

CANADA'S MOUNTAIN

# Playgrounds



BANFF • JASPER • WATERTON LAKES • YOHO  
KOOTENAY • GLACIER • MOUNT REVELSTOKE

## The National Parks of Canada

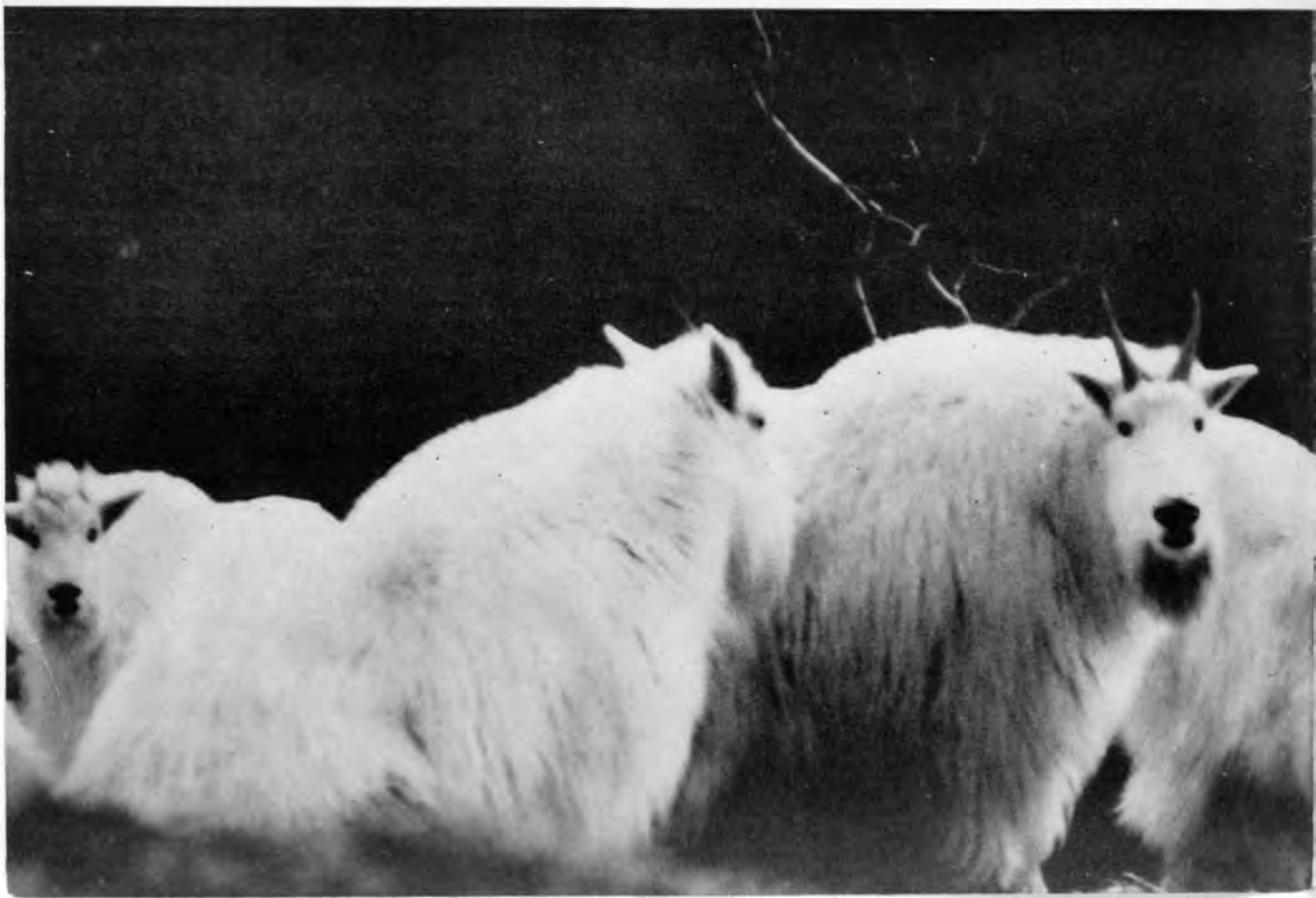
CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS are areas of outstanding beauty and interest that have been set apart by the Federal Government for public use. They were established to maintain the primitive beauty of the landscape, to conserve the native wildlife of the country, and to preserve sites of national historic interest. As recreational areas they provide ideal surroundings for the enjoyment of outdoor life, and now rank among Canada's outstanding tourist attractions.

Canada's National Park system was established in 1885, when a small area surrounding mineral hot springs at Banff in the Rocky Mountains was reserved as a public possession. From this beginning has been developed the great chain of national playgrounds now stretching across Canada from the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia to the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia.

The National Parks of Canada may, for purposes of description, be grouped in three main divisions—the scenic and recreational parks in the mountains of Western Canada; the scenic, recreational, and wild animal parks of the Prairie Provinces; and the scenic, recreational, and historic parks of Eastern Canada. In these pages will be found descriptions of the national parks in the first group—areas which lie within the great mountain regions of Alberta and British Columbia.

In view of the limited space available in a publication of this kind, the information provided is necessarily of a general nature. Additional information, however, concerning these parks is available in folder form, and may be obtained on application from the Park Superintendents, or from the National Parks Service, Lands and Development Services Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada.

Front Cover Photo—Waterton Park Townsite  
Below—Rocky Mountain Goats





*Looking down the Bow River Valley over Banff Townsite*

## BANFF NATIONAL PARK

### A L B E R T A

**B**ANFF NATIONAL PARK in Alberta is the oldest and second largest of Canada's national playgrounds. It was established in 1885, and has an area of 2,564 square miles. The park extends from the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains on the east to the continental divide on the west.

Among its great mountain ranges, distinct in character from the Selkirk Mountains to the west, the snow-capped summits of hundreds of lofty peaks pierce the clouds. Between the ranges the valleys are mantled with forests and coursed by streams or set with sparkling lakes. In the northern part of the park, straddling the great divide of the Rockies, lies the vast Columbia Ice-field, a remnant of the Ice Age.

The park also includes the famous resorts of Banff and Lake Louise from which radiate systems of motor roads and saddle-pony trails. Adjoining Banff Park on the north is Jasper National Park, and to the west in British Columbia are Yoho and Kootenay National Parks, all linked together by railway or highway.

#### **Early History of the Park**

More than a century has passed since this region was first seen by the white man. It is

probable that David Thompson entered what is now the park by way of the Red Deer River in 1800, although the first recorded visit to the site of Banff itself was made in 1841.

That year, in August, Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, penetrated the Bow River Valley from the east. He passed Lake Minnewanka and Cascade Mountain, ascended Healy Creek, and crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains by Simpson Pass.

Reverend Robert Terrill Rundle, Wesleyan missionary to Indian tribes of the northwest, camped by the Bow River in the vicinity of the mountains near Banff in 1841. In 1845 another missionary, Father Pierre Jean de Smet, crossed the Rocky Mountains from the west by way of White Man's Pass.

In 1858 and 1859 Sir James Hector, geologist for the Palliser expedition, explored the region. Hector discovered the Kicking Horse Pass, which later came into use as the route of rail and highway transportation across the summit of the Rockies. The pass and river received their name from an accident suffered by Hector near Wapta Falls. Hector also explored most of the territory now traversed by the Banff-Jasper Highway.



*Administration Building from Cascades Rock Garden*



*Entrance to Banff National Park from the East*

### **Discovery of the Hot Springs**

The discovery of mineral hot springs on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain during construction of the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway was instrumental in attracting attention to this section of the Rockies. Although mentioned by Hector in his diary entry of August 21, 1859, the springs apparently were not actually located until 1883 by workmen engaged in railway construction.

Travellers over the newly constructed railway line were so impressed with the magnificence of the scenery that the Government was urged to establish a national park in the vicinity. Accordingly, in 1887, an area of 260

square miles was set aside by Act of Parliament as Rocky Mountains—now Banff—National Park, thereby creating the first unit in Canada's system of national parks. This area was later extended to include its present proportions.

### **How to Reach the Park**

Banff National Park is accessible by railway and motor highway. It is served by the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the main stations are Banff and Lake Louise. Rail connections may also be made from many points in the United States. Visitors may travel by air to Calgary where railway, bus, and automobile transportation are available to Banff, 85 miles distant.

The western section of the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) crosses the park from east to west, connecting with the provincial highway systems of Alberta and British Columbia. From the east, the approach is by way of Calgary; from the west, an approach can be made from Vancouver and intermediate points, via the Big Bend Highway and Yoho National Park. Approach from the northeast may be made through Jasper over the Banff-Jasper Highway (1A).

Connections with points southwest in Canada and the Pacific States may be made over a hard-surfaced route from the International Boundary at Kingsgate, B.C., through Cranbrook to Radium Hot Springs. From this point the route is completed over the Banff-Windermere Highway (1B) through Kootenay National Park to Banff. From Glacier National Park, Montana, a direct hard-surfaced route leads to Banff by way of the Chief Mountain International Highway through Waterton Lakes National Park, and thence over Provincial Highways 6, 3, 2, and 1, via Pincher, Macleod and Calgary.

