



Photo: R. Gruys

# GERALDINE LAKES

First Geraldine Lake

## SEMI-PRIMITIVE

- 12.4 km return on the same trail, 1-2 days
- Elevation gain 532 m, loss 86 m
- Maximum elevation: 1890 m

### In summary

Sandwiched between the steep slopes of Mount Fryatt and Whirlpool Peak, First Geraldine Lake is a scenic lake set amongst the spruce forest. Beyond First Geraldine Lake, the trail becomes difficult, crossing boulder fields and ascending steep slopes. But your efforts are rewarded by the scenic waterfalls along the way and the views from second Geraldine Lake over the lower valley.

### The details

This is a strenuous but rewarding one-night backpacking trip. It's a short trail, but the elevation gain, navigation of a large boulder field, and the climb up a steep headwall make for a challenging hike. You will reach the first lake at km 1.8. Past the lake, the trail leads through a large boulder field, marked with a series of cairns. Eventually you will approach a beautiful waterfall (km 4.2) and the steep headwall. Once you climb the headwall you gain a bit more elevation and arrive at the second lake (km 5.0). Hike around the lake and cross a small creek to reach the campground (km 6.2).

### What you need to know

Geraldine Lakes is a short but challenging trail. Navigating through the boulder fields after the first Geraldine Lakes can be difficult with a large pack. **The boulders on the trail become very slippery in wet conditions; it is not recommended to hike the trail after a large rainfall.** There is a two-night maximum stay at this campground.



No fires permitted.



No bikes permitted.



Photo: R. Gruys

First Geraldine Lake

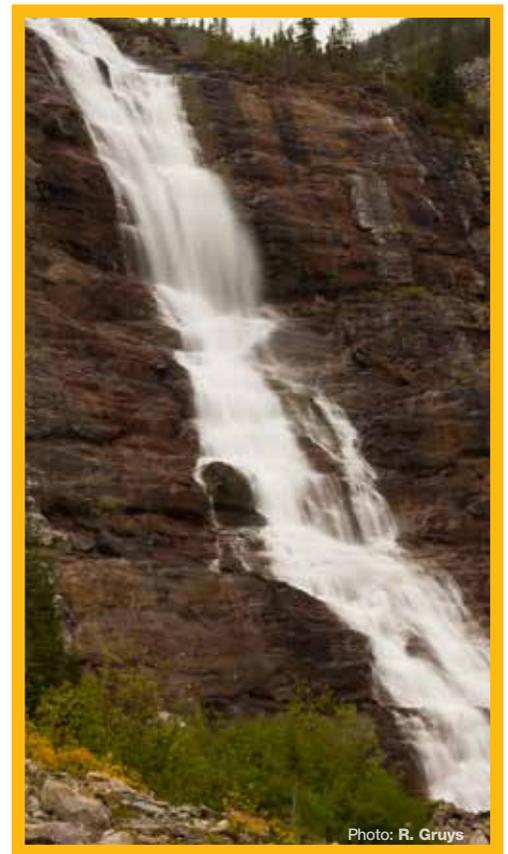
# SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

## OPTION 1 : 2 DAYS

Hike to the campground (6.2 km) and return the following day.

