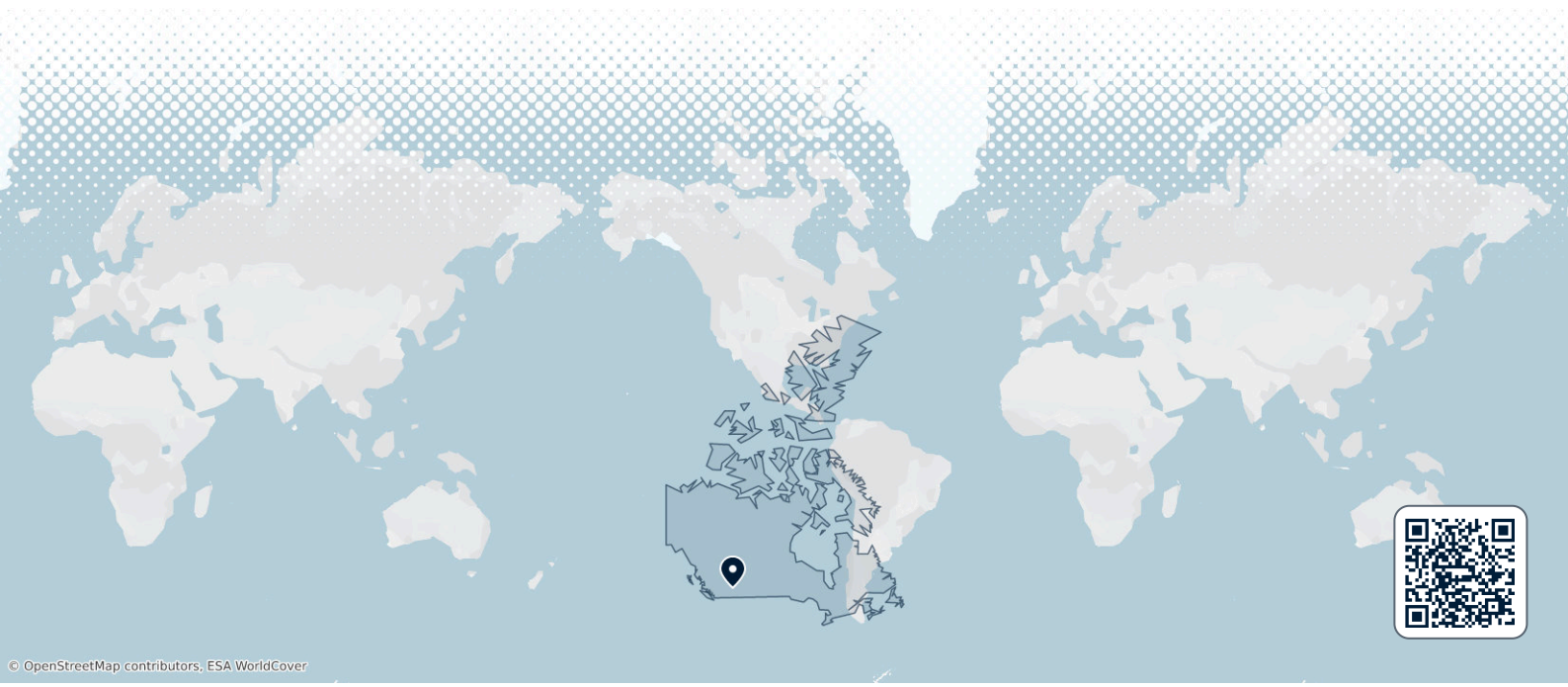


Lake Louise

Alberta · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Lake Louise is a small village and a glacier-fed lake in Banff National Park, in the Canadian Rockies of Alberta. The lake is a deep turquoise, with a large glacier and steep peaks at the far end. A famous hotel stands on the shore.

The village is a base for the lake, Moraine Lake and the trails and ski slopes around them. It is small, with a few hotels, shops and restaurants. Most visitors stay one or two nights, or come for the day from Banff. A national park pass is required, and in summer you plan your lake visit ahead.

When to visit

July and August are the warmest months. Trails are clear, canoes are on the lake and shuttles run to both lakes. It is also the busiest time, so book rooms and shuttles early.