### **The Administrative Headquarters**

The town of Banff, situated in the valley of the Bow River, contains the administrative

*Overlooking Bow Falls at Banff*





*Mount Eisenhower with Bow River in foreground*



*Recalling Historic Days*

headquarters of the park. The Administration Building is at the south end of Banff Avenue, facing Cascade Mountain, and contains the office of the park superintendent and the post office. Near the north end of Bow River Bridge on Banff Avenue is the Park Information Bureau where visitors may obtain maps, literature, and information concerning accommodation, travel, and places of interest. Banff is also the main outfitting centre for motor, trail, and hiking trips. As a government townsite, it possesses many interesting features. Its streets are broad and well kept, and its public services include electric light, water and sewer systems, hospitals, churches, schools, banks, theatre, stores, hotels, public baths, and a museum. In addition to garages and service stations, there are several transportation companies and outfitters.

### **Accommodation**

Excellent accommodation — ranging from luxury hotels to the modest comfortable cabins — is available in Banff National Park. The Banff Springs Hotel and the Chateau Lake Louise, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, are both magnificently situated and contain ballrooms, heated swimming pools, tennis courts, and complete transportation systems. Several other hotels, bungalow cabin camps, tourist cabins, furnished cottages, and rooms are available at Banff. Hotels, bungalows, chalets, and mountain lodges, are available at Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and other scenic spots in the park. Complete information concerning accommodations can be obtained from the Banff Information Bureau.

For visitors carrying their own camping equipment, the public camp-ground on the slopes of Tunnel Mountain at Banff offers many facilities. It is provided with running water, electric light, camp-stoves, tables and kitchen shelters. Nine camp-grounds, less completely equipped, are also located at Johnston Canyon, Sundance Canyon, Mount

Eisenhower, Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and at points along the Banff-Jasper Highway.

### **Points of Interest at Banff**

The Cascades Rock Garden surrounds the Administration Building. Constructed in a series of small plateaus, connected by small cascades which tumble from pool to pool, the garden contains a profusion of flowers, plants, and shrubs. Rustic bridges, pergolas, and pavilions, connected by flag-stone walks, invite visitors to stroll through this delightful area.

Near the Bow River Bridge is the Park Museum, with its exhibits of the fauna, flora, and geology of the region. On the banks of Bow River, close to the museum, Central Park forms an ideal place for picnicking. In addition to tables, benches, and outdoor

*Enjoying the Mineral Hot Springs at Banff in Winter*





*Lake Louise and Victoria Glacier*

stoves, there are equipped playgrounds for children. A two-mile ride brings the visitor to the wild animal paddocks, which contain buffalo, elk, big-horn sheep, and mountain goats.

Bow Falls is within easy walking distance of Banff, as are the Hoodoos, queer eroded pillars of glacial clay on the banks of the Bow River. A lookout on the summit of Sulphur Mountain is accessible by a well-graded trail, and from this vantage point may be obtained magnificent views of Banff, the Bow Valley, and surrounding peaks.

There are numerous short drives in the vicinity of Banff. Two of the most popular are the Tunnel Mountain drive and the drive up Stoney Squaw mountain to the ski slopes on Mount Norquay. An added attraction to this area is the new chairlift on Mount Norquay, which makes it possible for visitors to enjoy an excellent view of the mountains and valleys from an elevation of 6,915 feet.

Once a year Banff celebrates its "Indian Days" when several hundred Indians con-

gregate in the vicinity to conduct their tribal sports and festivities.

### **The Banff Hot Springs**

Outstanding among the attractions at Banff are the mineral hot springs. Three of the five principal springs have been developed, and are accessible by good roads. At the Cave and Basin springs, one mile from Banff, two outdoor pools are available for public use. The larger pool has a promenade, sun-room and glass windows. The smaller pool is suitable for children and non-swimmers. Convenient dressing-room accommodation is available.

An interesting feature adjacent to the pool is the cave, reached by an electrically-lighted passage. Shaped like a huge vase, this cave was formed by the action of a subterranean hot spring which bubbles up in the centre of a large pool.

The Upper Hot Springs bath-house and pool are situated two and a half miles from Banff on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain. The

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*Mount Lefroy and Plain of Six Glaciers*



*Trailer Camp*



*Moraine Lake in the Valley of the Ten Peaks*



bath-house has steam rooms, tub baths, plunges, and rest rooms. From the promenade overlooking the pool there is a magnificent view of the surrounding mountains, valleys and streams. A small fee is charged for use of the bath-houses, swimming pools, and other facilities.

#### **The Lake Louise District**

About 40 miles west of Banff is Lake Louise, one of Nature's masterpieces. Set in a vast amphitheatre of lofty mountains, the surface of the lake reflects the surrounding forest slopes, snow-capped peaks, and passing clouds, and its colour, responding to every change of light and breeze, changes from hour to hour.

Facing the lake is the luxurious Chateau Lake Louise, and a short distance east are several lodges, a bungalow camp, and campground. Lake Louise is an excellent base for hikes, trail and motor trips, and for mountain

climbing. Canoeing and fishing on the lake may also be enjoyed. Popular excursions on foot or by saddle-pony include those to the Plain of Six Glaciers at the western end of the lake, and to the "Lakes in the Clouds," Mirror and Agnes, 6,800 feet above sea level. Tea-rooms are operated in summertime at these points.

Another notable sight within half an hour's drive of Lake Louise is Moraine Lake. It is situated in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, and is reached by a road which skirts the base of Mount Temple for several miles. Overshadowed by massive peaks that seem to touch the sky, the lake gleams in hues of sapphire and emerald. Moraine Lake Lodge and bungalows offer fine overnight accommodation.

North of Lake Louise, and accessible by the Banff-Jasper Highway, is a region of glacier-fed lakes and streams, immense peaks, and glaciers, culminating in the Columbia Ice-

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*Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies*



*Elk in Winter*





field, a vast sea of snow and ice which lies on the shoulders of the mountains forming the continental divide.

### Opportunities For Recreation

Banff National Park is a year-round resort. Favourite summer sports include hiking, riding, climbing, boating, tennis, fishing, and golf. Miles of smooth, dustless roads provide easy motoring through the mountain valleys and over the passes. In winter the snow-covered slopes offer remarkable skiing.

There are almost 1,000 miles of well kept trails in the park. Outfitters at Banff supply guides, ponies, tents, and other necessary equipment for outings to such places as the Mount Assiniboine, Egypt Lake, Skoki Valley, and Columbia Ice-field regions. Supervised four-day outings are held each year by the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

Banff Springs golf course, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is laid out along the base of Mount Rundle in the Bow River Valley. It has four sets of tees for each hole, and provides an unusual variety of play. A fine club-house, pro shop, and the services of a professional and caddies are at the disposal of visitors.

Tennis is played on the courts of the Banff Springs Hotel, or on the public courts located in the recreation ground near the Bow River Bridge. There is boating and canoeing on the Bow River and its back waters, Echo and Willow Creeks, and the mountains of Banff Park are a continual challenge to alpine climbers. The Mount Assiniboine, Lake Louise, and Moraine Lake regions are occasionally chosen by the Alpine Club of Canada for their annual camp. This organization also maintains a club-house near the Upper Hot Springs at Banff.

Modern methods of fish management, including restocking of lakes and streams, provide good fishing for angling enthusiasts. Great lake trout occur in Lake Minnewanka near Banff, and rainbow, cut-throat, Dolly Varden, and eastern brook trout are found in many other scenic locations.

Banff has developed into an outstanding winter sports resort and is the centre of a vast territory where skiing lasts from December until April. Near the town of Banff are the Mount Norquay slopes where championship downhill and slalom courses have been laid out, and a ski jump, ski tows, chair-lift, and lodge constructed. Farther afield, but easily accessible from Lake Louise or Banff,

Top—"Banff Ahead"

Centre—Mount Norquay Chairlift

Bottom—Fly-casting at Marvel Lake



are the Ptarmigan-Skoki, Sunshine, Lake Louise, and Mount Assiniboine regions which offer snow conditions comparable to the European Alps. Ski lodges at these points provide overnight accommodation, guides, and instructors. Skating, curling and other winter sports are highlighted by the annual winter carnival at Banff.

### Wildlife

As the result of sanctuary conditions which prevail, wildlife is abundant in Banff National Park. Within its boundaries are specimens of all big game native to the Rocky Mountains, including Rocky Mountain or "bighorn" sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat. Mule deer, elk, black and grizzly bear, cougar, and coyote are also numerous. Bands of sheep are often observed along the park highways, and moose grub for tubers in the shallows of mountain lakes. Beaver, marten, marmot or "whistler," and smaller species are also common.

Bird life abounds in the mountains, and includes many species native to Western Canada. More than 500 varieties of wild flowers bloom in the valleys and on the uplands. Luxuriant forests of lodgepole pine, spruce, and fir clothe the valleys and lower slopes, imparting a rich colouring to the sombre ranges.

### The Banff-Jasper Highway

The Banff-Jasper Highway is one of the most recent additions to Canada's system of national park highways. Opened for travel in 1940, it provides access to some of the finest scenic areas in the Canadian Rockies. Threading through the heart of the mountains, it penetrates regions of primitive wilderness formerly reached only by trail. It also links two of Canada's greatest playgrounds, Banff and Jasper National Parks, and, in a distance of 186 miles, provides direct highway connection between the world-famous resorts of Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper.

The town of Banff may be regarded as the starting point of the new highway, which follows the valley of the Bow River northward, ascending gradually towards Lake Louise. Interesting side-trips include Johnston Canyon, 16 miles from Banff; Mount Eisenhower, where the Banff-Windermere Highway branches off to Kootenay National Park; and Mount Temple, towering above the peaks to the west.

