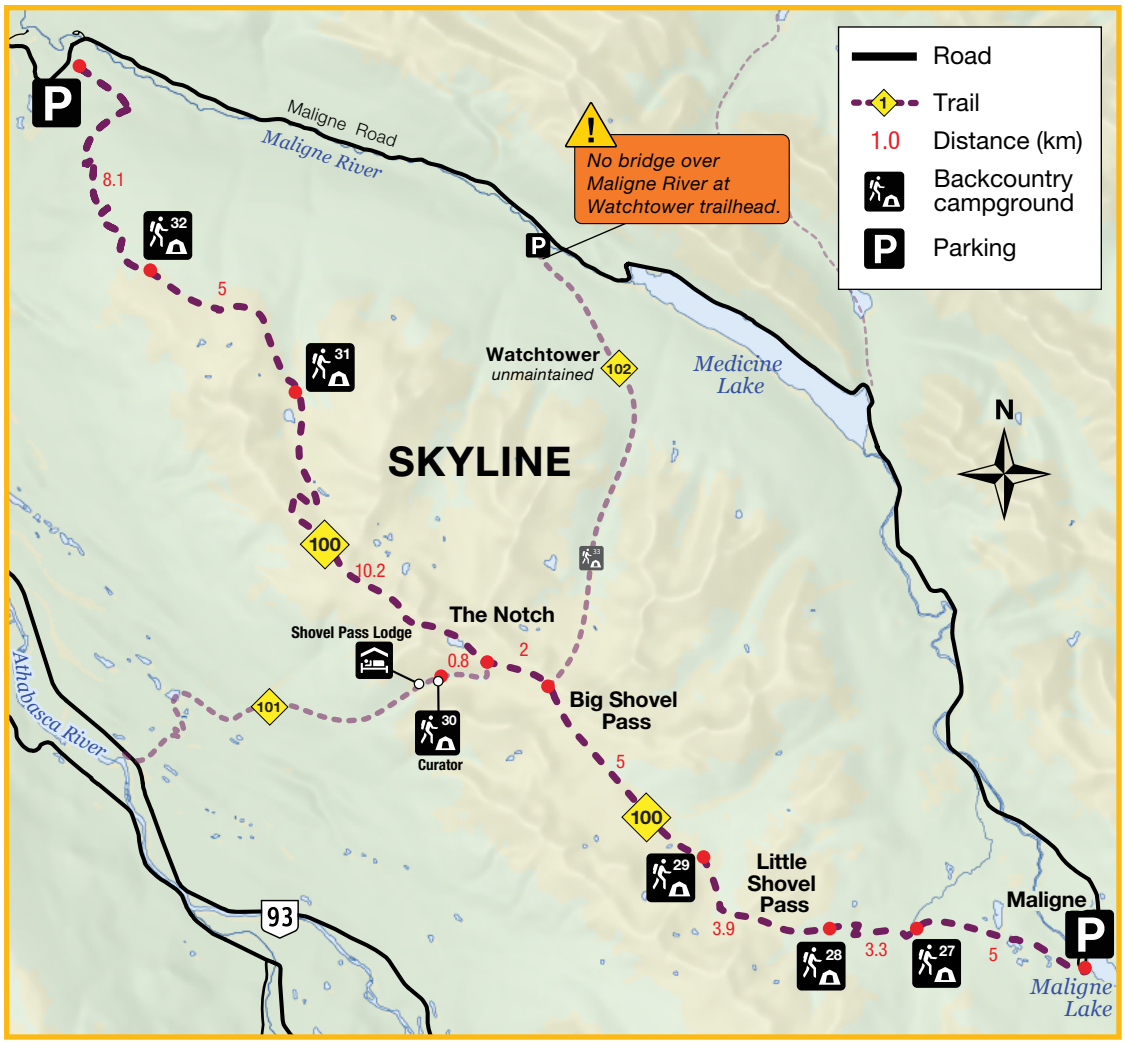
Jasper National Park

BACKCOUNTRY GUIDE

SKYLINE TRAIL

An exceptionally beautiful backpack on the highest trail in Jasper National Park.

- Maintained trail, high priority
- 44.1 km one way
- 100 — 2 – 3 days
- No dogs
- No bikes



Is this trail for you?

With almost 25 km of this trail hiked above treeline, the Skyline is Jasper's highest and possibly most scenic trail. The high elevation allows for amazing views that extend over much of the park, encompassing vast meadows and windswept ridges. Crossing three mountain passes, the Skyline Trail offers a variety of flora, fauna and scenery unique to Jasper National Park. The section of trail called "The Notch" can be impassable early in the season.

