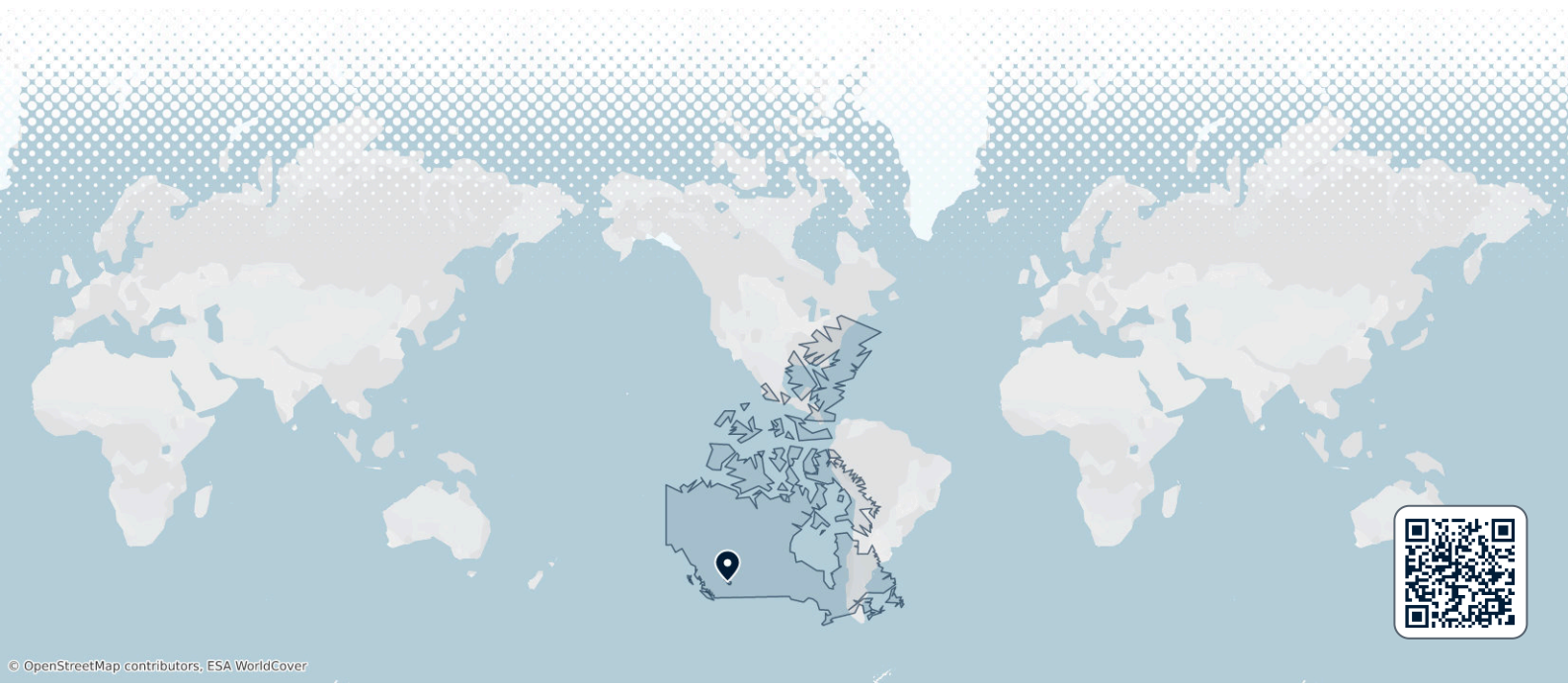


Jasper National Park

Alberta · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Jasper National Park is the largest park in the Canadian Rockies. It has glaciers, lakes, waterfalls and mountain roads. Elk, bighorn sheep and bears are common. The park is also a Dark Sky Preserve, so stars are clear on cold nights.

Jasper townsite is the base for most trips. It is small and quiet. A wildfire in July 2024 destroyed about a third of the structures in town. The town is open to visitors, and rebuilding is still under way. Some hotels and campgrounds are closed, so book early. The visitor centre is open at 500 Connaught Drive.

The park suits a stay of two to four days, mostly outdoors.

When to visit

July and August are the warmest months. Roads, lakes and trails are fully open, and the days are long. This is also the busiest time. June and September are quieter, but snow can still fall in the mountains. Winters are long and cold, with skiing at Marmot Basin.

