Parks Parcs
Canada Canada





- Suitable for those with little or no trail experience. Flat to gently rolling with no obstacles.
- Little or no elevation gain or loss.

MODERATE

Suitable for those with basic trail experience. Gently rolling with short, steep sections and

- infrequent obstacles.
- Moderate elevation gain or loss.



- Suitable only for those with trail experience. • Long, steep sections with frequent obstacles.
- Major elevation gain or loss.

Estimated time to complete these trails ranges depending on trail distances, fitness levels, weather and trail conditions.

Plan Ahead, Be Prepared

Safety

Safety is your responsibility. There are always hazards associated with outdoor recreation. Even short trips from the town of Banff can have serious consequences.

- Ask for advice at a Parks Canada visitor centre or visit parks.canada.ca/banfftrails for current trail conditions, warnings, closures, weather and trail
- Be prepared for emergencies. Mountain weather changes quickly and it can snow any month of the year. Dress in layers, bring extra food and warm clothing.
- Study descriptions and maps before heading out. Always choose a trail suitable for the least experienced member in your group.
- Bring your own water. Surface water may be contaminated and unsafe for drinking.
- Carry a first aid kit, bear spray and a satellite emergency communication device like SpotX, inReach or Zoleo, and know how to use them.
- Tell a reliable person where you are going, when you will be back, and who to call if you do not return: Banff Dispatch - 403-762-1470.
- Ticks, which could carry Lyme disease, may be present in the park. It is important to check yourself and your pet after hiking.
- Avoid wearing earbuds or headphones. Be alert at

Snowy **Trails**

Snow can remain on some trails well into the summer. When trails are snow covered, route finding can be difficult and travel through deep or hard snow and ice can be unsafe. Be prepared and visit parks.canada.ca/banfftrails to check trail conditions before heading out.



Canada

Trails above the tree line (2 000 m) may be exposed to avalanche hazard at any time of the year and especially from November through June. Snow on steep slopes has the potential to slide. For more information on the avalanche hazard, visit parksmountainsafety.ca or a Parks Canada visitor centre.

Recommended **Packing List**

- Trail guide and map
- Full water bottle or thermos
- High energy food
- Bear spray
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- First aid kit and emergency blanket
- Headlamp or flashlight with spare batteries
- Proper footwear Hat and gloves
- Hiking poles
- Rain/wind jacket
- Extra warm clothing in case of an emergency
- Fully charged cell phone
- Satellite emergency communication device like SpotX, inReach or Zoleo.

Roam Public Transit and **Shuttle Services**

Trails identified with a bus symbol indicate that the trailhead is accessible by Roam Public Transit and/or private shuttle service. Parking at trailheads is limited and fills quickly. For the best experience, take public transit or a shuttle. Find out more at

parks.canada.ca/banff-transit or at a Parks Canada visitor centre.



Easy Trails

1 Fenland Trail

2.1 km loop

No elevation gain; 40 minute round trip Trailhead: Fenland Trail parking area, west of **Mount Norquay Road**

On foot: Trailhead is a 20 minute/1.5 km walk from downtown Banff

Learn about the local ecosystem on this self-guided interpretive trail through old-growth spruce. This short loop is a pleasant escape from the bustle of town.

(2) Marsh Loop

2.6 km loop Minimal elevation gain; 1 hour round trip Trailhead: Cave and Basin National Historic Site On foot: Trailhead is a 30 minute/2 km walk from downtown Banff



This trail encircles a wetland filled from hot springs flowing out of the lower slopes of Sulphur Mountain. Due to heavy horse use, the Marsh Loop tends to be muddy after rain.



3a Sundance Canyon

3a) 3.7 km one way Elevation gain 75 m, elevation loss 60 m 2 hour round trip

3a + 3b) 3.7 km one way plus 1.6 km moderate loop Elevation gain 155 m, elevation loss 60 m 3 hour round trip

Trailhead: Cave and Basin National Historic Site On foot: Trailhead is a 30 minute/2 km walk from downtown Banff



Roam Route 4

Follow the paved trail beyond the Cave and Basin National Historic Site. Within a few minutes, views open up to a mountain panorama across the Bow River. After a gentle yet steady climb away from the river, the paved section ends and a moderately difficult trail loops through a water-filled canyon.



(4a) (4b) Spray River East and West

4a) 5.7 km one way from Spray River East trailhead (Golf Course Road) to Spray River bridge Elevation gain 135 m, elevation loss 80 m

4b) 5.6 km one way from Spray River bridge to Spray River West trailhead

Elevation gain 70 m, elevation loss 105 m 3 to 4 hour round trip

Trailhead: Spray River East trailhead on the Golf Course On foot: Trailhead is a 30 minute/2.2 km walk from

downtown Banff

Often done as a loop, these two lengthy but relatively easy forested trails are popular with hikers, cyclists and horseback riders. They traverse rolling terrain along either side of the Spray River. A short walk around the Fairmont Banff Springs links the east and west trailheads via a small scenic bridge.



