



Photo: R. Grays

Example of random camping

# BACKCOUNTRY RANDOM CAMPING

## WILDLAND

### The details

Large tracts of Jasper National Park are wild and remote, seeing few or no visitors. These areas provide unique opportunities for experienced backcountry travellers to immerse themselves in a pristine mountain landscape. In some areas, like Maligne Pass or Miette Lake, there are remnants of historic routes and campsites, but in most wilderness areas you won't find any trace of human use. Campers should be completely self-sufficient, and must practice Leave No Trace principles, even in old, abandoned campsites. Camping locations must be situated at least one full day's travel from trails or roads and campsites (approximately 5 km in non-technical terrain).

Contact the Jasper National Park trail office for further information on specific areas, and to book a permit.

### Information and reservations

Call 1-780-852-6177 and press 2 to reach the Trail Office.

### Party size

Maximum group size in random camping areas is 6 persons per group. In the case of horse groups, maximum group size is 3 people and 6 horses. Horse groups are not allowed to random camp in the Fiddle River or Chaba areas.

### Length of stay

There is a two-night maximum stay at each random campsite.

### Fishing

Fishing is permitted in many backcountry lakes. A National Park Fishing Permit is mandatory. Provincial fishing permits are not valid in national parks. Permits are sold at park information centres and Jasper retail outlets that sell angling supplies. Get a copy of the current *Fishing Regulations Summary* with your permit. Visit [pc.gc.ca/jasperfishing](http://pc.gc.ca/jasperfishing) for more information.



No fires permitted.



No bikes permitted.

## Permits

A backcountry camping permit is mandatory for all overnight backcountry use, including random camping. Permits for random camping can be obtained from the Jasper National Park Trail office at 1-780-852-6177.

Uniformed Parks staff you encounter in the backcountry may ask to see your Backcountry Camping Permit.

## Guidebooks

Some unmaintained, historic routes in the park are described in *The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide* by Brian Patton and Bart Robinson.



## SAFETY

**You are responsible for your own safety.** Be prepared for extreme weather and mountainous terrain. Cell phone coverage is unavailable in most areas.

### VISITOR SAFETY OFFICE

Information on mountaineering, ice climbing, visitor safety. 780-852-6155  
[pc.gc.ca/mountainsafety](http://pc.gc.ca/mountainsafety)

### WEATHER FORECASTS

780-852-3185 • [weather.gc.ca](http://weather.gc.ca)

### AVALANCHE INFORMATION

1-800-667-1105 [pc.gc.ca/avalanche](http://pc.gc.ca/avalanche)

### 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).

### EMERGENCY

call 780-852-3100  
or 877-852-3100

## MAPS

Gemtrek  
Jasper and Maligne Lake  
Columbia Icefields

National Geographic  
Jasper North  
Jasper South

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

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



## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

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

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

#JasperNP



Scott Flats

Photo: R. Gruys

# LEAVE NO TRACE

Photo: P. Grays

Bedson Ridge



## NO TRACE CAMPING

Zero impact camping practices are mandatory for all random camps.

