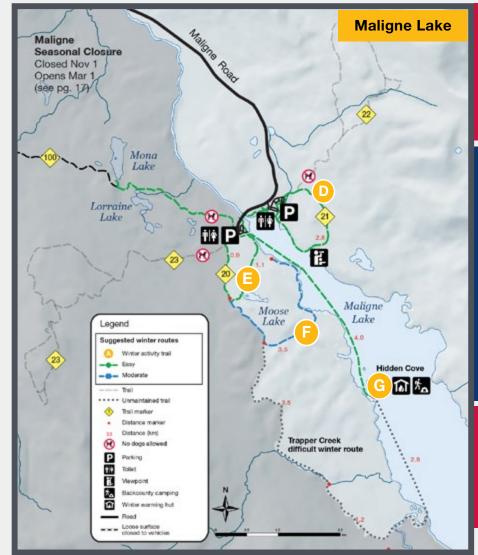
Maligne Canyon 11.5 km from Jasper The spring-fed waters of Maligne Canyon are transformed into magical ice falls in the winter. The trail along the rim of the canyon can be slippery; be prepared. If you're looking to venture onto the frozen bottom of the canyon, we highly recommend you travel with a certified guide. Individual users not on a guided tour should wear a helmet and ice cleats, and should be familiar with canyon hazards.

**Medicine Lake** 27 km from Jasper Stop by Medicine Lake for a generous dose of winter scenery and adventure! Snowshoe the frozen lakeshore and bring your camera to capture the awe-inspiring views of the Queen Elizabeth Range.

Maligne Lake 48 km from Jasper Nestled among towering peaks, the frozen and snow-covered Maligne Lake is nothing short of a winter wonderland. Take in stunning lakeside views from the Mary Schäffer loop, or explore through the hills and hollows of an ancient rockslide on the Upper Moose Loop.

Note: Seasonal closure adjacent to this area. See page 18 for more details.





## ICE THICKNESS

The Red Cross recommends an ice thickness of at least 15 centimetres (6 inches) for safe skating. Jasper National Park does not monitor ice thickness. It is up to you to assess the thickness of the ice.

#### **ALPINE TOURING**

While there are no machine groomed trails in the Maligne Valley, there are many opportunities for light and alpine touring. It is your responsibility to have the skills, knowledge and equipment to travel in avalanche terrain. Guide books are available for purchase at the Friends of Jasper store inside the town Information Centre.

Visit *parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper-skitouring* for more information.

#### **SEASONAL CLOSURE**

Access to the Maligne seasonal closure area is prohibited from *November 1 through February 28*. This area opens on March 1 for winter activities and exploration.

 $oldsymbol{8}$ 



Trail and Activities	Distance	Description								
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING										
A Whirlpool Trail	15.2 km return	Gentle terrain takes skiers to Moab Lake. The Red Chairs along the river at km 3.6 make a great shorter destination.  Whirlpool Winter Hub								
B Leach Lake Trail	3.5 km one way to Leach Lake	Gentle terrain following Hwy 93A with a bit of elevation nearing  Leach Lake. Whirlpool Winter Hub								
Wabasso Campground	Varied distances	Gentle terrain along the river with inside loops.								
💰 🦮 SNOWSHOEING										
Athabasca River Loop	7.9 km return	Follow the south edge of the Athabasca River for 2.2 km, then loop back on the Fryatt trail and flat-packed Geraldine Road.								
		Easy Moderate Difficul								

### **Edith Cavell**

Edith Cavell Road will not be machine groomed for cross-country skiing this season but will still be open for winter exploration on February 16.

## **Free Programs**

Parks Canada interpreters are offering guided snowshoe hikes at the Whirlpool Winter Hub on Saturday and Sunday of the following weekends: January 12, 19, 26, and February 16. Programs do not require advance registration and snowshoes are provided. Please see parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper-interpretation for more information or stop by the town information centre.

## **Trail Etiquette**

- Skiers going downhill have the right-of-way.
- Keep to the right when meeting oncoming skiers.
- When resting, move off the trail.
- When passing say "track please" and pass on left side.



