

# THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE

BANFF • JASPER • KOOTENAY • YOHO • GLACIER • MOUNT REVELSTOKE N A T I O N A L P A R K S O F C A N A D A



# Proud stewards of world-class heritage:

### **PARKS CANADA**

# Welcome

to Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks of Canada.



Photo: Wayne Lynch

# You Are Visiting A National Treasure...

The idea of a Canada-wide system of protected areas took root here. Parks Canada now protects and presents 41 National Parks and 149 National Historic Sites, each representing a significant aspect of the landscape and our history. These national parks and historic sites characterize our country and define who we are as Canadians. Parks Canada holds them in trust for all time:

It's big. It's beautiful. It's also fragile.

The National Parks of Canada are bereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment... and shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and natural processes, shall be the first priority... when considering all aspects of the management of parks.

Canada National Parks Act, 2000

# And A World Heritage Site Too!



Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks, together with the provincial parks of Hamber, Mount Robson and Mount Assiniboine, are recognized internationally as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The *Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site* is one of the largest protected areas in the world.

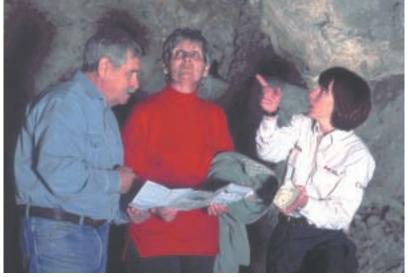


Photo: Brenda Falvey

# Discover the stories behind the scenery.

We invite you to explore the unique nature and culture of Canada's national parks and national historic sites.

# All visitors to Canada's national parks require a Park Pass.

PARK PASS fees help fund:

- maintenance of park roads, trails, and day use areas
- public safety programs and park rescues
- visitor information and interpretation services.

DAILY and ANNUAL National Park Passes are sold at park gates, information centres and staffed campgrounds.

### **Information Centres**

### ? Drop in for:

- ▶ maps, brochures, guide books
- trail, weather and avalanche reports
- safety information about wildlife, hazardous activities and conditions
- warning, closure, and use restriction notices
- trip planning assistance for hikers, backpackers, climbers and skiers
- backcountry campsite reservations and wilderness passes
- ▶ national park fishing licenses
- ▶ park passes

### **Educational Exhibits**

**e** Look for this symbol.

### Interpretive Programs

### Ask about our:

#### **J**

- campground theatre shows
- ▶ quided tours and walks
- ▶ junior naturalist programs
- ▶ film and slide shows
- ▶ roving interpreters
- ▶ Water...on the Rocks! show

### First Peoples, First Presence

For early Native people, these mountains were both sacred places and a source of game, fish, and other supplies. Archaeological evidence from Banff's **Vermilion Lakes** suggests Aboriginal people arrived here about 11 thousand years ago.

Though the Stoneys, Cree, Ktunaxa, and Plains Blackfoot passed through these valleys, few settled for long. Some journeyed to mineral springs such as **Kootenay National Park's Paint Pots** to gather ochre. An iron-based mineral, ochre was baked, crushed, mixed with grease, and used as a paint for tipis, pictographs, and personal adornment.

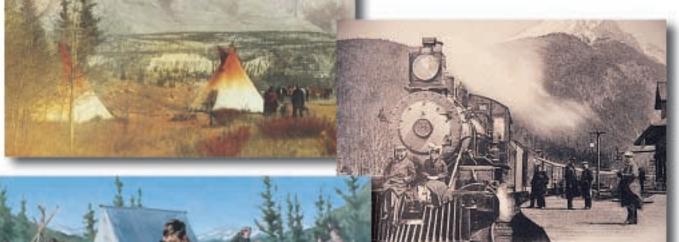
11,000 years of Aboriginal history -Byron Harmon Collection

### All Aboard!

Blasting a railway through these rock walls was no easy feat. Yoho National Park's **Spiral Tunnels** bear witness to this engineering marvel. The **Walk** in the Past Trail features an engine abandoned after the building of these tunnels. The self guiding **Abandoned Rails Trail** in Glacier National Park includes remnants of early snowsheds built for rail line avalanche safety.

But in 1885, Canada achieved the impossible, completing its coast-to-coast railway. The arrival of the train brought tourists, resorts, and a lifeline to the newly-established Rocky Mountains Park (now Banff National Park), this young country's first national park. The creation of Glacier, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks soon followed, as more and more visitors discovered the beauty of this mountain landscape.

For a brief period, lumber and mining industries flourished here. Banff's **Bankhead** and Jasper's **Pocahontas** coal mines boomed in the early 1900s. Today, you can wander among the ruins on self guiding trails. By 1930, a new **National Parks Act** set resource protection as the parks' priority, ending such industrial activities.



Crossing the mountains - Field, B.C. c.1904

David Thompson at work

### **Pushing the Boundaries**

Mention the fur trade, and the names of David Thompson and Simon Fraser are inescapable. These men mapped and explored over a million square miles of western Canada at the turning of the 19th Century. While charting new trading areas to the Pacific, Thompson explored the Howse and Athabasca Passes, both now recognized as national historic sites. He frequented posts in the area of Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site and established Kootenay House. Simon Fraser established many trading posts, including Fort St. James National Historic Site, in British Columbia, before heading down the river which now bears his name.

Other Canadian legends like Sir George Simpson and Captain John Palliser visited too, eyeing the West for its resource and settlement potential.



Discover how Canada's National Park system began at the Cave and Basin National Historic Site.

### **A Lasting Legacy**

The parks brought people – all kinds! By 1920 tourists came by automobile, along Canada's first central transmountain motor route, to the newly-established Kootenay National Park.

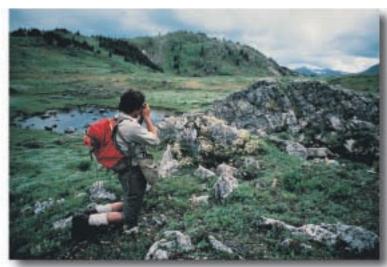
Some flocked to world famous attractions like Banff's Cave and Basin Springs, now a national historic site.

The more adventurous climbed with Swiss guides up uncharted peaks in the Columbia Mountains, often using historic Glacier House as a base. Between 1886 and 1903, almost 40 of Glacier National Park's mountains were climbed for the first time. Today you can tour the site of Glacier House near the Illecillewaet Campground.

### At The Top

If you could view this land from the vantage point of a soaring golden eagle, you would see that about half of it is bare rock, ice and snow, and treeless, tundra-like meadows. The alpine environment is harsh: winds, temperatures, ultra-violet radiation, and moisture stresses can be extreme, growing seasons may be as short as a few weeks and soils are meagre. Yet a surprising variety of creatures, from ground-hugging alpine plants to agile mountain goats, are adapted to these conditions. You are likely to see pikas, hoary marmots and ptarmigan here. Grizzly bears spend a good part of their lives in alpine meadows, digging for roots or rodents, or sleeping the winter away under a blanket of snow.

The Alpine Zone

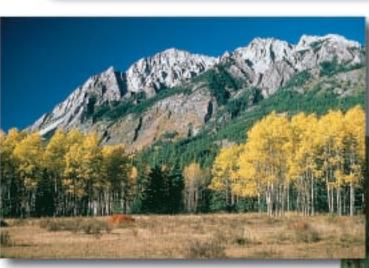


On The Slopes

Dark, dense stands of spruce and fir clothe the mountainsides. Much snow falls and accumulates here during the winter, protected by the forest canopy from the drying forces of sun and wind. Summer hikers will notice that, while nowhere near as lush as the rain forests further to the west, these subalpine "snow forests" are carpeted with moisture-loving mosses and mushrooms. You may spot the occasional moose here, or signs of the elusive lynx. More commonly sighted inhabitants are the porcupine, who lives on needles and bark, and the pine marten, whose diet includes mice, voles, squirrels and birds. The lovely alpine larch, famous for its golden needles in the fall, thrives near treeline. Avalanche slopes are important feeding areas for wildlife – use binoculars to scan them.



The Subalpine Zone



The Montane Zone

### In The Valleys

Picture the landscape around the townsites of Banff and Jasper: dry grassy meadows and open forests of trembling aspen, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and white spruce. With a relatively long growing season, and little snow cover during

the winter, the wide valley bottoms of the Rocky Mountains provide a good year-round food supply for elk, deer and bighorn sheep – and, of course, for their predators, the wolf and the cougar. Black bears live in this montane ecoregion, and it is important habitat for grizzlies too, especially in the spring when higher elevations remain snow-covered. Also common in valley bottoms are wetlands, rich in aquatic and bird life. Amazingly, all this activity is concentrated in a very small – but very vital – portion of the parks: less than 5% of Banff, Jasper, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks.

In the more westerly and much wetter Selkirk Mountains, where Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks are located, valley bottoms contain a complex community of plants dominated by very old, very large western red cedar and western hemlock. Mountain caribou, pine siskins, and devil's club can be found here.



The Cedar Hemlock Rainforest in Mount Revelstoke & Glacier National Parks

"In wildness is the preservation of the world."

- Henry David Thoreau

### **ACTIVITIES**

To get the most out of your visit:

#### Take a Guide

#### Explore the parks with a local guide.

Whether your interpretive guide works for Parks Canada or for a private company licensed to operate within the mountain national parks, we share a common commitment to providing you with knowledgeable guides and stimulating, safe adventures.



Look for this logo as your guarantee of high quality educational experiences.

www.mphia.org

#### **Become a Friend**

#### We'll Take You Places...

Join your Friends for a historical walking tour, guided hike or educational event. Visit the Friends' gift shops to see a complete list of events.

#### Friends Make a Difference...

Friends carry a large selection of books, maps and unique gift ideas. Proceeds support educational programs, research, publications and projects.

Find your Friends at:

#### Friends of Banff

The Bear & the Butterfly
Banff Park Information Centre
Lake Louise Visitor Centre

#### Friends of Jasper

Jasper Park Information Centre

#### Friends of Kootenay

Park Information Centre in Radium Hot Springs

#### Friends of Yoho

Yoho Visitor Centre in Field

### Friends of Mt. Revelstoke & Glacier

Rogers Pass Discovery Centre

## Create memories to last a lifetime.



This is the perfect place to tune in to nature – to appreciate it, respect it, and pledge to protect it.

### Everywhere...

### NATURE WATCHING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Anywhere and any time, take a moment to stop and quietly observe your natural surroundings. Chances are you'll find something of interest. It could be as grand as a mountain surrise, as tiny as an alpine flower, or as exciting as finding cougar tracks in the snow...

### Along the Road

#### **SIGHTSEEING**

We have scenic drives, roadside viewpoints, interpretive exhibits and easily-accessible strolls for people of all ages, abilities and interests. See MAP pages for details.

### On the Trail

#### **ON FOOT**

Whether you hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe, hundreds of kilometres of trails – from easy to challenging – lead into this spectacular mountain scenery.

#### BY BIKE

Mountain bikes are permitted on certain park trails. When done safely and with respect, mountain biking can be a great way to 'get out there.'

#### BY HORSE OR SLED

Take a couple of hours, or a few days, to explore the parks as the old-timers did. Guided horse trips, sleigh rides and dog-sledding are offered in some locations.

### On the Water

#### **SWIMMING**

There's nothing more refreshing than a dip in a clear, cold mountain lake on a hot summer's day. You probably won't want to stay in for long, though!

