



# TONQUIN VALLEY TRAIL

Breath-taking scenery with a dramatic mountain range and alpine backdrops

Maintained trail  
High priority

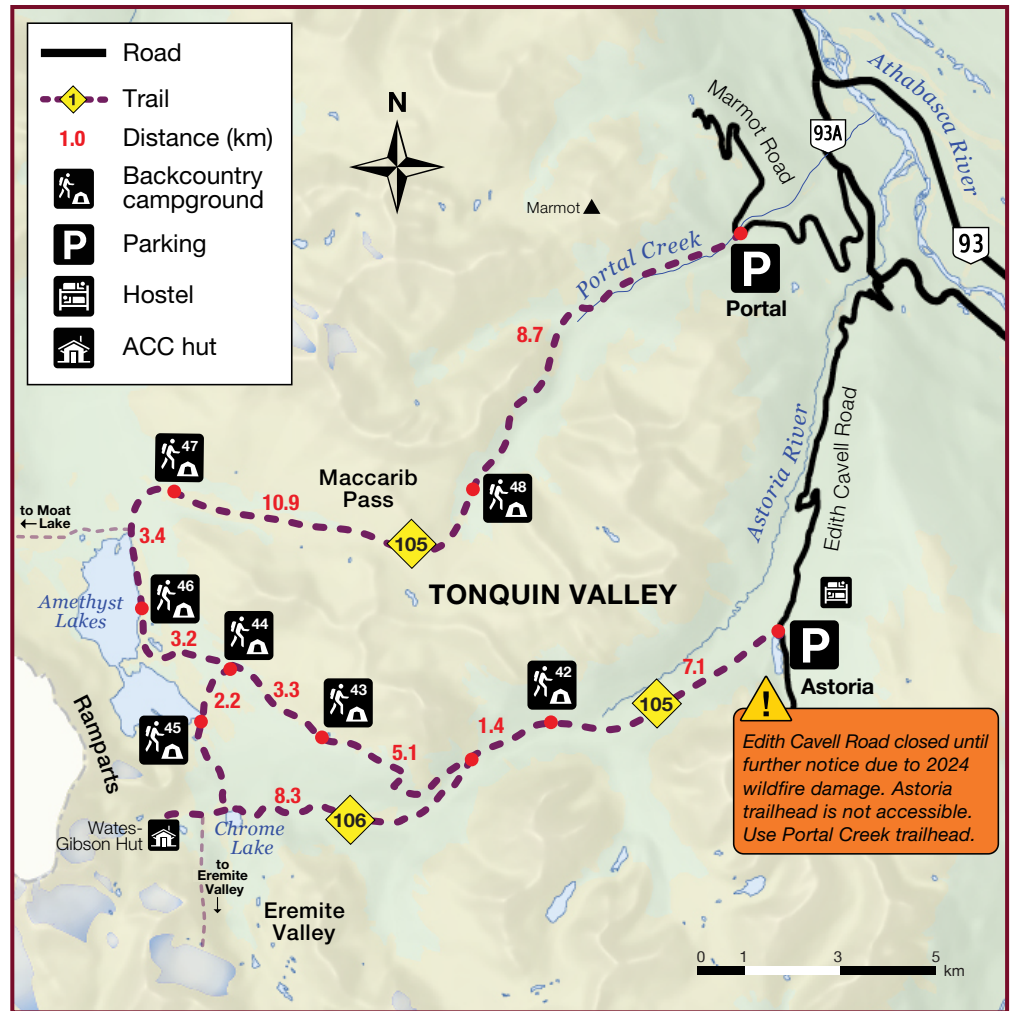
43.1 km one way

2 – 3 days

No dogs

No bikes

No fires



## Is this trail for you?

The Tonquin Valley is one of Canada's premiere backcountry destinations, with impressive peaks, glaciers and scenic lakes. It's also known for its variety of wildlife, which includes grizzly bears, black bears and caribou. The area has a reputation for muddiness and an abundance of mosquitoes. Late summer and fall are the best times to enjoy this trail. Seven campgrounds, and an Alpine Club of Canada hut can be booked ahead for accommodation.

## The details

The valley is popular for its stunning views of Amethyst Lake at the base of The Ramparts mountain range. The trail is horseshoe-shaped, with access to the valley from two trailheads. You may wish to arrange transportation so that you can hike in from one trailhead and out to the other. Travelling in from the Astoria trailhead has less elevation and quicker access to the campgrounds on the south end of Amethyst Lake. Starting from the Maccarib trailhead is generally considered more scenic. For hikers without transportation, the Astoria (#42) – Switchback (#43) – Clitheroe (#44) – Surprise Point (#45) and out via Chrome Lake loop is a good option, though not as well maintained. Day trips into the Eremite Valley and to Moat Lake are great for those with some extra time.