The details

The Skyline Trail is Jasper's most popular backcountry hiking trail and books up quickly. The most popular direction to hike the Skyline is from south (Maligne Lake) to north, since you lose more elevation that you gain. Most hikers travel the Skyline Trail in 2 – 3 days, though it's nice to have an extra day to explore the alpine areas along the way. Highlights include Little Shovel Pass at km 10.3, Big Shovel Pass at km 17.5, the high col named "The Notch" and the alpine ridge hiking beyond. Snow can persist late into the summer season on this high elevation trail.

During poor weather, the 15 km Wabasso Trail can be used as an escape route. It has a steep descent of 1100 m and ends on the Icefields Parkway 14 km south of Jasper.

- Fires are not permitted at any of the campgrounds.
- Dogs are not permitted on the Skyline Trail between Maligne Lake and the Signal trailhead.
- No bikes are permitted between Maligne Lake and Signal Fire Road.
- This trail can typically only be hiked between early July and early October. Snow can fall any time of the year
- The unmaintained Watchtower route intersects the Skyline Trail. There is no bridge across the Maligne River near the Watchtower trailhead. In high water, the river can be impassable.
- Some tentpads at Snowbowl and Tekarra campgrounds are recycled plastic lumber. While you cannot peg your tent onto these, there are 16 anchor points to use for securing your tent.

Safety is your responsibility.

Refer to the **Jasper National Park Backcountry Planning Guide**:

- Descriptions of trail types and campground facilities;
- Equipment checklists;
- Responsible camping;
- Safety information.

Before heading out, check trail, weather and road conditions: **parkscanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails**

MAPS

NTS:
Medicine Lake 83 C /13
Athabasca Falls 83C/12

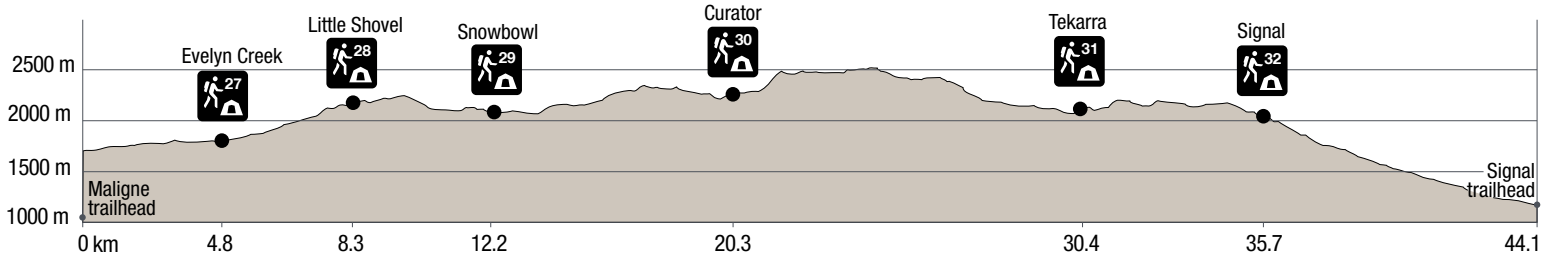
National Geographic:
Jasper South

Gem Trek:
Jasper and Maligne Lake

PERMIT

A backcountry camping permit is mandatory for all overnight trips and can be obtained online at **reservations.pc.gc.ca** or by calling 1-877-737-3783.

Elevation profile



Campground Information

	Campground	Elevation (m)	Description	# of sites	Toilet Type	Food Storage	UTM
27	**Evelyn Creek**	1824 m	A small, quiet campground by a creek, good for hikers getting a late start in the day.	4	Throne	Lockers	11U 452481-5843006
28	**Little Shovel**	2233 m	A campground with beautiful views over Maligne Lake and the Bald Hills, situated below Little Shovel Pass. This campground is great for campers who want to avoid the busier Snowbowl Campground.	8	Barrel	Lockers	11U 450945-5842879
29	**Snowbowl**	2094 m	Popular campground located in a spectacular meadow, sheltered by trees, with easy access to water. Some recycled plastic lumber tent pads. Use rope to secure your tent to the provided anchor points.	8	Barrel	Lockers	11U 447486-5844389
30	**Curator**	2070 m	Popular with hikers taking 2 days to hike the Skyline Trail. This campground is situated 0.8 km off trail and 1.2 km from spectacular Curator Lake.	8	Barrel	Lockers	11U 442160-5848882
31	**Tekarra**	2062 m	A beautiful campground with great views, located next to a fast moving creek. Some recycled plastic lumber tent pads. Use rope to secure your tent to the provided anchor points.	8	Barrel	Lockers	11U 437972-5855684
32	**Signal**	2014 m	A quiet campground at the top of the Signal Fire Road. There are great views over Jasper and surroundings from the hills above the campground.	4	Barrel	Lockers	11U 433941-5858434