#### **SOAKING**

At the other temperature extreme are the steaming mineral springs in Banff, Jasper, and Kootenay National Parks. What better way to relax after a day on the trail?

#### **FISHING**

The practice of catch and release angling is encouraged; lead weights and live bait are prohibited. You must have a National Park fishing permit valid in the park in which you are fishing, and follow all regulations.

#### **BOATING**

If you can buckle up a life jacket, you can enjoy a quiet canoe on a calm, alpine lake. Travel on mountain rivers, however, should only be attempted by well-informed and experienced paddlers. Motor boats are prohibited on most park waters.

#### **SKATING**

What could be more Canadian than skating on a frozen Rocky Mountain lake? Natural ice conditions in the parks are not monitored; make sure the ice is at least 15 cm (6 in) thick.

### Books, Gear

- ▶ Friends' gift shops and local bookstores sell topographical maps and trail guide books.
- ► Equipment rentals are available at outdoor stores and in larger hotels

### Under the Stars

#### CAR CAMPING

Parks Canada offers a choice of about 30 road-accessible campgrounds throughout the six parks, providing a range of facilities from primitive to full service.

#### First come, first served.

Demand for the more 'urban' campgrounds is heavy in July and August. As campsites cannot be reserved in advance, please plan to arrive by early afternoon or consider staying at a more remote campground.

Coming in 2005 – campground reservation system in some locations.

#### See MAP pages

for front-country campground locations and amenities.

NOTE: Camping is allowed in designated campgrounds only.

#### BACKPACKING

You'll really get a taste of the wilderness if you spend a night or two out in it. Before heading out you must purchase a Wilderness Pass and obtain current safety information. Reservations may be required for the more popular backcountry campsites; these can be made up to 3 months in advance.

# On the Peaks MOUNTAINEERING

Opportunities abound for experienced climbers, scramblers, and ski tourers. Or hire a guide, and learn as you go.

#### **SKI AREAS**

In Banff National Park:	(403)
Banff Mount Norquay	.762-4421
Skiing Louise	.522-3555
Sunshine Village	.762-6500

In Jasper National	Park:	(780
Marmot Basin		.852-3816

# Special places require special rules.

The awe-inspiring scenery can pose some awe-inspiring hazards too.

The most common risks, and how to avoid them, are described here.



### Driving

Statistically, it's the most dangerous activity in the park.

- ▶ Obey posted speed limits: 90 km/hr max (56 mph) on major routes and 60 km/hr max (37 mph) on secondary roads.
- ▶ Make allowances for other drivers, who may be in a hurry, lost, or distracted by the scenery...
- ▶ Be prepared for a variety of conditions; it may snow in summer at higher elevations.
- ▶ Slow down in bad weather or stop somewhere safe and wait it out.
- Watch out for cyclists. They may be difficult to see, especially from an RV. Do not drive on the road shoulder.
- Watch out for wildlife: See pages 8, 9, 10 & 11.

Driving in WINTER conditions takes extra care:

- ▶ Slow down if the road is snow-covered or if visibility is poor.
- Watch out for black ice, especially on bridges and near water.
- ▶ The use of cruise control is not recommended.
- ► Snow tires, all-season radials or chains are required by law for travel on all roads except Hwy #1
- ▶ It is a good idea to equip your car with a shovel, flashlight, blanket, food and extra warm clothing.
- ▶ Cell phone reception outside of townsites is unreliable.



#### Road Conditions

For all 6 parks ..... (403) 762-1450

#### Safety Registration

Parks Canada offers a Voluntary Safety Registration service for people engaging in potentially hazardous activities. Ask at ?

### Weather

Never underestimate the power of weather in the mountains.

- ▶ Check the local weather forecast before heading out, but be prepared for anything. Conditions can change rapidly in the mountains, from minute to minute and from place to place. Generally, the higher you go, the colder and windier it gets.
- ► Take along clothing to protect you from wind, cold, rain or snow.
- ▶ Dress in layers; adjust to prevent overcooling or overheating.
- ▶ Use sunglasses and sunscreen, even on overcast or cool days. Ultraviolet radiation is stronger at higher elevations. Reflection from snow or ice can damage your eyes.

#### **Weather**

Banff, Kootenay,

& Yoho .....(403) 762-2088 Jasper.....(780) 852-3185

### Wilderness

Hazards are part of the wilderness environment. Reduce the risks by following these guidelines:

- ▶ Research your trip before you go.
- ▶ Tell someone where you're going and when you will be back.
- ▶ Take along a map.
- ▶ Bring water, food, and extra clothing.
- ▶ Travel with others, and keep your group together.
- ▶ Stay on the trail; retrace your steps if unsure of your route.
- ▶ Be prepared to stay out overnight, just in case. A search takes time.

#### Trail Conditions

Banff only.....(403) 760-1305

### Falling

All it takes is a slippery slope or a momentary lapse of attention...

- ▶ Keep away from the edge.
- ▶ Avoid slippery patches on trails and rocky areas adjacent to canyons, waterfalls and streams.
- ▶ Heed warning signs, and stay behind safety fences.
- ▶ Be aware that high elevation trails may be covered by snow or ice until mid-summer.
- ▶ Falling into a crevasse can be fatal; glacier travel should only be attempted by experienced and properly equipped mountaineers.

### Rock & Ice

- ▶ There is a lot of loose rock in the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains. Be alert for rockfall whenever you are in steep terrain.
- ▶ Glacier ice on steep slopes or cliff edges can collapse at any time. Do not walk on or beneath overhanging ice or snow.

### Avalanches



You are in **AVALANCHE** country.

- ▶ Drivers should avoid stopping in posted avalanche zones.
- ▶ Back- country skiers, boarders and snow-shoers must know how to recognize and travel in avalanche terrain. Each member of your party should carry a shovel, transceiver and probe, and know how to use them.



#### **Avalanche Hazard**

1-800-667-1105 www.avalanche.ca

### **REGULATIONS**

In our National Parks, be sure to:

### Give Wildlife **Space**

It is against the law to touch, entice, disturb or otherwise harass any wild animals - big or small.

### **Keep Food Away** From Wildlife

Feeding any park wildlife is prohibited. Always keep coolers stored in vehicles. Pick up litter and dispose of garbage in bearproof bins.

### Put Pets On A Leash

Unrestrained pets may harass wildlife, provoke wildlife attacks and endanger people.

### Leave It For Others To Enjoy

Whatever treasure you find - be it a rock, a flower, an antler or an historic artifact – it belongs where it is.

### **Obey Closures** and Restrictions

Restrictions may be imposed, or areas may be temporarily closed for safety or environmental reasons. Restricted areas and closures are marked with signs.

### Disarm **Firearms**

Firearms must remain in your vehicle at all times, unloaded, and in a case or wrapped and securely tied so that no part of the firearm is exposed.

### Help Protect **People And The Park**

Call 1-888-WARDENS if you anyone violating park regulations.

Please report all bear, cougar, or wolf sightings, or aggressive behaviour by any wildlife to the nearest Park Warden Office or Information Centre.

# If you are approached by a PREDATOR:



Stephen Krasemanr

# If you are approached by a cougar, wolf or coyote, send a clear message that you are NOT potential prey.

- ▶ Pick up small children immediately.
- Yell.
- Do anything you can to make yourself look bigger.
- ▶ Be prepared to use pepper spray if you have it
- ▶ Fight back aggressively if attacked.
- ▶ DO NOT crouch, play dead, run, or turn your back to the animal.

# To a carnivore, your PET may look appetizing.

- ▶ Keep dogs on a leash, walk them in open areas and during daylight hours only.
- ▶ Do not leave pets unattended outside.

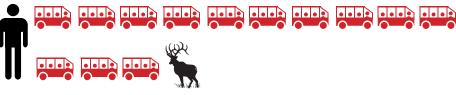
### Prevent conflicts with wildlife.

They may sometimes appear unconcerned by our presence, but all park animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

#### ALWAYS KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.

Do not approach or entice wildlife. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens instead. Remain at least:

→ 100 metres (10 bus lengths) away from BEARS, COUGARS and WOLVES.



→ 30 metres (3 bus lengths) away from ELK, DEER, SHEEP, GOATS and MOOSE.

# NEVER LEAVE FOOD ATTRACTANTS out for wildlife.

Food attractants include:

- **X** coolers (they are NOT bearproof!)
- **X** food scraps or leftovers **X** dishwater
- **X** dirty dishes, pots or barbecues
- **X** empty bottles, cans or wrappers
- **X** toothpaste, soap or other toiletries
- **X** pet food dishes (full or empty) **X** pets

# Don't forget the small stuff!

Wildlife experts predict that West Nile Virus may have reached the mountains by this summer. Remember to use insect repellent.

# BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS at all times.

Because it is impossible to predict how wildlife will react in any situation, avoiding encounters is the only sure way to keep people safe and wildlife wild.

- ✓ Always be on the lookout for animals or signs of their presence.
- ✓ Carefully supervise children whenever outdoors.

### ELK are wild animals too!

"My wife and I visited your national park last September. One morning we saw some elk near the road. We stopped a safe distance away. While I made my camera with a 500 mm telephoto lens ready to take a photo of this big elk, another car appeared. The driver left his car and walked toward the elk to take a close picture. The elk seemed to become angry about this and chased him back across the road, where he hid behind his car. This was the moment when I took this picture. It shows clearly that your recommendation to stay at least 3 bus lengths from an elk really makes sense!"

- submitted by Claus-Peter Ernst, Mainz, Germany



### Getting too close to elk is hazardous.

Attacks have occurred at any time of the year. Females are most aggressive during the May/June calving season, and males are especially dangerous during the September/October rut.

### Watch out for animals near the road.

Drive with care and be prepared to avoid a collision at all times. Be especially cautious at dusk and dawn, when many animals are most active, and visibility is poor.

# IF YOU SEE AN ANIMAL BY THE ROAD:

- ✓ Slow down. It could run out into your path at any time.
- ✓ Warn other motorists by flashing your hazard lights.
- ✓ Where there is one animal, expect others nearby.

### IF YOU WISH TO STOP AND VIEW ROADSIDE WILDLIFE:

- ✔ Pull safely out of traffic.
- ✔ Remain in your vehicle.
- ✓ Move on after a few minutes.

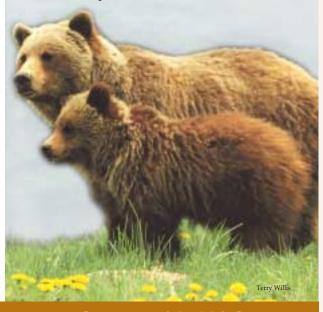
# IF YOU SEE A BEAR...

Consider not stopping.



### Give Them the Space They Need

Please do your part to limit the impact that so many people have on park wildlife. Give all the animals you see the respect they deserve and the space they need. Enjoy a safe visit and ensure that future generations have the chance to see wildlife that is truly wild.



## Please SLOW DOWN for wildlife.



The speed limit on major park roads is 90 km/hr (56 mph). A lower speed limit of 70 km/hr (43 mph) may be posted in known high collision areas. The speed limit on the parks' scenic secondary roads is lower still, usually 60 k/h (37 mph).

# Drive as if their lives depended on it.

# What should I do if I see a BEAR?

If you are driving: stay in your car, and consider not stopping.

See pages 9 & 11.