**An area closure is in effect for the Tonquin valley from November 1 through May 15 for caribou conservation.**

## Distance to Campgrounds

### From Cavell Road via Astoria River to:

- Astoria: 7.1 km
- Switchback: 13.6 km
- Clitheroe: 16.9 km
- Surprise Point: 19.1 km
- Amethyst: 20.1 km

### From Portal Creek via Maccarib Pass to:

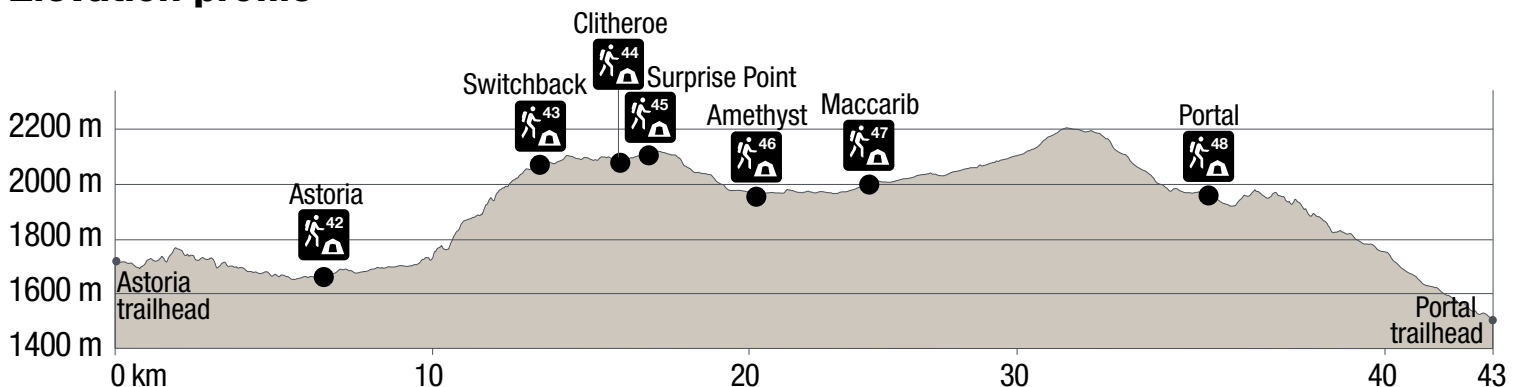
- Portal: 8.7 km
- Maccarib: 19.6 km
- Amethyst: 23 km

## Alpine Club of Canada Hut (ACC)

### Wates-Gibson Hut

- [alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/wates.html](http://alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/wates.html)
- 403-678-3200 | [info@alpineclubofcanada.ca](mailto:info@alpineclubofcanada.ca)

## Elevation profile



# ARE YOU PREPARED?

**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](http://parksCanada.gc.ca/jaspertrails)

## MAPS

**NTS:** Jasper 83D/16  
Amethyst Lakes 83D/9

**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](http://reservations.pc.gc.ca) or by calling 1-877-737-3783.

## Campground Information

Campground	Elevation (m)	Description	# of sites	Toilet Type	Food Storage	UTM
42 <b>Astoria</b> 	1690 m	This forested campground sits on a ridge high above the Astoria River.	4	Throne	Lockers	422681-5837524
43 <b>Switchback</b> 	2067 m	A somewhat forested campground, which still has great views of the surrounding mountains.	8	Throne	Lockers	418802-5837175
44 <b>Clitheroe</b> 	2080 m	This forested campground offers views of the Ramparts Mountain Range. It can be used as a base camp to explore the Eremite Valley.	8	Barrel	Lockers	416199-5838929
45 <b>Surprise Point</b> 	1978 m	This campground close to the base of the Ramparts Mountain Range has stunning views. It is also a great base for day hiking into the Eremite Valley.	4	Barrel	Lockers	415545-5837389
46 <b>Amethyst</b> 	1985 m	Located close to Amethyst Lake with spectacular views of the Ramparts Mountain Range, this is the most centrally located and most popular campground in the valley.	8	Barrel	Lockers	414457-5840086
47 <b>Maccarib</b> 	2012 m	This campground is perched nicely at treeline with great views of the Tonquin valley.	8	Barrel	Lockers	414561-5842975
48 <b>Portal</b> 	1979 m	A nice campground in an open forest next to a creek.	4	Barrel	Lockers	421730-5843293

# HOW TO GET THERE

## Directions to Portal trailhead

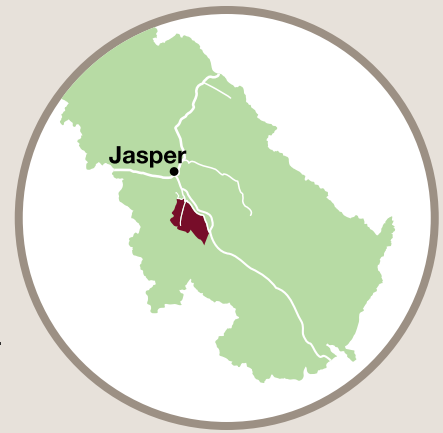
Portal Creek is on Marmot Road (16 km from Jasper). This trailhead is accessible year-round.

### From Jasper

- Take the Icefields Parkway towards Banff, and turn right immediately after the park gate onto Wabasso Road (Hwy 93A).
- Continue along 93A for 2.4 km, and turn right onto Marmot Road.
- The trailhead is on your left at km 12 of the road, marked by a hiker sign.

### From Banff and Lake Louise

- Follow the Icefields Parkway north towards Jasper.
- Turn left at the junction for Highway 93A / Athabasca Falls, 200 km north of Lake Louise.
- Continue along 93A for 21.5 km, and turn left onto Marmot Road.
- The trailhead is on your left at km 12 of the road, marked by a hiker sign.



## Astoria trailhead



*Edith Cavell Road closed until further notice due to 2024 wildfire damage. Astoria trailhead is not accessible. Use Portal Creek trailhead.*

