

FIDDLE RIVER

A beautiful trail with a gorgeous pass and the hottest hot springs in the Canadian Rockies.

Fiddle Pass

Photo: R. Gruys

SEMI-PRIMITIVE

- 38.6 km one way, 2-3 day hike
- Elevation gain/loss: 1085 m/260 m
- Maximum elevation: 2130 m

The details

This rough trail through a remote valley in the eastern part of the park sees few visitors. Yet it features pleasant riverside views, a stunning alpine pass and, if you plan it right, a soak in the Canadian Rockies' hottest hot springs at the end of your hike. This trail can be difficult due to several unbridged stream and river crossings. The section in Wildhorse Wildland Provincial Park can be extremely muddy and is unsigned for the most part. This trail is best in late August or September when water levels are lower and the trail is drier.

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

ONE-NIGHT GETAWAY

- 1) Start at the Miette Hotsprings, hike to Utopia Campground for one night and return to the hot springs.
- 2) To visit Fiddle Pass, you can bike from Whitehorse Creek Campground near Cadomin for the first 4.6 km to Trappers Campground, and then hike to Fiddle Pass from there. You can return to Cadomin from the pass or hike a few more kilometres to Whitehorse Campground before heading back to Cadomin.



Fires permitted



Bikes permitted only
from Whitehorse
Creek Campground to
Trappers Campground
(4.6 km)



Photo: R. Gruys



Nikanassin Range from Fiddle Pass

Photo: R Gruys

TWO / THREE NIGHT TRAVERSE

This will require two cars, and a car shuttle between Miette Hotsprings and Whitehorse Creek Campground near Cadomin (95 km, about 2 hours one-way).

1) Start at Whitehorse Creek Campground and end at Miette Hotsprings. Camp at Whitehorse and Utopia campgrounds, or at Fiddle Pass (in Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park) and Slide Creek.

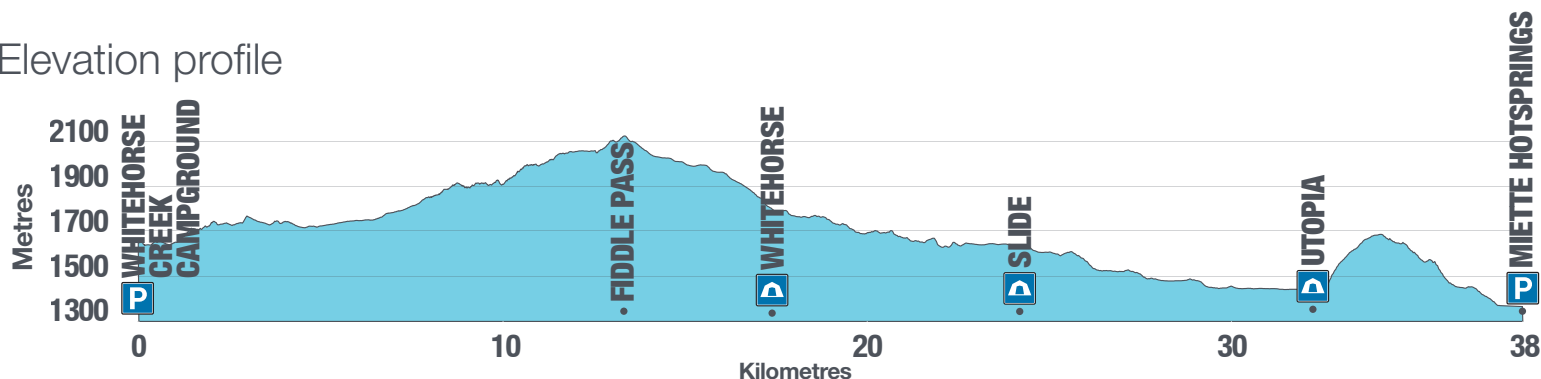
2) Start at Miette Hotsprings and do the trip in reverse.

If you want to take your time for some extra exploration around Fiddle Pass, you can add another night at Whitehorse Campground.

