

WHITEBARK PINE

Whitebark pine is an important part of a healthy ecosystem. They help to stabilize steep slopes, influence the rate of snow melt, and provide habitat for many animals including the Clarke's Nutcracker, squirrels and bears.

For a number of reasons, this tree was listed as endangered under Canada's Species at Risk Act in 2012. Threats include an introduced fungus species; increased presence of mountain pine beetle, loss of forest openings because of fire suppression; and rapid global climate change.

Parks Canada is undertaking various initiatives to support its long term survival such as seed collection and planting, blister rust resistance screening, and prescribed fires for habitat restoration. Parks Canada is working hard to maintain healthy ecosystems for generations to come.

How to Hand in your Geocaching Passport

To receive the collectable coin, be sure you have recorded at least three of the six code words.

Scan and email to: Waterton.info@pc.gc.ca,
Attn: Visitor Experience Product Development Officer

OR

Mail your completed passport to:
Whitebark Pine Geocache Challenge
c/o Visitor Experience Product Development Officer
Waterton Lakes National Park
Box 200, Waterton Park, AB
T0K 2M0

Be sure to include your mailing address!

WELCOME TO THE WHITEBARK PINE GEOCACHING CHALLENGE!



Objective:

Find three or more geocaches from participating Canadian National Parks to earn a limited edition whitebark pine collectible coin.

Instructions:

1. Download the geocaches listed in this passport onto your GPS unit or smartphone by going to geocaching.com and searching by the GC code or by entering the coordinates manually.
2. Find one of the six geocaches.
3. When you find a geocache: sign the logbook, collect the special code word that can be found in the geocache and record the code word on one of the branches of the tree image.
4. Once you have found three or more geocaches in this challenge, submit your passport to the address on the back.





PROOF OF FIND



Be sure to include the code words collected from the geocaches. Place them on any branch of the tree.



GEOCACHES

Banff National Park:

N 51° 08.752 W 115° 34.631

Summer only! Sulphur Mountain Boardwalk, 0.2 km one way from the Banff Gondola Upper Terminal, minimal elevation gain, some stairs, easy. To access the Banff Gondola Upper Terminal: Ride the gondola for a fee or hike Sulphur Mountain Trail (5.5 km, 3-4 hours one way, 655 m elevation gain, moderate, trailhead is at the Banff Upper Hot Springs parking lot, 4 km south of the Town of Banff).

Kootenay National Park:

N 51° 11.407 W 116° 03.354

Summer only! Stanley Glacier Trail, 4.2km one way, Moderate (395m elevation gain). Trailhead at 13 km South/West of Castle Junction.

Yoho National Park:

N 51° 26.958 W 116° 22.106

Summer only! Paget Lookout, 3.5km one way, Moderate (500m elevation gain). Trailhead at Wapta Lake DUA, 15km west of Lake Louise.

Waterton National Park:

N 49° 00.579 W 114° 01.649

Summer only! Access to Summit Lake trailhead via shuttle only until September 18, 2016. Book your free seat at www.akaminahikersshuttle.com. Be prepared for a 3-4 hour return/8 km hike: bring water, snacks, & a warm layer. Don't forget your camera!

Hint: You're close when you see a large flat rock.

Jasper National Park:

N 52° 42.149 W 118° 03.738

Astoria River Trail , Short hike (<500m) to Cavell Lake. Trailhead: Tonquin Valley parking lot along the Mt Edith Cavell Road (seasonal access, mid-June).

Mount Revelstoke National Park:

N 51° 04.290 W 118° 06.403

Summer only! Miller Lake Trail: Length: 5.8 km (one-way) Hiking time: 2-3 hours to lake. Elevation change: 1778 to 1931 m (153) Trailhead: Meadows in the Sky Parkway at the Heather Lake Day-Use Area (upper shuttle bus stop).