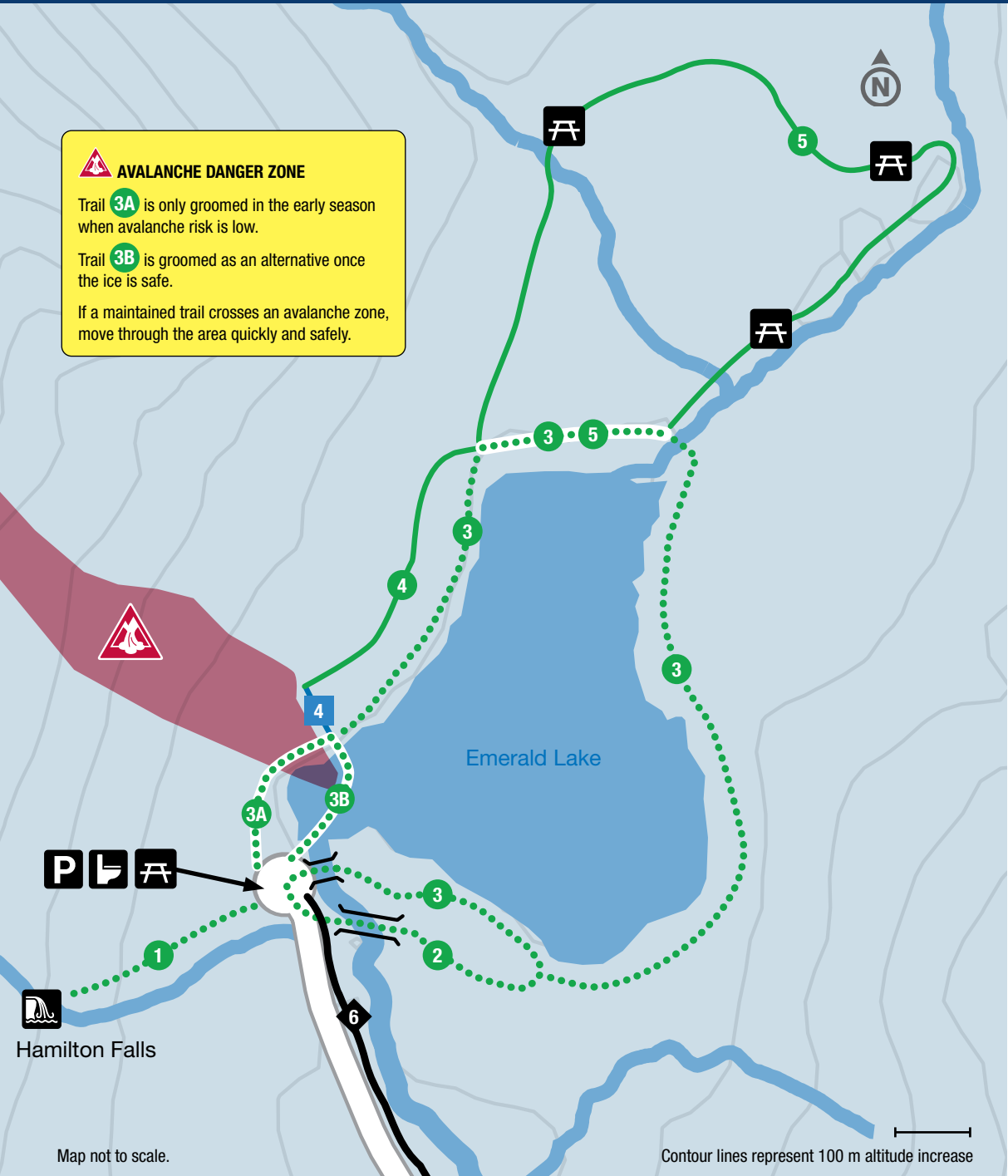


Emerald Lake in the winter



Great Divide and Ross Lake this winter



Winter trail closures in 2023-24

Due to fire management operations:

- The western end of the Great Divide Trail is closed for the winter.
- Two Ross Lake Trail sections will close temporarily throughout the winter.