Trail distances (in km)

	Miette Hotsprings								
Utopia Pass	3	Utopia Pass							
Utopia CG	6.2	3.5	Utopia CG						
Slide Creek CG	13	10.8	7.3	Slide Creek CG					
Slide Creek Horse Camp	14.9	12.3	8.8	1.5	Slide Creek Horse CG				
Whitehorse CG	20.2	18.4	14.9	7.6	6.1	Whitehorse CG			
Fiddle Pass	24.3	22.6	19.1	11.8	10.3	4.2	Fiddle Pass		
Fiddle Pass CG (AB Parks)	26.1	24.4	20.9	13.6	12.1	6	1.8	Fiddle Pass CG (AB Parks)	
Whitehorse Creek CG / Cadomin Trailhead	37.8	35.6	32.1	24.8	23.3	17.2	13	11.2	Whitehorse Creek CG / Cadomin Trailhead

Elevation profile



Trail distances (in km)

Distance from Miette	Distance from Whitehorse Creek	Description
0	38.6	The trail starts at the Source of the Springs trailhead at Miette Hot Springs. It follows the paved trail and boardwalk to the old aquacourt and the source of the springs.
0.8	37.8	Source of the hot springs. Trail becomes rougher.
1.0	37.6	Junction with horse trail. If coming from Cadomin, hikers keep right, horses left.
1.5	37.1	Trail crosses Sulphur Creek. From there it climbs steadily to Utopia Pass.
3.0	35.6	Utopia Pass. This pass is mostly forested, and the trail can be muddy here. From the pass you descend steeply to the Fiddle River.
5.2	33.4	Fiddle River. Just above the shore a large landslide has taken out part of the trail. You need to work your way down to the bank of the river, and from there through the land slide back to the trail. From here onwards, the trail is rough and overgrown in places. Sightlines can be poor, so make ample noise to warn bears of your presence. The first campground at Utopia Creek is 1.2 km beyond the landslide.
6.5	32.1	Utopia Campground. After the campground, the trail continues to follow the river.
7.3	31.3	A large, old slide forces the trail a bit higher above the river.
13.7	24.9	Slide Creek. This creek is not bridged, and can be difficult to ford during high water.
13.8	24.8	Slide Creek Campground - Hiker.
14.3	24.3	Trail crosses the Fiddle River. This too is a difficult ford during high water.
15.3	23.3	Junction to the Slide Creek Horse Camp. This campground is located across the river, 250 m south of where the side trail crosses the river.
17.1	21.5	Hiker bypass along east side of the river.
20.1	18.5	Fiddle River ford. The trail crosses back to the west side of the river. This too is a difficult ford during high water.
21.3	17.3	Cross the Fiddle River for a third time.
21.4	17.2	Whitehorse Campground.
22.0	16.6	Junction with unofficial trail. Take the left fork.
23.6	15.0	Junction with unofficial trail (visible from Cadomin side). If coming from Cadomin, take right fork. You enter the wide grassy expanse of the Fiddle Pass.
24.3	14.3	Stream crossing. Hikers cross upstream from main trail.
25.6	13	Fiddle Pass and Jasper National Park Boundary. (UTM 466113 5875621, 53.029043°N 117.505279°W) Enter into Wildhorse Wilderness Provincial Park. On your left (to the east) is Mount Gregg, on your right (to the south) is the Nikanassin Range. The trail descends gradually to the treeline.
27.4	11.2	Fiddle Pass Campground. Small provincial campground on the edge of the treeline. This is a good campsite to stop at if you are coming from Cadomin and the weather in the pass is bad. Beyond the campground the trail is extremely muddy and rutted from the many horse parties that pass through here.
31.1	7.5	Junction with trail to Whitehorse Falls. If coming from Cadomin, take the right fork up the hill. From here on to Cadomin the trail is larger and better. There are a number of confusing smaller trails that branch of this main trail. Always stay on the main trail.
32.3	1.7	Sawmill Campground. See http://albertaparks.ca/whitehorse/information-facilities/camping/sawmill-backcountry.aspx for details.
34	4.6	Trappers Campground. See http://albertaparks.ca/whitehorse/information-facilities/camping/trappers-backcountry.aspx for details. Mountain bikes are allowed to this campground if you are going to the pass and back from Whitehorse Creek Campground.
38.6	0	Trailhead at Whitehorse Creek Campground.

