

# MALIGNE LAKE

Photo: R. Bray

## SEMI-PRIMITIVE

- 22-km paddle to the end of lake
- Elevation of lake: 1690 m
- Hidden Cove Campground: 4 km
- Fisherman's Bay Campground: 13 km
- Coronet Creek Campground: 22 km

## In summary

At 22 km long, Maligne Lake is the largest natural lake in the Canadian Rockies. Stunningly beautiful, this lake is famed for its surrounding peaks, glaciers and Spirit Island—one of the most photographed locations in the country.

## The details

Travelling by canoe or kayak to one of Maligne Lake's three backcountry campsites will let you experience peace and beauty. Because of potential high winds and sudden weather changes, it is always recommended to get an early start. Along the way, there are picnic sites at km 4.8 (Trapper Creek), km 5.2 (Four Mile Creek), km 10 (Samson) and km 17.7 (Spindly Creek), which are all good for taking breaks. At km 4, you'll pass Hidden Cove Campground. This small four-site campground is aimed at families and novice paddlers. At km 13, after Samson Narrows, you reach Fisherman's Bay Campground on the east side of the lake, tucked into a small cove. After leaving Fisherman's Bay, continue 2 km to famous Spirit Island, which is also the destination for the Maligne Lake tour boats.

Beyond Spirit Island you get to experience the true tranquility of Maligne Lake, beautiful glaciers, high peaks and a pristine wilderness setting. At the south end of the lake you will find Coronet Creek Campground (km 21.3). This is a wonderful place to do some angling, hiking or relaxing.



Fires are permitted from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Gas powered boats are prohibited, electric motors allowed.

## What you need to know

Maligne Lake is open to paddlers and electric motors only. Aside from the tour boats and Parks Canada's rescue boat, gas-powered motors are not allowed on the lake. The Maligne Lake campgrounds are very popular in the summer and should be booked well in advance. There is a 2-night maximum stay at each campground.

Maligne Lake is one of the coldest lakes in the Rockies. Travelling in poor weather on the lake is not recommended; the weather can change suddenly. It is highly recommended to paddle close to shore and always wear a life jacket. Be sure to give the tour boats operating on the lake space while paddling. The southern end of the lake is remote and patrolled only occasionally by Parks Canada. Do not count on a quick rescue if you get in trouble.

## SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

### OPTION 1 : ENTIRE LAKE

There are many ways to enjoy Maligne Lake. For paddlers who aren't as strong, the best option is to spend the first night at Fisherman's Bay (13 km) then head south down to the end of the lake (9 km) for two nights at Coronet Creek, and returning for a final night at Fisherman's Bay. Along the way, there are four picnic sites that offer a good opportunity for a lunch stop.

There is an unmaintained trail route that follows Coronet Creek to the base of the Coronet Glacier (8 km). This is a great day hike for those staying at the Coronet Creek Campground.

### OPTION 2 : FAMILY CAMPING

Tucked away along the shores of the iconic Maligne Lake, Hidden Cove Campground will appeal to families looking for a gentle "backcountry" paddling adventure. The campground was created with beginner canoesists and kayakers in mind. Aspiring paddlers follow a short, 3.5-km route along the shoreline, entirely in protected waters. It's perfect for family groups with children and seniors.

This is a paddle-in campground and is designed to provide an introductory paddle and camping learning opportunity. There is a beautiful shelter at the campground, complete with a picnic table and woodstove.

## Directions to trailhead

### From Jasper

From Jasper: take Highway 16 East towards Edmonton. Two kilometres from Jasper, turn right across the bridge onto Maligne Road. Continue for 46 km south on the Maligne Road to Maligne Lake. If you are renting a boat, park in the first parking lot on the east side of the lake, before the chalet. If you have your own boat, continue on the road past the chalet and across the bridge. You will find a boat launch in the parking lot on the west side of the lake.

## NOISE

No noise from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Quiet time is all the time.



Generators are prohibited.

## LENGTH OF STAY

Maximum 6 nights total, 2 nights maximum at each camp. You may not deviate from your registered itinerary.

## MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE

10 people, 5 sites. This is to minimize conflicts with other groups.

## WEATHER

- The lake is usually calm until 9 a.m. — get an early start!
- The wind changes direction and intensity very quickly.
- Sudden storms, cold temperatures and snow can be expected in summer.
- The water is a chilly 4°C.



## Paddling distances (in km)

	<b>Boat dock Home Bay</b>								
<b>Hidden Cove</b>	3.5	<b>Hidden Cove</b>							
<b>Trapper Creek</b>	4.3	0.8	<b>Trapper Creek</b>						
<b>Four Mile</b>	5.4	1.9	1.1	<b>Four Mile</b>					
<b>Samson Narrows</b>	12.3	8.8	8	6.9	<b>Samson Narrows</b>				
<b>Fisherman's Bay</b>	13	9.5	8.7	7.6	0.7	<b>Fisherman's Bay</b>			
<b>Spirit Island</b>	14	10.5	9.7	8.6	1.7	1	<b>Spirit Island</b>		
<b>Spindly Creek</b>	17.7	14.2	13.4	12.3	5.4	4.7	3.7	<b>Spindly Creek</b>	
<b>Coronet Creek</b>	21.3	17.8	17	15.9	9	8.3	7.3	3.6	<b>Coronet Creek</b>



## SAFETY

You are responsible for your own safety. Be prepared for extreme weather and mountainous terrain. Cell phone coverage is unavailable in most areas.

