

THE CANADIAN ROCKIES | ROAD TRIP COLLECTION

BANFF TO JASPER IN FOUR DAYS

Your complete, nature-first scenic road trip itinerary

A practical companion to my four-day YouTube video. This guide preserves the exact four daily route maps and stop order shown in the video. Added notes help you manage reservations, seasonal closures, accommodation and realistic timing.

THE FOUR-DAY JOURNEY

DAY	THE JOURNEY
01	Banff and surrounding lakes
02	Moraine Lake, Lake Louise, Yoho and Marble Canyon
03	Bow Lake to Jasper via the Icefields Parkway
04	Jasper lakes, Maligne Valley and the cruise

The route maps inside are the original graphics from my video; the cover uses corrected website branding.

BY RANJIT | RANJIT'S NATURE QUEST

Take it easy. Travel easy. Disconnect from the world—and reconnect with nature.

Published September 2026 • Suggested season: summer to early fall • Prices in Canadian dollars

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: ranjitsnq.com

Start here: how to use this guide

ROUTE PROMISE

The sightseeing routes, numbered stops and their order on Days 1–4 are reproduced from my original itinerary. I have not rerouted them. The times printed on the maps are the original video timings, not guaranteed bookings or live travel estimates.

Your four-day journey

Day	Original route, unchanged	Suggested night
1	Banff Gondola → Golf Course Route → Mount Norquay → Johnson Lake → Two Jack Lake → Lake Minnewanka	Banff
2	Moraine Lake → Lake Louise → Takakkaw Falls → Field (Yoho) → Marble Canyon Trailhead	Lake Louise / Field area
3	Bow Lake → Peyto Lake → Columbia Icefield → Tangle Falls → Sunwapta Falls → Athabasca Falls → Jasper	Jasper
4	Whistlers Peak → Patricia Lake → Pyramid Lake → Beauvert Lake → Maligne Canyon Trail → Medicine Lake → Maligne Lake Cruise → Jasper Lake → Talbot Lake	Trip finishes in Jasper; extra night if needed

Important distinction: the route is fixed; access and timing are not

- Maligne Canyon (Day 4 stop 5) is CLOSED throughout 2026. Its location remains on your original map for consistency with the video, but DO NOT enter the closed area or attempt the trail. Continue onward only on roads that are open; follow Parks Canada directions.
- For September 7–October 26, 2026, Jasper SkyTram opens at 10 a.m. The original Day 4 map shows an 8 a.m. SkyTram stop; treat that timestamp as a video reference only and verify operating hours for your exact date.
- A 3 p.m. Maligne Lake cruise requires arrival around 2 p.m. and substantial driving time. Your original Day 4 printed stop times cannot all be guaranteed in one day. Book the cruise first, preserve the displayed stop order where feasible, and regard late lakes as optional if time remains.