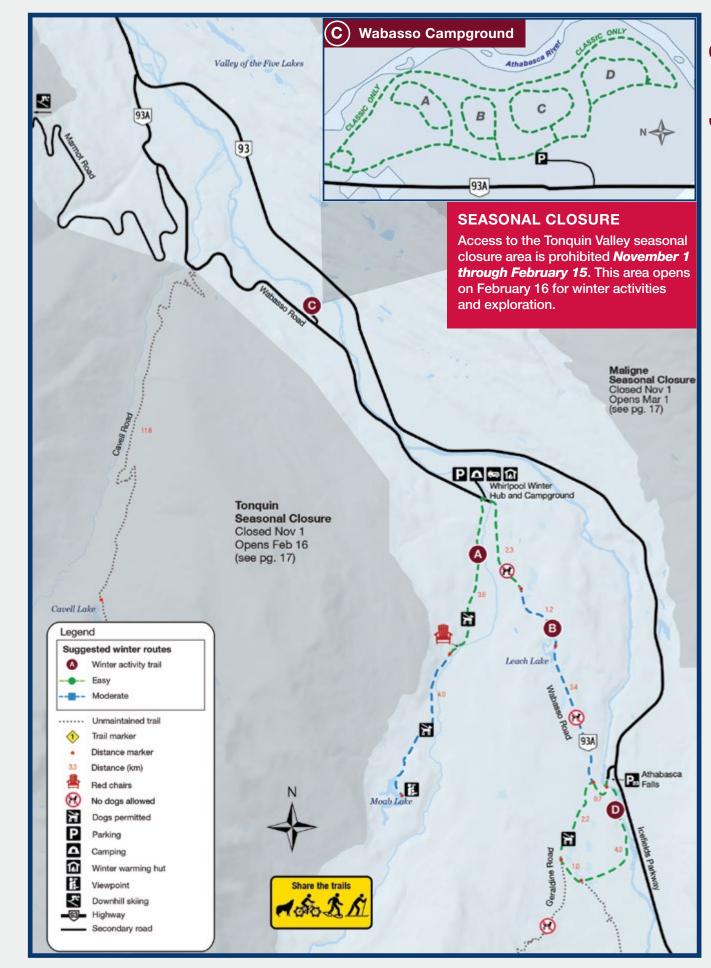
Do not walk or snowshoe on groomed ski trails



Keep dogs on leash



Pick up after your dog



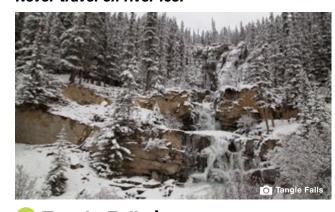
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**The Icefields Parkway is one of the world's most scenic drives.** Its scenery is accentuated during winter as ancient glaciers and mountain peaks glow winter white under blankets of fresh snow. Here are a few highlights to visit while you're travelling. Snow tires are mandatory from November 1 to March 31 on the Parkway.



**1** Athabasca Falls 30 km south of Jasper Watch the ever-changing ice formations and hear the roar of the thundering water behind the ice. Be safe; stay behind railings and on designated trails. **Never travel on river ice.** 



**3 Tangle Falls** 96 km south of Jasper This beautiful, cascading icefall right beside the road makes for a great photo stop.

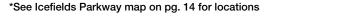


2 Sunwapta Falls 54 km south of Jasper Walk or snowshoe to this spectacular icefall, which plunges into a deep canyon, or continue another 1.4 km along an easy route to the lower falls.



**4 Athabasca Glacier** 103 km south of Jasper Be awestruck by the Columbia Icefield area and admire the Stutfield and Dome glaciers from the Icefields Parkway.

Trail and Activities	Distance	Description						
<b>SNOWSHOEING</b>								
Lower Sunwapta Falls 125	2.8 km return	Descend along the river to a set of stunning falls.  P Sunwapta Falls						
Big Bend (28)	12.6 km return	A forested trail leading to phenomenal views of Dragon Peak and surrounding mountains. P Sunwapta Falls						
Wilcox Viewpoint 50	3.4 km return	A short climb with incredible views of the Athabasca and Dome glaciers. P Wilcox						



Moderate Difficult



**5** Weeping Wall | 124 km south of Jasper The Weeping Wall tumbles more than 100 metres (330 feet) in a series of waterfalls whose main fall is called *Teardrop*. The sight is even more impressive in the winter when the many waterfalls are making this a popular ice climbing destination.



**7** Bow Lake Viewpoint 193 km south of Jasper One of the most scenic lakes along the Parkway and the source of the Bow River.



