TONQUIN VALLEY

SEMI-PRIMITIVE

- 43.7 km, 2-3 days
- Elevation gain from Cavell Road to Amethyst Lake: 1053 m, 1293 m loss
- Elevation gain from Portal Creek to Amethyst Lake: 1293 m, 1053 m loss
- Maximum elevation: 2210 m

The details

The Tonquin Valley’s scenery is unrivalled. The trail takes you into one of Canada’s premiere alpine regions, a unique combination of barren peaks, ghostly ice and fertile lakes. The valley is popular for its stunning views of Amethyst Lake at the base of The Ramparts mountain range. It’s famous for its variety of wildlife, which includes grizzlies, black bears and woodland caribou. It does also have a reputation for its mudiness and an abundance of mosquitoes, so be prepared for a bit of everything. Maccarib Pass is a definite highlight and the day trips into the Eremite Valley and Moat Lake are great for those with some extra time.

What you need to know

The Tonquin Valley Trail can be hiked in the summer months and skied in late winter. In the summer months the area tends to be quite muddy and the bugs can be bad. Late summer and fall are the best times to hike the Tonquin Valley. Like all backcountry trails, the Tonquin is frequented by wildlife, so be sure to keep a clean campsite and use the food storage facilities provided. If travelling in the winter months be sure to check avalanche conditions, pack all avalanche safety gear, and practice no trace camping. **Be prepared for all weather conditions, carry maps (and know how to use them).**

No fires permitted.
No bikes permitted.
Caribou range; dogs are not allowed.
Special Considerations

The Tonquin Valley has two outfitter lodges, The Tonquin Valley Backcountry Lodge (www.tonquinvalley.com, 780-852-3909) and Tonquin Valley Adventures Lodge (www.tonquinadventures.com, 780-852-1188). There is also an Alpine Club of Canada Hut (ACC) which is a great base for daytrips, or for mountaineers planning on climbing The Ramparts. The Wates-Gibson Hut (www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/facility/wates.html) can be booked by calling the ACC at 403-678-3200 or by emailing info@alpineclubofcanada.ca.

Trail distances (in km)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
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<td>266</td>
<td>280</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Elevation profile

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
Campground information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>FIRE PIT</th>
<th>UTM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astoria</td>
<td>This forested site sits on a ridge high above the Astoria River.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>422681-5837524</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Elevation: 1690 m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switchback</td>
<td>A somewhat forested campground, which still has great views of the surrounding mountains.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>418802-5837175</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Elevation: 2067 m)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clitheroe</td>
<td>This forested campground offers views of the Ramparts mountain range. It can be used as a base camp to explore the Eremite Valley.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>416199-5838929</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Elevation: 2080 m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surprise Point</td>
<td>This campground close to the base of the Ramparts mountain range has stunning views. It is also a great base for day hiking into the Eremite Valley.</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>415545-5837389</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Elevation: 1978 m)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>off the main trail</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amethyst</td>
<td>Located close to Amethyst Lake with spectacular views of the Ramparts Mountain Range, this is the most centrally located and most popular campground in the valley.</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>414457-5840086</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Elevation: 1985 m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maccarib</td>
<td>This campground is perched nicely at treeline with great views of the valley.</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>414561-5842975</td>
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<td>(Elevation: 2012 m)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portal</td>
<td>A nice campground in an open forest next to a creek.</td>
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<td>421730-5843293</td>
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<td>(Elevation: 1979 m)</td>
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Directions to Portal Creek trailhead

Portal Creek is on Marmot Road (16 km from Jasper). This trailhead is accessible year-round.

From Jasper
Take the Icefields Parkway towards Banff, and turn right immediately after the park gate, onto Highway 93A. Continue along 93A for 2.4 km, and turn right onto Marmot Road. The trailhead is on your left at km 12 of the road, marked by a hiker sign.

From Banff and Lake Louise
Follow the Icefields Parkway north towards Jasper. Turn left at the junction to Highway 93A and Athabasca Falls, 200 km north of Lake Louise. Continue along 93A for 21.5 km, and turn left onto Marmot Road. The trailhead is on your left at km 12 of the road, marked by a hiker sign.

Directions to Astoria Creek trailhead
Cavell Road (29 km from Jasper): In winter the Cavell Road stays closed until February 15 for caribou conservation. The road is typically open to vehicles from mid-June to October 15.

From Jasper
Take the Icefields Parkway towards Banff, and turn right immediately after the park gate, onto Highway 93A. Continue along 93A for 5.2 km, and turn right onto the Edith Cavell Road. The trailhead is across from Hostelling International’s (HI) Edith Cavell Hostel, at km 12 of the road.

From Banff and Lake Louise
Follow the Icefields Parkway north towards Jasper. Turn left at the junction to Highway 93A and Athabasca Falls, 200 km north of Lake Louise. Continue for 18.8 km, and turn left onto the Edith Cavell Road. The trailhead is across from Hostelling International’s (HI) Edith Cavell Hostel, at km 12 of the road.
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 or food lockers provided at campsites. Please clean your locker and take everything with you before you leave. Lockers are not cleaned by staff.

**HUMAN WASTE**
Use the 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.

**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.

**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**
No fires permitted.

**WATER**
Boil or treat all drinking water.

**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.

**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.
Have you got it?

This is a list of suggested equipment for Jasper's backcountry trails. Visit www.parkscanada.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.

### BACKCOUNTRY EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

#### CLOTHING
- Long underwear
- Wool sweater, down vest, or fleece jacket
- Rain gear - pants and jacket, gaiters
- Hat and gloves / mittens
- Boots with ankle support and good soles
- Sandals or runners for fording streams and at camp

#### SHELTER
- Tent with waterproof fly
- Food should include enough for an extra day
- Water filter, purification tablets or extra fuel for boiling your water
- Waterproof bag to store food at campgrounds

#### OTHER ESSENTIALS
- Wilderness pass
- Bear spray and the knowledge to use it
- Topographic map
- Compass
- Waterproof matches &/or lighter
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Signaling device (whistle or mirror)
- Toilet paper
- Rope - approx. 8m. A throw bag works well

#### OPTIONAL
- Binoculars
- Altimeter
- Field guide(s)
- GPS
- SPOT™ Device or satellite phone

### BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING PERMITS

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

#### Travelling frequently?

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.

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**MAPS**

- NTS
  - Jasper 83D/16, Amethyst Lakes 83D/9

- National Geographic:
  - Jasper South

For more information on low impact travel in the backcountry contact:

[leavenotrace.ca](http://leavenotrace.ca)

1-877-238-9343