5 Tunnel Campground Loop

6.4 km loop

Elevation gain 70 m; 1.5 hour round trip Trailhead: Start at the Hidden Ridge Resort Roam Transit

On foot: Trailhead is a 35 minute/2.5 km walk from downtown Banff



This lightly forested trail can be joined at any number of points from within the campground. There is no designated parking lot—walk or take Roam Public Transit from downtown to access this trail.



Minimal elevation gain; 1 hour round trip Trailhead: Lake Minnewanka Day-use Area



From the day-use area, this low elevation trail follows the Lake Minnewanka reservoir shoreline to a bridge spanning the walls of Stewart Canyon.



2.8 km loop Minimal elevation gain; 1 hour round trip

Trailhead: Johnson Lake Day-use Area



This circuit around the lake crosses open slopes, passes some of Alberta's oldest Douglas fir trees, and detours around a shallow bay where waterfowl often rest. This hike offers views of Cascade Mountain and Mount Rundle.



10 km of trails Elevation gain 200 m

4 to 5 hour round trip Trailhead: Sunshine Village, accessible by a fee-based gondola from the Sunshine Village parking area from early July to early September

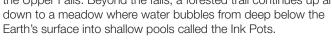


and descends to a viewpoint at Rock Isle Lake. From there, you can hike the slightly more challenging Grizzly-Larix Lakes Loop, continue on the Twin Cairns-Meadow Park Trail or hike up to Standish viewpoint. Detailed trail maps are available through Sunshine Village.



9a) 1.2 km one way to the Lower Falls Elevation gain 50 m; 1 hour round trip 9a + 9b) 2.5 km one way to the Upper Falls Elevation gain 120 m; 2 hour round trip Elevation gain 330 m, elevation loss 140 m 4 hour round trip

Trailhead: Johnston Canyon Day-use Area





Elevation gain 90 m; 40 minute round trip Trailhead: Rockbound Lake parking area

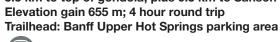
This hike branches off the Rockbound Lake Trail at the 0.3 km mark. It ends on an exposed hillside at the base of a waterfall that cascades over a series of narrow ledges.



This gradual and easy ascent leads hikers through a picturesque forest to a large alpine lake surrounded by mountains.



12 Sulphur Mountain



Switchbacks on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain provide a steady uphill hike to a summit renowned for its expansive mountain views. At the top, enjoy the 0.5 km boardwalk along the ridge ending at Sanson Peak. Here, you will find the Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site and the 1903 weather observatory. From the boardwalk, return on the same trail to the parking lot. Alternatively, take the old fire road known as the Sulphur Mountain Westside Trail (5.4 km) to Sundance Trail, ending at the Cave and Basin National Historic Site (2.6 km). Please note that if you choose to go down to the westside trail, you will need to find your own transportation back to the Sulphur Mountain trailhead.







2.4 km one way

Elevation gain 260 m; 2 hour round trip Trailhead: Lower parking area on St. Julien Road On foot: Trailhead is a 15 minute/1 km walk from

downtown Banff

Accessible from downtown Banff, this trail switchbacks to a low summit with sweeping views across the town, Bow Valley and Mount Rundle rising dramatically to the south.

14 Surprise Corner to Hoodoos

4.8 km one way Elevation gain 115 m; elevation loss 90 m 3 hour round trip

Trailhead: Surprise Corner, east end of Buffalo Street On foot: Trailhead is a 20 minute/1.6 km walk from downtown Banff

This pleasant trail passes below the steep cliffs of Tunnel Mountain and meanders along the Bow River. Be aware of the many branching trails that form part of the Tunnel Mountain biking trails network. Always stay on the most southeast trail. As the final section of trail ascends, views open up across the Bow Valley to Mount Rundle. In summer, Roam Public Transit route 2 provides an easy option for returning to town from nearby Tunnel Mountain campground.



2.1 km one way Elevation gain 190 m; 1.5 hour round trip Trailhead: Kiosk at the south end of Mount Norquay parking area



Climb through the forest to enjoy views of Cascade Mountain and the Bow Valley from Stoney Lookout. Along the way, the trail passes through a forest of trees covered in wispy lichen.

16 Cascade Amphitheatre

7.7 km one way Elevation gain 640 m, elevation loss 150 m 6 hour round trip

Trailhead: Kiosk at the south end of Mount Norquay parking area

Norquay Shuttle

From the ski-area lodge, walk the gravel road all the way to the third chairlift (Mystic Express) where the single track trail starts. Allow a full day for a return trip through the forest, opening to a meadow surrounded by a natural amphitheatre. From the maintained trail, experienced scramblers with proper equipment can attempt the summit of Cascade Mountain. Get route finding information in the Scrambler's Guide to Cascade Mountain available at parks.canada.ca/banff-brochures or a Parks Canada visitor centre.

