

# NATIONAL PARKS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

CANADA

## FOREWORD

*The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment". Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations".*

*The discovery of hot mineral springs, bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway, led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 37 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.*

*Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, some contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.*

*It is the responsibility of the National Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is the chief concern of the wardens, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.*

*In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Branch is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From Signal Hill in Newfoundland to Fort Langley in British Columbia, nineteen such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.*

*The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration they will continue as a perpetual asset — undiminished by use — for all future generations.*

Issued under the authority of the  
Honourable Alvin Hamilton, M.P., Minister of  
Northern Affairs and National Resources

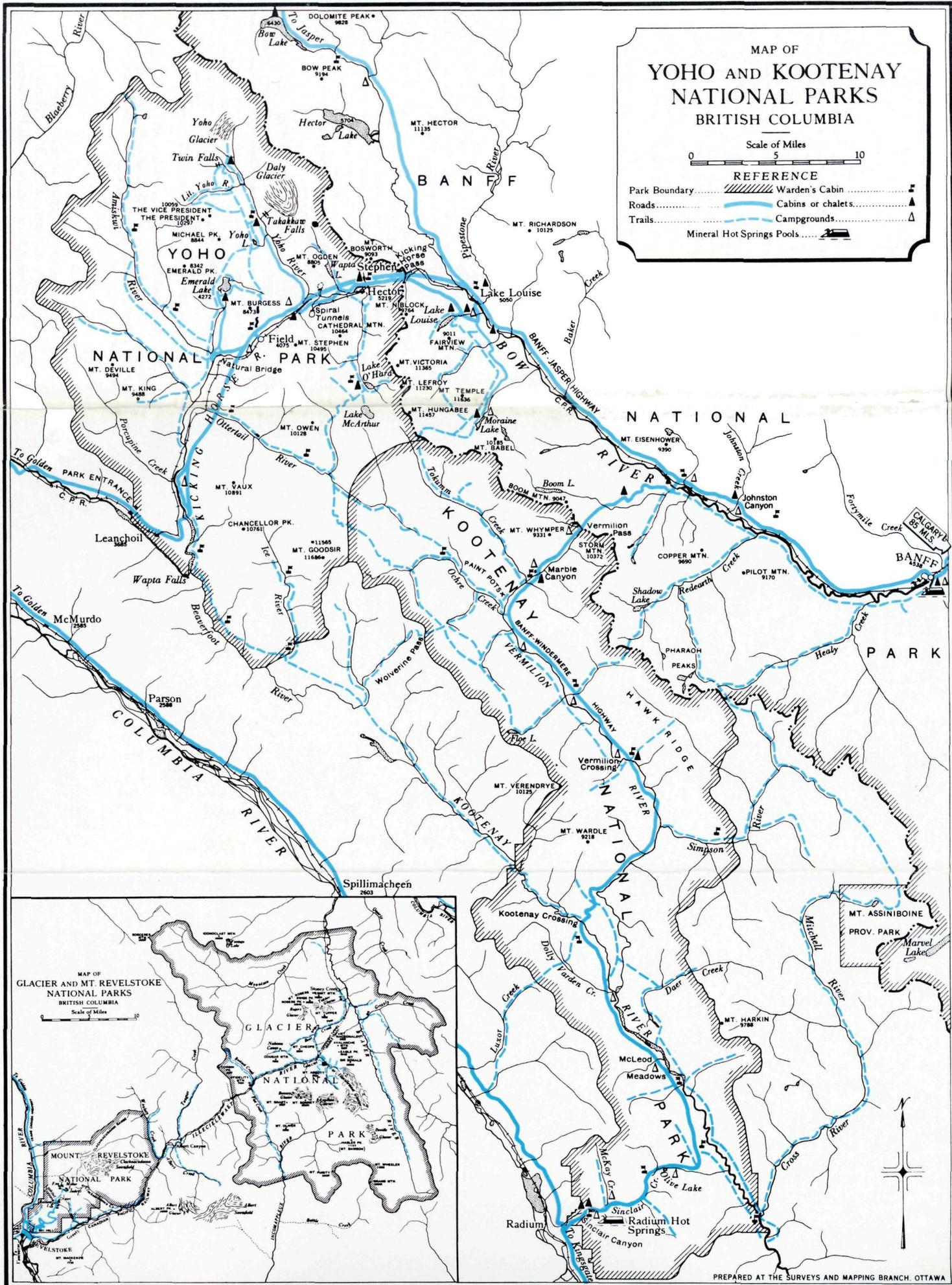
MAP OF  
**YOHO AND KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARKS**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Scale of Miles



REFERENCE

- Park Boundary.....
- Roads.....
- Trails.....
- Mineral Hot Springs Pools.....
- Warden's Cabin.....
- Cabins or chalets.....
- Campgrounds.....



