Cruis-y-Cross County Fun...

Jasper has what might be the best trail system in Canada’s national parks. Ask any cyclist why they come back to Jasper, and you’ll likely hear that it’s because the park’s well-connected, well-maintained trails are the perfect way to actually experience nature while at the same time avoiding crowds.

This guide provides a snapshot of Jasper’s cross-country, cruxy mountain biking trails—whether you’re looking for a half-day or the day, there is something for everyone.

While most of the trails described are fun, flowing, valley bottom trails, Jasper does have some great climbing for riders looking for physical challenges and eye-popping alpine scenery.

**Palisades Lookup**
(MAP A and D) Distance: 16 km one way. Elevation gain: 480 m
Hardly riders who perceive us the long, steep climb are rewarded with panoramic views of the Athabasca River Valley and whiteknuckled descents. Bring extra water and use caution along the way.

**Pyramid Mountain**
(MAP A and D) Distance: 11.7 km one way. Elevation gain: 750 m
Sustained climb with a brief descent back to Palisades junction and trail another 4 km to the base of Pyramid Mountain. If you’re prepared and energetic enough to spare, go for a scramble up the rugged slope.

**RIDE A MOUNTAIN**

Photo: D. Langley

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Remember, you are responsible for your own safety.

- Always wear a helmet and safety gear. Your equipment:
  - Gear advice at Parks Canada Information Centres, including:
    - Pack adequate food, gear, maps, first aid. Carry bear spray, and know how to use it.
    - Tell someone where you go and when you intend to return.
  - Do not travel alone.

- Trails are marked differently. You are welcome to use these trails, but they are not Jasper National Park camping, hiking, or riding trails. If you are not signed up, you are not allowed to ride.

- Be aware of your surroundings, give way within the space you need and avoid becoming lost, return to the signed trail system.

- Trail Maintenance
  - Trail maintenance crews clear the trails each spring to remove dormant snow and rocks that can be as much as 3 feet thick. If your ride involves more bike carrying than riding, please remove all equipment from the trail. If you are not signed up, you are not allowed to ride.

- Safety
  - Keep wildlife and yourself safe.
    - Cyclists on trails in groups, slow down and make noise when you can.

- More information:
  - Jasper National Park Information Centre (780-852-2900)
  - Parks Canada Information Centres
  - Trail cleaning and 3P systems in Canada’s national parks. Jasper has what might be the best trail system in Canada’s national parks.

- Safety
  - Wildlife trails

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EASY ROUTE

TO THE SHORES OF LAC BEAUVERT
1 KM ONE WAY (MAP A)

From Hazel Avenue, cruise along the Wapiti Trail to the Red Squirrel Run (14) and push up a steep hill right down this easy slope into Old Fort Point (P1). Once across the Athabasca River, stay on the road, pass the internment camp monument and to Lac Beauvert. Sit along the shores of one of Jasper’s most picturesque lakes and take in the stunning view of the Cline Range. Bring a picnic! When it’s time to pack up, return the way you came, or follow the road to Lake Annette (P13) and follow Bighorn (13) to town.

MODERATE ROUTES

THE TIME-CRUNCHED QUICKIE
4.8 KM LOOP (MAP A)

Gear up at Church Hill (P5, Trail 2) and prep yourself for a 450 m climb to the top. Catch your breath and take in the breathtaking views of the Jasper basin and surrounding mountains. Continue along Trail 2 and follow the road through to the Cline Valley Slop Parking Area (P4). Cross the road and bridge and hang a quick right on Trail 2a. The valley opens and the views along the benchlands will take your breath away... if it isn’t already gone. As you glide along some sweet singleback, approach the final switchbacks with caution (and excitement). Before you know it, you’re back in town!

VIBRANT VALLEY VISTAS
8.0 KM LOOP (MAP A)

From the trailhead at the west end of town (P2), Trail 3 immediately crosses Cabin Creek and climbs onto a low bluff with a view of the Athabasca Valley. From here, you have the option of two trails: one high and the other low. Both lead you to Marjorie Lake (at km 2.4 km).

As you continue towards Caledonia Lake, where the wood lilies and wild roses bloom in early summer, this forest-enclosed single track steadily climbs. Take a quick left at Trail 3a and follow the winding downhill to the CN tracks. Once across, you’ll find a bike-friendly path along the Wynd Road and back into town.

DIFFICULT ROUTE

THE BIG SWEAT
32 KM RETURN (MAP B)

Start this epic tour at Old Fort Point (P1). Hop on Trail 7 (not the face of the cliff, no blues here) and follow Trail 9 where you fire all the way to the shores of Wabasso Lake.

The trail is a mix of ups and downs, wide and single track, with technical root and rock sections. On your way home, change your route by adding Trail 3c. Watch for hikers during peak hours and wildlife during the cooler parts of the day.

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

OVERLANDER AND PYRAMID

LOOKING TO RENT A BIKE?

JASPER TOWNSITE AREA

SAVING THE BIG SWEAT
27 KM RETURN (MAP C)

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