



Vermilion Lakes

# Visitor Guide

Également offert en français

## First national park in Canada

Banff National Park is an important place for people to connect with history and nature. We acknowledge that Banff National Park is within the present-day territories of the Treaty 6, 7, and 8, First Nations as well as the Métis Homeland. Indigenous Peoples have been using the lands and waters of Banff for millennia; for sustenance, ceremony, trade and travel. We thank them for their continuous stewardship and for sharing the land with us.

In 1885, a small area around the Cave and Basin Hot Springs was protected and became the core of the first national park in Canada. Today, millions of people visit the park each year. They come to experience natural beauty, outdoor adventures, seven national historic sites and iconic wildlife - from grizzly bears to Banff springs snails.

See for yourself! Banff National Park offers mountains of possibilities.



A valid national park entry pass is required when visiting the mountain parks:  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass)



### Find us

Banff Visitor Centre  
224 Banff Avenue  
403-762-1550 | [banffinfo@pc.gc.ca](mailto:banffinfo@pc.gc.ca)

Lake Louise Visitor Centre  
201 Village Road, next to Samson Mall  
403-522-3833 | [ll.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:ll.info@pc.gc.ca)

[parks.canada.ca/banff](http://parks.canada.ca/banff)

Hours of operations:  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-hours](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-hours)



### Camping reservations

1-877-737-3783  
[reservation.pc.gc.ca](http://reservation.pc.gc.ca)



Public transit and shuttle information  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-transit](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-transit)

# Stay safe and enjoy the park!

You are required by law to follow national park regulations. Thank you for helping protect people, landscapes and wildlife.



## Purchase a national park entry pass.

All visitors to Banff National Park must have a valid pass. Passes are available for purchase at park gates, visitor centres, campgrounds, partner locations and [parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-parkpass). Provincial park passes are not valid in national parks.



## Camp only in a designated campground and campsite.

A valid camping permit and national park entry pass are required. It is illegal to sleep in your vehicle or RV on the roadside, or at pull-outs, or pitch a tent in an area that is not a campground.



## Leave your drones at home or in your vehicle.

Recreational use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is prohibited in all national parks and national historic sites.



## Keep your pets on a leash and under physical control at all times.

Collect and discard their waste in wildlife-proof garbage bins.

Visit [parks.canada.ca/banff-trails](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-trails) to know trails and areas where dogs are not allowed.



## Do not feed any wildlife.

It is illegal. This includes littering and leaving food or scented items unattended. These items MUST be stored away in a vehicle, a hard-sided trailer or RV, or in a food locker.



Parks Canada staff are checking for unattended wildlife attractants. Attractants found in plain view will be removed and safely secured to reduce the risks to you and to wildlife.



## Do not litter.

Pack out or dispose of all garbage, recycling, and food waste (even organic waste, like banana peels and apple cores) in a wildlife-proof garbage bin. Never leave these items on the ground, in a fire pit or in the bed of your truck. If you see garbage left outside in the town of Banff, call 403-762-1218 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 7 days a week). For garbage left outside at other locations in Banff National Park, call Banff Dispatch, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 403-762-1470.



### Take only photographs.

It is illegal to pick flowers and mushrooms, cut down trees and branches, remove rocks, collect or disturb cultural artifacts or otherwise cause damage to natural objects or living things.



### Stay out of closed areas.

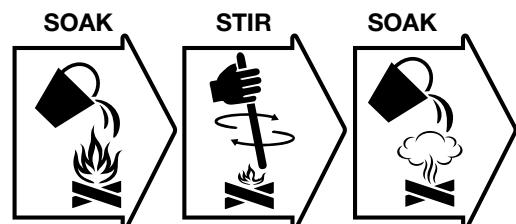
Area closures or activity restrictions protect ecologically sensitive areas, important habitat, and locations where the potential for conflict between humans and wildlife is high.

Visit [parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins](https://parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins) for a list of closures, warnings and restrictions.



### Be fire safe.

Fires are permitted in approved portable firepits, or in designated metal fire rings and picnic shelter stoves provided by Parks Canada. Never leave fires unattended, and extinguish them completely using the soak, stir, soak method. Do not take any wood from the forest, only use firewood purchased locally. Never burn food or garbage. Visit [parks.canada.ca/banff-fire-info](https://parks.canada.ca/banff-fire-info) for wildfire and fire ban information.



**Soak, stir, soak again  
until fire is completely out.**



### Buy a national park fishing permit.

Anglers require a national park fishing permit. Provincial fishing licences are not valid in national parks. Visit [parks.canada.ca/banff-fishing](https://parks.canada.ca/banff-fishing) for more information and regulations.



### Follow watercraft regulations.

Motors of all kinds are prohibited on all water bodies except Lake Minnewanka reservoir. Regulations apply to all watercraft launching in Banff National Park to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. **Clean, drain, dry** all watercraft (motorboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, inflatables, etc.), angling equipment and water-related gear before entering a new waterbody. Visit [parks.canada.ca/banff-boating](https://parks.canada.ca/banff-boating) for more information.



### Obey traffic regulations.

Follow speed limits. Motorized off-road travel is prohibited. Park in designated areas only.



### Leave firearms at home.

Firearms are prohibited in national parks. Firearms include pellet guns, bear bangers, bows, slingshots and similar items.



### The Canada National Parks Act

Park Wardens are responsible for enforcing park regulations as required by the *Canada National Parks Act*: [parks.canada.ca/banffregulations](https://parks.canada.ca/banffregulations). To report park violations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, call 403-762-1470.

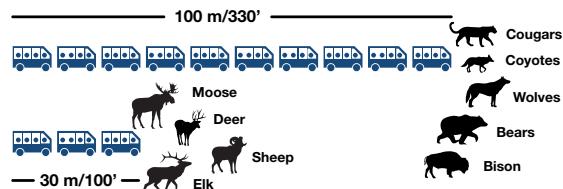
Violators will be charged, be required to appear in court, and could pay fines up to \$25 000.

# Wildlife and you

The chance to view wildlife in their natural environment is one of the most exciting things about visiting the mountain national parks.



When exploring by foot, bike or vehicle, give wildlife space.



Small animals like rodents and birds need space too! If you make them move, you are too close.



If you see wildlife while driving, slow down and stay in your vehicle.  
Only pull over where safe to do so.  
Do not block the driving lane.



Please report bear, cougar, wolf and coyote sightings to Banff Dispatch: 403-762-1470.



It is illegal to feed, entice or disturb any wildlife in a national park.  
Violators will be charged, be required to appear in court, and could pay fines up to \$25 000.

## Mountain safety

Be well informed and prepared. Consult these resources to help make your visit safe:



Weather forecast  
[weather.gc.ca](http://weather.gc.ca)



Road conditions  
Alberta  
[511.alberta.ca](http://511.alberta.ca)  
511 or 1-855-391-9743

British Columbia  
[drivebc.ca](http://drivebc.ca)  
or 1-800-550-4997



Traffic regulations and driving safety tips  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-driving](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-driving)



Trail conditions  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-trails](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-trails)



Closures and warnings  
[parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins](http://parks.canada.ca/banff-bulletins)



Avalanche information  
[avalanche.ca](http://avalanche.ca)



Additional mountain safety information  
[parksmountainsafety.ca](http://parksmountainsafety.ca)

In case of emergency, call 911 or satellite phone: 403-762-4506.



Cell phone coverage is not reliable in many areas of the park and there is no cell coverage along the Icefields Parkway. Before heading out, let someone know your plans including your route, trailhead, vehicle description, when you are leaving and when you expect to return.



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



[instagram.com/parks.canada](https://instagram.com/parks.canada)

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