Late June can still have snow on trails and ice on the lake. September is quieter, with yellow larch trees on high trails. From November the area turns to winter, with skiing and a frozen lake for skating.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	-7° / 0° Feels like -12°	-16° / -29°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	-6° / 1° Feels like -11°	-17° / -29°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for skiing	-3° / 2° Feels like -8°	-13° / -23°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for skiing	0° / 4° Feels like -4°	-9° / -17°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Poor Poor for skiing	7° / 17° Feels like 4°	-2° / -9°	19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 21°	4° / -1°	22 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24°	7° / 2°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 23°	6° / 1°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 21°	2° / -3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for skiing	4° / 13° Feels like 1°	-4° / -14°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for skiing	-4° / 2° Feels like -8°	-13° / -24°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	-8° / 0° Feels like -13°	-17° / -29°	18 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Lake Louise is the main sight. A flat path runs along the shore, and the view to the glacier is the classic one. Go early, as the area is busy by mid-morning.
- B Moraine Lake lies in a valley ringed by ten peaks, about 14 km from Lake Louise. The road is closed to private cars. Use a reserved Parks Canada shuttle or a tour.
- C Peyto Lake is a bright blue lake about 40 km north on the Icefields Parkway. A short walk leads to the viewpoint.
- Lake Agnes Tea House is a tea house on the trail above Lake Louise. It is open in summer only. The walk is uphill and takes about 1.5 hours one way.
- Lake Louise Ski Resort runs a sightseeing gondola in summer. In winter it is one of the main ski areas in the park.



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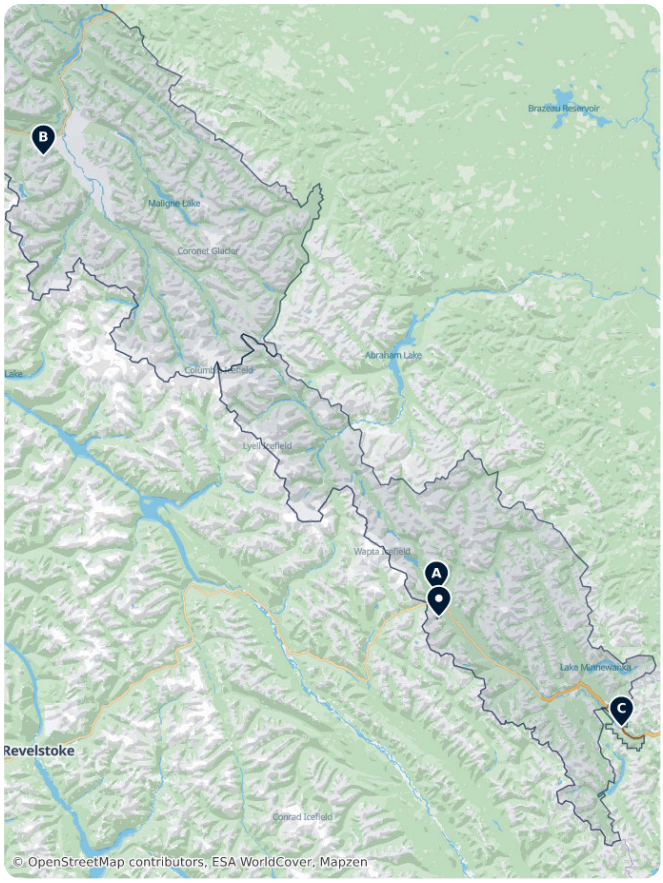
What to experience

- **Walk to the tea house.** The trail passes Mirror Lake and ends at Lake Agnes. It is open in summer.
- **Paddle a canoe.** Canoes can be rented on Lake Louise and Moraine Lake in summer.
- **See the lake at sunrise.** Early shuttles leave before dawn. The crowds are smaller and the light is soft.
- **Ski or snowboard.** Lake Louise Ski Resort is open from about November to early May.
- **Skate on the lake.** In winter the lake is cleared for skating in front of the hotel.

Day trips

- Yoho National Park, British Columbia: about 40 minutes by car to Field and Emerald Lake. Takakkaw Falls can be visited in summer.
- A Banff National Park: about 50 minutes by car to Banff town. It has the Banff Gondola, hot springs and Lake Minnewanka.
- B Jasper: about 3 hours by car north on the Icefields Parkway. The drive passes Bow Lake, Peyto Lake and the Columbia Icefield.
- C Canmore: about 1 hour by car, a mountain town outside the park gate.



Where to explore

- Banff National Park is the park around Lake Louise. Its guide covers Banff town and the Icefields Parkway.
- Canmore is a town just outside the park, with more lodging.
- Jasper is the next national park to the north.

Getting there

- **By air**: Calgary International Airport (YYC) is the nearest major airport. Lake Louise is about 2 hours from the airport by car.
- **By car**: The village is on the Trans-Canada Highway, about 55 km west of Banff town and about 185 km from Calgary. The lake is a 4 km drive uphill from the village.
- **By bus**: Roam Transit route 8X runs year-round between Banff and the Lake Louise Lakeshore. Seats should be reserved in summer. See Parks Canada.
- **Park pass**: Buy a Parks Canada pass before you enter the park.

