



Banff
National Park

Visitor Guide

2023 – 2024



S. Martin

**New public transit and
shuttle information:
See page 4**



Également offert en français

Lake Minnewanka Trail



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



Two Jack Lake

W. Lambert



Lake Louise Lakeshore

Z. Lynch

Canada's first national park

Banff National Park is an important place for people to connect with history and nature. Indigenous peoples have been using the lands and waters of Banff for millennia; for sustenance, ceremony, trade and travel. We thank them for their continuous stewardship and for sharing the land with us.

In 1885, a small area around the Cave and Basin Hot Springs was protected and became the core of the first national park in Canada. More than 130 years later, millions of people visit the park each year. They come to experience natural beauty, outdoor adventures, seven national historic sites and iconic wildlife - from grizzly bears to the Banff Springs Snail.

Go see for yourself! Banff National Park offers mountains of possibilities.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Four of the mountain national parks – Banff, Jasper, Yoho and Kootenay – are recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as part of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site, for the benefit and enjoyment of all nations. Among the attributes that warranted this designation were vast wilderness, diversity of flora and fauna, outstanding natural beauty and features such as Lake Louise, Maligne Lake, the Columbia Icefield and the Burgess Shale fossils.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Canadian Rocky
Mountain Parks
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1984

Parcs des montagnes
Rocheuses canadiennes
inscrit sur la Liste du
patrimoine mondial en 1984

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Find us

Banff

Banff Visitor Centre: 224 Banff Avenue
Banff Train Station: 327 Railway Avenue
403-762-1550 | banffinfo@pc.gc.ca

Lake Louise Visitor Centre:
201 Village Road, next to Samson Mall
403-522-3833 | ll.info@pc.gc.ca

parks.canada.ca/banff
Hours of operation: parks.canada.ca/banff-hours

Jasper

Jasper Information Centre:
780-852-6176 | parks.canada.ca/jasper
Tourism Jasper: 780-852-6236, jasper.travel

Kootenay

Kootenay Visitor Centre:
250-347-9505 | parks.canada.ca/kootenay
Tourism Radium/Radium Chamber of Commerce:
1-888-347-9331, radiumhotsprings.com

Yoho

Yoho Visitor Centre:
250-343-6783 | parks.canada.ca/yoho
Tourism Golden: 1-800-622-4653,
tourismgolden.com, field.ca


Mount Revelstoke and Glacier

Rogers Pass Discovery Centre:
250-837-7500 | parks.canada.ca/glacier |
parks.canada.ca/revelstoke
Tourism Revelstoke: 1-800-487-1493, seerevelstoke.com

Waterton Lakes

Waterton Lakes Visitor Centre:
403-859-5133 | parks.canada.ca/waterton
Waterton Chamber of Commerce: mywaterton.ca

Useful links

 **Transit/shuttle info:**
parks.canada.ca/banff-transit or
explorethepark.ca

 **Brochures:**
parks.canada.ca/banff-brochures

 **National park entry fee:**
parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass

 **Weather:**
weather.gc.ca / 403-762-2088

 **Important bulletins:**
parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins

 **Trail report:**
parks.canada.ca/banfftrails




 **Banff Dispatch:**
403-762-1470

 **Real-time parking info:**
parks.canada.ca/banffnow

 **Town of Banff parking:**
banffparking.ca

 **Road reports:**
511.alberta.ca and drivebc.ca

 **Banff & Lake Louise Tourism:**
banfflakelouise.com

Visit  facebook.com/BanffNP
 twitter.com/BanffNP
 instagram.com/parks.canada



Parks Canada shuttles



Roam Public Transit

Exploring Lake Louise and Moraine Lake

You must plan in advance to visit Lake Louise and Moraine Lake. Taking transit is easy, stress-free and the only way to ensure that you reach your destination.

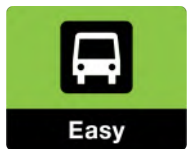
New in 2023 - Moraine Lake Road is closed to personal vehicles year-round



Parks Canada shuttles, Roam Public Transit, and commercial transportation operators are permitted from June to mid-October. Certain exceptions apply, see parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit for more details.

Four ways to access Lake Louise and Moraine Lake

Parks Canada shuttles



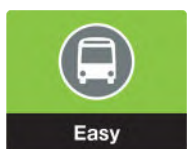
Recommended to visitors driving to or staying in the community of Lake Louise.

Easy

This is the best way to see both iconic lakes in one day.

- Advanced reservations are required. Visit parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit for more information.
- All shuttles leave from the Park and Ride, located at the Lake Louise Ski Resort (see map on page 10).

Roam Public Transit



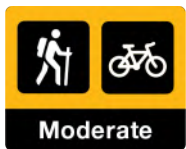
Recommended to visitors staying in the town of Banff.

Easy

All Roam riders can connect to the Parks Canada Lake Connector shuttle when they buy a Roam Super Pass.

Passes available at roamtransit.com

Hiking or biking

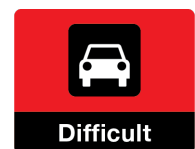


Moderate

Recommended to visitors staying nearby or getting dropped off in the community of Lake Louise.

Parking is very limited in the community of Lake Louise. Review trail and road descriptions before heading out. Choose an option suitable for everyone in your group. Hiking to Moraine Lake (28-km round trip) is not recommended.

Visit parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit to find out more information.



Difficult

Driving a personal vehicle

Suitable for visitors with flexible plans to visit the Lake Louise Lakeshore.

Parking is very limited and finding a parking spot is unlikely. Paid parking is in effect at this location during the shuttle season.

Moraine Lake Road is closed to personal vehicles.

Visiting by guided tours and commercial transportation operators are also options. Visit explorethepark.ca for more information.

Explore the park by transit



Take advantage of the bus service between the town of Banff and many top destinations in the park, including Lake Louise. These locations are extremely popular. Plan ahead for the best experience.

A valid national park entry pass is required when visiting the park.

Visit the Cave and Basin National Historic Site

Roam Route 4 (summer service)

Experience a 4-screen HD movie and see bubbling thermal waters that gave rise to the birthplace of national parks in Canada. Visit parks.canada.ca/cave for current trip planning, activities, and key date information.

Discover the Banff Park Museum National Historic Site

Roam Routes 1, 2 (year-round) and 4 (summer service)

Take a wild trip back in time with vintage natural history specimens from bears to bees. Visit parks.canada.ca/banffparkmuseum for current trip planning and key date information.

Soak in the Banff Upper Hot Springs

Roam Route 1 (year-round)

Relax in Canada's highest elevation operational hot spring. Visit hotsprings.ca for up-to-date hours, fees and visitor information.

Hike Johnston Canyon

Roam Route 9 (summer service and limited winter service)

Follow wide trails and narrow bridges with railings through a canyon to waterfalls. Take Roam Public Transit to this popular location in the summer. In winter, be sure to bring ice cleats.

Explore the Lake Minnewanka Area

Roam Route 6 (summer service)

In the summer, ride the Lake Minnewanka bus to visit picturesque lakes including Johnson Lake and Two Jack Lake. Enjoy hiking, picnicking and being on or by the water.

Visit Lake Louise and Moraine Lake

- Roam Route 8X (year-round to Lake Louise only)**
- Roam Route 8S (summer service to Lake Louise only)**
- Roam Route 10 (fall service to Moraine Lake only)**
- Parks Canada shuttle (summer service to both lakes)**

See page 4 or visit parks.canada.ca/banff-transit for more details.