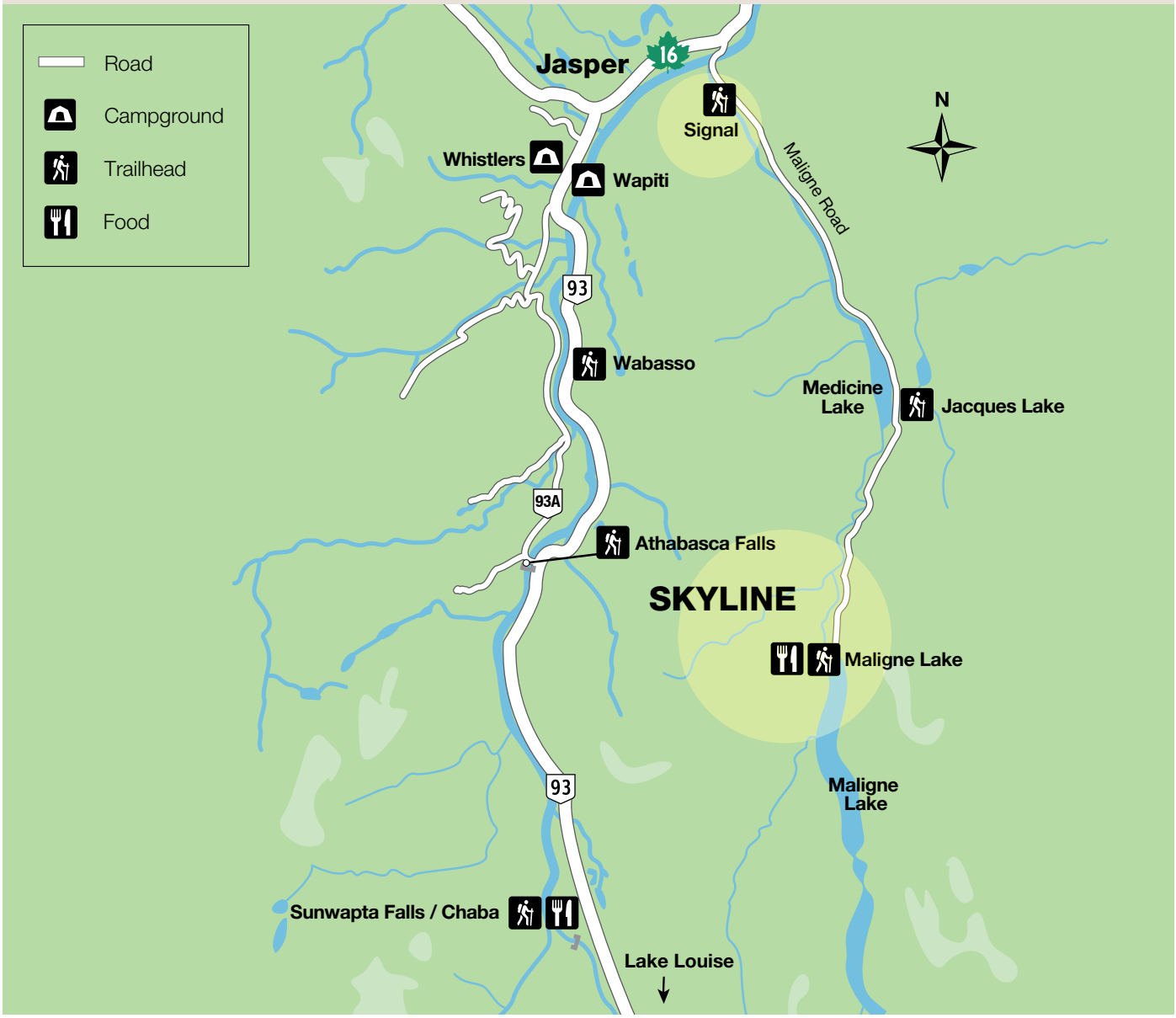
HOW TO GET THERE

Maligne Trailhead (south)

- Take Highway 16 east towards Edmonton. Turn right 2 km from Jasper and cross the bridge onto Maligne Road.
- Continue for 46 km south on the Maligne Road to Maligne Lake.
- Continue on the road past the chalet and across the bridge to the parking lot on the west side of the lake.
- The trailhead is on the right-hand side of the road, just before you reach the parking lot.

Signal trailhead (north)

- Drive 8 km south on the Maligne Lake Road (as above). The parking area is on the right. Overflow parking can be found in the Maligne Overlook parking lot, 500 m beyond.



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