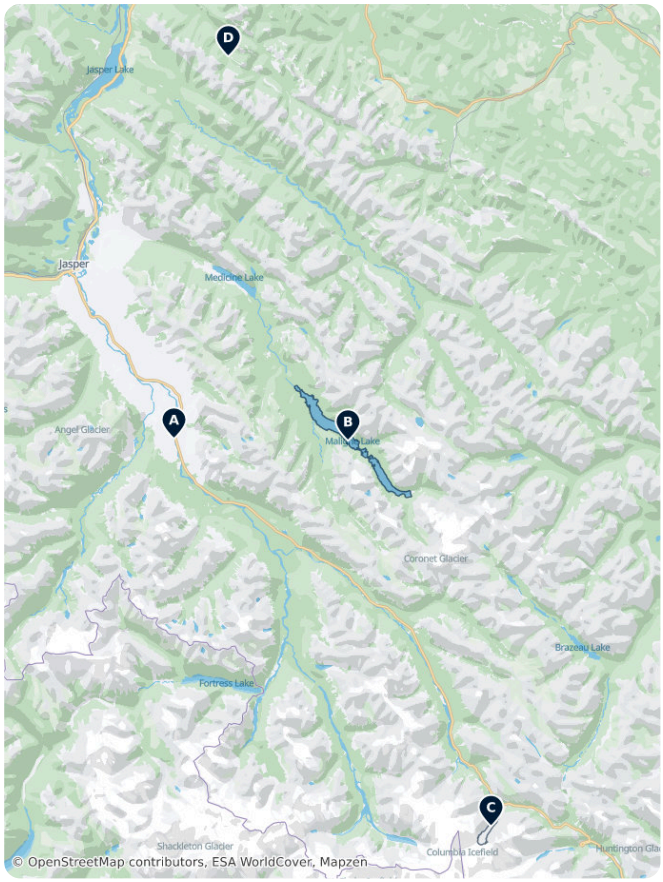
Plan around the Jasper Dark Sky Festival, usually in October. Events focus on stargazing and science.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	-5° / 2° Feels like -10°	-14° / -28°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for skiing	-4° / 3° Feels like -9°	-14° / -27°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	-1° / 5° Feels like -6°	-11° / -22°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for skiing	3° / 8° Feels like -1°	-7° / -14°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 19°	0° / -7°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for cycling	15° / 22°	5° / 1°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	8° / 4°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	8° / 3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for cycling	13° / 22°	4° / -2°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for skiing	6° / 15° Feels like 2°	-3° / -11°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	-2° / 4° Feels like -7°	-10° / -22°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for skiing	-6° / 1° Feels like -11°	-14° / -28°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Athabasca Falls is about 30 km south of town. The Athabasca River drops through a narrow rock gorge. Short paths lead to viewing points.
- B Maligne Lake is about 48 km from town, at the end of Maligne Road. It is the largest natural lake in the park. Boat cruises run in the warm season to Spirit Island, and the road passes good wildlife spots.
- C Athabasca Glacier is on the Icefields Parkway, about 100 km south of town. It is one of the toes of the Columbia Icefield. The glacier is shrinking, so stay inside the marked areas.
- D Miette Hot Springs is about an hour from town, off Highway 16. It has hot pools in a mountain valley.
- Sunwapta Falls is on the Icefields Parkway, about 55 km south of town. A short walk leads to the upper falls.
- Pyramid Lake and Pyramid Island are 7 km from town. A short bridge crosses to the island. The view toward Pyramid Mountain is good at sunrise and sunset.



Jasper National Park – Plan Your Trip

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What to experience

- **Watch for wildlife at dawn or dusk.** Elk graze in and around town. Maligne Road and the Icefields Parkway are good places to see bighorn sheep and bears from the car.
- **Stargaze in the Dark Sky Preserve.** Clear, cold nights give the best views. Many visitors drive a short way out of town to get away from lights.
- **Take a boat cruise on Maligne Lake.** Cruises run in the warm season and stop at Spirit Island.
- **Walk on the Athabasca Glacier.** Guided tours in summer lead onto the ice. Do not go onto the ice alone.
- **Ski at Marmot Basin.** The ski area is about 20 minutes from town and opens in winter.

Where to explore

- Banff National Park lies south along the Icefields Parkway, about 3 hours away by car.
- Edmonton is the nearest large city and airport, about 4 hours east.
- Calgary is the other main gateway, about 5 hours to the southeast.

