



Horse Use Guidelines



Parks Canada, Cyndi Smith

You can maintain a positive image for horse users and help the park with its efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of horse use, and reduce horse-hiker-bicycle safety conflicts.

GENERAL

- Please limit group size to 12 horses and/or mules.
- Horses may be restricted in some areas of the park (see restrictions).
- To minimize impacts such as soil erosion, the spread of noxious weeds, and disturbance to plants and animals, please stay on developed trails.
- At trailheads, be considerate of others when parking vehicles (some trailheads can become quite congested.)
- At Red Rock Canyon, please use the horse use area provided at the Lower Day Use Area (as you approach the canyon area, turn left when you see the orientation sign). Horses and horse trailers are not allowed in the Upper Day Use Area.
- Do not park off the hardened surface of the roadway or parking lot.
- Please remove any manure deposited during loading and unloading.
- Horses kept in the park overnight **must have a permit and a supply of pelletized horse feed:**
 - » In the **backcountry**—must be kept in a corral at two designated backcountry campgrounds
 - » In the **frontcountry**—must be boarded at Alpine Stables



REGULATIONS

It is your responsibility to follow all park regulations. General regulations are outlined in the Waterton Lakes National Park Visitor Guide. The following regulations apply specifically to horse use:

- **Only** horses and mules are permitted in the park.
- Llamas, goats and other animals are **not** allowed.
- A proper supply of pelletized horse feed should be packed in. **Horse grazing is not permitted in the park.**
- Fires are permitted **only** in fireboxes provided at Bertha Bay, Boundary Bay, Lone Lake, Snowshoe, and Crandell Lake. **Only** gas stoves can be used at Alderson Lake, Bertha Lake, Crypt Lake, Goat Lake and Twin Lakes.
- Dogs, horses and mules must be kept under physical control.
- Horses that are injured or killed in the park must be removed at the owner's expense. Contact Resource Conservation staff at 1-403-859-5140 if an accident has occurred and for advice.
- Parks Canada and neighbouring jurisdictions are investigating a requirement to use "certified weed free" hay and horse feed to protect the ecosystem from invasion by noxious weeds. More information will be available as the program is implemented.

RESTRICTIONS

Horse use is prohibited:

- At all frontcountry campgrounds (Townsite, Crandell and Belly River)
- On the Kootenai Brown Trail (horses may cross the trail)
- All picnic sites
- The Waterton Lakes golf course
- The entire Waterton townsite and the Prince of Wales Hill area
- Bear's Hump, Linnet Lake and Cameron Lakeshore trails

Note: Horse use is **not** allowed on the Bertha Lakes Trail (Lakeshore junction to Bertha Lake) during July and August.

No firearms are permitted in the backcountry.

SAFETY

- Horses must yield to motor traffic. Two designated horse crossings have been established on the Entrance Parkway. Use extreme caution when crossing any roadway.
- To avoid starting wildfires—don't smoke while riding; keep fires confined to fire grates provided; ensure fires are extinguished before leaving the site.
- Trails are designed for horse and hiker use. Cyclists are also allowed on the Snowshoe, Akamina Pass, Wishbone, Kootenai Brown and Crandell Loop trails. Hikers and cyclists may not be aware of safe practices when meeting horses on trails. If necessary, please tactfully encourage them to yield to your horses and explain what you need them to do to ensure safety for all concerned.
- Cross rivers and streams at known ford locations. Avoid crossing rivers during periods of high water as this can be extremely hazardous.
- For the safety of others and your horse(s), ensure saddle/pack animals are under physical control at all times.
- It is strongly recommended that only very skilled riders, with horses experienced in mountain terrain, travel over the Carthew-Alderson and Tamarack Trail.

DAY USE

- Hitching rails or corrals are available at Alderson Lake, Bertha Lake, Crypt Lake, Lone Lake, Snowshoe Cabin and Twin Lakes. Please use them.
- Where hitching rails are not available, tie a rope between two trees, then tie the horse(s) to the centre of the rope. To prevent unnecessary damage to soils and vegetation, please hobble-tie horses. Be considerate of others by tying horses away from high-use areas.

OVERNIGHT USE

- Backcountry camping with horses is allowed only where corrals are provided—Lone Lake and Snowshoe Cabin. Corrals have a maximum limit of eight horses. Prior permission from Resource Conservation is required for use of the

Lone Lake and Snowshoe Cabin corrals as they may be in use by park staff.

- Horses must be kept in the corral, and should not enter the campground.
- A Wilderness Pass is required for all backcountry overnight use. Permits are available from the Visitor Centre or through advance reservation by calling 1-403-859-5133 (fee applies). To avoid overcrowding and availability of the corrals, please specify that you are camping with horses.
- Random camping is not permitted.
- The maximum number of people which can be accommodated at a backcountry campground is 12, with a maximum group size of six. Campsites are 3 m x 3 m in size. The maximum size tent that the pads can accommodate is a 3-person tent.
- Store all food, garbage and horse feed on the bear poles provided. We suggest you bring a 10 m length of rope for this purpose. For the safety of your party and others, keep a clean camp to avoid problems with wildlife.
- Pack out all garbage, unused food and horse feed.

TRAIL GUIDES & OUTFITTERS

- Alpine Stables is the only concessionaire licensed to provide commercial guide/outfitter services within the park.
- Non-resident guide/outfitters who wish to access Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park via the Akamina Pass must obtain an Authorization from Waterton Lakes National Park. B.C. Parks must be contacted in advance, and a permit issued and produced before a Waterton Authorization is issued. Contact the Resource Conservation Office for details at 1-403-859-5140.

ALL PERSONS PLANNING TO TAKE HORSES OVER AKAMINA PASS INTO THE AKAMINA-KISHINENA PROVINCIAL PARK MUST OBTAIN A HORSE USE PERMIT FROM BC PARKS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR TRIP.

Contact:

BC Parks and Protected Areas
205 Industrial Road "G"
Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G5

Telephone 1-250-489-8540

Facsimile 1-250-489-8506

IF YOU PLAN ON FISHING IN THIS BC PROVINCIAL PARK, A BC PROVINCIAL FISHING LICENSE IS ALSO REQUIRED.

Please consult the National Park Visitor Guide (inside the Waterton-Glacier Guide) for further information on safety, wildlife and regulations.

For further information or to report any unusual trail maintenance problems or hazards, contact the **Visitor Centre** at 1-403-859-5133 or the **Resource Conservation/Warden Office** at 1-403-859-5140.



**24 HOUR EMERGENCY
403-859-2636**