#### If you are not in a vehicle:

- ➤ Stay calm. If a bear rears on its hind legs and waves its nose about, it is trying to identify you. Remain still and talk calmly so that it knows you are human and not a prey animal. Bears may also bluff charge: run toward you and turn away at the last moment. A scream or sudden movement may trigger an attack.
- ▶ Pick up children, stay in a group.
- ► Back away slowly, don't run.
- ▶ Leave the area. If this is impossible, wait until the bear leaves; make sure it has an escape route.

#### To reduce your risk of a surprise encounter:

- ► Make noise. Clap, sing or yell to announce your presence, especially where a bear might not otherwise smell, hear or see you coming. (Bear bells are not very effective.)
- ► Travel in groups, on established trails, and during daylight hours.
- Minimize odours by proper storage of food, qarbage and toiletries.
- ► Leave the area if you see a bear or fresh tracks, droppings, diggings; or if you come across a large dead animal (a bear may be nearby).

## If you surprise a bear and it defends itself:

Use bear spray if you have it. PLAY DEAD, let it know you are not a threat: lie on stomach with legs apart, cover back of head and neck with hands, keep pack on to protect your back.

## If a bear stalks you and then attacks, or attacks at night:

Try to escape, use bear spray if you have it. FIGHT BACK, let it know that you are not easy prey. (This kind of predatory attack is very rare.)



### Try "Seton watching".

Find a comfortable, safe spot, and just sit quietly and observe. Watch how creatures interact with each other and their habitat. You'll be amazed at what nature will reveal!

#### Act small.

**Sighorn Sheep** 

**Black-billed Magpie** 

Clark's Nutcrakeer

Resist that impulse to get close, reach out, or call out to wildlife. Use binoculars and telephoto lenses. Your best chance of observing truly wild nature is to become as insignificant as possible ....but stay safe.

Retreat immediately if an animal approaches you or shows any sign of aggression. See page 9 for SAFETY in BEAR, COUGAR and ELK country.

#### See small.

The big creatures get all the press, but there just aren't that many of them out there. It's more rewarding to look for the smaller ones. Interest – like beauty – is largely in the eyes of the beholder.

### Think big.

While observing the activity at an ant's nest, for example, contemplate the ant's role in the bigger picture—as a model of society, perhaps, or as an important source of food for grizzly bears.

### Intrude less.

Cherish the knowledge that there are creatures living wild and free out there, whether you see them or not. Buy a wildlife postcard and write about hearing wolves howl, or finding lynx tracks.

### Learn more.

Join a Parks Canada interpretive program, hire a guide, read one of the many books about the nature of the mountains. Indulge your curiosity!

# Do not feed or disturb wildlife.

See page 7 for PARK REGULATIONS.

### Staying ALIVE...

It's not easy to 'make a living' here in the mountains. Wildlife must devote all available energy to simple survival: feeding, resting, staying warm or cool enough, avoiding natural dangers, and producing healthy offspring.

Every time we disrupt these natural activities we are, in effect, taking energy away from their survival 'bank account.' With millions of people visiting our mountain parks every year, these 'withdrawals' can quickly add up to 'dead broke'.

### Staying WILD...

Is there a difference between a wild bear and one in a zoo? We can only guess at what the bear might think. But from our perspective, isn't the very thing that makes wild animals so attractive to us the fact that they are indeed wild?

Unfortunately, when animals become used to being around people, they are in danger of losing that very thing that makes them special, their wildness.

# How can we keep park wildlife WILD and ALIVE?

Parks Canada staff are trying to teach some bears to avoid busy areas by using noise-makers, flares, rubber bullets and even specially trained bear dogs. We call this *aversive conditioning*.

You may also see crews and signs along park roadways asking for your help in *preventing animal jams*, dangerous traffic jams around roadside wildlife. Please do your part; every action counts!

**Columbian Ground Squirrel** 

Coyote

**Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel** 

**Grizzly Bear** 









# wildlife WILD - and ALIVE.



# If you see a bear beside the road, consider this:

#### It may run onto the road.

At any time, anywhere. And especially if there are crowds of people stopping to watch it, getting out of their cars, approaching too closely. In the past 10 years, 125 bears have been killed on roads in the mountain national parks.

#### It is stronger and faster than you are.

It may look 'docile', but a bear that appears unconcerned about your presence is the one you should fear the most. It's obviously not afraid of you, and it could be getting a bit bothered by all the people who keep disturbing it – all day long, day after day...

#### It is likely eating or looking for food.

Bears have to eat almost constantly during the snow-free months to accumulate enough energy to survive their long winter hibernation. Being able to feed undisturbed may make the difference between life or death for that bear or, if it's a female, for her offspring: though she may have mated in the spring, she can't get pregnant unless she builds up enough body fat over the summer.

#### It could be a female.

In this harsh mountain environment, it takes a female grizzly 7 years to reach breeding age, and her cubs will stay with her for 3 or 4 years. This means she may only produce two litters of offspring in her lifetime – a very low reproductive rate. The unnatural loss of any individual, especially a female, is therefore a serious threat to the long-term survival of the population.

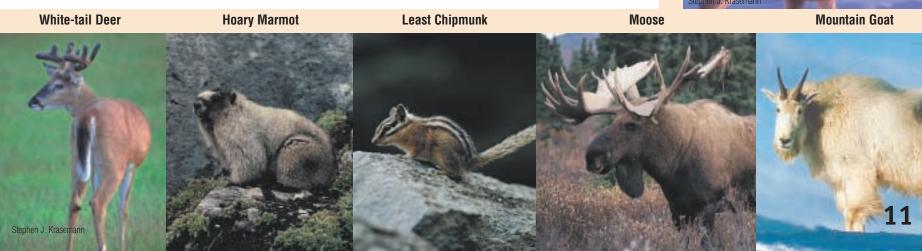
#### It could be an adolescent.

Trying to find its place in a difficult world, an adolescent bear is highly susceptible to picking up bad habits (like losing its natural fear of people) and getting into trouble (by approaching people for food). The fact that relatively few roadside adolescent bears survive to maturity in our busy parks is one of the reasons that scientists fear for the future of the grizzly in this part of the world.

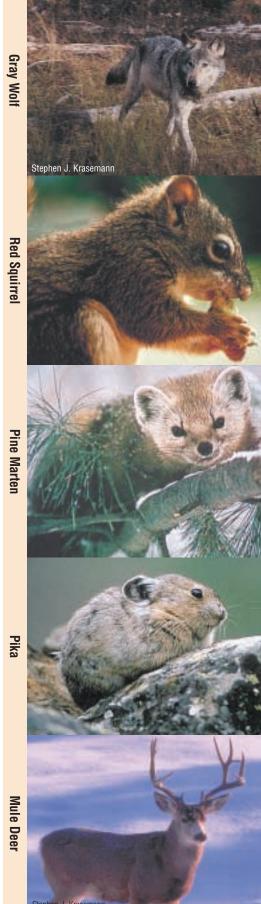
#### If it loses its wildness, it probably won't survive.

'Habituated' bears – bears that have lost their natural fear of humans – almost inevitably become 'problem' bears. They actively seek out places where people congregate because they have learned that where there are people, there is also food and garbage to eat. Over time they become increasingly more aggressive in their search for an easy meal. Problem bears usually end up having to be removed or destroyed because of the threat they pose to public safety. It is very difficult, and often impossible, to undo habituation. The only real solution is prevention.

### If you see a bear beside the road, consider not stopping.



## WILDLIFE



### **BANFF**

### **TOWNSITE**

# Plenty of opportunities

Canada's first national park was created around the warm mineral springs at Banff.

Visit the Cave and Basin for the full story.

Elevation: 1384 m (4540')



CAVE & BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**BANFF INFORMATION CENTRE** 

### 224 Banff Avenue; (403) 762-1550



#### Watch our video: Welcome to Banff.

- full Parks Canada and Banff/Lake Louise Tourism Bureau information services
- Friends of Banff gift shop

**SPRING** (MAY 21 - JUN 24) **8 am - 6 pm** SUMMER (JUN 25 - SEP 6) 8 am - 8 pm FALL (SEP 7 - SEP 26) 8 am - 6 pm 9 am - 5 pm WINTER (SEP 27 - MAY 20)



**CAVE & BASIN National Historic Site** 1 km, Cave Avenue; 762-1566



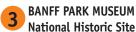
#### It's the birthplace of Canada's national park system.

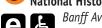
- see the bubbling thermal waters of the "Cave" and the "Basin" springs
- exhibit gallery upstairs, 30-minute film in theatre by the Basin spring
- free interpretive boardwalk trails
- tours at 11 am, daily in summer and weekends in winter
- LIVE Water on the Rocks Theatre Show, see page 21

SUMMER (MAY 15 - SEP 30) 9 am - 6 pm WINTER WEEKENDS 9:30 am - 5 pm WEEKDAYS 11 am - 4 pm

#### **NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE FEES**

Fees for the Cave & Basin OR the Banff Park Museum: Adult \$4 Youth \$3 Family \$ 10 Senior \$ 3.50





Banff Avenue by the Bow River Bridge; 762-1558

#### Western Canada's oldest natural history museum

- hands-on Discovery Room
- relaxing Reading Room
- tours daily in summer at 3 pm, weekends in winter at 2:30 pm

**SUMMER** (MAY 15 - SEP 30) 10 am - 6 pm WINTER (DAILY) 1 pm - 5 pm



**BOW** & BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL National Historic Site **FALLS** 



Magnificent views from either side of the Bow River



**UPPER HOT SPRINGS POOL** 4 km, Mountain Ave.; 762-1515



Relax in Banff's curative mineral waters and soak in some history.

- locker, swimsuit and towel rentals
- for full service spa, call 760-2500
- Wonder of Water exhibit

**SUMMER** (MAY 21 - SEP 12) 9 am - 11 pm WINTER SUNDAY-THURSDAY: 10 am - 10 pm FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 10 am - 11 pm



**BANFF GONDOLA & Historic Weather Observatory** 4 km, Mountain Avenue



#### Enjoy panoramic vistas of the Bow Valley and surrounding peaks.

- the upper gondola terminal is 2285 m (7495') above sea level; call 762-5438 for hours and fees.
- in summer take a 1 km (20 min.) boardwalk trail to the summit, historic weather observatory and the Cosmic Ray Station National Historic site.

#### WHYTE MUSEUM of the Canadian Rockies 111 Bear Street; 762-2291



Mountain history, art and culture

#### **CANADA PLACE**

In the Park Administration Building at the head of Banff Avenue; 760-1338





- interactive exhibits about Canada's land and people
- great for families and tour groups

**SUMMER** (MAY 21 - SEP 30) **10 am - 6 pm** 

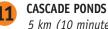
#### **CASCADE GARDENS** By the Park Administration Building, at the head of Banff Ave.