What four days include—and exclude

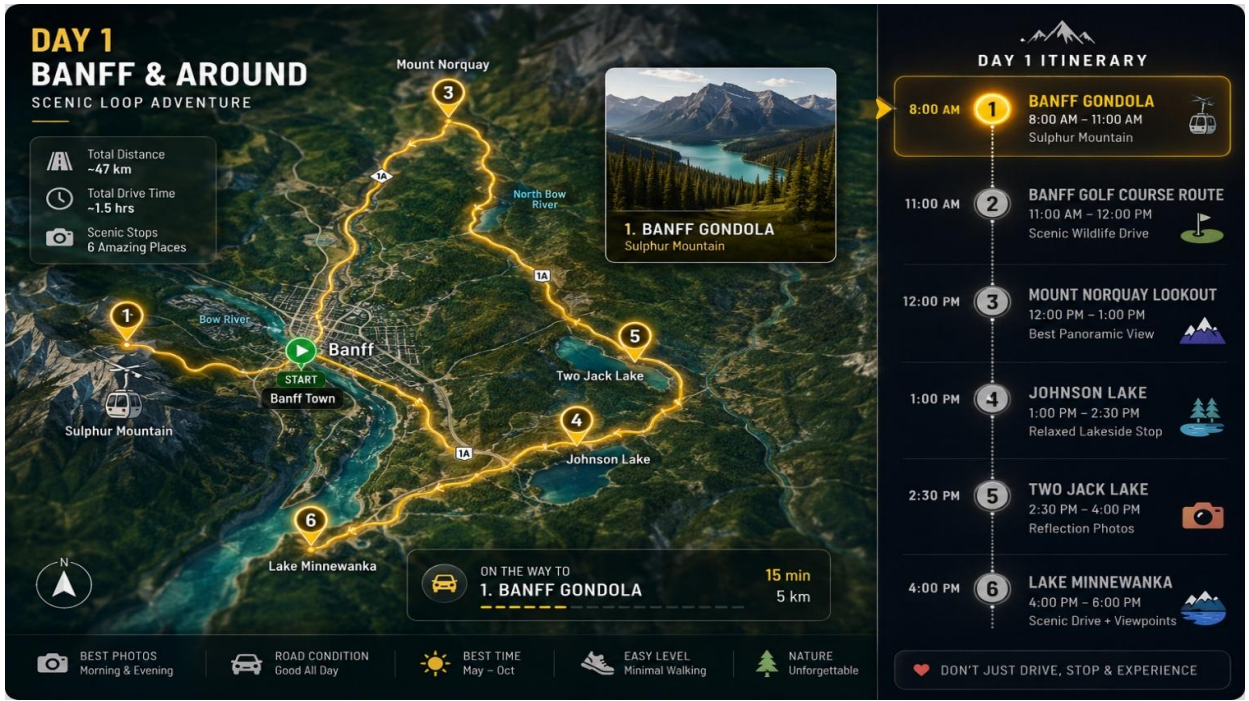
These are four sightseeing days, not flight arrival/departure days. The itinerary starts with sightseeing in Banff and ends in Jasper. Airport transfers, the journey back to Calgary, flights and any additional hotel night are NOT included. Check rental-car one-way rules and your onward journey before booking.

Plan for the experience

Start early, have a substantial breakfast, and pack water, fruit, snacks and sandwiches. Avoid repeated detours to restaurants during scenic days; enjoy dinner after exploring. These are both nature-first and cost-conscious travel choices.

Day 1 / Banff and around

ORIGINAL VIDEO ROUTE · NO CHANGES