6 Peyto Lake | 190 km south of Jasper
A short uphill snowshoe (2.5-km return) from the road leads to a panoramic viewpoint of beautiful snow-covered Peyto Lake below. Stay on the main trail to avoid avalanche terrain and other winter hazards.
Snowshoes or ice cleats recommended.



8 Crowfoot Glacier | 197 km south of Jasper Enjoy this rewarding view from the roadside pull-off. 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.

#### SKI TOURING

While there are no machine groomed trails along the Icefields Parkway, there are many opportunities for light and alpine touring. It is your responsibility to have the skills, knowledge and equipment to travel in avalanche terrain. Guide books are available for purchase at the Friends of Jasper store inside the town Information Centre.

Visit *parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper-ski-touring* for more information.

#### **SEASONAL CLOSURE**

Access to the Brazeau is prohibited from **November 1 through February 28**. This area opens March 1 for winter activities and exploration.

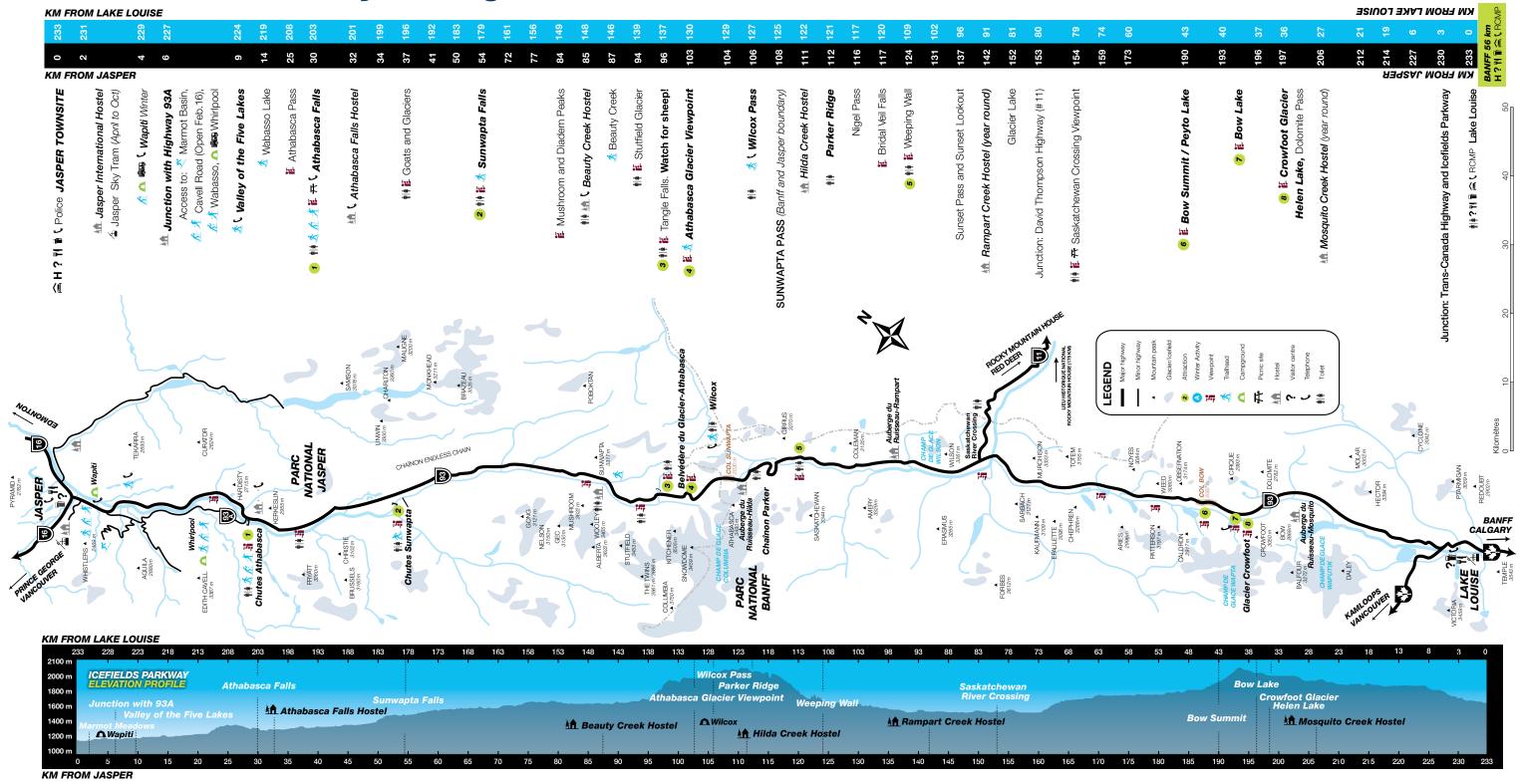


Give us space.