Near Lake Louise Station, 36 miles from Banff, and three miles east of Lake Louise, the



Top—Skiers on Deception Pass

Centre—Skyline Trail Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

Bottom—"Trapped" on the Banff Springs Golf Course



*Saskatchewan River Crossing. Below the Confluence of the Howse, Mistaya, and North Saskatchewan Rivers*

route leaves the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) and turns on to the Banff-Jasper Highway proper. The Bow River is followed to Bow Lake and its source beyond, passing in turn Mount Hector, Hector Lake and Crowfoot Glacier. Leaving Bow Lake, the road crosses the summit of Bow Pass (6,785 feet) and descends into the Mistaya River Valley.

Skirting the Waterfowl Lakes, the highway winds around the base of Mount Murchison and crosses the North Saskatchewan below its confluence with the Howse and Mistaya

Rivers. Continuing up the North Saskatchewan it passes the wide valley of the Alexandra River, which opens up on the west.

Next comes the ascent of the "Big Hill" from the North Saskatchewan Valley to Sunwapta Pass, which is accomplished by long easy switchbacks through rock cuttings and along the side of deep valleys. Just below the road, at about mile 110, the spectacular Panther Falls makes a sheer drop of 600 feet to the floor of the valley. At the summit of the pass (6,675 feet) the visitor enters Jasper National Park.

To the west are the great peaks and the Columbia Ice-field. This sea of snow and ice, estimated to be more than 100 square miles in area, is the largest of all the glacial-ice deposits in the Canadian Rockies. Its melting glaciers are the source of streams which find their way to the Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic Oceans.

Between Snow Dome, hydrographic centre of the continent, and Mount Athabaska, lies the Athabaska Glacier, second largest to issue from the ice-field. Nearly four miles long, it is the source of the Sunwapta River, and may be approached to within a few yards by a spur road from the main highway. Visitors, if they desire, may easily set foot on the tongue of the glacier.

From Athabaska Glacier the road continues north down the Sunwapta River, and, skirting a deep canyon by a series of switchbacks, drops several hundred feet in two miles. Near Sunwapta Falls a short side road provides access to this thundering cataract. A short distance past the falls the road swings into the Athabaska River Valley, and eventually reaches Athabaska Falls.

*Nigel Creek Bridge*



*Athabaska Glacier is One of the Largest to Issue from the Columbia Ice-field*



Flanked by mountain ranges on both sides, the highway then follows the Whirlpool and Athabaska Rivers, joining the road from Mount Edith Cavell. About nine miles past the junction, it enters the townsite of Jasper, headquarters of Jasper National Park.

Consisting mainly of long straight stretches and easy grades, few of which exceed eight per cent, the Banff-Jasper Highway provides delightful motoring. It possesses none of the hazards associated with mountain highways, and it is being widened and prepared for hard-surfacing. Overnight tourist accommodation is provided by chalets and bungalow camps situated at strategic locations.

This road has opened scenic areas beyond adequate description — majestic mountains, sparkling glaciers, exquisite lakes set among dark-green forests, waterfalls tumbling through deep canyons, and rivers rushing through verdant valleys. The great Columbia Ice-field sends its cool tongues down to the roadside where visitors may enjoy the unique experience of walking on natural ice in mid-summer. Summer skiing on the Athabaska Glacier is growing in popularity, and since 1947, an annual ski race has been held over the surface of this great ice mass. Spectators attending the ski race are able to sit comfortably in their motor cars, close to the edge of the glacier, watching the daring competitors as they plunge and wheel over the ice.

Road signs along the Banff-Jasper Highway point to the principal natural features—mountains, glaciers, canyons and waterfalls. Well-kept trails lead from the highway to numerous places of outstanding interest. These include such noted beauty spots as Johnston Canyon

(mile 16), Baker Creek (mile 28), Dolomite Peaks (mile 59), Bow Lake and Glacier (mile 60), Peyto Lake and Glacier (mile 61), Waterfowl Lakes (mile 75), Mistaya Canyon (mile 83), Panther Falls (mile 110), Sunwapta Falls (mile 150), Honeymoon Lake (mile 152), Horseshoe Lake (mile 165), reached from Athabaska Falls, Astoria River, which drains Amethyst Lakes (mile 176), Portal Creek (mile 179), Whistlers Creek (mile 181), and other attractions on the drive from Banff to Jasper.

*Mountain Goat Above the Historic Athabaska*





*Jasper—A Jewel in the Picturesque Athabaska Valley*

## JASPER NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

**J**ASPER NATIONAL PARK, established in 1907, is the largest of seven national playgrounds in the mountains of Western Canada. It has an area of 4,200 square miles in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, and includes regions of superb alpine beauty into which comparatively few visitors have penetrated.

Adjoining Banff National Park on the south, Jasper National Park is the northern part of a vast mountain kingdom which extends for more than 250 miles along the eastern slope of the Rockies. The boundaries of Jasper Park enclose a series of lofty and almost parallel ranges running from southeast to northwest. The folds, upheavals, and faults in the rock strata are visible everywhere, as are the evidences of erosion caused mainly by great

glaciers which once filled the valleys. In the southern part of the park the ice-crowned summits of the mountains rise from the perpetual sea of snow and ice known as the Columbia Ice-field.

Cutting through the park from the southern boundary is the broad valley of the Athabaska River. As it winds northeast from its source in the melting glaciers of the Columbia Ice-field, this stream develops into one of the most important rivers of Canada's Northwest. The Athabaska Valley is an ideal route for travel. It is followed for many miles by the railway which crosses the park, and, with the valley of the Sunwapta River, it also provides an avenue for highways from south to north.

### Early History of the Park

Few sections of the Canadian Rockies rival the Jasper region in historical associations. Through its mountain wilderness travelled the early explorers who opened up this section of Canada to the lucrative fur trade. Along the "Athabaska Trail"—as the route across the mountains was called—passed the cavalcade of adventurers, scientists, and fur traders on their way to and from the Pacific Coast.

The Athabaska Valley also figured in the struggle between rival companies for control of the traffic in furs within the mountains, which was ended in 1821 by the amalgamation of the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company under the name of the

*The Historic "Committee's Punch Bowl"*





*Beautiful Maligne Lake is Surrounded by Mighty Peaks*

latter. The park owes its name to Jasper House, a trading post established about 1813 by the North West Company on the Athabaska River.

Among the first white men to visit what is now the park was David Thompson, a famous explorer and geographer. His crossing of Athabaska Pass in 1811 opened up a travel route followed for many years. Over the snowy summit in later years passed Gabriel Franchere and Ross Cox, among the survivors of the ill-fated trading post Astoria, established by John Jacob Astor at the mouth of the Columbia River; Father de Smet, Belgian missionary; David Douglas, Scottish botanist; and Paul Kane, artist.

On the summit of the pass is the "Committee's Punch Bowl," a small lake near which Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, treated his entourage to wine on the occasion of his crossing in 1824. About 1826, Athabaska Pass was abandoned as a travel route in favour of Yellowhead Pass, farther north. The latter was subsequently chosen by railway engineers as the most suitable route over the mountains when the railway line was built in 1911.

#### **How to Reach the Park**

Jasper National Park is accessible by railway and motor highway. It is served by the transcontinental line of the Canadian National Railways, which provides daily service from points east and west. The townsite of Jasper—a railway divisional point—is less than three days by rail from Montreal and Chicago, and only 18 hours from Vancouver.

Connections with the park may be made by motor highway from the south and northeast. A direct approach from Banff and Lake Louise in Banff National Park is provided by the Banff-Jasper Highway. This highway (1A) intersects the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) which crosses Banff National Park, and, with the aid of connecting provincial highways, links up with motor routes from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and points in the United States.

The park also may be reached from Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, over Provincial Highway No. 16, which enters the park from the northeast. The distance from Edmonton to the park boundary is 203 miles, and from the boundary to the town of Jasper, 32 miles. Edmonton is on the main route of Trans-Canada Air Lines, and this air service connects with others operating in Canada and the United States.

*Bear Cubs Playing on Golf Course*





*Near Columbia Ice-fields*



*Trail Riders at Athabaska Glacier*

### **Townsite and Administrative Headquarters**

Situated almost in the centre of the park is the townsite of Jasper, which contains the administrative headquarters and is a base for varied activities. The Administration Building is situated on Connaught Drive, nearly opposite the railway station. It contains the office of the park superintendent and the Engineering Division. An Information Bureau, where visitors may obtain maps, literature, and information concerning accommodation, travel, and the attractions of the park, is located on the Boulevard, just north of the Totem Pole.

An all-year resort, Jasper has a permanent population of about 1,500, and has water, electric light, sewer, and telephone systems. Postal

*Bungalows at Jasper Park Lodge*



and telegraph services are also available. Hotels, bungalow cabins, restaurants, motion picture theatre, churches, hospital, schools, and playgrounds provide the comforts of community life. In addition to garages and service stations, there are several outfitters and transportation companies available to those desiring to make excursions by saddle-pony or motor.

### **Tourist Accommodation**

Jasper National Park contains accommodation to suit almost every taste and purse. Within the townsite itself are three hotels. Three miles distant by highway is Jasper Park Lodge, a luxurious log cabin type hotel, operated by the Canadian National Railways. It consists of a main lodge and numerous well-equipped bungalows of varying size, beautifully situated on the shores of Lac Beauvert. Its appointments include dining-room, ballroom, outdoor swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts and complete transportation system.

Situated within a few minutes drive of Jasper are five fine bungalow cabin installations, and farther afield are chalets, bungalow cabins, youth hostels, and tent cabin camps, all accessible by highway or trail. Rooms are available in the townsite of Jasper, and tea-rooms are operated during the summer at Pyramid Lake, Pocahontas, Maligne Canyon, and Mount Edith Cavell. Complete information concerning accommodation may be obtained from the Park Information Bureau.