- historic gardens are most colourful in JULY and AUGUST
- Siksika Nation tipi JULY-SEPT, native dancing TUESDAYS at noon





Native history, art and culture



5 km (10 minutes) from Banff on the Minnewanka Loop



#### A favourite with locals and visitors alike

• grassy meadows, clear shallow pools, and a small beach

#### **BANKHEAD**

8 km (12 minutes) from Banff on the Minnewanka Loop



#### A coal mine in a national park?

- Lower Bankhead: once a thriving industrial centre, now it is a place to wander among the quiet ruins along a 1.1 km (30 min) interpretive trail
- Upper Bankhead: 80 years ago it was a bustling community, now it is a popular picnic area and trailhead
- from NOV 15 APR 15, the road to Bankhead is closed to vehicles

#### LAKE MINNEWANKA

10 km (15 minutes) from Banff on the Minnewanka Loop



#### The Stoney Indians called it the "Lake of the Water Spirits".

- you are likely to see bighorn sheep - enjoy but please do not feed them
- 2-hour boat tours to the end of the lake (762-3473) are available MID-MAY to OCTOBER
- take a leisurely lakeside stroll to Stewart Canyon (1.4 km, 30 min)



#### **JOHNSON LAKE**

14 km (20 minutes) from Banff on the Minnewanka Loop

### 

#### An easy trail circles this shallow lake.

• a small beach and good wildlife watching opportunities

### **Trails Around Town**



#### **15** THE HOODOOS

A short interpretive trail unlocks the mystery of these bizarre natural pillars and leads to a superb viewpoint.

### 16 VERMILION LAKES

Guided nature strolls offered weekday mornings in summer; preregister at Friends of Banff stores. Connects with FENLAND TRAIL, a 2 km loop.



#### 17 SUNDANCE TRAIL

This wide 3.7 km asphalted trail, popular with hikers, cyclists and skiers, ends at a picnic shelter. From there, a more strenuous 2.1 km trail, for hikers only, loops up into the canyon. Full round trip is 9.5 km (3+ hours). Connects also with the 2.7 km MARSH LOOP TRAIL.

### 18 TUNNEL MOUNTAIN SUMMIT

You'll get a birds-eye view of Banff Townsite and the Bow Valley along this well-travelled path. Round trip is 4.6 km, with a 300 m elevation gain (2-3 hours). Watch your step at the top, especially in slippery conditions.

#### HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Throughout the town, dark blue oval plaques describe Banff's history and heritage buildings. Pick up the Historical Walking Tour brochure and route map at the Banff Information Centre or the Town of Banff office at 110 Bear Street (762-1200).

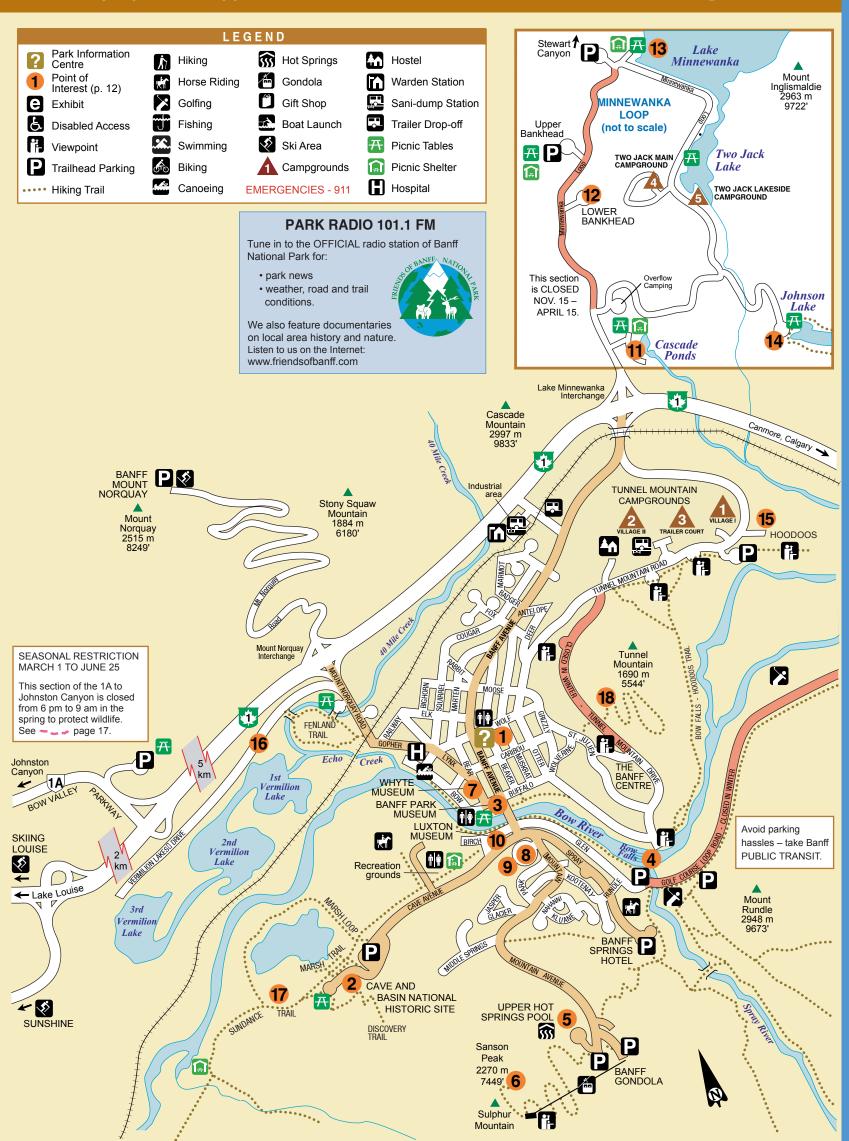
### BANFF PARK MUSEUM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



#### A Century-Old **Showpiece**

Elegantly rustic architecture and a historic collection of mammals, birds and insects provide an enchanting introduction to Banff's natural and cultural heritage.

# to enjoy Banff's natural and cultural heritage.



### **BANFF**

### NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

The name Banff comes from Banffshire, Scotland, the birthplace of two major financiers of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Established: 1885 Size: 6,641 km<sup>2</sup> (2,564 mi<sup>2</sup>)

#### ALONG THE BOW VALLEY PARKWAY (1A)

Plan to stop at roadside viewpoints and the new interpretive exhibits along this scenic road between Banff and Lake Louise.

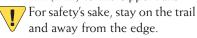
Distance (k Banff/Lake)	A	
Backswamp 3 / 49		
Mule Shoe	6 / 46	~
Prescribed Burn	8 / 44	
Sawback	11 / 41	~
Hillsdale	13 / 39	
Pilot Pond	16 / 42	
Moose Meadow	21 / 31	
Castle Cliffs	26 / 24	
Storm Mountain	28 / 24	~
Baker Creek	40 / 12	~
Morant's Curve	48 / 4	

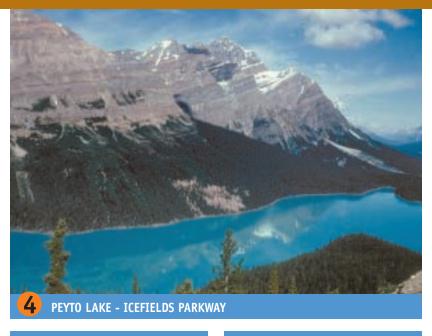




A paved trail and exciting cat-walks cling to the canyon walls.

- 1.1 km (20 min) to the Lower Falls
- 2.7 km (1 hr) to the Upper Falls





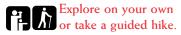
#### **ALONG THE TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY (1)**

Drive with care on this busy thoroughfare. Look for two animal overpasses just west of Banff, built to allow wildlife to cross the road safely.



#### **SUNSHINE MEADOWS**

15 km (20 minutes) from Banff via #1 and the Sunshine Road



summer visitors can hike or take the bus service (678-4099, June to September) up the steep 5 km road from the parking lot to the ski area and access to the trails



#### **PARKS CANADA**

Information: (403) 762-1550



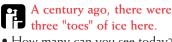
#### **ALONG THE ICE FIELDS** PARKWAY (93N)

Named for the chain of icefields that roofs the Rockies, this is one of the world's great mountain highroads. The drive from Lake Louise to the town of Jasper takes half a day, with time to stop and admire the views.



#### **CROWFOOT GLACIER**

34 km (25 min) from Lake Louise



• How many can you see today?



### **BOW SUMMIT, PEYTO LAKE**

40 km (30 minutes) from Lake Louise





#### 2088 m (6849') e above sea level

· a short walk from the parking area leads to a view of brilliant turquoise Peyto Lake and, in July and August, an astonishing array of alpine flowers

#### **ALONG THE ICE FIELDS** PARKWAY (93N)



#### **MISTAYA CANYON**

72 km (50 minutes) from Lake Louise



#### Only ten minutes by trail from the road

• look for rounded potholes and a natural arch on the canyon sides



#### SASKATCHEWAN CROSSING

77 km (55 minutes) from Lake Louise



#### Three rivers converge here:

- the Mistaya River from the south-"mistaya" is Stoney for "great bear"
- the Howse River from the west-this was the route used in 1807 by fur trader and explorer David Thompson to cross the Great Divide
- the North Saskatchewan from the north-arising in the Columbia Icefield and emptying into Lake Winnipeg, this extensive river corridor provided a major east-west link across Canada for over 100 years
- services available MARCH NOVEMBER



#### PARKER RIDGE

120 km (1.4 hours) from Lake Louise

#### Explore the land above the trees.

• a short but steep trail (250 m / 820' elevation gain, 2.4 km/1.5 mi return) up Parker Ridge ends with a great view of the Saskatchewan Glacier



#### **COLUMBIA ICEFIELD**

130 km (1.5 hours) from Lake Louise

See Jasper National Park, page 24/25.





#### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

167 km (2 hrs) east of Saskatchewan Crossing on Highway #11; (403) 845-2412

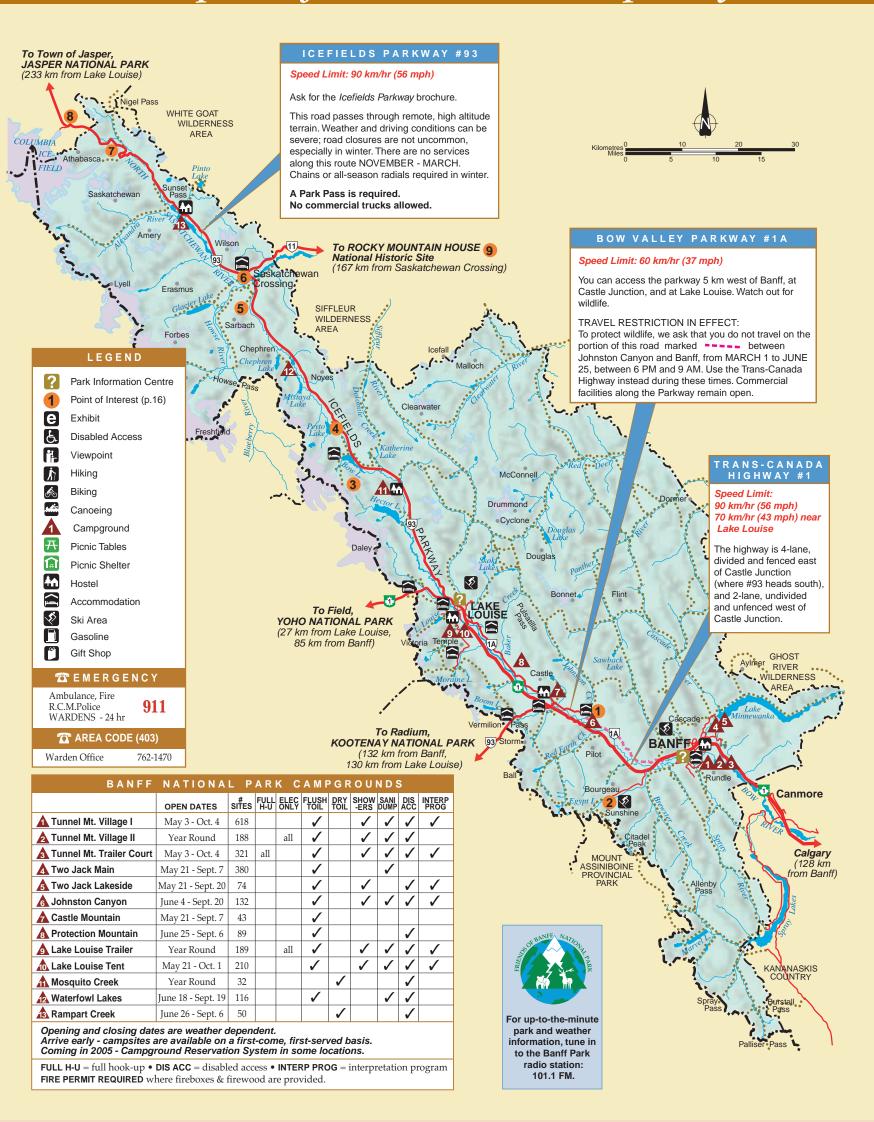


The rivalries, struggles and triumphs of the fur trade come to life at this historic site. Experience interpretive presentations, 7 km of nature trails, a Playfort and a bison herd. Explorer, fur trader, and map-maker David Thompson used Rocky Mountain House as a base to find a pass through the mountains.

