JASPER NATIONAL PARK
Winter Guide

2016 - 2017

Également offert en français

Marmot Meadows
The winter season in Jasper National Park is such a beautiful time to visit. From our snow covered mountain peaks to our lightly dusted forests, the landscape is a winter wonderland awaiting adventure.

Whether you enjoy snowshoeing, skiing, skating, biking or winter walking, the options for winter activities are endless. Take your winter activity experience to the next level, and get out at night to enjoy the northern lights!

The year 2017 marks Canada’s 150th birthday which means we will be celebrating all year long! With free park entry for the entire year, you and your family can celebrate too, the northern lights!

The year 2017 marks Canada’s 150th birthday which means we will be celebrating all year long! With free park entry for the entire year, you and your family can celebrate too, the northern lights!
Winter Adventures at your fingertips!

Head down the Icefields Parkway

Ski to Leach Lake
Take your cross-country skis up to the Leach Lake Trail (B, page 12). Enjoy the stunning views of Mount Kerkeslin as you ski along gentle rolling terrain.

Walk to Lower Sunwapta Falls
Enjoy a nice quiet walk or snowshoe to lower Sunwapta Falls (K, page 10). Observe the spectacular ice formations as you walk downstream, a short 2.6-km return trip.

Snowshoe by a Glacier
Strap on the snowshoes, layer up and get up close and personal with the magnificent Athabasca Glacier on the Toe of the Glacier Route (C, page 10). Be sure to check road conditions prior to heading out (see page 23). Caution: This route is not marked.

Explore the Pyramid Bench area
Begin your journey by venturing up the Pyramid Lake Road which is accessible from the townsite. There are several trailheads along the way to Pyramid Lake that offer access to an extensive trail system perfect for snowshoeing, winter walking and fat biking. Follow the snowshoe trail markers and take off from Pyramid Lake to try the Pyramid Overlook Trail (D, page 10) or check out the Edge of the Bench Trail (A, page 10) and take in the stunning views.

Hike along a River
Head out on the Red Squirrel Trail to Big Horn Alley (A9, page 11) by foot, and use the Easy Trail System to get across the river at Old Fort Point. Enjoy views of the Athabasca River, don’t forget the camera!

Go for a Skate!
Pick up the skates and head to one of our picturesque frozen lakes. There are two great skating rinks that are cleared for you to enjoy. Experience iconic Pyramid Lake (A3, page 11) or head out to Jasper Park Lodge for a skate and hot chocolate on Mildred Lake (A1, page 11).

Discover Marmot Meadows Winter Hub
A great place to spend the entire day, Marmot Meadows features a challenging 4-km groomed cross-country ski trail through the forest (F, page 12), an easy loop through the meadows, and a winter shelter. On weekends, park interpreters offer programs and activities around the campfire, at the traditional tipi and on snowshoes.

Park Guidelines
- Please respect dog restrictions and closures.
- Do not walk or snowshoe on groomed ski tracks.
- Leave no trace: pack out all of your garbage.
During the winter months, Maligne Canyon becomes a frozen oasis awaiting exploration. Guided ice walks are available from the following companies:

- Jasper Tour Company: jasperfourcompanies.com
- Maligne Adventures: maligneavventure.org
- SunDog Tours: sundogtours.com

**Guided Tours at Maligne Canyon**

**Pyramid Lake** - 7 km
A short drive leaving from the back of town, stop at Pyramid Lake to take in some interpretation and stellar views. Continue a little further up Pyramid Road, and enjoy a stroll to Pyramid Island where you can get up close and personal with the exquisite Pyramid Mountain. Keep your eyes open for wildlife along the way!

**Maligne Lake** - 48 km
Around every corner of this 48-km road you’ll find picturesque scenery. Stop at Medicine Lake (30 km) to take in the stunning mountain vistas. Then continue to the end of the road to discover the breathtaking Maligne Lake. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife!

**Icefields Parkway Highlights** - 30 km, 54 km and 103 km
Travel down the Icefields Parkway (Highway 93), one of the most scenic drives on the planet! Take in the surreal ice formations at Athabasca Falls (30 km) and Sunwapta Falls (54 km), transformed by winter into frozen ice sculptures. Continue on to Athabasca Glacier areas (103 km), where you can strap on your snowshoes and break trail below some of the highest peaks in the Canadian Rockies. Please watch for wildlife and respect the reduced speed zones along the way.

