

Moraine Lake Trails

The Rock Pile

Distance: .8 kilometers (.5 miles) return

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 25 minutes round trip

Elevation Gain: 30 meters (98 feet)

Located adjacent to the Lodge, the short interpretive trail up the Rock Pile provides an introduction to the environment and the history of the Valley of the Ten Peaks along with unparalleled views. From the lower parking lot, cross the bridge over the stream, from there follow the trail to the top of knoll. Along the path there are plaques showing examples of various species and rock formations that comprise the area. From the top the "Twenty Dollar View" can be seen as it is the exact location pictured on the old Canadian Twenty Dollar Bill.

Please be careful to stay on the trail as navigating off trail and over the rocks and logs can be quite dangerous.

Lakeshore Trail

Distance: 2.9 kilometers (1.8 miles) return

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 40-60 minutes round trip

Elevation Gain: 0 meters (0 feet)

Starting near the canoe dock, trail weaves through the forested shore of the lake. It is a flat, easy walk that allows for beautiful views of the famous alpine lake. At the far end of the lake there is a boardwalk next to the stream rushing in from the Wenkchemna Glacier.

Consolation Lakes

Distance: 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) return

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 2 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 60 meters (197 feet)

This hike leads into the heart of the mountains with a rewarding destination of beautiful surroundings. From the lower parking lot, cross the bridge over the stream and follow the pathway past the Rock Pile and through a quartzite boulder field. The trail to Consolation Lake trail takes you through the lush forest, eventually opening up to a meadow just prior to reaching the lower of the two lakes. A large rock slide separates the lower and upper lakes. The impressive glacier-covered cliffs tower above the lakes, contributing to the impressive view.

Larch Valley

Distance: 8.6 kilometers (5.4 miles) return

Difficulty: Moderate / Difficult

Time: 3-4 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 520 meters (1706 feet)

Located right outside your doorstep, Larch Valley is for the more ambitious hiker. For the first two kilometers, the trail takes you up

a series of steady uphill switchbacks. As you gain elevation, you are treated to intermittent views of the beautiful blue-green Moraine Lake. At the top of the switchbacks, the trail branches right to Larch Valley. The trail winds through a grove of larch trees before opening up to an alpine meadow with the Ten Peaks towering above, making for an impressive backdrop. This is an especially popular hike in the Fall as the subalpine meadow turns into a golden valley as the Larch Tree needles turn from soft green to a bright yellow.

Sentinel Pass

Distance: 11.6 kilometers (7.2 miles) return

Difficulty: Difficult

Time: 5-6 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 725 meters (2378 feet)

After hiking up to Larch Valley, you can climb further up to Sentinel Pass. Continuing further through the subalpine, you will pass by a couple alpine lakes. The trail then cuts across the mountain with a few steep switchbacks up to the pass. Please be aware that the route has some exposure and potential for rock fall. From the pass, you are treated to an expansive view of the Ten Peaks and Larch Valley as well as Paradise Valley on the other side.

Eiffel Lake

Distance: 11.2 kilometers (7 miles) return

Difficulty: Moderate / Difficult

Time: 4-5 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 370 meters (1214 feet)

This is another awe-inspiring area that tends to see fewer hikers than Larch Valley. The trail follows the same course as the Larch Valley trail for the first 2.4 kilometers. At the junction, take the trail to the left. The path soon opens up to an open area surrounded by boulders and mountain peaks. From the Larch Valley junction, the next 3 kilometers is relatively flat as the trail winds around the mountain side. Stunning panoramic views are offered at the trail crosses the scree slope above Eiffel Lake.

Wenkchemna Pass

Distance: 19.4 kilometers (12 miles) return

Difficulty: Difficult

Time: 7-8 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 720 meters (2362 feet)

After hiking to Eiffel Lake, you can hike further on to Wenkchemna Pass. To reach the pass you must first cross rolling alpine tundra, glacial moraine and rockslides. At the top, this summit pass provides an excellent viewpoint down the length of the Valley of the Ten Peaks and the Wenkchemna Glacier which is concealed beneath the glacial till (rocks).

Lake Louise Hikes

Lake Louise Lakeshore

Distance: 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) return

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 1 hour round trip

Elevation Gain: 0 meters (0 feet)

This trail runs along the shore of the lake and is appealing to all ages and physical ability. It is a flat, well developed trail along the right side of the lake.

Lake Agnes Teahouse

Distance: 6.8 kilometers (4.2 miles) return

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 2.5-3 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 385 meters (1263 feet)

The hike to Lake Agnes is the most popular excursion in the Rockies, probably due to the presence of a tea house on the lakeshore. The original tea house is thought to be constructed in 1901. The trail branches from the Lake Louise Shoreline Trail just beyond the Chateau.

The first 2km of the trail is surrounded by dense sub-alpine forest.

Sit and enjoy a well deserved snack and beverage once at the top.

Hikers can climb further to either the Little Beehive or Big Beehive.

Plain of Six Glaciers Tea House

Distance: 10.6 kilometers (6.6 miles) return

Difficulty: Moderate

Time: 4 hours round trip

Elevation Gain: 365 meters (1197 feet)

This hike passes through some of the most interesting glacial scenery in Banff National Park and delivers you to the jumble of ice and rock at the foot of Mt. Victoria. At the end of the trail, hikers will be delighted to find a teahouse, constructed in 1924, which serves lunch, refreshments and snacks. The hike is a continuation of the Lake Louise Shoreline walk, and initially passes directly beneath hundred meter cliffs that are a favorite spot for rock climbers.

Fairview Lookout

Distance: 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) return

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 45 minutes round trip

Elevation Gain: 100 meters (328 feet)

Leaving from the boathouse of Lake Louise, this short, uphill hike offers you a unique look at both the lake and the historic Fairmont Chateau.