

## ROUTE

If you don't have two vehicles, you will need to spot a car at the end of the hike, or arrange for a pickup. From the townsite, drive north on the park entrance road to the landmark Prince of Wales Hotel, reinforced by cables to keep it upright in the fearsome wind. Turn left, west, onto the Akamina Parkway here. Drive 4.5 miles (8 km) to the Rowe Creek Trailhead, and park your car. Hitchhike and arrange for a shuttle back to town, then drive or arrange for the shuttle to the end of the Red Rock Canyon Parkway for the start of your hike.

From the parking lot, find the trailhead for the Blakiston Creek Trail at 5,000 feet (1,500 m). Just a mile or so in, just beyond the falls, look for the spectacular rock pools in the creek. From there, follow the Blakiston Creek Trail west for almost 6 miles (9.2 km) to the intersection with the Tamarack Trail. Turn right there and follow the trail north over the Bauerman Divide (6,700 feet, 2,070 m). This part of the trail is steep for much of the way, but takes you to the first night's camp at scenic Twin Lakes, less than 2 miles (3 km) from the trail intersection. Camp in the tent sites between the two lakes.

On day two, leave your camp at Twin Lakes Camp, and hike back up and over Bauerman Divide, backtrack to the

Blakiston Trail intersection and continue south on the Tamarack Trail. The next and final camp is at Lone Lake, just 2.5 miles (4 km) from the intersection via an undulating trail with several creek crossings and a section through the broken timber of an avalanche path. This short day allows some time for exploring along the way, or side trips to Sage Pass in the morning or South Kootenay Pass at midday.

If you opt for the two-day itinerary, hike directly to Lone Lake on day one. Take the Blakiston Trail from the end of the Red Rock Canyon Parkway and then turn south on the Tamarack Trail to Lone Lake on the first day. The distance involved is about the same as hiking to Twin Lakes, 8 miles (13 km). You'll miss the scenery on the Bauerman Divide and at Twin Lakes, but you'll eliminate the middle day: a pity, but it's a good option if you only have a weekend.

From Lone Lake, the final day is a long one, but the highlight of the trip. The route leaves Lone Lake, climbs steeply out of the basin, over a subsidiary ridge (the shoulder of Festubert Mountain) and on up the big valley toward the big climb up to Lineham Ridge. That big wall to your right all day is the Continental Divide, and also the ridge that marks the border between Alberta and British Columbia. This is a big elevation day, more than 2,000 feet (650 m) in the 6 miles (9 km) from Lone Lake to the Lineham Ridge.

A long U-shaped sidehill loop, like a giant switchback, takes you inexorably but ever so gradually out of the Tamarack's deep valley to the top of Lineham Ridge. The spectacular ridge is perhaps the most scenic spot in all of the park. Linger here to enjoy lunch and the 360-degree view, including down into the remote basin holding Lineham Lake, where no trail or approved route exists.

From the ridgetop, follow the trail around as it sidehills dramatically around the upper basin in another big loop before reaching the intersection with the Rowe Lakes Trail. The Rowe Lakes Trail descends gradually into the emerald green sub-alpine basin holding Lower Rowe Lake, an easy 3 miles (5 km) from the high point on the ridge. A herd of big-horn sheep often feeds on the hillside here.

From the lake, it's an easy, descending 2.5-mile (4-km) hike down through the trees to where you have left your car at the Rowe Creek Trailhead on the Akamina Parkway. From here, the drive back to town is less than 15 minutes.

## INFORMATION

A wilderness permit is required for overnight stays in the backcountry. Permits are available from the visitor center in Waterton, or you can reserve in advance, which is recommended, especially for overnight trips. Reservations for backcountry trips may be made 90 days in advance begin-



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: *wild prickle rose*, an icon of Alberta; *sky pilot*; *Indian Paintbrush*; *Mariposa lily*.

PHOTO BY PETER POTTERFIELD



ning April 1 of each year, and must be paid for at the time the reservation is made.

To make reservations, call the backcountry warden office at: 403-859-5140 from April 1 through mid-May, or 403-859-5133 after mid-May.

Your reserved permit must be picked up at the visitor center in Waterton no sooner than 24 hours in advance of the start date of the trip.

For more information, contact park headquarters:

**WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK**

Box 200  
 Waterton Park, AB T0K 2M0  
 403-859-5133  
 E-mail: [waterton.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:waterton.info@pc.gc.ca)  
[www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/waterton/index.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/waterton/index.aspx)

**Shuttle Services and Hiking Guides**

Tamarack Outfitters in the townsite of Waterton has a wide range of outdoor gear and clothing; its affiliate, Waterton Outdoor Adventures, offers shuttle services and guiding services to hikers. The Trail of the Great Bear also offers guide services in Waterton.

**TAMARACK OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS**

403-859-2378  
 E-mail: [tamarackwaterton@mac.com](mailto:tamarackwaterton@mac.com)  
[www.watertonvisitorservices.com](http://www.watertonvisitorservices.com)

**WATERTON OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

403-859-2378  
 E-mail: [watertonshuttle@mac.com](mailto:watertonshuttle@mac.com)  
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**THE TRAIL OF THE GREAT BEAR**

114 Waterton Avenue  
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[www.trailofthegreatbear.com](http://www.trailofthegreatbear.com)

**Planning a Trip**

For more information on planning a trip to Alberta, see the Travel Alberta Web site:  
[www.travelalberta.com](http://www.travelalberta.com)