Check for area closure signs. Trail closures are posted in advance at parks.canada.gc.ca/yoho-bulletins

Winter trails	Distance (one-way)	Elevation* (gain/loss)	Estimated time (return)	Trail description		
1 Hamilton Falls	900 m	100 m / 5 m	30 mins			Access the trail from the west side of the Emerald Lake parking lot. Quick and easy trip to the frozen Hamilton Falls.
2 Peaceful Pond	900 m	30 m / 30 m	30 mins			Access the trail from the east side of the Emerald Lake parking lot. Hike in the forest near Peaceful Pond. When you arrive at the Emerald Lakeshore Trail junction, keep left to go back to the lodge and parking lot. Turn right for a longer adventure around Emerald Lake.
3 Emerald Lakeshore	5.2 km loop	120 m / 120 m	2-3 hrs			In early season, the trail starts by the Emerald Lake public washroom (see 3A), and follows the perimeter of the lake clockwise. Once the lake surface is frozen, the trail starts on the lake (see 3B) to avoid the avalanche path.
3A Emerald Lakeshore	600 m	15 m / 15 m	20 mins			
3B Emerald Lake Crossing	500 m	n/a	20 mins			
4 Classic Emerald	1 km (with 4)	20 m / 20 m	1 hr			Access the trail by 3A (early season) or 3B (once the lake is frozen). The groomed forested trail, with gentle rolling hills, leads to the back of Emerald Lake. Continue on the Alluvial Fan Loop for panoramic views.
4 Classic Emerald	50 m	10 m / 10 m	5-10 mins			Trail 4 is very short but steep.
5 Alluvial Fan Loop	4.3 km loop	55 m / 55 m	1 hr			Access the trail by 4. You can travel both ways on this loop of the alluvial fan at the back of Emerald Lake. Enjoy the views of the mountains at one of the rest areas along the trail. Continue until you merge back with 4.

*On most trails you will gain and lose elevation before you reach your destination. Elevation gain represents all the up and elevation loss all the down you will experience on a one-way hike.

Avalanche safety

Avalanche season extends from November to June. Even a short walk from the parking lot can take you into dangerous terrain. If you are planning on traveling in areas beyond maintained trails, you should assume that you are in avalanche terrain, and you should be prepared with the appropriate knowledge, skills and rescue equipment.

Visit pc.gc.ca/avalanche for avalanche ratings, maps and forecasts.

Trail safety

- When trails are icy, use hiking poles and ice cleats.
- Weather can change quickly in the mountains. Check the forecast and bring extra layers and snacks.

Check current trail conditions at pc.gc.ca/yohotrails before you begin your winter adventure.

Road safety

- Road conditions can change quickly in the mountains. Bring blankets and an emergency kit for your vehicle.
- Tell somebody where you're going, when you will be back and who to call if you don't return. Parks Canada Dispatch: 403-762-1470
- **Winter tires (M&S) or chains are required by law** for travel in B.C. from October 1 to April 30.

Check current road conditions at drivebc.ca BEFORE you head out.

Trail etiquette

- The track set portion of the trail is for classic skiing only, no dogs are allowed on track set portions. The flat groomed lane is for other users.
- Dogs are only allowed on certain trails. Keep your dogs off the track set. Keep your dogs on leash at all times and pick up after them.
- Leave no trace! Pack everything out you pack in.

Park information

- Parking at Emerald Lake and Natural Bridge is limited. Park in designated parking areas only and come prepared with a backup plan if your destination is full.
- Cell phone coverage is not reliable in the park.
- Some trailheads and day-use areas are only accessible from one direction on the Trans-Canada Highway. Left hand turns are only allowed at signed intersections.
- Drones/UAVs are prohibited for personal use anywhere in the national parks.

Avalanche ratings	Trail conditions	Road conditions

- Visitor centre
- Avalanche zone
- Parking
- Easy trail
- Toilet
- Moderate trail
- Rest area
- Difficult trail
- Waterfall
- Cross-country skiing
- Fat biking
- Snowshoeing
- Skate skiing
- Dogs allowed
- No dogs allowed
- No left turns
- Multi-use trail
- Snowshoe trail
- Railway
- Park boundary
- Provincial boundary