**Warning!** Roads can be very slippery or closed during bad weather. Check the road report at albertas11.ca or drivebc.ca before heading out. Please note there is no cell phone reception along the Maligne and Snaring roads or the Icefields Parkway.
Winter Activities
**Snowshoeing**

A great way to get the whole family out! Inspiring the exploration of untracked territory, snowshoeing is one of winter’s most accessible activities. With such a variety of winter areas, Jasper is the perfect place to explore and create your own personal adventures.

### Trail and Activities Distance Description Maps

**PYRAMID BENCH**
- **Edge of the Bench** 4.2 km return Enjoy spectacular townsite views. p. 9
- **Pyramid Overlook** 5.5 km return A loop trail with tremendous views. p. 9
- **Virl, Dorothy, Christine Lakes** 8.6 km return A beautiful forested trail with great lake views. p. 6, 9

**MOBERLY HOMESTEAD**
- **Moberly Meadows** Variable Blaze your own trail in a wide open meadow and explore historic buildings. p. 6

**MALIGNE VALLEY**
- **Medicine Lake** 3 km return Follow the lakeshore for beautiful open views. p. 6
- **Beaver Lake** 4 km return A charming forested trail with lake views. p. 6
- **Moose Lake Loop** 2.6 km loop This trail will take you through scenic forest, over an old landslide and to Moose Lake. p. 6, 16
- **Mary Schäffer Loop** 3.2 km loop A beautiful loop to a scenic viewpoint looking down Maligne Lake. p. 6, 16
- **Upper Moose Loop** 5 km loop Travel through forest then down to the lake. p. 6, 16

**ICEFIELDS PARKWAY**
- **Athabasca Falls River Trail** 5 km return Travel along the upper section of the Athabasca River offering great views of Mount Kerkesli. p. 6, 13
- **Lower Sunwapta Falls** 2.6 km return Walk along the river to a set of stunning falls. p. 6-7
- **Toe of the Glacier Route** 5.4 km return Magnificent views of the massive Athabasca Glacier. p. 6-7
- **Big Bend** 12.6 km return A forested trail with phenomenal views of Dragon Peak and surrounding mountains. p. 6-7
- **Wilcox Viewpoint** 4 km return A short climb to an incredible view of the Athabasca and Dome glaciers. p. 6-7

**WINTER WALKING**
- **Jasper Discovery Trail** 8.3 km loop An interpretive loop trail with beautiful town views. p. 9
- **Lac Beauvert Loop** 3.4 km loop A loop trail around a lake with spectacular views. p. 9
- **Wapiti Campground** Variable options A forested trail with views of the Athabasca River. p. 9
- **Red Squirrel to Big Horn Alley** 10.6 km loop A loop with varied terrain along the Athabasca River. p. 9
- **Valley of the Five Lakes** 4.1 km loop A loop trail with a series of beautiful frozen lakes. p. 9
- **Maligne Canyon** Varied route options Walk along the top of the canyon. p. 6, 9

**FAT BIKING**
- **Cabin Lake Fire Road** 6.8 km return A fairly moderate ride out to Cabin Lake and back with panoramic views. p. 9
- **Woodpecker / Trail 4** 3.6 km loop Flat-packed by Fairmont, this loop travels through gently rolling terrain from Jasper Park Lodge to Lake Annette and back. p. 9
- **Pyramid Trail-Cottonwood Slough** 8 km return This cruisy trail climbs steadily to beautiful Pyramid Lake. p. 9
- **Mina-Cabin Loop** 9.3 km return Sections of demanding terrain and scenic views on the west end of Pyramid Bench. p. 9
- **Trail 8 to 8c** 8.2 km loop Great terrain for experienced riders. p. 9

**ICE SKATING**
- **Mildred Lake** Approx. 1 km loop Head out to Jasper Park Lodge and skate on stunning Mildred Lake. p. 9
- **Pyramid Lake** Approx. 0.7 km loop Skate on iconic Pyramid Lake. p. 9

Hit the trails for a snowy hike! Make your way to one or all six of our red chair locations throughout the park (visit pc.gc.ca/jasperredchair). Hop on a fat bike for a more cruisy ride around our easily accessible trail network and skate to your heart’s content on our picturesque frozen lakes.
Jasper offers up a great mix of cross-country ski trails with something for everyone. Relax with the whole family and take in the vistas on a casual ski around one of our easy campground trails or get your heart pumping up one of our steeply-ascending fire roads.

