

Camping in the Banff Area

The BARE Campsite Program

The BARE Campsite program aims to ensure that no wildlife attractants are left unattended at any site in the campgrounds. Special effort is being made by Parks Canada staff for your safety, and to help wildlife in our national parks continue to thrive. The program is in effect in all Banff National Park campgrounds.



Black bear cub

Why a BARE campsite?

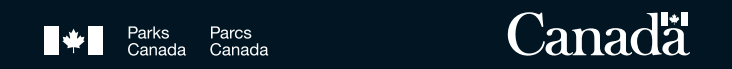
When people leave their food and animal attractants outside, bears and other wildlife can lose their fear of humans. Once an animal becomes familiar with human food, that animal becomes a risk to public safety and may be destroyed. By keeping a BARE campsite, you are playing an important role in preventing the creation of "problem" animals.

How to keep a BARE campsite:

A BARE campsite does not have any wildlife attractants (food-related or scented items). These items include:

- Coolers* – full and empty
- Food – wrapped, unwrapped, and in containers
- Garbage/wrappers
- Dishes/pots/cutlery – clean and dirty
- Empty beverage containers
- Pet food/bowls – full and empty
- Bottles/cans – open or unopened
- Scented products – all, such as shampoo, toothpaste, candles, citronella, dish soap
- Barbecues – clean and dirty
- Any other items used for food preparation or that have a smell or scent

*A note about coolers: animals will be attracted to these because they hold odors from items that have been stored in them, even when the coolers are empty.



Canada

Welcome to Banff National Park!

Banff National Park offers diverse camping experiences, from cozy and authentic lakeside campsites to scenic sites located within close proximity to amenities in the Town of Banff. Seven campgrounds in the Banff area provide convenient access to the park's most famous attractions. Each campground varies in size, location and services. Visitors can choose one that best suits their needs and preferences.

The information in this brochure is important to know for your enjoyment and safety. Should you have any questions, staff are available at most campgrounds and are also ready to assist you at Parks Canada Visitor Centres.



Rules and Regulations

General

In addition to the BARE Campsite program, a number of regulations are in effect to ensure campers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Campgrounds and campsite sizes have been designed to reduce our impact on the ecosystem. Exceeding the maximum occupancy of a campsite places stress on the campgrounds and the natural environment.

- A maximum of two vehicles, two tents, and six people are permitted on each site.
- Check out or renew by – 11 a.m.
- Maximum stay – 14 days
- Camping is only permitted in a designated campground and site.
- Vehicles and tents must be within your designated site and on the gravel pad.
- Do not tie anything to the trees (this includes tarps). Tarps should be secured using poles.

Noise

People love to camp because of the opportunity it provides to escape the noise of the city and enter the peace and quiet of nature. Even conversations can carry through a forested area. Excessive noise is not permitted at any time. Any disturbance should be reported immediately to a Parks Canada warden or campground staff.

Quiet Hours – Are in effect from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. During quiet hours, music, campfires and alcohol are prohibited. Quiet conversation only.

Alcohol – Open alcohol is not permitted between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Refer to the *Alcohol and Fire Bans* section for more information.

Generator Use - Permitted between the hours of 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. daily.

Visitors – Only site occupants are permitted on a campsite after 11 p.m. After that time, large groups should disperse back to their own sites.

Campfires

Having a campfire is one of the most enjoyable things to do when camping. In order to keep your campfire safe for you and for the environment, adhere to the following regulations:

Permit – Each registered party wanting to have a campfire must purchase a fire permit for \$8.80 per day. Permits are available at the campground or self-registration kiosk.

Fire Size – Fires must be contained within the fire ring provided. It is illegal to have a fire outside of a designated location. To reduce the negative impact of campfires on the environment, keep your fires to a reasonable size. The suggested fire size is ½ metre x ½ metre x ½ metre.

Wood – Only burn wood obtained from the campground woodlot. Do not burn garbage or collect deadfall from the surrounding forest for burning. Use an axe to make your own kindling from the firewood provided.

Times – Campfires are permitted from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Fires must be attended at all times. Refer to the *Alcohol and Fire Bans* section for more information.

