


WINTER 2019 - 2020



Jasper
National Park

Visitor Guide



Également offert en français  Athabasca River (Collina Frisson; Tourism Jasper)



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

Canada



Winter Walking and Events

Welcome

Extending over 11,000 square kilometres, Jasper is the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies. Connect to this special place by discovering our four spectacular regions. From snowshoeing and cross country-skiing to fat biking and trail walking, the options for winter activities are endless.

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 honor and be thankful for these contributions to building our park, province and nation.

Parks Canada wishes you a warm welcome and hopes that you enjoy your visit!

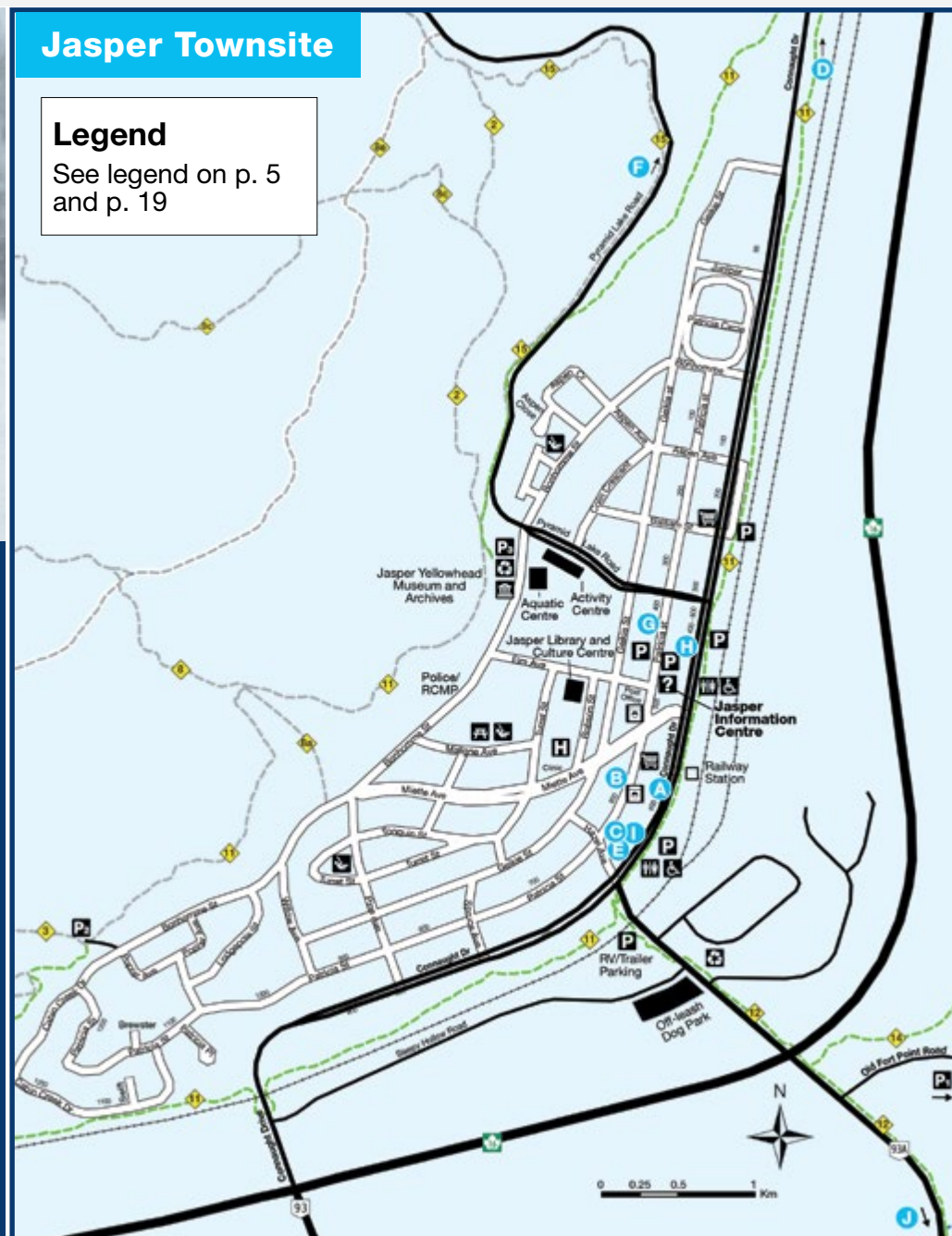


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Top Winter Walking Destinations

Enjoy the fresh air and unique winter scenery by exploring the following areas. **Be prepared for snowy, icy and slippery conditions.** Check the trail conditions.

Around Town:

Trail 15
Pyramid Bench
Lake Annette
Lac Beauvert
Valley of the Five Lakes

Maligne Valley:

Maligne Canyon
Mary Schäffer Loop
Moose Lake Loop

Icefields Parkway:

Athabasca Falls
Sunwapta Falls
Wilcox trail (Red Chairs)

Winter Walking Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not snowshoe or walk on groomed ski tracks.**
- Keep dogs on leash at all times.
- Pick up after your dog.
- Read all safety signage before proceeding.
- Wear appropriate footwear and ice cleats for extra grip on winter trails (see p. 19 for rental info).
- Check the trail report: parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails

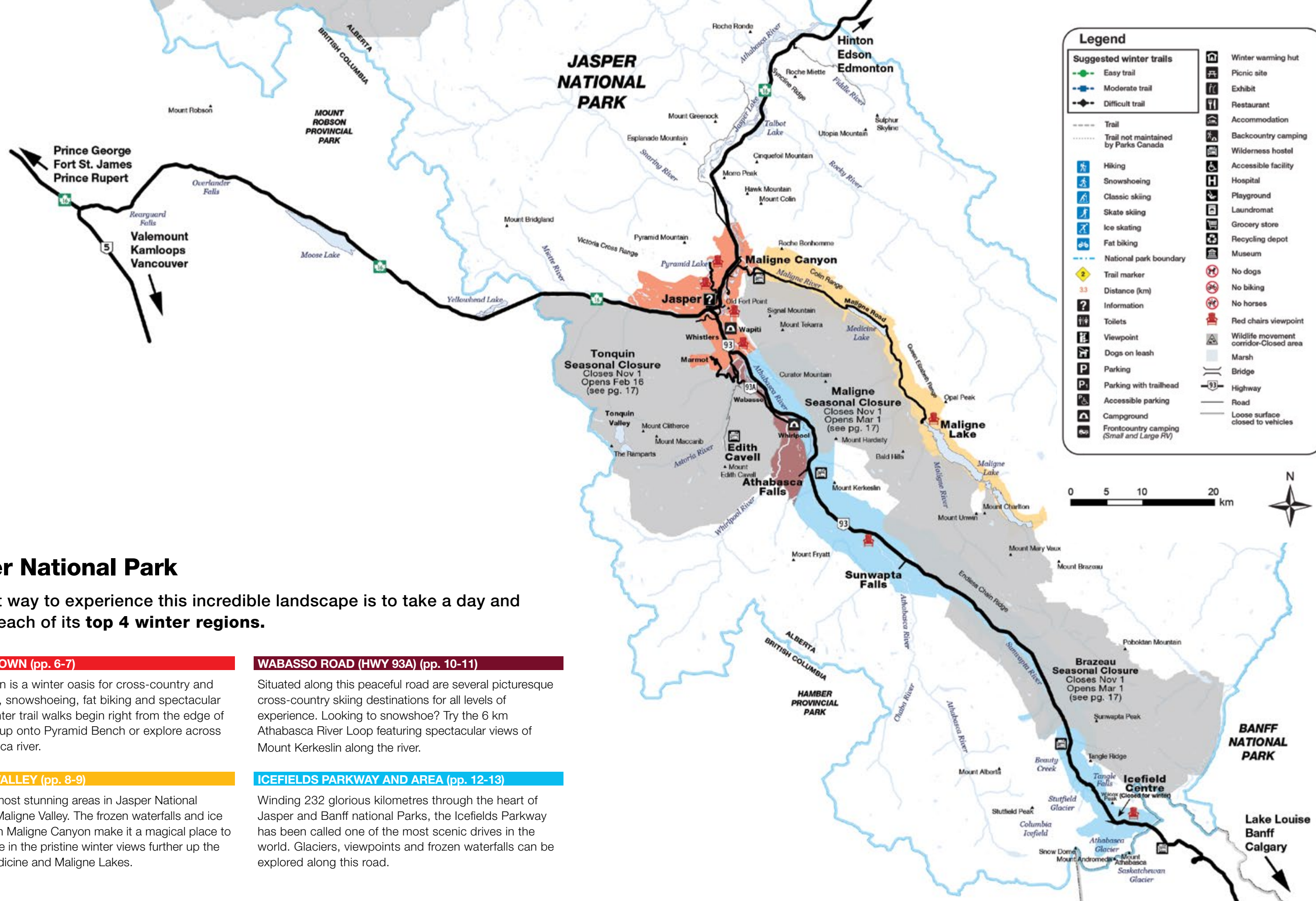


Events

From **January 17 to February 1, 2020**, enjoy a variety of festivities during the **Jasper in January Festival**.

For information about Jasper events, visit: jasper.travel

For information about Parks Canada interpretive programs, visit: parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper-interpretation.



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**.

AROUND TOWN (pp. 6-7)

Around Town 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.

MALIGNE VALLEY (pp. 8-9)

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. Take in the pristine winter views further up the valley at Medicine and Maligne Lakes.

WABASSO ROAD (HWY 93A) (pp. 10-11)

Situated along this peaceful road are several picturesque cross-country skiing destinations for all levels of experience. Looking to snowshoe? Try the 6 km Athabasca River Loop featuring spectacular views of Mount Kerkeslin along the river.

ICEFIELDS PARKWAY AND AREA (pp. 12-13)

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 explored along this road.