For visitors carrying their own camping equipment, public camp-grounds have been established at Cottonwood Creek on the banks of the Athabaska River about a mile and a half east of Jasper; at Patricia Lake, three miles distant; Pocahontas, 27 miles; and at Miette Hot Springs, 38 miles from Jasper. These camp-grounds are equipped with shelters, stoves, tables, electricity, water, and fuel. A trailer park has been added to the Cottonwood Creek camp-ground.



*Wild Flowers Bloom Near the Eternal Snows*



*Cyclists enjoy the scenery of Lake Mildred*

### **Jasper and Vicinity**

Visitors to Jasper will find many places of interest within easy reach of the town, either afoot, by saddle-pony, or by motor. Beautiful Lac Beauvert, four miles distant across the Athabaska Valley, is accessible by highway or pony trail. Among the evergreens on its landscaped shores nestle Jasper Park Lodge and bungalows. From the grounds, magnificent views may be obtained of Pyramid Mountain to the west, and the snowcapped summit of Mount Edith Cavell to the south.

From Jasper a good road may be followed to Maligne Canyon and Medicine Lake. The route skirts several small lakes, including Annette and Edith, and ascends the slopes of Signal Mountain by long, easy grades. Maligne Canyon is a remarkable example of erosion. The gorge, 188 feet deep, has been cut through the rock strata by the action of the Maligne River. Interesting pot holes, carved by water and revolving boulders, are also to be seen.

Another pleasant drive brings the visitor to Pyramid Lake which lies at the foot of Pyramid Mountain. This route passes Patricia Lake camp-ground, and also provides fine views of the peaks and ranges on the eastern side of the Athabaska River. The drive up the Miette River Valley past the ski run on the Whistlers Mountain has many scenic attractions. Excursions by saddle-pony or on foot may be taken to the summits of Signal Mountain, the Whistlers Mountain, and to Old Fort Point, which overlooks the site of Henry House, an early North West Company trading post.

### **Motor Drives in the Park**

The drive to Mount Edith Cavell, 18 miles from Jasper, follows the old "Athabaska Trail" for nine miles south along the Banff-Jasper Highway, then branches off to ascend the Astoria River Valley by easy grades. The views everywhere are magnificent, culminating

with the spectacle of towering Mount Edith Cavell and its Angel Glacier. The latter owes its name to lateral wings which join the main glacier and give the appearance of a flying figure. From a tea-room at the foot of the glacial moraine a trail may be followed to the toe of the glacier.

From its junction with the Mount Edith Cavell road the Banff-Jasper Highway runs south to the Columbia Ice-field and on through Sunwapta Pass into Banff National Park. This drive is the finest in the park, and not only provides access to Athabaska and Sunwapta Falls, but affords breath-taking views of the giant peaks that flank the Columbia Ice-field. A short description on this drive, from the opposite direction, will be found in the Banff section of this booklet.

*Camping out near the Banff-Jasper Highway*





*The Sky Line Trail*



*Fishing in Maligne Lake*

### **Miette Hot Springs**

Miette Hot Springs, 38 miles from Jasper, is reached by way of the Jasper-Edmonton Highway. This route skirts the Athabaska River where it widens into Jasper Lake, and, turning eastwards from the former townsite of Pocahontas, passes Punchbowl Falls. Crossing a low divide, the route then ascends Fiddle River before turning up Sulphur Creek Valley.

The waters of the Springs, which issue from the rocks along the banks of Sulphur Creek, are among the hottest in the Rockies, and have a wide reputation for their medicinal properties. A modern bathing establishment, including a large outdoor pool, and bath-house, with dressing-rooms and promenades, is available to visitors on payment of a small fee. Nearby are parking areas, a public camp-ground, and a modern bungalow camp with which is operated a store, dining-room, and post office.

### **Trail Trips in the Park**

Dozens of beauty spots not accessible by motor road may be reached over the park trails. From Jasper or Jasper Park Lodge the visitor may enjoy outings of less than a day's duration, or longer trips requiring overnight accommodation. Saddle ponies, with or without guides, may be rented in Jasper or at the Lodge.

The goal of all ambitious riders is Maligne Lake, situated 32 miles from Jasper. Lying between two great ranges, this body of water, 16 miles long, is reminiscent of lakes in the Swiss and Italian Alps. The upper or eastern end of the lake is surrounded by mighty peaks which rise sheer from the water's edge, and the shores are clad with heavy growths of evergreens.

The trip to the lake may be accomplished in three stages. The first is by motor road to Medicine Lake, a distance of 18 miles. Medicine Lake may be crossed from end to end



*Healthful Recreation at Miette Hot Springs*





*Viewpoint on the Banff-Jasper Highway*



*A Ski Camp in Eremite Valley*

by motorboat, or skirted by trail. From the eastern end of Medicine Lake a good trail leads along the tumbling Maligne River to Maligne Lake. The return trip may be made over a different route if desired, by way of Shovel Pass and the Sky-line Trail. Chalet and camp accommodation, and boats, are available at Medicine and Maligne Lakes.

The Amethyst Lakes in Tonquin Valley, 30 miles from Jasper, are also popular objectives for riders. The lakes lie at the foot of The Ramparts Range of the Rockies, and are noted for their trout fishing. They may be reached most easily by the Astoria River Trail from the Edith Cavell Road. Access is also provided by the Meadow Creek Trail from the Geikie Road and the Portal Creek Trail. A log chalet and tent cabins have been erected near the lakes for the convenience of visitors. Longer trips may be made by arrangement with outfitters and guides to the Athabaska

Pass, Brazeau Lake, Snake Indian River, and Mount Robson regions.

### **Opportunities for Recreation**

Bathing and swimming may be enjoyed at Lake Annette and Edith where dressing-room accommodation will be found, and in swimming pools with heated water at Jasper Park Lodge and Miette Hot Springs. Canoeing on Lac Beauvert is a favoured pastime, especially in the evenings, and boats are also available at Edith, Medicine, Maligne, and Pyramid Lakes. Numerous short hikes are available to visitors who like to do their exploring on foot. Tennis may be played at Jasper Park Lodge. A new recreational centre is being developed in Jasper townsite. It will include an athletic field, tennis courts, a bowling green, and a heated outdoor swimming pool. For winter activities curling and skating rinks will be provided.

The golf course at Jasper Park Lodge is one of the finest on the continent. It is situated

*Pyramid Mountain  
from the Golf Course  
at Jasper Park Lodge*





*An Alpine Camp in Eremite Valley*

at the base of Signal Mountain and skirts the shores of Lac Beauvert. A club-house, a professional, and services of caddies, are at the disposal of visitors.

The lakes and streams of the park are well stocked with game fish, including cutthroat, rainbow, Dolly Varden, Kamloops, and eastern brook trout. The Medicine-Maligne Lake system has a world-wide reputation for the fighting qualities and abundance of its speckled trout. The Amethyst Lakes in Tonquin Valley, Jacques, Pyramid, Patricia, Caledonia, and Dorothy Lakes are also noted for their fishing.

Jasper National Park offers unlimited scope for mountain climbing. There are hundreds of peaks, many of them rising to heights of 10,000 feet or more. The Tonquin Valley, Fryatt Valley, Columbia Ice-field, and Maligne Lake regions contain many negotiable peaks, and there are several in the vicinity of Jasper which are comparatively easy to ascend. The

Alpine Club of Canada frequently holds its annual camp in Jasper National Park.

A good downhill ski course has been developed on the slopes of the Whistlers Mountain. Remarkable snow conditions also prevail in the Tonquin Valley, Columbia Ice-field, Signal Mountain, the Marmot Basin and Maligne Lake Regions. Skating and curling are also numbered among winter sports at Jasper. A snowmobile service is now in operation to a number of these skiing areas, and chalets are being built for the convenience of skiers.

### **Wildlife**

As one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries on the continent, Jasper National Park provides a home for numerous big and small game species. In their natural surroundings may be seen Rocky Mountain or "bighorn" sheep, mule deer, and elk. Black and brown bear are numerous, especially around the townsite of Jasper, and Rocky Mountain goat and moose frequent regions tapped by the park highways. Grizzly bear, caribou, cougar, and many of the small fur-bearing species also find a home in the park. Bird life is abundant and interesting.

Wild flowers grow throughout the park in profusion. They will be found along the highways, in the valleys, on the slopes, and even at the edge of eternal snows. The most prolific forest growth in the park is lodgepole pine. Spruce, aspen and black poplar, Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, and alpine larch also thrive.

*Athabaska Falls*





*Looking up Waterton Lakes*

## WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

**W**ATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK is situated in the southwest corner of Alberta, along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains where they approach the International Boundary line. It has an area of 204 square miles. The park adjoins Glacier National Park in Montana, with which it forms Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

The mountains within the park have been shaped by ancient glaciers and erosion from rocks that are among the oldest in the Rockies. The glaciers have long since disappeared, but their sculpturing effects are still visible in many places. At the head of many valleys are great amphitheatres—now occupied by rock-rimmed lakes and tarns—with the marks of ice-chiselling clearly visible on almost sheer walls.

A characteristic of the mountains is their remarkable colouring. Outcroppings of reddish shales darkening to wine and purple, green, and tawny gold give the peaks a warm and brilliant tone. Some have sharp pyramids formed of yellow shales which glisten in the sunrise and sunset, while others have summits and slopes banded with red.

