Washing

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 m to 700 m from water sources. Dig a hole 12 to 16 cm. to the dark-coloured, biologically active soil layer. Loosely fill the hole with soil afterward. Use as little toilet paper as possible and carry it out or burn it.

For more information on how to properly store your food using the pit toilets provided. When there are no facilities food lockers after use.

Food storage

To reduce your campsite’s attractiveness to bears, store all food, garbage, toiletries and cooking equipment must be hung from the food storage, unless you are at a picnic site, in a tent, or in a campsite. In Jill’s campsite, bear-resistant containers are mandatory to store food. Please clean all food lockers after use.

Human waste

Use the pit toilets provided. When there are no facilities nearby, select a spot away from trails, campsites and at least 70 m from water sources. Dig a hole 12 to 16 cm. in the dark-coloured, biologically active soil layer. Loosely fill the hole with soil afterward. Use as little toilet paper as possible and carry it out or burn it.

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Weather

The most predictable thing about mountain weather is its unpredictability. Rain or snow may fall at any time of year and at any altitude. The best way to deal with the weather is to prepare for all possibilities. For detailed weather forecast, contact the Environment Canada Weather Office at 780-852-3785 or visit their website at weatheroffice.gc.ca.

Guidebooks

The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide by Brian Paton and Bart Munsell

Classic Hikes in the Canadian Rockies by Gwenn Petty

Hiking Jasper and Mount Robson by Rob Bylce

Maps

Government of Canada NT5 topographic maps,

Gemtrek Jasper and Maligne Lake, 1:100,000

Columbia Icefield 1:75,000, Best of Jasper, 1:50,000

National Geographic Trails Illustrated 1:50,000, Jasper National Park, 1996

Jasper South West, 1:50,000

For more information on each trail, trip planning and topographic maps visit pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry

On the trails

Jasper National Park offers a range of backcountry opportunities. Trails and campsites are designated as semi-primitive, primitive or wildcard. Many of the park’s backcountry trails were established by early travellers including First Nations people, fur traders, explorers and adventurers, many travelling on horseback.

With nearly 1000 km of trails and routes to choose from, backcountry camping is a great way to experience the rugged and untamed wilderness of Jasper National Park.

This guide will help you plan a trip that is exciting, safe, and has low environmental impact.

For more detailed backcountry planning and trip information, visit www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry. Book your trip at pc.gc.ca/bookjasperbackcountry. Before setting out on a trip, check the latest travel conditions at pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry.

On the trails

Jasper National Park offers a range of backcountry opportunities. Trails and campsites are designated as semi-primitive, primitive or wildcard.

Here’s what you can expect:

Semi-primitive

Receive the highest level of service. Expect major roads to be cleared and bridges, culverts and signs maintained. Campers are equipped with food storage, bear poles, tents, pit privies and bird boxes (where fees are permitted). You are very likely to meet others on the trail.

Preventive

Receive a lower level of service. Expect major roads to be cleared annually, but may not be maintained to service your trip. Campsites are equipped with bear poles and pit privies. Creases may not be bridged.

Little or no maintenance.

Provide opportunities for experienced, self-reliant travelers to travel and camp in un訪れated areas of the park.

If you are staying at an Alpine Club of Canada hut you must make your space available to others. There are now modification fees as well.

Refunds

Backcountry camping fees, excluding the reservation fee, are not refundable. If you are unable to travel on your trip, you can apply for a refund by contacting your booking agency or Park Information Centre. The backcountry is especially vulnerable to human impact. It contains quota restrictions on trails and campsites, a limit on group size, permits and sign maintenance. Campsites are equipped with food storage, bear poles, tents, pit privies and bird boxes (where fees are permitted). You are very likely to meet others on the trail.

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Planning your trip

Where to go?

The back of this guide is a good starting point for selecting a trip that meets your needs and abilities. For more information, visit the Jasper National Park website or talk with park information centre staff, who can provide you with up-to-date information (see information).

When to go?

