**Jasper**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

Families

Snow reliability

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

13

**Intermediate Runs**

19

**Advanced Runs**

54

**Total Runs**

86

**Lifts**

7

**Chairs**

6

**Drags**

1

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

4m (19.2ft).

**Overview**

There's an air of unspoilt charm about Jasper ski resort and its local ski area of Marmot Basin, with its fabulous skiing and stunning parkland. Many visitors will have arrived via the spectacular Icefields Parkway road through protected national parkland from Calgary, one of the most scenically stunning drives on earth; and this great ski area and the town of Jasper is certainly the icing on the cake.

Marmot Basin itself is an excellent mid-sized ski area that has grown organically over the past 50 years, gradually upgrading lifts and expanding its terrain. The area is famed for its open powder slopes that are suited to all ability levels, and also for ‘elbow room' – being one of the least busy ski areas on the planet.

Guests stay in or near the atmospheric town of Jasper, 20 minutes away. As well as a good range of shopping and dining, it has the same strong community spirit evident on the slopes that differentiates the area from many of the more corporate resorts of North America.

**Location**

Marmot Basin is located in the Canadian Rockies of Western Alberta. The ski area is surrounded by spectacular, pristine mountain scenery within Jasper National Park; and is 19km (12 miles) from Jasper town.

**Website**

http://www.skimarmot.com

**Piste Map**

http://www.skimarmot.com/poster-map.pdf

**Hit The Slopes**

Marmot Basin's northerly latitude and high altitude means the snow falls earlier and lasts longer, with the area claiming one of the longest ski seasons in the country – from early December through to late April each year.

Marmot Basin's terrain has continued to grow over the years and now extends over four mountain faces. Jasper’s ski area has a deserved reputation for its less-crowded slopes, allowing visitors to spend more time skiing and less time queuing to ride back up.

Ongoing investment in increasing the number of high-speed lifts means skiers don't spend long on the lifts either; although with spectacular scenery all around it pays to stop and take it all in at least once in a while. The Canadian Rockies Express chairlift carries riders almost 600 vertical metres (2,000ft) in just over seven minutes, making it the longest high-speed chairlift in Alberta’s Canadian Rockies.

All ability levels are catered for; and the good news is that there is a run to suit each off every lift. This makes it possible for different ability groups to ride the same lifts then ski down separate trails and meet at the bottom.

Although the resort has a strong reputation for families, only a third of the terrain is graded intermediate, with runs up to 5.6km (3.5 miles) in length. Experts have 40% of the mountain to call their own, with lots of double black diamond terrain in the Eagle East area accessed by the Eagle Ridge quad chairlift.

Freestyle boarders and skiers will enjoy the attractions of the Rogers Terrain Park in the lower area of the mountain, which is accessible to all and benefits from Marmot's state-of-the-art snowmaking system to keep it going even when snow is sparse.

Marmot Basin’s main ski services, including rentals, ski school, nursery and a ski shop, can be found in the Caribou Chalet complex at the base of the slopes.

**Jasper**

**Resort**

1062

**Base**

1697

**Top**

2612

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There are a lot of things to do in Jasper ski resort and the surrounding area. The main indoor sports facilities are the Jasper Activity Centre (303 Pyramid Avenue; tel: (780) 852 3381) and its adjacent Aquatic Centre, which are home to squash courts, an ice rink, climbing wall, weights room and swimming pools.

A visit to the Jasper Yellowhead Museum (400 Bonhomme Street; tel: (780) 852 3013; [www.jaspermuseum.org](http://www.jaspermuseum.org/)) will provide some background on David Thompson, the explorer who mapped out Canada's fur trade route through the area.

Outdoors, visitors can try ice fishing, ice cave explorations, winter horse riding or climbing a frozen waterfall. The adventurous can even have a go at canyon-crawling through Maligne Canyon’s suspended frozen waterfalls.

Those who visit in the last two weeks of January can enjoy the added fun of the annual Jasper in January Festival ([www.jasperinjanuary.com](http://www.jasperinjanuary.com/)), when the town comes alive with events and activities such as snow sculpting, wine tasting and the famous annual chilli cook-off.

**Family Fun**

Families are entitled to discounts on lift passes, ski rental, food and some accommodation with the Jasper Family Card, making the resort an affordable option for most.

On the slopes, Marmot Basin has a strong family atmosphere and a ski area design that allows families to ski apart and then get back together quickly, easily and safely.

Jasper town is also very family friendly, and children will have fun in the Aquatic Centre (303 Pyramid Avenue; tel: (780) 852 3381) that houses a swimming pool, water slide, hot pool, whirlpool and steam room; another part of the complex is the Jasper Activity Centre with its curling and indoor ice skating rinks.