Map reproduced as supplied. Route and stop sequence are unchanged; timings are illustrative.

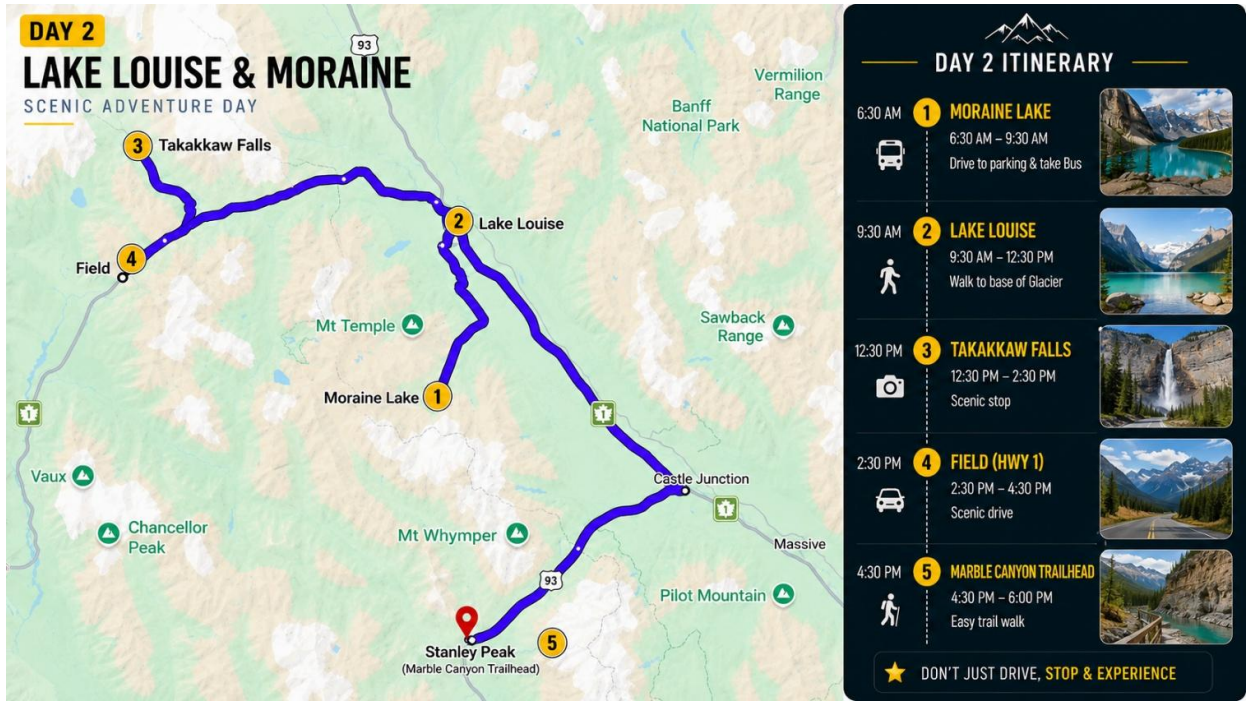
Stop	Video's visit window	What to enjoy
1 · Banff Gondola	8:00–11:00 a.m.	Optional ticketed ride and panoramic mountain views.
2 · Golf Course Route	11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Slow scenic drive; view wildlife only from a safe distance.
3 · Mount Norquay Lookout	12:00–1:00 p.m.	Bow Valley lookout and photographs.
4 · Johnson Lake	1:00–2:30 p.m.	Peaceful lakeside break and packed lunch.
5 · Two Jack Lake	2:30–4:00 p.m.	Lakeshore scenery and quiet reflection.
6 · Lake Minnewanka	4:00–6:00 p.m.	Finish with a relaxed lakeside visit.