• MAY 22 - SEP 6, 10 am - 5 pm



# The birthplace of Canada's national park system



### **LAKE LOUISE**

# ...icon of the Canadian Rockies.

Known to the Stoney Indians as "Lake of the Little Fishes" Lake Louise was named in 1884 in honour of Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, daughter of Queen Victoria.

#### Elevation:

Village: 1540 m (5052') Lake: 1731 m (5680')



Lake Louise VISITOR CENTRE By the Samson Mall; (403)522-3833



Exhibits explain the geology and history of the Canadian Rockies.

- Parks Canada interpretive centre
- full information services (see p. 3)
- Friends of Banff maps and guidebooks sold here

SPRING (MAY 1 - JUN 24): 9 am - 5 pm SUMMER (JUN 25 - SEP 6): 9 am - 7 pm **FALL** (SEP 7 - OCT 11): 9 am - 5 pm WINTER (OCT 12 - APR 30): 9 am - 4 pm







Mountains and glaciers surround this "Diamond in the Wilderness".

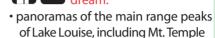
· Why is the lake such a wonderful colour? Read the interpretive signs.

MORAINE LAKE 15 km (20 min) from the Village



- hiking restrictions in effect: ask at ??
- open late May to early October
- Moraine Lake Road becomes a ski trail in winter (closed to vehicles)





Lake Louise SIGHTSEEING GONDOLA



Gondola runs JUNE - SEPTEMBER.

### Sprucing up the promenade!

Work begins this spring on landscape improvements along the popular promenade at the shore of Lake Louise. We ask for your patience as this large project is carried out. Every effort will be made to maintain safe access to the lakeshore and to key photo locations. Watch for alternate routes while work is in progress.

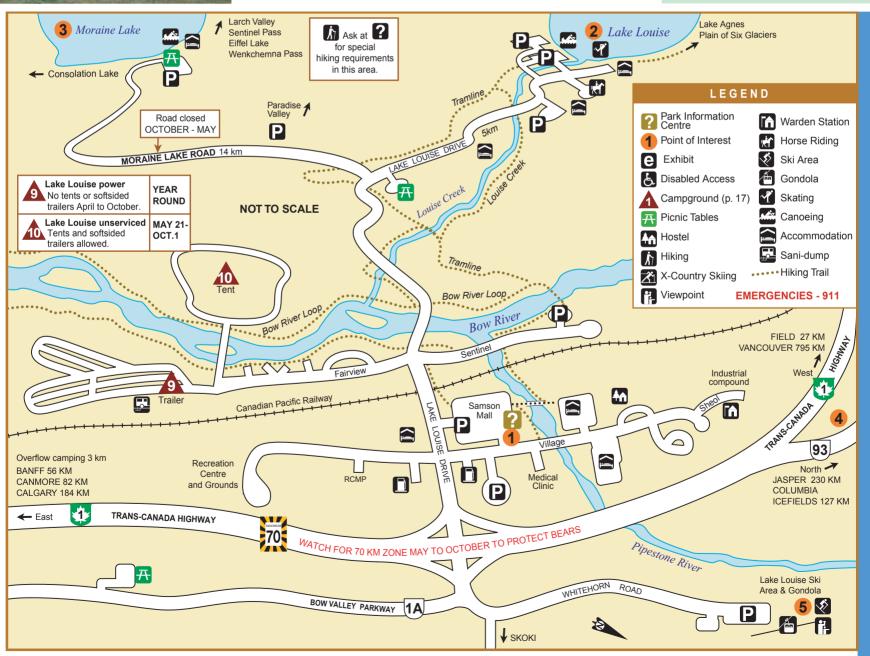
### Take a hike

(or ski, or snowshoe).

There are more than 75 km of trails in the Lake Louise area, the "Hiking Capital of the Rockies." Inquire at the Visitor Centre for MAPS and current trail, BEAR, and AVALANCHE reports.

Some routes may have restricted access

- check ahead to avoid disappointment.



## **Essential Elements of a**



As you drive through the mountain national parks you may see signs of recent forest fires. You may even be tempted to explore these eerily blackened landscapes. But be aware that burned trees can be unstable and may fall without warning.

If you chose to travel in burned areas, reduce your risk by taking these steps:

- Make sure the fire is out! Obey warning signs and closures. If you see any smoke, leave at once and notify park officials.
- Wait for favourable weather. Risk is highest with high winds and rain or snow. Risk is lowest when there is no wind and no precipitation.
- Travel quickly to lower exposure time. Stop only in open flat areas, at least one tree length from standing trees.
- Spread your group out to reduce the risk of multiple casualties.
- Avoid contact with burned trees or roots – this may cause them to fall.
- Stay away from steep slopes. Fallen trees may slide downhill.
- Leave the area or take shelter if trees or branches are falling.

Although fire is a necessary part of mountain life, uncontrolled wildfires still pose a serious threat to public safety.

Be very careful with matches, cigarettes and campfires and... REPORT ALL WILDFIRES!





# FIRE has been part of this landscape since the last Ice Age.

For thousands of years, periodic fires maintained a variety of habitats on these slopes and in these valleys: a healthy mixture of young, middle-aged and old forests, shrublands and open meadows. Almost a century of successful fire-suppression has turned that patchwork quilt into an even-aged blanket of mature forest. Parks Canada is now working to restore biodiversity and reduce the risk of uncontrollable wildfire by selectively burning some areas, and allowing some lightning-started fires to burn – when and where this can be done safely.



# Beauty for the Beasts

Some people may find burned forests disturbing, or downright ugly. But fire has an important role to play here. It opens up dense forests and turns branches, leaves, and dead wood into instant fertilizer. Blackened, sun-warmed and nutrient-rich soil allows rapid regrowth of plants, providing abundant food for elk, moose, sheep, deer, hares, bears and several species of songbirds. Burned but standing tree trunks are havens for insects, which in turn feed woodpeckers and many other small creatures.

Photo: Brad White Parks Canada

# **Healthy Mountain Ecosystem**



# ICE has shaped these mountains for million of years.

Imagine these valleys filled with giant rivers of ice, grinding relentlessly away at the mountain sides. Several Ice Ages over the past 2 million years have sculpted the dramatic scenery that surrounds you. The glaciers you see today, clinging to our highest peaks and passes, continue this age-old process.

# The Glaciers' Gift

Turquoise glacier-fed lakes set amongst towering, glacier-carved cliffs move us to describe them in jewel-like terms. And there's nothing like the vast, cold indifference of an icefield to inspire respect for nature's grandeur. But glaciers provide us with much more than scenic wonders. Glacial ice provides a steady supply of life-sustaining fresh water — here in the mountain



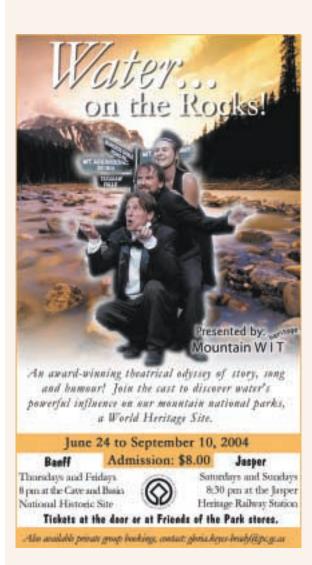
national parks, and for all the communities, farms and industries downstream too. Currently, much more glacial ice melts during the summers than is replenished by snowfall in the winter. If this warming and drying trend continues, these glaciers will soon be gone. How will our landscapes look, and function, then?

Photo: Al Williams, Parks Canada



### Wonder of Water

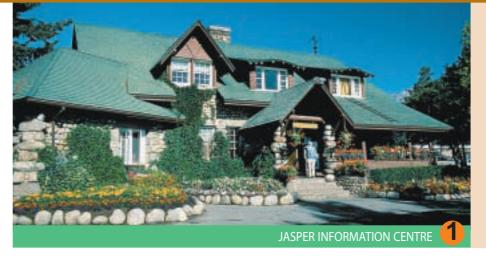
The Wonder of Water is a two-year celebration of the importance of water to our way of life. Hundreds of events are being held throughout the Rockies to highlight how our landscape and culture have been shaped by what water is and by what water does. Experience the wonder of water through guided walks, boat tours, art exhibits, theatre productions and dozens of special events. After you get home, turn on your tap. You will see water for the miracle it truly is.



The park was named after a former fur trading post in the area called Jasper House, which was named after Jasper Hawse, who managed this post in the early 1800s.

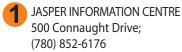
Elevation: 1067 m

(3500')



# A National Historic Site, too!

Constructed in 1914 to house the park superintendent and administration offices, this is one of the finest examples of rustic architecture in Canada's national parks. The use of local cobblestone and timber helped define the character of Jasper's early development, and created a conspicuous landmark for visitors.





#### The heart of Jasper

- full Parks Canada and Jasper Tourism and Commerce information services
- interpretive program information
- Friends of Jasper store

 SPRING (APR 1 - JUN 24)
 9 am - 5 pm

 SUMMER(JUN 25- SEP 5)
 8:30 am - 7 pm

 FALL (SEP 6 - SEP 26) (SEP 27 - OCT 31)
 9 am - 6 pm 9 am - 5 pm

 WINTER (NOV 1 - MAR 31)
 9 am - 4 pm



JASPER-YELLOWHEAD MUSEUM 400 Pyramid Lake Rd; 852-3013



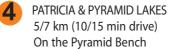
Discover the spirit of Jasper.

