



Hiking in Yoho National Park

Yoho National Park protects Rocky Mountain landscapes on the western slopes of the Continental Divide.

Rock walls and waterfalls, forests and meadows, sparkling lakes, and cascading rivers set the scene for memorable hiking. There are more than 400 km of trails that take visitors from luxuriant river valleys to wind-swept, rocky outcrops.

Également offert en français

Iceline Trail
K. Smith

Plan ahead, be prepared

SAFETY

Safety is your responsibility.

- Research trails before heading out. Always choose a trail suitable for the least experienced member in your group.
- Ask for advice at a Parks Canada visitor centre. For current trail conditions, warnings, closures, weather, and trail classifications visit: parksCanada.gc.ca/yohotrails
- Mountain weather changes quickly and it can snow any month of the year. Dress in layers and bring warm clothing.
- Be prepared for emergencies. Bring extra food and a first aid kit.
- Bring your own water. Surface water may be contaminated and unsafe for drinking.
- Tell a reliable person where you are going, when you will be back, and who to call if you do not return (Parks Canada Dispatch: 403-762-1470).
- Ticks carrying Lyme disease may be present in the park, check yourself and your pet after hiking.

WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

Be aware of possible encounters with wildlife in all areas of the park, including paved trails and roads.

- Make noise. Being quiet puts you at risk for sudden bear encounters. Be alert through shrubby areas and when approaching blind corners.
- Cyclists are susceptible to sudden, dangerous bear encounters – slow down, stay alert, and make noise.
- Travel in tight groups and always be aware of your surroundings. Avoid wearing earbuds or headphones.

- Carry bear spray with you at all times, ensure it is accessible, and know how to use it. Learn how to use it at: parksCanada.gc.ca/bearspray
- Do not feed, touch, or approach wildlife. Stay at least 30 to 50 m away from most animals, and 100 m away from bears.
- Report bear, cougar, wolf, and coyote sightings and encounters to Parks Canada Dispatch when it is safe to do so: 403-762-1470.

DOGS

Dogs and other pets cause stress for wildlife. To prevent unsafe situations, it is your responsibility to:

- Ensure your dog is on a leash and under control at all times.
- Pick up and dispose of your pet's waste in a garbage bin.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Show courtesy to fellow trail users!

- Leave what you find – it is the law. Natural and cultural resources such as rocks, fossils, artifacts, horns, antlers, wildflowers, and nests are protected by law and must be left undisturbed for others to discover and enjoy.
- Leave no trace. Pack out everything you pack in.
- Dispose of human waste at least 100 m from any water source. Bury solid human waste in a hole 15 cm deep. Pack out your toilet paper.
- To prevent damage to vegetation, stay on the trail and avoid shortcuts.
- Trails are used by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. Be sure to yield to others.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Reservations are required at all backcountry campgrounds. They are equipped with tent pads, dry toilets, communal picnic tables, and food storage cables or lockers. Fires are not permitted. For more details visit: parksCanada.gc.ca/ynp-backcountry-reservation.pc.gc.ca 1-877-reserve (737-3783) Same day backcountry reservations can be made at Parks Canada visitor centres.

LAKE O'HARA

A quota system is in place to limit the number of visitors using the public bus service into Lake O'Hara. Spots fill up quickly and advanced reservations for day use and camping are required. For more information visit: parksCanada.gc.ca/lakeohara

BURGESS SHALE FOSSILS GUIDED HIKES

Hold a piece of earth's history on a guided hike to the restricted Walcott Quarry or Mount Stephen fossil sites. Reservations are required. For more information visit: parksCanada.ca/burgessshale

FISHING

A national park fishing permit is required and available at Parks Canada visitor centres.

YOHO NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTRE
250-343-6783
pc.yohoinfo.pc@canada.ca
parksCanada.gc.ca/yoho

Trails for all

Yoho National Park offers a wide variety of easy walks suitable for families and people of all abilities as well as longer, more challenging trails for keen hikers.