Fishing

A national park fishing permit is required. Permits are available at Parks Canada Visitor Centres, the Lake Minnewanka boat dock or various retail outlets in the area. Pick up a copy of the *Fishing Regulations Summary* to learn about special rules related to fishing in a national park.

Failure To Comply

Parks Canada staff are here to help and may enter your site to remind you of these regulations. Campers who fail to comply with the BARE Campsite program and these regulations may have their camping permit revoked, without a refund, and may be charged under the *Canada National Parks Act* and *National Parks Campground Regulations*. The permit holder is responsible for ensuring the campsite is maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Pets

Pets must be kept on a leash and under control at all times. Pets are also wildlife attractants, and may be attacked by carnivores (bears, cougars, wolves and coyotes) if they are left outside unattended, especially at night. Ensure you clean up after your pet and pack away all food dishes when not in use.

If you do not have a BARE campsite:

Parks Canada staff regularly patrol the campground to ensure campers have not left anything out that may attract wildlife. If you return to your site and items you left unattended are missing, look for a written warning left by park staff. Staff may secure your belongings for safekeeping until you pick them up and put them away properly. Not complying with staff requests to clean up your site may result in being charged under the *Canada National Parks Act*.

Campground Etiquette

You can ensure you're a good neighbour and guarantee a good camping experience for all, by respecting and adhering to the following guidelines:

Washing Dishes – Use the outdoor sink or a personal basin for washing dishes (not the bathrooms).

Washing Laundry – Please use your own tub and dump water down the outdoor sink or toilets. Laundry facilities are available in the Town of Banff.

Recycling – Bottles and cans (refundable containers) can be recycled in each campground near the washroom building.

Children – To ensure the safety of your children, please supervise them at all times. Children may become lost in the campground or may unknowingly trespass on a neighbouring campsite.

Driving – Respect the posted speed limits and remain alert while driving in the campground. Trees may obstruct your view and pedestrians, especially children, may suddenly dart out onto the road.

Accessing Facilities - Please use roadways and pathways to access campground facilities (picnic shelters, bathrooms, etc.) and your own campsite. Cutting through a neighbouring campsite will disturb other campers and may cause damage to the fragile vegetation.

How to Reach Us

Parks Canada Visitor Centres in the Banff Area

Banff Visitor Centre: 224 Banff Avenue
Banff Visitor Information Kiosk: 327 Railway Avenue
403-762-1550
parksCanada.gc.ca/banff

Report all bear, cougar, wolf and coyote sightings to Parks Canada staff immediately or call the 24-hour Banff Park Dispatch service at **403-762-1470**

To report campground noise complaints or other *Canada National Parks Act* offences, call **1-888-WARDENS (1-888-927-3367)** (law enforcement), toll free 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.

In case of EMERGENCY, call 911 or satellite phone: 403-762-4506. Cell phones are not always reliable.

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Booking Your Campsite

Campsite Reservations

Reservations are recommended for most Banff area campgrounds. Visit reservation.pc.gc.ca or dial toll free **1-877-737-3783 (1-877-RESERVE)**. Reservations must be made at least 24 hours prior to arrival. All other campgrounds operate on a first come, first served basis.

For backcountry campers, speak to staff at the Banff Visitor Centre about backcountry camping options. Numerous hike-in campgrounds are available throughout Banff National Park and require a backcountry permit.

Dates of Operation

Dates of operation vary from campground to campground and are available at parksCanada.gc.ca/bnp-camping. Summer camping begins in early May, with all campgrounds open by mid to late June. Demand is heaviest from June through September, with July and August being the busiest months.

Your Pass to Camping

Campers must acquire the following permits to camp in Banff National Park:

- **Park Pass** – available at the Banff East Gate, Parks Canada Visitor Centres and at campground kiosks
- **Camping Permit** – available at the campground kiosk. For self-registration you must have exact change or credit card
- **Fire Permit** (if you would like to have a fire) - available at the campground kiosk

More Camping Opportunities

Parks Canada operates a total of 13 campgrounds in Banff National Park, with 2 468 sites available during peak season.