Getting around

- **Parks Canada shuttles**: Shuttles run from the Lake Louise Park and Ride to the Lake Louise Lakeshore from mid-May and to Moraine Lake from June, until mid-October. A connector links the two lakes. Seats must be reserved in advance.
- **Moraine Lake Road**: It is closed to private vehicles all year. Only shuttles, licensed tour operators and lodge guests can use it. Details are at Parks Canada.
- **Lake Louise Lakeshore**: Parking is paid and the lot often fills early in summer. Shuttle ticket holders can park free at the Park and Ride.
- **Roam Transit**: Route 8X links Banff and the Lakeshore. It also serves the village.
- **On foot**: The lakeshore path and trails start at the lake. The village and the lake are 4 km apart, so you need a shuttle, bus or car between them.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The lakeshore and village are walkable. The village and the two lakes are several kilometres apart.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Roads to the lakes are steep and busy in summer.

Food & drink

Lake Louise village has a small set of restaurants, bakeries and a grocery store. Hotel dining rooms and the lakeside hotel offer sit-down meals. Book dinner ahead in summer. Tipping of 15 to 20 percent is normal in sit-down restaurants.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

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Safety & health

- **Wildlife**: Stay at least 30 m from elk, deer and sheep, and at least 100 m from bears and wolves. Never feed animals.
- **Bears**: Carry bear spray on trails and know how to use it. Some trails have group-size rules in bear season. Ask at the visitor centre.
- **Weather**: Mountain weather changes fast. Snow can fall in any month. Bring warm layers and rain gear in summer.
- **Ice and snow**: Do not walk on the frozen lake outside the cleared areas. Many trails have avalanche risk in winter.
- **Sun and altitude**: The area is high, and the sun is strong near lakes and snow. Use sun protection.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

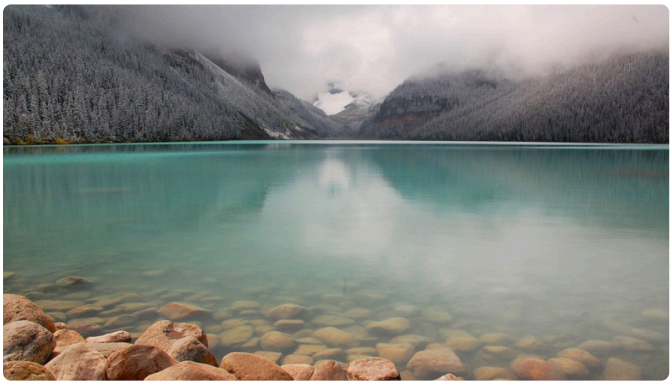
LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Lake Louise Unmissables

Lake Louise, situated in Banff National Park, is a glacial lake fed by the Victoria Glacier. Known for its turquoise color caused by rock flour, the area features historic landmarks like the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Hiking trails lead to the Lake Agnes and Plain of Six Glaciers tea houses, both established in the early 20th century to serve mountaineers. High-altitude viewpoints such as the Big Beehive and Fairview Lookout offer perspectives over the Bow Valley and surrounding peaks like Mount Niblock and Mount Whyte.



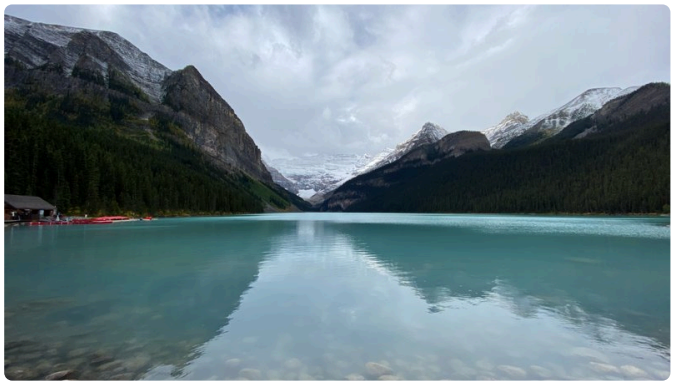


A Lake Louise

Lake Louise is a glacial lake within Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada.

T0L, Canada (51.41218, -116.22797)

pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/ab/banff/visit/les10-top10/louise



B Lake Louise (Lake) - View Point

Shoreline vantage point offering views of the turquoise water framed by the Victoria Glacier.

T0L, Canada (51.41713, -116.21843)

C Lake Agnes Teahouse

Historic wooden tea house built in 1901 at an elevation of 2,135 meters. It serves tea and snacks without electricity or running water.

(51.41635, -116.24410)

D Big Beehive

Rock formation accessible via Lake Agnes, featuring a 1916 wooden gazebo at the 2,270-meter summit.

(51.41456, -116.24343)

E Mirror Lake

Subalpine lake at the base of the Big Beehive, known for its reflective surface and position as a midpoint on the trail to Lake Agnes.

