

# Road reports

## Driving the Rockies

*With rapidly changing weather conditions, along with periodic avalanches, mudslides, or accidents, it is important to check for road and weather conditions as often as possible. It is best to expect winter driving conditions at all times of the year, including summer.*

### Winter driving tips

- Expect snow and ice on park roadways
- Drive slowly. Posted speeds are for dry pavement, not snowy or icy surfaces.
- Do not use cruise control when conditions are icy.
- Watch out for “black ice,” an extremely thin layer of ice that is almost impossible to see on dark road surfaces. Be especially careful on bridge decks.
- Make sure your vehicle is equipped with high-quality snow tires or tire chains.
- Keep a shovel, flashlight, blanket, additional warm clothing, and food in your vehicle in case of emergency.
- Make sure your cell phone is charged.
- Never stop in posted avalanche zones.

## Fueling up:

### Gasoline

- all townsites (in Waterton, mid-April to early October only)
- Castle Mountain Village
- Rogers Pass
- Saskatchewan Crossing (April to October)

### Propane

- Canmore ([www.canmorekananaskis.com](http://www.canmorekananaskis.com))
- Jasper ([www.jaspernationalpark.com](http://www.jaspernationalpark.com))
- Lake Louise
- Revelstoke
- Rogers Pass
- Saskatchewan Crossing (April to October)
- Waterton

### Diesel

- Banff ([www.banffnationalpark.com](http://www.banffnationalpark.com))
- Canmore ([www.canmorekananaskis.com](http://www.canmorekananaskis.com))
- Field
- Jasper ([www.jaspernationalpark.com](http://www.jaspernationalpark.com))
- Lake Louise
- Revelstoke
- Rogers Pass
- Saskatchewan Crossing (April to October)

## Mountain Hazards

Though all outdoor activities come with a degree of risk, the mountains come with their own set of hazards. With steep and unstable terrain, changeable weather patterns, and icy cold water, it is best to keep the following guidelines in mind to ensure safety:

- Stay on the trail.
- Heed all warning signs.
- Stay behind safety fences.
- Be aware of wet rocks, which can be very slippery.
- Stay away from the edges of cliffs, especially when near waterfalls, streams, and canyons.
- Mountain lakes and rivers are extremely cold, even during the summer months. If you fall into the water, hypothermia can set in quickly, so proceed with caution.
- If you are wading through a stream and the water goes over your knees, turn back. Streams are often swifter than they seem and can sweep you away without notice.
- Watch for falling rocks when you are in steep elevations.
- High elevation trails can be covered in snow or ice deep into the summer months. Walk with care.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

**IF YOU NEED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ANY REASON, CALL THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:**

Banff, Jasper, Lake Louise Kootenay, and Yoho: 911 (for more info visit [www.jaspernationalpark.com](http://www.jaspernationalpark.com) and [www.kootenaynationalpark.com](http://www.kootenaynationalpark.com))

Glacier and Mt. Revelstoke: 1-877-852-3100

Waterton: 1-800-642-3810 (for more info visit [www.canadianrockies.net](http://www.canadianrockies.net))

Be aware that cell phone coverage in mountain parks can be unreliable.



- Mountain trails become more challenging as you climb higher. If you are uncertain of the terrain or if you feel tired or weak, turn back.

### More safety tips

- Register with Parks Canada when you are about to take a mountain trail. Sign out before the trip and then drop off the second part of the form when you return. This way the authorities know you are out and can watch for you or rescue you if you have not returned within a reasonable amount of time.
- Tell friends where you are going and you will be back.
- Do not travel alone. When traveling, stay together.
- Bring a map, water, food, and extra clothing when you set out.
- Bring appropriate gear in the event that you need to stay out overnight. If you are lost, a search and rescue can take time.

### Weather conditions

Mountain weather is predictably unpredictable. Expect rain, snow, and even freezing temperatures any time of the year, including summer. Be prepared as you take your journey by following these tips:

- Dress in layers so that you can add or remove clothing as necessary.
- Bring clothing that protects you from rain, snow, wind, and cold.
- Wear long pants, socks, and appropriate hiking shoes.
- Wear sunglasses and sunscreen, even on seemingly overcast days. Ultraviolet rays are at their strongest in the mountains, especially at high elevations

### Avalanches

When you are in the mountain parks, consider yourself in avalanche country! Thousands of avalanches occur every year in mountain parks, and everything and everyone is affected. Highways, ski resorts, and backcountry areas are all subject to the whims of falling snow, so make sure you check with local weather

reports which include avalanche bulletins and mappings. Though all ski resorts provide avalanche control inside their boundaries, once you leave these designated areas, you are on your own. If you plan to explore backcountry areas, make sure you are properly equipped.

### Highway travel

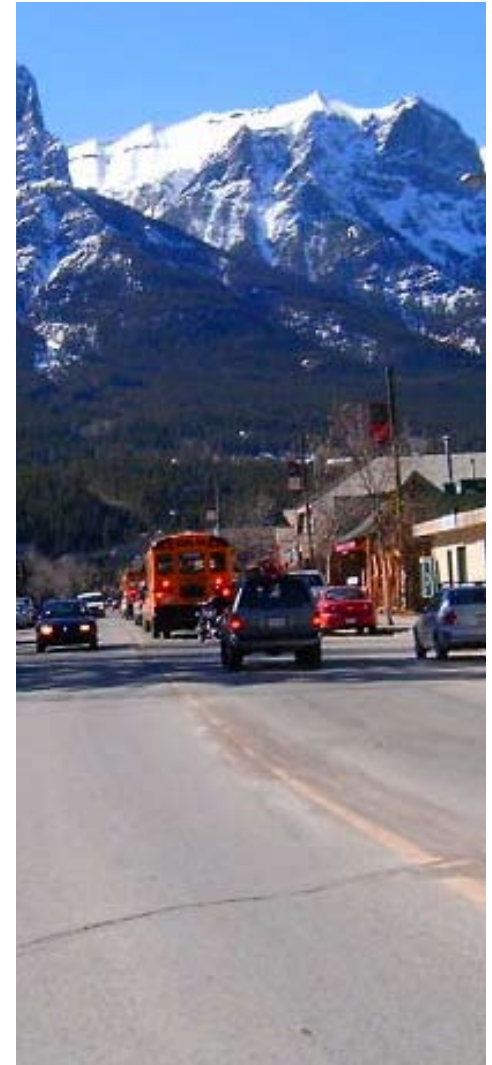
Parks Canada is responsible for a high level of avalanche control in order to keep highways safe. Pay attention to all signs that warn of avalanche activity.

### Professional guides

If you wish to try backcountry skiing and have no experience, it is advised to hire a professional certified guide who is licensed to operate in the mountain parks. For more information, talk to Parks Canada staff at any park information centre or visit [www.pc.gc.ca/avalanche](http://www.pc.gc.ca/avalanche)

### Custodial groups

Special regulations apply to organized youth groups that wish to enjoy backcountry exploration. Group leaders must have a thorough understanding of all rules.



### HIGHWAY TRAVEL

PARKS CANADA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF AVALANCHE CONTROL IN ORDER TO KEEP HIGHWAYS SAFE. PAY ATTENTION TO ALL SIGNS THAT WARN OF AVALANCHE ACTIVITY.