Guidebooks and topographical maps are available at the Friends of Yoho gift shop at the Yoho National Park Visitor Centre: 250-343-6393 friendsofyoho.ca

Send us your comments and report trail problems: pc.yohoinfo.pc@canada.ca

- Easy
- Moderate
- ◆ Difficult
- ♿ Accessible
- 🚲 Cyclists allowed
- 🏠 Backcountry campground

TRAIL CONDITIONS REPORT
parksCanada.gc.ca/yohotrails

ENVIRONMENT CANADA
WEATHER FORECAST
403-762-0288
weather.gc.ca

Summer hiking trails	Estimated time (return)	Distance (return)	Elevation gain	Trail description	Notes
1 Wapta Falls*	1.5 hours	4.6 km <small>Late Oct to late May: 8.6 km</small>	gain/loss 30 m	Lush, forested walk to the largest waterfall on the Kicking Horse River. <i>Note: the 2-km vehicle access road to Wapta Falls is closed from late October to late May.</i>	🏠 Eastbound access only
2 Emerald Lake	2 hours	5.2 km	minimal	Interpretive, lakeshore trail surrounded by mountain and glacier views.	♿
3 Hamilton Falls	30 minutes	1.6 km	minimal	Pleasant stroll to a delicate cascade.	
4 Centennial	45 minutes	2.5 km	minimal	Shaded trail along the Kicking Horse River that is known for wildflowers.	
5 Walk-in-the-Past	1.5 hours	3 km	90 m	Interpretive trail to the historic pieces of an abandoned narrow-gauge locomotive.	
6 Kicking Horse to Amiskwi	1.5 hours	3.6 km	loss 50 m	Old forested road to the confluence of three rivers.	🚲
7 Sherbrooke Lake*	3 hours	6.2 km	165 m	Forested hike to a glacial lake rimmed with thick vegetation and avalanche debris.	🏠 Westbound access only
8 Great Divide	2 hours	6 km	minimal	Closed, paved road to the historic archway marking the Continental Divide.	♿ 🚲
9 Ross Lake	2 hours	6.4 km	100 m	Closed, paved road and forested trail to a lake at the headwall of Narao Peak.	🚲
10 Laughing Falls	3.5 hours or 2 days	8.8 km	125 m	Forested trail to a waterfall at the confluence of the Yoho and Little Yoho rivers.	🏠 Laughing Falls
11 Kicking Horse to Otterhead	4.5 hours	12.6 km	loss 40 m	Old forested road along the Kicking Horse River to the Otterhead River.	🚲
12 Mt. Hunter Lookout*	3 hours	7.2 km	410 m	Steep trail through an open forest to a historic fire lookout tower.	🏠 Eastbound access only
13 Mt. Hunter Upper Lookout*	5.5 hours	12 km	835 m	Steep trail to rewarding views of the Kicking Horse and Beaverfoot valleys.	🏠 Eastbound access only
14 Hoodoos	2.5 hours	5.2 km	325 m	Steep, dry, exposed trail leading to hoodoos or capped pillars of glacial debris.	
15 Emerald Basin	3.5 hours	9.2 km	225 m	Forested trail through ancient stands of hemlock and cedar to a natural amphitheatre.	
16 Paget Lookout*	3 hours	7 km	520 m	Steep, rocky trail to views of the Bow, Cataract Brook, and Kicking Horse valleys.	🏠 Westbound access only
17 Hamilton Lake	5 hours	11 km	850 m	Steep and steady climb to a cliff-circled alpine tarn.	
18 Yoho Pass	5 hours or 2 days	12.8 km	530 m	Lakeshore stroll to an alluvial fan, followed by switchbacks and waterfalls. Connects the Emerald Lake and Takakkaw Falls areas.	🏠 Yoho Lake
19 Twin Falls	6 hours or 2 days	16.4 km	300 m	Forested trail along the Yoho River to an impressive double cascade and Twin Falls Tea House National Historic Site.	🏠 Laughing Falls and Twin Falls
20 Lake O'Hara Road	6 hours	22 km	430 m	Gravel road through Cataract Brook Valley to Lake O'Hara. Cycling is prohibited.	🏠 Lake O'Hara
21 Ottertail Valley to McArthur	9 hours or 2 days	32.4 km	285 m	Old forested road along the Ottertail River to its confluence with McArthur Creek.	🚲 🏠 McArthur Creek
22 Emerald Triangle	8 hours	19.7 km	880 m	Steady climbs and descents to both Yoho and Burgess passes with the Wapta Highline in between. Grand views of the Emerald Valley.	
23 Iceline via Little Yoho	8 hours or 2 days	20.8 km	710 m	Signature circuit climbing to a high bench with spectacular glacier views, descending to meadows in the Little Yoho Valley and returning past Laughing Falls.	🏠 Yoho Lake, Little Yoho and Laughing Falls
24 Iceline via Celeste Lake	7 hours or 2 days	17.5 km	695 m	Slightly shorter descent from the Iceline, bypassing the Little Yoho Valley but taking in Celeste Lake, alpine meadows, and sub-alpine forest.	🏠 Yoho Lake and Laughing Falls
25 Yoho Glacier Moraine	7.5 hours or 2 days	20.8 km	250 m	Lush valley forests to the stark, rocky landscape of a receding glacier.	🏠 Laughing Falls
26 Whaleback	7.5 hours or 2 days	21.3 km	700 m	Classic circuit taking in the Yoho Valley and Twin Falls from both above and below. Seasonal suspension bridge – check the trail report to ensure it is in.	🏠 Laughing Falls and Twin Falls
27 Little Yoho Valley	7 hours or 2 days	18.6 km	520 m	Moderate to steep forested hike into a scenic hanging valley.	🏠 Laughing Falls and Little Yoho
28 Goodsir Pass	12 hours or 2 days	50 km	915 m	Steep climb to a larch-laden pass with excellent views of the Goodsir peaks. Connects with Kootenay National Park's Rockwall Trail.	🏠 McArthur Creek

