

# Hike of the Week – Lake Minnewanka

## **Stats:**

- 3-40km
- Variable climb
- 1-12hrs

## **Driving Directions:**

- Follow Hwy 1 West of Calgary towards Banff. The Lake Minnewanka exit is the first exit to your right after the park gates. It is well-signed.

## **Route Description:**

- The Lake Minnewanka Trail is relatively flat, as far as mountain hikes go. The trail is well-maintained and follows the shoreline of the lake. There are many options for hike distances, and all hikes are out-and-back. At the 1.5km mark you reach the junction for Stewart Canyon. You may choose to explore further up the Canyon or continue on the Lake Minnewanka Trail. If you continue on the shoreline trail, climb a moderate hill up through a forest fire burn scar and enjoy fantastic views of the lake. Adventurous hikers may choose to continue on to the Aylmer Lookout.

## **Advanced Option:**

- At the 8km mark, reach the signed junction for Aylmer Pass/Lookout. Follow the trail up a steep hill to the lookout. The climb is worth it, as the view from the lookout is spectacular. I would recommend bringing a picnic to enjoy once you reach the lookout.

## **Recommended Gear:**

- Shoes with good grip (trail runners or hiking boots)
- Layers of clothing, (especially if you go to the lookout)
- Bear spray, this is prime grizzly habitat
- Food and water
- Hiking poles may be helpful if you go to the lookout
- Camera

## **Trip Report:**

- Check out Hiking with Barry's trip report for Lake Minnewanka  
<http://hikingwithbarry.com/2011/03/02/lake-minnewanka-banff-national-park-hiking-alberta>
- And some photos for Aylmer Lookout  
<https://10hikes.com/canada/banff-hikes/hike-aylmer-lookout-lake-minnewanka/>