



Winter on the Icefields Parkway

Explore!

Witness incredible snow-capped mountains, ancient glaciers, ice-covered lakes and winter wildlife.

Before you venture out on the Parkway this winter, please be prepared and check the road condition reports. Drive with caution and enjoy the breathtaking beauty that awaits you on your journey through ice and time.



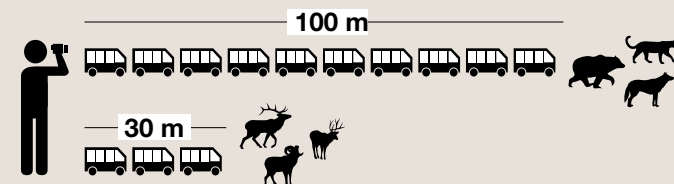
This photo was taken with a telephoto lens from a safe distance (30 m).

Bighorn sheep

Watch for wildlife

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

DO NOT FEED OR APPROACH WILDLIFE.



MAXIMUM 70 km/h
Slow down for wildlife and winter road conditions.



Pets must be on a leash at all times.

Looking for a quick and scenic stop?

Tangle Falls

LOCATION: 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

LOCATION: 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

LOCATION: 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 crow's foot. Since then, one toe has melted and the middle toe is slowly disappearing.

Want to stretch your legs?

Athabasca Falls

EASY – STURDY BOOTS, ICE CLEATS

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. Stay behind railings and on designated trails. Do not venture out on the ice.

Howse Pass 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.



Howse Pass Viewpoint

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 h 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. Continue another 2 kilometres along an easy route to the lower falls.

Toe of the Athabasca Glacier

EASY – SNOWSHOES

4 km/2 h 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.

⚠ Do not walk on the glacier as hidden crevasses and other hazards can be deadly.

Wilcox Viewpoint

DIFFICULT – SNOWSHOES

3.4 km/2 h 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.

⚠ Avalanche danger beyond the Red Chairs.

Valley of the Five Lakes

MODERATE – SNOWSHOES, ICE CLEATS

4.5 km loop/2 h
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.

Peyto Lake Viewpoint

EASY – SNOWSHOES

1.2 km/45 mins return
25 m elevation gain

TRAILHEAD: 190 km south of Jasper, 43 km north of Lake Louise

Start by following either the unplowed upper road or take the official trail from the north end of the parking lot. From the viewpoint, a second loop runs through gladed forest.



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:

weather.gc.ca
or visit an information centre

Trail reports:

parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails
parkscanada.gc.ca/banfftrails



Avalanche season extends from November to June. Even a short walk from the parking lot can take you into dangerous terrain.

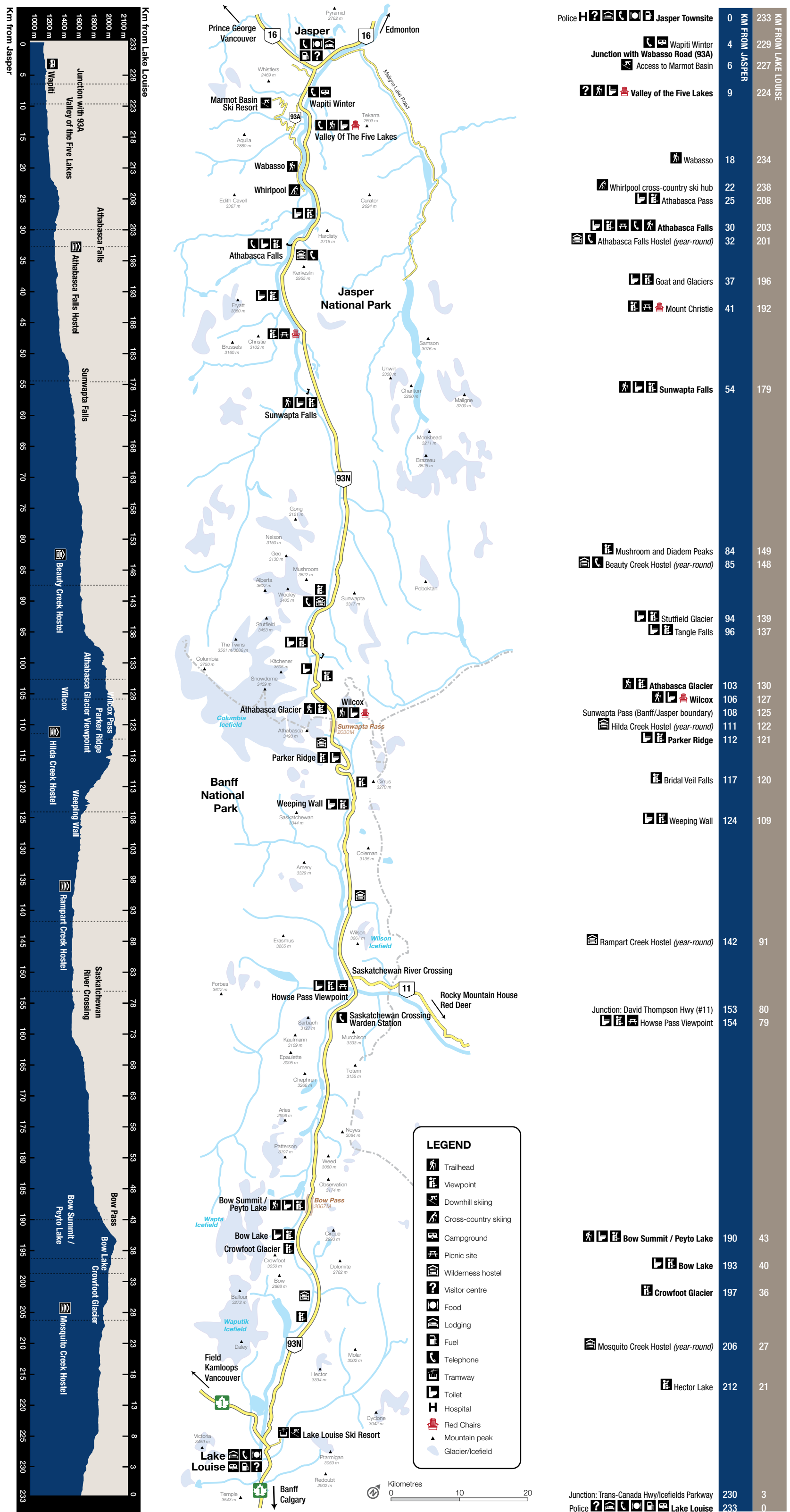
Check the latest avalanche conditions at parkscanada.gc.ca/avalanche

Your national parks pass

A national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway.

Revenues from pass sales support maintenance, plowing, sanding and avalanche control.

The Icefields Parkway Winter Driving Guide



You are responsible for your own 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 journey.

- Winter 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.
- 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.