

Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park Horse Use Policy and Information



The following is the Kootenay Region policy regarding horse use by private (non-commercial) parties in Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park. Commercial Operators must have a valid Park Use Permit, which is a separate requirement from this policy.

Policy:

All persons wishing to take horses into Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park must write a letter applying for permission to be received in this office 7 days in advance of your date of entry into the park.

Please contact:

**Ministry of Environment
Parks & Protected Areas**

205 Industrial Road G, Cranbrook BC V1C 7G5

Phone: 250-489-8540 Monday to Friday (closed holidays) 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (Mountain Time)

Fax: 250 489-8506

When applying please indicate the following:

1. Date(s) you wish to be in the park
2. Number of horses (saddle and pack)
3. Route(s) for entering and leaving the park
4. Proposed camping locations
5. Desired day rides
6. Leaders name (who will be responsible for the group), mailing address and contact e-mail and phone number

Core Area standards which must be adhered to:

- There is no horse access to Assiniboine Lodge, the Naiset Cabins, Wonder Pass, or Citadel Pass.
- Horse users must leave their horses at O'Brien's Meadow horse camp when entering the lodge area.
- Seasonal number of horse parties may be limited due to weather or environmental impact.
- Picketed horses must be moved frequently to spread out the impact of grazing.
- Open grazing permitted in Og Meadows (north of trail from Assiniboine Pass to Og Lake trail)
- Horses are restricted to certain trails (see map). Horses are not permitted on hiking-only trails for any reason.
- Fires are not permitted in the Core Area.

In the interest of minimal impact camping the following conditions apply in ALL areas of the park:

- Camp at designated sites only and pack out all garbage.
- At least 3 kg of concentrated feed pellets per horse per day is recommended to supplement grazing.
- Maximum of ten (10) horses per party.
- A rope tether must be used if horses are to be tied for longer than two hours.
- Tethers must be 50 m from any water source or camping area.
- Do not tie horses or tethers to trees smaller than 20 cm in diameter. Limit time horses are tied to trees to minimize root damage.
- Do not leave anything hanging in food caches. Please reattach cables on caches when not in use.
- In consideration of other trail users please WALK HORSES AT ALL TIMES (no galloping or cantering).

Note on trail conditions:

- The trail up the Mitchell River begins approximately 100m back from the end of the Mitchell River Forest Service Road. The section between the parking area and the Mitchell River Cabin follows the river itself for much of its length, interspersed with sections of trail that are primarily on the west side of the river. Beyond the cabin, the trail is more defined and is easily followed.
- The direct route from Ferro Pass to the Mitchell River was cut out and flagged in 2009 and is suitable for horses.
- North of Surprise Creek, the horse trail along the Simpson River is an unmarked route which may be difficult to follow. The route heads directly up the river for long sections, venturing onto the east and south sides of the river when possible.
- The Daer Creek trail (shown on old maps) no longer exists.

BC Hunting Regulations are strictly enforced.

PLEASE NOTE: The entire core area is closed to hunting and possession of firearms. Please consult the hunting regulations. Access with firearms into the park for the purpose of hunting is allowed through the Mitchell River Drainage. Hunting parties planning on travelling from the Mitchell River to the Simpson River/Citadel Pass areas should use the Ferro Pass/Surprise Creek access route. Kootenay and Banff National Parks are closed to the possession of firearms. Any wildlife harvested in the park must be transported out via the Mitchell River Trail.

****Remember to obtain permission from Parks Canada to travel in National Parks****