Camping

Planning to camp in a national park? Most campsites are reservable and fill up quickly. Book online or call ahead for information and reservations. Camping is permitted in designated campgrounds only. A valid camping permit and national park entry pass are required.

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

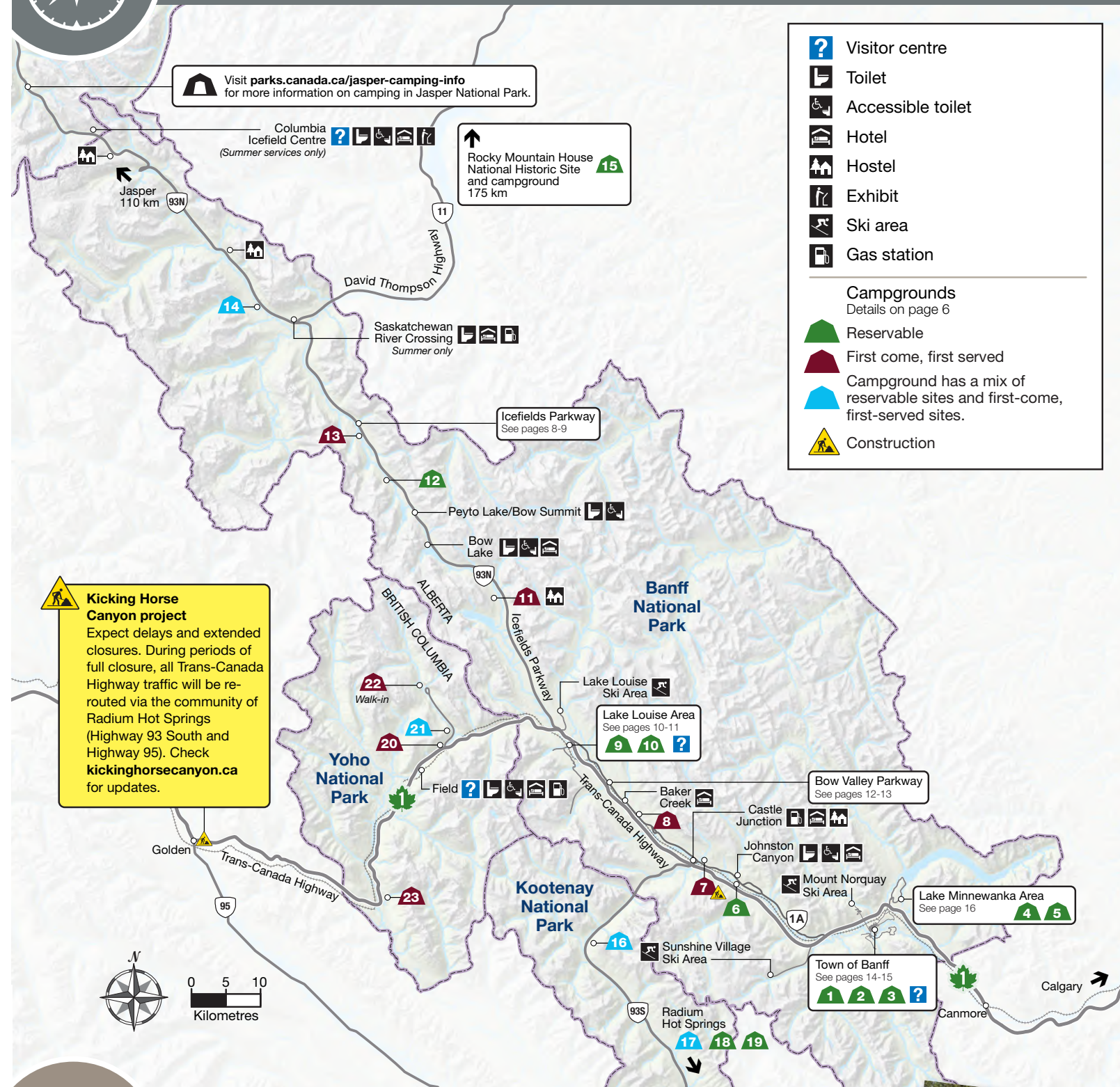
	Campgrounds	Open dates	Full hook-up	Electrical	Sani dump	Flush toilets	Pit toilets	Showers	Firepit	Cooking shelter	Drinking water	Accessible facilities*	Interpretive programs	oTENTik	Equipped campsites	Tipis/Trapper tents	Sites	
Banff	1 Tunnel Mtn. Village I	May 11 - Oct. 2			FB	FT		SH	FP	CS	DW	AF	IP				618	
	2 Tunnel Mtn. Village II	Open year-round oTENTiks May 11 - Oct. 9		EB	FB	FT		SH	FP	CS	DW	AF	IP	HT			209	
	3 Tunnel Mtn. Trailer Court	May 11 - Oct. 2	BC	EB	FB	FT		SH									322	
	4 Two Jack Main	June 22 - Sep. 5			FB	FT			FP	CS	DW					▲	380	
	5 Two Jack Lakeside	May 11 - Oct. 2 oTENTiks May 11 - Oct. 2				FT			FP	CS	DW				HT		74	
	6 Johnston Canyon	May 25 - Sep. 25			FB	FT			SH	FP	CS	DW	AF	IP				132
	7 Castle Mountain	To be determined				FT				FP	CS	DW						43
	8 Protection Mountain	June 21 - Sep. 4				FT				FP	CS	DW	AF					72
	9 Lake Louise Tent	June 1 - Sep. 24			FB	FT			SH	FP	CS	DW	AF	IP				206
	10 Lake Louise Trailer	Open year-round		EB	FB	FT			SH	FP	CS	DW	AF	IP				189
	11 Mosquito Creek	June 8 - Oct. 9					PT			FP	CS	DW						38
	12 Silverhorn	June 2 - Oct. 9					PT			FP	CS	DW						45
	13 Waterfowl Lakes	June 22 - Sep. 4			FB	FT	PT			FP	CS	DW	AF	IP				110
	14 Rampart Creek	June 2 - Sep. 24					PT			FP	CS	DW	AF					51
	15 Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site	May 12 - Sep. 30					PT			FP	CS	DW	AF	IP		▲	▲	45
Kootenay	16 Marble Canyon	June 22 - Sep. 4			FB	FT			FP	CS	DW						60	
	17 McLeod Meadows	June 8 - Sep. 11			FB	FT			FP	CS	DW	AF					88	
	18 Redstreak	Apr. 28 - Oct. 9 oTENTiks May 18 - Sep. 17	BC	EB	FB	FT		SH	FP	CS	DW	AF	IP	HT			242	
	19 Crook's Meadow (Non-profit and school groups)	Email kootenay.info@pc.gc.ca for reservation information.					PT			FP	CS	DW	AF				1	
Yoho	20 Monarch	May 4 - Sep. 18			FB	FT			FP	CS	DW	AF					44	
	21 Kicking Horse	May 18 - Oct. 9			FB	FT			FP	CS	DW	AF	IP				88	
	22 Takakkaw Falls (walk-in)	June 15 - Oct. 9					PT			FP	CS	DW					35	
	23 Hoodoo Creek	June 15 - Sep. 4					PT			FP	CS	DW	AF				30	

- Reservation needed for all sites in the campground.
- Campground has first-come, first-served sites only. Self-register at the campground. In summer months, arrive before mid-day for the best chance of getting a site.
- Campground has a mix of reservable sites and first-come, first-served sites.
- Campground closed for construction. Visit parks.canada.ca/banffcamping for the latest information and opening dates.

* Some facilities at this campground are accessible.



