

CANADA'S BANFF NATIONAL PARK HAS GREAT LODGING, GREAT SKIING, EASY ACCESS and MORE FUN in WINTER

BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA – While people think of Banff for winter skiing, there is much more to do in Canada's Protected Playground, Banff National Park, in all seasons. Summer hikes, great weather and beautiful scenery all make this place spectacular all year around. Beside the ski resorts, winter offers almost as many varied and fun activities for the entire family. With easy access by air and many activities, your stay at a Best of Banff Hotel will be well rewarded. Here is a sample.

Easy Access to Banff

Banff National Park is located in the Canadian Rockies. Flying into the destination is easy. The Calgary International Airport (YYC) is the closest arrival point for Banff and Lake Louise. With a wide choice of direct flights from many major US cities to select from, visitors will be there in no time.

Flights will zip you there from Seattle in 1.5 hours, Denver in 2.5 hours, Dallas in 4 hours, Chicago in 3.5 hours and so many more. Plan it with an early morning flight, and you could be in Banff for lunch. You have landed in Canada – bring your Passport - and your excitement levels are bursting at the seams. From Calgary, you can opt to get a rental car or board one of the airport shuttle services that depart frequently from Calgary International Airport and deliver you directly to the front door of your hotel.

Banff is an easy 90-minute drive along the all-weather, four-lane Trans-Canada Highway, and Lake Louise is just a short hop 40-minute further west. There are no scary curves, no white-knuckle mountain passes and no traffic congestion. Relax and savor the scenic, stress-free trip into the heart of the Canadian Rockies.

If you would rather leave the driving to someone else once you are in Banff and Lake Louise, you are in luck. Each of the three ski resorts offer a ski shuttle service from many Banff hotels that goes directly to the slopes. Each shuttle offers a variety of pick-up and drop-off locations, so you will never be more than a few steps away from a ride. The best part is shuttle transportation is included with your SkiBig3 Lift Ticket.

This is another great year to visit Canada. The dollar exchange rate is in favor of U.S. travelers to Canada by 30 percent at press time in early October 2018. This means your lift tickets, meals and lodging are all discounted by 30 percent just for being there.

To help plan your stay, please log on to the Banff Lodging Company's website at www.bestofbanff.com

Banff's Got It: Skiing and Snowboarding

When their famous champagne powder starts to fall, the ski and snowboard scene comes alive in Banff National Park like no other place in the country. With 7,700 acres of skiable terrain between Banff's Mount Norquay, Sunshine Village and Lake Louise Ski Resort, and trails that range from easy slopes for beginners to big mountain bowls, there is truly something for everyone. All three ski resorts are short, easy drives from the town of Banff and the hamlet of Lake Louise and offer a huge variety for all ages and abilities. Remember, bus transportation is free with a Ski Big 3 lift ticket.

Mt. Norquay

Mt. Norquay, located only 10 minutes from the town of Banff, is a place you can make turns while looking over the town and valley. With such quick and easy access, it is the perfect place for when you can sneak away for a day on the slopes. It is a great ski hill for families, with diverse terrain for beginner, intermediate and advanced skiers and riders in addition to the very popular Tube Town tubing park. You can also ski when the stars are out, with night skiing and snowboarding on Fridays and Saturdays.

Lake Louise Ski Resort

The Lake Louise Ski Resort is one of the largest ski areas in North America, offering spectacular views, long runs and lots of terrain for all ability levels. With 139 runs, there is a huge variety for beginner, intermediate and expert skiers and riders, making the Lake Louise Ski Resort a great choice for everyone. Big open bowls and gnarly chutes and gullies offer a lot of fun for intermediate and expert skiers as well. It is a five-minute drive from the hamlet of Lake Louise or a 45-minute drive from Banff.



BANFF NATIONAL PARK, AB - With the rugged, glacier formed peaks of the Canadian Rocky Mountains in view, skiers cruise the beautiful trails of Lake Louise, one of the Ski Big 3 resorts easily accessed from Banff.

Photo courtesy of Banff Lake Louise Tourism/Paul Zizka

Banff Sunshine

Topping out at 8,954 feet above sea level, Banff Sunshine occupies a lofty position. When you stand at the top of a run, you are high up on the Continental Divide, far above tree line with clear views of the surrounding peaks. Banff Sunshine is just 20 minutes from the town of Banff. It has more than 3,300 acres of ski and snowboarding terrain, including the massive 12-acre terrain park. For advanced skiers, Delirium Dive and Wild West have some of the most extreme in-bounds terrain in the country.

Stacked with world famous Rocky Mountain powder and awe-inspiring scenery, the ski resorts of Banff National Park are something special. With a SkiBig3 Lift Ticket giving you access to all three resorts, there is an endless amount of fun and adventure to enjoy.

Après Ski to Suit Your Style

Banff's vibrant après-ski scene offers a variety of experiences that will help anyone unwind after a long day on the hill or touring in the backcountry. Visitors and locals alike can choose from regionally inspired appetizers at a hotel lounge, a pint of locally made beer at the pub or a Swiss fondue next to a crackling fire. Banff is a ski town to the core; all it takes is walking the street to find an après-ski experience that will fit you like a custom boot.