## TRAIL REPORT

Before leaving, check the Jasper National Park trail report for up-to-date conditions at [www.pc.gc.ca/JasperTrails](http://www.pc.gc.ca/JasperTrails).

## TRAIL INFORMATION

780-852-6177

[pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry)

## RESERVATIONS

1 877-737-3783

[pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry)

## EMERGENCY

call 780-852-3100

or 877-852-3100

## Campground information

CAMPGROUND	DESCRIPTION	# OF SITES	FIRE PIT	PICNIC TABLES	UTM
<b>Hidden Cove</b>	A small campground located in a sheltered cove, perfect for families and novice paddlers.	4	yes	yes	11U 458574- 5839444
<b>Fisherman's Bay</b>	Located in a small cove on the east side of the lake. It offers nice views and is a good base for fishing.	8	yes	yes	11U 465958- 5833854
<b>Coronet Creek</b>	Located at the southern end of Maligne Lake. The site offers peace and quiet, wonderful views of the Coronet Glacier, some nice day hiking and great fishing.	8	yes	yes	11U 471337- 5827442





Be aware of tour boats.

**Legend**

- Hikers only
- Hikers and horses only
- Hikers and cyclists only
- Old road - Hikers and horses only

- Parking
- Telephone
- Park office
- Boat launch
- Canoe camping
- Picnic site
- Restaurant
- Lookout
- Boat rental

- Secondary road
- Glacier, icefield
- Lake
- Wetland
- Stream, river
- Tele. summit
- Mountain summit

All trail distances in kilometres, all elevations in metres.

# LEAVE NO TRACE

Photo: Parks Canada/R. Gruys



## FOOD STORAGE

To reduce your campsite's attractiveness to bears, **all food, cooking equipment, garbage and toiletries** must be stored in the food lockers provided. **Please clean your locker and take everything with you before you leave.** Lockers are not cleaned by staff.



## HUMAN WASTE

Use the barrel toilets provided. When there are no facilities nearby, select a spot away from trails, campsites and at least 70 m from water sources. Dig a hole 12 to 16 cm into the dark-coloured, biologically active soil layer. Loosely fill the hole with soil afterward. Use as little toilet paper as possible.



## FISHING

A National Park Fishing Permit is required. All fish waste should be burned hot in the fire rings. This good bear safe practice will eliminate grease, odours and food attractants.



**How do I store my food?**  
The campgrounds are equipped with food lockers for food storage.



**Privy**  
There are barrel toilets at all campgrounds.



## GARBAGE

Please—pack it in and pack it out! You are responsible for everything you take into the backcountry and this includes garbage. Do not dispose of garbage in toilets—it may attract animals.



## CAMPING

Please camp only at the campsites indicated on your Backcountry Camping Permit and use the tent pads.



## WATER

Boil or treat all drinking water



## SHORTCUTTING TRAILS

Shortcutting between trail switchbacks damages both the soil and plant life. This not only ruins the look of an area, but makes it susceptible to further damage by erosion.



## WASHING

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 m away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain out those last bits of food waste and pack them out. Disperse strained water on land.



## CAMPFIRES

Use the metal fireboxes provided, keep your fire small and use only deadfall. Tend to your fire at all times and extinguish it completely before you move on. Gas stoves are cleaner and more efficient for cooking. We recommend you use one.

**No fires from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.**



## COLLECTING NATURAL OR CULTURAL OBJECTS

Rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests and all other natural or historical objects in a national park are protected by law. Leave them as you found them for others to enjoy.

# EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

## Have you got it?

This is a list of suggested equipment for Jasper's backcountry trails. Visit [www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry](http://www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry) for a comprehensive list. Mountain weather is unpredictable; be prepared for winter conditions at any time of the year. Snow may persist in high mountain regions into the summer and avalanche danger may occur in any season. This equipment list does not account for the special knowledge and equipment required to travel in avalanche terrain.

CLOTHING	SHELTER	OTHER ESSENTIALS	OPTIONAL
Long underwear	Tent with waterproof fly	Wilderness pass	Binoculars
Wool sweater, down vest, or fleece jacket	Food should include enough for an extra day	Bear spray and the knowledge to use it	Altimeter
Raingear - pants and jacket, gaiters	Water filter, purification tablets or extra fuel for boiling your water	Topographic map	Field guide(s)
Hat and gloves / mittens	Waterproof bag to store food at campgrounds	Compass	GPS
Boots with ankle support and good soles		Waterproof matches &/or lighter	SPOT™ Device or satellite phone
Sandals or runners for fording streams and at camp		Insect repellent	
Life jacket		Flashlight and extra batteries	
Extra warm clothes in waterproof bag		First Aid kit	
		Signaling device (whistle or mirror)	
		Toilet paper	
		Rope-approx. 8 m. A throw bag works well	
		Waterproof bags for all gear	

## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE



Photo: M. Gaboury

 [facebook.com/JasperNP](https://facebook.com/JasperNP)

 [twitter.com/JasperNP](https://twitter.com/JasperNP)

#jasperNP

## MAPS

NTS  
Athabasca Falls 83C/12  
Southesk Lake 83C/11

Gemtrek  
Jasper and Maligne Lake

National Geographic  
Jasper South

For more information on low impact travel in the backcountry contact:

[leavenotrace.ca](http://leavenotrace.ca)

1-877-238-9343



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Également offert en français

## Backcountry camping permits

**A backcountry camping permit is mandatory for all overnight trips. It can be obtained by visiting [pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry), calling 1-877-737-3783 or by visiting the Jasper Information Centre.**