

Big Critters



Whitetail Deer

Characteristics
Tan colour, tail has white underside and is held erect like a flag when alarmed.

Where to find
Mostly valley bottoms.



Mule Deer

Characteristics
Black tip on tail, large ears, white rump, grey colour.

Where to find
Mostly valley bottoms.



Elk

Characteristics
Brown body, darker neck and large tan rump patch. Backwards slanting antlers.

Where to find
Valley bottoms and open areas. Commonly found in and around the Jasper townsite.



Bighorn Sheep

Characteristics
White rump, males: thick curved horns, females: narrow horns, short light brown fur.

Where to find
Near steep rocky terrain.



Mountain Goat

Characteristics
Narrow black horns, beard, long white hair.

Where to find
Near steep rocky terrain.



Moose

Characteristics
Long legs, shoulder hump. Built like a horse with a large head. Shovel-like antlers.

Where to find
Wet and marshy areas.



Wolf

Characteristics
Built like a large German Shepherd, with longer legs. Colour can vary from white to black.

Where to find
Throughout the park but particularly in valley bottoms.



Coyote

Characteristics
Medium-sized dog. Thick, bushy tail. Greyish-brown in colour.

Where to find
Valley bottoms, well adapted to humans.



Caribou

Characteristics
Darker body with light neck hair. C-shaped antlers with shovel-like tines at their base.

Where to find
Alpine and subalpine meadows. Threatened species.



Red Squirrel

Characteristics
Red body, white underside and very large, bushy tail.

Where to find
Coniferous forests, scampering up trees.



Columbia Ground Squirrel

Characteristics
Tan-coloured. Longer body. Has a high-pitched "squeak".

Where to find
Meadows, roadsides and townsites in ground colonies.



Marmot

Characteristics
Large and silver-brown in colour with longer hair.

Where to find
Alpine meadows, rock piles and scree slopes.



Photo: Mark Bradley



Size Chart

Moose

Elk

Caribou

Deer

Sheep

Goat

Wolf

Coyote

I think I see a bear...



Bears can be *dangerous* and unpredictable.

Consider not stopping...
 Bears need to forage undisturbed in order to gain enough fat to survive the winter. Your decision to drive by without stopping gives bears the space they need to survive in this challenging landscape.

If you stop...

- Pull over where it is safe to do so.
- Use your hazard lights to alert other drivers
- **Observe and photograph bears from the safety of your car.**
- Remain a respectful distance from the bear.
- **NEVER** feed a bear, a fed bear is a dead bear.

Watch for a moment and then *move on!*
 If a traffic jam develops, it is unsafe for people and wildlife.

BEARS Things to remember...

- If you are on foot, remain at least 100 m from a bear.
- **DO NOT** approach or pursue.

Grizzly or Black Bear?

Colour and size are poor identifiers- both species can range in size and exhibit great variation in colour.



Don't be fooled by our elk...



When they become used to living near people, these proud-looking plant-eaters can look "tame". **BUT BEWARE:** they can get aggressive if people get too close.

Elk are particularly aggressive during the spring calving season (May, June) and the fall rut (September, October).

ELK Things to remember...

- If you are on foot, remain at least 30m from an elk.
- **DO NOT** approach or pursue.

During the calving season...
DANGER SIGNS:

1. Staring directly at you
2. Flattened ears
3. Curled lips
4. Teeth grinding
5. Charging or kicking



Unsafe viewing



During the fall rut...
DANGER SIGNS:

1. Lower head and wave antlers
2. Thrash bushes with antlers
3. **CHARGE!**



Give wildlife space, space and MORE SPACE!

One of the amazing attractions of Jasper National Park is the chance to see wild animals living free in their natural world. With nearly two million visitors a year, it takes a conscious effort from each of us to make sure we don't harm the very thing that makes the park special: its *wild* nature.



Jasper is very fortunate to have amazing wildlife viewing opportunities. If you would like to explore further, consider hiring a guide.

For more information contact:
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