In addition to the seven campgrounds mentioned in this brochure, the Lake Louise area offers additional options for camping, including campgrounds in close proximity to the village of Lake Louise and along the scenic Icefields Parkway.

Packing for the Weather

The weather in Banff National Park is pleasant, but unpredictable. The average high temperature during the day in spring and summer ranges from 10° to 18° Celsius, although temperatures at night can drop below zero degrees Celsius. It can also rain, snow or hail any time of year!

In order to be prepared for your camping experience, ensure you have:

- Warm clothes (bring various layers to help you dress for the weather)
- Waterproof clothing (jackets and pants)
- Hats and mitts
- Umbrellas
- A groundsheet for your tent
- Sleeping mat
- Warm sleeping bag and extra blankets

While in the Park ...

For information on things to do while in the park, view these guides online or pick up a copy at Parks Canada Visitor Centres.



Exploring the Park

Keeping the Wild in Wildlife

One of the best experiences in a national park is the opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitat. As a national park visitor, you share this natural area with wildlife that depend on it for their survival. All wild animals may react aggressively if they feel threatened by you or your pet. Therefore, it is important to know how your actions and behaviours affect wildlife.



Grizzly bear



Elk



Marten

Animals rely on every part of this landscape for their survival. Their travel routes, natural food sources, mating grounds and resting sites don't necessarily stop at the campground boundary. This means you may encounter wildlife at any time.

How to be safe with wildlife:

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially at dusk and dawn, or in densely vegetated areas. Surprising a bear that is busy feeding on natural food, such as berries, can be dangerous.
- Keep a safe viewing distance at all times (30 metres for ungulates such as deer and elk and 100 metres for carnivores such as cougars, bears and wolves). Never approach or entice wildlife of any kind, regardless of size.
- Do not feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife is illegal in a national park. Wildlife find their healthiest food in their natural environment. Once they become accustomed to being fed by people, they stop looking for their natural foods and lose their fear of humans. These animals, no longer considered to be "wild," are a threat to public safety.

By understanding more about wildlife you can help reduce the likelihood of an unpleasant encounter and also help protect wildlife populations.

Common Critters, Birds and Wildflowers



Prairie crocus



Heart-leaved arnica



Indian paintbrush



Fireweed



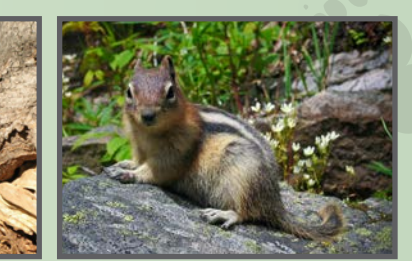
Clark's Nutcracker



Grey Jay



Red squirrel



Golden-mantled ground squirrel



Common Raven



Black-billed Magpie



Least chipmunk



Columbian ground squirrel

Interpretive Programs

Looking for an evening of entertainment while enjoying your stay in Banff National Park? Join our park interpreters as they share their stories and fun facts about the nature and history of Canada's first national park. From late June to early September, evening programs are offered at the Wolf's Den Indoor Theatre and the Raven's Nest Outdoor Theatre (Tunnel Mountain Campground) and at the indoor theatre at Johnston Canyon Campground. Check parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-interpretation or ask the campground staff or Parks Canada Visitor Centre staff for a copy of our program brochure. All of our programs are for adults and kids alike, come and join us. Your park entrance fee is your ticket to these programs!



Hey Kids! Have fun while discovering Banff National Park. Pick up your activity booklet at Parks Canada Visitor Centres or during an evening theatre program in the campgrounds. Complete six activities and receive a certificate and souvenir. Have your whole family participate with you. Happy exploring!



The Campgrounds

Legend

Closed for summer 2016

Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court (321 sites)

This campground, located within close proximity to town, is reserved for trailers and larger units (50+ feet) and offers full hook-ups, mountain views, shared sites, access to biking and hiking trails and a bus service to town.

