Banff
National Park

Visitor guide

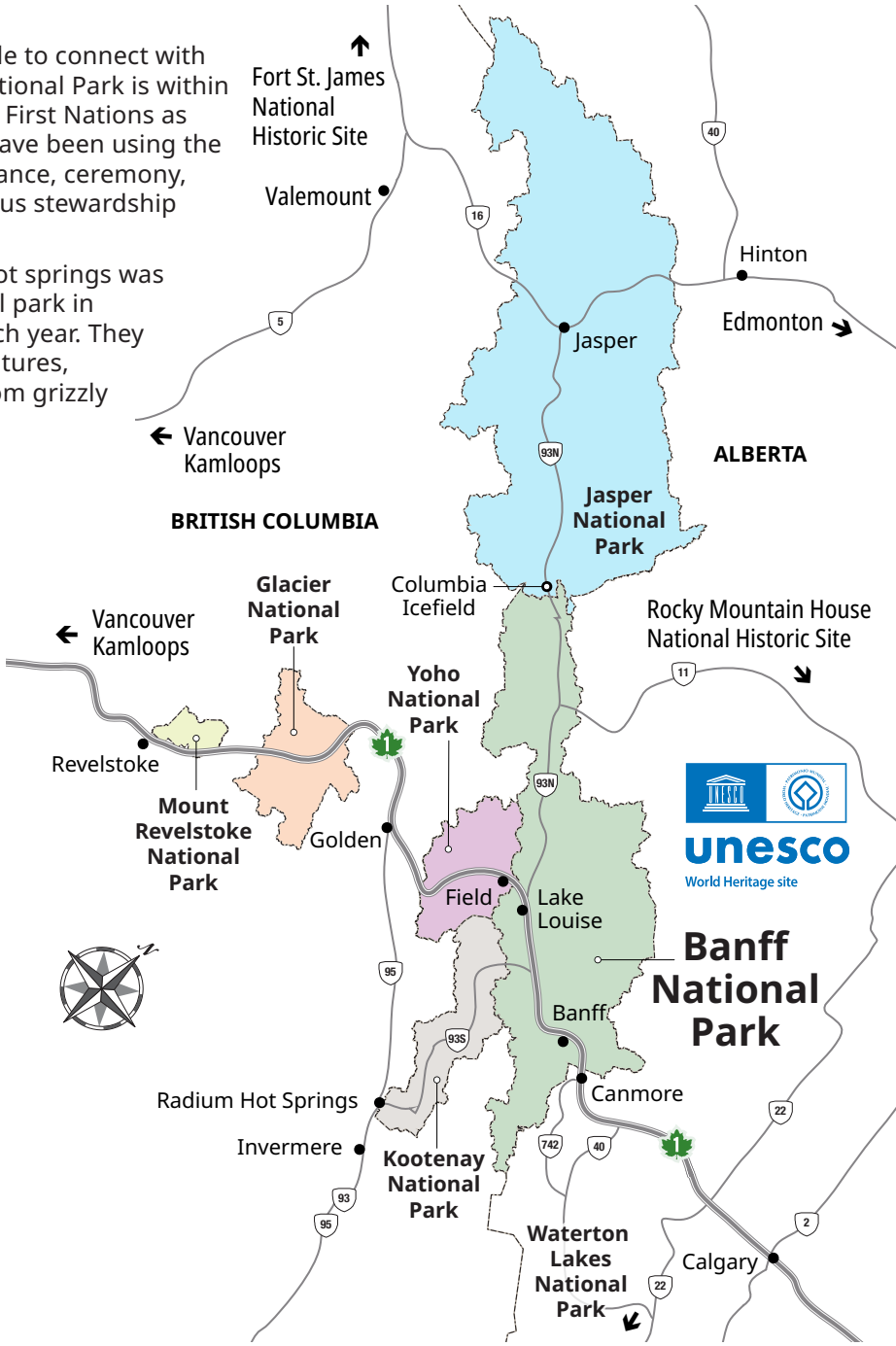
First national park in Canada

Banff National Park is an important place for people to connect with history and nature. We acknowledge that Banff National Park is within the present-day territories of the Treaty 6, 7, and 8 First Nations as well as the Métis Homeland. Indigenous Peoples have been using the lands and waters of Banff for millennia; for sustenance, ceremony, trade and travel. We thank them for their continuous stewardship and for sharing the land with us.