- permanent exhibits feature Jasper's history
- monthly exhibits in Showcase Gallery
   SUMMER (MAY 22 SEP 6)
   FALL (SEP 7 OCT 11 daily)
   WINTER (OCT 12 MAY 21,
   10 am 5 pm
   10 am 5 pm



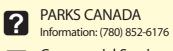
THURS - SUN only)

 a variety of scenery and trails for all abilities





- Patricia L. has a 4.8 km (2-3 hr) loop trail by Cottonwood creek
- Pyramid L. is accessible to wheelchairs, skating in winter



Commercial Services
Information: (780) 852-8176

5 LAKES ANNETTE & EDITH 5 km (10 min), via Hwy 16 and Jasper Park Lodge Road



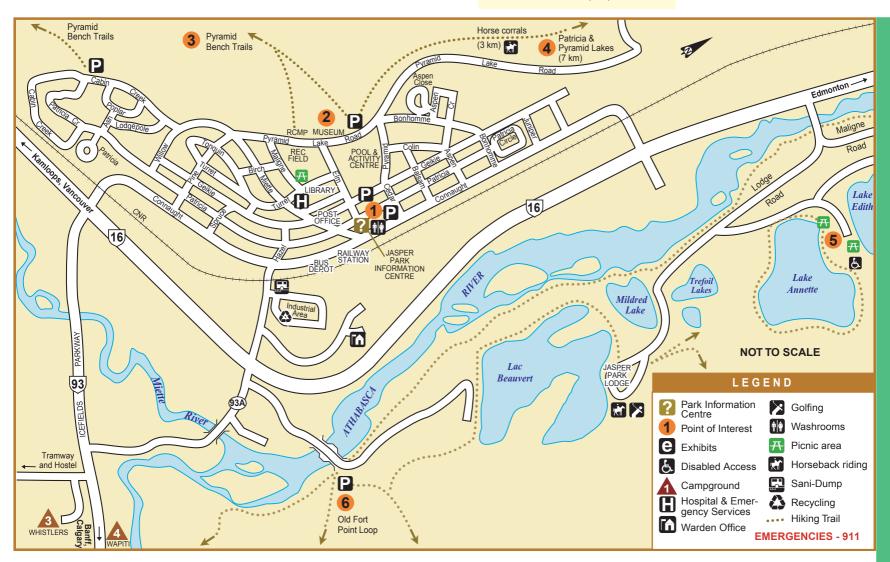
#### Beautiful blue-green spring-fed lakes

 enjoy the 2.4 km (45 min-1.5 hr) fully accessible interpretive trail around Lake Annette

OLD FORT POINT
1.5 km (5 min drive) from town
via 93A and Old Fort Point Road

Overlooking the wide Athabasca River

 a fairly steep 3.4 km (1-2 hr) trail takes you to great views



### **JASPER**

# NATIONAL PARK of CANADA

Jasper National Park is the largest and most northerly of the six mountain parks with abundant opportunities to discover and enjoy its natural beauty.

Established: 1907 Size: 11,228 km<sup>2</sup> (4335 mi<sup>2</sup>)



#### THE WHISTLERS

7 km (15 min) from Jasper via #93 and Whistler Road



#### Visit the alpine zone.

- tramway open APRIL to OCTOBER; (780) 852-3093
- or you can walk up: 7 km,1200 m elevation gain (3-5 hours one way)
- from the tramway's upper terminal, a steep 1.5 km (1-1.5 hrs return) trail leads to the summit
- bring warm clothing and water



#### **MOUNT EDITH CAVELL**

29 km (30 min) south of Jasper via #93A and the Cavell Road



#### A switchback road climbs 14.5 km (9 mi) to a popular viewpoint.

- for a quieter experience, visit before 10 am or after 4 pm
- trailers are not permitted; vehicles longer than 6 m not recommended
- the Cavell Road is open JUNE to OCTOBER, as snow conditions permit
- road is a ski touring trail in winter
- Cavell Meadows Trail is closed in spring until the snow melts (usually early to mid-JULY) to protect fragile alpine plants and recent trail restoration work

#### **FORT ST. JAMES National Historic Site**

536 km (6 hrs) north-west of Jasper via #16 and Prince George; information: (250) 996-7191



A fully restored 1800s Hudson Bay Company post. Exhibits and demonstrations reveal the historic partnership between fur traders and First Nations people.

• MAY 22 - SEP 30





#### **MIETTE HOT SPRINGS**

61 km (1 hr) north-east of Jasper via #16 and Miette Hot Springs Road; (780) 866-3939

### E SS TO A

These are the hottest mineral springs in the Canadian Rockies.

- two hot pools kept at 40°C (104°F), and a refreshing cool plunge pool
- towel and swimsuit rentals

SPRING (MAY 1 - JUN 10) 10:30 am - 9 pm SUMMER (JUN 11 - SEP 6) 8:30 am - 10:30 pm **FALL** (SEP 7 - OCT 11) 10:30 am - 9 pm **WINTER** (OCT 12 - APR 30) Closed

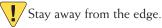


#### **MALIGNE CANYON**

11.5 km (15 min) east of Jasper on the Maligne Road



Take the 3.7 km interpretive trail with foot-bridges over the canyon.



MID MARCH - OCTOBER

- commercial facilities are open
- in winter: ask about guided canyon walks - it is unsafe to descend into the canyon without a guide



#### **MEDICINE LAKE**

on the Maligne Road

• this lake is drained by one of the largest underground river systems in North America



#### MALIGNE LAKE

48 km (55 min) from Jasper

- JUNE to OCTOBER
- reservations are recommended for the boat tour; (780) 852-3370
- access to ski trails in winter

"The word 'park' seemed a very small name for so great a thing."



27 km (30 min) from Jasper

The Maligne River flows in, but where does it flow out?

on the Maligne Road



#### The beauty of this lake is legendary.

• commercial services are available

- J.B. Harkin



#### ATHABASCA FALLS

30 km (30 min) south of Jasper via #93A or the Icefields Parkway, #93



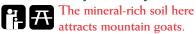
A bridge and platforms give views of the thundering falls. Stay on the trail and inside the

protective fences. • access to ski trails in winter



#### **GOATS AND GLACIERS**

38 km (35 min) from Jasper on the Icefields Parkway, #93



• use the parking lot; it is very dangerous to stop on the road



#### **SUNWAPTA FALLS**

55 km (40 min) from Jasper on the Icefields Parkway, #93



A paved road and short trail lead to the falls.

• commercial services are available MAY 8 - OCTOBER 15 Stay away from the edge.



ATHABASCA GLACIER

103 km (75 min) from Jasper On the Icefields Parkway, #93



• in summer a short access road leads to an interpretive trail to the glacier



Glaciers are beatiful but dangerous. Please read and heed the safety signs on site.



#### **ICEFIELD CENTRE**

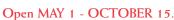
103 km (75 min) from Jasper on the Icefields Parkway, #93







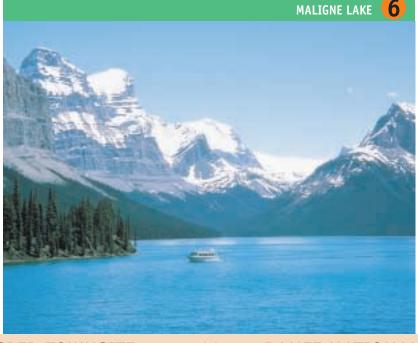




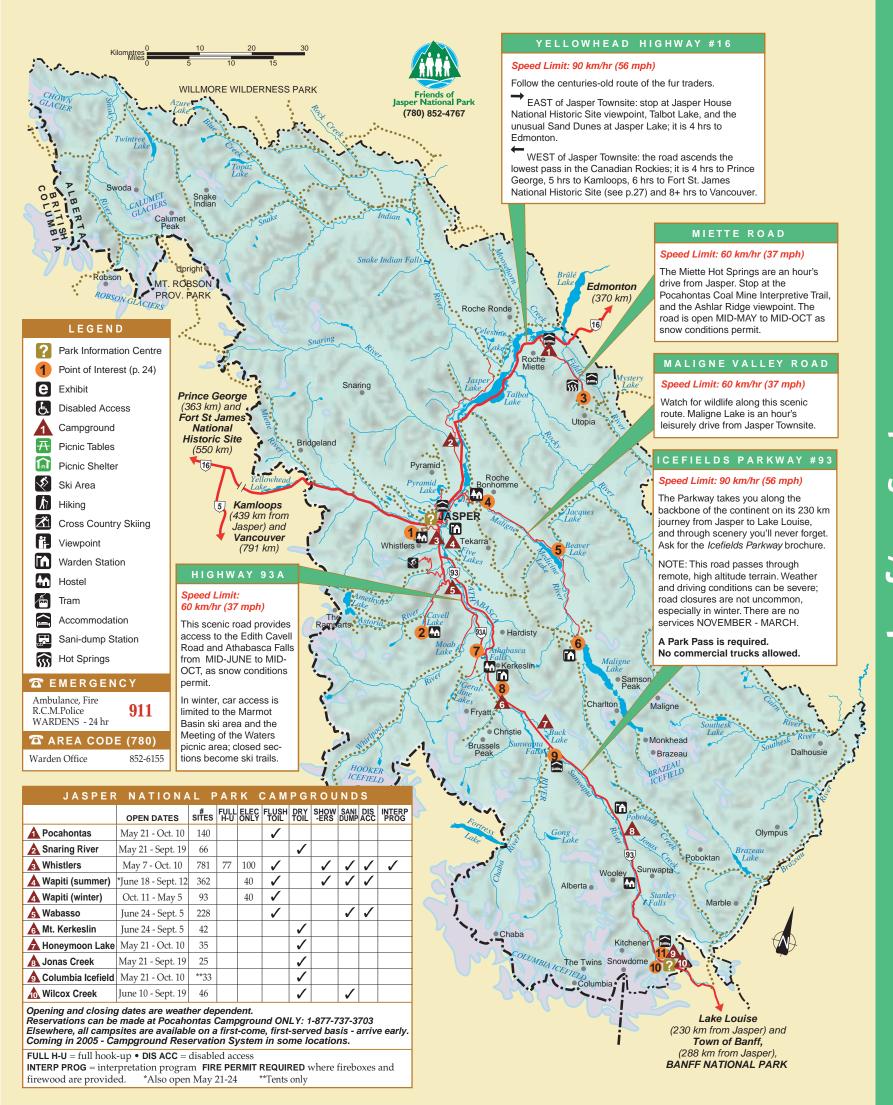
- Parks Canada information services, drop in or call (780) 852-6288: • interpretive displays in the Glacier
- Gallery reveal the stories behind the great Columbia Icefield
- for guided "Ice Walks" (780) 852-5595 or 1-800-565-7547
- for Brewster "SNOCOACH" tours onto the glacier, book your trip at the Centre or call (403) 762-6735

SPRING (MAY 1 - JUN 10) 9 am - 5 pm SUMMER (JUN 11 - SEP 5) 9 am - 6 pm **FALL** (SEP 6 - OCT 15) 9 am - 5 pm

People with severe heart or lung conditions should note that the Icefield Centre is at an elevation of 2000 m (6500') above sea level.



# A rugged and diverse landscape



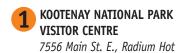
### KOOTENAY

### NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

From glacier-clad peaks along the Continental Divide to the dry grassy slopes of the Columbia Valley, where even cactus grows, this is a place rich in variety.

The Banff - Windermere Highway (#93 S) is a scenic 94 km drive through the park.