The Little Rascals Nursery (tel: 1 866 952 3816) provides supervised day care for children aged from 19 months up to five years – holders of the Jasper Family Card are given a 10% discount on day care rates here. A ski school is available from age four, with the full-day Kids Kamp being an option for six to 12 year-olds.

**Retail Therapy**

Lovers of quirky stores and independent boutiques will take delight in Jasper, where there are around 50 shops – mostly concentrated around a couple of blocks in the town centre. In general, expect plenty of character-filled shops in Jasper and very few chain stores.

The Jasper Marketplace (Corner of Patricia and Hazel Street) is typical, with several outlets under one roof, including the Truffles & Trout (tel: (780) 852 9676) specialty bakery and the funky Counterclockwise Emporium (tel: (780) 852 3152).

**Splashing Out**

The Spa at The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge (Old Lodge Road; tel: (780) 852 6014; [www.fairmont.com/jasper](http://www.fairmont.com/jasper)) offers a range of luxury treatments, as well as ‘Just for Men’ pampering packages and options for couples.

**Apres Ski**

Lively après-ski in Jasper kicks off in the ‘downtown’ area as soon as the lifts close and skiers and boarders head down the mountain en masse. As with all things in Jasper, the scene is largely laid-back and with more variety than visitors might expect, with several dozen bars and nightspots from which to choose.

Champs Sports Lounge in the Sawridge Inn (76 Connaught Drive; tel: 1 888 729 7343; [www.sawridgejasper.com](http://www.sawridgejasper.com/)) features over 50 types of martinis – there's also karaoke here every Wednesday night. The Whistle Stop Pub (105 Miette Avenue; tel: 780 852 3361; [www.whistlersinn.com](http://www.whistlersinn.com/)) has a nice fireplace, pool tables, a video jukebox and big-screen satellite TVs. Later on, the Atha-B Nightclub (510 Patricia Street; tel: (780) 852 3386; [www.athabascahotel.com](http://www.athabascahotel.com/)) is the place to be.

**Eating Out**

There are around 30 restaurants in Jasper, allowing an eclectic mix of styles – but most with a general onus on friendly, honest service and quality food. Visitors will discover a variety of cuisines, including Chinese, French, Indian, Italian and Japanese alongside local specialities.

Among the best of the small cafés in Jasper ski resort is the Bear's Paw Bakery (4 Cedar Avenue (tel: (780) 852 3233; [www.bearspawbakery.com](http://www.bearspawbakery.com/)), which serves delicious muffins. Vegetarians should check out Coco's Café (608 Patricia Street; tel: (780) 852 4550; [www.cocoscafe.ca](http://www.cocoscafe.ca/)), which has a daily vegan special and serves up a hearty vegetarian chilli. Serious carnivores will prefer the De'd Dog Bar & Grill in the Astoria Hotel (404 Connaught Drive; tel: (780) 852 3351; [www.astoriahotel.com](http://www.astoriahotel.com/)), where the specials include grilled Alberta steaks, signature game burgers and blackened wild salmon.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airports: Edmonton International Airport (YEG); Calgary International Airport (YYC).

Distance to resort: 360km (225 miles); 400km (250 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours 30 minutes; 4 hours.

**Getting Around**

Those based in Jasper will find much of the resort walkable from their door. A ski shuttle operates daily from the hotels to the ski slopes (19km/12 miles away) – tickets for this can be purchased from the hotels. There are no other major ski areas within a two-hour drive of the town, but a daily shuttle service does link Jasper to Banff, about three hours south.

**Hotels**

Jasper ski resort offers a variety of accommodation choices to suit all tastes and budgets, from well-proportioned rooms located ‘downtown’ to family-style units complete with full-service kitchens and private lakeshore cabins. Most hotels in Jasper are located within walking distance to the town’s attractions, restaurants and shops.

**The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge**

The Jasper Park Lodge is made up of many smaller lodges spread over more than 364 hectares (900 acres) surrounding frozen Lac Beauvert. The hotel has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Old Lodge Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Jasper

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(780) 852 3301.

**Website**

http://www.fairmont.com

**Whistlers Inn**

This small, quaint and affordable inn is located in the centre of the town. It features the friendly Whistle Stop Pub that’s popular with locals, and a very nice restaurant, Cassios' Trattoria.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

105 Miette Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Jasper

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

(780) 852 3361.

**Website**

http://www.whistlersinn.com

**Lobstick Lodge**

Located in the town of Jasper, Lobstick Lodge is within comfortable walking distance of the ‘downtown’ area’s amenities.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

94 Geikie Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Jasper

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Canada

**Telephone**

1 888 852 7737.

**Website**

http://www.mpljasper.com