



Winter on the Icefields Parkway

EXPLORE!

Winter transforms the Icefields Parkway, one of the world's most scenic drives.

Ancient glaciers glow winter white under blankets of fresh snow. Quiet descends, broken only by far off sounds of ice crevasses growling as they grow. Snow-covered trails entice drivers to pull over, put on snowshoes and break trail below some of the highest mountains in the Canadian Rockies.

LOOKING FOR A QUICK AND SCENIC STOP?

TANGLE FALLS

Trailhead: 96 km south of Jasper, 137 km north of Lake Louise

This beautiful, cascading icefall right beside the road makes for a great photo stop.

BOW LAKE

Trailhead: 193 km south of Jasper, 40 km north of Lake Louise

One of the most scenic lakes along the Parkway and the source of the Bow River. The stunning views take in the Wapta Icefield, Bow Glacier, Crowfoot Mountain and Mount Thompson.

CROWFOOT GLACIER

Trailhead: 197 km south of Jasper, 36 km north of Lake Louise

When this glacier was named a century ago, it looked like a three-toed crowfoot. Since then, one toe has melted and the middle toe is slowly disappearing.

WANT TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS?

ATHABASCA FALLS

EASY – WEAR STURDY BOOTS

1 km/30 mins return; no elevation gain/loss

Trailhead: 30 km south of Jasper, 203 km north of Lake Louise

Watch the ever-changing ice formations and hear the roar of the water under the ice. Be safe and stay behind railings and on designated trails and do not venture out on the ice.

SASKATCHEWAN CROSSING VIEWPOINT

EASY – SNOWSHOES OR STURDY BOOTS

200 m/15 mins return; no elevation gain/loss

Trailhead: 154 km south of Jasper, 79 km north of Lake Louise

A short stroll to a magnificent view over the North Saskatchewan and Howse river valleys.

WATCH FOR WILDLIFE

Look out for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, coyotes and deer; they are commonly sighted along the Parkway in winter.

Do not feed or approach wildlife, and stay at least 30 meters from all animals.

Pets must be on a leash at all times.



Bighorn sheep



Athabasca Glacier

WANT TO STRAP ON SNOWSHOES OR SKIS?

SUNWAPTA FALLS

EASY – SNOWSHOES OR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS

2 km/45 mins return to upper falls, 30 m elevation gain/loss;

3.6 km/1.5 hr return to lower falls, 87 m elevation gain/loss

Trailhead: 54 km south of Jasper, 179 km north of Lake Louise

Snowshoe or ski a kilometre to this spectacular icefall and watch as it plunges into a deep canyon or continue another 2 kilometres along an easy route to the lower falls.

TOE OF THE ATHABASCA GLACIER

EASY – SNOWSHOES OR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS

4 km/2 hrs return to toe of glacier; 30 m elevation gain/loss

Trailhead: 103 km south of Jasper, 130 km north of Lake Louise

Explore the area below the glacier, surrounded by towering mountains.

CAUTION: Do not walk on the glacier as hidden crevasses and other hazards can be deadly, even in winter.

WILCOX VIEWPOINT

MODERATE – SNOWSHOES

3.4 km/2 hrs return; 185 m elevation gain

Trailhead: 106 km south of Jasper, 127 km north of Lake Louise

A short uphill snowshoe leads to incredible views of the Athabasca and Dome glaciers.

CAUTION: Avalanche danger beyond the Red Chairs.

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

VALLEY OF THE FIVE LAKES

MODERATE – SNOWSHOES

4.5 km loop/2 hrs; 66 m elevation gain/loss

Trailhead: 9 km south of Jasper, 224 km north of Lake Louise

Five small, picturesque lakes in a sunny valley are the highlights of this outing, a local family favourite.

NIGEL PASS

MODERATE – SNOWSHOES OR BACKCOUNTRY SKIS

14 km/5-6 hrs return; 385 m elevation gain

Trailhead: 116 km south of Jasper, 117 km north of Lake Louise

A gentle climb through open forest leads to wide-open alpine scenery at the Jasper-Banff park boundary.

CAUTION: Challenging avalanche terrain.

BOW LAKE/BOW GLACIER FALLS

EASY/MODERATE – SNOWSHOES OR BACKCOUNTRY SKIS

Bow Falls: 6 km/2-3 hrs return; 70 m elevation gain

Trailhead: 193 km south of Jasper, 40 km north of Lake Louise

Soak in the views along the shore of Bow Lake or head up towards Bow Glacier Falls.

