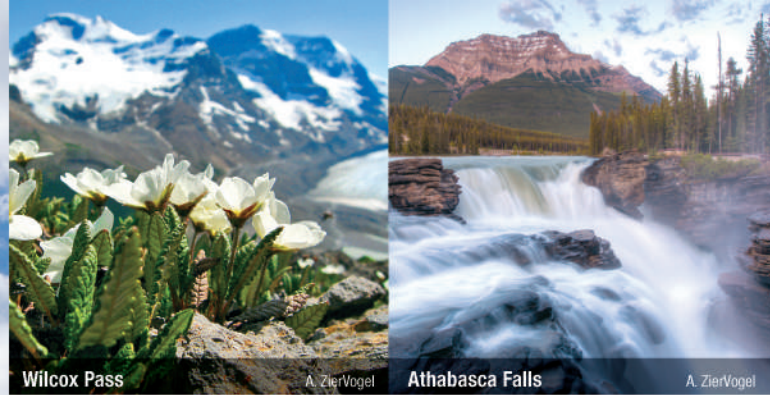




Summer on the Icefields Parkway



Wilcox Pass A. ZierVogel Athabasca Falls A. ZierVogel

Explore!

Winding 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:

4 ATHABASCA GLACIER

A magical 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; crevasses and other hazards can be deadly.**

12 CROWFOOT GLACIER

When this glacier was named a century ago, it looked like a three-toed crow's foot. Since then, one toe has melted, and the middle toe is slowly disappearing.

14 HERBERT LAKE

A photographer's favourite. The still waters of Herbert Lake provide a perfect panoramic reflection of the stunning Main Range peaks, including Mount Temple. The picnic area provides an ideal place for a picnic stop.

Need to stretch your legs?

Try one of these short strolls:

2 ATHABASCA FALLS

Feel the spray of the Athabasca River as it thunders into the canyon below. Stay behind railings and on designated trails. The rock beyond is slippery and dangerous.

0.2 km return; minimal elevation gain; 30 min round trip
Trailhead: 30 km south of Jasper (Hwy 93N)

3 SUNWAPTA FALLS

A torrent of plunging water not far from the highway, Sunwapta Falls is just one of the many waterfalls in Jasper created by hanging valleys.

2.8 km return to lower falls; 87 m elevation loss/gain; 1 h round trip
Trailhead: 54 km south of Jasper (Hwy 93N)

8 MISTAYA CANYON

Enjoy a short downhill walk and peer down into Mistaya Canyon from the bridge. Witness the power of water sculpting the limestone gorge. Stay off the rocks for your safety.

0.9 km return; 23 m elevation loss/gain; 1 h round trip
Trailhead: 75 km north of the Lake Louise Village (Hwy 93N)

10 PEYTO LAKE

Take a short hike from the lower parking lot to the viewpoint for a panoramic view of beautiful Peyto Lake. Park in the upper lot for a wheelchair accessible trail.

1.2 km return; 34 m elevation gain/loss; 30 min round trip
Trailhead: 75 km north of Lake Louise Village (Hwy 93N)



Grizzly bear M. Bradley Bighorn sheep R. Gruys Coyote R. Gruys

Wildlife

Wildlife sightings are one of many reasons the Icefields Parkway is known as one of the best drives in the world. Bears, sheep, wolves, and even elusive caribou can be spotted on the roadsides.

Keep your eyes open and drive slowly, especially in the early morning and evening.

Never approach or feed wildlife.



About the Columbia Icefield

With a total area of 200 km², the Columbia Icefield is the largest mass of glacial ice in the Canadian Rockies. It feeds several large glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia and the Saskatchewan.