Park Map



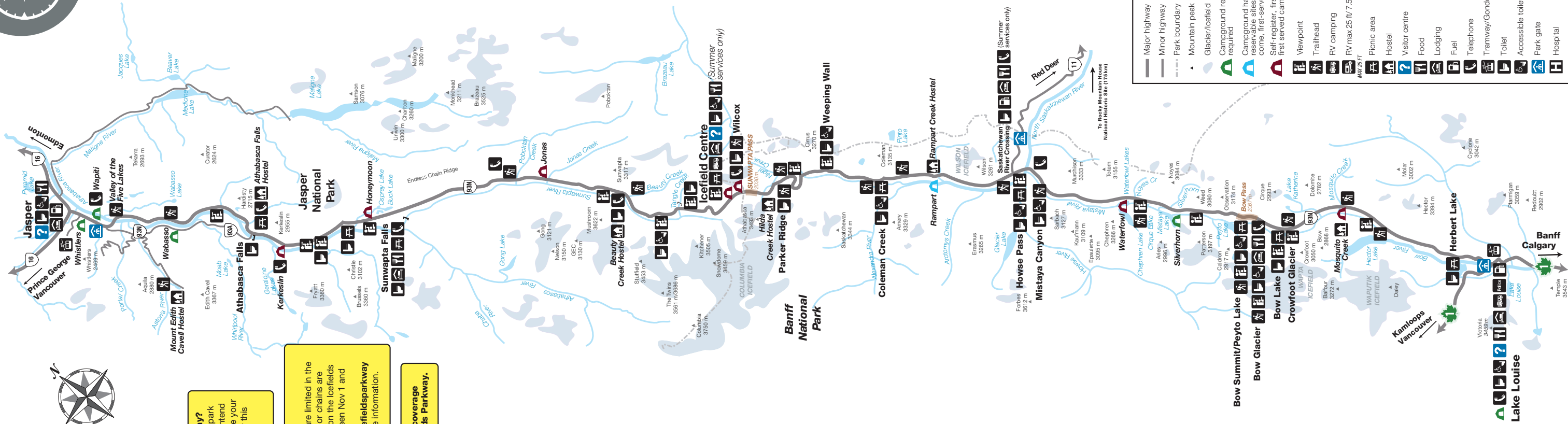
Backcountry Camping

Banff's backcountry offers spectacular destinations for those new to backcountry camping and to experienced travellers. No matter your level of adventure, be prepared and plan ahead. Pick up your brochure at a Parks Canada visitor centre, and visit parks.canada.ca/banff-backcountry for trip ideas, planning and permit information.





Icefields Parkway Map – Summer Driving Guide



- Major highway
- Minor highway
- Park boundary
- Mountain peak
- Glacier/Icefield
- Campground reservation required
- Campground has a mix of reservable sites and first-come, first-served sites
- Self-register, first come, first served campground
- Viewpoint
- Trailhead
- RV camping
- RV max 25 ft/7.5 m
- Plenic area
- Hostel
- Visitor centre
- Food
- Lodging
- Fuel
- Telephone
- Tramway/Gondola
- Toilet
- Accessible toilet
- Park gate
- Hospital

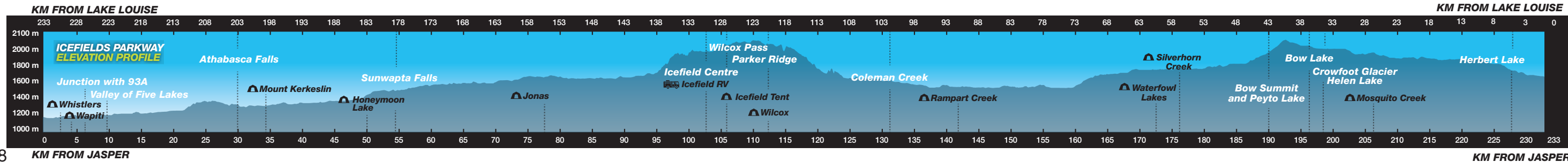
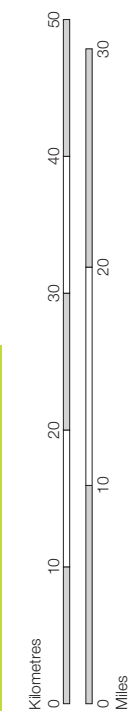


Driving the Icefields Parkway?
You must have a valid national park entry pass, even if you do not intend to stop along the way. Purchase your pass at any park gate - look for this symbol on the map.

Driving in the winter?
Services and attractions are limited in the winter. Winter tires (M+S) or chains are required by law for travel on the Icefields Parkway (Hwy 93N) between Nov 1 and Mar 31.
Visit parks.canada.ca/icefieldsparkway for a winter map and more information.

There is no cell coverage along the Icefields Parkway.

KM FROM LAKE LOUISE	KM FROM JASPER	Location	Services
0	233	Jasper Townsite	Whistlers, Wapiti, Jasper Skytram (April to October), Wapiti
2	231	Whistlers	
4	229	Wapiti	
6	227	Junction with Highway 93A	Access to Cavell Road
9	224	Valley of the Five Lakes	
14	219	Wabasso Lake	
25	208	Athabasca Pass Lookout	
30	203	Athabasca Falls	
32	201	Athabasca Falls Hostel	
34	199	Kerkeslin	
37	196	Goats and Glaciers	
41	192	Mount Christie	
50	183	Honeymoon Lake	
54	179	Sunwapta Falls	
72	161	Poboktan Creek	
77	156	Jonas	
84	149	Mushroom and Diadem Peaks	
85	148	Beauty Creek Hostel	
87	146	Beauty Creek	
94	139	Stutfield Glacier	
96	137	Tangle Falls	
103	130	Icefield Centre	
104	129	Icefield Tent	
106	127	Wilcox Pass	
108	125	SUNWAPTA PASS	
111	122	Hilda Creek Hostel	
112	121	Parker Ridge	
116	117	Nigel Pass	
117	120	Bridal Veil Falls	
124	109	Weeping Wall	
131	102	Coleman Creek	
137	96	Sunset Pass and Sunset Lookout	
142	91	Rampart Creek Hostel	
152	81	Glacier Lake	
153	80	Saskatchewan River Crossing	
154	79	Howse Pass	
159	74	Mistaya Canyon	
173	60	Waterfowl Lakes	
177	56	Silverhorn Creek	
190	43	Bow Summit / Peyto Lake	
193	40	Bow Glacier, Bow Glacier Falls	
196	37	Bow Lake	
197	36	Crowfoot Glacier	
206	27	Helen Lake, Dolomite Pass	
212	21	Mosquito Creek Hostel	
214	19	Hector Lake	
227	6	Herbert Lake	
230	3	Junction: Trans-Canada Highway and Icefields Parkway	
233	0	Lake Louise	





Lake Louise Area Map

MAP NOT TO SCALE

Community of Lake Louise

	Visitor centre		Tent trailers
	Wi-Fi		Gate/Kiosk
	Toilet		Hotel
	Accessible toilet		Hostel
	Picnic area		Exhibit
	Playground		Interpretation
	Road Public Transit		Canoe docks
	Schedules: roamtransit.com		Viewpoint
	Parks Canada shuttle		Horseback riding
	parks.canada.ca/banff-transit		Heritage train station
	Parking		Ski area
	RV parking		Gondola
	Bus parking		Post office
	Campground		Gas station
	Recreational vehicles		Propane
	Trailers		

Parking lots fill quickly. Park only in designated lots, not along the road.
 Check parks.canada.ca/banff/flow for real-time parking status or parks.canada.ca/banff-transit for transit and shuttle options.

