Explore! Winter on the Icefields Parkway

Before you venture out on the Parkway this winter, please Review safety guidelines and check the road conditions. Drive with caution and enjoy the breathtaking beauty that awaits you on your journey through ice and time.

Looking for a quick and scenic stop?

Tangle Falls
LOCATION: 36 km south of Jasper, 137 km north of Lake Louise
This beautiful, cascading icefall right beside the road makes for a great photo stop.

Bow Lake
LOCATION: 180 km south of Jasper, 40 km north of Lake Louise
One of the most scenic lakes along the Parkway and the source of the Bow River. The stunning views take in the Wapta Icefield, Bow Glacier, Crowfoot Mountain and Mount Thompson.

Crowfoot Glacier
LOCATION: 197 km south of Jasper, 36 km north of Lake Louise
When this glacier was named a century ago, it looked like a three-toed crowsfoot. Since then, one toe has melted and the middle toe is slowly disappearing.

Want to strap on snowshoes or skis?

Sunwapta Falls
EASY — SNOWSHOES OR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS
2 km/1.5 mile return to upper falls
92 m elevation gain

Athabasca Falls
EASY — SNOWSHOES, ICE CLEATS
1 km/0.6 mile return
No elevation gain

Crowfoot Glacier
EASY — SNOWSHOES
54 km return to toe of glacier
79 km north of Lake Louise

Want to stretch your legs?

Althabasca Falls
EASY — SNOWSHOES
1.2 km/0.75 mile return
No elevation gain

Peyto Lake Viewpoint
EASY — SNOWSHOES OR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS
4.5 km/3 mile round trip
66 m elevation gain/loss

Watch for wildlife
Look out for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, coyotes and deer; they are commonly seen along the Parkway and time.

Watch the ever-changing ice formations and hear the roar of the water under the ice. Be safe. Stay behind railings and on designated trails. Do not venture out on the ice.

To of the Athabasca Glacier
EASY — SNOWSHOES
54 km return to toe of glacier
79 km north of Lake Louise
Explore the area below the glacier, surrounded by towering mountains.

Is not walk on the glacier as hidden crevasses and other hazards can be deadly.

Wilcox Viewpoint
DIFFICULT — SNOWSHOES
3.4 km/2 mile return
185 m elevation gain

Avalanche danger beyond the Red Chairs.

Valley of the Five Lakes
MODERATE — SNOWSHOES, ICE CLEATS
4.5 km/3 mile round trip

Howse Pass Viewpoint
EASY — SNOWSHOES
185 m elevation gain

5.6 km/2 mile return

Be safe. Stay behind railings and on designated trails.

Wilcox Viewpoint
DIFFICULT — SNOWSHOES
3.4 km/2 mile return
185 m elevation gain

A short uphill snowshoe leads to incredible views of the Athabasca and Dome glaciers.

Sunwapta Falls
EASY — SNOWSHOES
2 km/1.2 mile return to toe of glacier
59 m elevation gain

Athabasca Falls
EASY — SNOWSHOES OR STURDY BOOTS
200 m/1.3 mile return
No elevation gain/loss

Peyto Lake Viewpoint
EASY — SNOWSHOES
1 km/0.6 mile return to toe of glacier
92 m elevation gain

Althabasca Falls
EASY — SNOWSHOES
1.2 km/0.75 mile return
No elevation gain

Valley of the Five Lakes
MODERATE — SNOWSHOES, ICE CLEATS
4.5 km/3 mile round trip
66 m elevation gain/loss

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Mountain Parks

Peakhunting

Do NOT FEED OR APPROACH WILDLIFE.

Bighorn sheep

Athabasca Falls

Tangle Falls

Athabasca Falls

Sunwapta Falls

Crowfoot Glacier

Howse Pass Viewpoint

Sunwapta Falls

Athabasca and Dome glaciers.

All of the source of the Bow River. The stunning views take in the Wapta Icefield, Bow Glacier, Crowfoot Mountain and Mount Thompson.

A short stroll to a magnificent view over the North Saskatchewan and Howse river valleys.

The Parkway on the Icefields Winter

This photo was taken with a telephoto lens from a safe distance (30 m).

A short uphill snowshoe leads to incredible views of the Athabasca and Dome glaciers.

Lookout for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, coyotes and deer; they are commonly seen along the Parkway in winter. Do NOT FEED OR APPROACH WILDLIFE.

Explore! Witness incredible snow-capped mountains, ancient glaciers, ice-covered lakes and winter wildlife. The Icefields Parkway is a vista of Lake Louise and ice-covered lakes and winter wildlife.

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4.5 km/3 mile round trip
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Avalanche season extends from November to June. Even a short walk from the parking lot can take you into dangerous terrain.

Check the latest avalanche conditions at parkscanada.gc.ca/avalanche

Your national parks pass
A national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway. Renew your pass or take your pass with you to get a discount on admission fees.

For more information, visit parkscanada.gc.ca/banff or parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper

Check the road conditions and the weather forecast before you leave town. Road conditions:
Call 511 or visit an information centre
Weather forecast:
weather.gc.ca
or visit an information centre

Trail reports:
parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails
parkscanada.gc.ca/tenntrafs

093-0-660-41117-0
R64-441/2021E-PDF
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You are responsible for your own safety.

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- Drive safely and be prepared.
- Ensure you are comfortable with winter driving conditions. Drivers should travel based on comfort level and experience.
- 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.

Drive safely and be prepared.

- 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 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.
- 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 the road), two-way radio, warm clothing and blankets.
- Tell someone your route, when you are leaving and when you plan on arriving.
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