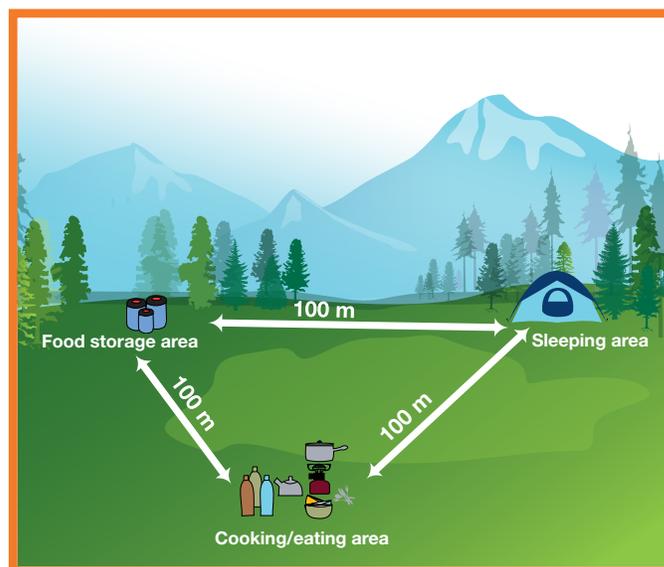
- Camping locations must be situated at least one full day's travel from trails or roads (approximately 5 km in non-technical terrain).
- Camps must be set up at least 50 metres from water bodies. Carefully choose tenting areas to minimize vegetation damage. Ensure good visibility so animals cannot approach unseen. Avoid camping, cooking or eating near running water, thick brush, animal trails or berry patches.
- Set up cooking, eating and food storage areas at least 50 metres downwind from your tent, and separate food storage and eating areas by 50 metres as well.



## FOOD STORAGE

To reduce your campsite's attractiveness to bears, **all food, garbage, toiletries and cooking equipment** must be stored in a bear-resistant container. Containers must be approved by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. Backcountry containers approved as of 2016 are listed below, or visit <http://igbconline.org/certified-products-list> for a current list.

Hanging food from trees is not acceptable in most areas, since there are often no suitable trees to hang food from.



## APPROVED BEAR-RESISTANT CONTAINERS

### The Bare Boxer

Contender Model 101  
Champ Model 202  
Golf City Products  
[www.bareboxer.com](http://www.bareboxer.com)

### BearVault

Models BV250 Solo  
BV300  
BV350 Solo  
BV400  
BV450 Solo  
BV500  
866-301-3442  
[www.bearvault.com](http://www.bearvault.com)



BV500

### Craftsman Tech Composites

Wise Backpack (~60L in3 capacity)  
IGBC Certification No. 3349  
626-448-4045



The Bear Keg

### Counter Assault

The Bear Keg  
406-257-4740 or 800-695-3394  
[www.counterassault.com](http://www.counterassault.com)

### Garcia Machine Backpackers' Cache

Model 812  
559-732-3785  
[www.backpackerscache.com](http://www.backpackerscache.com)

### Lighter1 Bear Bins – Backpacker Cache

Big Daddy Model (1.03 kg)  
IGBC Certification No. 3350  
Lil' Sami Model (610 g)  
IGBC Certification No. 3351  
[www.lighter1.com](http://www.lighter1.com)



Big Daddy

### UDAP Industries Inc.

"No Fed Bear" Canister  
866 BEAR 911  
[www.pepperpower.com](http://www.pepperpower.com)



Ursack

### Ursack

Food Storage Container - Model S29 AllWhite  
IGBC Certification No. 3738  
415-777-1997  
[www.ursack.com](http://www.ursack.com)



## HUMAN WASTE

Select a spot away from trails and 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 and or rocks afterward. Burn your toilet paper.



## WATER

*Giardia lamblia* is a parasite carried by humans and some domestic and wild animals. These parasites can occur in any surface water in the park and may contaminate the water supply. Boil your drinking water or purify it with a water filter or iodine tablets.



## WASHING

**Keep yourself and your campsite odour-free.** Keep sleeping bags, tents, and sleeping clothes free of food, food odours or beverages. **Wash and store all dishes and food utensils immediately after use.** To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 70 m away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain food particles from dishwater and store with garbage. Disperse strained water on land at least 50 metres downwind from your sleeping area.



## CAMPFIRES

Campfires are NOT allowed in random camping areas. Cooking stoves only; no exceptions.



## GARBAGE

Please—Pack it in and pack it out! You are responsible for everything you take into the backcountry and this includes garbage. Take special care to remove all micro-trash – small pieces of plastic, foil, etc.



## TRAILS

If there is a trail, stay on it. 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. In alpine areas without trails, spread out, to avoid creating a new trail.



## 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	Bear-resistant container for food storage.	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	