CAUTION: Challenging avalanche terrain.



Wabasso

MORE INFORMATION

JASPER INFORMATION CENTRE: 780-852-6176

LAKE LOUISE VISITOR CENTRE: 403-522-3833

BANFF VISITOR CENTRE: 403-762-1550

parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper

parkscanada.gc.ca/banff

CHECK THE ROAD CONDITIONS AND THE WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOWN

ROAD CONDITIONS:

Call 511 • 511.alberta.ca • drivebc.ca

WEATHER FORECAST:

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

weather.gc.ca • Visit an information centre

AVALANCHE REPORT

Check the latest avalanche conditions at parkscanada.gc.ca/avalanche if you plan to venture into the backcountry.

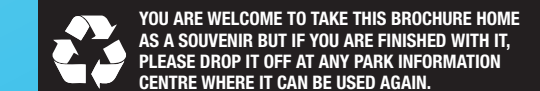
TRAIL REPORTS

parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails

parkscanada.gc.ca/banfftrails

YOUR PARKS PASS

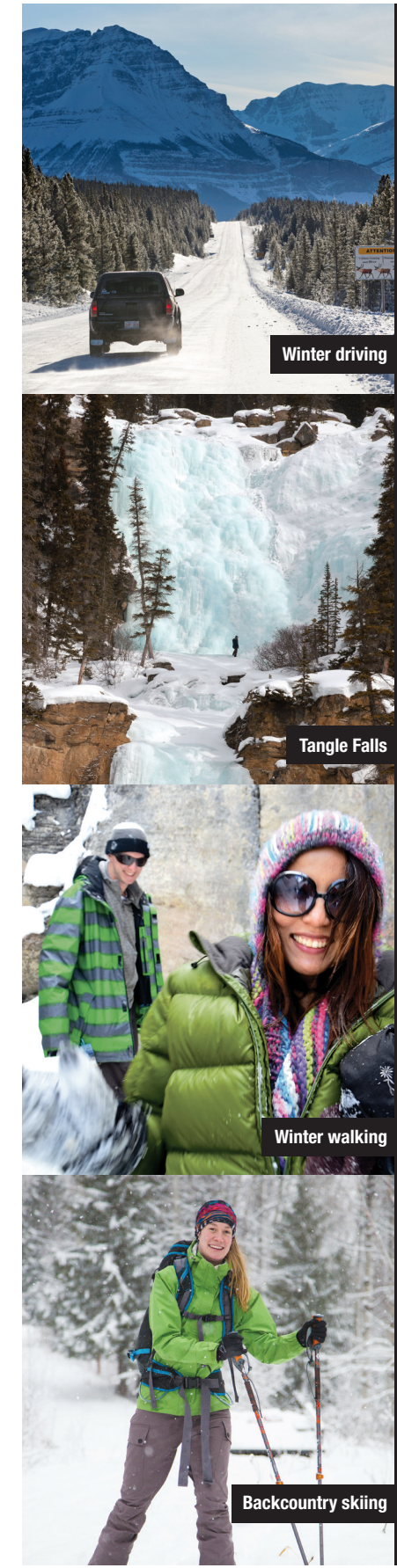
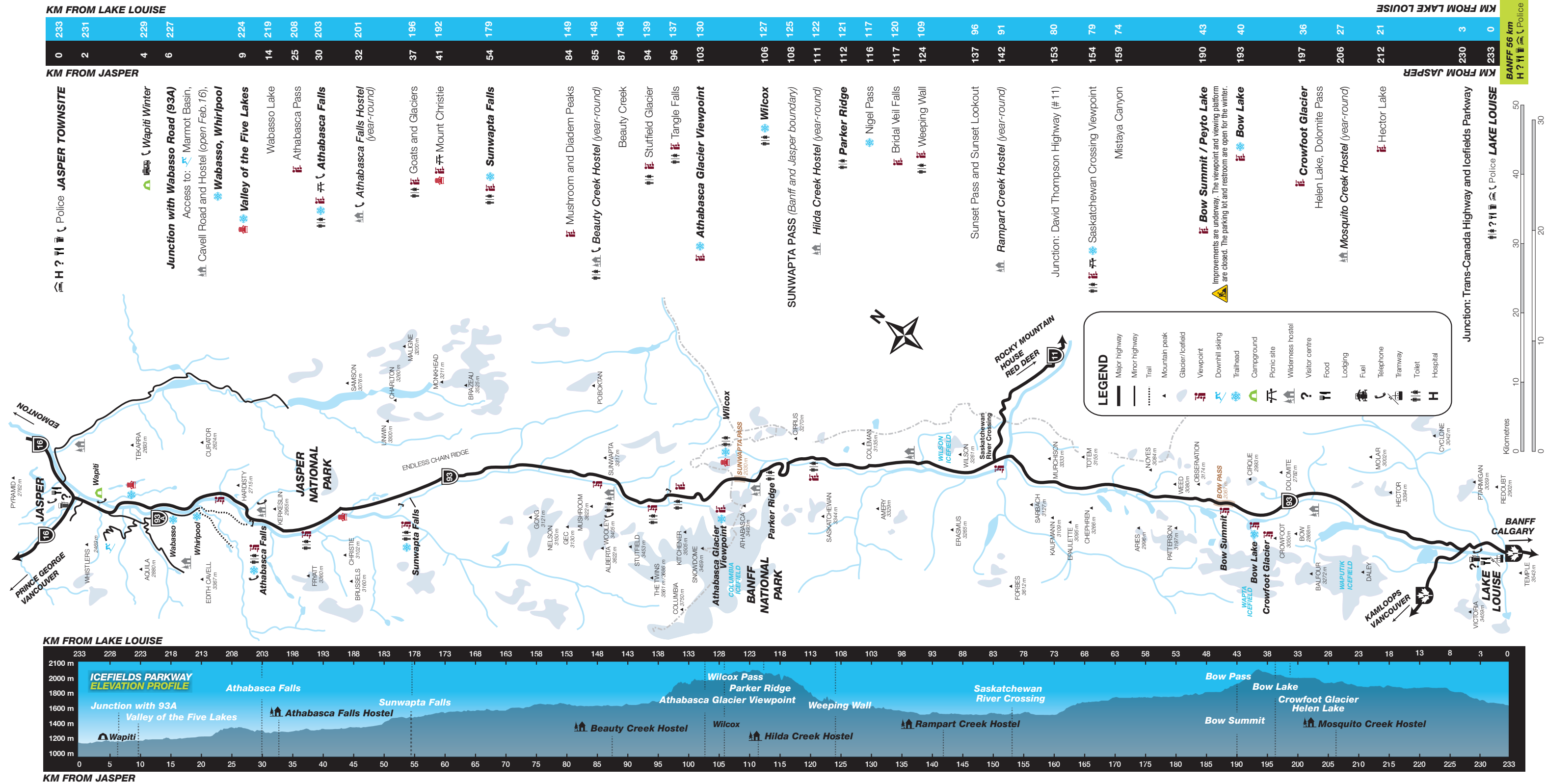
The Icefields Parkway was built by Parks Canada as a scenic drive to showcase the powerful natural landscape of Jasper and Banff national parks. A valid national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway. Revenues from pass sales support maintenance, plowing, sanding and avalanche control. If you're a frequent visitor to Canada's national parks and historic sites, consider purchasing a Discovery Pass for unlimited access to many of Canada's extraordinary treasures. Details and fees are listed at: parkscanada.gc.ca/jasperfees.



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THE ICEFIELDS PARKWAY Winter Driving Guide



WINTER SAFETY

To experience the beauty of winter on the Icefields Parkway, winter-worthy vehicles, warm clothing, patience and a little preparation will help ensure a safe and exhilarating journey.

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

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

DRIVE SAFELY and BE PREPARED

- Plan to start early and complete your drive (with time for exploration and stops along the way) during daylight hours. Snow clearing and maintenance begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Plus, you'll want lots of daylight to take in all the epic views!
- Fill your gas tank and bring extra windshield washer fluid. There are no services along the Icefields Parkway in winter.
- Have a safety kit in your vehicle that includes: a cell phone (service available on each end of the Parkway but not en route), water, energy bars, candles, extra clothing and blankets.
- Tell someone your route, when you are leaving and when you plan on arriving.
- Ensure you are comfortable with winter driving conditions. Drivers should travel based on comfort level and experience.
- The parkway is not salted so it can often be covered in compact snow. During long periods of stable weather, even sanded compact snow can result in challenging driving conditions.
- Road reports are based on the worst condition that a driver may encounter over the road's entire 230 kilometre length. As in any mountain environment, weather can change very quickly, often changing the road conditions.