

The Trans Canada Trail in Alberta: Completed Sections

L (1) Town of Banff Trail

Type of Trail: Urban trail

Location: Within the town of Banff, approx. 120 km west of Calgary

Historical Perspective: The trail passes by both the Banff Springs Hotel and Banff Park Museum before ending at the site of the creation of Canada's first national park at the Cave and Basin. All three of these places are registered National Historic Sites.

Terrain: Much of the trail has a firm granular surface, and most of the route (with the exception of the Bow Falls area) is wheelchair accessible with some assistance.

Access: At the Spray Loop Trail parking lot behind the Banff Springs Hotel (this connects to the trail from Canmore), or the Cave & Basin parking lot, which connects to Marsh Loop Trail. NOTE: Canmore Trail and Marsh Loop Trail are not paved. Banff is at the heart of a group of contiguous parks (Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage site UNESCO) totaling 25,000 sq. km. Together, these protected areas have more than 5,000 km. of trails. A corridor loosely described as the Great Divide Trail extends from Banff, hundreds of kilometres north through Banff National Park's backcountry to Jasper and beyond. Other trails head west to Kootenay and Yoko National Parks, or south to the Crowsnest area, and eventually to the Continental Divide Trail in Montana.

Signage: TCT signage is in place along the trail .

Facilities: Most services are available in Banff including parking, gas stations, washrooms, telephone , water, stores, bed and breakfasts, camping, restaurants, hotels, licensed climbing and interpretive guides.

Points of Interest: The Luxton Museum of the Plains Indians is right beside the Trail. Just across the Bow River are art galleries, many selling wildlife art and native crafts. The Banff Centre has exhibits of visual arts as well as frequent world-class performances of dance and music.

Banff features some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in the world. Visitors often see elk, deer, and a variety of mountain birds. Less commonly seen, but still present, are black and grizzly bears, and wolves. The Banff Springs Hotel, the first hotel in the Canadian Rockies, presents a dramatic welcome to visitors arriving on the Trans Canada Trail. NOTE: A national park permit is required to enter the town of Banff, and can be obtained at the Administration Building adjacent to the trail, or at the Banff Information Centre on Banff Avenue.

Trail Operator: The Town of Banff, PO Box 1260, Banff, AB T1L 1A1. Tel: 403-762-1214.
E-mail address community.services@banff.ca Trail website www.banff.ca

Length: 3 kilometres (1.9 miles)

Surface: Mostly granular.

Width: Varies between 2-5 metres (6.56 – 16.40 feet).

Permitted Uses: Hiking, walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, with a short section equestrian-accessible. The route, with the exception of the Bow Falls section, is wheelchair accessible (with some assistance) and open year-round.

This information was last revised July, 2007

This is an unsupervised recreational trail and is used at the personal responsibility and risk of the person using the trail. Please use respect, and obey all regulations.