Slow down.
Obey speed limits.



## **The Icefields Parkway Driving Guide**



## **Driving on the Icefields Parkway**

- Ensure your car has snow tires—look for the snowflake symbol. **Snow tires are mandatory from November 1 to March 31 on the Parkway.**
- Fill your gas tank and bring extra windshield washer fluid. There are no services along the Icefields Parkway in winter.
- Plan to start early and complete your drive (with time for exploration and stops along the way) during daylight hours.
- Road reports are based on the worst condition that a driver may encounter over the road's entire 232-kilometre length.
   As in any mountain environment, weather can change very quickly, often changing the road conditions.
- There is no cell phone reception from Athabasca Falls to Lake Louise.
- The Parkway is not salted so it can often be covered in ice and snow.

Check the road conditions before you leave town: 511 • alberta511.ca • drivebc.ca

## **More Information**

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

Weather Forecast: weather.gc.ca
Jasper 780-852-3185 • Banff 403-762-2088



Winter is the perfect time of year to look for wildlife tracks. Learn how to identify a few tracks and find out whose habitat you're sharing. It is a challenge for wildlife to survive in the winter, but you can help make it easier by giving them lots of space.

#### **Characteristics**

Built like a large German shepherd, with longer legs. Colour can vary from white to black.

#### Where to find

Throughout the park but particularly in valley bottoms.



#### Characteristics

White rump, short light brown fur; males: thick curved horns, females: narrow horns.

#### Where to find

Near steep rocky terrain.





#### **Characteristics**

Brown body, darker neck and large tan rump patch, backwards slanting antlers.

#### Where to find

Valley bottoms and open areas, commonly found in and around town.



Coyote

#### **Characteristics**

Resembles a mediumsized dog, thick, bushy tail, greyish-brown in colour, long and narrow muzzle.

## Where to find

Valley bottoms.



**Mountain Goat** 

#### **Characteristics**

Narrow black horns carried by both sexes, beard, long white hair.

#### Where to find

Steep rocky terrain.

## th s hite ind



Jasper National Park is home to four distinct herds of woodland caribou. Parks Canada is taking action to protect this species at risk and you can help too.

#### Seasonal closures for caribou conservation

As of **November 1**, there are seasonal closures in areas of the Tonquin, Maligne-Brazeau, and North Boundary ranges of Jasper National Park to protect important caribou habitat.

All access to these backcountry areas is prohibited until the **Tonquin area reopens for winter recreation on February 16** and **all other areas reopen on March 1**.

Please refer to pages 4-5 for a map that shows the top four regions to explore and where access is restricted until later in the season.

#### Reduced speed limit on the Icefields Parkway

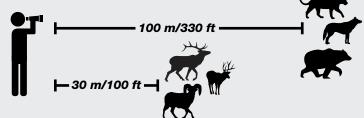
From south of Sunwapta Falls through to Beauty Creek Hostel, a reduced speed zone of 70km/h is in effect from **February 1 – June 1**. Drive with care, this is a time when caribou may be seen crossing the road. To learn more visit: **parkscanada.gc.ca/caribou-winter-access** 

## Give Wildlife Space.



#### DO NOT APPROACH OR ENTICE WILDLIFE.

Following, crowding or startling wildlife can lead to aggressive encounters, which can put you and others in danger. When viewing wildlife:



- Stay at least 100 metres away from bears, coyotes, wolves and cougars.
- Stay at least 30 metres away from elk, bighorn sheep, moose and deer.

If you see wildlife on the road *always slow down*.

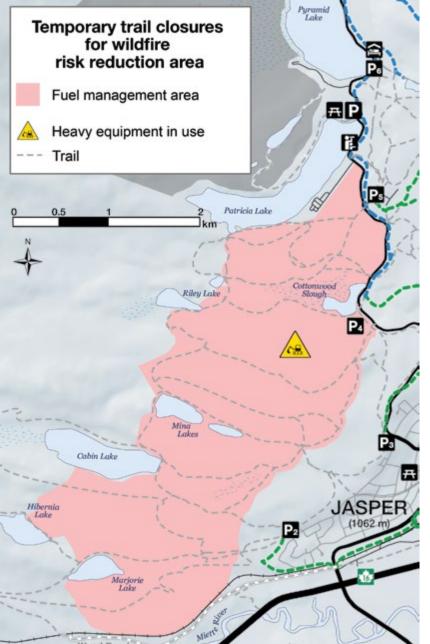
If you do stop (not recommended for the safety of wildlife):

- Pull over where it is safe to do so.
- Use your hazard lights to alert others.
- · Stay in your vehicle.