A few practical notes

- Overnight: Banff. Book accommodation in advance during busy periods.
- Banff Gondola is optional and separately ticketed. Reserve if it is important to you; confirm the day’s opening time.
- Parking and walk times can alter the schedule. If you linger at a lake, shorten the next visit rather than rush.

Day 2 / Lake Louise, Moraine and Yoho

ORIGINAL VIDEO ROUTE · NO CHANGES



The original graphic preserves the sequence: Moraine Lake → Lake Louise → Takakkaw Falls → Field → Marble Canyon.

Stop	Original video window	Practical explanation
1 · Moraine Lake	6:30–9:30 a.m.	Book an eligible shuttle or licensed operator; private cars cannot access Moraine Lake Road.
2 · Lake Louise	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Use a suitable lake-to-lake transfer or other valid transport arrangement.
3 · Takakkaw Falls	12:30–2:30 p.m.	Check seasonal Yoho Valley Road access; allow driving and parking time.
4 · Field (Yoho)	2:30–4:30 p.m.	Short village break and scenic drive.
5 · Marble Canyon Trailhead	4:30–6:00 p.m.	This is in Kootenay National Park and adds a detour; keep the stop order, but treat completion as conditional on daylight, energy and access.

The reservation that determines this day

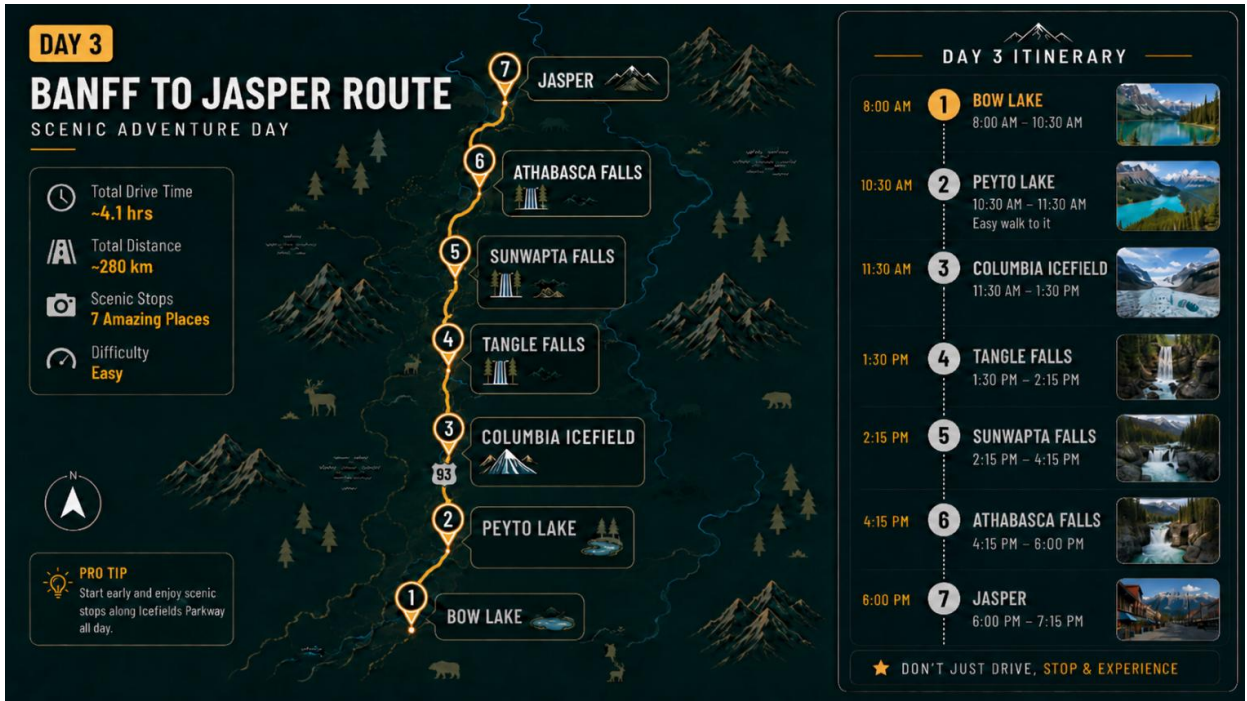
For the regular 2026 Parks Canada service, shuttle travel begins at Lake Louise Park and Ride, NOT with a private car at Moraine Lake. Reserve ahead and check in there; the Lake Connector links the lakes. The 6:30 a.m. map start is not permission to drive to Moraine Lake. Pick a booking compatible with the original sequence and allow transfer time.

If combining Parks Canada shuttle travel with the later self-drive stops, allow time to return to the Park and Ride and retrieve your vehicle before heading to Takakkaw Falls. The original 12:30 p.m. changeover is ambitious and may need to slide later.

Stay tonight: Lake Louise or Field area, subject to lodging availability. This positioning is an accommodation suggestion, not a change to any sightseeing route.

Day 3 / Banff to Jasper on the Icefields Parkway

ORIGINAL VIDEO ROUTE · NO CHANGES



The map's approximate 280 km is a trip-level figure; the Lake Louise–Jasper Icefields Parkway itself is 232 km. Starting point and detours change the total.

Stop	Original video window	Planning note
1 · Bow Lake	8:00–10:30 a.m.	Enjoy the shoreline and the nearby Crowfoot Glacier views where safely accessible.
2 · Peyto Lake	10:30–11:30 a.m.	Allow time to park and walk to the viewpoint.
3 · Columbia Icefield	11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.	Viewpoint/visitor area or optional paid excursion; the full paid adventure may require 2.5–3 hours plus check-in, pushing later stops back.
4 · Tangle Falls	1:30–2:15 p.m.	Short roadside stop only where parking and access are safe.
5 · Sunwapta Falls	2:15–4:15 p.m.	Waterfall viewpoint and a relaxed break.
6 · Athabasca Falls	4:15–6:00 p.m.	Enjoy designated viewpoints; stay behind barriers.
7 · Jasper	6:00–7:15 p.m.	Arrive, check in and have dinner.

