

ICEFIELDS PARKWAY

Numerous short trails lead off the Icefields Pkwy, most of them providing access to wonderful viewpoints over lakes, waterfalls and the ubiquitous rivers of ice.

SKOKI VALLEY

The Skoki is classic Banff backcountry, accessible from the park's largest ski area and utilized in both summer and winter, either by foot or cross-country skis. The object of most people's yearnings is the cozy backcountry Skoki Lodge.

BOW VALLEY PARKWAY

Trails – ranging from simple strolls to challenging semi-scrambles – replete with waterfalls, old fire lookouts and steep scree slopes lead off Hwy 1A, the quiet alternative to the Trans-Canada Hwy.

BANFF TOWN

A good half-dozen trails head out from downtown Banff. All of them emphasize the eerie proximity of the natural world to Banff's urban hub, with some great wildlife-watching opportunities around the local rivers and lakes.

LAKE MINNEWANKA

You're never far from lake views on the Minnewanka Loop trails located conveniently close to Banff Town. Favorites include a hike to a rocky amphitheater and a stroll to an impressive lakeside canyon.

LAKE LOUISE

Lake Louise's most popular trails keep close to the lake's shoreline. Its two classic hikes follow well-trodden paths to two hike-in-only teahouses that are open for snacks and beverages all summer.

MORAINE LAKE

Moraine Lake is prime bear country and hikers must walk in groups of four or more during the buffalo-berry season. The terrain is particularly popular in the fall, when the abundant larch trees change color.

EGYPT LAKE

The spectacular terrain astride the Continental Divide around Egypt Lake is like a backcountry crossroads, with trails linking to Sunshine Meadows, Kootenay National Park, and the comfort-inducing Shadow Lake backcountry lodge.

SUNSHINE MEADOWS

Banff's best above-the-treeline hikes meander through flower meadows close to the Continental Divide. The meadows are also a launching pad for some excellent backcountry treks.