### Trail and Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail and Activities</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Maps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARMOT MEADOWS WINTER HUB</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Whistlers Loop</td>
<td>Variable options</td>
<td>Forested loop through the campground. Tracksetting varies due to construction.</td>
<td>6, 9, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re Run</td>
<td>4 km loop</td>
<td>Forested loop with challenging hills.</td>
<td>6, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHIRLPOOL WINTER HUB</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Whirlpool Trail</td>
<td>14 km return</td>
<td>Gentle terrain with river views.</td>
<td>6, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leach Lake Trail</td>
<td>8.4 km return</td>
<td>Beautiful mountain and lake views.</td>
<td>6, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATHABASCA FALLS AREA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldine Road</td>
<td>11.8 km return</td>
<td>Winding, challenging road with some views. Elevation gain: 532 m. Dogs allowed on Fryatt access</td>
<td>6, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER AREAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabasso Campground</td>
<td>3.6 km loop</td>
<td>Gentle terrain along the river. Variable loops.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decoigne</td>
<td>Variable options</td>
<td>Open meadows with rolling terrain.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline</td>
<td>11 km return</td>
<td>Gentle terrain with subtle ups and downs.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyramid Fire Road</td>
<td>15 km return</td>
<td>A steep climb with nice views. Elevation gain: 770 m</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavell Road</td>
<td>23.2 km return</td>
<td>A steep climb with stunning views. Opens Feb. 16.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trail Etiquette

- Skiers going downhill have the right-of-way.
- Keep to the right when meeting oncoming skiers.
- When resting or visiting, move off the trail.
- When passing say “track please” and pass on left side.
Jasper offers up spectacular opportunities for all ski enthusiasts. Whether you’re into carving up smooth corduroy runs at the ski hill or enjoying the quiet solitude of light backcountry touring, the park is your oyster for exploration!

**Downhill**

**MARMOT BASIN**

With short line-ups, wide open groomed runs, high alpine bowls and dry powdery snow, Marmot Basin offers world class skiing and snowboarding in the heart of the park. Sitting at an elevation of 1,698 m with a vertical drop of 914 m, Marmot has a varied range of terrain for all abilities. Ski lessons offered. Visit: skimarmot.com

**Light Touring**

Get off the beaten path and go ski touring in the park. Gliding across the snow on skis is one of the best ways to explore Jasper’s untracked trails. From short to full day trips, take in breathtaking views as you wind your way along valley bottoms and over gentle rolling terrain. For the keen adventurer, try spending a wintery night at one of our unique winter camping destinations.

**Tips for planning a light backcountry trip**

- Visit the Jasper Information Centre.
- Familiarize yourself with trail information before starting.
- Choose a trail suitable for your group.
- Check weather forecast and trail conditions.
- Do not travel alone.
- Tell somebody where you are going, when you’ll be back and who to call if you don’t return.
- Be prepared for sudden weather changes.
- Trails are not patrolled—use them at your own risk.

**Information**

For alpine touring and mountain safety visit: parksmountainsafety.ca

Daily avalanche bulletin: pc.gc.ca/avalanche

Parks Canada Visitor Safety: 780-852-6155

**EMERGENCY: Call 911**

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**Dark Sky Preserve**

On March 26, 2011 the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) officially designated Jasper National Park as a Dark Sky Preserve. That means the park makes a special commitment to protect and preserve the night sky and reduce light pollution.

**Marmot Meadows Winter Hub**

Join us at Marmot Meadows Winter Hub just south of Whistlers Campground on Highway 93 for activities, adventure and interactive learning. You can ski on your own then join an interpreter around the fire for stories. Also, try your hand at new skills—like making a fire with flint and steel or cooking bannock on a stick.