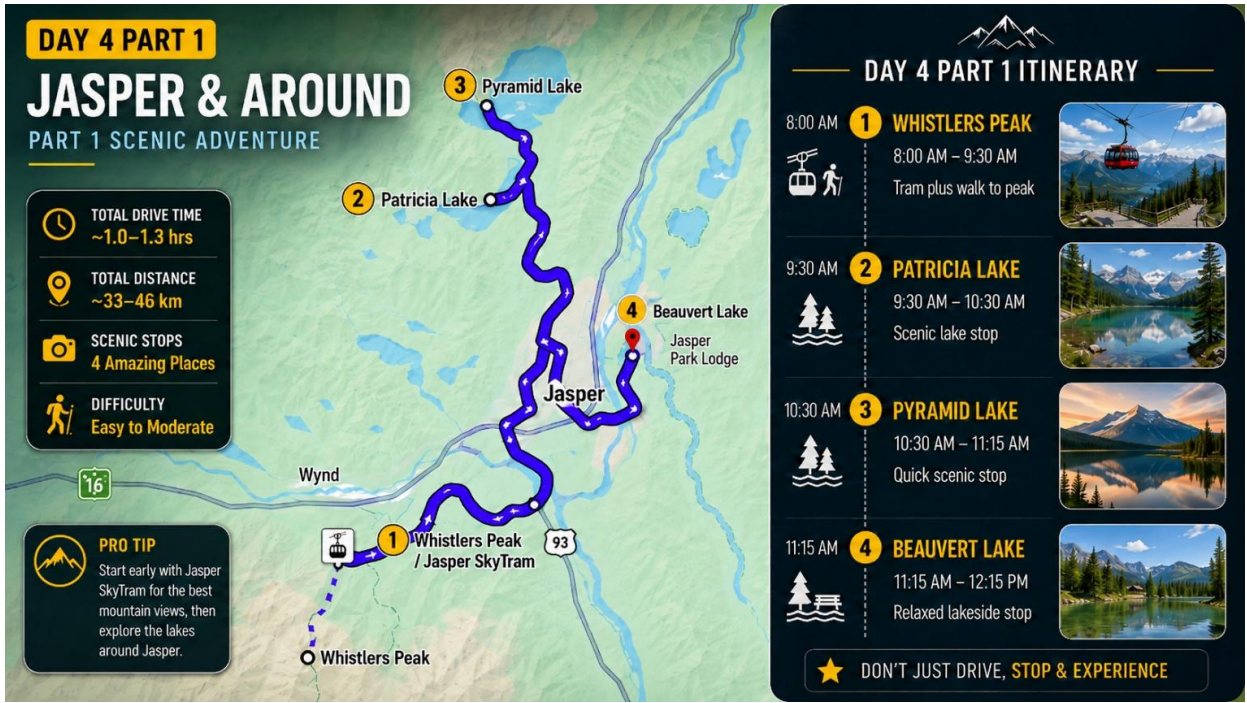
Before you set off

- Fill the fuel tank before leaving Lake Louise; the parkway has limited seasonal services. Bring food and drinking water.
- Download offline maps: Parks Canada warns there is no cellular coverage along this remote roadway. Check 511 Alberta and the latest park conditions.
- Your 8 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. video schedule is a full scenic day. If you book a long Columbia Icefield excursion, keep the stop sequence and accept that the arrival time will shift.

Stay tonight: Jasper. Avoid planning a tight same-evening flight or long return drive.

Day 4 / Jasper and around · Part 1

ORIGINAL VIDEO ROUTE · NO CHANGES



Original Part 1: Whistlers Peak → Patricia Lake → Pyramid Lake → Beauvert Lake.

Stop	Original video window	Practical note
1 · Whistlers Peak / SkyTram	8:00–9:30 a.m.	Optional ticketed tram and optional summit walk. Check the operating hours for your dates; in Sept–Oct 2026 it opens at 10 a.m.
2 · Patricia Lake	9:30–10:30 a.m.	Quiet lakeshore stop; parking may be busy.
3 · Pyramid Lake	10:30–11:15 a.m.	Short scenic lakeside visit.
4 · Beauvert Lake	11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Relaxed views near the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge area.

How to interpret this schedule

This is the video’s original time grid, reproduced without altering the route. It cannot be followed literally on days when the SkyTram opens later than 8 a.m. You can keep the stop order by starting when the operator opens, but every subsequent stop would then occur later. A longer summit walk may also affect the afternoon Maligne Lake cruise.

Choose your priorities before booking

A time-sensitive Maligne Lake cruise should be booked and planned around first. Since this fixed-order day includes multiple morning stops, it is possible that the cruise, SkyTram summit walk and final two lakes will not all fit. The guide does not promise that all nine stops can be completed on one fixed timetable.

Day 4 / Jasper and around · Part 2

ORIGINAL VIDEO ROUTE · NO CHANGES



Original Part 2: Maligne Canyon Trail → Medicine Lake → Maligne Lake Cruise → Jasper Lake → Talbot Lake.