Getting there

- **By air**: Jasper has no scheduled passenger airport. Most visitors fly to Edmonton (YEG), about 4 hours away by car, or to Calgary (YYC), about 5 hours away. Both have car rental.
- **By train**: VIA Rail's *The Canadian* stops in Jasper on its Toronto to Vancouver route. Book on VIA Rail.
- **By car**: From Edmonton, Highway 16 takes about 4 hours. From Banff and Lake Louise, the Icefields Parkway takes about 3 to 3.5 hours without stops.

Getting around

- **On foot**: Jasper townsite is small and flat. Shops, restaurants and the train station are within a short walk. Construction is still active in some streets.
- **To the sights**: Most main sights are 7 to 100 km from town. A car is the easiest way to reach them. Guided tours also run in summer.
- **By bike**: Quiet roads and paths around town and Pyramid Lake suit cycling. Roads between sights are long and shared with traffic.
- **Information**: See Parks Canada Jasper for what is open, road updates and trail conditions.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The townsite is small and flat, but the main sights are far apart.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Paths around town and Pyramid Lake are good. Roads between sights are long.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Yes. The best sights are spread out along long mountain roads. A car gives you the most freedom.
- **Park pass**: A Parks Canada pass is required to stop in the park, even when driving through. Check fees and where to buy on the Parks Canada Jasper page.
- **Fuel**: Stations are few along the Icefields Parkway. Fill the tank in Jasper or Lake Louise.
- **Winter**: Snow and ice are possible from autumn to spring, even on main roads. Winter tires are advisable.
- **Wildlife**: Animals often stand on the road. Slow down, especially at dawn and dusk.

Safety & health

Jasper is very safe for visitors. The main risks are weather and wildlife.

- **Wildlife**: Stay at least 30 m from elk, deer and sheep. Stay at least 100 m from bears and wolves. Never feed animals. Carry bear spray on trails and know how to use it.
- **Weather**: Mountain weather changes fast. Bring warm layers and rain gear, even in summer.
- **Trails**: Check conditions before you go. Cell service is poor outside town.
- **Wildfire**: Fire bans and closures can apply in dry summers. Closures can also remain after the 2024 fire, so check the Parks Canada status page before long drives.

History

Indigenous peoples have used this area for thousands of years. The fur trade reached the Athabasca valley in the early 1800s. The town grew in the early 1900s with the arrival of the railway. Jasper became a national park in 1907, and the Icefields Parkway opened in 1940.

The 2024 wildfire was the largest disaster in the town's history. The whole town was evacuated. The recovery is still under way.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



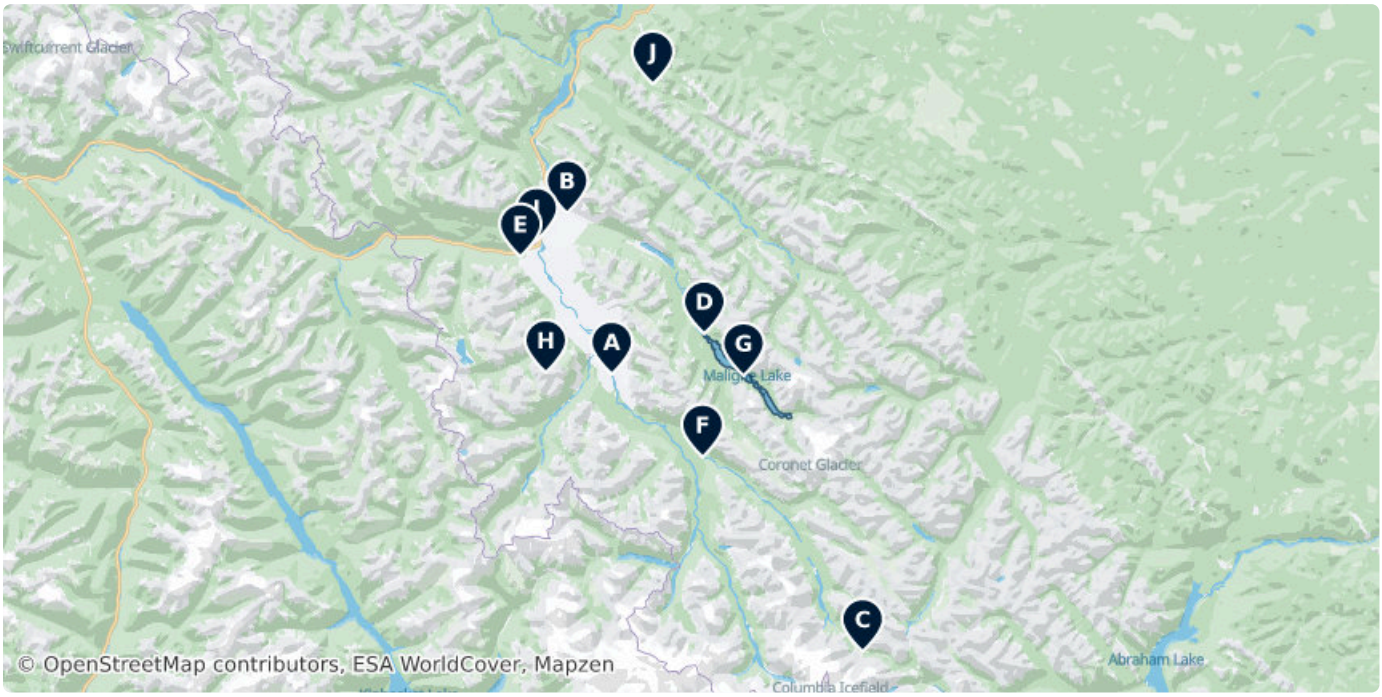
Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