Around Town



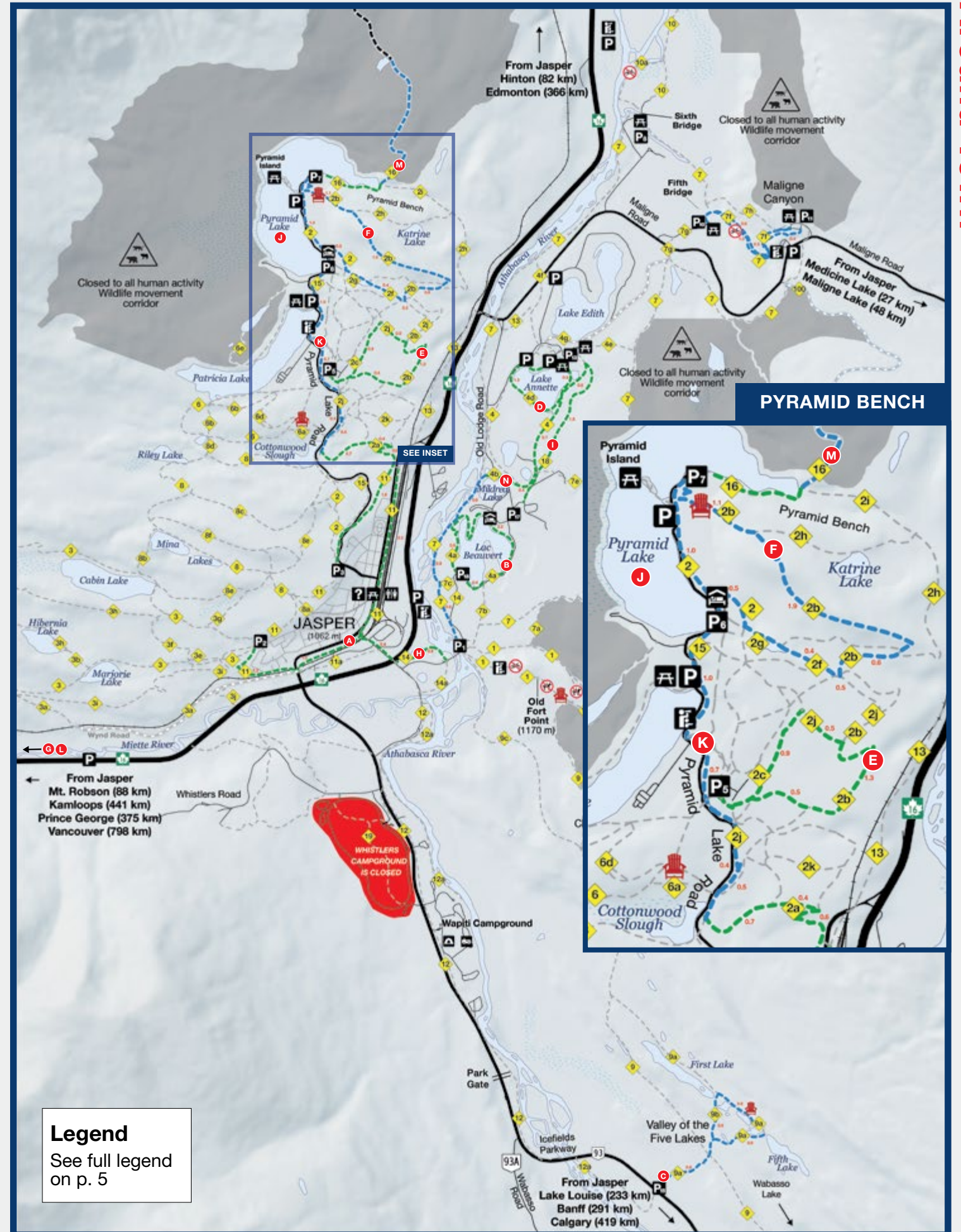
Pyramid Lake

Suggested Trails	Distance	Description	Primary Use
A 11 Jasper Discovery Trail	8.3 km loop	● An interpretive loop trail around the perimeter of town.	
B 4a Lac Beauvert Loop	3.5 km loop	● This flat loop around Lac Beauvert begins at Jasper Park Lodge. P ₁₇	
C 9a, 9b Valley of the Five Lakes	4.6 km loop	■ Follow Trail 9a and loop back on 9b. Watch for steep/slippery sections. P ₅	
D 4d Lake Annette	2.4 km loop	● An easy loop offering beautiful winter walking opportunities. P ₁₃	
E 2j, 2b, 2c Edge of the Bench	4.2 km return	● This loop offers spectacular valley views. P ₅	
F 2b, 2f, 2g, 2 Overlook Trail	6 km loop	■ Steep at first, this trail provides tremendous views of the valley. P ₇	
G 60, 60a Dorothy, Virl and Christine Lakes	8.6 km return	■ Steep in places, this forested trail has great lake views. P ₂₆	
H 14, 7, 4b 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.	
I 18 Woodpecker	4.4 km loop	● Flat packed by Jasper Park Lodge, this gentle loop travels from the lodge to Lake Annette and back. P ₁₇	
J Pyramid Lake*	2-4 km loop(s)	● Groomed multi-use loop(s) with beautiful views. P ₁	
K 15 Pyramid Trail	10.8 km return	■ This mainly flat packed trail steadily climbs to beautiful Pyramid Lake. P ₃	
L Pipeline	11 km return	■ Gentle terrain with subtle ups and downs. P ₉ 9 km on Hwy 16 W	
M 16 Pyramid Fire Road	16.8 km return	◆ Rolling terrain becomes steep and steady after 3 km, gaining 920 m in elevation. P ₇ Final 900m is ◆◆	
N Mildred Lake	Bask in spectacular mountain views as you glide along the Jasper Park Lodge groomed skating oval at Mildred Lake. P ₁ P ₁₇		

* Grooming on the lake is dependent on ice and snow conditions.