Stop	Original video window	2026 access and feasibility
5 · Maligne Canyon Trail	12:15–2:00 p.m.	CLOSED for the entire 2026 season. Retained as an original mapped stop only; do not enter or hike the closed trail.
6 · Medicine Lake	2:00–3:00 p.m.	Drive and safe roadside stopping time must be accounted for.
7 · Maligne Lake Cruise	3:00–5:00 p.m.	Reservation required for preferred departure. Operator advises arriving about one hour ahead, and allowing around 90 min from Jasper to Maligne Lake.
8 · Jasper Lake	5:00–6:00 p.m.	Optional only if the return drive, light and energy allow.
9 · Talbot Lake	6:00–7:00 p.m.	Optional final stop; do not race sunset or drive tired.

Critical access advisory: Maligne Canyon

As of September 2026, Parks Canada confirms the canyon will remain closed for the entire 2026 season. The route graphic is the unchanged version that accompanies my YouTube video, NOT an instruction to visit the closed trail. Obey signs and closure orders. After the mapped canyon area, continue toward Medicine Lake only via legally open roads and routes.

Critical cruise booking advisory

The pictured 3 p.m. cruise is illustrative, not a reservation. Check your sailing time and allow the recommended early arrival and drive. Jasper Lake and Talbot Lake remain on the original route but are optional if time runs out.

Where to stay / three-night plan

The following stay locations support the original day sequence; no sightseeing stops have been moved.

Night	Suggested base	Booking considerations
Night 1	Banff	Easy departure point for Day 2; town and nearby options fill quickly in peak months.
Night 2	Lake Louise or Field area or Banff	Convenient launch for the Icefields Parkway; Field is smaller, so check actual supply.
Night 3	Jasper	Supports Day 4. Check reopening status and availability for individual businesses.
Night 4?	Optional Jasper / onward	Only if departure logistics require it; not part of the four sightseeing days.

Accommodation price ranges from my source infographic

These are the creator's indicative CAD ranges per night, not live quotes. Room type, guest count, taxes, location and availability can change actual prices. In particular, the more expensive shared-townhouse and luxury figures refer to whole units where noted, not necessarily per person. Recheck before publishing future editions.

Stay type	Low: Nov–Apr	Shoulder: May / Oct	Peak: Jun–Sep
Tent camping	\$20–45	\$30–60	\$35–75
Approved car camping	\$20–45	\$30–60	\$35–75
Hostel, per person	\$50–120	\$80–180	\$120–250+
Economy hotel / motel	\$120–220	\$180–320	\$280–500+
Townhouse / shared whole unit	\$250–500	\$400–800	\$700–1,500
Luxury hotel / lodge	\$350–700	\$600–1,200	\$900–2,500+

Car sleeping and camping are permitted only at authorized locations. A parking space or roadside pullout is not automatically an overnight site. Use approved campsites and check local rules.

Practical food strategy

Have a substantial breakfast before departure. Carry packed sandwiches, water, fruit and snacks for a flexible lunch in permitted picnic areas. Save restaurant dining for the evening after exploring. This cuts repeated town detours, reduces food spending and protects quiet time in nature.

Costs, park admission and money-saving decisions

All amounts below are CAD. Historic estimates from my June 2026 planning graphic should not be confused with a guaranteed current ticket price.

Optional excursions · original planning estimates

Activity	Adult estimate (June 2026)	Decision
Banff Gondola	\$88	Optional; verify date-specific ticket price.
Jasper SkyTram	\$80	Optional; check hours and price by date.
Maligne Lake Cruise	\$106	Optional; advance-book the exact departure.
Columbia Icefield Adventure / Skywalk	\$130	Optional; check the package, duration and availability.
Parks Canada shuttle to Moraine Lake	\$12.75	Creator's June estimate; book and check current fare / eligibility.

Youth and child rates vary by attraction and age; the source graphic's generic "Free" child column should not be treated as a universal promise. Check the relevant operator before booking. These excursions are independent purchases, not included in the park entry fee.

Park admission: avoid paying separately for each park

A valid daily pass for the Western Canadian mountain parks covers Banff, Jasper, Yoho and Kootenay during its validity; you do not need a separate daily entry pass for each park. Regular 2026 indicative published admission: adult \$12.25/day, family/group \$24.50/day; Discovery Pass: adult \$83.50, family/group \$167.50. Youth 17 and under enter free. Confirm eligibility and rates with Parks Canada.