17 C-Level Cirque

3.9 km one way Elevation gain 455 m; 3 hour round trip

Trailhead: Upper Bankhead Day-use Area Hike past the historic foundations and vents from the abandoned Bankhead mining operation on your way to a massive glacially-

carved cirgue on the cool northern face of Cascade Mountain.





Elevation gain 655 m; 6 to 7 hour round trip Trailhead: Sunshine Village parking area behind the main gondola building



This trail follows Healy Creek to its source amid open meadows

19a) 7.5 km one way

above the treeline. Wildflowers bloom profusely from mid-July to late August, and scattered alpine larches turn a magnificent golden yellow in late September.

Elevation gain 725 m; 6 hour round trip 19a + 19b) 9.7 km one way Elevation gain 1020 m; 6 to 7 hour round trip

streams lead to Bourgeau Lake which is enclosed in a glaciallycarved amphitheatre. From the lake, a 2.2 km more difficult trail continues upward to Harvey Pass where exceptional views extend to peaks along the Continental Divide.



8.4 km one way Elevation gain 760 m; 6 to 7 hour round trip Trailhead: Rockbound Lake parking area



21 Castle Lookout

3.7 km one way Elevation gain 550 m; 3 hour round trip Trailhead: Castle Lookout parking area

In the mid-20th century, numerous fire towers were erected around Banff National Park where spotters could detect flames from afar. This trail ends where a tower once stood. From here, enjoy the sweeping views of the Bow Valley.

Vista Lake / Arnica Lake / Twin Lakes

Elevation loss 120 m; 1.5 hour round trip

22a) 1.4 km one way

22a + 22b) 5 km one way Elevation gain 580 m, elevation loss 120 m 5 hour round trip 22a + 22b + 22c) 8 km one way

Elevation gain 715 m, elevation loss 315 m 6 to 7 hour round trip Trailhead: Vista Lake viewpoint on Highway 93 South, on the east side of the road. Parking on the highway is illegal.

Lose elevation to Vista Lake before you gain it en route to Arnica Lake; the views and variety make this destination worth the ups and downs. Hike under a canopy of larch trees and through a mosaic of wildflowers while the Continental Divide guides you to Arnica and Twin lakes.

23 Stanley Glacier

4.2 km one way Elevation gain 365 m; 3 hour round trip Trailhead: Stanley Glacier parking area in Kootenay

Difficult Trails

National Park. Parking on the highway is illegal. This popular trail climbs a regenerating forest of lodgepole pines, willows and wildflowers before it opens up to clear views of



6 + 24a + 24b) 11.8 km one way Elevation gain 560 m; 7 to 8 hour round trip 6 + 24a + 24c) 13.5 km one way

Roam Route 6 From the day-use area, follow the Lake Minnewanka reservoir shoreline for 7.8 km to the Aylmer Pass junction, then embark on a steady 2.3 km climb to a second junction. At this intersection,

Trailhead: Lake Minnewanka Day-use Area

of wildflowers and views of the slate-grey Palliser Range. Bear warnings, restrictions and closures are common throughout summer. Visit parks.canada.ca/banfftrails to get current trail information.

one way). Aylmer Lookout Trail climbs to a decommissioned

(25) Cory Pass Loop 13 km loop

Elevation gain 915 m; 6 hour round trip Trailhead: Fireside Day-use Area

monolith, is worth the strenuous uphill trek to Cory Pass. Rather than returning via the same route, energetic hikers have the option of descending into the Gargoyle Valley before returning to the trailhead via Edith Pass. Route finding can be challenging beyond Cory Pass.

The unobstructed view of Mount Louis, an imposing limestone

Wildlife and People



areas of the park, including paved trails and roads.

Visit parks.canada.ca/bearspray for more information. Bear spray is available at the Banff Visitor Centre, 224 Banff Avenue, and retail outlets in the town of Banff.

corners. Travel in tight groups and always be aware of your surroundings. Report bear, cougar, wolf and coyote sightings and encounters to Banff Dispatch when it is safe to do

more about keeping yourself safe.

Human Food Kills Wildlife

Wildlife come in all sizes: squirrels, chipmunks and birds, need to find their own natural food sources, not yours.





Pack out what you pack in. Use the wildlife-proof garbage bins at the start of the trail to dispose of all unwanted

More **Information**

Banff Visitor Centres: 224 Banff Avenue and 327 Railway Avenue

parks.canada.ca/banfftrails

satellite phone: 403-762-4506. Cell phone coverage is not

Catalogue No: R64-422/2022E

Dogs We recommend leaving your dog at home if you plan to camp, hike or go into the backcountry. Dogs cause stress for wildlife as they may be seen as a threat.

