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Yoho National Park

Short Hikes and Walks



Takakkaw Falls © Parks Canada

Trail	Distance (return)	Time (return)	Elevation (m)	Description
Easy Trails				
Wapta Falls	4.6 km	1.5 hours	30	A lush, forested walk to the base of an impressive 30 m waterfall - the largest waterfall on the Kicking Horse River.
Emerald Lake	5.2 km	2 hours	minimal	A gentle, lakeshore trail surrounded by mountain and glacier views. Includes a level, gravel path from the parking area to the bridge at the back of the lake.
Hamilton Falls	1.6 km	30 minutes	minimal	A pleasant stroll to a delicate cascade.
Centennial	2.5 km	45 minutes	minimal	A shaded trail along the Kicking Horse River that is known for wildflowers.
Walk-in-the-Past	3 km	1.5 hours	90	Walk to the historic pieces of a narrow-gauge locomotive, abandoned after being used to build the Spiral Tunnels.
Kicking Horse to Amiskwi	3.6 km	1.5 hours	50	Walk or cycle a forested road to a picnic site at the confluence of three rivers.
Great Divide	6 km	2 hours	minimal	Walk or cycle on a closed, paved road to the historic archway marking the location of the Continental Divide.

Ross Lake	6.4 km	2 hours	100	Start on an abandoned road and continue on a forested trail to a lake set at the headwall of Narao Peak.
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Trail Descriptions

For maps, detailed route finding and trail descriptions, visit the Yoho Visitor Centre or purchase a hiking guide book and topographical map. There is limited cell service in Yoho National Park.

Thanks to an [ongoing collaboration](#) between Parks Canada and Google, you can now explore some Yoho National Park highlights using [Street View for Google Maps](#).

Wapta Falls

Length: 4.6 km

Hiking time: 1.5 hours

Elevation: 30 m

Trailhead: Wapta Falls parking area, 26 km west of Field, B.C. and 32 km east of Golden, B.C. on the south side of the Trans-Canada Highway. Note: The trailhead is not marked for westbound traffic as there is no left turn lane here. Continue 3 km to the park west boundary, turn and come back. ([carte](#))

Habitat: With the ecologically important Leancoil marsh nearby, watch for waterbirds, beavers and wolf tracks.

Description: A lush, forested walk to the base of an impressive 30 m waterfall; the largest waterfall on the Kicking Horse River. [Google Street View: Wapta Falls Trailhead](#)

Emerald Lake

Length: 5.2 km

Hiking time: 2 hours

Elevation: minimal

Trailhead: Emerald Lake parking area, 10 km west of Field, B.C. via the Trans-Canada Highway and Emerald Lake Road. ([carte](#))

Habitat: A typical, sunny Rocky Mountain forest on the west side of the lake, and a more moist Columbian forest with cedar and hemlock on the east side.

Description: A gentle, lakeshore trail surrounded by mountain and glacier views. Includes a level, gravel path from the parking area to the bridge at the back of the lake. [Google Street View: Emerald Lake](#)

Hamilton Falls

Length: 1.6 km

Hiking time: 30 minutes

Elevation: minimal

Trailhead: Emerald Lake parking lot entrance, 10 km west of Field, B.C. via the Trans-Canada Highway and Emerald Lake Road. ([carte](#))

Habitat: A lush, green forest typical of Yoho. Watch for hydro-power artifacts from an earlier age.

Description: A pleasant stroll to a delicate cascade.

Centennial

Length: 2.5 km

Hiking time: 45 minutes

Elevation: minimal

Trailhead: Start at the bridge at the entrance to Kicking Horse Campground, 4 km east of Field, B.C. on the Yoho Valley Road. ([carte](#))

Habitat: Part of an important wildlife corridor. Watch for mountain goats above.

Description: A shaded trail along the Kicking Horse River that is known for wildflowers.

Walk-in-the-Past

Length: 3 km

Hiking time: 1.5 hours

Elevation: 90 m

Trailhead: From the trailer circle at the back of Kicking Horse Campground near the washrooms. Watch for the mauve interpretive sign. ([carte](#))

Habitat: A lush, moist forest at the bottom of Kicking Horse Pass.

Description: Walk to the historic pieces of a narrow-gauge locomotive, abandoned after being used to build the Spiral Tunnels.

Kicking Horse Pass to Amiskwi

Length: 3.6 km

Hiking time: 1.5 hours

Elevation: 50 m

Trailhead: Natural Bridge parking area, 4 km west of Field, B.C. on Emerald Lake Road. ([carte](#))

Habitat: Mineral lick in the area. Watch for wildlife here at the confluence of three important valleys.

Description: Walk or cycle a forested road to a picnic site at the confluence of three rivers. [Google Street View: Natural Bridge parking area Lot](#)

Great Divide

Length: 6 km

Hiking time: 2 hours

Elevation: minimal

Trailhead: Lake O'Hara parking lot on the south side of the Trans-Canada Highway, 13 km east of Field, B.C. ([carte](#))

Habitat: A key pinchpoint for wildlife movement. Watch for bears.

Description: Walk or cycle on a closed, paved road to the historic archway marking the location of the Continental Divide.

Ross Lake

Length: 6.4 km

Hiking time: 2 hours

Elevation: 100 m

Trailhead: Lake O'Hara parking lot on the south side of the Trans-Canada Highway, 13 km east of Field, B.C. ([carte](#))

Habitat: Typical Yoho forest, with a shallow creek crossing and marshy areas navigable by boardwalk.

Description: Start on an abandoned road and continue on a forested trail to a lake set at the headwall of Narao Peak.

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