(51.41593, -116.24018)

F Fairview Lookout

Elevated platform reached via a 2-kilometer round-trip trail, providing a side-profile view of the lake and the Fairmont hotel.

(51.41008, -116.22184)

G Lake Agnes Tea House

Historic 1901 tea house located at 2,135 meters, serving refreshments to hikers at the edge of Lake Agnes.

T0L, Canada (51.41643, -116.24414)

H Fairview Dining Room

Formal restaurant inside the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the water and Victoria Glacier.

111 Lake Louise Dr, T0L, Canada (51.41708, -116.21697)

fairmont.com/lakelouise/GuestServices/Restaurants/Fair...



I Deer Lodge

Historic lodge built in 1923, featuring rustic log architecture and a rooftop hot tub with mountain views.

109 Lake Louise Dr, T0L, Canada (51.41708, -116.20938)

crmr.com/resorts/deer-lodge/, +1-403-522-4222

J Little Beehive

Viewpoint reachable from Lake Agnes, formerly a fire lookout site, offering vistas of the Bow Valley and the Continental Divide.

(51.42105, -116.23754)

K Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House

Stone tea house built in 1927 by Swiss guides, located near the base of the Victoria Glacier at the end of a 5.5-kilometer trail.

(51.39353, -116.27286)

banffandbeyond.com/plain-of-six-glaciers-the-other-tea-...

L Mount Niblock

A 2,976-meter peak named after a Canadian Pacific Railway official, accessible to experienced scramblers via the Lake Agnes trail.

T0L, Canada (51.41797, -116.27203)

M Mount Whyte

A 2,983-meter peak characterized by steep quartzite cliffs, frequently climbed alongside the neighboring Mount Niblock.

T0L, Canada (51.40891, -116.27214)

N The Big Beehive

High-altitude peak featuring a historic 1916 gazebo with panoramic views of the turquoise lake and the Fairmont Chateau.

T0L, Canada (51.41444, -116.24348)

Majestic Mountain Peaks

This collection features the prominent summits surrounding Lake Louise in Banff National Park. These peaks, ranging from accessible day-hike viewpoints like The Little Beehive to technical glaciated summits like Mount Aberdeen, define the landscape of the Bow Valley. Many routes originate from the Lake Agnes or Saddleback Pass areas, providing vantage points over the Victoria Glacier and the turquoise waters of the lake below. The list includes distinctive geological formations like the Beehives and challenging scrambles such as Mount Whyte and Mount Niblock.



A Devil's Thumb

A 2,458-meter summit offering a panoramic view of both Lake Louise and Lake Agnes. The route involves a steep scramble from the Lake Agnes basin.

T0L, Canada (51.41120, -116.25257)

B Haddo Peak

A 3,070-meter glaciated summit frequently climbed in conjunction with Mount Aberdeen. It is located south of Lake Louise and requires mountaineering experience.

T0L, Canada (51.38331, -116.23722)

C Fairview Mountain

Standing at 2,744 meters, this peak is accessible via a steep hiking trail from Saddleback Pass. It offers direct views of the Victoria Glacier and the Bow Valley.

T0L, Canada (51.39944, -116.22463)

D Sheol Mountain

A 2,779-meter peak located between Paradise Valley and the Saddleback. It is characterized by its steep scree slopes and proximity to Fairview Mountain.

T0L, Canada (51.38360, -116.22140)

E Mount Aberdeen

This 3,152-meter peak features the prominent Aberdeen Glacier. Named after the Seventh Earl of Aberdeen, it is a major mountaineering objective in the Lake Louise group.

T0L, Canada (51.38021, -116.24783)

F The Big Beehive

A 2,270-meter rock formation named for its distinctive shape. A historic gazebo sits at the summit, reached via a series of steep switchbacks from Lake Agnes.

T0L, Canada (51.41444, -116.24348)

G Saddle Mountain

A 2,433-meter peak situated at the eastern end of the Fairview-Sheol ridge. It is accessed via the Saddleback Pass trail and overlooks Paradise Valley.

T0L, Canada (51.39310, -116.20860)

H The Little Beehive

A 2,210-meter prominence that formerly served as the site of a fire lookout. It provides a clear vantage point of the Bow Valley and the northern end of Lake Louise.

(51.42113, -116.23744)

I Mount Whyte

A 2,983-meter peak named after William Whyte, a Canadian Pacific Railway official. The ascent typically involves a difficult scramble from the Lake Agnes basin.

T0L, Canada (51.40891, -116.27214)

J Mount Niblock

This 2,976-meter summit is located adjacent to Mount Whyte. Named after CPR superintendent John Niblock, it is a popular objective for experienced scramblers.

T0L, Canada (51.41797, -116.27203)

DATA SOURCES

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