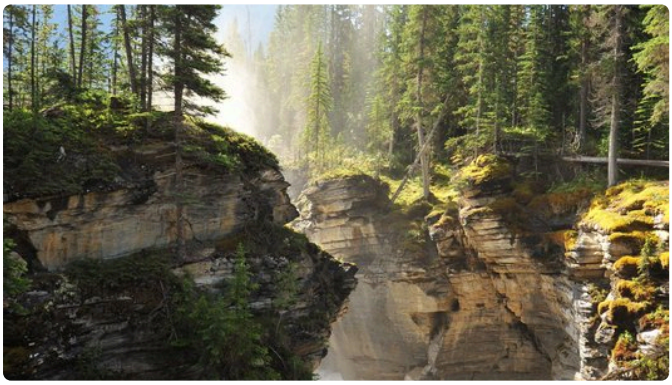
LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Jasper National Park's Absolute Essentials

Jasper National Park, the largest in the Canadian Rockies, encompasses 11,000 square kilometers of protected wilderness. This selection features the Columbia Icefield, the largest ice mass in the Rocky Mountains, and Maligne Lake, the park's largest natural lake and home to the iconic Spirit Island. Visitors can access panoramic views of the Athabasca Valley via the Jasper Skytram or explore deep limestone formations at Maligne Canyon. The list also includes the historic 1913 Information Centre and the mineral-rich Miette Hot Springs, the hottest in the Canadian Rockies.





A Athabasca Falls

Athabasca Falls is a waterfall in Jasper National Park on the upper Athabasca River, approximately 30 kilometres south of the townsite of...

42517 Highway 93A, T0E, Canada (52.66447, -117.88349)



B Maligne canyon

A deep limestone canyon featuring waterfalls, underground stream systems, and six bridges spanning narrow gorges that reach depths of 50 meters.

(Unnamed Road), T0E, Canada (52.92068, -118.00071)



C Columbia icefield

The largest icefield in the Rocky Mountains, covering 325 square kilometers. Tours use specialized Ice Explorer vehicles to transport visitors onto the Athabasca Glacier.

301 Highway 93, T0E, Canada (52.22037, -117.22389)

brewster.ca/rocky-mountains/destinations/columbia-icefi...



D Maligne lake cruise

Boat tours providing the only motorized access to Spirit Island, a world-renowned landmark situated within the 22-kilometer-long Maligne Lake.

T0E, Canada (52.72895, -117.64004)

brewster.ca/activities-in-the-rockies/bre... , +1-780-852-3370



E Jasper Skytram

Canada's highest and longest aerial tramway, ascending to an elevation of 2,263 meters on Whistlers Mountain for views of the Jasper townsite and surrounding peaks.

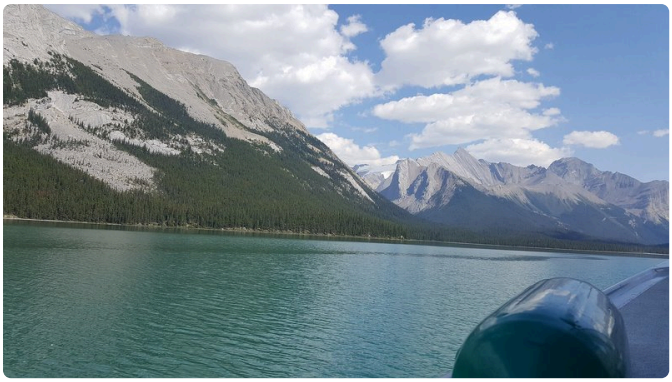
Skytram Road, T0E 1E0 Jasper (52.85150, -118.12363)



F Sunwapta Falls

A pair of waterfalls on the Sunwapta River, consisting of an 18-meter upper drop and three lower falls fed by the Athabasca Glacier.

