In most places, “Mountain Biking” either means one of two things: finding some dirt next to the sidewalk to ride on, or tiling yourself down on a mountain on something that costs more than a motorcycle but with smaller brakes and no engine. However, if you bike in Jasper, you get that rare third option: cross-country fun.

Jasper has what might be the best trail system in the world. Ask any cyclist why they come back to Jasper and they’ll likely hear that it’s because the park’s well-connected, well-maintained trails are the perfect way to actually experience wildlife while at the same time avoiding crowds.

While most of the trails described are fun, valley bottom trails, Jasper does have some great climbing for riders looking for physical challenges and eye-popping alpine scenery.

**Palisades Lookout**

*MAP A & C* Distance: 11 km one way. Elevation gain: 845 m

Fresh riders who pummel up the long, steep climb are rewarded with panoramic views of the Athabasca River Valley and a white-lashed descent. Bring extra water and use caution along the cliff edge.

**Pyramid Mountain**

*MAP A & C* Distance: 11 km one way. Elevation loss: 770 m

For those that want an added challenge, stay left at the Palisades junction and travel an hour’s distance to Pyramid Mountain. If you prepare and have energy to spare, go for a scramble up the rugged steps.

**Signal Mountain**

*MAP A* Distance: 8.1 km one way. Elevation gain: 925 m

Single speed riders, beware! This sustained climb requires strength, endurance and a sense of give and take. What you give, a week’s worth of sweat. What you take: alpine views of the valleys and peaks surrounding the Jasper townsite, plus a chair’s descent. Watch for backmarkers and bugs on the speedy downhill.

**Ride a Mountain**

Cruisy, cross-country fun...
Pedal from your doorstep and into the wild...

EASY ROUTE

TO THE SHORES OF LAC BEAUVERT
3 KM ONE WAY (MAP A)

From Hazel Avenue, cruise along the Wapiti Trail to the Red Squirrel Run (14), and you’ll be rewarded with down this easy slope into Old Fort Point (P1). Once across the Athabasca River, stay on the road, past the interpretive camp monument and to Lac Beauvert. Sit along the shores of one of Jasper’s most picturesque lakes and take in the stunning view of the Coho Range. Bring a picnic! When it’s time to pack up, return the way you came, or follow the road to Lake Annette (P13) and follow Bighorn Alley (13) to town.

MODERATE ROUTES

THE TIME-CRUNCHED QUICKIE
4.8 KM LOOP (MAP A)

Gear up at Church Hill (P3, Trail 2) and prep yourself for a 200m climb to the top. Catch your breath and take in the best views of the Jasper townsite and surrounding mountain ranges. Continue along Trail 2 as it curves through the Cootemache Slough Parking Area (P4). Cross the road and bridge and hang a quick right on Trail 2a. The canopy opens and the views along the benchlands will take your breath away… if it isn’t already gone. As you glide along some sweet single track, approach the final switchbacks with caution (and excitement). Before you know it, you’re back in town!

VIBRANT VALLEY VISTAS
8.0 KM LOOP (MAP A)

From the trailhead at the west end of town (P2), Trail 3 immediately crosses Cabin Creek and climbs onto a low bluff with a view of the Athabasca Valley. From here, you have the option of two trails: one high and the other low, bringing you to Marjorie Lake (at km 2.4 km). As you continue towards Caledonia Lake, where the wood lilies and wild roses bloom in early summer, this forest-enclosed single track steadily climbs. Take a quick left at Trail 3a and follow the winding downhill to the CN tracks. Once across, you’ll take an easy cruise along the Wynd Road and back into town.

DIFFICULT ROUTE

THE BIG SWEAT
32 KM RETURN (MAP A)

Start this epic tour at Old Fort Point (P1). Hop on Trail 1 (the face of the cliff, no bikes here) and follow Trail 9 where you now all the way to the shores of Wabasso Lake. The trail is a mix of ups and downs, wide and single track, with technical root and rock sections. On your way home, change your route by adding Trail 10. Watch for bikers during peak hours and wildlife during the cooler parts of the day.