*These trailheads are only signed and accessible from one direction on the Trans-Canada Highway.

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YOHO NATIONAL PARK

- Visitor centre
- Parking
- Washrooms
- Wi-Fi
- Picnic area
- Frontcountry campground
- Backcountry campground
- HI-Whiskey Jack Hostel
- Alpine Club of Canada Hut
- Backcountry lodge
- Parks Canada station
- Lake O'Hara bus
- No cycling
- Red chairs
- Hiking trail
- Cycling permitted
- Highway
- Road
- Park boundary
- Road with no cell phone coverage

Cell phone coverage is not reliable in many areas of the park.

Takkakaw Falls: accessible to small vehicles only due to steep, tight switchbacks. Reversing is required for vehicles 21' and over. No trailers.

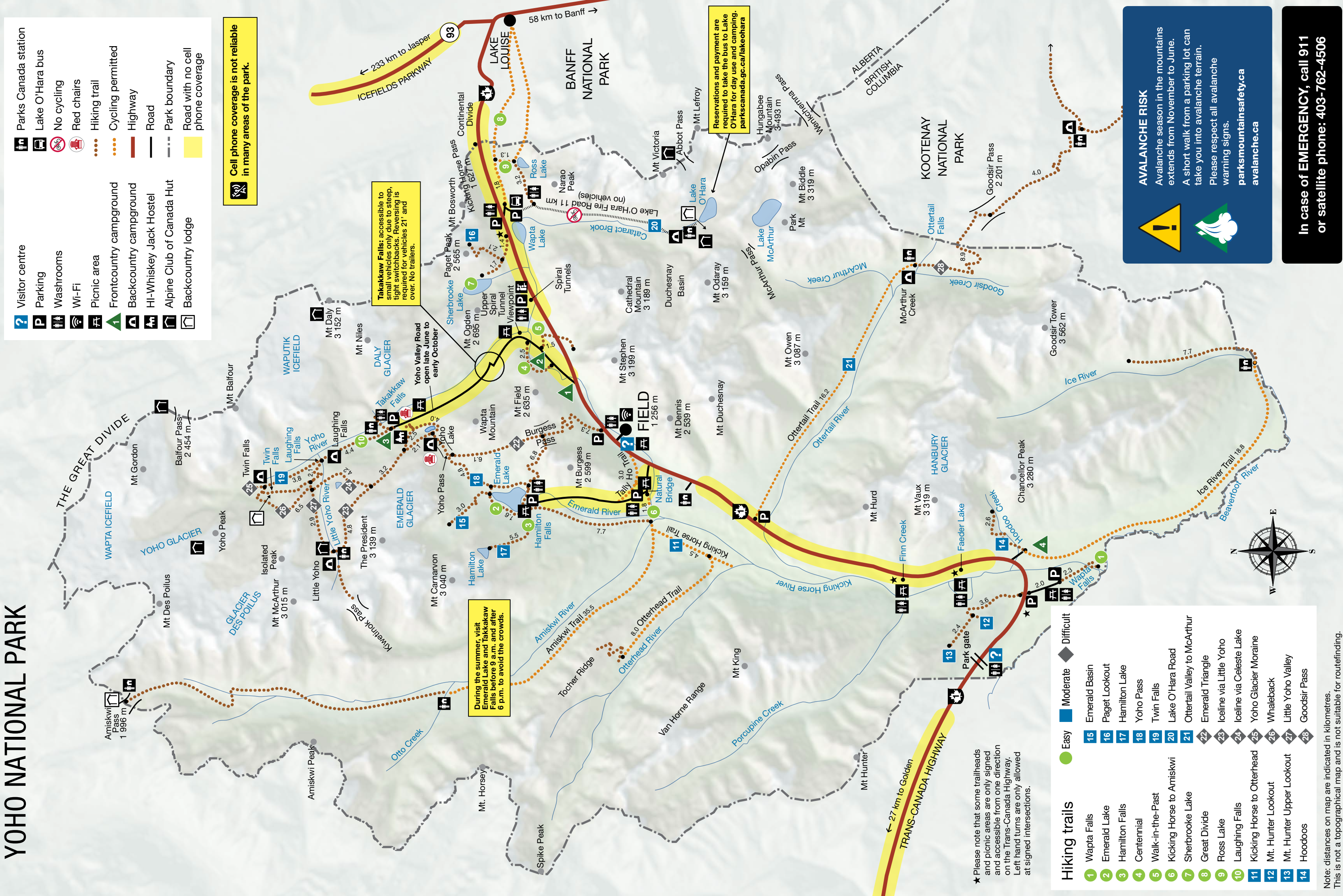
During the summer, visit Emerald Lake and Takkakaw Falls before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m. to avoid the crowds.

Reservations and payment are required to take the bus to Lake O'Hara for day use and camping. parks.canada.gc.ca/lakeohara

★ Please note that some trailheads and picnic areas are only signed and accessible from one direction on the Trans-Canada Highway. Left hand turns are only allowed at signed intersections.

