Tangle the Icefields Summer on Également offert en français

Parker Ridge Trail P. Zizka
Wilcox Pass Athabasca Falls Bow Lake
Explore!

an ideal place for a picnic stop.

disappearing.
one toe has melted, and the middle toe is slowly
looked like a three-toed crowsfoot. Since then,
When this glacier was named a century ago, it
explored with a commercial guide or visited on

Athabasca glacier

CROWFOOT GLACIER

crevasses and other hazards can be deadly.

ATHABASCA GLACIER

Looking for a view from the edge?

Taking your time to experience the many
scenic stops, picnic spots, and hiking trails along the way.

What's a Glacier?

Glaciers form where more snow falls in winter than
melts each summer. As the snow gets thicker and heavier, it compacts into dense glacial ice that slowly flows downhill, like a river of taffy.

WHAT'S A GLACIER?

GLACIERS AND RIVERS

Water flows to three different oceans from this
area, known as a hydrological apex. On the British
 Columbia side, meltwater flows into the Columbia
River and the Pacific Ocean. On the Alberta side, the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca rivers feed into the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, respectively. These rivers provide fresh drinking water for
millions of people, and are crucial to agriculture and
countless ecosystems. That’s why their source is
protected in a national park.

About the Columbia Icefield

With a total area of 200 km², the Columbia
Icefield is the largest mass of glacial ice in
the Canadian Rockies. It feeds several large
glaciers, including the Athabasca, the Columbia,
and the Saskatchewan.

A t h a b a s c a Falls

A torrent of plunging water not far from the
highway. Athabasca Falls is just one of the many
waterfalls in Jasper created by hanging valleys.

ATHABASCA FALLS

MISTAYA CANYON

Enjoy a short downhill walk and peer down into
Mistaya Canyon from the bridge. Witness the
power of water sculpting the limestone gorge.

MISTAYA CANYON

BOW LAKE AND BOW GLACIER

Bowl Lake, the source of the Bow River, is one of
the more scenic and accessible lakes for fishing.

BOW LAKE AND BOW GLACIER

Wildlife

Wildlife sightings are one of many reasons the
Icefields Parkway is known as one of the
best drives in the world.

Bears, sheep, wolves, and even elusive
coyotes are often spotted on this route –
keep your eyes open and drive slowly,
especially with moose crossing and
wandering.

Never approach or feed wildlife.

Check out these roadside attractions:

ATHABASCA GLACIER

A magical area that can be seen from the road,
explored with a commercial guide or visited on
a special bus tour. Do not walk on the glacier;
crosswinds and other hazards can be deadly.

CROWFOOT GLACIER

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looked like a three-toed crowsfoot. Since then,
too toe has melted, and the middle toe is slowly
disappearing.

HERBERT LAKE

A lake many people’s favourites. The still waters
of Herbert Lake provide a perfect panoramic
reflection of the stunning Banff range peaks,
including Mount Temple. The picnic area provides
an ideal place for a picnic stop.

H I G H L I G H T S O F T H E I C E F I E L D S P A R K W A Y

Summer on the Icefields Parkway
Looking for adventure?

Step into the wild with one of these classic day hikes:

**VALLEY OF THE FIVE LAKES**

Five small, brilliantly blue-green lakes are the highlights of this outing, considered a local family favourite.
- 4.4 km loop; 480 m elevation gain/loss; 2 hours
- Trailhead: 5 km south from Jasper on Highway 93

**WILCOX PASS**

Rise quickly above treeline to the expansive meadows of this glacier-carved landscape.
- 1.9 km one-way; 160 m elevation gain/loss; 1 hour
- Trailhead: 9 km south from Jasper on Highway 93

**PARKER RIDGE**

After a series of switchbacks you’ll be rewarded with dramatic views of the Saskatchewan Glacier.
- 2.7 km one-way; 205 m elevation gain/loss; 1 hour
- Trailhead: 3 km south of Icefield Centre at Wilcox Campground

**HELEN LAKE**

A breathtaking lake in a valley abounding with alpine wildlife and grand vistas.
- 9.5 km loop; 400 m elevation gain/loss; 4 hours
- Trailhead: 3 km south of the Icefield Centre

**BOW LAKE**

Enjoy your lunch at one of the most breathtaking lakes in the Rockies. The vibrant blue colour set against a magnificent mountain backdrop is sure to dazzle you.

Time for lunch?

Visit one of our scenic picnic sites:

**COLEMAN CREEK**

Sit next to the edge of the water and listen to the relaxing gurgle of the river. Look for mountain goats on the cliffs.

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