## OPTION 2 : 3 DAYS

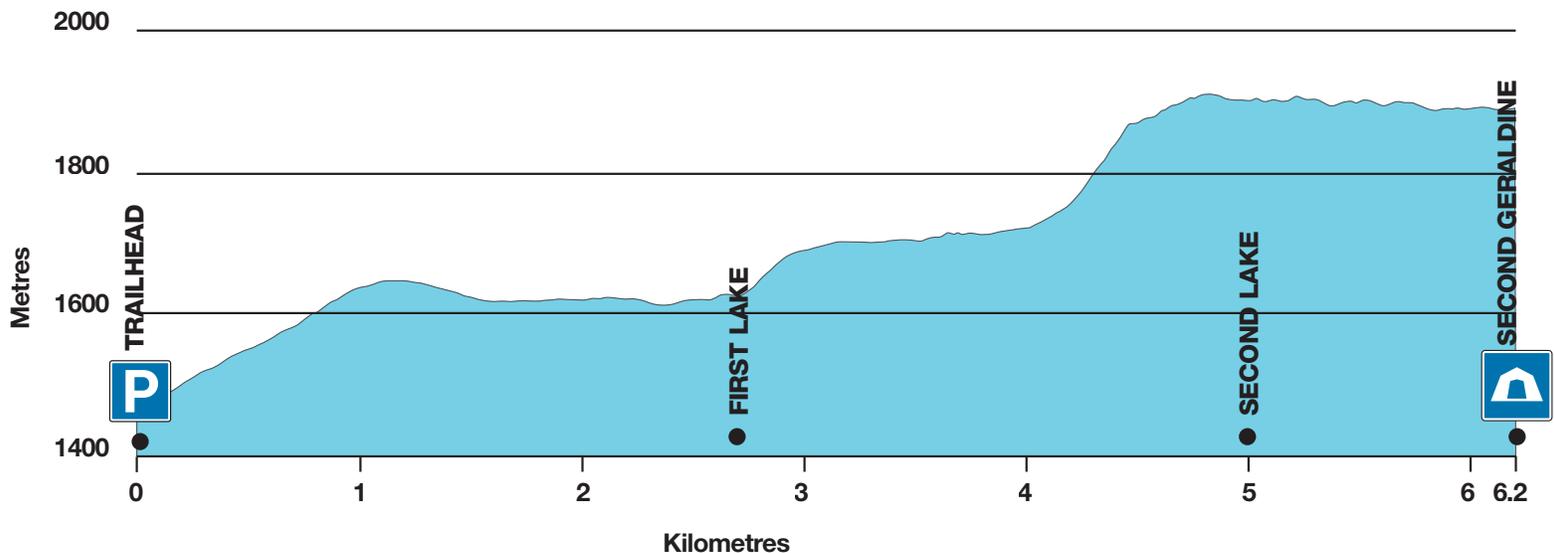
Spend two nights at the campground and on your second day explore the upper valley and adjacent lakes. There are two more lakes a few kilometers further up the valley. NOTE: There are no official, signed trails beyond the campground. Route finding skills are required.



Trail distances (in km)

	Trailhead					
First Lake	1.8	First Lake				
South end of first lake	2.7	0.9	South end of first lake			
Waterfall	4.2	2.4	1.5	Waterfall		
Viewpoint second lake	5.0	3.2	2.3	0.8	Viewpoint second lake	
Geraldine Campground	6.2	4.4	3.5	2.0	1.2	Geraldine Campground

Elevation profile



## Directions to trailhead

29 km south of Jasper, off Wabasso Road (Highway 93A).

### From Jasper:

Take the Icefields Parkway towards Banff, and turn right immediately after the park gate, onto Wabasso Road (Highway 93A). Continue along Wabasso Road for 23 km, and turn right onto the unpaved Geraldine Road. The trailhead is at the end of the rough 6-km gravel road.