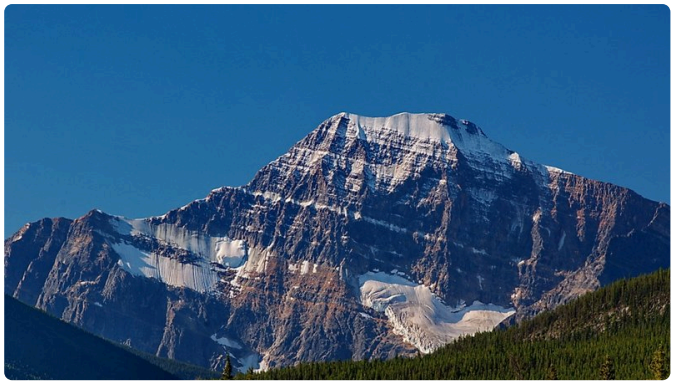
T0E, Canada (52.53234, -117.64463)



G Maligne Lake

The largest natural lake in the Canadian Rockies, spanning 22 kilometers. It is known for its glacial turquoise water and the frequently photographed Spirit Island.

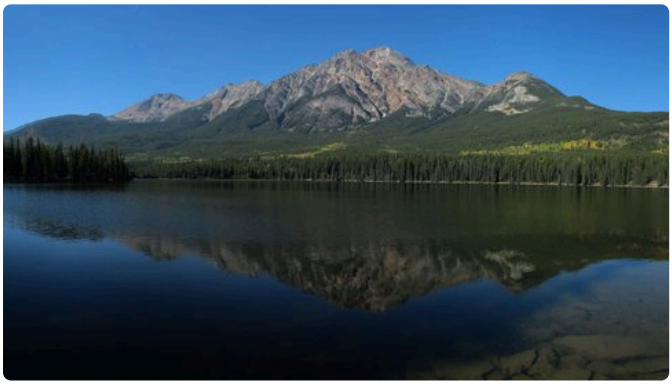
T0E, Canada (52.66218, -117.53677)



H Mount Edith Cavell

A 3,363-meter peak named after a British nurse. It features the wing-shaped Angel Glacier and hiking trails through the subalpine Cavell Meadows.

T0E, Canada (52.66720, -118.05690)

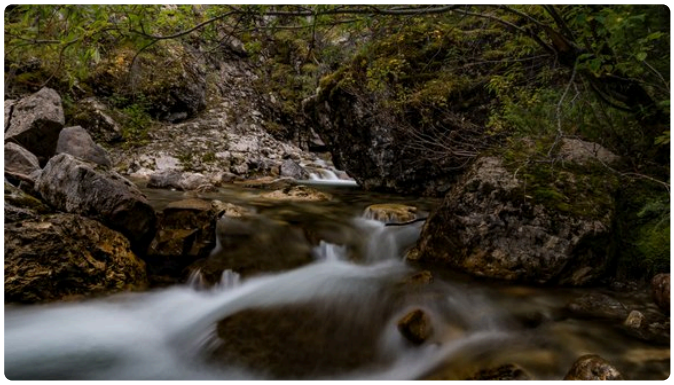


I Jasper Park Information Centre

The Jasper Park Information Centre National Historic Site, located in Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada, is the primary visitor contact...

(52.87733, -118.08083)

pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/jasper/visit.aspx



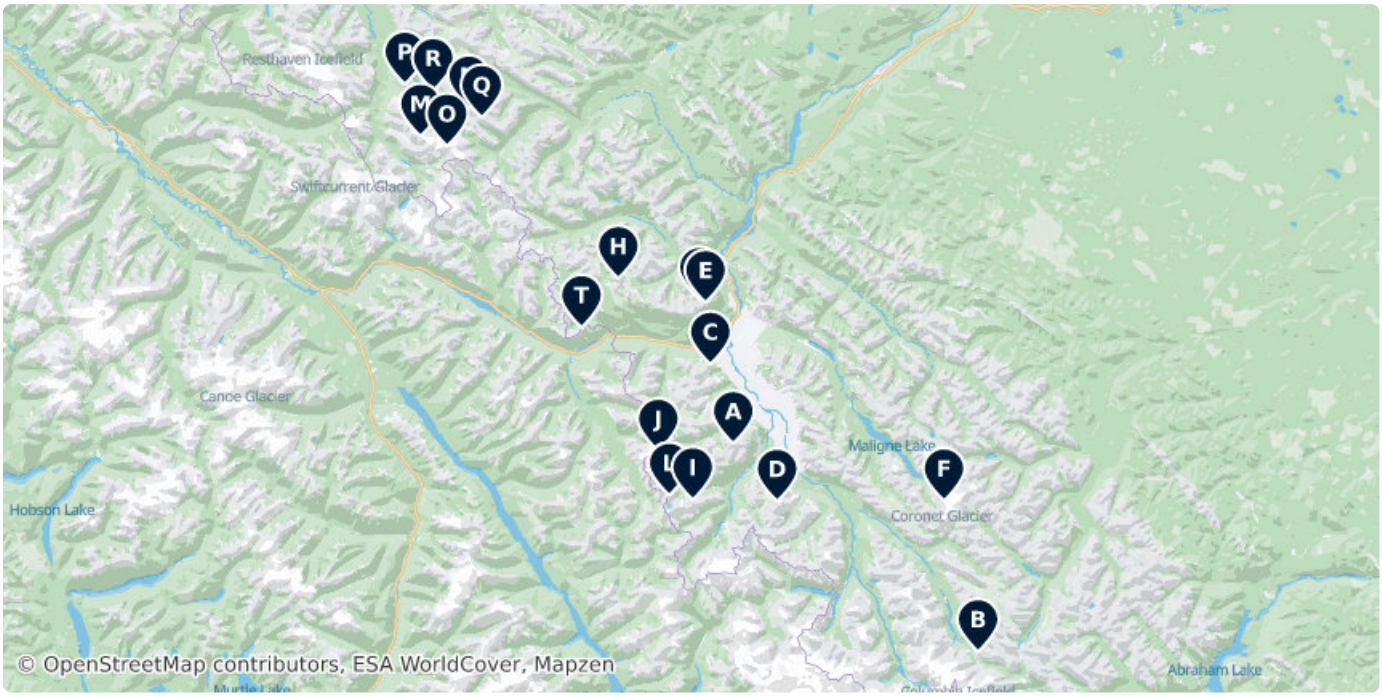
J Miette Hot Springs

Miette Hot Springs are commercially developed hot springs in Jasper National Park in Alberta, Canada, near Jasper.

Fiddle River Trail, Improvement District No. 12, AB, Canada (53.12455, -117.77527)

Majestic Mountain Peaks

Jasper National Park's landscape is defined by the rugged Canadian Rockies, featuring prominent summits like the 3,363-metre Mount Edith Cavell with its Angel Glacier and the iconic 2,766-metre Pyramid Mountain. This collection includes accessible peaks like The Whistlers, reachable via tramway, and remote backcountry summits such as Mount Brazeau and Mount Fryatt. These peaks offer diverse geological features, from the quartzite cliffs of the Victoria Cross Ranges to the high-elevation views over the Columbia Icefield and the Snake Indian River valley.





A Mount Edith Cavell

This 3,363-metre peak is known for its massive north face and the hanging Angel Glacier. It was named in 1916 to honor a British nurse.

T0E, Canada (52.66720, -118.05690)

B Mount Wilcox

Located near the Columbia Icefield, this 2,884-metre peak offers views of the Athabasca Glacier and Sunwapta Pass.

T0E, Canada (52.24500, -117.24110)



C The Whistlers

The Whistlers is a 2,470-metre mountain summit located in Jasper National Park, in the Trident Range of the Canadian Rockies of Alberta,...

T0E, Canada (52.82699, -118.13313)



D Mount Fryatt

Mount Fryatt is Alberta's 26th highest peak. In 1920, it was named after Captain Charles Fryatt, a British merchant seaman who was executed...

T0E, Canada (52.55030, -117.91060)



E Pyramid Mountain

An iconic 2,766-metre peak overlooking Jasper, characterized by its reddish Precambrian quartzite and distinct pyramid-like shape.

T0E, Canada (52.95110, -118.14940)

F Mount Brazeau

Mount Brazeau is a mountain in Alberta, Canada.