MAP OF  
**GLACIER AND MT. REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARKS**  
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

Scale of Miles



# YOHO NATIONAL PARK

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Location and Description

Yoho National Park was established in 1886 and has an area of 507 square miles. It lies along the western slope of the Canadian Rockies, its eastern boundary adjoining Banff and Kootenay National Parks along the continental divide. It is divided into two parts by the Kicking Horse River, which has its source in the Great Divide. The park derives its name from the Indian word "Yoho", an exclamation meaning "It is wonderful". The splendour of its wild valleys, the magnificence of its lofty snow-capped peaks, the unbelievable colour of its alpine lakes that sparkle like jewels, and its spectacular glaciers and waterfalls make the park a region of outstanding natural beauty, which fully justifies its name.

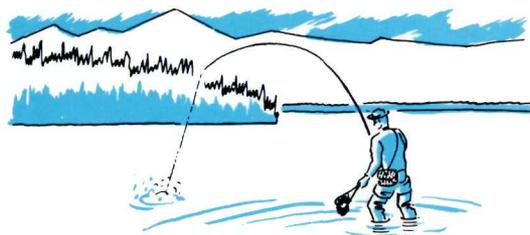
### How to Reach the Park

Yoho National Park is traversed by the western section of the Trans-Canada Highway and is linked with the other national playgrounds in the Canadian Rockies and Selkirks. The system of roads leading to and through this park is indicated on the accompanying map. Yoho Park is also accessible by rail, being served by the main transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The nearest airport is at Calgary, Alberta.

### Recreation

The park, which is part of the "roof" of the Canadian Rockies, is a paradise for the mountaineer. The satisfaction of achievement which climbers feel in conquering challenging peaks, the thrilling experience of picking one's uncharted way through primitive mountain wilderness and the impressive solitude of remote places have a strong appeal for the adventurous.

**Fishing**—Information about the most popular fishing places in the park and a list of the species to be caught may be obtained from the superintendent's office, Information Bureau or Kicking Horse campgrounds.



A fishing licence is required for all mountain parks except Glacier and Mt. Revelstoke, and is good in any of these parks during the season. The fees for a licence are: One-month licence \$1; season licence \$2.

The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is greatly appreciated.

**Hiking**—More than 200 miles of improved trails are open to hikers. Park trails provide excellent opportunities for exploring the magnificent scenery in the region. Many lovers of nature make annual trail trips into remote areas to observe and photograph wildlife in its native habitat. Trail systems, radiating from Emerald Lake, Takakkaw Falls and Lake O'Hara lead to places of unforgettable beauty and interest.

**Motoring**—Besides the Trans-Canada Highway, which crosses Yoho National Park, branch roads lead to spectacular Takakkaw Falls via the Yoho Valley Road, Emerald Lake and to the Natural Bridge, three of the outstanding scenic areas in the Canadian Rockies.

**Trail Riding**—An ever-increasing number of visitors to the park are adding the trail trip to their vacation experiences. Trails unseen from the railway or highway wind through fragrant forests carpeted with pine and fir needles, along narrow gorges and canyons, around the rim of flower-bedecked valleys, to placid lakes of different hues, into the territory of the bighorn sheep and the mountain goat, past glittering peaks, melting glaciers, foaming cataracts, and mighty waterfalls.

Trail riders, hikers, climbers, and others making extended trips into park areas away from railroads or park highways must register with the park superintendent before departure. This regulation applies whether the visitor is accompanied by a guide or not.

# KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Location and Description

Kootenay National Park was established in 1920 and has an area of 543 square miles. The park extends approximately five miles on each side of the Vermilion-Sinclair section of the Banff-Windermere Highway for a distance of 60 miles. It includes the valleys of the Vermilion and Kootenay Rivers, which form natural avenues for travel. Situated on the western slope of the Canadian Rockies, it contains, in addition to its superb mountain scenery, a number of other remarkable features. These include deep canyons, spectacular waterfalls, an iceberg lake, and mineral hot springs. The lower slopes of its valleys are well forested, and it is a noted wildlife sanctuary.

### How to Reach the Park

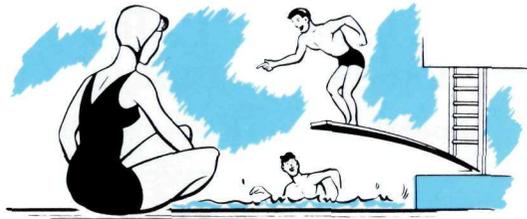
The Banff-Windermere Highway, the first motor road constructed across the central Canadian Rockies, is one of the main approaches from the south leading to the mountain national parks. It traverses the park from north to south linking the Trans-Canada Highway with British Columbia Highway No. 95. Connection is thus provided with Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks on the north and with Cranbrook, Kingsgate, and points in the United States to the south.

### Recreation

**Angling**—Four lakes, three rivers and several small streams offer good fishing during certain seasons of the year.

Visitors can obtain at the Park Information Bureau up-to-date information about the most popular fishing waters in the park and a list of the species to be caught.





**Bathing and Swimming** — Two pools, one in a natural setting and the other a modern structure of concrete with brilliant lighting, provide hot-water bathing and swimming the year round. The natural pool is fed by deep subterranean hot springs which issue from the rock at a temperature of 114°F. The same source supplies the modern pool, maintained at an average temperature of 85°F. These waters are odorless and tasteless, and tests by government analysts indicate a high chemical content. The Aquacourt contains steam rooms, massage rooms, plunge pools, dressing booths, lockers, medical-reception rooms, first-aid rooms, staff rooms, coffee bar and novelty shop. There is an elevator for the use of wheel-chair patients and a broad roof terrace for sun bathers and spectators.

**Hiking**—Many trails of varying length and difficulty are to be found throughout the park. **Visitors must register with the park superintendent before undertaking trail trips or hikes involving camping out overnight.**

**Mountain Climbing** — See Regulations under "General Information".

## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Location and Description

Glacier National Park contains an area of 521 square miles in the heart of the Selkirk Mountains, which lie west of the Canadian Rockies within the great northern bend of the Columbia River. Glacier is the only unit of Canada's National Parks system served exclusively by railroad, since no motor roads span its rugged terrain. The park was established in 1886—one of the first areas in Canada to be set apart as a public possession.

Of all Canada's lofty mountain ranges, none possesses greater physical attractions than the Selkirks. Ages older than the Rockies, these peaks have a character so distinct as to be recognized at once. Many of the highest mountains in the Selkirk Range are included in the park area, some rising to heights of more than 11,000 feet. These snow-capped pinnacles, flanked by immense ice-fields and sparkling glaciers, stand sentinel over a kingdom of canyons and caverns, turbulent rivers and waterfalls, brilliant against a background of forest-clad slopes. For lovers of primitive nature, this vast alpine panorama, with its wealth of flower-filled meadows and valleys, gives to the park unusual charm, compounded of both beauty and challenge.

One of the outstanding attractions of the park is the Illecillewaet Glacier, less than 2 miles from Glacier Station. The snow-field is reached by a good trail involving very little climbing. This gigantic mass of ice falls more than 3,500 feet from the *nèvé* and is almost 10 square miles in area. Seen from the trail, it gleams through the green forest. Although actually 3 miles distant, the ice-mass appears close at hand. In spite of the enormous snowfall for which the district is noted, this glacier, in common with other glaciers in the Canadian Rockies and Selkirks, is gradually retreating.

There is no hotel accommodation in Glacier Park, but a camp-ground has been laid out near the site of the former Glacier House hotel. Visitors should bring along their own camping equipment, such as tents, bedding, blankets, and cooking utensils. Wood fuel and fresh water are available at the camp-ground and provisions may be purchased at the local store. Limited accommodation is also available in the building occupied by this store.