Park and Ride shuttle loading area

Visit reservation.pc.gc.ca to book your spot on a Parks Canada shuttle. Learn more about Parks Canada shuttles on page 4.

Visit roamtransit.com for Roam routes, schedules and fares.

Hiking and biking trails

1	Bow River Loop		
2	Tramline		
3	Louise Creek		
4	Great Divide*		
5	Pipestone		
6	Moraine Lake Highline		
7	Moraine Lake Lakeshore		
8	Rock Pile		
9	Consolation Lakes		
10	Larch Valley		
11	Lake Louise Lakeshore		
12	Fairview Lookout		

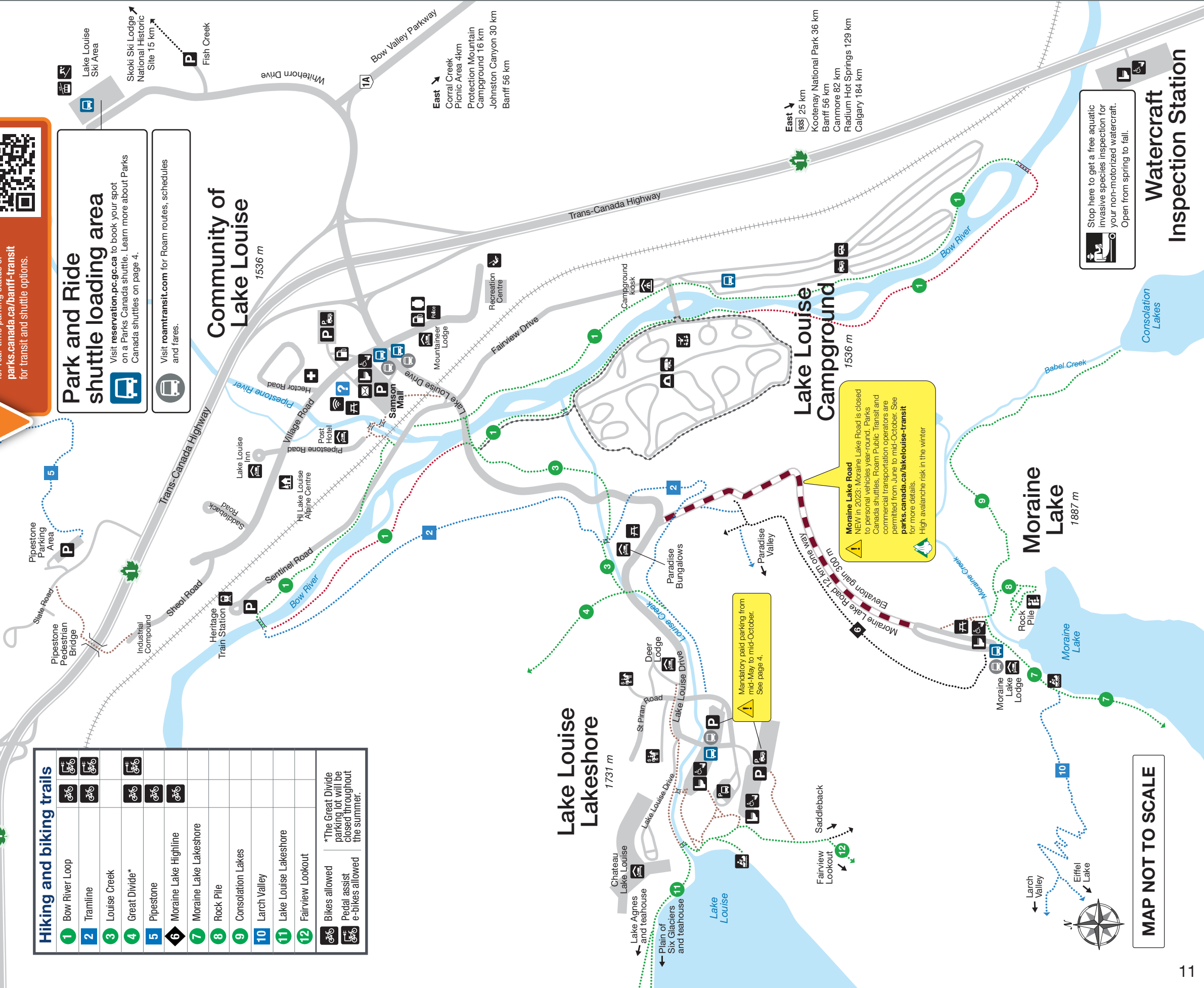
*The Great Divide parking lot will be closed throughout the summer.

West

Icefields Parkway Gate 11 km
 Yoho National Park 11 km
 Field 27 km
 Takakkaw Falls 38 km
 Emerald Lake 39 km
 Golden 85 km
 Vancouver 794 km

North

Next gas station (summer only) 80 km
 Columbia Icefield 127 km
 Jasper 230 km



Moraine Lake Road
 NEW in 2023, Moraine Lake Road is closed to personal vehicles/year-round. Parks Canada shuttles, Roam Public Transit and commercial transportation operators are permitted from June to mid-October. See parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit for more details.
 High avalanche risk in the winter

Mandatory paid parking from mid-May to mid-October.
 See page 4.

Watercraft Inspection Station

Stop here to get a free aquatic invasive species inspection for your non-motorized watercraft.
 Open from spring to fall.

MAP NOT TO SCALE



Bow Valley Parkway: Lake Louise to Banff Map

Parking	Picnic shelter	Exhibit	Trans-Canada Highway
RV parking	Viewpoint	Hot springs	Bow Valley Parkway
Accessible parking	Ski area	Snack bar Summer only	Highway 93S
Roam Public Transit Schedules: roamtransit.com	Gondola	Gas station	Icefields Parkway
Parks Canada shuttle parks.canada.ca/banff-transit	Chairlift	Campground kiosk	Road
Toilet	Canoe docks	Reservable campground Details on page 6	Road closed in winter
Accessible toilet	Boat launch	First-come, first-served campground Details on page 6	Travel restriction
Hotel	Boat tours	Easy trail	Moderate trail
	Watercraft inspection station	Difficult trail	

Hiking trails

This is not a suitable map to plan a hike. Proper trail maps and information are available at parks.canada.ca/banff-brochures or at a Parks Canada visitor centre. Check parks.canada.ca/banfftrails for restrictions, warnings and closures.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Stewart Canyon | 9 Goat Creek | Cory Pass | 25 Castle Lookout |
| 2 Aylmer Pass/Lookout | 10 Marsh Loop | 18 Healy Pass | 26 Boom Lake |
| 3 Cascade Valley | 11 Sundance Trail | 19 Bourgeau Lake/Harvey Pass | 27 Vista Lake |
| 4 C-Level Cirque | 12 Sundance Canyon | 20 Redearth Creek | 28 Arnica Lake/Twin Lakes |
| 5 Upper Stony | 13 Sulphur Mountain | 21 Johnstons Canyon | 29 Taylor Lake |
| 6 Cascade Amphitheatre | 14 Sulphur Mountain Westside | 22 Ink Pots via Moose Meadows | 30 Consolation Lakes |
| 7 Spray River East Trail | 15 Healy Creek | 23 Silverton Falls | 31 Moraine Lake Lakeshore |
| 8 Spray River West Trail | 16 Brewster Creek | 24 Rockbound Lake | 32 Eiffel Lake |
| | | | 33 Larch Valley |
| | | | 34 Paradise Valley |
| | | | 35 Fairview Mountain |
| | | | 36 Lake Louise Lakeshore |
| | | | 37 Plain of Six Glaciers |
| | | | 38 Lake Agnes |



Johnston Canyon

Lower Falls
Upper Falls
Ink Pots

Bow Valley Parkway

Private motor vehicle access may be restricted on portions of the Bow Valley Parkway to protect wildlife. Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-bow-valley-parkway for current information.