Campground information

CAMPGROUND	DESCRIPTION	# OF SITES	FIRE PIT	UTM
Utopia (Elevation: 1,444)	A pleasant campground by a creek, only 6.5 km from the trailhead. It makes for a perfect one-night getaway.	4	Yes	11U 451970- 5883747
Slide Creek (Elevation: 1,614)	A simple campground in the forest with some mountain views through the trees.	4	Yes	11U 456952- 5880414
Slide Creek Horse Camp (Elevation: 1,644)	A horse camp with small corral. The campground is located on the west side of the Fiddle River, a few metres in from the river bank. The trail on the other side of the river is not very clear, so it may involve some route finding. Look for markers to the south of the crossing.	4	Yes	11U 458490- 5879728
Whitehorse (Elevation: 1,789)	A pleasant campground in the forest.	4	Yes	11U 462424- 5876790
Fiddle Pass (Elevation: 2,055)	* In Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park A small campsite on the edge of the treeline. Reservations not required, no charge. See http://www.albertaparks.ca/whitehorse/information-facilities/camping/fiddle-backcountry.aspx for further information.	5	Yes	11U 466956 - 5874363
Whitehorse Creek (Elevation: 1,605)	* In Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park A road-accessible campground at the trailhead. Suitable for trailers. It has eight sites with corrals for horse parties. Booking through Alberta Parks; see www.albertaparks.ca/whitehorse-creek/information-facilities/camping/whitehorse-creek.aspx for details.	26	Yes	11U 476900 - 5870589

Directions to Trailhead

From Jasper to Miette Hot Springs

Take Highway 16 towards Hinton, and turn onto the Miette Road at Pocahontas Cabins (49 km from Jasper). It is 17 km from the turn off to the hot springs. In the hot springs parking lot, drive straight to the parking lot by the picnic area past the outhouse. The trailhead, named Source of the Springs, is straight ahead. Miette Road is open to cars from early May to mid-October.

From Jasper to Whitehorse Creek

From Jasper take Highway 16 east towards Hinton, out of the park. After 70 km from Jasper, turn right onto Highway 40 towards Cadomin. Drive 48 km to a T-junction. Turn right towards Cadomin. Drive through the village (2.5 km), and another 6 km to the campground. After the village of Cadomin, the road becomes gravel, but is passable by cars. The road now parallels a large haul road for the nearby Cheviot coalmine. Look for signs to the campground; the entrance road to the campground turns off from the through road on the left, and swings right through a tunnel underneath the haul road. The trailhead is at the far end of the campground. Information about the Jasper section of the trail can be found in the right hand side of the kiosk at the trailhead.



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

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 provided at campsites.



HUMAN WASTE

Use the pit 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.



WATER

Boil or treat all drinking water.



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.



CAMPING

Please camp only at the campsites indicated on your Backcountry Camping Permit and use the tent pads.



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.



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

If fires are allowed, use the metal fireboxes provided, keep your fire small and use only deadfall. Tend to your fire at all times and extinguish it completely before you move on. Gas stoves are cleaner and more efficient for cooking. We recommend you use one.



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.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Have you got it?

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

CLOTHING	SHELTER	OTHER ESSENTIALS	OPTIONAL
Long underwear	Tent with waterproof fly	Wilderness pass	Binoculars
Wool sweater, down vest, or fleece jacket	Food should include enough for an extra day	Bear spray and the knowledge to use it	Altimeter
Raingear - pants and jacket, gaiters	Water filter, purification tablets or extra fuel for boiling your water	Topographic map	Field guide(s)
Hat and gloves / mittens	Waterproof bag to store food at campgrounds	Compass	GPS
Boots with ankle support and good soles		Waterproof matches and/or lighter	SPOT™ Device or satellite phone
Sandals or runners for fording streams and at camp		Insect repellent	
Extra warm clothes in waterproof bag		Flashlight and extra batteries	
		First Aid kit	
		Signaling device (whistle or mirror)	
		Toilet paper	
		Rope - approx. 8 m A throw bag works well	
		Waterproof bags for all gear	

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE



Photo: M. Gaboury



facebook.com/JasperNP



twitter.com/JasperNP

#JasperNP

MAPS

NTS

Medicine Lake 83C/13
Athabasca Falls 83C/12

Gemtrek
Jasper and Maligne Lake

National Geographic
Jasper North

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

leavenotrace.ca
1-877-238-9343



April 2016
Également offert en français

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.