- ### Hiking trails
- Easy
 - Moderate
 - Difficult
 - 1** Wapta Falls
 - 2** Emerald Lake
 - 3** Hamilton Falls
 - 4** Centennial
 - 5** Walk-in-the-Past
 - 6** Kicking Horse to Amiskwi
 - 7** Sherbrooke Lake
 - 8** Great Divide
 - 9** Ross Lake
 - 10** Laughing Falls
 - 11** Kicking Horse to Otterhead
 - 12** Mt. Hunter Lookout
 - 13** Mt. Hunter Upper Lookout
 - 14** Hoodoos
 - 15** Emerald Basin
 - 16** Paget Lookout
 - 17** Hamilton Lake
 - 18** Yoho Pass
 - 19** Twin Falls
 - 20** Lake O'Hara Road
 - 21** Ottertail Valley to McArthur
 - 22** Emerald Triangle
 - 23** Iceline via Little Yoho
 - 24** Iceline via Celeste Lake
 - 25** Yoho Glacier Moraine
 - 26** Whaleback
 - 27** Little Yoho Valley
 - 28** Goodsiir Pass

Note: distances on map are indicated in kilometres. This is not a topographical map and is not suitable for routefinding.



AVALANCHE RISK

Avalanche season in the mountains extends from November to June. A short walk from a parking lot can take you into avalanche terrain. Please respect all avalanche warning signs.

parks.mountainsafety.ca
avalanche.ca

In case of EMERGENCY, call 911 or satellite phone: 403-762-4506