



The Icefields Parkway

Dramatic mountain vistas, huge walls of ice, beautiful lakes, and spectacular waterfalls make this one of the world's classic mountain drives.

Number of days: 3

Tour distance: 237km/148 mi

Day 1 Lake Louise

Day 2/3 Lake Louise to Jasper 237 km/148 mi

SPECIAL INTEREST

Banff

See Tour 2

Icefields Parkway

Abraham Lake
Athabasca Falls
Athabasca Glacier Snocoach Tours
Bow Lake
Bow Summit
Cline River
Columbia Icefield
Crowfoot Glacier
Goat Lookout
Hector Lake
Parker's Ridge
Peyto Lake
Saskatchewan River Crossing
Stutfield Glacier Viewpoint
Sunwapta Falls
Tangle Falls
Weeping Wall Viewpoint

Jasper

The Den Wildlife Museum
Jasper Aquatic Centre
Jasper Heritage Museum
Jasper Park Lodge and Golf Course
Jasper Tramway
Lac Beauvert
Lake Edith and Lake Annette
Maligne Canyon and Canyon Crawl
Maligne Lake and Scenic Cruise
Marmot Basin Ski Area
Medicine Lake
Miette Hot Springs
Mount Edith Cavell
Patricia and Pyramid Lakes
Punchbowl Falls
Valley of the Five Lakes

Lake Louise

Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise Ski Area
Lake Louise Summer Sightseeing Lift
Moraine Lake & Valley of the Ten Peaks
Victoria Glacier

Travel through the majestic Canadian Rockies on a tour that is considered one of the most scenic mountain routes on Earth. The trip begins in the picturesque village of Lake

Louise. Located in the Bow Valley, the village provides shopping, accommodation, meals, automotive services and tourist information. Four km (2.5 mi) above the village is the lake itself, dominated by the majestic Victoria Glacier. Near Lake Louise, visit emerald-coloured Moraine Lake. Surrounded by a panorama of 10 glaciated summits, the Wenkchemna Peaks, Moraine Lake is found at the base of the Continental Divide, the geographic point where all waters flow either west to the Pacific Ocean or East to the Atlantic Ocean.

From Lake Louise, head north along the snow-capped Icefields Parkway to Jasper National Park. Countless lakes and over 100 glaciers line the route. Stop at Hector Lake and see how a typical lake formed in a glacial basin. From there are stellar views of Mt. Balfour and the Waputik Range to the southwest. Crowfoot Glacier once resembled a crow's foot, with three large toe-like extensions. Legend has it that the lower "toe" of its foot broke off, leaving what you see today — two toes. At 2,068 m (6,785 ft.) above sea level, Bow Summit is the highest point on the parkway and offers one of the best mountain panoramas in the world at Peyto Lake viewpoint.

Just beyond this area is the Saskatchewan River Crossing, the junction of Highway 11. Take a short detour heading east and you'll discover fantastic tracts of wilderness noted for fishing, trail riding and hiking, such as the Wildland Recreation Area, White Goat Wilderness, Cline River and Abraham Lake.

But back along the Icefields Parkway, keep veering northwest and you'll soon see the Weeping Wall, where water from melting snow, high on Cirrus Mountain, leaks through cracks in the seemingly impenetrable cliff face and then plunges downwards as a series of graceful waterfalls (very popular with climbers in the winter). Visit the Columbia Icefield. From the highway the Athabasca and Dome glaciers are visible and there is a fine view of the glacier-draped north face of Mt. Athabasca (3,490 m; 12,762 ft.). The "Interpretive and Information Centre" contains a scale model of its impressive 325 sq. km (125 sq. mi) area of glacial ice and snow and an audio-visual presentation. Take a Snocoach tour on the Athabasca Glacier.

Look for bighorn sheep and goats at Tangle Falls, Stutfield Glacier Viewpoint and Goat Lookout. Stutfield Glacier Viewpoint offers a view of the Sunwapta River, an excellent example of a braided river. The valley bottom is filled with sand and gravel spreading the river across the valley floor in interlacing channels. The Stutfield Glacier features a picturesque pair of ice falls, which spill down the face of Mt. Stutfield. Take the 1 km (1/2 mile) access road from the Icefields Parkway to Sunwapta Falls and Canyon and see where the Sunwapta River changes its course abruptly from northwest to southwest, then plummets into a deep canyon producing a spectacular waterfall.

The tour ends in Jasper, a mountain retreat with all the modern amenities of a city surrounded by breathtaking scenery and an abundance of wildlife. Activities include golfing, rafting, fishing, trailriding, hiking, hot springs bathing and a tramway ride to the top of Whistlers Mountain.



Columbia Icefield, Jasper National Park