

NATIONAL PARK · CANADA · ALBERTA

Waterton Lakes

at a glance

The smallest park in the Canadian Rockies, and the only one where the prairie runs straight into the mountains without foothills.

505 km²

AREA

over 250

BIODIVERSITY

19,303

KENOW FIRE 2017

hectares burned in the park

BEFORE YOU GO

**Prairie and high mountains with no transition**

Waterton lies at one of the narrowest points of the Rocky Mountain chain.

**The smallest park in the Canadian Rockies**

505 square kilometres (195 sq mi). For comparison, Banff is about thirteen times as large.

**Distances to Waterton townsite**

Lethbridge 132 km (82 mi), Calgary 271 km (168 mi), Banff 371 km (231 mi), Edmonton 562 km (349 mi).

**July and August are peak season**

The park authority explicitly recommends choosing the shoulder season or a weekday: summer weekends are exceptionally busy.

**Prepared for all four seasons**

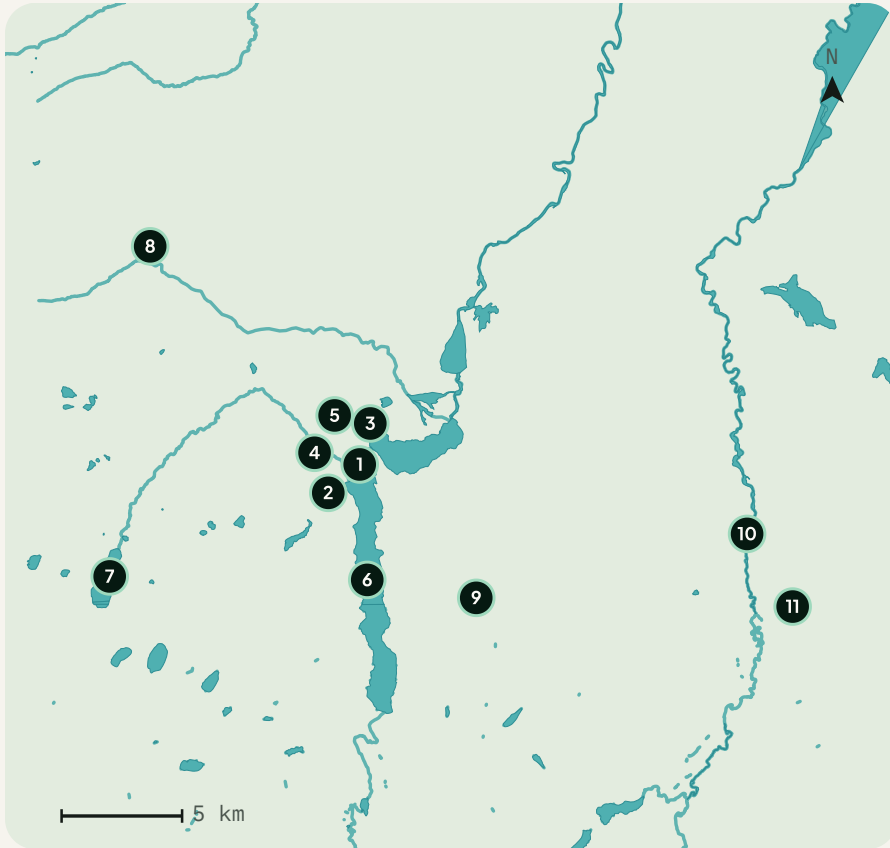
The park authority gives an explicit packing list for camping: warm layers, a waterproof jacket and trousers, hat and gloves, ground sheet ...

**Bears and other wildlife**

Waterton protects an exceptional number of species in a small area: over 250 bird species, more than 60 mammal species, 24 fish species and ...

**Fees and opening hours, up to date**

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date:
nationalparksatlas.com/en/canada/waterton



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Waterton Park | 7 Cameron Lake |
| 2 Townsite Campground | 8 Red Rock Canyon |
| 3 Prince of Wales Hotel | 9 Crypt Lake |
| 4 Cameron Falls | 10 Belly River Campground |
| 5 Bear's Hump Trail | 11 Chief Mountain border crossing |
| 6 Upper Waterton Lake | |

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL



RED ROCK CANYON



CAMERON FALLS

THINGS TO DO

Red Rock Canyon

A canyon of bright red rock at the end of the Red Rock Parkway, with clear water running through it.

Cameron Falls in town

The waterfall is right in town and is one of the few places with heated toilets and running water even in ...

Sixteen day-use areas and four red chairs

The park has sixteen designated day-use and picnic areas and four locations with Parks Canada's red chairs ...

Crown of the Continent

Waterton is part of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem, which covers 73,000 square kilometres (28,200 sq ...

[More on the park page](#)

Cameron Lake

At the end of the Akamina Parkway, framed by mountains, with boat rentals and the trailhead of the ...

Boat tour on Upper Waterton Lake

The boat trip across the lake is one of the best-known things to do in the park; historically it ran from ...

No drones

Flying drones for private use is prohibited in the park.

More species in less space

The park authority is clear: no other Canadian national park protects so much wildlife in such a small area ...

TOURS AND GETTING THERE • AD



Explore Waterton National Park from Calgary: Guided Tour
ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM WATERTON PARK
Waterton: Waterton & Its Wildlife Tour
ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM WATERTON PARK
Waterton: Red Rock Parkway Highlights by Van
ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



GUIDED HIKE • 12.8 KM
Waterton: Upper Rowe Lake Hike
ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



Partner links: we may earn a commission if you book. Dates and prices are set by the provider. Checked 19 Sep 2026.