

HIKING IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

MORaine LAKE TRAILS

All hiking trails in the area can be accessed directly from the public parking lot and offer spectacular views of the Rocky Mountain landscape. The trailhead for the Rockpile and Consolation Lakes can be found next to the lower parking lot, near the public washrooms. All other trails begin at the trailhead located just beyond the canoe docks.

THE ROCKPILE



Distance Roundtrip:
0.8 km (0.5 mi)



Difficulty:
Easy



Time Roundtrip:
20 minutes



Elevation Gain:
30 m (98 ft)

Located adjacent to the Lodge, this short interpretive trail provides an introduction to the environment and history of the Valley of the Ten Peaks, along with unparalleled views. Starting from the lower parking lot, this trail winds behind the Rockpile and takes you up a series of stairs to reach the top. Along the path there are plaques showing examples of various species and rock formations that comprise the area. From the top, a stunning overview of Moraine Lake and the Ten Peaks lays before you. This picturesque view was featured on the old Canadian Twenty Dollar Bill. Please be careful to stay on the trail as navigating off trail and over the rocks can be quite dangerous and detrimental to vegetation.

LAKESHORE TRAIL



Distance Roundtrip:
3 km (1.8 mi)



Difficulty:
Easy



Time Roundtrip:
40-60 minutes



Elevation Gain:
0 m (0 ft)

Starting just beyond the canoe dock, this forested trail follows the shoreline of Moraine Lake. It is a flat, easy walk that allows for beautiful views of the famous alpine lake. At the far end, there is a boardwalk next to the output stream from the Wenkchemna Glacier.

CONSOLATION LAKES



Distance Roundtrip:
6 km (3.7 mi)



Difficulty:
Moderate



Time Roundtrip:
2 hours



Elevation Gain:
60 m (197 ft)

This hike leads into the heart of Consolation Valley; a rewarding destination with views of Panorama Ridge and the Quadra Glacier. From the lower parking lot, follow the pathway past the Rockpile and left through the boulder field. The trail takes you through the lush forest, eventually opening up to the lower lake. A large rock slide separates the lower and upper lakes. The impressive glacier-covered cliffs tower above, contributing to the impressive view.

LARCH VALLEY



Distance Roundtrip:
8.6 km (5.4 mi)



Difficulty:
Moderate



Time Roundtrip:
3-4 hours



Elevation Gain:
535 m (1755 ft)

Larch Valley is one of the more popular day hikes in the Moraine Lake area. The trail starts just beyond the canoe dock and takes you up a series of switchbacks for the first two kilometers. As you gain elevation, you are treated to intermittent views of the beautiful turquoise lake below. At the top of the switchbacks, the trail branches right to the valley and winds through a grove of Larch trees, eventually opening up to an alpine meadow. The panoramic views of the Ten Peaks towering above makes for an impressive backdrop. To extend your hike, continue along the trail up to the Minnestimma Lakes. In the Fall, the subalpine meadow turns into a golden valley when the Larch tree needles turn from soft green to a bright yellow.

EIFFEL LAKE



Distance Roundtrip:
11.2 km (7 mi)



Difficulty:
Moderate



Time Roundtrip:
4-5 hours



Elevation Gain:
370 m (1214 ft)

This awe-inspiring area tends to see fewer hikers than Larch Valley. The trail follows the same course as the Larch Valley trail up the switchbacks for the first 2.4 kilometres. At the junction, follow the trail to the left. The trail flattens out and winds around the mountain side, opening up to an area surrounded by mountain peaks. Stunning panoramic views are offered as the trail crosses the boulder field above Eiffel Lake.

SENTINEL PASS



Distance Roundtrip:
11.6 km (7.2 mi)



Difficulty:
Difficult



Time Roundtrip:
5-6 hours



Elevation Gain:
725 m (2368 ft)

For the more ambitious hiker, after reaching Larch Valley you can hike further up to Sentinel Pass. Continuing through the subalpine, you will pass by the Minnestimma 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 rockfall. 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.

WENKCHEMNA PASS



Distance Roundtrip:
19.4 km (12 mi)



Difficulty:
Difficult



Time Roundtrip:
7-8 hours



Elevation Gain:
720 m (2362 ft)

For a full day hike, you can continue past Eiffel Lake up to Wenkchemna Pass. To reach the pass you must first cross the alpine meadow before ascending the rocky slope. The final ascent is an easy scramble, where it is possible to lose sight of the trail as you climb over some large boulders. At the top, you will be standing on the Continental Divide looking West towards British Columbia. The summit also provides an excellent viewpoint down the length of the Valley of the Ten Peaks and the rock-covered Wenkchemna Glacier.

PARADISE VALLEY



Distance Roundtrip:
20.3 km (12.6 mi)



Difficulty:
Difficult



Time Roundtrip:
8-9 hours



Elevation Gain:
1045 m (3422 ft)

This trail is a point-to-point trail starting either at Moraine Lake Lodge or at the trailhead 2.5 kilometres up Moraine Lake Road. You will need a vehicle to shuttle you back to your starting point upon completion of the hike. Paradise Valley was first described by explorer Walter Wilcox as “a valley of surpassing beauty, wide and beautiful, with alternating open meadows and rich forests”. The trail offers stunning views of Mount Temple, Lake Annette, Horseshoe Meadows, the Giant Steps (a series of waterfalls), Sentinel Pass, and Larch Valley.

LAKE LOUISE TRAILS

All Lake Louise hiking trails can be accessed directly from the Lake Louise day use parking lot, next to the Chateau Lake Louise.

LAKE LOUISE SHORELINE TRAIL

			
Distance Roundtrip: 4 km (2.5 mi)	Difficulty: Easy	Time Roundtrip: 1 hour	Elevation Gain: 0 m (0 ft)

This trail runs along the shore of the lake and is appealing to all ages and physical abilities. It is a flat, well developed trail along the right side of the lake. The trail offers stunning views of Lake Louise, Victoria Glacier and the Chateau Lake Louise.

FAIRVIEW LOOKOUT

			
Distance Roundtrip: 2 km (1.2 mi)	Difficulty: Easy	Time Roundtrip: 45 minutes	Elevation Gain: 100 m (328 ft)

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 Lake Louise.

LAKE AGNES TEAHOUSE

			
Distance Roundtrip: 6.8 km (4.2 mi)	Difficulty: Moderate	Time Roundtrip: 2.5-3 hours	Elevation Gain: 385 m (1263 ft)

The hike to Lake Agnes is a popular and historic hike in the Rockies. The trail branches from the Lake Louise Shoreline Trail just beyond the Chateau Lake Louise. The first 2km of the trail is uphill and surrounded by dense sub-alpine forest. Upon reaching the top, you will arrive at the Lake Agnes Tea House. The original teahouse is thought to be constructed in 1901. Sit and enjoy a well deserved snack and beverage once at the top (cash only).

PLAIN OF SIX GLACIERS TEAHOUSE

			
Distance Roundtrip: 10.6 km (6.6 mi)	Difficulty: Moderate	Time Roundtrip: 4 hours	Elevation Gain: 365 m (1197 ft)

This hike is a continuation of the Lake Louise Shoreline trail, and passes through some of the most interesting glacial scenery in Banff National Park; delivering 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 refreshments and snacks (cash only).