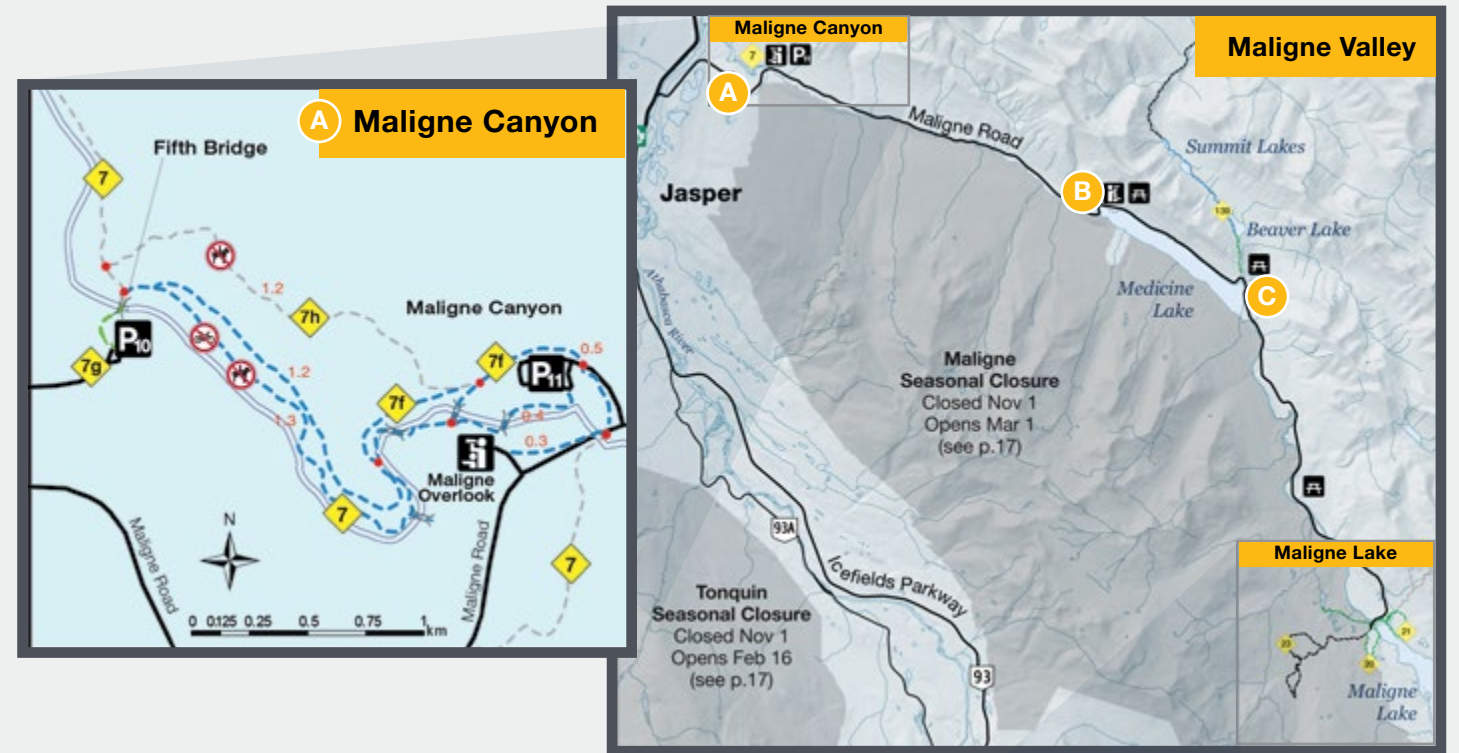
● Easy ■ Moderate ◆ Difficult ◆◆ Most Difficult

Check the trail report for up to date conditions on featured trails:
parksCanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails



Legend
 See full legend on p. 5

Maligne Valley



Suggested Trails	Distance	Description	Primary Use
A Maligne Canyon	Various distances	Several trail options along the top of the canyon. Caution: slippery trails, bring ice cleats.	
B Medicine Lake	Various distances	Make your own trail along the shoreline from the Medicine Lake northern viewpoint.	
C Beaver or Summit Lakes	4 or 10 km return	This forested trail begins at the Jacques Lake trailhead.	
D Maligne Lake	Various distances	Once frozen, the lake becomes a multi-use area with stunning views. Maligne Lake	
E Mary Schäffer Loop	2.9 km loop	A beautiful loop with a scenic viewpoint looking down Maligne Lake. Maligne Lake	
F Moose Lake Loop	2.7 km loop	This gentle trail rolls over the top of an ancient rockslide. Bald Hills	
G Upper Moose Loop	6 km loop	Steep in places, this trail starts in the forest and finishes along the shore of Maligne Lake. Bald Hills	
H Hidden Cove	8 km return	Travel along the lakeshore to the Hidden Cove Campground. Ensure ice conditions are safe. This route is popular with skiers too. To book a campsite: reservation.pc.gc.ca or 1-877-737-3783 Bald Hills	

Check the trail report for up to date conditions on featured trails:
parksCanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails

Easy Moderate Difficult

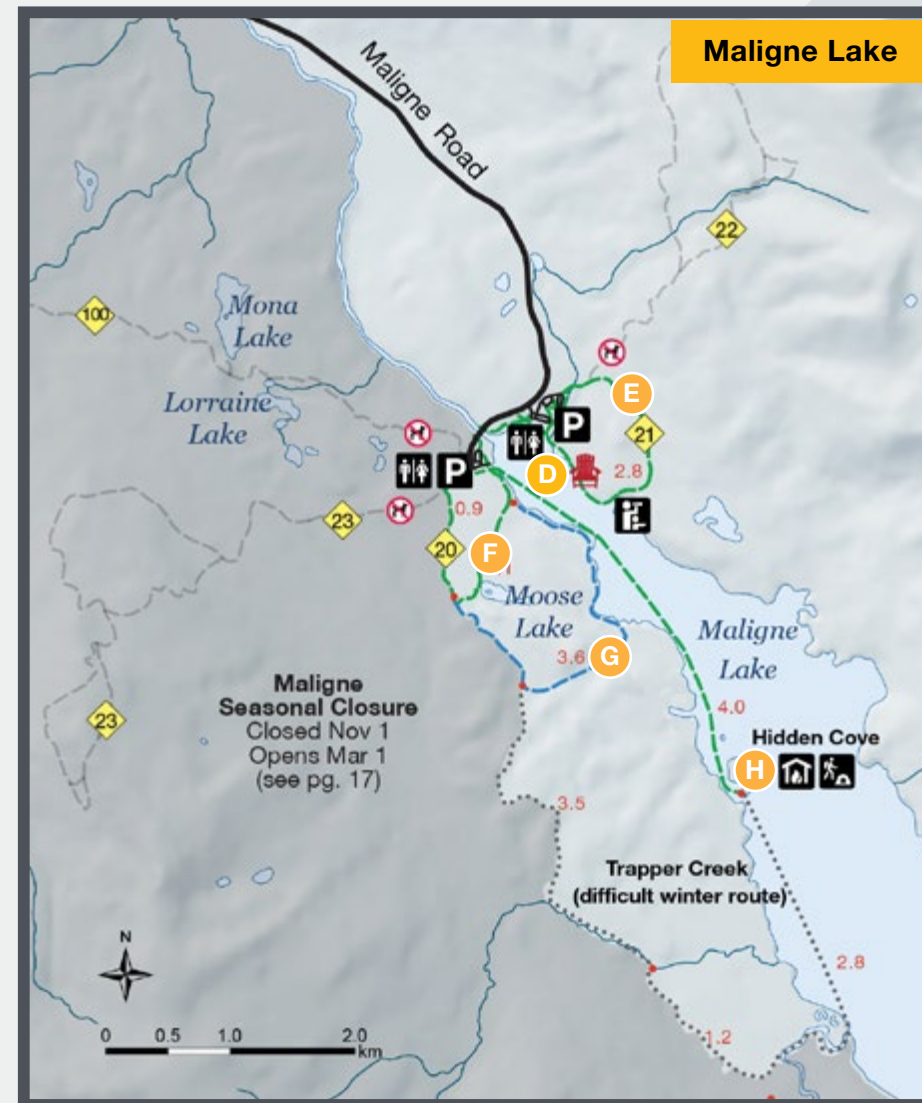


Maligne Canyon Safety

If you are planning to venture onto the frozen bottom of the canyon, we highly recommend you travel with a certified guide. Guides will outfit you with a helmet and ice cleats. They are familiar with hazards and know the safest route.

HAZARDS IN THE CANYON:

- Surfaces are slippery and uneven;
- Thin ice and/or breakable shelf ice may give way unexpectedly;
- Below the ice, the river is cold, deep and fast-moving;
- Frequent rock and ice fall;
- There are limited ways to exit the canyon, making escape difficult;
- Cell phone coverage in the canyon is not reliable.



Legend
 See full legend on p. 5

Wabasso Road (Hwy 93A)



Wabasso Campground

Suggested Trails	Distance	Description	Primary Use
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. P 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. P Whirlpool Winter Hub	
C Wabasso Campground	Various distances	Gentle terrain along the river with inside loops.	
D 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. P	

● Easy ■ Moderate ◆ Difficult

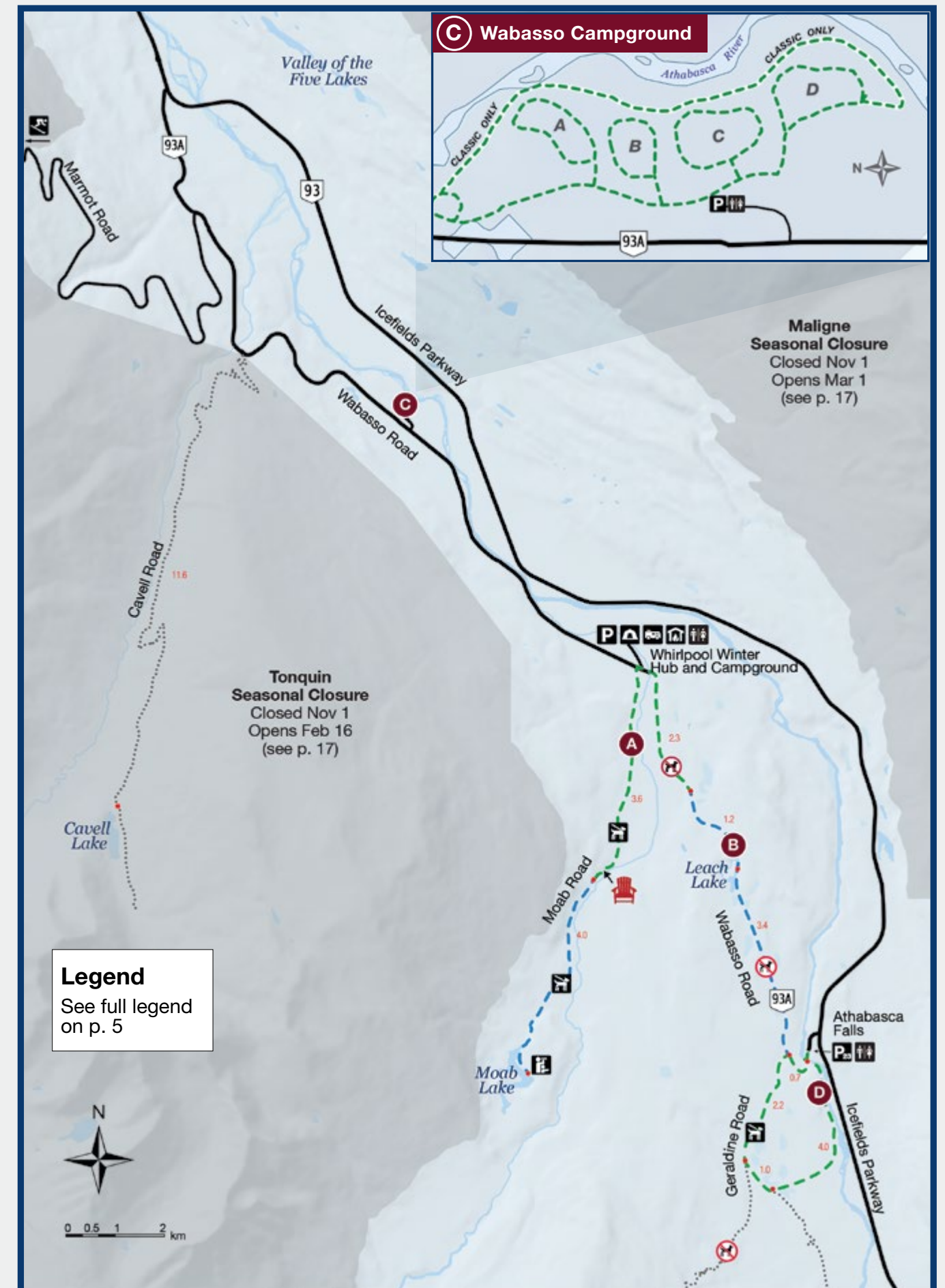
Wabasso Road (Hwy 93A) is closed to vehicles from Whirlpool Winter Hub to Athabasca Falls in winter. See map for parking options.

