



Burgess Shale Fossil Guided Hikes



Discover what life looked like over 500 million years ago.

The Burgess Shale fossils are...

Old – Over 500 million years old. Way older than dinosaurs!

Well preserved – You can see all kinds of details. Not only bones like most fossils, you can also see eyeballs, guts, brains and more!

Your relatives – Our ancestry can be traced back to these diverse ocean creatures.

The Burgess Shale fossils are some of the oldest and most complex on earth. They are so important that they are recognized as a key part of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. These fossils are still impacting the way we understand early life and evolution.

Parks Canada protects these internationally significant treasures and offers guided hikes to three unique Burgess Shale locations in the mountains of Yoho and Kootenay national parks.

Small group sizes allow for plenty of opportunities to ask questions about geology or the local plants and animals. Parks Canada guides are passionate about sharing these protected treasures with visitors from around the world.

Yoho National Park

Walcott Quarry: Classic expedition

This classic journey begins at Takakkaw Falls and includes views of Emerald Lake from high above. As you hike through stunning mountain landscapes, you'll learn about the weird and wonderful Burgess Shale creatures and how they were fossilized and came to be found at the top a mountain in Yoho National Park.

DIFFICULTY	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	DURATION
Strenuous	21 km (13 miles) <i>round trip</i>	825 metres (2,710 feet) <i>gain and loss</i>	11 hours

Mount Stephen: Stone bugs galore

Hike to the Mount Stephan trilobite beds that overlook the town of Field. This historic site is where railway workers reported finding 'stone bugs' in the 1880s. Enjoy expansive views of the river below as well as the Kicking Horse Pass National Historic Site.

DIFFICULTY	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	DURATION
Strenuous	8 km (5 miles) <i>round trip</i>	795 metres (2,610 feet) <i>gain and loss</i>	7.5 hours

Kootenay National Park

Stanley Glacier: Kootenay fossils revealed

This family-oriented hike provides an excellent introduction to the Burgess Shale on a relatively easy trail. Beginning in a fire-swept forest with wildflowers and lodgepole pine, this hike crosses a turquoise river, passes by waterfalls and offers close-up views of the Stanley Glacier.

Hidden at the base are trilobites, hyolithids, brachiopods, sponges and algae from the Eldon formation. Keep an eye out for "Stan animal," a 505-million-year old predator recently discovered here!

DIFFICULTY	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	DURATION
Moderate	10 km (6.3 miles) <i>round trip</i>	450 metres (1,476 feet) <i>gain and loss</i>	7.5 hours

For more information or to book a hike:

pc.gc.ca/burgessshale
1-888-773-8888

reservation.pc.gc.ca or
1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783)

See reverse for rates and schedule.



Conservation Guided Hikes



Zoya Lynch / Parks Canada

Take in the incredible views, while learning more about the animal and plant life that call the mountain national parks home.

Through participation in activities with your guide, learn what Parks Canada is doing to support different species and how you can help.

From lakeside views to mountain vistas, Parks Canada guided conservation hikes show how species and their habitats are connected. Get an insider's look at the cutting-edge work being done by Parks Canada conservation experts to protect species at risk and restore balance in critical habitats in the mountain national parks.

New to hiking? Conservation hikes are a great way to explore with a trained Parks Canada guide and learn more about the beautiful Canadian Rockies! Small group sizes allow plenty of opportunities to gain hiking tips and tricks or ask questions about the local plants and animals.



Get an
insider's look.



Zoya Lynch / Parks Canada

Yoho National Park

Paget Lookout: Getting connected

Hike through a dense subalpine forest. Take in views of the Continental Divide and the surrounding peaks and river valleys. On your way to the Paget Fire Lookout, discover diverse species and their surprising connections, from grizzly bears to fungi. Walk among the whitebark and limber pine trees, both species at risk, and take part in research that is helping protect them.

DIFFICULTY	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	DURATION
Moderate	7 km (4.3 miles) round trip	520 metres (1,706 feet) gain and loss	7.5 hours

Banff National Park

Hidden Lake: A mosaic unveiled

This spectacular hike starts off with a shuttle ride that will trim the 18 km trail down to a family-friendly 10 km. Head gently up the valley through wildflowers or golden larch in Autumn. Learn about the smaller pieces that make up the grand mosaic of this distinct landscape and its ecosystem before you discover a unique opportunity for protection and recovery of westslope cutthroat trout, a species at risk.

DIFFICULTY	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	DURATION
Moderate	10 km (6 miles) round trip	270 metres (880 feet) gain and loss	7.5 hours

For more information or to book a hike:

parksCanada.gc.ca/yoho-conservation-hikes
1-888-773-8888

reservation.pc.gc.ca or
1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783)

Burgess Shale Fossil and Conservation Guided Hikes Information

Guided hikes run from June – September

Adults (17-64 years) Starting from \$55.00
Youth (8-16 years) Starting from \$27.50
Seniors (65+ years) Starting from \$46.75

- Groups that reserve all available spaces at the same time for the same hike receive a 10% discount.
- Due to the length and difficulty, not all hikes are suitable for all ages. Please refer online for more details.
- Children and youth up to 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- Parents/guardians of participants 17-19 years of age who are hiking unaccompanied will be asked to sign a waiver at the trailhead.
- All Parks Canada guided hike participants require a valid national parks pass.
- A non-refundable reservation fee applies to both phone and online reservations.