Upper Waterton Lake, from which the park takes its name, is seven miles long and nearly

one mile wide, and occupies a deep trench between two high mountain ranges. The lake is crossed by the International Boundary, and its beauties are thus shared both by Canada and the United States.

As a result of legislation enacted by the Governments of Canada and the United States in 1932, Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks were proclaimed the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. This action was inspired by a desire to commemorate permanently the peace and goodwill which has existed between the peoples of the adjoining countries for more than 100 years. Each section of the Peace Park, however, retains its

*Looking South from Mount Crandell*





*Cameron Creek Falls*

individuality and separate administrative rights.

#### **Early History of the Park**

Once the ancient hunting ground of the Indians, the region surrounding Waterton Lakes was first visited by the white man in 1858, when Lieutenant Thomas Blakiston crossed South Kootenay Pass at the head of Blakiston Brook. Blakiston was in charge of a section of the Palliser Expedition which explored Western Canada between 1857 and 1860. The name Waterton is believed to have been given to the lakes by Blakiston in honour of Charles Waterton, English naturalist, ornithologist, and traveller.

Before the end of the last century the Waterton Lakes had become a popular camping and fishing resort, and to preserve the region as a public possession the Government of

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*View at the International Boundary*



Canada in 1895 set aside a surrounding area of 54 square miles as a national park. Later its boundaries were extended to include the present area. Prominent in the movement to establish the park was "Kootenai" Brown, first white settler in the district, who eventually served as acting superintendent.

#### **Means of Access**

Waterton Lakes National Park is accessible by motor highway. From the east, approach may be made over Provincial Highway No. 3 from Lethbridge to Pincher, and from there south over Highway No. 6 to the park. An alternative route is provided by Highway No. 5 through Cardston. From the north, a hard-surfaced route is available from Edmonton and Calgary over Highway No. 2 to Macleod, and thence over Highways 3 and 6 to the park. From British Columbia on the west, approach may be made over Highways 3 and 6.

The most direct approach from the United States is by way of the Chief Mountain International Highway, which links Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks. This highway intersects United States Highway No. 89 a few miles north of Babb, Montana, and crossing the northeast corner of Glacier Park, enters Waterton Lakes Park at Chief Mountain customs port. This highway also forms a link in a direct, hard-surfaced route from the International Boundary to Banff and Lake Louise.

The nearest rail points are Pincher, situated on a main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway 39 miles from the park townsite, and Cardston, also served by the C.P.R. which is 35 miles distant. Both points have a bus service to the park. A bus service is also operated between points in Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks.

#### **Park Townsite and Headquarters**

The village of Waterton Park is the park townsite and a centre of activities. It occupies

*Children's Playground Waterton Park Townsite*



a wide flat at the northwest end of Upper Waterton Lake in the shadow of Mount Crandell. A resident superintendent is in charge of administration of the park. The Administration Building is near the centre of the townsite, and contains an Information Bureau where literature, maps, and information concerning the park may be obtained. The visiting season extends approximately from May 1 to September 30.

In the business section will be found stores, restaurants, drug store, hotels, garages, service stations, motion picture theatre and dance hall. The townsite has water, electric light, and sewer systems. Postal and long distance telephone services are also available. Trees and flower-beds enhance the appearance of the boulevards.

#### **Accommodation in the Park**

Accommodation in the park is provided by several hotels, bungalow cabins, apartments and boarding houses, and rooms in private homes. The Prince of Wales Hotel, operated by the Glacier Park Hotel Company, offers first-class accommodation. Built in Swiss chalet style, it commands a magnificent view of Upper Waterton Lake. Three smaller hotels are operated in the townsite. Bungalow cabin installations at the south end of the townsite, at Cameron Lake, and at Waterton River Bridge offer additional accommodation.

The public camp-ground, situated near the townsite on Upper Waterton Lake, provides accommodation for visitors carrying their own camping equipment. Kitchen shelters, equipped with stoves, tables, benches, running water, and electric light, as well as the use of community buildings, are available on payment of a small fee. Camp-grounds, less completely equipped, are also available at six other places in the park.

#### **Opportunities for Recreation**

Within the townsite are a children's playground, athletic field, and public tennis courts.



*Mount Blakiston from Red Rock Bluff*

There is good swimming in the warm waters of Lake Linnet, near the townsite, where dressing-room facilities are available. There is also a privately operated pool in the townsite. A power boat, operated between Waterton Park and Gothaunt Landing in Glacier Park, makes several trips daily up and down the lake. Small boats are available for hire at the townsite docks.

Excellent fishing is found in the lakes and streams of the park. Upper Waterton Lake contains great lake trout, cutthroat trout, and Rocky Mountain whitefish. Rainbow, Dolly Varden, and eastern brook trout are also caught in park waters. The Government fish hatchery, situated on Highway No. 6 about six miles north of the townsite, is frequently visited. Fish rearing ponds in the townsite are

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*Relaxation at Lake Linnet*



*White-tailed Ptarmigan*



also open to inspection. The 18-hole park golf course is situated on the rolling slopes east of Mount Crandell. For a nominal fee, golfers may have the use of the course, as well as a small club-house situated near the first tee.

### **Trail Rides and Hikes**

Pleasant ways of seeing the scenic wonders of the park are by saddle-pony or on foot over the park trails. Owing to the limited size of the park, most places of interest are within a day's ride of the townsite where horses may be hired. Among the most popular excursions is that to Bertha Lake, which is beautifully located in an amphitheatre high on the slopes of Mount Alderson. The trail zig-zags up the side of the mountain by switchbacks past several falls, and then circles the lake. The emerald waters of the lake combine with the darker green of forests and the red-streaked slopes of the surrounding peaks to form a striking picture.

Crypt Lake, situated at the head of Hell Roaring Canyon, is another favourite objective for anglers and hikers. Other fine trails lead up Blakiston and Bauerman Brooks to Twin Lakes and South Kootenay Pass; to Carthew Lakes; and to the summits of Vimy Peak and Sofa Mountain. Shorter hikes include those to Lake Linnet, the golf links, and Bear's Hump on Mount Crandell.

### **Motoring in the Park**

The Akamina Highway provides a scenic 10-mile drive up Cameron Creek Valley to Cameron Lake. Red Rock Canyon, about 12

miles from Waterton Park townsite, is worth seeing, and may be reached by road up Blakiston Brook. The canyon has been formed by the action of waters which have cut through soft shales of a reddish colour.

The Canadian section of the Chief Mountain International Highway leads through the picturesque valley of the Belly River to the International Boundary and Glacier National Park. As the boundary is approached, the striking outline of Chief Mountain—from which the highway takes its name—comes into view.

### **Fauna and Flora**

As a sanctuary for wildlife, Waterton Lakes National Park contains many species of big and small game native to the Canadian Rockies. Rocky Mountain sheep, mule or black-tailed deer, and black bear are quite numerous, and elk, Rocky Mountain goat, white-tailed deer, moose, and grizzly bear are not uncommon. The hoary marmot or "whistler," porcupine, beaver, and several varieties of squirrel are also found in the park. Bird life is also prolific and interesting.

To the botanist and lover of nature, the trees, flowers, and plants are of special interest, for within the park the mountain flora and prairie flora meet. Douglas fir, balsam fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann and white spruce, aspen, and Lyall's or alpine larch are among the species of trees which flourish in the park. Shrubs are abundant, and wild flowers bloom from early spring until autumn.

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*Mount Crandell from Chief Mountain International Highway*





The "Great Divide" of the Rockies in Kicking Horse Pass

## YOHO NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Y**OHO NATIONAL PARK in British Columbia is situated west of the continental divide, adjoining Banff and Kootenay National Parks. It has an area of 507 square miles, and the mountains, particularly along the divide, rise to tremendous heights. Many are topped the year round by ice and snow.

Some of its valleys are set with lakes that sparkle like jewels and others are coursed by tumbling streams or draped with filmy waterfalls that have their source in glaciers that lie high up on the mountain walls. To the Indian, the word "Yoho" meant "It is wonderful," and the natural beauty of the region fully justifies the name.

Like Banff, Yoho National Park owes its existence to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which follows the Kicking Horse River through the park from east to west. Shortly after the completion of the railway in 1885, a small area of 10 square miles in the vicinity of Field was set aside to preserve the surrounding forests and wildlife. Further additions have increased the area of the park to its present dimensions.

### How to Reach the Park

Yoho National Park is accessible both by railway and motor highway. The Canadian Pacific Railway winds along the steep slopes of the Kicking Horse Valley, and overcomes the severe grades on the west slope of the Rockies by the use of spiral tunnels which

have been constructed through Mounts Cathedral and Ogden on either side of the valley. The main stations are located at Field and at Hector, on Wapta Lake.

The Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) also crosses the park from east to west through the Kicking Horse Valley, and provides access from Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper on the east, and Golden, Revelstoke, and other points to the west.

The "Big Bend" section of the Trans-Canada Highway from Revelstoke to Golden provides a scenic drive of 193 miles along the historic Columbia River. From Golden, the highway follows the Kicking Horse River eastward through the park.

From the south, visitors may approach Yoho National Park over Provincial Highway No. 4 to Golden, and thence east along Highway (No. 1) to the park entrance at Leancoil. An alternative route is by way of the Banff-Windermere Highway through Kootenay National Park to Banff National Park and thence west over Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1).

