WILLMORE WILDERNESS PARK

The following trail descriptions briefly outline the park’s main hikes. For detailed information and further trip planning these are several excellent guidebooks available, including The Canadian Rockies Day Guide by Brian Patton and Bart Robinson, Creance Piche’s Classic Hikes in the Canadian Rockies and Jasper:Robson: A Taste of Heaven by Don Boes. Information centre staff are also pleased to offer advice on trip selection.

 Interested in hiking for just a few hours? Day hiking opportunities are highlighted in the Day Hiker’s Guide to Jasper National Park.

TWO-DAY HIKES (distance less than 34 km)

**SATURDAY NIGHT LAKE LOOP - 27.4 km.**
Elevation gain 540 m. Maximum elevation 1750 m. A good nature trail on a south end beginning and ending in the Jasper townsite. The route is all below timberline making it a good selection for the novice or early season hiker. Campsites are at Saturday Night Lake, High Lakes and Minetou Lake. National Sawmill in all lakes except Calve Lake. Map: Jasper-15/16.

**JACQUES LAKE - 12 km one way.** Elevation gain 90 m. Maximum elevation 1550 m. A good choice for novice hikers. The trailhead is at the south end of Medicine Lake, 28 km from Jasper townsite. An easy walk along a fire road on a 1.6 km to Beaver Lake. Then 10.4 km follow a well-defined trail to the campsite at the far end of Jacques Lake. Camping is not permitted at Beaver Lake. Note: Catch and release fishing only at Jacques Lake. Map: Medicine Lake 8/C/13.

**GERALDINE LAKES - 6 km one way.** Elevation gain 400 m. Maximum elevation 1450 m. To the trailhead is Geraldine fire road, just north of Athabasca Falls on Highway 88A. The parking area is 6 km up the fire road. The first 2 km of this trail are deceptive easy, travelling along a well-defined path to the first of Geraldine Lakes. Beyond this point, however, the work (and research) begins. The trail climbs steeply along a waterfall, across a large boulder field and skirts the edge of a large glacial lake. It continues along an even steeper pitch to a viewpoint. You’ll reach the only campsites at the far end of the second lake. Good hiking boots and endurance are absolute requirements for this trip. Note: Route finding is tricky, not recommended for beginners. Use of a stove is mandatory. No open fires. Map: Athabasca Falls 8/C/12.

**WATCHER BAY - 9.8 km one way.** Elevation gain 985 m. Maximum elevation 2355 m. Trailhead about 18 km from Jasper townsite on Medicine Road. A very steep deep climb leads to an alpine meadow. Hikers must ford the main creek to reach the campsite. Access to the Skyline trail is 3.5 km beyond the campground. Note: Route finding is tricky between campsite and Skyline trail. Map: Medicine Lake 8/C/13.

**FIDDLE RIVER - 25 km one way.** Elevation gain 1220 m. Maximum elevation 2230 m. The trailhead begins behind the old pool building at Miette Hot Springs (6 km from the townsite). It is relatively primitive and has few bridged crossings. Some short sections of trail may be very muddy. Beyond the pools the Firebird Pass is a well-defined trail continues down to a provincial campground near Cadomin. Map: Miette 8/F/4.

**POBOSKAN-BRAUÉ-NEIGE - 80 km.** Elevation gain 790 m. Distance 1990 m. Trailheads are 72 km and 112 south of Jasper townsite on the Icefields Parkway. The trail passes through extensive alpine meadows and three passes. Seasonal skiing in Brule Lake. Snow levels may hinder travel until mid-July. Some horse traffic. Map: Sulphur Lake 8/C/6, Columbia Icefields 8/F/3.

**JONAS PASS - 53 km.** Elevation gain 955 m. Maximum elevation 2470 m. Trailheads are the same for Poboskan-Braué-Neige. This is an impressive hike with over 13 km of travel above treeline. The route is deceptively easy, travelling along a trail in the rocky mountain and mountainous terrain. Note: No campers are allowed in Jonas Pass. Campsites are located at the beginning and end of the 20 km pass section. Horse use prohibited. Map: Sulphur Lake 8/C/6, Columbia Icefields 8/F/3.

**SEVEN-DAY HIKE (distance approx 100 km)**

ATHABASCA PASS - 51 km one way. Elevation gain 1500 m. Maximum elevation 2650 m. Access to the trailhead is via Highway 93A south, then follow the Maligne Lake road for 6.4 km. The trail follows the Whirlpool River, the traditional trail”，then crosses over into the Rocky Mountains. Large glacial flats and glacial deposits dominate the terrain. All major crossings are bridged as you climb toward Athabasca Pass National Historic Site. Some horse traffic.

Maps: Athabasca Falls 8/C/12, Athabasca Pass 8/C/6, Athabasca River 8/C/6.

**SEVEN-DAY HIKES (distance less than 250 km)**

These are lengthy wilderness hikes that require careful planning and extensive preparation.

**NORTH BOUNDARY - 92 km.** Elevation gain 1055 m. Maximum elevation 2019 m. Trailheads are located at the Canmore Lake parking lot (limited access). 53 km from Jasper townsite. Trailhead off Hwy 40 to Grande Cache and at Mount Robson, 85 km west on Highway 16. The trail is rugged in places although all major river crossings are bridged. A variety of side trips are possible. Some home traffic. Note: Very remote. Maps Sulphur Lake 8/E/7, Brule Creek 8/E/7, Blue Creek 8/E/7, Brule Lake 8/E/4, Mt. Robson 8/E/3.

**SOUTH BOUNDARY - 176 km.** Elevation gain 790 m. Maximum elevation 2255 m. Trailheads are at Medicine Lake (28 km from townsite) on the Maligwe River and at Camp Parker (132 km from townsite) on the Icefields Parkway. The trail is marked and some major crossings are bridged. No horse use. Note: Overlook panoramic views. Trail very narrow. Check on campsite availability. Maps: Columbia Icefields 8/F/3, Sulphur Lake 8/C/6, Job Creek 8/E/7, George Creek 8/C/10, Southend 8/C/11, Mountain Park 8/C/14, Medicine Lake 8/C/13.

Note: wilderness trail, icefields are for hikers only.