Check the trail report for up to date conditions on featured trails:
parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails



Leach Lake

Wabasso Road (Hwy 93A)



Icefields Parkway



Icefields Parkway linking Jasper and Banff National Parks

The Icefields Parkway is one of the world's most scenic drives. Just beyond the Columbia Icefield is the Banff National Park boundary. Here are a few highlights:

© Icefields Parkway

Suggested Trails	Distance	Description	Primary Use
1 Athabasca Falls	500 m return	● A stroll to beautiful ice formations. Be safe; stay behind railings and on designated trails. Never travel on river ice. [P] Athabasca Falls	[H]
2 [125] Upper Sunwapta Falls	100 m return	● A short walk takes visitors to a footbridge to view this beautiful frozen waterfall. [P] Sunwapta Falls	[H]
2 [125] Lower Sunwapta Falls	2.8 km return	● Descend along the river to a set of stunning frozen falls. [P] Sunwapta Falls	[H]
2 [126] Big Bend	12.6 km return	■ A forested trail leading to phenomenal views of Dragon Peak and surrounding mountains. [P] Sunwapta Falls	[B]
3 [52] Toe of the Glacier	3.6 km return	■ A steady climb along a recently glaciated surface to a unique view of the Toe of the Athabasca Glacier. [P] Forefield	[H] [B]
3 [53] Forefield	2.2 km return	● Flat and rocky trail crossing moraine and glacial debris left behind by the Athabasca Glacier. [P] Forefield	[H] [B]
4 [50] [Chair] Wilcox Viewpoint	3.4 km return	■ A short climb with incredible views of the Athabasca and Dome glaciers. Avalanche danger beyond the Red Chairs. [P] Wilcox	[H] [B]

*See Icefields Parkway map on p. 14 for locations

● Easy ■ Moderate ◆ Difficult

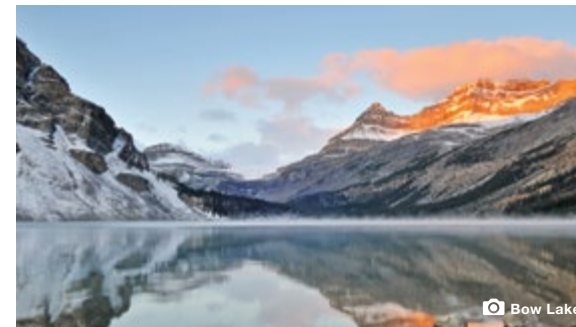
Check the trail report for up to date conditions on featured trails: parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails



3 Athabasca Glacier | 103 km south of Jasper
Be awestruck by the Athabasca Glacier and admire the Stutfield and Dome glaciers from the Icefields Parkway.



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 impressive in the winter and is a popular ice climbing destination.

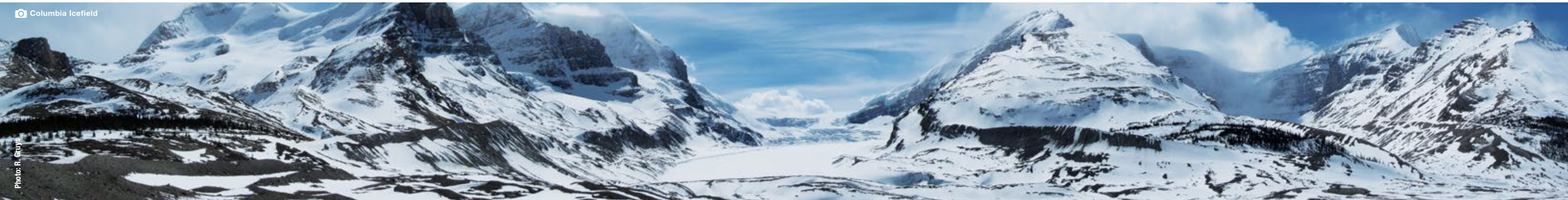


6 Bow Lake Viewpoint | 193 km south of Jasper
One of the most scenic lakes along the Parkway and the source of the Bow River.