### Trails

Although there are no motor roads in Glacier National Park, it is well served by trails radiating from Glacier Station to places of phenomenal beauty and interest. A broad trail, 12 miles in length, leading from Glacier Station follows the old Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way through Rogers Pass to Stoney Creek on the main line of the railway. Breathtaking views of Hermit Range, which include such magnificent peaks as Cheops, Catamount, Ursus Minor, Ursus Major, Grizzly, Tupper, Sifton, Grant, and Shaughnessy, as well as several glaciers feature this trail. To the south rise many notable peaks in the Sir Donald Range, and creeping down from their summits is the glittering Avalanche Glacier. Another broad trail leads west from Glacier Station to the Nakimu Caves, and on to the Upper Cougar Valley, Cougar Mountain, Cougar Glacier, and Cougar Brook, passing several spectacular falls including Bear, Goat, Whistler, Gopher, and Douglas. The alpine meadows in the Upper Cougar Valley are carpeted with wild flowers, presenting a riot of colour. Other trails wind through the primitive wilderness, by the edge of the tiny mountain tarns, past cataracts, along the rim of canyons, through wild mountain passes up to the very edge of the eternal snows.

The following is a list of some of the principal trails in the park showing their name, location, and length in miles:

Name	Location	Length in Miles
Rogers Pass	From Glacier Station to Stoney Creek	10
Nakimu Caves and Cougar Valley	From Glacier Station westerly along old "Tally Ho" road	6
Hermit	From Rogers Pass Trail to Alpine Hut on Hermit Mountain	2
Balu Pass	From Rogers Pass to Nakimu Caves—The Cougar Valley Trail	4
Glacier-Flat Creek	Nakimu Caves Trail to Flat Creek Cabin	8
Mount Abbott	From Glacier Station to Marion Lake and shoulder of Mount Abbott	6
Asulkan Pass	From Glacier Station south along Asulkan Brook	7
Glacier Crest	From Asulkan Pass Trail easterly to a point overlooking the Illecillewaet Glacier and <i>nèvé</i>	2
Great Glacier	From Asulkan Pass Trail south easterly along Illecillewaet River to the foot of Illecillewaet Glacier	2
Sir Donald	From Glacier Station southeast on north side of Illecillewaet River to Vaux Glacier at base of Mount Sir Donald	3.5
Avalanche Crest	From Glacier Station to base of Mount Avalanche	3.5
Beaver River	From Stoney Creek—South on Beaver River	25
Grizzly Creek and Bald Mountain	From Grizzly Creek Bridge on the Beaver River Trail easterly to west side of Copperstain Creek, thence south to park boundary	9
Bostock Creek	From Flat Creek Warden's cabin north-westerly to the head of Bostock Creek and the west boundary of the park	7
Flat Creek	From Flat Creek Warden's cabin south to head of Flat Creek	6
Incomappleux River	From Flat Creek Pass south along Slick Creek to the Incomappleux River to the south boundary of the park	7
Mountain Creek	From Bostock Summit to Mountain Creek	9



Several hundred persons visit Glacier National Park annually, and include photographers, naturalists, mountain climbers and a few anglers in summer, and skiers in winter. Periodically, the Alpine Club of Canada holds both summer and winter camps in the park. The Club has a permanent hut near Glacier Station and another on Hermit Mountain.

Superb high-country skiing facilities are available in Glacier National Park, particularly in the Asulkan Valley, 5 miles from Glacier Station. Ten square miles of glacier and *nèvé* provide a wide variety of skiing conditions, including 4,000-foot vertical drops and downhill runs up to four miles.

Fishing in Glacier Park is largely confined to streams. These usually have a rapid flow and consequently the fish populations are not large. Dolly Varden and Rocky Mountain whitefish are present in most streams, and fishing is best in autumn when the streams are free of silt.