A traditional tipi welcomes you to the meadows and provides the setting for Indigenous programs and cultural teachings. Enjoy a variety of programs, including wildlife tracking where you will do a bit of hiking or snowshoeing while trying out some of the park’s telemetry equipment. In the evening, try a guided dark sky snowshoe hike.

**Programs and activities** will be offered every weekend between January 2 – March 26, 2017, generally from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and in the evening at 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Holidays**

Dec. 27, 2016 - Jan. 2, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m: we will be on site every day with fireside stories and activities.

7:00 p.m: join us nightly for a Dark Sky Program and warm drinks around a crackling campfire.

Visit us at Marmot Meadows for a New Year’s Eve Dark Sky Event on December 31.
Explore Maligne Valley

Maligne Canyon
Visit frozen waterfalls and surreal ice formations at Maligne Canyon (B, page 11), just a short ten-minute drive from town. Guided ice walks are available from local tour companies (see page 6) or, if you feel like taking it up a notch, try ice climbing with a certified mountain guide.

Medicine Lake and Maligne Lake
Grab your snowshoes and head up to either Medicine Lake (E, page 10) or Maligne Lake (D, H) and I, page 10) to explore the peaceful wintery landscape. Enjoy some great beginner snowshoe trails or, if the lake is safely frozen, explore the shoreline and take in the surrounding wide open views.

Woodland Caribou and Maligne Lake
Woodland caribou inhabit some of the most scenic alpine landscapes of the mountains in Western Canada, including Jasper’s Maligne Lake region.

The caribou that call Jasper National Park home migrate between the alpine (above treeline) and subalpine (just below treeline) forests in response to seasonal changes. This is because they like it cold and snowy. A true winter specialist, woodland caribou’s large “snowshoe” hooves, warm fur and ability to survive on a diet of lichen help them avoid predators by staying high in the mountains through winter. However, one of the threats to caribou are packed trails that lead into their habitat, as they allow predators to access areas they would not have travelled to otherwise.

Jasper National Park is home to four distinct herds of woodland caribou whose habitats are found in the northern ranges of the park, in the Tonquin Range, and in the Maligne-Brazeau ranges. This last herd uses the high elevation areas near Maligne Lake as part of their habitat.

Woodland caribou populations have been steadily declining and they are considered a Species at Risk. As a leader in conservation, Parks Canada is taking action to protect them, at Maligne Lake and elsewhere in the park. You can help too!

At Maligne Lake:
1. From November 1 to February 28, enjoy the open, lower elevation trails open year-round, such as the Mary Schäffer Loop, Moose Lake loops and Trapper Creek Route.
2. After February 28, when the snowpack hardens naturally and trails packed by humans become less of an advantage to predators such as wolves, you are welcome to head up to Bald Hills (this is avalanche terrain—be prepared).

Tonquin Valley, Brazeau and North Jasper:
1. Access is delayed from November 1 until February 16 for the Tonquin Valley, and until February 28 for the Brazeau and North Jasper.

Icefields Parkway:
1. From south of Sunwapta Falls through to Beauty Creek Hostel, a reduced speed zone is in effect from February 1 – May 1. Caribou are seen here every year. Drive with care.

To learn more visit: pc.gc.ca/caribou
Winter Camping

Campgrounds opening early for Spring 2017!
Come back this spring to beat the summer rush.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th># of sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whistlers</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>$27.40-$38.20</td>
<td>781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wapiti Summer</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>$27.40-$32.30</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabasso</td>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>$21.50-$27.40</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit reservation.pc.gc.ca anytime on or after January 10, 2017 to book your campsite.

Frontcountry Camping with a Backcountry Vibe
Whirlpool Winter Hub and Camping
In addition to over 25 km of groomed cross-country ski trails that begin from here, this hub (page 13) offers a winter shelter and winter camping. Camping is available on a first come, first serve self-registration basis. There are sites for tents as well as RVs. Note: there is no power or water on site.

Backcountry Camping
Hidden Cove
8 km return • Trailhead: End of Maligne Lake Road, 48 km from Jasper Townsite
Located 4 km down Maligne Lake, Hidden Cove can be reached by fat bike, snowshoes and skis. A great family campground with four tent pads, a fire pit, picnic tables, a grey water pit, a cook shelter and food storage lockers. Safe ice travel between mid-January and early April.