In 1885, a small area around the Cave and Basin hot springs was protected and became the core of the first national park in Canada. Today, millions of people visit the park each year. They come to experience natural beauty, outdoor adventures, seven national historic sites and iconic wildlife - from grizzly bears to Banff springs snails.

See for yourself! Banff National Park offers mountains of possibilities.

A valid national park entry pass is required when visiting the mountain national parks:
parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass



Find us

Banff Visitor Centre
224 Banff Avenue
403-762-1550 | **banffinfo@pc.gc.ca**

Lake Louise Visitor Centre
201 Village Road, next to Samson Mall
403-522-3833 | **ll.info@pc.gc.ca**

parks.canada.ca/banff

Hours of operations:
parks.canada.ca/banff-hours

Camping reservations
1-877-737-3783
reservation.pc.gc.ca

Public transit and shuttle information
parks.canada.ca/banff-transit

Parks Canada shuttle reservations
1-877-737-3783
reservation.pc.gc.ca

Également offert en français

Stay safe and enjoy the park!

You are required by law to follow national park regulations. Thank you for helping protect people, cultural artifacts and structures, landscapes and wildlife.

Purchase a national park entry pass.

All visitors to Banff National Park must have a valid pass. Passes are available for purchase at park gates, visitor centres, campgrounds, partner locations and **parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass**. Provincial park passes are not valid in national parks.

Camp only in a designated campground and campsite.

A valid camping permit and national park entry pass are required. It is illegal to sleep in your vehicle or RV on the roadside, or at pull-outs, or pitch a tent in an area that is not a campground.

Keep your pets on a leash and under physical control at all times.

Collect and discard their waste in wildlife-proof garbage bins.
Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-trails** to know trails and areas where dogs are not allowed.

Do not litter. Pack out or dispose of all garbage, recycling, and food waste (even organic waste, like banana peels and apple cores) in a wildlife-proof garbage bin. Never leave these items on the ground, in a fire pit or in the bed of your truck. If you see garbage left outside in the town of Banff, call 403-762-1218 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 7 days a week). For garbage left outside at other locations in Banff National Park, call Banff Dispatch, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 403-762-1470.

Take only photographs.

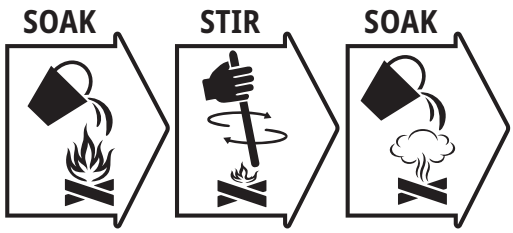
It is illegal to pick flowers and mushrooms, cut down trees and branches, remove rocks, collect or disturb cultural artifacts or otherwise cause damage to natural objects, historic structures or living things.

Stay out of closed areas.

Area closures or activity restrictions protect ecologically sensitive areas, important habitat, and locations where the potential for conflict between humans and wildlife is high.
Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins** for a list of closures, warnings and restrictions.

Be fire safe.

Fires are permitted in designated metal fire rings and picnic shelter stoves provided by Parks Canada. Never leave fires unattended, and extinguish them completely using the soak, stir, soak method. Do not take any wood from the forest, only use firewood purchased in Banff National Park. Never burn food or garbage.
Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-fire-info** for wildfire and fire ban information.



Soak, stir, soak again until fire is completely out.

Buy a national park fishing permit.

Anglers require a national park fishing permit. Provincial fishing licences are not valid in national parks.
Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-fishing** for more information and regulations.