## MOUNT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Location and Description

Mount Revelstoke National Park is situated on the summit of Mount Revelstoke. It has an area of 100 square miles and occupies a broad undulating plateau at a general elevation of 6,000 feet above sea-level. The park lies on the western slope of the Selkirk Mountains between the valleys of the Columbia River on the west and the Illecillewaet River on the south and stretches across to the Clachnacudainn Range. Mount Revelstoke was established as a National Park in 1914. The views from the Lookout at the Summit are breathtaking. Three mountain ranges are visible from this location—Monashee,

Selkirk, and Clachnacudainn. To the west is Eagle Pass through which run the Banff-Vancouver Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Across the picturesque Columbia Valley rises the Monashee Range, dominated by triple-peaked Mount Begbie, and to the north of the Lookout, nearer at hand, the Clachnacudainn Snowfields. Peaks which are visible from this vantage point include Begbie, MacPherson, Mackenzie, Tilley, Ghost Rock, Harry, and Twin Buttes. A directional table, with arrows pointing to the various peaks and glaciers in the vicinity has been erected at the Lookout. The arrows bear the name and elevation of each peak; also the names of the glaciers. Far below, the town of Revelstoke spreads out like a giant fan at the junction of Columbia and Illecillewaet Rivers.

Not far from the Lookout is the "Ice Box", a great cleft in the rock, which usually contains, even in midsummer, a mass of snow and ice. It is an unfailing attraction for visitors.

### How to Reach the Park

Mount Revelstoke National Park is accessible by both railway and motor road. A scenic highway has been built from the main through-highway near the town of Revelstoke to the summit of Mount Revelstoke on which the park is situated. In a distance of 18 miles this road rises 4,850 feet to an altitude of 6,350 feet above sea-level, yet it has no mental hazards for the average driver. The ascent is gradual and is made by a number of switchbacks with sweeping curves, with plenty of room for cars to pass.

The town of Revelstoke is on the main transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway which provides a daily service east and west. Revelstoke is also situated on Provincial Highway No. 1, which forms part of the highway from Vancouver to Banff and points east. An approach from the south by highway may also be made via Nelson, Nakusp, and Arrowhead, with the aid of the Arrow Lakes ferry service.

Revelstoke also forms the western terminus of the "Big Bend" Highway which was opened for travel in 1940. This stretch, between Revelstoke and Golden, follows the Columbia River around its great northern bend, and provides a spectacular drive of 193 miles through an almost primeval mountain region.



### Trails

There are more than 40 miles of improved trails in the park. Perhaps the most popular of these is the trail leading from the Lookout at the Summit to Millar and Eva Lakes, and Lake of Jade. This trail crosses alpine meadows, popularly known as the "wild flower garden", and skirting the Columbia Valley winds through rocky hollows to crystal pools of pale green water that reflect the surrounding trees, rocks and mountains. Millar Lake is 4 miles from the Lookout, and Eva and Jade Lakes  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles respectively. Rainbow and cutthroat trout abound in these waters.

### Winter Sports

Revelstoke is known as the pioneer championship ski-jumping centre of Canada, and many of the earlier records—both amateur and professional—were made on the southern slopes of Mount Revelstoke. Recently the hill has been redesigned and the new ski jump has been approved by the Canadian Amateur Ski Association as an 80-meter hill. Additional development of the ski slopes has widened the practice areas so that novices also enjoy ample opportunities to perfect their techniques. The downhill course, one of the most thrilling on the North American continent, has been laid out on the southern slopes of the mountain with a length of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles and a vertical drop of 2,500 feet. Regional and international competitions are frequently held in this area.

### Fort Langley National Historic Park

Commemorates the remaining original building and other reconstructed buildings and stockade of the principal Hudson's Bay Company post on the Fraser River. Originally built 1827, rebuilt 1840 after burning, the post was an important agricultural and fishery establishment. In 1858 British Columbia was proclaimed a crown colony at a ceremony in the fort, which for a short time was the provisional capital.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Registration and Motor Licences

Motorists entering Yoho or Kootenay National Parks must register and obtain transient motor licences as required by regulations governing the use of national park highways.

Licence good for any number of trips during the fiscal year ending March 31st, which will be honoured in all national parks in Canada: Automobile \$2; auto with trailer attached \$3.

Single trip licence good for the period November 1st to March 31st inclusive: Automobile, 50 cents; auto with trailer attached \$1.

A special licence may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

Entrance fees are not required at Mount Revelstoke National Park, but visitors are requested to register for record purposes at the Lookout Station at the summit of the mountain.

Visitors to Glacier National Park should register at the Park Warden's cabin near Glacier Station.

### Wildlife Protection

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Consequently, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected, and hunting and the possession of unsealed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are also game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds and their nests. All dogs and cats entering a national park must be licensed and kept under control. Dogs are not permitted to roam at large.