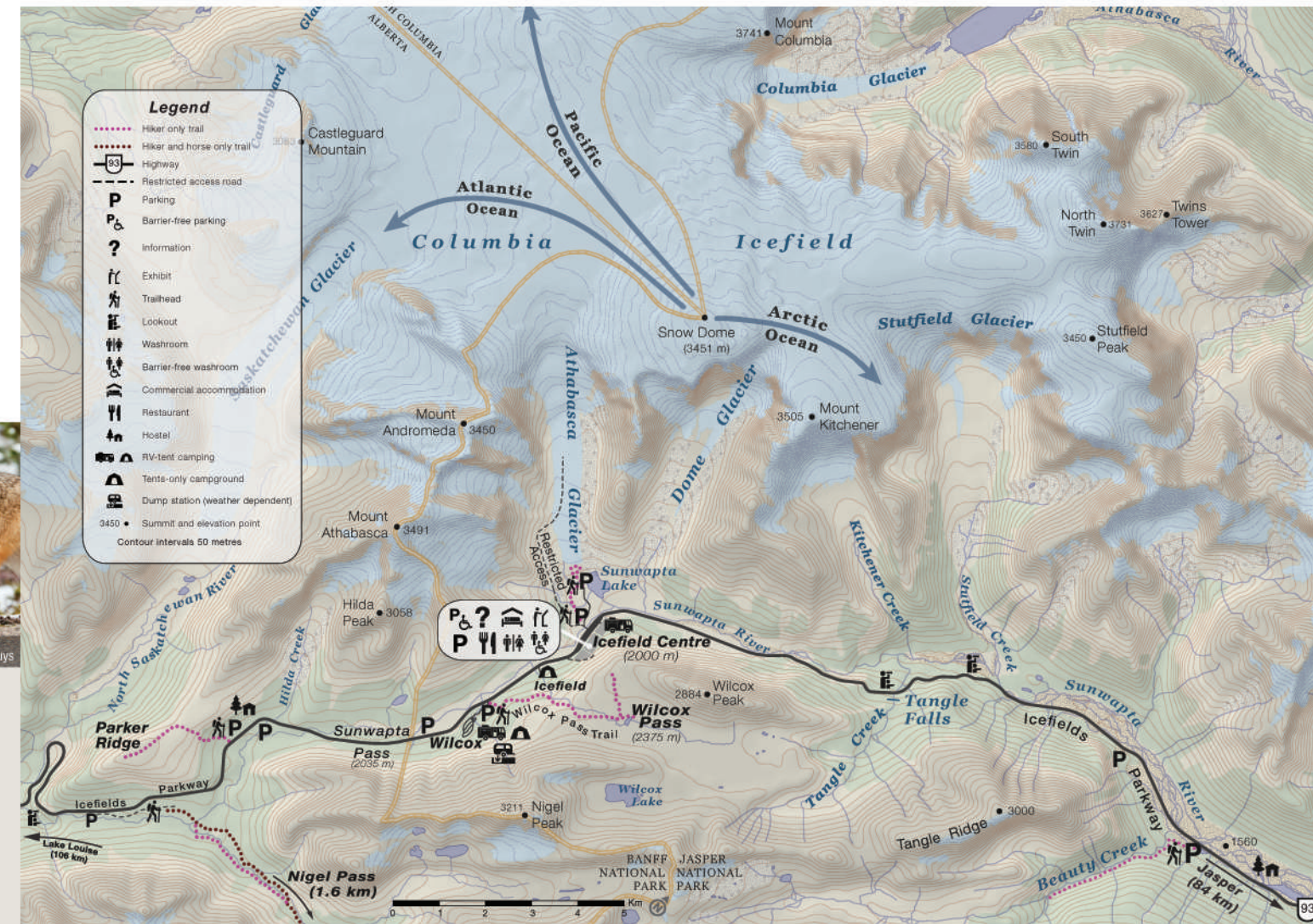
WHAT'S A GLACIER?

Glaciers form where more snow falls in winter than 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 this 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.



More information

Jasper Information Centre: 780-852-6176
Lake Louise Visitor Centre: 403-522-3833
Banff Visitor Centre: 403-762-1550

parksCanada.gc.ca/jasper
parksCanada.gc.ca/banff

BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION

Research and plan overnight trips, including potential trail restrictions and closures, avalanche conditions, and mandatory backcountry permits.

parksCanada.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry
parksCanada.gc.ca/banff-backcountry

TRAIL REPORTS

parksCanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails
parksCanada.gc.ca/banfftrails



There is no cell service along the Icefields Parkway.

Emergency phones are located in multiple locations. Look for the phone symbol on highway signage.

Check the road updates and weather forecast before you leave town:

ROAD UPDATES

Call 511
511.alberta.ca

WEATHER FORECAST

weather.gc.ca

Your national parks pass

A valid national parks pass is required to drive the Icefields Parkway. Revenues from pass sales support visitor facilities and services.

If you're a frequent visitor to national parks and historic sites in Canada, consider purchasing a Parks Canada Discovery Pass.

