

The Icefields Parkway

THE ICEFIELDS PARKWAY Driving Guide



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROAD IN THE WORLD!



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LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

STEP INTO THE WILD WITH ONE OF THESE CLASSIC DAY HIKES:

Valley of the Five Lakes

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

Trailhead: 9 km south from Jasper on Highway 93.

Five small, brilliantly blue-green lakes are the highlights of this outing, considered a local family favourite.

Wilcox Pass

2.4 km (1 hr) return to first viewpoint, 8 km (2-3 hrs) return to the pass

Trailhead: 3 km south of Icefield Centre at Wilcox Campground.

Rise quickly above treeline to the expansive meadows of this glacier-carved landscape.

Parker Ridge

5.4 km return; 250 m elevation gain/loss; 3 hr round trip

Trailhead: 9 km south of the Icefield Centre

After a series of switchbacks you'll be rewarded with dramatic views of the Saskatchewan Glacier.

Helen Lake

6.0 km one way; 455 m elevation gain; 4 to 5 hr round trip

Trailhead: across from Crowfoot Glacier Viewpoint.

A breathtaking lake in a valley abounding with alpine wildlife and grand vistas.

TIME FOR LUNCH?

VISIT ONE OF OUR SCENIC PICNIC SITES:

Coleman Creek

Sit next to the edge of the water and listen to the relaxing gurgle of the river. Look for mountain goats on the cliffs.

Bow Lake

Enjoy your lunch at one of the most breathtaking lakes in the Rockies. The vibrant blue colour set against a magnificent mountain backdrop is sure to dazzle you.

ABOUT THE ICEFIELD

With a total area of 200 km², the Columbia Icefield is one of the largest masses of glacial ice outside the Arctic Circle, surrounded by some of the highest mountains in the Canadian Rockies (Athabasca, Columbia, Snow Dome).

This icefield feeds several large glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia and the Saskatchewan.

WHAT'S A GLACIER?

Glaciers form where more snow falls in winter than melts each summer. As the snow gets thicker and heavier, it compacts into dense glacial ice that slowly flows downhill, like a river of taffy.

GLACIERS AND RIVERS

Water flows to three different oceans from this area, known as a *hydrological apex*. On the British Columbia side of the icefield, meltwater flows into the Columbia River and eventually to the Pacific Ocean.

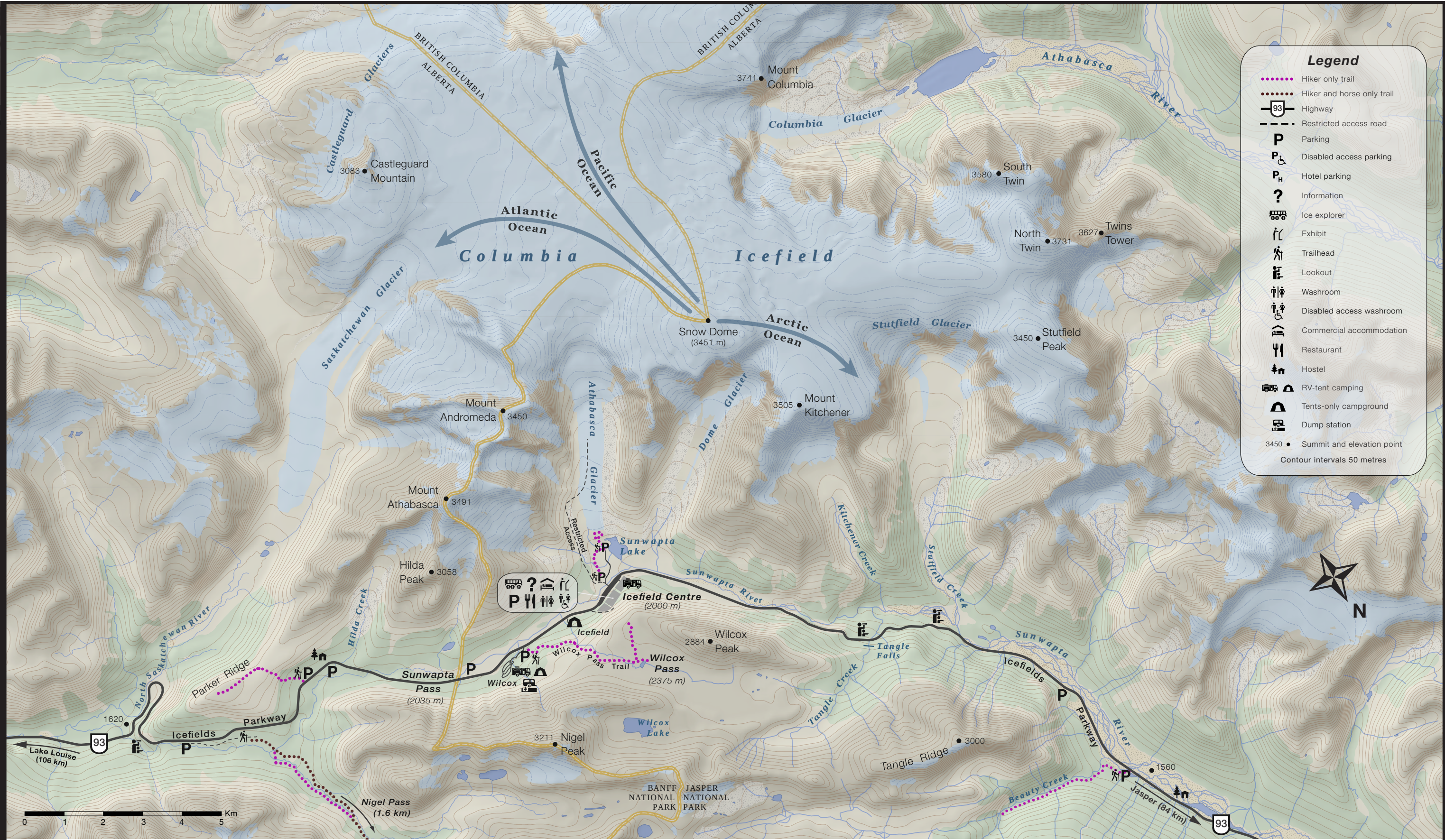
On the Alberta side, the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers feed into the Atlantic Ocean and Arctic Ocean, respectively.

These rivers provide fresh drinking water for millions of people, and are crucial to agriculture and countless ecosystems. That's why their source is protected in a national park.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife sightings are one of many reasons the Icefields Parkway is known as the best drive in the world. Bears, sheep, wolves and even elusive caribou are often spotted on the roadsides—keep your eyes peeled and drive slowly, especially early morning and evening.

Never approach or feed wildlife.



the coolest summer attraction

Travel onto the surface of the spectacular Athabasca Glacier on a specially designed Ice Explorer. Open mid-April to mid-October. Located on the Icefields Parkway - just 1 hour from Jasper and 2.5 hours from Banff.

glacier @ adventure

EXPLORE Book your ticket today!
ExploreRockies.com | 1.800.760.6934