### Parks Administration

Yoho, Kootenay, Glacier, and Mount Revelstoke National Parks are administered by the National Parks Branch. The superintendent of Yoho Park is located at Field, B.C., and the superintendent of Glacier and Mount Revelstoke Parks, at Revelstoke, B.C. The superintendent of Kootenay Park is stationed at Radium Hot Springs, B.C.

The parks regulations are enforced by the park warden service assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

### Accommodation

The publication entitled "Accommodation in Canada's National Parks" contains up-to-date information, including the name, location, capacity, rates and plan, covering tourist accommodation available in these national parks. Copies may be obtained from the park superintendents or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau at Ottawa.

Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment, or have cabin trailers, it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance.

### Camping

Many visitors to Canada's National Parks bring along their own camping equipment or arrive in cabin trailers. For their convenience, camp-grounds have been laid out and equipped in some of the choicest locations in the parks.

The publication entitled "Camp-grounds and Trailer Parks in Canada's National Parks" contains up-to-date information, including the name, location, capacity, facilities available and fees, on all camping grounds in the national parks. Copies may be obtained from the park superintendents or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

### Films

Motion picture films, 16 mm., mostly in colour with sound, depicting National Parks of Canada are available through various distribution outlets in Canada and the United States.

Full information can be obtained from all regional offices of the National Film Board in Canada, and from the Canadian Travel Film Libraries at:

111 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago 2, Ill.  
630 Fifth Ave., New York 20, N.Y., U.S.A.

### Fauna and Flora

Wild animal and bird life is very abundant in the parks. Among the species of large mammals found are mountain caribou, black and grizzly bears, mule and white-tailed deer, moose, and goat. In addition, Glacier Park has some elk. Bird life includes grouse, ptarmigan, and numerous song birds of bright plumage.

The flora of Kootenay, Yoho, and Mount Revelstoke Parks includes such species as the lodgepole or western jack pine, spruce, balsam fir, poplar, cottonwood, mountain maple, and larch.

The vegetation in Glacier Park is luxuriant, with giant cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir abundant.

The wild flowers of the parks are a delight to the visitor. Their colour, fragrance, and delicate loveliness add a touch of enchantment to the region. Growing in profusion in the valleys and on the slopes of the mountains, these alpine gardens of nature are found even above timberline at the edge of the glaciers.

### Fire Prevention

Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires.

Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose, and must be completely extinguished before campers leave the site. Persons camping out overnight, at other than established camp-grounds, must first register with the nearest park warden and also obtain a permit to light a camp-fire.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished, if possible. All fires should be reported promptly to the nearest park officer. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be repaired in a century.

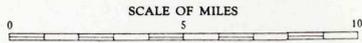
**Climbing — The National Parks Regulations require that all persons, before climbing a mountain, shall register with the nearest park warden or other park officer and indicate their proposed route and the duration of the trip. Persons camping out overnight are subject to the same regulations. Inexperienced climbers should obtain the services of a guide and full information concerning the necessary equipment. Visitors unaccustomed to mountain terrain should exercise great caution when climbing or hiking in unfamiliar country.**

Compiled by the Canadian Government Travel Bureau in co-operation with the National Parks Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