During part of the year, cyclists can enjoy the eastern section of the scenic Bow Valley Parkway with minimal vehicle traffic. Visit parks.canada.ca/Banff-cycling-BVP for more information.

Moraine Lake Road

NEW in 2023: Moraine Lake Road is closed to personal vehicles year-round. Parks Canada shuttles, Roam Public Transit and commercial transportation operators are permitted from June to mid-October. See parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit for more details.

High avalanche risk in the winter

Mandatory paid parking from mid-May to mid-October. See page 4.

Lake Minnewanka Loop
See page 16

Town of Banff
See pages 14-15

Find the Red Chairs
parks.canada.ca/banff-red-chairs

Parking lots fill quickly. Park only in designated lots, not along the road. Check parks.canada.ca/BanffNow for real-time parking status or parks.canada.ca/banff-transit for transit and shuttle options.

0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometres



Town of Banff Map

Mount Norquay Ski Area

ROAD NOT TO SCALE

Mount Norquay Road (5.4 km)



Find the Red Chairs
parks.canada.ca/banff-red-chairs



Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-biking for information on biking trails.

Lake Minnewanka
See page 16



Cascade Ponds

Banff Legacy Trail
Not maintained in winter
parks.canada.ca/banffnp-closures

Bow Valley Parkway
See pages 12-13
Lake Louise
See pages 10-11

Vermilion Lakes Drive (4.3 km)

Trans-Canada Highway

Forty Mile Creek

Second Vermilion Lake

First Vermilion Lake

Fenland Day-use Area

Fenland Trail

2.1 km

Fenlands Banff Recreation Centre

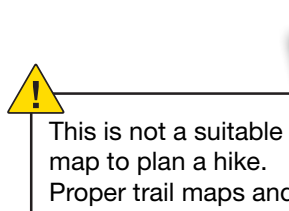
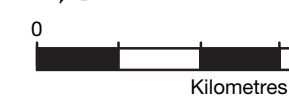
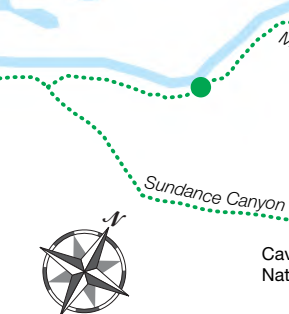
Industrial Area

Compound Road

Banff Avenue (4.5 km)

Banff Legacy Trail 29 km

Canmore Calgary



This is not a suitable map to plan a hike. Proper trail maps and information are available at parks.canada.ca/banff-brochures or at a Parks Canada visitor centre. Check parks.canada.ca/banfftrails for restrictions, warnings and closures.



Sanson Peak
2 256 m
7402'

Sanson Peak Boardwalk
0.5 km

Sulphur Mountain
5.5 km

Banff Upper Hot Springs

Banff Gondola

Spray River West 5.6 km

Spray River East 5.7 km

Golf Course Road

Tunnel Mountain Drive
Closed to vehicles from the first major snow fall to spring melt.

Golf Course Road
Closed from November 1 to May 1
parks.canada.ca/banffnp-closures

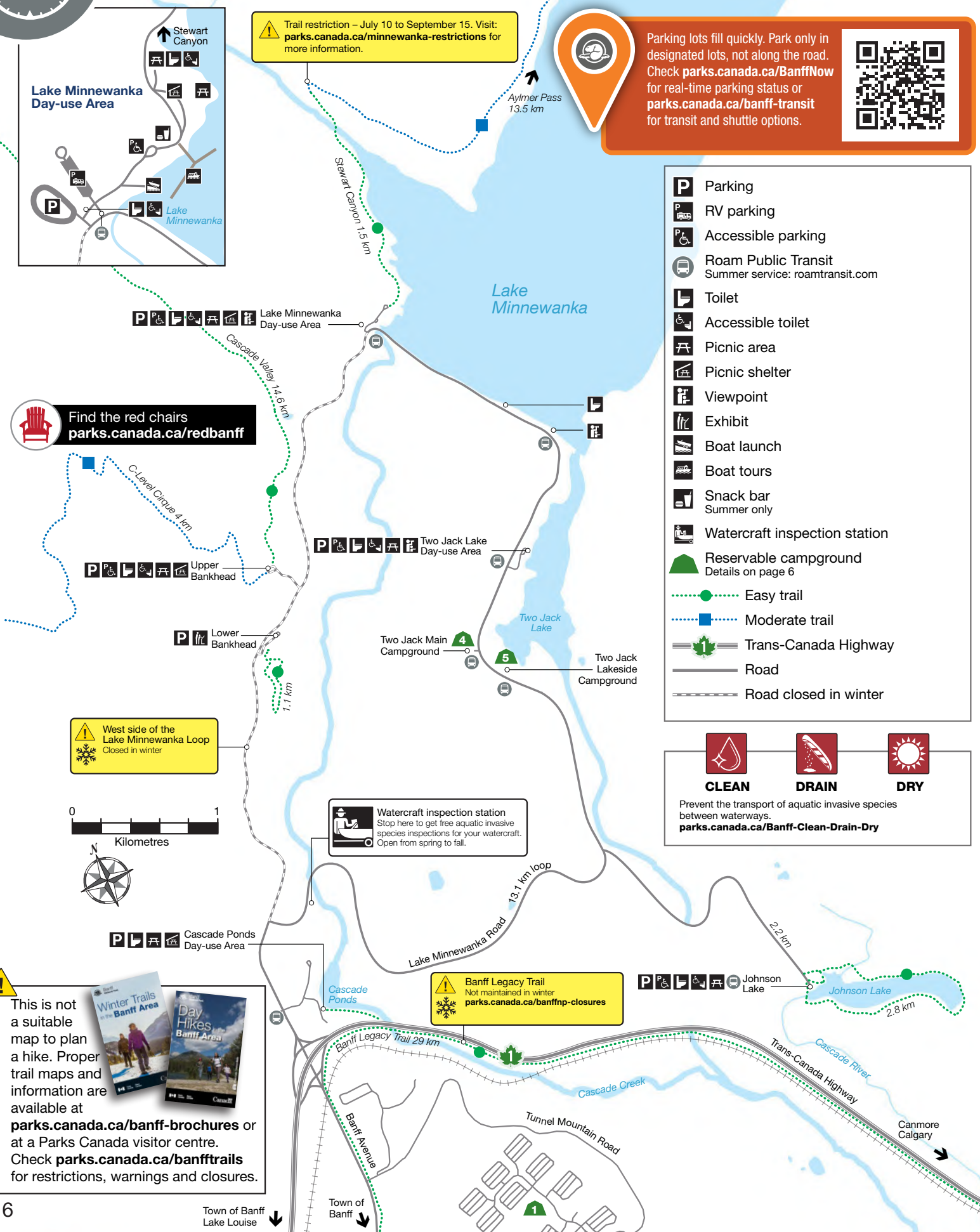
Parking lots fill quickly. Park only in designated lots, not along the road. Check parks.canada.ca/BanffNow for real-time parking status or parks.canada.ca/banff-transit for transit and shuttle options.



- | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Visitor centre | Picnic shelter | Chairlift | Sani dump |
| Parking | Train station | Hot springs | Reservable campground
Details on page 6 |
| RV parking | Gas station | Canoe docks | Trans-Canada Highway |
| Accessible parking | Police | Skating | Road |
| Roam Public Transit
Schedules: roamtransit.com | Hospital | Skatepark | Road closed in winter |
| Toilet | Viewpoint | Golf course | Easy trail |
| Accessible toilet | Theatre | Off-leash dog park | Moderate trail |
| Hostel | Ski area | Horseback riding | Town trail |
| Picnic area | Gondola | Playground | |



Lake Minnewanka Area Map



Biking in Banff National Park

Leave your car behind and enjoy the park on a bike.

Looking for paved options?

The Bow Valley Parkway and the Banff Legacy Trail are the two most popular areas for cycling. The Bow Valley Parkway is a scenic road between Banff and Lake Louise. During part of the year, cyclists can ride the eastern section of the parkway with minimal vehicle traffic. The Banff Legacy Trail is a multi-use paved trail with exceptional mountain views, and connects the Bow Valley Parkway to Banff and Canmore.

Enjoy e-biking?

While e-bikes are not allowed on most trails, pedal assisted e-bikes can be used along the Bow Valley Parkway and Banff Legacy Trail, as well as some designated trails in Banff.

While riding in the park, do so with care.

- Stay on designated trails only.
- Obey all traffic rules when riding on roads including speed limits.
- Bike trails are multi-use, so be courteous to other users and yield appropriately.

Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-biking for trails and safety information.



Cycling on the Bow Valley Parkway

S. Martin



Interpretive Programs and Activities

Explore. Learn. Connect.

Park interpreters can't wait to share fun and inspiring experiences with you. Join in for an outdoor activity or program!

Look for interpreters at campgrounds and popular day-use areas throughout the summer and at national historic sites during various times of the year.

Check parks.canada.ca/banff-interpretation or visit a Parks Canada visitor centre to find out about current programs.



AV Wakefield



Z. Lynch

Hike with a guide

Go on a Parks Canada guided conservation hike and learn how species at risk and their habitats are connected. Get an insider's look at Parks Canada's ecological restoration projects and find out how you can help.

Visit parks.canada.ca/yoho-conservation-hikes for more information and reservations.

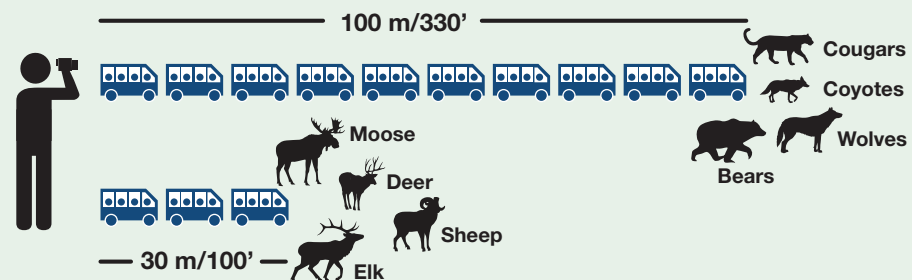
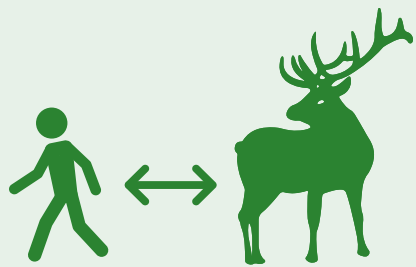


Your actions matter!

The chance to view wildlife in their natural environment is one of the most exciting things about visiting the mountain national parks. Help protect this special place by learning the **#WildlifeRules**.

Safely view wildlife

Whether you are exploring by foot, bike or vehicle, when you see wildlife, give them space:



Remember small animals like rodents and birds need space too! If you make them move, you are too close. Please report bear, cougar, wolf and coyote to Banff Dispatch: 403-762-1470.

Obey speed limits

While highway fencing and wildlife crossings have reduced wildlife-vehicle collisions in Banff National Park, wildlife deaths on the road still occur. If you see wildlife while driving, **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE**.



- Slow down.
- Use your hazard lights to alert others.
- Only pull over where safe to do so.
- Observe, take photographs, and move on.
- If a traffic jam develops, move on. It is unsafe for people and wildlife.

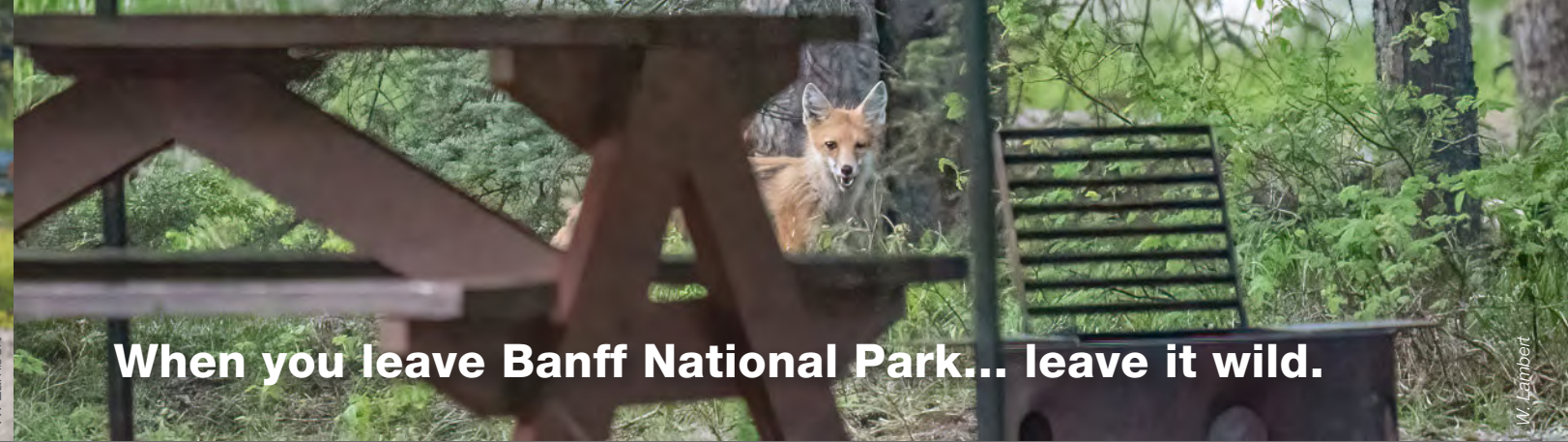
Respect area closures



Together, we can make space for wildlife when they need it most.

Obeying area closures and restrictions is the law. Area closures and restrictions in Banff National Park protect ecologically sensitive areas, important habitat for sensitive species or species at risk, and locations where the potential for conflict between humans and wildlife is high. If you come upon a closure, change your plans.

Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins for a list of closures, warnings and restrictions.



When you leave Banff National Park... leave it wild.

Never feed wildlife



Wildlife can quickly find any food, scented items, or garbage that is left unattended. When they eat these unnatural foods, wildlife learn to approach people for an easy meal. This can result in aggressive behaviour that puts both people and wildlife at risk of being hurt or killed.

Never leave these items unattended for any amount of time. They **MUST** be stored away in a vehicle, a hard-sided trailer or RV, or in a food locker.



Parks Canada staff are checking for unattended wildlife attractants. Attractants found in plain view will be removed and safely secured to reduce the risks to you and to wildlife.

Dispose of all garbage



Ensure all garbage, recycling, and food waste (even organic waste, like banana peels and apple cores) are disposed of in a wildlife-proof garbage bin, never on the ground, in a fire pit or in the bed of your truck.

