SKYLINE
An exceptionally beautiful backpacking route: the highest trail in Jasper National Park.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE
- 44.1 km, 2-3 day hike
- Elevation from Maligne Lake: 1410 m gain, 1928 m loss
- Maximum elevation: 2510 m

The details
With almost 25 km of this trail hiked above treeline, the Skyline is Jasper’s highest and possibly most scenic trail. The high elevation allows for amazing views that extend over much of the park, encompassing vast meadows, windswept ridges, and the chance to spot wildlife in the distance. Crossing three mountain passes, the Skyline Trail offers a variety of flora, fauna and scenery unique to Jasper National Park. Be prepared for all weather conditions, and check current conditions before setting off. Snow can fall any time of the year, and the section of trail called “the Notch” can be impassable early in the season.

What you need to know
The Skyline Trail is Jasper’s most popular backcountry hiking trail, so we recommend booking well in advance. This trail can only be hiked in the summer months, typically between July 1 and October 1.

Special Considerations
The Skyline Trail has two trails which can be used as escape routes during poor weather. The Wabasso Trail is a long, rough 15-km trail with a steep descent of 1100 m, which ends on the Icefields Parkway, 14 km south of Jasper. The Watchtower Trail is a 13.2-km trail which descends 985 m to the Maligne Lake Road. This trail is typically quite muddy throughout the season. In high water, fording the Maligne River can be an issue.

Be prepared for all weather conditions when hiking the Skyline Trail, as sudden weather changes can occur.
SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

The recommended direction to hike the Skyline is from south (Maligne Lake) to north. Most hikers walk the Skyline Trail in 2-3 days, although one can spend an extra day to explore the alpine areas along the way. Hikers need to consider weather conditions and high altitudes when planning their length of stay.

OPTION 1 : 1 NIGHT

Start at Maligne Lake and hike 20 km to Curator Campground. The following day, hike the 24 km out to the north trailhead on Maligne Lake Road.

OPTION 2 : 2 NIGHTS

Start at Maligne Lake and hike 12 km to Snowbowl Campground. The following day hike 18 km to Tekarra Campground. The third day will be a 14-km hike out.

Trail distances (in km)

|                           | Maligne Lake | Evelyn Creek | Evelyn Creek | Little Shovel | Little Shovel | Little Shovel | Snowbowl | Snowbowl | Snowbowl | Curator | Curator | Curator | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Tekarra | Signal | Signal | Signal | Signal | Signal | Signal | Signal | Signal | Signal |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Evelyn Creek             | 4.8          | 4.8          |              | 8.3           | 8.3           | 8.3           | 12.2      | 12.2      | 12.2      | 20.3    | 20.3    | 20.3    | 30.4    | 30.4    | 30.4    | 35.7    | 35.7    | 35.7    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    |
| Snowbowl                 |              |              |              | 7.4           | 7.4           | 7.4           | 3.9       | 3.9       | 3.9       | 13.0    | 16.5    | 16.5    | 26.1    | 26.1    | 26.1    | 30.8    | 30.8    | 30.8    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    |
| Tekarra                  |              |              |              | 18.7          | 18.7          | 18.7          | 9.6       | 9.6       | 9.6       | 22.6    | 22.6    | 22.6    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 27.3    | 27.3    | 27.3    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    | 35.8    |
| Signal                   |              |              |              | 4.8           | 4.8           | 4.8           | 14.3      | 14.3      | 14.3      | 31.9    | 31.9    | 31.9    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 23.5    | 23.5    | 23.5    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    | 39.3    |
| Signal Trailhead         |              |              |              | 22.8          | 22.8          | 22.8          | 8.5       | 8.5       | 8.5       | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    | 44.1    |

Elevation profile
**Campground information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>FIRE PIT</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Creek (Elevation: 1824 m)</td>
<td>A small, quiet campground by a creek, good for hikers getting a late start in the day.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>11U 452481-5843006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Shovel (Elevation: 2233 m)</td>
<td>A campground with beautiful views over Maligne Lake and the Bald Hills, situated below Little Shovel Pass. This campground is great for campers who want to avoid the busier Snowbowl Campground.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>11U 450945-5842879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowbowl (Elevation: 2094 m)</td>
<td>Popular campground located in a spectacular meadow, sheltered by trees, with easy access to water.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>11U 447486-5844389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curator (Elevation: 2070 m)</td>
<td>Popular with hikers taking 2 days to hike the Skyline Trail. This campground is situated 0.8 km off trail and 1.2 km from spectacular Curator Lake.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>11U 442160-5848882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tekarra (Elevation: 2062 m)</td>
<td>A beautiful campground with great views, located next to a fast moving creek.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>11U 437972-5855684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal (Elevation: 2014 m)</td>
<td>A quiet campground at the top of the Signal Fire Road. There are great views over Jasper and surroundings from the hills above the campground.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>11U 433941-5858434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions to Trailhead**

**Maligne Trailhead (south)**
Take Highway 16 east towards Edmonton. Two km from Jasper, turn right across the bridge onto Maligne Road. Continue for 46 km south on the Maligne Road to Maligne Lake. Continue on the road past the chalet and across the bridge to the parking lot on the west side of the lake. The trailhead is on the right-hand side of the road, just before you reach the parking lot.