They can trigger aggressive behaviour from wildlife

situations for yourself, your dog, wildlife and other

such as grizzly bears and elk. To prevent unsafe

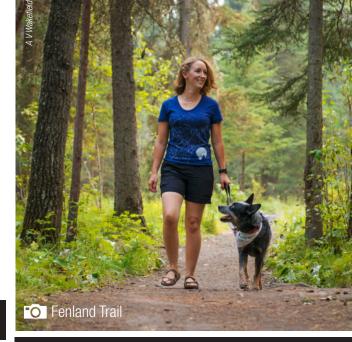


people, it is your responsibility to:



Pick up and dispose of your pet's waste in wildlife-proof garbage bins.

parks.canada.ca/banfftrails



Show courtesy to fellow trail users:

cultural resources such as rocks, fossils, artifacts, horns, antlers, wildflowers and nests are protected and must be left undisturbed for others to discover

100 m from any water source. Bury solid human

- waste in a hole 15 cm deep. Pack out your toilet paper.
- Trails are used by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. Be sure to yield to others.

403-762-1470

Banff Visitor Centre, 224 Banff Avenue, and retail outlets in the town of Banff.

reliable throughout the national park.

Également offert en français

Mountain Safety: parksmountainsafety.ca

> weather.gc.ca Banff Dispatch:

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8 Sunshine Meadows

Sunshine Shuttle

The most popular trail in this network crests the Continental Divide

(9a) (9b) | 9c | Johnston Canyon / Ink Pots

9a + 9b + 9c) 5.7 km one way to the Ink Pots

Roam Route 9 This busy trail takes you into the depths of the canyon on wide paths and narrow bridges with railings that lead to the Lower Falls and to the spectacular 30 metre-high Upper Falls. For a unique perspective, continue 265 m further to the viewpoint at the top of the Upper Falls. Beyond the falls, a forested trail continues up and

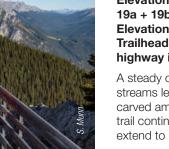
11) Boom Lake

Elevation gain 175 m; 3 to 4 hour round trip Trailhead: Boom Lake Day-use Area

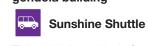
Moderate **Trails**

5.5 km to top of gondola, plus 0.5 km to Sanson Peak Roam Route 1

Sulphur Mountain



18 Healy Pass 8.8 km one way

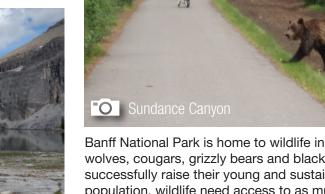


19a Bourgeau Lake / Harvey Pass

Trailhead: Bourgeau Lake parking area. Parking on the nighway is illegal. A steady climb through lush forest and across mountain

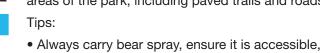
A long steady climb through a mixed forest leads behind the distinctive cliffs of Castle Mountain to open meadows and flower-fringed Tower Lake, 7.5 km from the trailhead. The trail

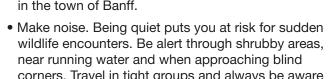




and know how to use it.

Banff National Park is home to wildlife including elk, wolves, cougars, grizzly bears and black bears. To successfully raise their young and sustain a healthy population, wildlife need access to as much quality nabitat with as few human surprises as possible. Be aware of possible encounters with wildlife in all





so: 403-762-1470. Visit parks.canada.ca/banff-wildlifesafety to learn

as well as larger animals such as bears and elk. Wildlife







food and garbage. Otherwise, be prepared to pack it out.

Give Wildlife Space

people. Give them lots of space:



If you approach wildlife, you put yourself in danger.

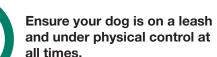
You may also cause animals to lose their natural fear of

Drones **Disturb** Wildlife



wildlife. Leave your drone at home or in your vehicle. **If you witness the** use of a drone in Banff National Park, please report the incident to Banff Dispatch: 403-762-1470.







Dogs are not allowed on some trails:



- If you are too far away to use the toilets provided at the trailheads, dispose of human waste at least
- To prevent damage to vegetation, stay on designated trails at all times.

Leave no trace. Pack out everything you pack in.

403-762-1550 / parks.canada.ca/banff

Trail Conditions Report:

Environment Canada Weather Forecast: 403-762-2088

Guidebooks and topographic maps

In case of EMERGENCY, call 911 or

Drones/UAVs are prohibited in all national parks as they disturb

- 30 m/100' -

Trail **Etiquette** • Leave what you find—it is the law. Natural and