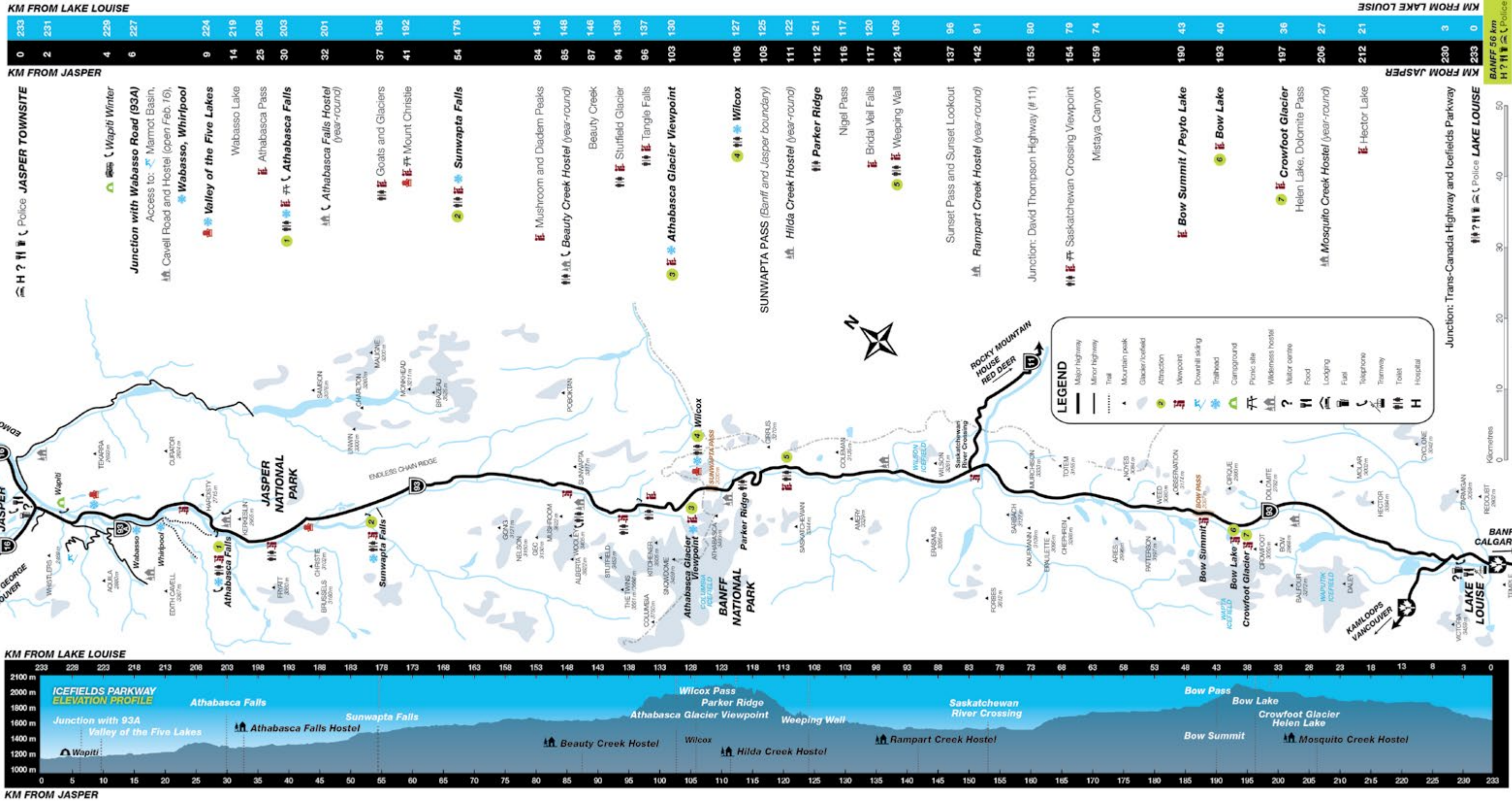


7 Crowfoot Glacier | 197 km south of Jasper
Enjoy this rewarding view from the roadside pull-off. When this glacier was named a century ago, it looked like a three-toed crow's foot. Since then, one toe has melted, and the middle toe is slowly disappearing.

© Columbia Icefield



Icefields Parkway Driving Map



There is no cell phone service from Athabasca Falls to Lake Louise.

Snow tires are mandatory from November 1 to March 31 on the Parkway.

WEATHER FORECAST:
weather.gc.ca
 Jasper 780-852-3185 • Banff 403-762-2088

ROAD CONDITIONS:
 Dial 511
511.alberta.ca • drivebc.ca



Winter Wildlife



Bighorn Sheep

Photo: R. Gruys

Characteristics

Resembles a large domestic cat. Short tail, long legs, large feet and prominent ear tufts.

Habitat

Higher elevations.



Photo: M. Bradley

Lynx



8 cm

Characteristics

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

Habitat

Throughout the park but particularly in valley bottoms.

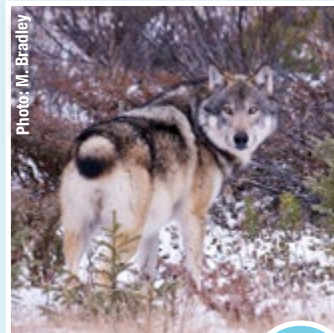


Photo: M. Bradley

Wolf



12 cm

Characteristics

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

Habitat

Near steep rocky terrain.



Photo: M. Bradley



Bighorn Sheep



9 cm



Photo: M. Bradley

Elk



11.5 cm

Characteristics

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

Habitat

Valley bottoms.



Photo: R. Gruys

Coyote



7 cm

Characteristics

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

Habitat

Valley bottoms.



Photo: R. Bray

Mountain Goat



8 cm

Characteristics

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

Habitat

Steep rocky terrain.

Winter Driving and Wildlife Safety

Driving on the Icefields Parkway

- 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.
- Ensure your car has snow tires—look for the snowflake symbol. Snow tires are mandatory from **November 1 to March 31** on the Parkway.
- Plan to start early and complete your drive (with time for exploration and stops along the way) during daylight hours.