- Quickly observe, take a photo and move on.
- Move on if a traffic jam develops.
   It is unsafe for people and wildlife.



## Pyramid Bench: Temporary winter trail closures



To ensure the safety of the public, there will be temporary trail closures and traffic disruptions on the Pyramid Bench this winter while forest fuel modification is completed. There will also be smoke in the air at times as debris is burned.

Please refer to the following links for active closures:

parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails

### Why fuel modification?

Parks Canada is taking actions to both reduce the potential impacts of a wildfire to the community and prepare to respond in the event of an emergency.

Over the winter of 2018-2019, Parks Canada is working to reduce the amount of forest fuels on the Pyramid Bench in mountain pine beetle affected forest.

When vegetation is removed from forested areas, a potential wildfire is more likely to stay on the ground rather than move from treetop to treetop. This limits fire intensity, reduces windblown embers, and is easier for responders to control.

Parks Canada and the Municipality of Jasper are active partners in the "FireSmart" community protection program. As part of this program, forested areas around the edge of town are also being thinned

For more information visit our website at **parkscanada.gc.ca/jasperfireupdate**.

### **Mountain Pine Beetle**

An insect native to the Rocky Mountains, mountain pine beetles tunnel into mature pine trees and disrupt the flow of nutrients within the tree, which eventually dies.

The red trees in the Athabasca Valley are evidence of its spread, which is linked to climate change and past fire suppression management practices.

Mountain pine beetle infestation has steadily risen since 2013. To date, about half of Jasper's pine forests have been impacted.

Restoring fire to the landscape through prescribed or planned fires is a natural way to reduce mountain pine beetle habitat and restore healthy forests.

Campgrounds and Services	Tent	Trailer	Electrical	Sani Dump	Flush Toilets	Pit Toilets	Showers	Firepit	Cooking Shelter	Drinking Water	Disabled Access	Fees	Number of sites
JASPER													
Wapiti Winter	Δ	<b></b>	Φ H H		9			Ł	Œ	<b>₽</b>	F	\$32.30 \$27.40	40 with elec. 35 tent
Whirlpool Winter	Δ					Î		Ł	Æ			\$15.70	10 tent-6 RV
BANFF													
Tunnel Mt. Village II	Δ		T O	<u></u>	9				Æ	₽	F	\$32.30	188
Lake Louise Trailer		چ <u>-</u>	<b>В</b> Т	<b>3</b>				<u>k</u>		<b>₽</b>	F	\$32.30	189

Daily fire permits cost \$8.80 extra. Camping permitted in designated campgrounds only.

Winter campgrounds operate on a self-registration system. Campsites in these campgrounds are available on a first-come first-serve basis. To increase your chance of securing a spot, arrive early in the day and come mid-week. Check-out time is 11:00 a.m., and payment must be made with cash or credit card at the site. **Debit cards are NOT accepted.** 

Overnight bivy camping is permitted at Wilcox campground for mountaineers who need an early start for certain routes around the Columbia Icefield. No RV's or trailer allowed.

You must contact the information centre to get a permit (780-852-6177 x2).

#### WHISTLERS CLOSURE

Whistlers Campground will be closed in 2019 for reconstruction. parkscanada.ca/whistlerscampground

## **Special Events**

On Friday, November 23, 2018 and January 18, 2019 come explore the park on us!

### Free park entry: November 23, 2018

Take part in the festivities of Moonlight Madness around the town of Jasper with discounts at stores and restaurants.

### Free park entry: January 18, 2019

Come back in the new year for an enchanting winter extravaganza and celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Jasper in January!



For more information on Moonlight Madness or Jasper in January visit: jasper.travel

#### Learn to Love Winter: February 15 to 18, 2019

Wondering what to do Family Day weekend? Our park interpreters will be offering fun and engaging winter activities for the whole family during our 'Learn to Love Winter' event.

Visit parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper-interpretation to learn more.

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