

## Lake Minnewanka Trail to Aylmer Pass Junction/Cascade Fire Road

April 27, 2022 (REMINDER: Don't forget to pack your bear spray!)

Trail	Group	Distance	Elevation Gain	Time
Minnewanka to Aylmer Pass junction and return. <b>Stronger hikers can follow trail to Aylmer Pass Lookout and Aylmer Pass as far as time allows</b> Exploring Stewart Canyon on return journey is an option +2 km	A, B1,	18 km  +2 km	400 m	5 hrs
Lake Minnewanka to Aylmer Pass junction and return or AFAP	B2	16 km	200 m	5 hrs
Lake Minnewanka Trail AFAP Exploring Stewart Canyon on return journey is an option	C1, C2	7 km  2 km	Gently undulating	4.5 hrs
Cascade Fire Road	B2, C1, C2	12.8 km or AFAP	100 m	4 hrs

**Reminder: Bring along your bear spray and suggest you pack your micro spikes as a caution.**

**Biffy Stop:** Canmore Visitors Centre, Lake Minnewanka Parking Lot

**Trailheads:** Lake Minnewanka Parking Lot, Upper Bankhead Parking Lot

**Pick Up Times & Places:** 3:30 pm Upper Bankhead Parking Lot; 3:15 pm Lake Minnewanka Parking Lot

**LAKE MINNEWANKA TRAIL:** From the parking lot, walk to the access gate leading to the tour boat concession and picnic area. The road is paved through the picnic area. The path now continues to follow the shoreline until you must cross over Stewart Canyon on a bridge (at 1.4 km). After this bridge there is a path to your left heading up Stewart Canyon (at 1.6 km); however, keep straight to take the path that switchbacks up through the forest, and you will eventually round the inlet from Stewart Canyon and coming back toward Lake Minnewanka, with lovely views across the lake (Lake Minnewanka viewpoint at 3 km). Watch for the steep drop off on your right at times. If you continue along, you will cross some simple bridges and at approximately 8 km you will approach the Aylmer Pass junction and LM8, a backcountry campground and a great place for lunch prior to your return.

**Exploring Stewart Canyon on return journey is an option for the A and B1 groups and the Cs (if conditions permit).** Follow left hand trail at the junction reached at .2 km before Stewart Canyon Bridge. **For B2 groups going to Aylmer Junction, you won't have time to do Stewart Canyon**

**CASCADE FIRE ROAD:** The trail begins at the north corner of the Upper Bankhead Parking Lot. Formerly a fire access road, this wide gravel trail leads into the Cascade Valley. Distance to the Cascade River Bridge is 6.4 km one way. At this time of year, the trail may be muddy in spots.