**Established:** 1920 **Size:** 1406 km² (543 mi²)





- on the corner of Main Street East and Redstreak Campground Road
- full Parks Canada information services (Spring and Summer only)
- Friends of Kootenay gift shop

SPRING (MAY 21 - JUN 24) 9 am - 5 pm
SUMMER (JUN 25 - SEP 6) 9 am - 7 pm
FALL (SEP 7 - 12 DAILY) 9 am - 5 pm
(SEP 13 - OCT 11, FRI/SAT) 9 am - 4 pm





- a few minutes ahead are the ironrich cliffs of the Redwall Fault
- watch for bighorn sheep





• start this 1.8 km (30 min) trail behind the Visitor Centre or at Redstreak Campground





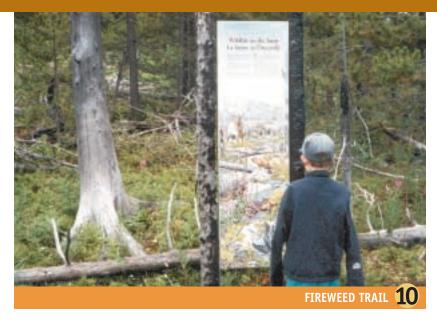
sheer rock wallhot, relaxing pool is 40°C (104°F)

- cool, refreshing pool is 29°C (84°F)
- locker, swimsuit and towel rentals
- massage and spa services by
- appointment; 347-2100

 SUMMER (MAY 9 - OCT 13)
 9 am - 11 pm

 WINTER FRIDAY & SATURDAY
 12 noon - 10 pm

 SUNDAY -THURSDAY
 12 noon - 9 pm



OLIVE LAKE

13 km (15 minu

13 km (15 minutes) from Radium

e & A M

This has always been a natural stopping place.

• an interpretive trail bordering the clear, shallow lake explains why

**6 KOOTENAY VALLEY Viewpoint**16 km (20 minutes) from Radium



Stop here for a dramatic overview of:

- the Kootenay River Valley
- the Mitchell & Vermilion Ranges

7 KOOTENAY PARK LODGE VISITOR CENTRE

63 km (45 minutes) from Radium



Located at Vermilion Crossing

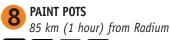
• offers most Parks Canada information services; no telephone

 SPRING (APR 9 - MAY 16, FRI - SUN)
 11 am - 6 pm

 SUMMER (MAY 21 - SEP 26)
 10 am - 6 pm

 FALL (OCT 1 - 3 & OCT 8 - 11)
 11 am - 6 pm

 WINTER
 Closed



Melsia

#### A 20-minute walk from the parkway

- cold, iron-rich mineral springs bubble up through small pools, staining the earth a deep ochre
- panels describe the Aboriginal and mining history of the Paint Pots





Burned in 2003 - see sidebar

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE:
Vermilion Pass, Fireweed Trail
95 km (1.2 hour) from Radium



It's the dividing line between Pacific and Atlantic watersheds.

- elevation of the Pass: 1651m (5415')
- a 15-minute interpretive trail loops through the regenerating forest, the site of a large wildfire lin 1968



### The Fires of 2003

Last summer was Kootenay's most active fire season in living memory. All fires were started by lightning. The largest, the Tokumm-Verendrye fire, burned 12.6% of the park.

In total nearly 400 firefighters from every province and from 22 national parks and historic sites across Canada worked to protect park facilities and stop the fires from spreading into the Bow Valley.

# Rebuilding in 2004

The Tokkum Creek fire burned bridges and railings along the Marble Canyon trail and portions of the Marble Canyon campground. The campground will re-open this summer, but the trail will likely remain closed for part of the season.

Some backcountry trails may also be closed in 2004 for safety reasons – ask for details at park information centres.

### Past Fires Bring New Life (see page 20)



The forests burned in the 2001 Mount Shanks fire are now full of wildflowers. This is also one of the best places in the park to find woodpeckers.

The 1968 Vermilion Pass burn now provides prime habitat for the elusive lynx and the mighty moose. Wolves and bears have also been seen here.

Explore for yourself how forests are renewed after fire along the Fireweed Interpretive Trail (#10).

### **Getting Out There**

Explore Kootenay National Park at any time of the year – but first make sure you are well prepared.

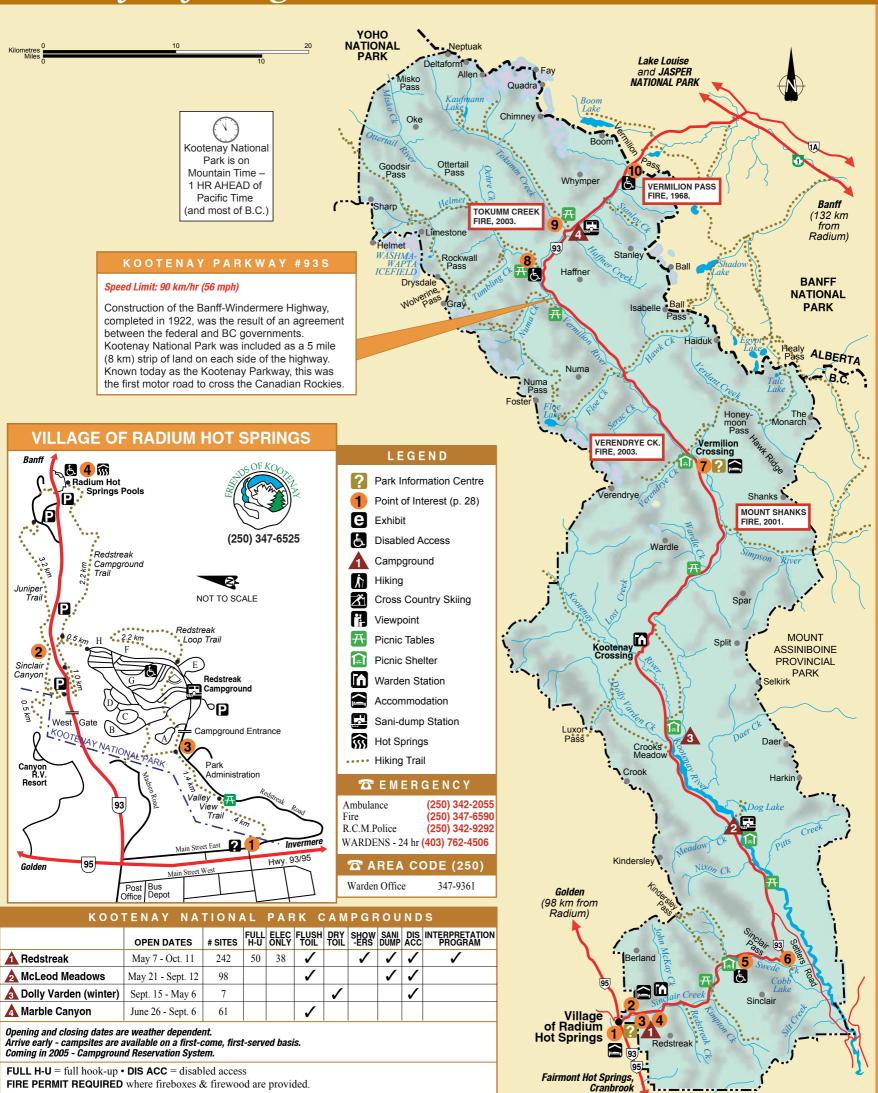
> Visit an Information Centre for hiking or skiiing MAPS and for current trail, BEAR and AVALANCHE reports.

Some routes may have restricted access – check ahead to avoid disappointment.

28

BANFF: pages 16 & 17 JASPER: pages 24 & 25 YOHO: pages 32 & 33

# Takes you from glaciers to cactus



and *U.S. borde* 

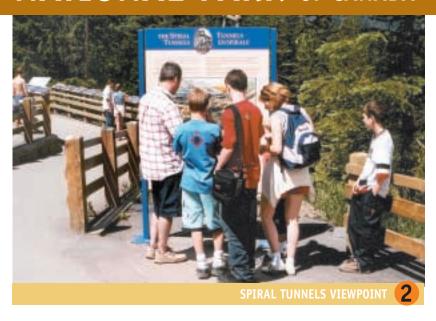
### **Y0H0**

### NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

The word "Yoho" is a Cree expression of awe and wonder.

Nestled on the western slopes of the Rockies, Yoho National Park boasts towering rock walls, spectacular waterfalls, and 28 peaks over 3,000 metres in height.

Established: 1886 **Size:** 1310 km<sup>2</sup> (507 mi<sup>2</sup>)







• full Parks Canada and Travel

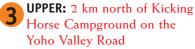
Alberta information services

- natural history and Burgess Shale fossil displays
- Friends of Yoho gift shop

SPRING (MAY 1 - JUN 24) 9 am - 5 pm 9 am - 7 pm SUMMER (JUN 25 - SEP 6) **FALL** (SEP 7 - SEP 19) 9 am - 5 pm (SEP 20 - APR 30 ) 9 am - 4 pm







- view the entry and exit portals of an engineering marvel
- the Spiral Tunnels, completed in 1909, reduced the original railway grade of 4.5% – the steepest of any railway in North America – to a much safer 2.2%

### A Year-Round Wonderland

Yoho offers 400 km of hiking trails and 40 km of groomed ski trails.

Inquire at the Visitor Centre for MAPS and current trail, BEAR, weather and AVALANCHE reports.

Some routes may have restricted access - check ahead to avoid disappointment.



#### TAKAKKAW FALLS

17 km (25 minutes) from Field via #1 (east) and Yoho Valley Road (north)

### ガスを合える

#### One of the highest waterfalls in Canada

- means "magnificent!" in Cree
- several popular hikes start here
- the steep 13 km Yoho Valley Road to the falls has tight switchbacks and is not suitable for vehicles pulling trailers (see map)
- this road is open in LATE JUNE EARLY OCTOBER only, becoming a ski trail in winter (closed to vehicles)



3 km (5 minutes) west of Field

#### A place to wonder at the force of water over time

• a natural rock bridge arches over the mighty Kicking Horse River

**EMERALD LAKE** 11 km (15 minutes) from Field

### かぶら

#### A jewel of the Canadian Rockies

- see the Burgess Shale display at the picnic area
- a 5.2 km (2 hr) trail circles the lake



22 km (30 minutes) west of Field



- a short drive from the #1 takes you to the start of an easy 2.4 km trail to these impressive falls (45 min, 1-way)
- the turn-off is accessible to eastbound traffic only

"National Parks are maintained for all the people - for the ill, that they may be restored, for the well that they may be fortified and inspired by the sunshine, the fresh air, the beauty, and all the other healing, ennobling, and inspiring agencies of Nature."

### LAKE O'HARA

The Lake O'Hara area is as fragile as it is beautiful. To protect this alpine area and assure a high quality visitor experience, a quota limits the number of people who may use the bus service to the lake. Bicycles are not permitted. There is, however, no limit on the number of people who may hike the 13 km (8 mi) in to the lake.

Reservations are required for the bus service (JUN 18 - OCT 3) and for the backcountry campground. They can be made up to 3 months in advance by calling (250) 343-6433. A small number of day use and one-night camping spots are set aside for assignment 24 hours in advance. These are available by phone only.

#### **BURGESS SHALE**

The 515 million year-old remains of more than 120 species of marine animals have been found in the Burgess Shale, preserved in exquisite detail. In some cases scientists can even see what these ancient creatures ate just before they died!

To protect this globally important scientific site, access to Walcott's Quarry and to the Trilobite Beds is by guided hike only. Both hikes are long and strenuous, and run from EARLY JULY to MID-SEPTEMBER as trail conditions permit. Led by licensed guides, the hikes are limited to 15 people. For schedules, fees and reservations, contact the Yoho Burgess Shale Foundation at 1-800-343-3006.