### From Banff and Lake Louise:

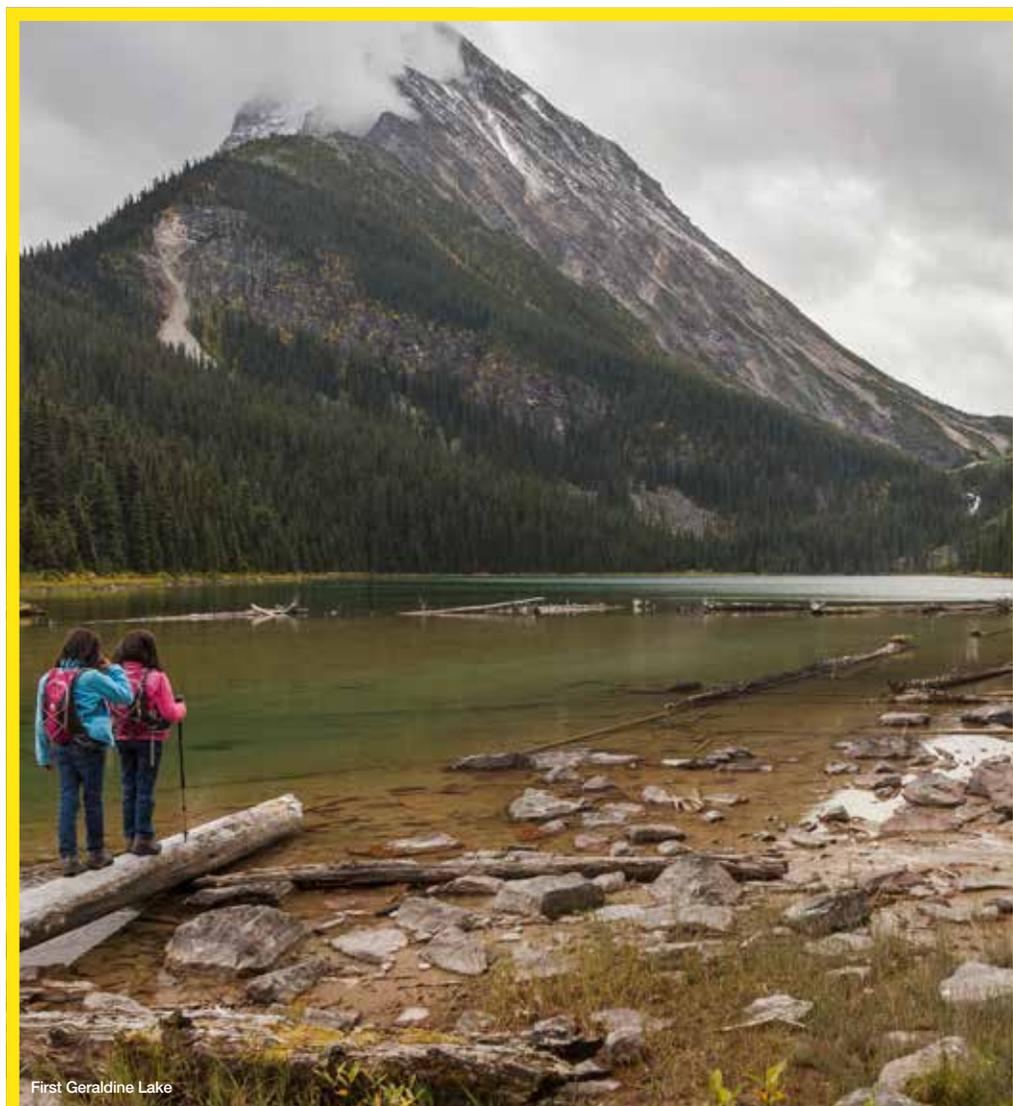
Follow the Icefields Parkway north towards Jasper. Turn left at the junction to Wabasso Road and Athabasca Falls, 200 km north of Lake Louise. Continue for 2 km, and turn left onto unpaved Geraldine Road. The trailhead is at the end of the rough 6-km road.

## Special consideration

The Geraldine Road is a seasonal access road that is only open from late May to mid-October. If the road is closed it will add 6 km each way on a gravel fire road. The road is very rough and steep and not recommended for low clearance vehicles. No trailers or RVs. Check if the road is open before making any plans.

## Campground information

CAMPGROUND	DESCRIPTION	# OF SITES	FIRE PIT	UTM
<b>Second Geraldine Lake</b> <b>(Elevation: 1890 m)</b>	This campground is located next to a small creek on the shore of the second Geraldine Lake. The view towards the lower valley is spectacular. It is a great location to spend two nights with a day hike up to the third and fourth Geraldine Lakes.	4		11U 435994- 5826817



First Geraldine Lake



## 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](http://www.pc.gc.ca/JasperTrails).

## TRAIL INFORMATION

780-852-6177  
[pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/JasperBackcountry)

## RESERVATIONS

1 877-737-3783  
[pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry](http://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.



## 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.

**How do I store my food?**  
The campground is equipped with a bear pole for food storage. There are picnic tables present.

Photo: D. Albrecht

Hook all cables to the upright post/tree, or animals may become entangled in the cables.

**Privy**  
There is a pit toilet at this campground.



## 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

No fires permitted.



## WATER

Boil or treat all drinking water.



## 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](http://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



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 [twitter.com/JasperNP](https://twitter.com/JasperNP)

#JasperNP

## MAPS

NTS  
Athabasca Falls 83C/12

Gemtrek  
Jasper and Maligne Lake

National Geographic  
Jasper South.

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

[leavenotrace.ca](http://leavenotrace.ca)  
1-877-238-9343



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## Backcountry camping permits

**A backcountry camping permit is mandatory for all overnight trips. It can be obtained by visiting [pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry](http://pc.gc.ca/BookJasperBackcountry), calling 1-877-737-3783 or by visiting the Jasper Information Centre.**