The backcountry season usually begins in May in the valley, but most alpine areas are still snow-bound until late June. At this time of year, too-soft ground will be the least comfortable trail to walk on. For more information, visit the Jasper National Park website or talk with park information centre staff, who can provide you with up-to-date information (see information).

Shortcutting between trail switchbacks damages both the vegetation and the trail surface. It is a popular practice for beginning hikers and mountain bike riders. It can be a great way to experience the rugged and untamed wilderness of Jasper National Park.

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Trip ideas

Two-Day Trips

Friday Night

Lake Loop 24 km return Elevation gain/loss: 796 m Maximum elevation: 1640 m

This well-marked trail begins and ends in the Jasper townsite. It follows a plateau below timberline, making it a good selection for the novice or early season hiker.

TRAILHEAD: P3 Townsite – Junction of Stonyhome St. and Patricia St.

Jacques Lake 12 km one way Elevation gain: 41 m, loss: 8 m Maximum elevation: 1450 m

This unique trail travels through a narrow mountain valley, skirts four lakes and crosses a watershed—all in less than 13 km and with little change in elevation. A good choice for novice hikers. Camping is not permitted at Beaver Lake.

TRAILHEAD: South end of Jacques trail, 24 km from Jasper townsite on Maligne Lake Rd.

Big Bend 12.8 km return Elevation gain/loss: 267 m Maximum elevation: 1400 m

Rolling along the Upper Athabasca Valley, this trail follows a wide, well-packed fire road to spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Make a day of it, or stay overnight at Big Bend Campground.

NOTE: The bridge at Abasbasca Crossing is washed out. The Athabasca River is impassable.

TRAILHEAD: Sunwapta Falls, 54.5 km south of Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway.

Three-Day Trips

Skyline 44 km Elevation gain from Maligne Lake: 1470 m and loss: 1398 m Maximum elevation: 2510 m

Caribou range—dogs not allowed.

A classic Rockies trail, most of it above treeline. A classic Rockies trail, most of it above treeline.

TRAILHEADS: Lower Astoria trailhead, 23.6 km from Jasper townsite on the Athabasca Crossing.

Tonquin Valley Loop 43 km Elevation gain from Astoria trail: 1053 m and loss: 1200 m Maximum elevation: 2270 m

Caribou range—dogs not allowed.

The Tonquin Valley's scenery is unrivalled. This is one of Canada's premier alpine regions, a unique combination of rugged peaks, ghostly ice and timber lakes. There are several excellent day hikes in the area.

NOTE: be wise. Use of a stove is mandatory. Recommended travel between July 1 and September. Regular home use during July and August can make trails muddy and challenging for hikers.

TRAILHEADS: Km 12.7 on the Cavell Rd (Astoria Trail) and at Km 8.3 on the Marmot Basin Rd (Portal Creek Trail).

Fryatt Valley (Brussels) 17.7 km one way Elevation gain/loss: 715 m Maximum elevation: 1715 m

This alpine valley tucked into one of Jasper's great mountain ranges is a jewel that rewards all your efforts. Camp at Brussels and explore the upper valley and beautiful Fryatt Lake on day two, or tackle the infamous headwall to the Alpine Hut and the small hanging lake beyond.

NOTE: Sking allowed in Lower Fryatt Campsite. Alpine Hut must be booked in advance (see Information).

TRAILHEAD: Km 2.0 on Geraldine road, off Hwy 93A just north of Athabasca Falls.

Four-Day Trips

Saturday Night

Lake Loop 24 km return Elevation gain/loss: 796 m Maximum elevation: 1640 m

This well-marked trail begins and ends in the Jasper townsite. It follows a plateau below timberline, making it a good selection for the novice or early season hiker.

TRAILHEAD: P3 Townsite – Junction of Stonyhome St. and Patricia St.

Brazeau Loop 30 km Elevation gain/loss: 255 m Maximum elevation: 2470 m

Caribou range—dogs not allowed.

The "grand tour" of the southern ranges, this circuit includes one of the park's largest backcountry lakes and an extraordinary alpine traverse with glaciated peaks, larch wildflowers and a variety of wildlife. The trail passes through extensive alpine meadows and three passes.