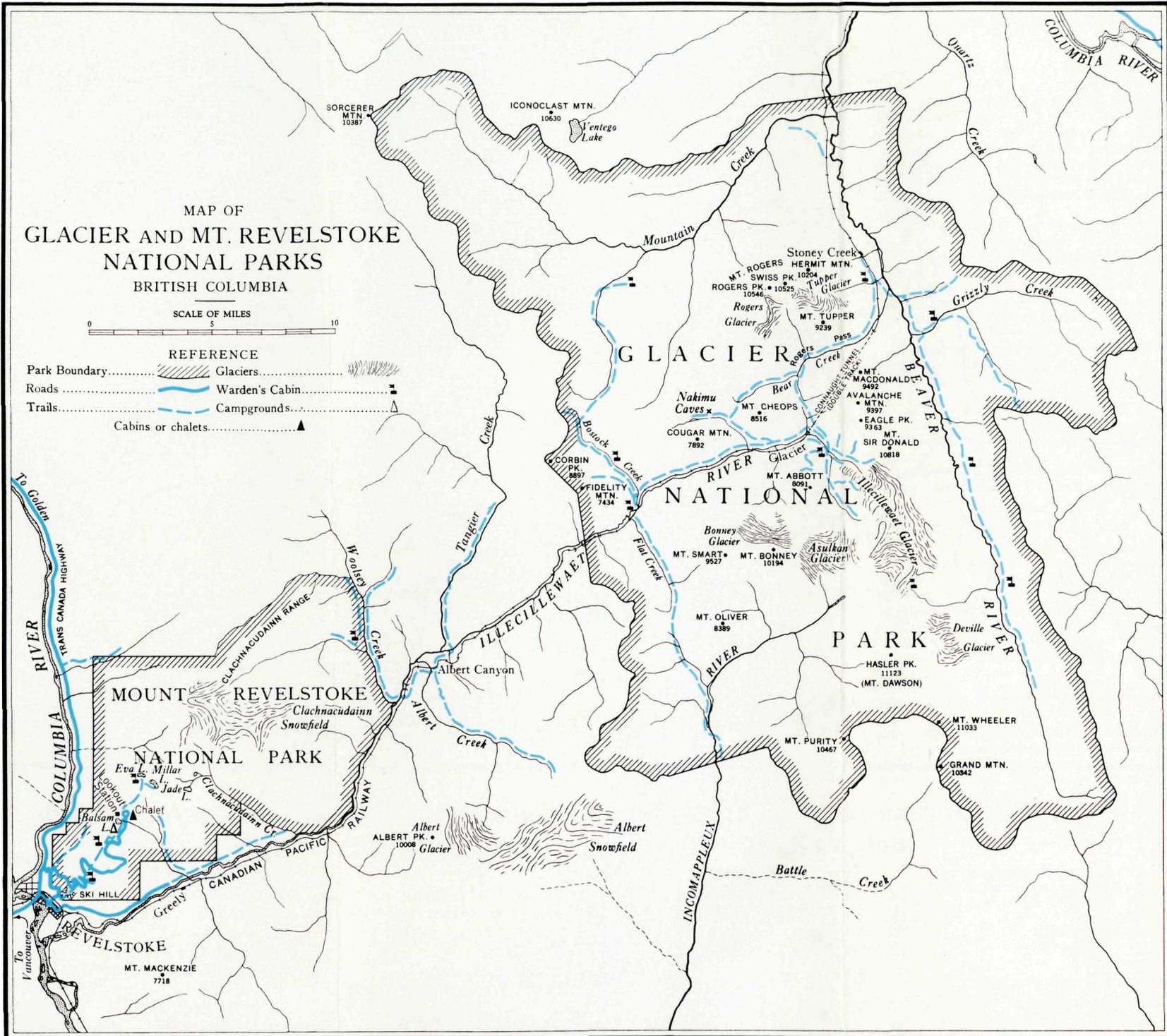
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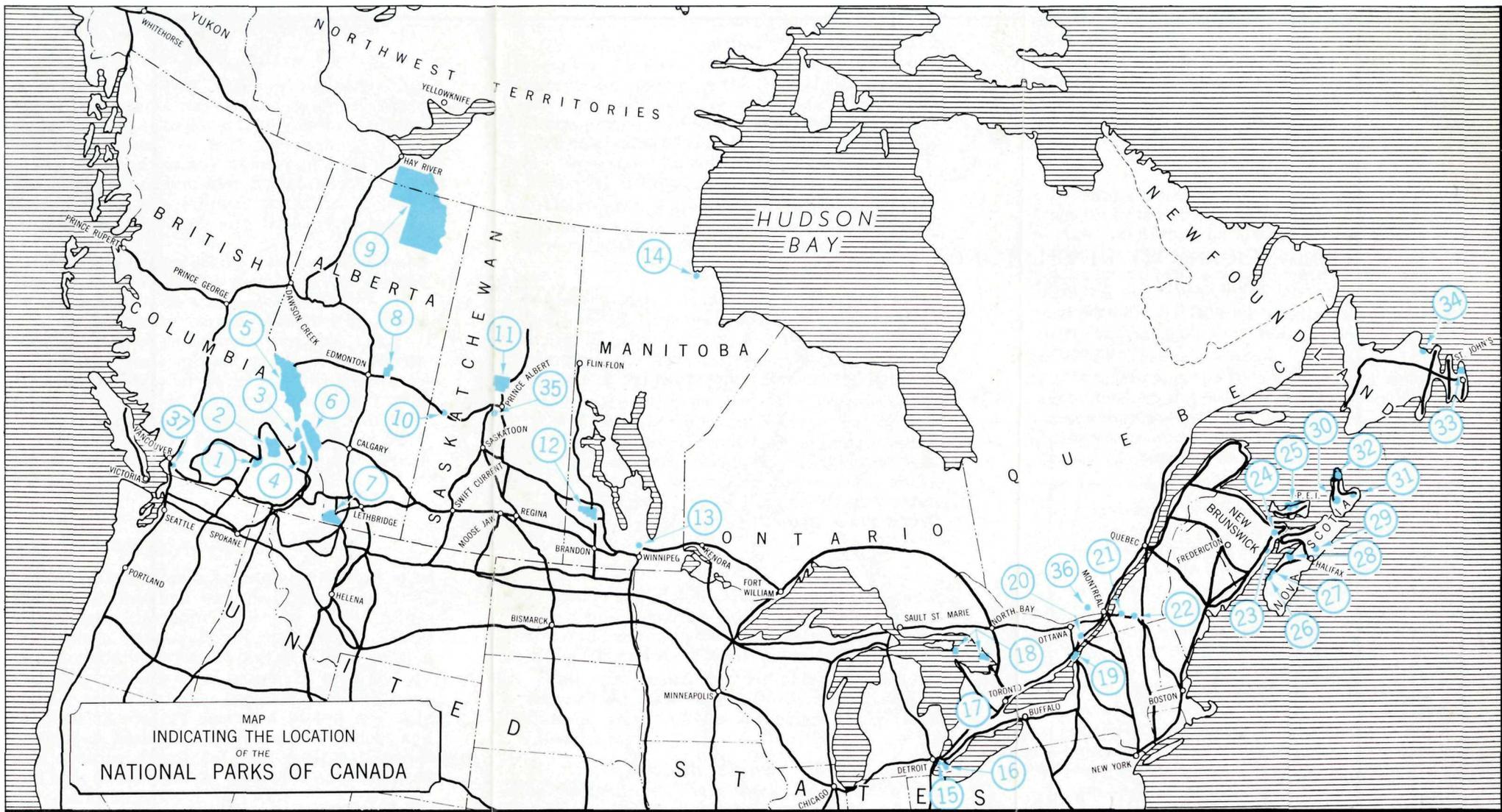
**CANADIAN GOVERNMENT  
TRAVEL BUREAU**  
Ottawa, Canada.