Not a Skier? Not a Problem

Banff National Park may boast three area ski mountains, but if the slopes are not calling your name, there are plenty of other winter activities to keep you busy. Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice-climbing, sleigh-riding, dog-sledding and ice skating will get you to fall in love

with winter, while a visit to local museums and galleries will help you appreciate the arts and culture scene of Banff. Finish off a busy day with a soak in the Banff Upper Hot Springs, and you will be glad you came.

You can find all the details and helpful information by logging on to www.banfflakelouise.com

Banff's Family-Friendly Activities

Banff's lesser-known hills are a great place to spend time and have fun with family, and are easily accessible for a setback-free day. Necessities can be purchased in town, from your sled to your snow boots. In addition, do not forget to pick up a few extra treats to make the day memorable. A pair of ice skates might come in handy too.

A favorite spot for speeding down a snowy hill the old-fashioned way is Spray Meadows Hill, behind the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. Just make your way to the Spray Falls parking lot and trek on over. A fire pit is close by to warm frosty toes, before testing out the ice-skating rink right nearby.

The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise has a hill very close to the hotel, perfect for toddlers and young ones. Although it is on the smaller scale, taking a skate on the majestic lake is sure to please and fill afternoons with big smiles.

Why not visit during the Ice Magic Festival, Jan. 17-27, 2019, to get that true winter wonderland experience. The Ice Magic Festival is a world-class event with more than 20 years history. Watch talented ice masters from around the world display precision artistry in an ice carving competition.

Trade your toboggan for a tube and kick up the sliding speed a notch with Mt. Norquay's snow tube park. This activity is great for the whole family, with a kids play and small sliding area.

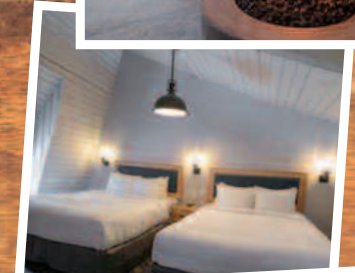
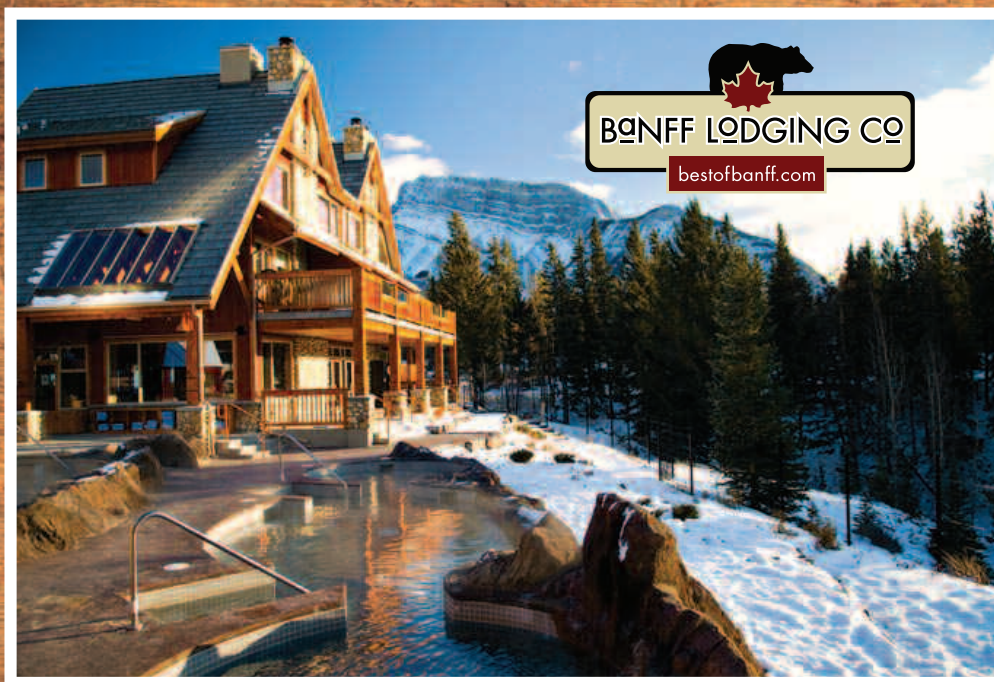
Ice Skating in Banff National Park

When the mountain lakes freeze in Banff National Park, they offer the perfect opportunity for some of the most scenic ice skating in the world. For over a century, locals and visitors have enjoyed the tradition and they look forward to those special days gliding amongst stunning peaks, playing a game of shinny or taking a try at some turns.

Both indoor and outdoor rinks are open for skating in Banff National Park, including rinks at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, at the Banff Gondola, downtown Banff at the local high school, The Fenlands (Banff Recreation Centre), on the Bow River and on Lake Louise. If you did not bring your ice skates, rentals are available in both Banff and Lake Louise.

There is so much to do and all at great exchange rate prices awaiting you this winter. Your stay at one of the Best of Banff's lodging properties is where it begins.

You can find all the details and lodging information by calling the experts at 1-800-563-8764 or please log on to www.bestofbanff.com



Banff Caribou Lodge & Spa | Banff Ptarmigan Inn | Moose Hotel & Suites | Fox Hotel & Suites | Inns of Banff
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