Follow water activity regulations.

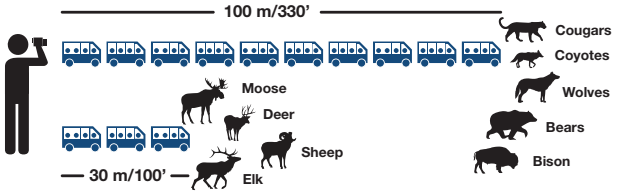
Motorized watercraft require a Parks Canada inspection before launching in Lake Minnewanka reservoir only. Non-motorized watercraft, angling equipment and other gear require a self-certification permit where use is allowed. **Clean, drain, dry** all watercraft, angling equipment, and water-related gear before entering a new waterbody. Water activities are prohibited in certain lakes and rivers.
Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-clean-drain-dry** for more information.

Obey traffic regulations.

Follow speed limits. Motorized off-road travel is prohibited. Park in designated areas only.
If you see wildlife while driving, slow down and stay in your vehicle.
Only pull over where safe to do so. Do not block the driving lane.

Give wildlife space.

When exploring by foot, bike or vehicle, give them space.



Small animals like rodents and birds need space too! If you make them move, you are too close.

Report wildlife sightings.

Please report bear, cougar, wolf and coyote sightings, or any injured wildlife, to Banff Dispatch: 403-762-1470.

The *Canada National Parks Act*

Park Wardens are responsible for enforcing park regulations as required by the *Canada National Parks Act:* **parks.canada.ca/banffregulations**. To report park violations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, call 403-762-1470.

Violators will be charged, be required to appear in court, and could pay fines up to $25 000.

Do not feed, entice or disturb any wildlife in a national park.

It is illegal. This includes littering and leaving food or scented items unattended. These items MUST be stored away in a vehicle, a hard-sided trailer or RV, or in a food locker.

Parks Canada staff are checking for unattended wildlife attractants. Attractants found in plain view will be removed and safely secured to reduce the risks to you and to wildlife.

Leave your drones at home or in your vehicle.

Recreational use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is prohibited in all national parks and national historic sites.

Leave firearms at home.

Firearms are prohibited in national parks. Firearms include pellet guns, bear bangers, bows, slingshots and similar items.

Safety in the mountain parks

Your safety is your responsibility. There are always hazards associated with outdoor recreation. Plan and prepare, choose activities within your abilities, and stay alert to changing conditions.

Mountain safety

Be well informed and prepared. Consult these resources to help make your visit safe:

Weather forecast
weather.gc.ca

Road conditions
Alberta
511.alberta.ca
511 or 1-855-391-9743

British Columbia
drivebc.ca
1-800-550-4997

Traffic regulations and driving safety tips
parks.canada.ca/banff-driving

Trail conditions
parks.canada.ca/banff-trails

Wildlife and you
parks.canada.ca/wildliferules

Closures and warnings
parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins

Avalanche information
avalanche.ca

Additional mountain safety information
parksmountainsafety.ca

In case of emergency, call 911 or satellite phone: 403-762-4506.

Cell phone coverage is not reliable in many areas of the park and there is no cell coverage along the Icefields Parkway. Before heading out, let someone know your plans including your route, trailhead, vehicle description, when you are leaving and when you expect to return.