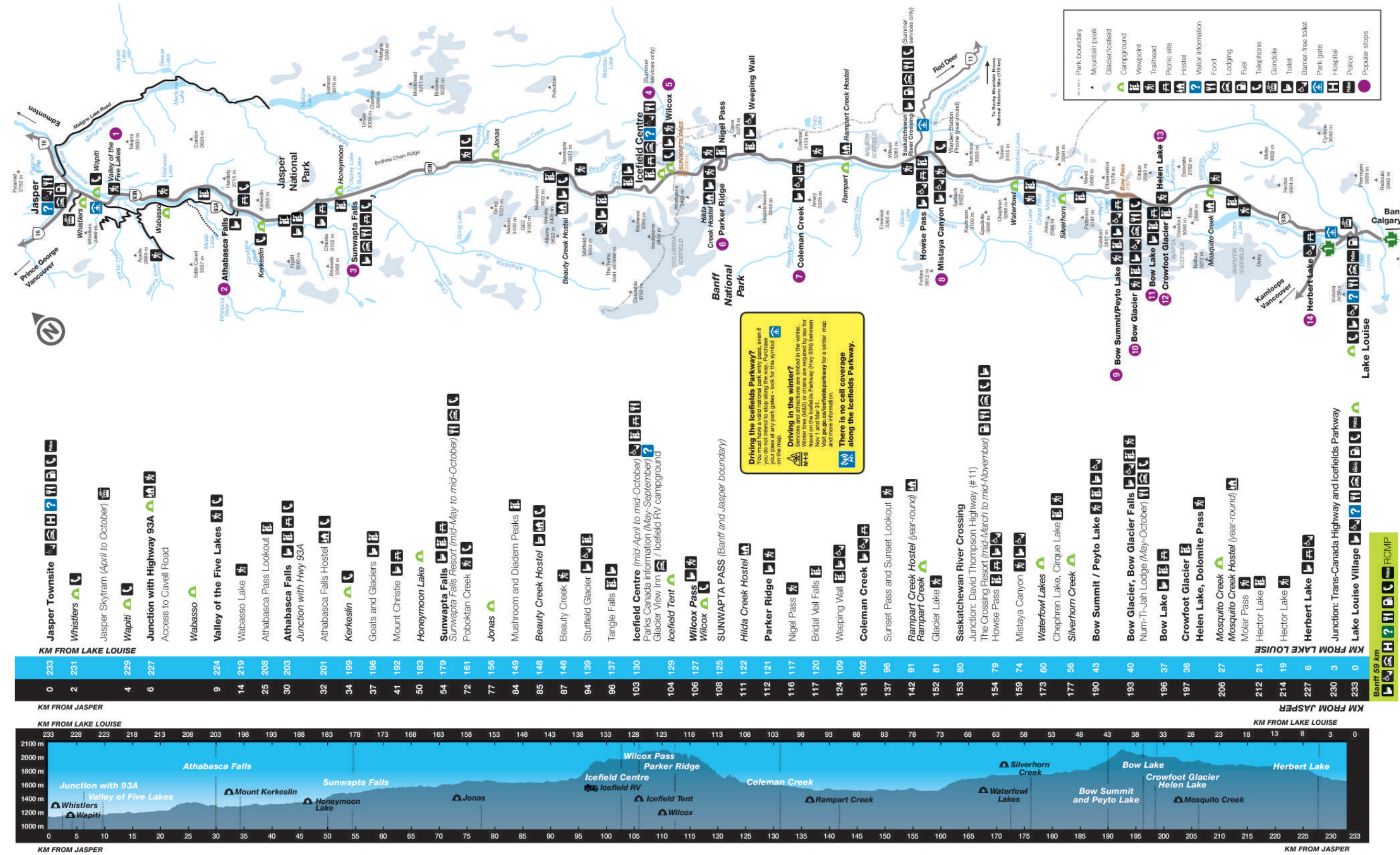
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Egalement offert en français

Bow Lake K. April

THE ICEFIELDS PARKWAY DRIVING GUIDE



Herbert Lake

K. April



Bow Glacier Falls Trail

P. Zizka

Looking for adventure?

Step into the wild with one of these classic day hikes:

- 1 VALLEY OF THE FIVE LAKES**
Five small, brilliantly blue-green lakes are the highlights of this outing, considered a local family favourite.
4.5 km loop; 66 m elevation gain/loss; 2 h round trip
Trailhead: 9 km south from Jasper on Highway 93
- 5 WILCOX PASS**
Rise quickly above treeline to the expansive meadows of this glacier-carved landscape.
2.4 km (1 h) return to first viewpoint; 8 km (2 to 3 h) return to the pass; 390 m elevation gain/loss
Trailhead: 3 km south of Icefield Centre at Wilcox Campground
- 6 PARKER RIDGE**
After a series of switchbacks, you'll be rewarded with dramatic views of the Saskatchewan Glacier.
5.4 km return; 250 m elevation gain/loss; 3 h round trip
Trailhead: 9 km south of the Icefield Centre
- 13 HELEN LAKE**
A breathtaking lake in a valley abounding with alpine wildlife and grand vistas.
12 km return; 455 m elevation gain; 4 to 5 h round trip
Trailhead: 37 km north of Lake Louise Village; across from Crowfoot Glacier Viewpoint

Time for lunch?

- Visit one of our scenic picnic sites:
- 7 COLEMAN CREEK**
Sit next to the edge of the water and listen to the relaxing gurgle of the river. Look for mountain goats on the cliffs.
 - 11 BOW LAKE**
Enjoy your lunch at one of the most breathtaking lakes in the Rockies. The vibrant blue colour set against a magnificent mountain backdrop is sure to dazzle you.