Exploring:
Wind 232 glorious kilometres through the heart of Jasper and Banff national parks, the Icefields Parkway has been called one of the world’s most scenic drives. Around every corner, the route offers fresh wonders – from waterfalls, pristine lakes, and broad sweeping valleys to ancient glaciers flowing down from the rugged mountains. Take your time to experience the many scenic stops, picnic spots and hiking trails along the way.

Looking for a view from the edge?
Check out these roadside attractions:

ATHABASCA FALLS
A dramatic area that can be seen from the road, explored with a commercial guide or visited on a special bus tour. Do not walk on the glacier; assessors and other hazards can be deadly.

DUNSMUIR FALLS
Erected in past 100 years, the falls are named after the developer of Jasper Park. This is a good place to see the power of water sculpting the limestone gorges.

COLUMBIA ICEFIELD
The Athabasca Glacier is the largest mass of ice in the Canadian Rockies. This icefall is several large glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia and the Saskatchewan.

WHAT’S A GLACIER?
Glaciers form where snow falls in winter that melts each summer. As the snow gets thicker and heavier, it compacts into dense glacial ice that slowly flows downhill.

GLACIERS AND RIVERS
Water from the area flows to three different oceans: On the British Columbia side, meltwater flows into the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. On the Alberta side, the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers feed into the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, respectively. These rivers provide fresh drinking water for millions of people, and are crucial to agriculture and countless ecosystems. That’s why their source is protected in a national park.

About the Columbia Icefield

Your nation’s parks pass
A valid national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway. Approvals from past sales support visitor facilities and services. If you’re a frequent visitor to national parks and national historic sites in Canada, consider purchasing a Parks Canada Discover Pass.