- Fill your gas tank and bring extra windshield washer fluid. There are no services along the Icefields Parkway in winter.
- There is no cell phone reception from Athabasca Falls to Lake Louise.
- The Parkway is not salted so it is often covered in ice and snow.
- The Parkway occasionally closes in winter and spring due to increased avalanche danger or to clean up snow and debris on the highway.
- Check road conditions: 511.alberta.ca

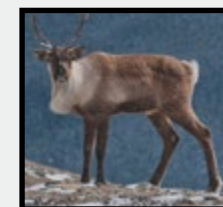
Human Food and Garbage Kills Wildlife.

- **Do not approach wildlife.**
- **Do not feed wildlife.**
- Do not litter.



Give Wildlife Space.

- **Stay in your vehicle.**
- Slow down. Obey speed limits.
- Pull over where it is safe to do so. Do not stop in driving lanes.
- Move on if a traffic jam develops.



Seasonal Closure for Caribou Conservation

Jasper National Park is home to four distinct herds of woodland caribou. Parks Canada is taking action to protect this species at risk by closing backcountry areas to help reduce wolves access to caribou habitat via human packed trails.

As of **November 1**, backcountry areas of the Tonquin, Maligne- Brazeau, and North Boundary ranges of Jasper National Park are closed to protect important caribou habitat. For more information regarding seasonal closures, visit: parksCanada.gc.ca/caribou-winter-access

Reduced speed limit on the Icefields Parkway

From south of Sunwapta Falls through to Beauty Creek Hostel, a reduced speed zone of 70 km/h is in effect from February 1 – June 1. Drive with care; this is a time when caribou may be seen crossing the road.

Safety is your responsibility



You are in Avalanche Country

Whenever there is snow on a slope, there is potential for an avalanche. Skiers, snowshoers, fat bikers and hikers must be familiar with avalanche terrain and avalanche conditions to safely enjoy the mountains. For more information, visit: parks-mountainsafety.ca



Ice Safety

Waterfalls, Canyon, Rivers (moving water):

Travelling on ice covered moving water is **unsafe**. Doing so without a certified guide is not recommended. **Respect all safety signage and fenced areas.**

Ponds, Lakes

The Red Cross recommends an ice thickness of at least 15 centimetres for safe skating. Parks Canada does not monitor ice thickness. It is up to you to assess the thickness of the ice. This does not apply to moving waters.



Hazardous Trees

Heads-up, trees may fall on trails at any time, especially when it is windy.



Do's and Don'ts on Groomed Ski Trails

- Do not snowshoe or walk on groomed ski tracks.
- 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 the left side.

Winter Driving

Check the road conditions multiple times a day for most up to date information.

Dial 511 • 511.alberta.ca • drivebc.ca

Weather Forecast: weather.gc.ca

Jasper 780-852-3185 • Banff 403-762-2088

Campgrounds and Services	Tent	Trailer	Electrical	Sani Dump	Flush Toilets	Pit Toilets	Showers	Firepit	Cooking Shelter	Drinking Water	Disabled Access	Fees (may be subject to change)	Number of sites
JASPER													
Wapiti Winter (Oct. 14 - May 5)	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	\$33.01 \$28.00	40 with elec. 35 tent
Whirlpool Winter (Dec. 4 - March 31)	☑	☑			☑		☑	☑	☑			\$16.05	10 tent-6 RV
BANFF													
Tunnel Mt. Village II (Year-round)	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	\$33.01	188
Lake Louise Trailer (Year-round)		☑	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑		☑	☑	\$33.01	189

Daily fire permits cost \$8.80 extra. **Camping permitted in designated campgrounds only.**
 Jasper campgrounds operate on a self-registration system in winter. Campsites in these campgrounds are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Check-out time is 11:00 a.m. 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 trailers allowed.

You must contact the information centre to get a permit (780-852-6177 ext 2).

Gear Rental (see map on p. 2)

	Downhill skis	Snowboards	Ice cleats	Snowshoes	X-country skis	Fat bikes	Skates	Alpine touring gear
A EDGE CONTROL 626 Connaught Dr. 780-852-4945	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			☑
B THE BENCH BIKE SHOP 606 Patricia St. 780-852-7768						☑		
C GRAVITY GEAR 625B Patricia St. 780-852-3155				☑				☑
D JASPER PARK LODGE 1 Old Lodge Rd 780-852-3301			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
E PURE OUTDOORS 632 Connaught Dr. 780-852-4717	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
F PYRAMID LAKE RESORT Pyramid Lake Rd 1-888-852-7737				☑		☑	☑	
G SOURCE FOR SPORTS 406 Patricia St. 780-852-3654	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
H TOTEM SKI SHOP 408 Connaught Dr. 780-852-3078	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
I VICIOUS CYCLE 630 Connaught Dr. 780-852-1111	☑	☑				☑		☑
J MARMOT BASIN 1 Marmot Basin Rd 780 852 3816	☑	☑						

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

parks-canada.gc.ca/jasper

SOCIAL MEDIA



TRAIL CONDITIONS REPORT
parks-canada.gc.ca/jaspertrails

PARKS CANADA RESERVATION SERVICE
1-877-737-3783
parks-canada.gc.ca/reservation

FRIENDS OF JASPER NATIONAL PARK
Maps and guide books:
780-852-4341 • friendsofjasper.com

TOURISM JASPER
780-852-6236 • jasper.travel

JASPER WEATHER
780-852-3185 • weather.gc.ca

ROAD CONDITIONS
Dial 511 • 511.alberta.ca • drivebc.ca

EMERGENCY

Dial 911
Cell phone service is not always reliable. 780-852-3100 (satellite phone)

Featured Regulations



Keep dogs on leash at all times (and pick up after them).



Jasper is a no drone zone. Report all drone use sightings to Jasper Dispatch 780-852-6155.