T0E, Canada (52.55110, -117.35500)

G Victoria Cross Ranges

A mountain range on the northwest side of the Miette River valley, named to commemorate Canadian recipients of the Victoria Cross.

(52.95704, -118.16949)

H Monarch Mountain

A 2,777-metre summit within the Victoria Cross Ranges, situated northwest of the Jasper townsite.

T0E, Canada (52.99932, -118.44013)

I Needle Peak

A 2,951-metre peak located in the Athabasca River valley, south of Jasper.

T0E, Canada (52.55360, -118.19190)

J McDonnell Peak

A 2,829-metre peak located in the Victoria Cross Ranges of the Canadian Rockies.

T0E, Canada (52.65170, -118.30640)

K Whitecrow Mountain

A 2,820-metre peak situated near the headwaters of the Snake Indian River in northern Jasper National Park.

T0E, Canada (52.56280, -118.27060)

L Whitecrow Mountain

A 2,820-metre peak situated near the headwaters of the Snake Indian River in northern Jasper National Park.

(52.56245, -118.27034)

M Swoda Mountain

A 2,850-metre summit located in the remote northern wilderness of Jasper National Park.

T0E, Canada (53.28310, -119.09890)

N Monte Cristo Mountain

A 2,820-metre peak located in the Snake Indian River area of the northern Canadian Rockies.

T0E, Canada (53.33940, -118.93860)

O Calumet Peak

A 2,865-metre peak located in the northern reaches of Jasper National Park.

T0E, Canada (53.26374, -119.01027)

P Twintree Mountain

A 2,800-metre mountain located near Twintree Lake in the northern part of the park.

(53.38686, -119.15124)

Q Snake Indian Mountain

A 2,900-metre peak overlooking the Snake Indian River valley in the northern backcountry of the park.

T0E, Canada (53.32080, -118.89500)

R Mount Barra

A 2,720-metre peak located in the northern region of Jasper National Park.

(53.37431, -119.05694)

S Barra Mountain

A 2,720-metre peak located in the northern region of Jasper National Park.

T0E, Canada (53.37500, -119.05750)