facebook.com/BanffNP

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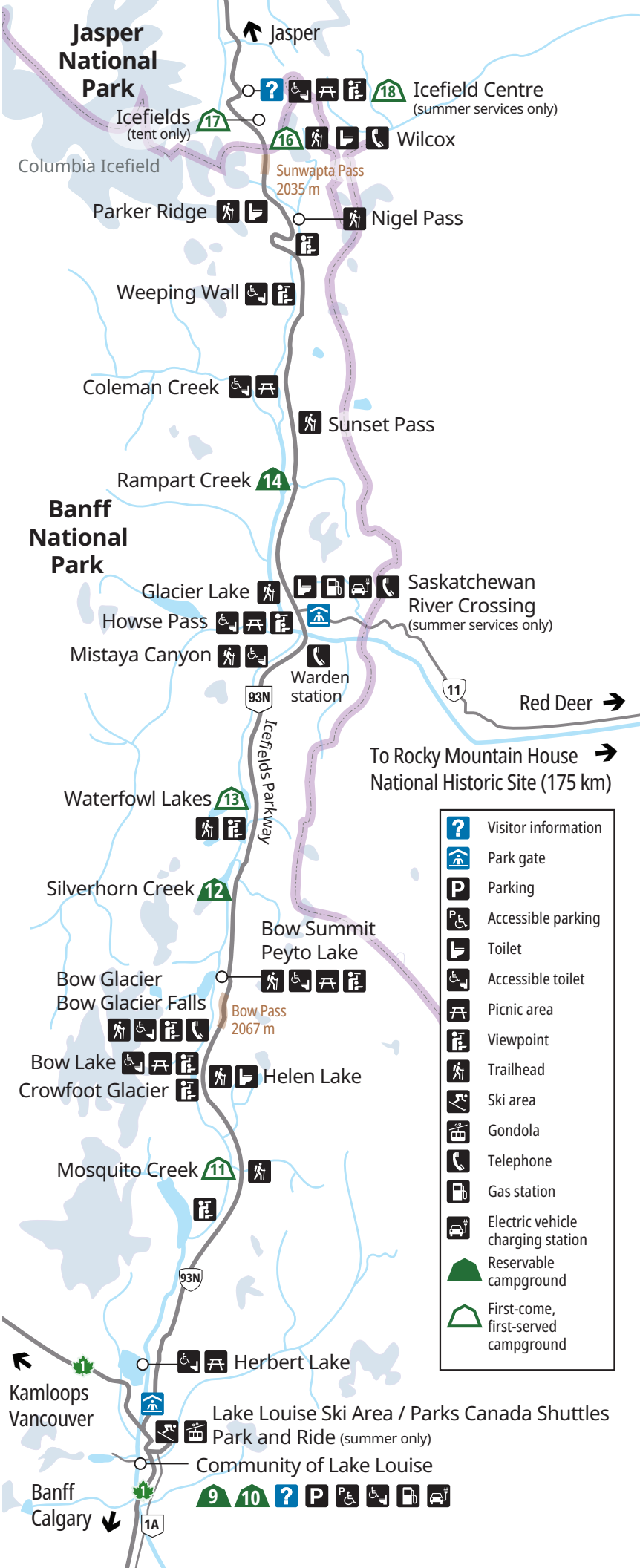

Visiting Lake Louise and Moraine Lake

- Parks Canada shuttles operate from mid-May to mid-October. Reservations are required. Visit **reservation.pc.gc.ca** and select Day Use.
- Shuttle tickets provide access to both Moraine Lake and Lake Louise in the same day.
- Shuttles depart from the Park and Ride at the Lake Louise Ski Area.

Visit **parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit** for more information.
Visit **carfreebanff.ca** for additional transit options.