**Signal trailhead (north)**
Drive 8 km south on the Maligne Lake Road. Parking area is on the right.

**SAFETY**
You are responsible for your own safety. Be prepared for extreme weather and mountainous terrain. Cell phone coverage is unavailable in most areas.

**TRAIL REPORT**
Before leaving, check the Jasper National Park trail report for up-to-date conditions at www.pc.gc.ca/JasperTrails.

**TRAIL INFORMATION**
780-852-6177
pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry

**RESERVATIONS**
1 877-737-3783
pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry

**EMERGENCY**
call 780-852-3100
or 877-852-3100
Maps, GPS data and elevations are provided for reference purposes only. Maps are not meant for navigation. Parks Canada Agency (PCA) makes no guarantees, representations or warranties respecting these data, either expressed or implied. PCA assumes no responsibility for damages or other liabilities due to the accuracy, availability, use or misuse of the information herein provided.
LEAVE NO TRACE

**FOOD STORAGE**

To reduce your campsite’s attractiveness to bears, all food, garbage, toiletries and cooking equipment must be hung from the food storage cables provided at campsites.

How do I store my food?

The campground is equipped with a bear pole for food storage. There are picnic tables present.

Photo: D. Albrecht

Hook all cables to the upright post/tree, or animals may become entangled in the cables.

**HUMAN WASTE**

Use the pit toilet provided. When there are no facilities nearby, select a spot away from trails, campsites and at least 70 m from water sources. Dig a hole 12 to 16 cm into the dark-coloured, biologically active soil layer. Loosely fill the hole with soil afterward. Use as little toilet paper as possible.

Privy

There are barrel toilets at all campgrounds.

**GARbage**

Please—Pack it in and pack it out! You are responsible for everything you take into the backcountry and this includes garbage. Do not dispose of garbage in pit toilets—it may attract animals.

**CAMPING**

Please camp only at the campsites indicated on your Backcountry Camping Permit and use the tent pads.

**SHORTCUTTING TRAILS**

Shortcutting between trail switchbacks damages both the soil and plant life. This not only ruins the look of an area, but makes it susceptible to further damage by erosion.

**WASHING**

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 m away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain out those last bits of food waste and pack them out. Disperse strained water on land.

**CAMPFIRES**

Fires are not permitted.

**WATER**

Boil or treat all drinking water.

**COLLECTING NATURAL OR CULTURAL OBJECTS**

Rocks, fossils, horns, antlers, wildflowers, nests and all other natural or historical objects in a national park are protected by law. Leave them as you found them for others to enjoy.
EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Have you got it?

This is a list of suggested equipment for Jasper's backcountry trails. Visit www.pc.gc.ca/jasperbackcountry for a comprehensive list. Mountain weather is unpredictable; be prepared for winter conditions at any time of the year. Snow may persist in high mountain regions into the summer and avalanche danger may occur in any season. This equipment list does not account for the special knowledge and equipment required to travel in avalanche terrain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLOTHING</th>
<th>SHELTER</th>
<th>OTHER ESSENTIALS</th>
<th>OPTIONAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long underwear</td>
<td>Tent with waterproof fly</td>
<td>Wilderness pass</td>
<td>Binoculars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool sweater, down vest</td>
<td>Food should include</td>
<td>Bear spray and the knowledge to use</td>
<td>Altimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vest or fleece jacket</td>
<td>for an extra day</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>Field guide(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain gear - pants and</td>
<td>Water filter, purification</td>
<td>Topographic map</td>
<td>GPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jacket, gaiters</td>
<td>tablets or extra fuel for</td>
<td>Compass</td>
<td>SPOT™ Device or satellite phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat and gloves / mittens</td>
<td>boiling your water</td>
<td>Waterproof matches and/or lighter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots with ankle</td>
<td>Water gear bag to store food</td>
<td>Insect repellent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support and good soles</td>
<td>at camp</td>
<td>Flashlight and extra batteries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandals or runners for</td>
<td></td>
<td>First aid kit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fording streams and at</td>
<td></td>
<td>Signaling device (whistle or mirror)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>camp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Toilet paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra warm clothes in</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rope - approx. 8 metres. A throw bag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waterproof bag</td>
<td></td>
<td>works well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Waterproof bags for all gear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAPS

NTS
Medicine Lake 83C/13
Athabasca Falls 83C/12

Gemtrek
Jasper and Maligne Lake

National Geographic
Jasper South

For more information on low impact travel in the backcountry, contact:
leavenotrace.ca
1-877-238-9343

Backcountry camping permits

A backcountry camping permit is mandatory for all overnight trips. It can be obtained by visiting pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry, by calling 1-877-737-3783 or by visiting the Jasper Information Centre.

Travelling frequently?

Frequent backcountry travellers can purchase an Annual Wilderness Pass, valid in all the mountain national parks for a full year after purchase date. If you have an annual backcountry pass, you also need a backcountry camping permit for each trip. Annual backcountry pass holders pay only the reservation fee for their backcountry camping permit.