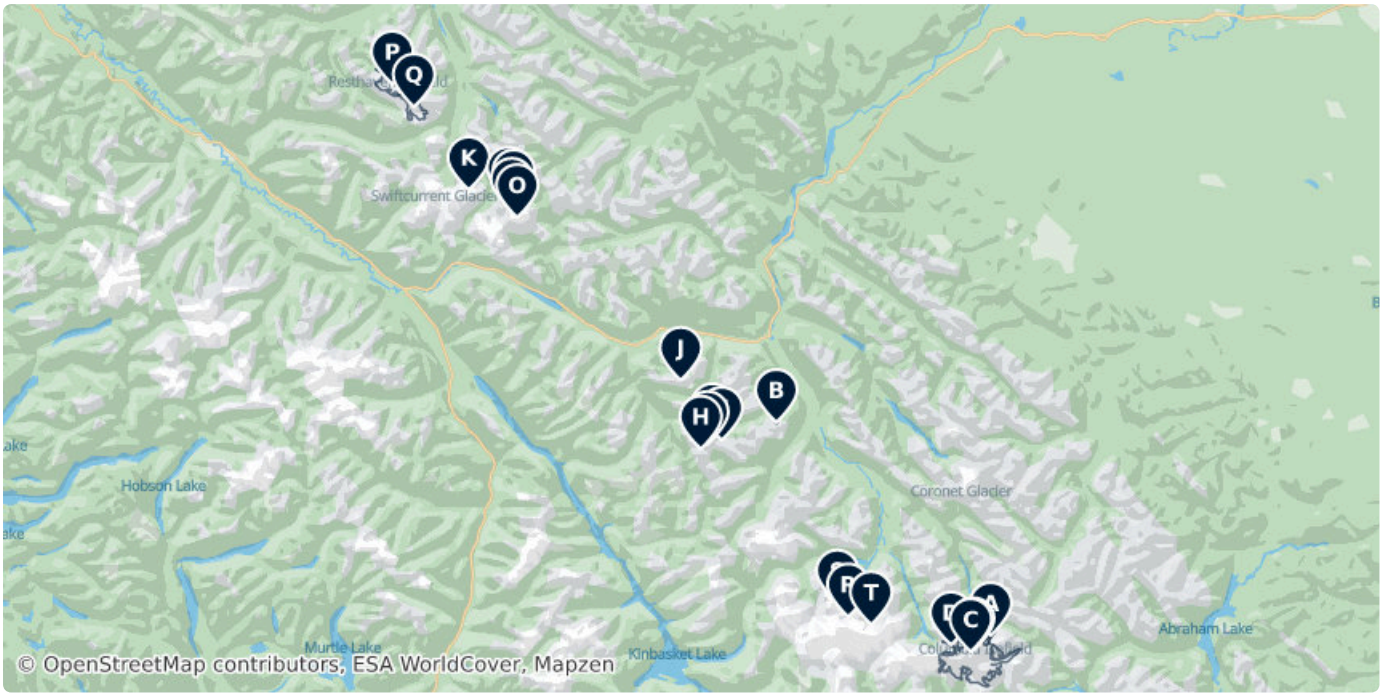
T Tete Roche

A 2,438-metre peak located near the Yellowhead Pass on the border between Alberta and British Columbia.

V0J, Canada (52.90097, -118.56281)

Majestic Glaciers and Icefields

This collection features the most significant ice masses within Jasper National Park, centered around the massive Columbia Icefield. As a hydrological apex of North America, these glaciers feed the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic oceans. The list includes easily accessible sites along the Icefields Parkway, such as the Athabasca Glacier, as well as remote icefields in the Tonquin Valley and the rugged northern reaches of the Canadian Rockies.





A Athabasca Glacier

The most visited glacier in North America, accessible via the Icefields Parkway. This six-kilometer-long ice tongue has receded significantly over the last century, with markers indicating its former reach.

T0E, Canada (52.19325, -117.25191)

B Angel Glacier

A hanging glacier located on the north face of Mount Edith Cavell. It is characterized by its wing-like shape and is visible from the Path of the Glacier and Cavell Meadows hiking trails.

T0E, Canada (52.67576, -118.04926)

C Columbia Icefield

The largest icefield in the Rocky Mountains, covering approximately 325 square kilometers. It straddles the Continental Divide and reaches depths of up to 365 meters.

V0A, Canada (52.15638, -117.32618)

D Columbia Glacier

A major outlet glacier of the Columbia Icefield that flows toward the Bush River valley.

(52.17166, -117.39965)

E Columbia Icefield

A massive high-altitude ice reservoir that feeds eight major glaciers and three of the continent's largest river systems.

(52.15837, -117.31671)

F Eremite Glacier

Located at the head of the Eremite Valley within the Tonquin region, surrounded by the peaks of the Ramparts.

(52.63562, -118.25175)

G Simon Glacier

A remote glacier situated in the western section of the park near the Fraser River drainage.

(52.62645, -118.30486)

H Mastodon Glacier

A small glacier in the Tonquin Valley area, situated at the base of Mastodon Peak.

(52.61603, -118.32998)

I Fraser Glacier

Straddles the Continental Divide, serving as a source for the Fraser River system.

(52.64410, -118.28564)

J Clairvaux Glacier

A glacier located north of the Tonquin Valley near Clairvaux Creek.

(52.77058, -118.40447)

K Mural Glacier

Situated on the slopes near the Mount Robson Provincial Park boundary, featuring prominent ice falls.

(53.19629, -119.19252)

L Coleman Glacier

Located on the northeast slopes of the Mount Robson area, contributing meltwater to the Robson River.

(53.17359, -119.04667)

M Reef Icefield

A high-altitude icefield located in the remote northern wilderness of Jasper National Park.

(53.14884, -119.03268)

N Steppe Glacier

A northern glacier located in a rugged, rarely visited section of the park near the Resthaven Icefield.

(53.16761, -119.02552)

O Reef Icefield

Part of a northern ice complex that feeds the Holmes and Jackpine River systems.

(53.13519, -119.01205)

P Resthaven Icefield

One of the largest ice masses in the northern Canadian Rockies, located in an extremely remote area near the park's northern boundary.

T0E, Canada (53.43107, -119.47712)

Q Chown Glacier

A remote glacier flowing from the Resthaven Icefield toward the Chown River.

T0E, Canada (53.38093, -119.39620)

R Chaba Icefield

Located at the headwaters of the Chaba River along the Continental Divide, south of the Columbia Icefield.

(52.23593, -117.78171)

S Chaba Icefield

A significant ice mass contributing to the upper reaches of the Athabasca River.

(52.26730, -117.82236)

T Chaba Glacier

The primary outlet glacier of the Chaba Icefield, flowing north into the Chaba River valley.

(52.21780, -117.69681)

DATA SOURCES

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