Big Bend
14 km return • Trailhead: Sunwapta Falls, 54.4 km south of Jasper on Highway 93
Rolling along the upper Athabasca Valley, this trail follows a wide fire road. The campground is accessible by skis, snowshoes or fat bike. This trail takes you to a campsite with incredible views of Dragon Peak and the Athabasca River. There are four tent pads, picnic tables, a fire pit and food storage cables.

Wilcox Winter
Wilcox Parking Lot, 106 km south on Highway 93
Located on the Icefields parkway, Wilcox is a simple bivouac campsite for mountaineers next to the highway.

How to book your backcountry experience
A backcountry permit is required to camp in Jasper’s backcountry. For more information or to obtain a permit, call 1-877-737-3783 or visit reservation.pc.gc.ca

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JASPER</th>
<th>CAMPGROUNDS AND SERVICES</th>
<th>OPEN DATES</th>
<th>FEES</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SITES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▲ Whistlers Winter</td>
<td>Oct. 10 - May 24</td>
<td>$32.30*</td>
<td>40 with elec.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▲ Whirlpool</td>
<td>Dec. 15 - April 1</td>
<td>$15.70</td>
<td>10 tent-6 RV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANFF</td>
<td>Tunnel Mt. Village II</td>
<td>Open year round</td>
<td>$32.30</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Louise Trailer</td>
<td>Open year round</td>
<td>$32.30</td>
<td>189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camping season dates are approximate; please confirm at information centres prior to heading out. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early. All winter campgrounds are self-registration. Daily fire permits cost $8.80 extra. Camping permitted in designated campgrounds only.
Winter is the perfect time of year to look for wildlife tracks. Learn how to identify a few tracks and find out whose habitat you’re sharing. It is a challenge for wildlife to survive in the winter, but you can help make it easier by giving them lots of space.

**Safe Viewing Tips**

Winter wildlife viewing provides exciting and educational opportunities for the whole family. Here are a few tips to make sure your viewing experience is safe for your family and the wildlife.

- If you stop while driving...
  - Pull over where it is safe to do so.
  - Use your hazard lights to alert other drivers.
  - Observe and photograph wildlife from the safety of your car.
  - Remain a respectful distance from wildlife.

- If you encounter a cougar, a coyote or a wolf...
  - Immediately pick up small children and pets.
  - Do not turn your back. Back away slowly while maintaining eye contact.
  - Do not run; it may trigger an attack.
  - Do not play dead.
  - Make yourself appear as large as possible; wave an object above your head.

**NEVER feed wildlife.**

**Winter Driving Safety**

To experience the beauty of winter in Jasper, winter-worthy vehicles, warm clothing, patience and a little preparation will help ensure a safe and exhilarating journey.

**Drive safely along the Icefields Parkway**

- 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 am and ends at 3:30 pm. Plus, you’ll want lots of daylight to take in all the epic views!
- Ensure your car has snow tires—look for the snowflake symbol. **Snow tires are mandatory from November 1 to April 1 on the Parkway.**
- 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.
- There is no cell phone reception from Athabasca Falls to Lake Louise. For emergencies there are pay phones along the Parkway.
- Ensure you are comfortable with winter driving conditions. Drivers should travel based on comfort level and experience.

**Drive carefully**

- 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.
- Don’t forget your winter-worthy play gear (warm waterproof clothing, boots, snowshoes, skis, etc.). You will want to stop and explore the magic of winter along the way!

**More Information**

JASPER INFORMATION CENTRE: 780-852-6176
LAKE LOUISE VISITOR CENTRE: 403-522-3833
BANFF VISITOR CENTRE: 403-762-1550
pc.gc.ca/jasper • pc.gc.ca/banff

Trail Reports
pc.gc.ca/jaspertrails
pc.gc.ca/banfftrails

Check the road conditions and the weather forecast before you leave town:

Road Conditions: 511 • alberta511.ca • drivebc.ca
Weather Forecast:
Jasper 780-852-3185 • Banff 403-762-2088
weather.gc.ca • Visit an information centre
Distances are shown in kilometres. To convert distances to miles, multiply by 0.62.

For emergencies dial 911 (Police, fire and ambulance). Cell phone coverage is not reliable in all areas of the mountain parks.