NOTE: Be sure to carry a map and.pdf file until July 15th before use at Great Joun特别是在Joun or P3. Completes a loop at the beginning of the upper section of the trail. Use of a stove is mandatory at Jonas Pass.

TRAILHEAD: 12 km south of Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway at Nigil Creek.

Poboktan-Jonas Pass 54 km to Nigil Creek, one way Elevation gain: 1031 m and loss: 1390 m Maximum elevation: 2470 m

Caribou range—dogs not allowed.

A shorter alternative to the Brazeau Loop, this is an impressive hike with over 5 km of trail above treeline. Good views and prime habitat for park wildlife including heavy marmot and woodland caribou. See notes for Brazeau Loop above.

TRAILHEAD: Sunwapta station, 72 km 5 of Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway.

Seven to Ten-Day Trips

in wildland camping areas, toilets and food storage may not be present in some locations. Bear-resistant containers are required to store food. These trails are very remote and rugged and some major river crossings are not bridged. The trails are maintained infrequently and has some horse traffic. We recommend checking with the trail office for current conditions.

Athabasca Pass 50 km return Maximum elevation: 1755 m, drop: 1530 m

Step back into time along this historic trail. It follows the Whistler River Valley, the traditional route of indigenous people and early fur traders crossing the Rocky Mountains. The rugged trail has not changed much since those days. Large grand fir, glaciers and spruce domes dominate the middle section of the route.

TRAILHEAD: Km 6.4 of Mabbe Lake Road, off Highway 93A South.

North Boundary 179 km Elevation gain: 2030 m, drop: 1535 m

North Boundary country possesses its own unique bouquet of features—a wilderness of broad valleys and distant views that is inhabited by an army of wildlife. The western section of the trail leads into the spectacular beauty of Berg Lake and Mount Robson. Most of the river and a dale along this historic route are no longer bridged, so the hiker to hike is mid-summer to the end of September.

NOTE: Use, Caribou and Gendarme creek bridges are historically used.

TRAILHEADS: End of Celestial Road, 53 km from Jasper townsite and at Km 8.3 on the Marmot Basin Rd (Portal Creek Trail).

South Boundary 120 km Maximum elevation: 2262m, drop: 982 m

This remote high country trail travels through lowland forest and over three spectacular alpine passes. You are unlikely to meet others along the way.

NOTE: Due to the difficult and re-growth, the route must be followed carefully. This trail is very difficult to navigate. Travel through the area is not recommended between Brown Lake and Mount Robson, not a maintained intermittently. Overlook the popular Whiskey Creek Trail.

TRAILHEADS: Rocky Pass area Hwy 40, 77 km SE of Hinton. Rangers will direct you from Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway.

Backcountry Campsites

Athabasca Pass 115

Backcountry campsites and use type (trail number)

Tents

GARALDINE LAKES TRAIL (120)

Berg Lake Trail (120)

South Berg Lake Trail (120)

SOUTH MACHAR TRAIL (120)

DARLANDE TRAIL (120)

BEAVER CREEK (120)

DARLANDE LAKES TRAIL (120)

ROBE DANCE TRAIL (120)

JASPER NATIONAL PARK

NORTH BOUNDARY (110)

ABASABA RIVER

MALIGNE LAKE

GROUSE MOUNTAIN TRAIL (110)

BAINDAIS TRAIL (110)

EAGLE CREEK (110)

BARKLEY TRAIL (110)

ATHABASCA PASS (115)

MONARCH TRAIL (110)

BRIDE LAKE (110)

OFFICIAL TENTS

Caribou range—dogs not allowed.

The woodland caribou found in Jasper are a threatened species. Less than 100 caribou are left in south Jasper.

What you can do to help woodland caribou:

• Stay on designated trails and if you see caribou: give them space.

• Dogs are not allowed in caribou habitat (see map).

• Avoid hiking in caribou habitat during calving season (late May to early July) or when caribou are on the move (late September to early October).

To find out more about caribou conservation in the mountain national parks, visit www.pc.gc.ca/caribou.

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