### Park Townsite and Headquarters

The administration of Yoho Park, as well as that of Glacier, and Mount Revelstoke National Parks, is carried out by a superintendent whose office and residence are situated in the townsite of Field. The superintendent's office also serves as a bureau of information



for visitors, where literature and maps are available. Field lies at the base of Mount Stephen in the Kicking Horse Valley, and is the centre of a system of roads and trails that lead to most of the outstanding places of interest. The townsite contains stores, churches, restaurants, hotel, service stations, and transportation services for motor and trail trips.

The visiting season at Yoho National Park extends from approximately May 15 to October 15.

### Accommodation

From June to September, accommodation is provided in Yoho Park by chalets or bungalow lodges operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Emerald Lake, Lake O'Hara, Wapta Lake, and in Yoho Valley. All these points are accessible by highway or trail from Field. Limited accommodation is also provided by a small hotel and the Y.M.C.A. in Field, and a bungalow cabin camp is operated on the main highway four miles east of Field.

Visitors carrying their own camping equipment are accommodated at public camp grounds situated on the Trans-Canada Highway at points one mile west of Field, four miles east of Field, and near Chancellor Peak, 16 miles west of Field.

### The Kicking Horse Trail

The Kicking Horse Trail, as the main road through the park is called, provides a 33-mile scenic drive, and gives access to side roads leading to Emerald Lake and Yoho Valley. Entering the park from the east, the road crosses the Great Divide at the summit of Kicking Horse Pass, and passes beneath a huge wooden arch marking the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia. A few miles farther on the route skirts Wapta Lake, headwaters of the Kicking Horse River, which is a favoured fishing spot. Wapta Lake Lodge on the north shore offers fine accommodation, and is also a starting point for trail trips to Lake O'Hara and Sherbrooke Lake.

From the western end of Wapta Lake the route of the highway follows the old Canadian Pacific Railway grade, which was abandoned when the famous spiral tunnels were completed in 1910. Clinging to the lower slopes of Mount Cathedral, the highway provides magnificent views of the two great valleys, the Yoho to the north, and the Kicking Horse straight ahead to the west. Skirting the base of Mount Stephen, the highway passes the

Top—Kicking Horse Camp-ground

Centre—Takakkaw Falls

Bottom—Yoho Valley Lodge



entrance to the Yoho Valley, crosses the Kicking Horse River, and follows the latter along the base of Mounts Field and Burgess to the Town of Field.

From Field the highway continues west past the Natural Bridge, then swings abruptly south to follow the valley of the Kicking Horse River almost to its junction with the Beaverfoot. Opposite Chancellor Peak, about 16 miles from Field, the route again turns west, and, passing Leancoil Station, reaches the park boundary where a registration office is located. From this point the lower canyon of the Kicking Horse River is followed to Golden, a distance of about 16 miles.

### Lake O'Hara

Reached by a fine trail from Wapta Lake or Hector Station, Lake O'Hara rivals Lake Louise in claim to beauty. Although less than a mile long and half a mile wide, its colouring and setting have been an inspiration to artists from the world over. Its blue-green waters, fed by melting glaciers, mirror the giant peaks that rise almost sheer from the spruce-clad shores. On the eastern side are Seven Sisters Falls, which tumble from Lake Oesa, hidden on a rocky bench beneath Mount Lefroy.

Lake O'Hara Lodge and its well-appointed bungalows provide accommodation for visitors wishing to explore the trails and mountains of the region. Trout abound in the lake, and boats are available at the Lodge. Lake O'Hara is also a centre for alpine climbers, and the Alpine Club of Canada maintains a hut nearby.

### The Yoho Valley

The 11-mile trip from Field to the Yoho Valley provides one of the finest outings in the park. After skirting Mounts Burgess and Field, the route turns off the Kicking Horse Trail to the Valley Road at a point four miles from Field. Soon appears the "meeting of the waters," where the Yoho River joins the Kicking Horse in a leaping cascade. A little farther on the valley walls rise abruptly and the river roars through a narrow canyon.

Then comes the "switchback," where the road zig-zags up the grade in three sharp turns, to follow the base of Mount Wapta through virgin forests of spruce and balsam. Soon to meet the eye is Takakkaw Falls, which appears to drop out of the sky. This waterfall has its source in the Daly Glacier high on Mount Niles, and falls nearly 1,800 feet before it tumbles into the Yoho River.

Top—Seven Sisters Falls

Centre—Lake O'Hara from Abbot Pass

Bottom—Lake O'Hara Lodge and Bungalows





*Lake Wapta from Hector Station*



*The Natural Bridge*



*Hikers Near Lake O'Hara*

Facing the falls, in a grove of spruce, is Yoho Valley Lodge and adjacent bungalow cabins. The road ends within a short distance of the Lodge, but a trail leads up the valley to Twin Falls and Yoho Glacier, skirting Laughing and Bridal Veil Falls on the way to Twin Falls tea-room. The return may be made over the High-Line Trail, built along the slope of President Range, 1,500 feet above the valley floor.

#### **Emerald Lake and Natural Bridge**

Emerald Lake is situated about seven miles northwest of Field. The approach is made by a long straight stretch known as Snowpeak Avenue. The lake owes much of its beauty to the colour of its waters, said to reveal as many

as twenty shades of green. It lies in a green forest beneath towering Mount Burgess, flanked on the north by the peaks of the President Range. Nestling among the evergreens is Emerald Lake Chalet and bungalows, which provides boating, fishing, riding, and hiking. On the return trip, a detour may be made to take in the Natural Bridge, where the Kicking Horse River boils beneath a rocky formation, which all but blocks the course of the stream.

From Emerald Lake the visitors may ride or hike across Yoho Pass to the Yoho Valley. This five-mile trip skirts Yoho Lake on the summit of the pass, and provides remarkable views of the Yoho Valley.

*Mount Burgess and Emerald Lake*





*The Park Gateway at Radium Hot Springs*

## KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

**K**OOTENAY NATIONAL PARK on the western slope of the Rockies in British Columbia was established in 1920 to preserve the natural beauty of the landscape along the route of the Banff-Windermere Highway, the first motor road constructed across the central Rockies. It is, in reality, a national highway park. The park extends approximately five miles on each side of the highway for about 60 miles, and contains an area of 543 square miles.

Among the features of Kootenay National Park are several deep canyons, waterfalls, an iceberg lake, and mineral hot springs. Wildlife is abundant, and species of big game often observed from the highways and trails include bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, and moose. The lower slopes of the valleys are well forested, and spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, aspen, and black poplar are the predominant species.

The park is divided roughly by the valleys of the Vermilion and Kootenay Rivers, which are ideal avenues for travel. A portion of the route now followed by the Banff-Windermere Highway was first investigated by Sir James Hector of the Palliser expedition in 1858. Hector ascended the eastern slope of the Rockies from the Bow Valley, discovered Vermilion Pass, and followed the Vermilion River south to the Kootenay before turning westward to reach the Kicking Horse River.

Earlier still was the visit of Sir George Simpson in 1841. On his journey round the

world, Simpson crossed the Rockies by way of Simpson Pass, and, descending the Simpson, Vermilion, and Kootenay Rivers, eventually reached the Columbia River Valley. In his narrative of the journey, Simpson records travelling through a chasm known as the Red Rock, through which boiled a mountain torrent, and whose almost perpendicular walls rose to a height of more than 1,000 feet. The passage accurately described what is now known as Sinclair Canyon, at the western gateway to the park.

### **Ways of Approach**

Kootenay National Park adjoins Banff and Yoho National Parks on the northeast and northwest respectively, and the three park units are interconnected by motor highway. The Banff-Windermere Highway (1B) traverses the park from north to south and links the Trans-Canada (No. 1) with British Columbia Highway No. 4. Connection is thus provided with Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks on the north, and Cranbrook, Kingsgate, and points in the United States to the south. Situated on the International Boundary, Kingsgate is a popular port of entry from the United States, and the terminus of U.S. Highway No. 95.

An approach from Glacier National Park, Montana, may be made through Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, and thence via Highways 6 and 3 to Cranbrook, connecting with British Columbia Highway No. 4 to



*Sinclair Canyon*

Radium Hot Springs. From Golden on the west, approach may be made southeast over Highway No. 4 to Radium Hot Springs.

#### **The Park Townsite**

The little townsite of Radium Hot Springs forms the centre of park activities. It is situated in the narrow valley of Sinclair Creek, about two miles within the southwestern boundary of the park, and contains hotel and bungalow cabin accommodation, stores, post office, garage, and service station. Nearby is the park gateway building, built in the form of an arch astride the highway, which contains registration office, information bureau, and rest rooms for visitors. Just inside the gateway are the Park hot springs installations, includ-

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*On the Banff-Windermere Highway*



ing swimming pools. A tennis court is located near the swimming pools. The local administration of the park is carried out by a superintendent stationed at Radium Hot Springs.

An excellent view of the townsite, park gateway building, and swimming pool may be obtained from points along a trail on the lower slopes of Redstreak Mountain above Sinclair Creek.

#### **Accommodation**

Accommodation in the park is provided by three small hotels and two bungalow cabin camps at Radium Hot Springs, and bungalow cabin camps at Kootenay Flats, Vermilion Crossing, and Marble Canyon on the Banff-Windermere Highway. The largest hotel, Radium Hot Springs Lodge, has a large central building containing lounge and dining room, and 24 cabin units.

A public camp-ground, equipped with electricity, running water, and kitchen shelters is available to visitors at Radium Hot Springs, and a number of other camp-grounds, less completely equipped, are situated at strategic points along the park highway.