MAP OF  
GLACIER AND MT. REVELSTOKE  
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- REFERENCE
- Park Boundary.....
  - Roads.....
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  - Glaciers.....
  - Warden's Cabin.....■
  - Campgrounds.....△





DRAWN AT THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, OTTAWA,

**KEY OF MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS**

**NATIONAL PARKS**

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mount Revelstoke | 11. Prince Albert         |
| 2. Glacier          | 12. Riding Mountain       |
| 3. Yoho             | 16. Point Pelee           |
| 4. Kootenay         | 18. Georgian Bay Islands  |
| 5. Jasper           | 19. St. Lawrence Islands  |
| 6. Banff            | 23. Fundy                 |
| 7. Waterton Lakes   | 25. Prince Edward Island  |
| 8. Elk Island       | 32. Cape Breton Highlands |
| 9. Wood Buffalo     | 34. Terra Nova            |

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS**

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10. Fort Battleford      | 26. Port Royal                       |
| 13. Lower Fort Garry     | 27. Fort Anne                        |
| 14. Prince of Wales Fort | 28. Grand Pré                        |
| 15. Fort Malden          | 29. Halifax Citadel                  |
| 17. Woodside             | 30. Graham Bell Museum               |
| 20. Fort Wellington      | 31. Fortress of Louisbourg           |
| 21. Fort Chambly         | 33. Signal Hill                      |
| 22. Fort Lennox          | 35. Batoche Rectory                  |
| 24. Fort Beauséjour      | 36. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Birthplace |
|                          | 37. Fort Langlely                    |