Columbia Icefield (see Icefields Parkway inset)
Jasper
Trans-Canada Highway
Field
Golden
Vancouver
Icefields Parkway
Yoho National Park
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
93N
Niblock Gate
Whitehorn Mountain 2 637 m
Community of Lake Louise
Bow River
Mount Whyte 2 983 m
Lake Agnes Trail
Plain of Six Glaciers Trail
Lake Louise
Fish Creek
Lake Louise Park and Ride
Parks Canada shuttles
Lake Louise Ski Area
Mount Victoria 3 464 m
Lake Louise Lakeshore
Mandatory paid parking from mid-May to mid-October.
1A
Paradise Valley Trail
Corral Creek
Mount Lefroy 3 423 m
Moraine Lake Road is closed to personal vehicles year-round.
Morant's Curve
Mount Temple 3 543 m
Sentinel Pass Trail
Larch Valley Trail
Moraine Lake Road
Moraine Creek
Bow Valley Parkway
Baker Creek
Banff National Park
Eiffel Lake Trail
Moraine Lake
Moraine Lake Lakeshore Trail
Consolation Lakes Trail
Consolation Lakes
Baker Creek
Trans-Canada Highway
Taylor Lake
Taylor Lake Trail
Taylor Creek
Mount Bell 2 910 m
Taylor Lake
Castle Mountain 2 766 m
Boom Lake
Boom Lake Trail
Castle Lookout Trail
Rockbound Lake
Castle Lookout
Storm Mountain
Boom Lake
Banff-Windermere Highway
93S
Vista Lake
Rockbound Lake Trail
Rockbound Lake
Continental Divide
Radium Hot Springs
Arnica Lake Trail
Castle Junction
Johnston Creek
Kootenay National Park
Storm Mountain 3 100 m
Twin Lakes
Moose Meadows/ Johnston Creek
Johnston Canyon Trail
Johnston Canyon
Wildlife Crossing Exhibit
Westbound access only
Redearth Creek Trail
Redearth Creek
Shadow Lake
Redearth
Sawback
Bow Valley Parkway
Mount Brett 2 984 m
Bourgeau
Muleshoe
Cory Pass Trail
Forty Mile Creek
Mount Norquay 2 522 m
Cascade Mountain 2 998 m
Lake Minnewanka
Lake Minnewanka Trail
Mount Norquay Ski Area
Cascade Ponds
Bourgeau Lake Trail
Bourgeau Lake
Fireside
Closed in winter
Two Jack Lake
Mount Bourgeau 2 930 m
Healy/ Brewster
Healy Creek Trail
Sundance Creek
Sunshine Village Access Road
Healy Creek
Healy Pass Trail
Sunshine Village Ski Area
Brewster Creek Trail
Brewster Creek
Town of Banff
Banff Park Museum National Historic Site
Johnson Lake
Johnson Lake Trail
Cave and Basin National Historic Site
Banff Upper Hot Springs
Seasonal mandatory paid parking.
Sulphur Mountain 2 451 m
Spray River West Trail
Spray River
Spray River East Trail
Banff Gondola
Seasonal mandatory paid parking.
Trans-Canada Highway
Mount Rundle 2 949 m
Banff East Gate
Canmore
Calgary

Parking lots fill quickly. Park only in designated lots, not along the road. Check parks.canada.ca/banffnow for real-time parking status or parks.canada.ca/banff-transit for transit and shuttle options.

Bow Valley Parkway
Private motor vehicle access may be restricted on portions of the Bow Valley Parkway to protect wildlife and/or offer a visitor experience. Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-bow-valley-parkway** for current information.

0 5 10
Kilometres

- Roam Public Transit — Schedules: **roamtransit.com**
- Parks Canada shuttle — **parks.canada.ca/lakelouise-transit**
- Visitor centre
- Gate/Kiosk
- Accessible parking
- RV parking
- Toilet
- Accessible toilet
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelter
- Viewpoint
- Exhibit
- Trailhead
- Hot springs
- Ski area
- Gondola
- Chairlift
- Boat launch
- Canoe docks
- Hospital
- Police
- Gas station
- Electric vehicle charging station
- Telephone
- Playground
- Skating rink
- Skate park
- Off-leash dog park

- Trans-Canada Highway
- Road
- Road closed in winter
- Travel restriction
- Railway
- Easy trail
- Moderate trail
- Difficult trail
- Town trail