#### **The Mineral Hot Springs**

A popular attraction is the outdoor swimming pool at Radium Hot Springs fed by mineral hot springs which have a temperature of 114° F. where they issue from the rocks. Among the hottest in the Rockies, the waters are believed by many to have curative properties, and have been used since the earliest days of exploration.

#### **Points of Interest**

Many points of interest in the park are easily accessible from the Banff-Windermere Highway. This road provides a delightful drive of about 71 miles from its junction with Columbia Valley Highway No. 4 to Mount Eisenhower in Banff National Park, where it merges with Highway No. 1.

*Bungalow Cabins at Vermilion Crossing*



About a mile west of Radium Hot Springs the highway enters Sinclair Canyon, a narrow notch in the mountain wall. Its sides rise almost perpendicularly above the rushing waters of Sinclair Creek, and at points the road passes beneath overhanging crags. The brilliant red colouring of the rocky walls is characteristic of the region.

One half mile east of Radium Hot Springs the highway cuts along the base of another sheer wall and passes the "Iron Gates," a second and wider portal formed by towers of red rock on either side of the valley. Topping Sinclair Pass, the road descends into the valley of the Kootenay River which is followed for about 15 miles to Kootenay Crossing.

After crossing the Kootenay River the highway ascends a low divide then descends into the Vermilion River Valley. A few miles farther on the Vermilion is joined by the Simpson River, which flows in from the northeast. Nearby, at the roadside, a stone cairn and bronze tablet have been erected to commemorate the public services of Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1821 to 1860.

Where the highway reaches Vermilion Crossing, a bungalow cabin camp and service station are located. From this point the Vermilion River is followed north past Marble Canyon to Vermilion Pass, which marks the boundary between Kootenay and Banff National Parks.

Another natural wonder in the park is Marble Canyon, reached by a short path which leads from the highway about 55 miles east of Radium Hot Springs. This narrow rocky gorge, nearly 2,000 feet long, has been cut through the limestone strata by the waters of Tokumm Creek to a depth of 200 feet. In places are visible layers of white and grey marble from which the canyon derives its



*A Trailer Camp Radium Hot Springs*

name. A natural bridge of rock, and a 70-foot waterfall add interest to the spectacle which may be viewed from rustic bridges built at convenient points over the canyon.

From the Banff-Windermere Highway, Floe Lake is accessible by a five-mile trail up Floe Creek. In summer the lake is dotted with small icebergs which become detached from Floe Glacier. Of interest also are the "Paint Pots" or ochre springs situated about two miles from Marble Canyon. The vermilion pigment once used by the Indians of the district to paint their faces was obtained by roasting the ochre. Other trails lead up the valleys and over the passes into Yoho and Banff National Parks.

*Simpson River with Hawk Ridge in the background*



*"The Paint Pots"*





*The Swiss Peaks from Tupper Glacier*

## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

**G**LACIER NATIONAL PARK has an area of 521 square miles in the heart of the Selkirk Mountains, which lie west of the Rockies within the great northern bend of the Columbia River.

It has been said of the Selkirk Mountains that "no snows are so white as the Selkirk snows, no clouds so radiant, no forests so darkly, beautifully green." While the average height of the peaks is less than that of the Rockies, the richness of the flora, contrasted with the abundance of ice and snow, forms a combination that is particularly beautiful. The extensive glaciated areas are caused by the great altitude of the mountains and the phenomenally heavy annual snowfall which sometimes exceeds 40 feet.

The lower slopes are densely forested with growths of giant cedar, fir, spruce, and hemlock, and are scored in places from avalanches that occur during the winter months. The upper slopes, high passes, and alplands are dotted with wild flowers, and black and grizzly bear, goat, deer, marmot, and numerous birds are abundant.

Glacier National Park is the only national park in Canada served exclusively by railway, since no motor roads span its rugged terrain. The park is crossed by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and visitors may detrain at Glacier Station, at the western end

of the famous Connaught Tunnel. Accommodation is available and camping is permitted on designated camp-sites. Resident park officers, stationed at Glacier and other points, furnish information concerning camp-sites, and trails to various places of interest. The park is administered from Field, the headquarters of Yoho National Park.

One of the outstanding features of the park is the Illecillewaet Glacier, reached by trail from Glacier Station. This gigantic mass of ice falls more than 3,500 feet from the "neve" or snow-field which is almost 10 square miles in area. Seen from the trail, it gleams through the green forest, and although three miles distant appears close at hand. In spite of the enormous snowfall, it is, in common with other glaciers, gradually retreating.

Another trail leads to the outlook on Mount Abbott, 7,720 feet above sea level. From this vantage point one may look down on the Illecillewaet Glacier, and across the deep valley of the Illecillewaet River towards Rogers Pass. Halfway up the mountain the trail passes Marion Lake, a tiny tarn set in evergreens.

The trail to richly-wooded Asulkan Valley branches off that leading to Illecillewaet Glacier, and winds up the valley of Asulkan Brook through a thick forest. Frequently through openings in the trees the rocky walls



*Marion Lake on Mount Abbott*

of Mount Abbott, the Rampart, the Dome, and the snowy heights of Castor and Pollux come into view.

These snow-capped peaks are the fountain-heads of a series of cataracts that fall in silvery spray down the mountain side, and over precipitous ledges to the streams below. At one point seven individual falls may be counted. The valley takes its name from "asulkan," which is the Indian name for "wild goat."

Another popular trail leads up Cougar Valley and east over Balu Pass to Bear Creek and Rogers Pass, returning to Glacier Station. Rogers Pass, named after Major A. B. Rogers, its discoverer, was the original route of the railway over the summit of the Selkirks, but the severe grades, and heavy cost of maintaining snow sheds to protect the line from avalanches, led to the construction of the Connaught Tunnel through Mount Macdonald. Completed in 1916, the tunnel is five miles long, and is located more than a mile below the summit of the mountain.

Glacier National Park is also a paradise for mountain climbers, and the Alpine Club of Canada, which fosters climbing under supervision, frequently holds its annual camp in the park. Many of the peaks of the Selkirk Mountains have served as graduating climbs for club membership. Among the most famous peaks are Mount Sir Donald (10,818 feet), Mount Wheeler (11,033 feet), Mount Dawson (11,123 feet), Mount Bonney (10,194 feet), Mount Rogers (10,546 feet), and Mount Tupper (9,239 feet).

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 white fish are present in most streams, and fishing is best in autumn when the streams are freer of silt.



*Mount Macdonald from the Rogers Pass Trail*

*Tackling another peak*



## MOUNT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE "TOP OF THE WORLD" might well be a description of Mount Revelstoke National Park. Situated literally above the clouds at a general elevation of 6,000 feet, the park occupies the broad undulating plateau that forms the summit of Mount Revelstoke. It lies on the western slope of the Selkirk Mountains, between the valleys of the Columbia River on the west and the Illecillewaet on the south, and has an area of 100 square miles.

The landscape is alpine in character. Its rolling alplands are adorned with evergreens, tiny lakes occupy the rocky hollows chiselled out by ancient glaciers, and wild flowers grow in the open meadows. Deer, caribou, bear, grouse, and other species of wildlife are abundant.

The park is reached from the town of Revelstoke by a picturesque road which ascends the southern slopes of the mountain by easy grades and switchbacks. It passes through virgin stands of cedar, spruce, fir and hemlock, and in a distance of 18 miles rises about 5,000 feet to an elevation of 6,350 feet. In places the road skirts the edge of the mountain, and view points along the way provide magnificent vistas of the broad Columbia Valley and the surrounding mountain ranges.

At the summit of the mountain is a lookout station and shelter which overlooks the Clachnacudainn Range, at the crest of which lies a wide snow-field, cut up into many sections by separating rock ridges.

Across the Columbia to the southwest stands triple-peaked Mount Begbie, dominating the surrounding peaks of the Monashee Range, and below in the very shadow of the mountain

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*Heather Lake and Clachnacudainn Range*



*The Lake of Jade*

is the town of Revelstoke, occupying a wide, picturesque flat at the junction of the Illecillewaet and Columbia Rivers. Also to the west is Eagle Pass, utilized by the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway in their passage through the mountains to the Pacific Coast.

Trails from the lookout station lead to several places of interest. Near the summit is the "Ice Box," a great cleft in the rock strata, that usually contains, even in mid-summer, quantities of ice and snow.

A four-mile hike takes the visitor to Lakes Eva and Miller. The trail skirts the Columbia Valley, and passes through alpine meadows literally carpeted with wild flowers. Both lakes are well stocked with cutthroat trout, and at

*White Heath and Indian Hellebore*







*Heather Lodge in Winter*

Lake Eva, a shelter, equipped with camp-stove, is available to hikers and fishermen. Jade Lake, an emerald pool in a rugged mountain setting, is also accessible by trail.

Revelstoke is a noted winter sports centre, and the slopes of Mount Revelstoke, under heavy falls of powder snow, provide unexcelled opportunities for downhill skiing. Several world's ski-jumping records, both amateur and professional, have been established on the Revelstoke hill. A downhill course and a slalom hill, which have been laid out on the southern slopes of the mountain, are extensively used in winter.

Accommodation in the park is provided by Heather Lodge, a small chalet located at the summit near the end of the road. It has ac-

commodation for about 20 persons, and is open during the summer season. Near the summit, in a grove of evergreens on the shores of Balsam Lake, a public camp-ground, complete with camp-stoves and shelters, is also available to visitors. Good hotel and bungalow cabin accommodation may be obtained in Revelstoke.