Tunnel Mountain Village I (618 sites)

Located within close proximity to the Town of Banff, this campground offers a more traditional camping experience with mountain views, fire pits for cooking, and access to hiking and biking trails. This campground has options to suit many camping preferences and has a limited number of large campsites available.

Tunnel Mountain Village II (188 sites)

Located just minutes from town, this campground is perfect for people needing space for larger units (40+ feet) and/or wanting power without the full hook-up. It is close to local attractions and offers year-round camping, mountain views, a bus service to town and access to hiking and biking trails.

oTENTik at Two Jack Lakeside (10 sites)

oTENTik, exclusive to Parks Canada, originates from the words – authentic and tents! They are a cross between an A-frame cabin and a prospector tent mounted on a raised wooden floor. These permanent and comfortable accommodations require no set-up and feature: lighting, electricity, electric heating, two queen and one bunk bed, table and chairs.

parks.canada.gc.ca/bnp-otentik

Johnston Canyon (132 sites)

This campground is a good option for a more rustic and authentic camping experience. Sites are available for tents and small RVs (up to 27 feet). Its central location along the Bow Valley Parkway (Hwy 1A) provides access to a number of unique attractions, including Johnston Canyon and the Ink Pots.

Castle Mountain (43 sites)

This campground is small and intimate and offers rustic, no-service camping in a beautiful wooded area along the Bow Valley Parkway (Hwy 1A). Campers, who must self-register for sites suitable for tents or small RVs (up to 24 feet), can enjoy nearby attractions, such as Silverton Falls and Johnston Canyon.

Two Jack Lakeside (74 sites)

Located 15 minutes from the Town of Banff and close to Lake Minnewanka, this rustic, no-service campground is beautifully situated on the shores of Two Jack Lake. It is perfect for tents or small RVs (up to 27 feet) and offers lakefront sites, 10 oTENTik sites, mountain views and access to the lake for non-motorized boating.

Equipped Campsites at Two Jack Main (32 sites)

No gear? No problem! Equipped Campsites provide an opportunity to camp even if you don't have camping equipment - or simply want to avoid the hassle of organising and packing everything for your camping trip.

parks.canada.gc.ca/banff-equipped

Two Jack Main (380 sites)

This campground offers a more secluded and authentic camping experience. Located just minutes from Lake Minnewanka and nearby attractions, and 15 minutes from the Town of Banff, this rustic, no-service campground has scenic sites available for tents or RVs up to 27 feet, as well as group camping and Equipped Campsites.

	Tunnel Mtn Village I	Tunnel Mtn Village II	Tunnel Mtn Trailer Court	Two Jack Main	Two Jack Lakeside	Johnston Canyon	Castle Mountain
Full Hook-Up			X				
Electrical Only		X					
Flush Toilets	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Showers	X	X	X		X	X	
Sani-Dump	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fire rings (fires permitted in designated fire rings only)	X	Limited		X	X	X	X
Picnic shelters		X		X	X	X	X
Disabled access	X	X	X		X	X	
Reservations	X	X	X	X	X		
Interpretive Programs	X	X	X			X	
Xplorers Booklet	X	X	X			X	
Liquor and Fire Ban in effect at all times (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alcohol not permitted (May Long Weekend)	X	X	X	X	X	Closed	Closed
Alcohol not permitted (July, Aug, Sept Long Weekend)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

- Kiosk
- Information board
- Sani-dump
- Picnic shelter
- Drinking water
- Waste disposal
- Recycling
- Firewood
- Group fireplace
- Dishwashing sink
- Food lockers
- Flush toilets
- Showers
- Interpretation
- Theatre
- Group camping
- Disabled access
- Bus stop
- Parking lot
- oTENTik
- Trail

3 Reasons to Camp in Banff National Park

- Adventure with Family and Friends:** Camping is a great way to inject some adventure into your trip. There is so much to learn about and explore right outside your tent!
- Reconnect with Nature:** Enjoy the smells and sounds of nature as you breathe the fresh mountain air and camp under the stars.
- Walk Through History:** The first explorers in Banff set up campsites during long expeditions in the wilderness. You can walk in their shoes by experiencing camping for yourself in one of the park's designated campgrounds!