If you see garbage left outside in the town of Banff, call 403-762-1218 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week). For garbage left outside at other locations in Banff National Park, call Banff Dispatch, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 403-762-1470.

Keep dogs on leash



Dogs cause stress for wildlife as they may be seen as a threat. Off-leash dogs can trigger aggressive behaviour from wildlife such as grizzly bears and elk. Be a responsible dog owner. In Banff National Park, it is your responsibility to:

- Ensure your dog is on a leash and under physical control at all times. It is the law.
- Pick up and dispose of your pet's waste in a wildlife-proof garbage bin.
- Know which trails allow dogs: parks.canada.ca/banfftrails
- Consider leaving your dog at home if you plan to camp, hike or go into the backcountry.

It is illegal to feed, entice or disturb any wildlife in a national park. Violators will be charged, be required to appear in court, and could pay fines up to \$25 000.



Moose

Characteristics

Long legs, shoulder hump. Built like a horse with a large head. Shovel-like antlers.

Habitat

Wet and marshy areas.

15 cm



Elk

Characteristics

Brown body, darker neck and large tan rump patch. Backwards slanting antlers.

Habitat

Valley bottoms and open areas. Commonly seen around townsites.

11.5 cm



White-tailed Deer

Characteristics

Tan colour, tail has white underside and is held upright like a flag when alarmed.

Habitat

Mostly valley bottoms.

7 cm



Mule Deer

Characteristics

Black tip on tail, large ears, white rump, grey colour. Antlers that fork in "Y"s.

Habitat

Mostly valley bottoms.

7 cm



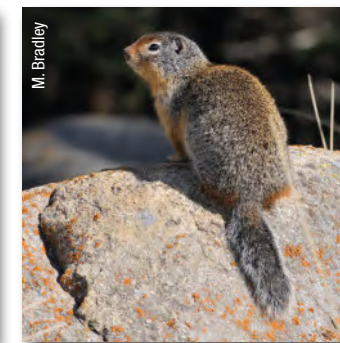
Red Squirrel

Characteristics

Red body, white underside and very large, bushy tail.

Habitat

Coniferous forests, scampering up trees.



Columbian Ground Squirrel

Characteristics

Tan-coloured. Longer body. Has a high-pitched "squeak."

Habitat

Meadows, roadsides and townsites in underground colonies.



Hoary Marmot

Characteristics

A larger member of the rodent family. Silver-brown in colour with longer hair. Has a high-pitched call that sounds like a whistle.

Habitat

Alpine and subalpine meadows, rock piles and scree slopes.



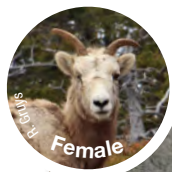
Pika

Characteristics

The smallest member of the rabbit family. Has a piercing call that sounds like a high-pitched "eep."

Habitat

Rock slides and talus slopes.



Bighorn Sheep

Characteristics

White rump and light brown fur. Males: thick curved horns. Females: short narrow horns.

Habitat

Near steep rocky terrain.

8 cm



Mountain Goat

Characteristics

Narrow black horns, beard, long white hair.

Habitat

Near steep rocky terrain.

8 cm



Wolf

Characteristics

Built like a large dog, with longer legs. Colour can vary from white to black.

Habitat

Mainly valley bottoms.

12 cm



Coyote

Characteristics

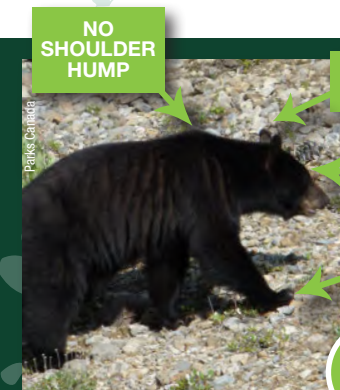
Similar to a medium-sized dog. Thick, bushy tail. Greyish-brown in colour.

Habitat

Valley bottoms.

7 cm

Grizzly or Black Bear?



Black Bear

7-10 cm



Grizzly Bear

10-15 cm



You are in bear country!

Be aware, bears can be anywhere at any time.

Get wildlife safety brochures at a Parks Canada visitor centre or visit parks.canada.ca/banff-wildlifesafety to learn more about keeping yourself safe.

Bear Spray is available at Parks Canada visitor centres and retail outlets in the town of Banff and the community of Lake Louise.





Protecting Park Waters

Healthy aquatic ecosystems are vital to the overall health of Canada's national parks and are threatened by aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as zebra mussels and whirling disease. AIS are introduced and spread naturally or through human activities. Once established, AIS can alter aquatic ecosystems, threaten native species, impact visitors' experience of the park and cause irreversible damage.

Clean, Drain, Dry your watercraft and gear, follow park regulations, and report AIS sightings to 403-762-1470 or 1-855-336-BOAT (2628).



CLEAN all mud, sand, plant, and animal materials from your watercraft or water-related gear. This includes boats, paddleboards, fishing gear, etc.



DRAIN coolers, buckets, compartments, and other items that may hold water.



DRY all watercraft and any water-related gear completely for 48 hours before entering any river, lake or stream, if it was last used in Alberta or British Columbia, and for a minimum of 30 days after being used in the United States or all other provinces.



Aquatic users should be aware that there are requirements in Banff National Park for motorized, non-motorized watercraft and water-related gear:

- All motorized watercraft launching in Lake Minnewanka require a free Parks Canada AIS prevention inspection permit prior to launching. The mandatory motorized watercraft inspection station is located along the Lake Minnewanka Loop Road, 6 km from the town of Banff.
- All non-motorized watercraft and gear (e.g., canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, fishing gear) launching in Banff National Park require a free AIS prevention self-certification permit or inspection permit. Self-certification permits are available online, at visitor centres and at self-serve kiosks at waterbodies in Banff. Inspection of non-motorized watercraft and gear is available at a watercraft inspection station along the Minnewanka Road, or 6 km east of Lake Louise on the Trans-Canada Highway.

Visit parks.canada.ca/Banff-Clean-Drain-Dry for more information.



Volunteering in Banff National Park



Looking for a unique experience during your trip to Banff National Park? Groups of volunteers play an important part in keeping the park healthy and safe for people and wildlife.

Anyone can volunteer:

parks.canada.ca/banff-volunteer



Conservation Stories



Celebrating a success story

For the first time in 50 years, there are westslope cutthroat trout in Hidden Lake. In 2018, The Saving Threatened Trout Project began to protect and restore this species and their habitat. The goal of this project is to remove non-native fish and reintroduce threatened westslope cutthroat trout. Parks Canada is re-populating the streams and lakes where they were historically found.

Fast forward to 2022 and over 5 000 fry, which are baby fish, have been released into Hidden Lake and creek. This was no easy task. It required the collection of eggs and milt from wild donor populations. The aquatics teams worked hard to raise these fish until they were ready to be released into the wild. Parks Canada will continue this project. The plan is to bring more threatened trout back to their historical range in the coming years.

Visit parks.canada.ca/hidden-lake to learn more and watch our video.

Creating diverse, resilient landscapes

As climate changes, fire seasons are predicted to become longer, larger, and burn more severely. Drought conditions are expected to increase. But it's not all doom and gloom! Through prescribed fire and wildfire management, Parks Canada creates more diverse landscapes, and improves ecosystem resilience to climate change.

From grassy meadows to Douglas fir stands, diverse habitat patches provide room for critters, big and small. Diverse forests are also more capable to withstand the negative impacts of climate change, such as drought, loss of habitat, and severe wildfires.