The administration of Mount Revelstoke National Park is carried out by a superintendent whose office is located in Field, headquarters of Yoho National Park. A park officer, who resides in Revelstoke, visits the park daily and will furnish information on request. Information concerning the park also may be obtained at Revelstoke Information Bureau.

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 Trans-Canada 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 is the western terminus of the "Big Bend" section of the Trans-Canada 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.

The colouring of the landscape from early summer until late autumn makes Mount Revelstoke National Park a veritable floral paradise. During July and August, Nature's wild flower gardens clothe the alpine meadows in their full summer finery. Later, when autumn tints the foliage on the summit of the mountain, the area takes on the appearance of a Kingdom in Fairyland.

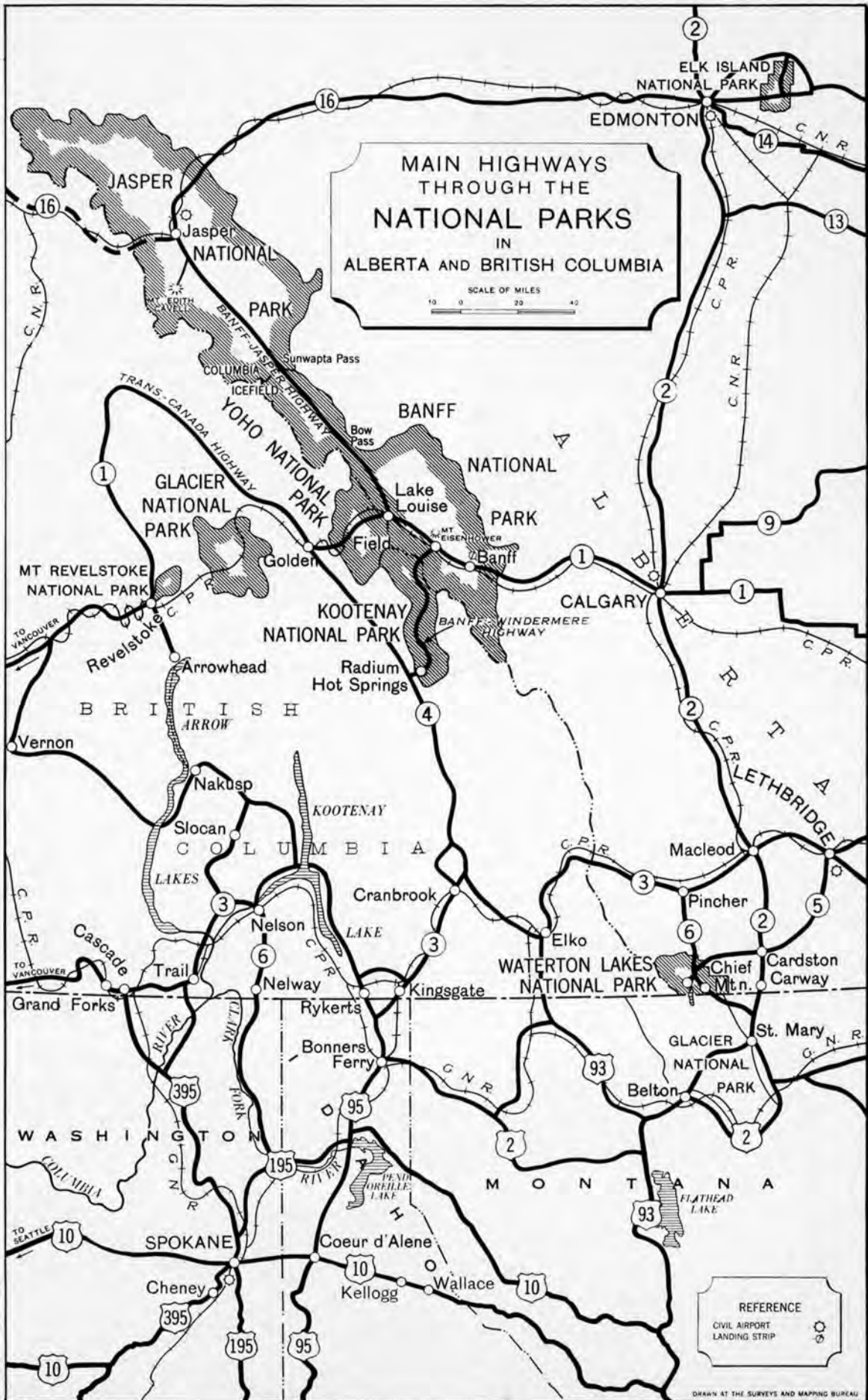
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*Looking Eastward from Lookout*



*Mounts Tilley and McKenzie*





**MAIN HIGHWAYS  
THROUGH THE  
NATIONAL PARKS  
IN  
ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA**

SCALE OF MILES  
10 0 20 40

**REFERENCE**  
CIVIL AIRPORT   
LANDING STRIP 

DRAWN AT THE SURVEYS AND MAPPING BUREAU



## THE NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA

1. **MOUNT REVELSTOKE, British Columbia.** Rolling mountain-top plateau on west slope of Selkirk Mountains. Established 1914; area, 100 square miles.
2. **GLACIER, British Columbia.** Superb alpine region in Selkirk Mountains. Great peaks, glaciers, forests. Established 1886; area, 521 square miles.
3. **YOHO, British Columbia.** On west slope of Rockies. High peaks, beautiful lakes. Yoho and Kicking Horse Valleys. Established 1886; area, 507 square miles.
4. **KOOTENAY, British Columbia.** Encloses Vermilion-Sinclair section of the Banff-Windermere Highway in Rockies. Broad valleys, deep canyons, hot mineral springs. Established 1920; area, 543 square miles.
5. **JASPER, Alberta.** Mountain playground and game sanctuary. Contains majestic peaks, ice-fields, beautiful lakes and famous resort, Jasper. Summer and winter sports. Established 1907; area, 4,200 square miles.
6. **BANFF, Alberta.** Magnificent scenic playground in central Rockies. Contains noted resorts, Banff and Lake Louise. Summer and winter sports centre; big game sanctuary. Established 1885; area, 2,504 square miles.
7. **WATERTON LAKES, Alberta.** Canadian Section, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Mountain playground with colorful peaks; varied flora and fauna. Established 1895; area, 204 square miles.
8. **ELK ISLAND, Alberta.** Fenced preserve near Edmonton, containing a large herd of buffalo; also deer, elk and moose. Recreational and camping resort. Established 1913; area, 75 square miles.
9. **WOOD BUFFALO, Alberta and N.W.T.** Immense regions of forests and open plains between Athabaska and Great Slave Lakes. Contains a large herd of buffalo and other game. Established 1922; area, 17,300 square miles.
10. **PRINCE ALBERT, Saskatchewan.** Forested region dotted with lakes and interlaced with streams. Summer resort and recreational area. Established 1927; area, 1,496 square miles.
11. **RIDING MOUNTAIN, Manitoba.** Playground and game sanctuary on summit of Manitoba escarpment. Fine lakes; summer resort and recreational area. Established 1929; area, 1,148 square miles.
12. **FORT PRINCE OF WALES, Manitoba.** National Historic Park at Churchill. Ruins of fort built 1735-71. Established 1941; area, 50 acres.
13. **FORT MALDEN, Ontario.** National Historic Park with museum at Amherstburg. Site of defence post built 1797-99. Established 1941; area, 5 acres.

14. **POINT PELEE, Ontario.** Recreational area on Lake Erie. Camp-grounds, remarkable beaches, southern flora. Resting place for migratory birds. Established 1918; area, 6.04 square miles.
15. **GEORGIAN BAY ISLANDS, Ontario.** Recreational and camping areas. Unique pillars on Flowerpot Island. Established 1920; area, 5.40 square miles.
16. **ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS, Ontario.** Mainland area, and 13 islands in "Thousand Islands." Recreational facilities. Established 1914; area, 189.4 acres.
17. **FORT WELLINGTON, Ontario.** National Historic Park with museum at Prescott. Defence post built 1812-13. Established 1941; area, 8.5 acres.
18. **FORT CHAMBLY, Quebec.** National Historic Park with museum at Chambly Canton. First built by French, 1665. Established 1941; area, 2.5 acres.
19. **FORT LENNOX, Quebec.** National Historic Park on Ile-aux-Noix in Richelieu River, near St. Johns. Established 1941; area 210 acres.
20. **FUNDY, New Brunswick.** A national park area is in course of development. Located on the Bay of Fundy between the cities of Saint John and Moncton. Forested region, game sanctuary, rugged terrain. Area, approximately 80 square miles.
21. **FORT BEAUSEJOUR, New Brunswick.** National Historic Park with museum near Sackville. Site of early French fort. Established 1926; area, 81 acres.
22. **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.** Strip 25 miles long on north shore of island province. Recreational area; fine beaches. Established 1937; area, 7 square miles.
23. **PORT ROYAL, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park at Lower Granville. Restoration of "Habitation" or first fort built in 1605 by Champlain, De Monts and Poutrincourt. Established 1941; area, 17 acres.
24. **FORT ANNE, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park with museum at Annapolis Royal. Well-preserved earthworks. Established 1917; area, 31 acres.
25. **FORTRESS OF LOUISBOURG, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park with museum near Louisburg. Ruins of walled city erected by the French 1720-40. Interesting excavations. Established 1941; area, 340 acres.
26. **CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Nova Scotia.** Rugged Atlantic coastline with mountain background. Fine seascapes from park highway. Recreational opportunities. Established 1936; area, 390 square miles.

### NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

*Lands and Development Services Branch*

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

OTTAWA - CANADA

