

Hiking the Icefields Parkway: The Greatest Hikes on Earth



Hiking the Icefields Parkway in Banff National Park (The Greatest Hikes on Earth Book 21) by Greater Than a Tourist

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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The Icefields Parkway is one of the most scenic drives in the world, and it's also home to some of the best hiking trails on Earth. This 232-kilometer highway winds its way through the heart of the Canadian Rockies, and it offers hikers of all levels the chance to experience the beauty of this stunning mountain range.

In this article, we'll take you on a virtual hike along the Icefields Parkway, and we'll introduce you to some of the most popular trails that it has to offer. We'll also provide you with some tips for planning your own hiking trip, and we'll answer some of the most common questions that hikers have.

The Most Popular Hiking Trails on the Icefields Parkway

1. **Plain of Six Glaciers:** This is one of the most popular hiking trails on the Icefields Parkway, and it offers hikers the chance to see six different glaciers up close. The trail is 11 kilometers round-trip, and it takes about 3-4 hours to complete.
2. **Parker Ridge:** This trail is a bit more challenging than the Plain of Six Glaciers trail, but it offers even more stunning views. The trail is 13 kilometers round-trip, and it takes about 4-5 hours to complete.
3. **Sulphur Mountain:** This trail is located near the town of Banff, and it offers hikers the chance to climb to the summit of Sulphur Mountain. The trail is 5 kilometers round-trip, and it takes about 2-3 hours to complete.
4. **Peyto Lake:** This trail is located near the town of Lake Louise, and it offers hikers the chance to see one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. The trail is 4 kilometers round-trip, and it takes about 1-2 hours to complete.
5. **Mistaya Canyon:** This trail is located near the town of Field, and it offers hikers the chance to see a beautiful canyon that was carved by the Mistaya River. The trail is 4 kilometers round-trip, and it takes about 1-2 hours to complete.

Planning Your Hiking Trip

If you're planning a hiking trip to the Icefields Parkway, there are a few things you should keep in mind.

- **The weather can change quickly in the mountains**, so it's important to be prepared for all types of weather. Make sure to bring layers of clothing, rain gear, and sturdy hiking boots.

- **The trails can be crowded during the summer months**, so it's best to start your hike early in the morning or late in the afternoon. You can also avoid the crowds by hiking on weekdays instead of weekends.
- **The Icefields Parkway is a popular destination for bears**, so it's important to be aware of your surroundings and make noise while you're hiking. If you see a bear, do not approach it. Instead, back away slowly and calmly.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the best time of year to hike the Icefields Parkway?** The best time to hike the Icefields Parkway is during the summer months (June-September). The weather is generally mild during this time, and the trails are clear of snow.
2. **How long does it take to hike the Icefields Parkway?** The Icefields Parkway is 232 kilometers long, and it takes about 3-4 hours to drive the entire route. However, if you're planning on hiking any of the trails along the parkway, you'll need to add additional time to your trip.
3. **Are there any fees to hike the Icefields Parkway?** There are no fees to hike the Icefields Parkway. However, there is a fee to enter Banff National Park, which is \$20 per person per day.

The Icefields Parkway is a truly special place, and it offers hikers of all levels the chance to experience the beauty of the Canadian Rockies. If you're looking for an unforgettable hiking experience, then be sure to add the Icefields Parkway to your list of must-visit destinations.

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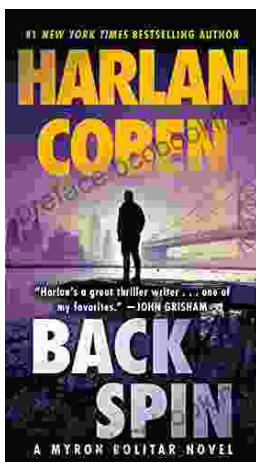


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