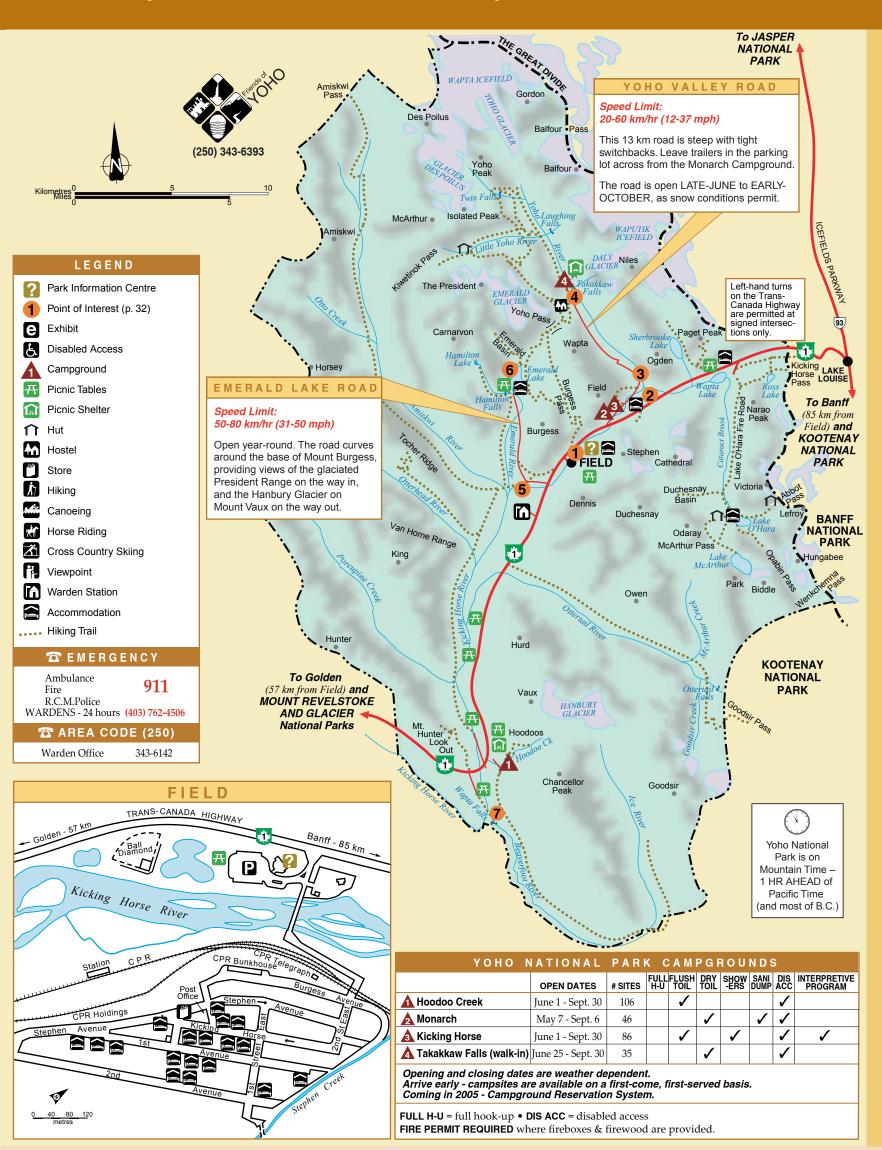
You can also enjoy the Burgess Shale displays at the Field and Lake Louise Visitor Centres, and at Emerald Lake.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Collecting fossils anywhere in the national parks is against the law.



# A land of rock walls and waterfalls



## **MOUNT REVELSTOKE & GLACIER NATIONAL PARKS**

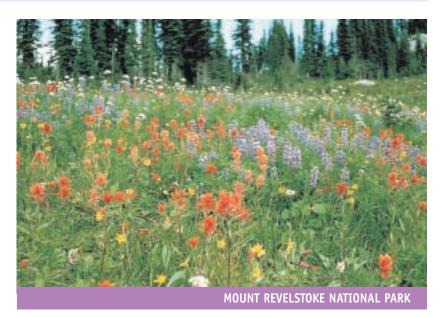
Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks protect landscapes characteristic of the Columbia Mountains of interior British Columbia: steep terrain, moist climate and lush vegetation.

Mount Revelstoke National Park provides easy access Established: 1914 to the summit of one of these mountains, and opportunities to learn about its natural features.

Glacier National Park, with over 400 glaciers covering one-tenth of its area, is a stunning setting for some fascinating transportation and mountaineering history.

**Size:** 260 km<sup>2</sup> (100 mi<sup>2</sup>)

Established: 1886 **Size:** 1350 km<sup>2</sup> (521 mi<sup>2</sup>)







#### Drive from dense rainforest to flower filled subalpine meadows.

- this narrow paved road switchbacks for 26 km up Mount Revelstoke\*
- at the top, park at Balsam Lake and walk - or take the free shuttle bus - 2 km to the Summit area; shuttle service runs 10 am - 4:20 pm from JULY or AUGUST (once the road is free of snow) until SEPEMBER 30
- the parkway is left unplowed in winter and is trackset for crosscountry skiers for 8 km; ski touring terrain lies beyond
- \* For vehicle restrictions and open hours and dates, see map on facing page.





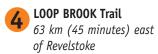
• an interpretive 1.2 km (30 min) boardwalk trail loops over the wetland; great bird-watching



### かe 来 を

Explore the rain forest.

• a 0.4 km (10 min) interpretive boardwalk winds through an ancient stand of Western Hemlock trees, making the wonders of the old-growth forest accessible to all, including persons with mobility and visual impairments



## Railway history is featured on this trail.

• allow 1 hr for this 1.6 km loop and find out why this trail is also a National Historic Site





#### Several hikes begin at this trailhead.

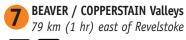
• explore hiking trails and mountaineering routes opened more than a century ago

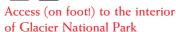
#### ROGERS PASS DISCOVERY CENTRE 69 km (52 minutes) east

of Revelstoke; 72 km (55 minutes) west of Golden; (250) 837-7500

At the summit of Rogers Pass:

- full Parks Canada information services
- theatre, exhibits about railway history, avalanches and wildlife
- Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier bookstore
- Rogers Pass Discovery Centre is open daily year round, (except Christmas Day, and Tuesdays and Wednesday in November)





- the Beaver River Valley is the home of giant, 1000 year-old Engelmann spruce and western red cedar
- the vast alpine meadows of Bald Mountain attract hardy adventurers

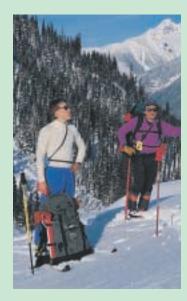


#### **HIKING & SKIING**

Stop in at the Rogers Pass Discovery Centre for MAPS and current trail, BEAR, weather AVALANCHE reports, PERMITS and closure notices.

Some areas may have restricted access - check ahead to avoid disappointment.

The trails marked on the facing map page are summer hiking trails. Whatever trail you choose, come prepared for travel in a rugged mountain environment and an unpredictable climate.

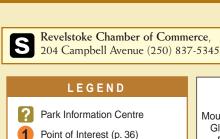


Some summer hiking trails may be used by skiers in the winter but they are neither groomed nor patrolled. Many pass through avalanche ter-

Deep and heavy snow is normal in winter. Most skiers find light, cross-country ski equipment unsuitable for these conditions. Heavier ski touring or mountaineering equipment and techniques are more practical.

Winter backcountry travellers in Glacier must be aware of area closures for the purpose of avalanche control for the Trans-Canada Highway. Both the artillery fire and the which result avalanches present a real danger.

# We're in the heart of the Columbia Mountains.





Exhibit

Disabled Access

Campground Picnic Tables

Picnic Shelter

1 Hut

Hiking

☆ Backpacking

Cross Country Skiing

Viewpoint

Warden Station

Accommodation

· · · · Hiking Trail

#### T EMERGENCY

Ambulance R.C.M.Police

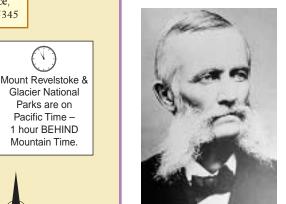
911

WARDENS: 1-877-852-3100

#### TAREA CODE (250)

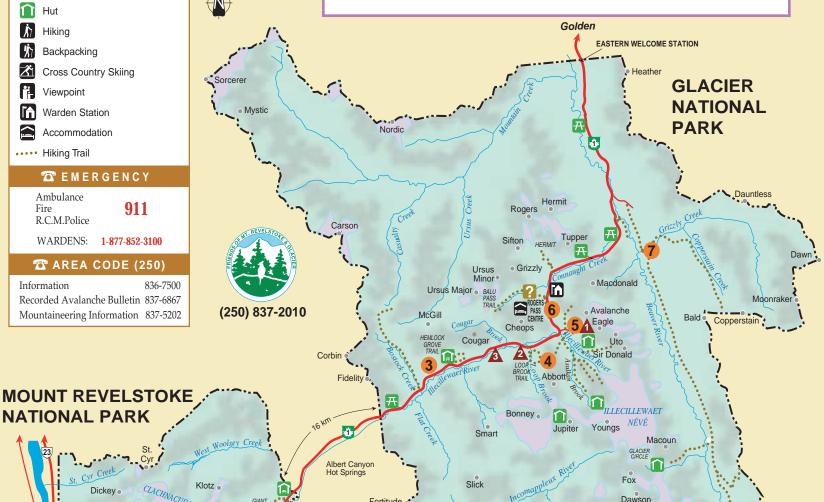
Recorded Avalanche Bulletin 837-6867 Mountaineering Information 837-5202

**NATIONAL PARK** 



#### Rogers Pass National Historic Site

The difficult and little-known terrain in the Selkirk Mountains made finding a route for the Canadian Pacific Railway a demanding task. In 1882, Chief Engineer A. B. Rogers traversed Rogers Pass and overcame the last great obstacle facing the transcontinental railway. The steep grade and susceptibility to avalanches made the pass such a treacherous part of the line that it was bypassed in 1916 by the Connaught Tunnel. With the opening of the Trans-Canada Highway in 1962, however, Rogers Pass again formed part of a national route.





The Parkway climbs for 26 km to the 1,920 m (6,240') summit of Mount Revelstoke

This narrow paved road has many switchbacks; trailers and buses are not permitted. Trailer parking is available near the park entrance.

The road is open when snow-free, usually:

- lower sections in MAY / JUNE (9 am - 5 pm) - to summit in JULY (7 am - 10 pm), AUGUST (7 am - 8:30 pm) and SEPTEMBER (9 am - 5 pm)

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK CAMPGROUNDS									
	OPEN DATES	# SITES	FULL H-U	FLUSH TOIL	DRY TOIL	SHOW -ERS	SANI DUMP	DIS ACC	INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM
▲ Illecillewaet	June 24 - Sept. 30	60		1	/			1	1
▲ Loop Brook	July 1 - Sept. 6	20		1					
<b>▲</b> Mount Sir Donald	July 1 - Sept. 6	15			1				

DEVILLE NÉVÉ

Opening and closing dates are weather dependent. Arrive early - campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

• FULL H-U = full hook-up • DIS ACC = disabled access

Charity

MOUNT **REVELSTOKE** & GLACIER **National Parks** 

Box 350, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0 (250) 837-7500

Friends of Mt. This man sponsored by: **Revelstoke & Glacier** 



WESTERN WELCOME STATION

Visit the Glacier Circle Bookstore at the Rogers Pass Visitor Centre Guide Books
 Clothing
 Local Giftware