In 2022, Banff National Park successfully improved and restored 4 958 hectares through prescribed fire!



Embracing Indigenous connections

The Indigenous Advisory Circle for Banff National Park, established in 2018, is an important means to better understand Indigenous perspectives and priorities for their relationship with Parks Canada. The Circle, made up of the Bearspaw, Chiniki and Goodstoney First Nations, the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 — shares knowledge and provides input, advice, and recommendations to park superintendents on topics, issues, and opportunities related to Banff National Park.





National Park Regulations



Stay safe and enjoy

You are required by law to follow national park regulations. Thank you for helping protect people, landscapes and wildlife.



All visitors to Banff National Park must purchase a national park entry pass. Passes are available for purchase at park gates, visitor centres, campgrounds and at partner locations. Provincial passes are not valid in national parks.



Camping is permitted in designated campgrounds only. A valid camping permit and national park entry pass are required. Do not sleep in your vehicle or RV roadside, at pull-outs, or pitch a tent in an area that is not a campground.



In campgrounds, alcohol and cannabis cannot be consumed beyond your registered campsite. There is a daily ban on alcohol and cannabis consumption during quiet hours, between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. During summer long weekends (May – September), the possession and consumption of alcohol and cannabis are not permitted in any campground.



The recreational use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones, is prohibited in all national parks and national historic sites.



Pets must be on a leash and under physical control at all times. Collect and discard their waste in wildlife-proof garbage bins.



Do not feed any wildlife. It is illegal to feed wildlife—this includes littering and leaving food or scented items unattended.



Do not litter. Dispose of garbage or recycling in wildlife-proof bins, or pack it out.



Take only photographs. It is illegal to pick flowers and mushrooms, cut down trees and branches, remove rocks, collect or disturb cultural artifacts or otherwise cause damage to natural objects or living things.



Stay out of closed areas. Area closures or activity restrictions are implemented when visitors are at risk or when wildlife require additional protection. Signs indicate the areas impacted.



Be careful with fire. Fires are permitted only where designated metal fire rings and cook stoves are provided by Parks Canada. Rock rings are prohibited. Never leave fires unattended, and extinguish them completely using the soak, stir, soak method. Visitors must provide their own firewood at picnic areas. Most fuel stations and grocery stores within the national park sell firewood. Never bring wood from outside the park. Do not use deadwood, bark or branches for fuel. Never burn food or garbage. Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-fire for wildfire and fire ban information.



Anglers require a national park fishing permit, available at Parks Canada visitor centres. **Provincial fishing licenses are not valid in national parks.** National Park Fishing Regulations prohibit lead tackle under 50g and all bait, natural or chemical. Fishing is catch and release only in Banff, except for lake trout in Lake Minnewanka reservoir. For more information, see the *Fishing Regulations Summary* brochure, available at parks.canada.ca/brochures-banff or Parks Canada visitor centres.



Going boating? Motors of all kinds are prohibited on all water bodies except Lake Minnewanka reservoir. Regulations apply to all watercraft launching in Banff National Park including motorboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and inflatables: parks.canada.ca/banff-boating



Motorized off-road travel is not permitted.



Firearms are prohibited in national parks. Firearms include pellet guns, bear bangers, bows, slingshots and similar items.



E-bikes (pedal-electric power-assisted bicycles) are only permitted on roads and select trails in Banff National Park. Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-e-bike for more information.

The Canada National Parks Act

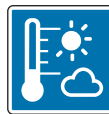
Park Wardens are responsible for enforcing park regulations as required by the *Canada National Parks Act* (parks.canada.ca/banffregulations). To report park violations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, call: **1-888-927-3367 Banff, Yoho, Kootenay and Waterton Lakes**
1-877-852-3100 Jasper, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier

Violators will be charged, be required to appear in court, and could pay fines up to \$25 000.



These simple tips will help ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

Before getting on the road



Check the weather forecast: weather.gc.ca



Check road conditions at 511.alberta.ca, call 511 in Alberta, or 1-855-391-9743. For road conditions in British Columbia, visit drivebc.ca or call 1-800-550-4997.

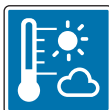


Winter tires are mandatory from November 1 to March 31 on many mountain roads. Ensure your vehicle has winter tires—look for the snowflake or “M+S” symbol.

M+S

Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-driving for safety tips and more information.

Before exploring the trails



Check the weather forecast. Make sure you are prepared with warm clothing and supplies. Visit parks.canada.ca/bnp-hike for a recommended packing list.



Check trail conditions at parks.canada.ca/banfftrails and the important bulletins at parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins.



Travel only in terrain appropriate for your group’s experience, abilities and equipment.



Avalanche season in the mountains extends from November to June. Even a short walk from downtown Banff or Lake Louise can take you into avalanche terrain. Visit avalanche.pc.gc.ca for more information.



Cell phone coverage is not reliable in many areas of the park and **there is no cell coverage along the Icefields Parkway**. Before heading out, let someone know your plans including your route, trailhead, vehicle description, when you are leaving and when you expect to return.

For more mountain safety information, visit parks.mountainsafety.ca



Whether you are here for a family adventure or a relaxing getaway, there is no better way to experience Banff’s mountain landscape than to get out there in the snow. Lace up your boots, wax up your skis, strap on a pair of snowshoes or hop on a fat bike and enjoy one of many winter trails.

Know before you go



Stop by a Parks Canada visitor centre to plan a safe adventure, get a winter trails brochure and find activities that are right for your group.



Remember that winter brings risks. You don’t need to venture far to be in avalanche terrain. If you plan to explore beyond designated winter trails, avalanche training and equipment are essential.



Ice safety

Parks Canada does NOT monitor natural ice surfaces for safety, or mark potential hazards. If you choose to skate on natural ice, you do so at your own risk. Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-skating for safety information.

Winter tips



Trails can be icy in winter. Ice cleats are recommended for winter walking.



Bring a headlamp on your excursion. Daylight hours are limited and you never know when you might be delayed.



Be prepared and stay warm! Extra layers, blankets, hot drinks and snacks are essential.



Expect winter driving conditions. Drivers should travel based on comfort level and experience. See Mountain Safety on page 26 for more winter driving information and requirements.



Don’t drive if you don’t have to! Roam transit runs between Banff and Lake Louise all winter. Visit roamtransit.com for additional routes and details.

Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-winter for trail maps, conditions report and more information.



Parking lots fill quickly. Park only in designated lots, not along the road. Check parks.canada.ca/BanffNow for real-time parking status or parks.canada.ca/banff-transit for transit and shuttle options.



Kicking Horse Canyon project
 Expect delays and extended closures. During periods of full closure, all Trans-Canada Highway traffic will be re-routed via the Village of Radium Hot Springs (Highway 93 South and Highway 95). Check kickinghorsecanyon.ca for updates.

**Visiting a national park?
 Driving the Icefields Parkway?
 You must have a valid national park entry pass.**

Entry fees are charged at most national parks and national historic sites where revenues support visitor services and facilities. This means that every time you visit a park or site you are investing in its future and in a legacy for future generations. Purchase your national park entry pass at any park gate, Parks Canada visitor centre or staffed campground kiosk.



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Wildlife in area
 Obey speed limit
Faune dans le secteur
 Obéissez à la limite de vitesse

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

Cell phone coverage is not reliable throughout the national park.
 Alberta Road Report: 511 or 1-855-391-9743 / 511.alberta.ca
 British Columbia Road Report: 1-800-550-4997 / drivebc.ca