Icefields Parkway

Columbia Icefield
Snow Dome 3 459 m
Icefield Centre
(summer services only)
Jasper National Park
Wilcox
Sunwapta Pass 2035 m
Mount Athabasca 3 493 m
Nigel Creek
Parker Ridge
Parker Ridge
Weeping Wall
Mount Saskatchewan 3 344 m
Coleman Creek
Alexandra River
Mount Coleman 3 135 m
Pinto Lake
Mount Amery 3 329 m
Banff National Park
Arctomys Creek
Wilson Icefield
Mount Erasmus 3 265 m
Mount Wilson 3 261 m
Glacier Lake
Glacier Lake Trail
Saskatchewan River Crossing
Howse Pass
(summer services only)
Mistaya Canyon
Mount Forbes 3 612 m
Mistaya Canyon
David Thompson Gate
North Saskatchewan River
Howse River
Mount Sarbach 3 127 m
Mistaya River
Warden station
Epaulette Mountain 3 095 m
Totem Tower 3 155 m
Red Deer
Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site
Mount Chephren 3 266 m
Chephren Lake
Waterfowl Lakes
Aries Peak 2 996 m
Cirque Lake
Mistaya Lake
Silverhorn Creek
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
Mount Patterson 3 197 m
Peyto Lake
Observation Peak 3 174 m
Peyto Lake
Bow Pass 2067 m
Cirque Peak 2 993 m
Bow Lake
Helen Lake
Helen Lake Trail
Crowfoot Glacier
Helen Lake
Dolomite Peak 2 782 m
Wapta Icefield
Crowfoot Mountain 3 050 m
Mosquito Creek
Mount Balfour 3 272 m
Bow Peak 2 868 m
Hector Lake
Waputik Icefield
Mount Daly 3 148 m
Bow River
Herbert Lake
Niblock Gate
Mount Victoria 3 459 m
Lake Louise
Community of Lake Louise (see main map)
Bow Valley Parkway

0 5 10
Kilometres

Icefields Parkway

- A valid national park entry pass is required.
- There is no cell coverage along the Icefields Parkway.
- Services and attractions are limited in the winter.
- Visit **parks.canada.ca/icefieldsparkway-banff** for important travel requirements and safety information.

M+S

Town of Banff

Vermilion Lakes Drive
Banff Fenlands Recreation Centre
Banff Train Station
Fenland Trail
Mount Norquay Road
Banff Legacy Trail
Tunnel Mountain Road
Tunnel Mountain Campground
Fenland Day-use Area
Railway
Elk
Bighorn
Squirrel
Marten
Moose
Cougar
Rabbit
Fox
Banff Avenue
Gopher
Police
Transit Hub
Wolf
Bear
Lynx
Caribou
Grizzly
St. Julien
Tunnel Mountain Drive
Tunnel Mountain Trail
Map not to scale
Sundance Park
Bow River
Beaver
Muskrat
Otter
Wolverine
Buffalo
Banff Park Museum National Historic Site
Marsh Trail
Buffalo Nations Museum
Cave Avenue
Cascades of Time Garden
Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity
Spray Avenue
Cave and Basin National Historic Site
Sundance Trail
Bow Falls
Surprise Corner
Mountain Avenue
Banff Upper Hot Springs / Banff Gondola
Surprise Corner to Hoodoos Trail

Tunnel Mountain Drive
Closed to vehicles from the first major snow fall to spring melt

This is not a suitable map to plan a hike. Proper trail maps and information are available at **parks.canada.ca/banff-brochures** or at a Parks Canada visitor centre. Check **parks.canada.ca/banff-trails** for restrictions, warnings and closures.

Reservable campground
1-877-737-3783
reservation.pc.gc.ca

First-come, first-served campground
parks.canada.ca/banff-camping

Visit **parks.canada.ca/banff-backcountry** for backcountry camping information.

1 Tunnel Mountain Village I	7 Castle Mountain	13 Waterfowl Lakes
2 Tunnel Mountain Village II	8 Protection Mountain	14 Rampart Creek
3 Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court	9 Lake Louise Tent	15 Marble Canyon
4 Two Jack Main	10 Lake Louise Trailer	16 Wilcox
5 Two Jack Lakeside	11 Mosquito Creek	17 Icefields (tents only)
6 Johnston Canyon	12 Silverhorn Creek	18 Icefields Centre RV