

A 3-Day Icefields Parkway Road Trip

Three days on one of the world's great scenic drives — the glacial turquoise of Lake Louise and Moraine Lake, a self-drive run up the Icefields Parkway past Bow and Peyto Lakes, a ride onto the Athabasca Glacier in a purpose-built Ice Explorer, and a cruise to Spirit Island on Maligne Lake — with real lodges, real tour

Overnight — Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

From \$340–\$420 USD / night, for 2 people

A grand lakefront lodge built in 1890 directly on Lake Louise's shore, with the glacier and the lake both visible from the property's back terrace.

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Day 2

The Icefields Parkway & the Athabasca Glacier

The full run of the Icefields Parkway north to Jasper — two of the Rockies' bluest lakes from roadside pullouts, then a ride onto an actual glacier in a machine built for it, before closing the day at two waterfalls.

Bow Lake & Peyto Lake Viewpoints

~1 hour combined, self-guided · free

Two roadside stops in the parkway's first hour — Bow Lake beneath the Crowfoot Glacier, then a short paved path up to the Peyto Lake overlook, where glacial silt turns the water an almost unnatural shade of blue-green.

Columbia Icefield Adventure — Ice Explorer & Skywalk

~3 hours, guided · ~\$115 USD / person, combo ticket

A massive tundra-tired Ice Explorer drives straight onto the Athabasca Glacier for a walk on centuries-old ice, paired with the Glacier Skywalk a few miles up the road — a glass-floored platform cantilevered 918 feet above the Sunwapta Valley.

Columbia Icefield Adventure

Sunwapta Falls & Athabasca Falls

~1 hour combined, self-guided · free

Two short boardwalk stops on the drive into Jasper — Sunwapta Falls' sharp canyon bend, then the thunderous, narrow gorge of Athabasca Falls, the most powerful waterfall on the parkway.

Overnight — Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge

From \$220–\$300 USD / night, for 2 people

A rambling lakeside lodge of cedar cabins on Lac Beauvert just outside Jasper townsite, with mountain views from almost every room.

Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge

Day 3

Maligne Lake & the Drive Back to Calgary

A morning cruise to the most-photographed island in the Rockies, then the long drive back down the parkway to Calgary for the flight home.

Maligne Lake Cruise to Spirit Island

~1.5 hours, guided · ~\$75 USD / person

A narrated boat trip down the largest natural lake in the Canadian Rockies to Spirit Island, a tiny spit of land backed by glacier-hung peaks that's become one of the most photographed spots in the range.

Maligne Lake Cruise

Lunch — Bear's Paw Bakery, Jasper

~45 minutes · \$10–\$18 USD / person

A Jasper townsite institution for scratch-made pastries and sandwiches — a quick, reliable stop before the long drive south.

Bear's Paw Bakery

Drive — Jasper to Calgary International Airport (YYC)

~4.5–5 hours via the Icefields Parkway & Hwy 1 · self-guided

The long final leg back down the parkway and onto the highway east into Calgary — the same route in daylight the other direction, with the option to stop again at any viewpoint missed on the way up.

Departure — Calgary International Airport (YYC)

Self-guided · return rental car at the terminal

Closes the loop on three days that ran from a turquoise lake to a glacier underfoot to a boat trip to a spirit island — return the rental car and check in for the flight home.