The Canada Strong Pass provided free Parks Canada admission June 19–September 7, 2026; this offer has ENDED. Regular fees resumed September 8, 2026. Shuttle seats, cruises, gondolas and accommodation are separate charges.

Make a trip budget before booking

Expense	How to estimate it
Lodging	Three nights × a confirmed nightly room/site quote; add tax.
Vehicle	Rental cost, one-way fee (if any), fuel, insurance and parking.
Park admission	Choose daily or annual pass based on your actual travel dates and group.
Food	Breakfast, packed lunches and dinners × number of travellers.
Activities	Only the excursions you actually choose, using live ticket quotes.
Onward transfer	Jasper to airport, return route or optional extra night.

My cost-saving principle: plan early, compare your total transport + lodging costs, pack daytime food, and spend on experiences that matter to you rather than automatically buying every attraction.

Before you go / essential checklist

01 Confirm season and conditions

The schedules assume suitable conditions, open roads and adequate daylight. Takakkaw Falls' Yoho Valley Road generally opens mid-June to mid-October, weather permitting. Check current status for every access road and trail.

02 Reserve transport for Moraine Lake

Personal vehicles are prohibited. Reserve Parks Canada shuttle or a licensed operator; check parking/check-in requirements and the Lake Connector schedule. Time your other Day 2 travel around your reservation.

03 Book the attractions you actually want

Check exact operating dates, opening hours, departure times, age bands and cancellation policies for Banff Gondola, Jasper SkyTram, Columbia Icefield and Maligne Lake Cruise.

04 Check the Jasper closure bulletin

Maligne Canyon is closed throughout the 2026 season. Do not enter the closed area even though the original Day 4 route graphic still shows the stop. Follow the latest official instructions.

05 Prepare for the Icefields Parkway

Fill the tank; bring water/food and layers. Download offline maps. Expect little or no connectivity, limited fuel/services, variable weather and parking constraints.

06 Plan the airport and final night separately

The four sightseeing days exclude flight days. Confirm your starting hotel, rental-car return location, onward journey and whether a fourth overnight stay is necessary.

07 Drive and view wildlife responsibly

Obey speed limits, never stop in a traffic lane, use designated pullouts, keep distance from wildlife and follow park closures. Leave no trace.

08 Keep your schedule flexible

Map times reflect the video, not guarantees. Build in food breaks, parking, walks, reservations and natural stops. Do not rush or drive fatigued to finish every pin.

Packing essentials

Refillable water bottle, packed food, rain layer and warm clothing, appropriate footwear, sunscreen, medications, charging cable, offline navigation, reservation confirmations and a valid park pass when required.

Official planning links and update notes

These primary-source links were checked for the September 2026 edition. They should be rechecked before travel; operating details can change after this guide is downloaded.

[Parks Canada · Visiting Lake Louise and Moraine Lake ↗](#)

[Parks Canada · Icefields Parkway guide ↗](#)

[Parks Canada · Jasper park recovery / Maligne Canyon closure ↗](#)

[Parks Canada · Yoho park hours and road seasons ↗](#)

[Parks Canada · Admission passes and fees ↗](#)

[Jasper SkyTram · Operator hours ↗](#)

[Maligne Lake Cruise · Operator details ↗](#)

[Alberta 511 · Driving conditions ↗](#)

About your guide

I'm Ranjit, a nature-driven traveller and the creator of Ranjit's Nature Quest. My travels have taken me through 18 countries and more than 100 road trips, including repeated journeys through the Canadian Rockies. My aim is not to rush through the greatest number of attractions, but to experience mountains, valleys, lakes and wilderness thoughtfully.

The maps and route order in this guide match my four-day YouTube video. Safety advisories, reservation reminders, stay suggestions and costs are additional guidance; they do not replace your own live checks with park authorities and attraction operators.

Need a trip planned around your pace?

Explore my custom itinerary service at ranjitsnq.com. You can also find more scenic journeys and practical money-saving travel guidance there.

Take it easy. Travel easy. Disconnect from the world—and reconnect with nature.

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