

The National Parks are Canada's greatest single tourist attraction. Accommodation in privately owned hotels, bungalow cabins, chalets, lodges and cottages is available, and modern cabins have been built in several of the Parks by the National Parks Administration to afford low-rental accommodation to Park visitors. Recreational facilities include heated outdoor swimming pools with dressing-room buildings; equipped camp-grounds, some with trailer-park facilities; golf courses in superb scenic settings; tennis courts; bowling greens; well-equipped children's playgrounds; athletic fields; horseshoe pitches; outdoor checker-boards; and, in some of the Parks, amphitheatres where plays, concerts and film shows are held in the open. For winter sports there are down-hill and slalom ski courses, ski jumps, ski tows and a chairlift.

A Park warden service protects the forests and wildlife and maintains constant vigilance for the safety and comfort of visitors. Stocking and transfer of game fish are carried out extensively and successfully in order to improve angling opportunities in Park waters; fish hatcheries are operated in three of the mountain National Parks. (A special article on 'Game Fish in Canada's National Parks' is given in the 1952-53 Year Book, pp. 34-36.) Two of the National Parks are largely big-game preserves where herds of buffalo and other animals find sanctuary.

In addition to the scenic, recreational and wild animal parks, Canada has eleven national historic parks. The National Parks and Historic Sites Service of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is also responsible for the marking, preservation and restoration of places of great historic interest in Canada. More than 450 such sites have been marked on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

4.—Location, Year Established, Area and Characteristics of National Parks

Park	Location	Year Established	Area	Characteristics
sq. miles				
Scenic and Recreational Parks				
Banff.....	Western Alberta, on east slope of Rockies.	1885	2,564.0	Magnificent scenic recreational area; noted resorts, Banff and Lake Louise. Mineral hot springs; summer and winter sports. Accessible by rail and highway. Hotel and bungalow cabin accommodation. Equipped camp-grounds.
Yoho.....	Eastern British Columbia, on west slope of Rockies.	1886	507.0	Lofty peaks, magnificent waterfalls, colourful lakes. Yoho and Kicking Horse Valleys. Accessible by rail and highway. Hotel and bungalow cabin accommodation. Equipped camp-grounds.
Glacier.....	Southeastern British Columbia, on summit of the Selkirk Range.	1886	521.0	Superb alpine region, towering peaks, glaciers and forests. Accessible by rail only. Climbing, skiing, camping.
Waterton Lakes.....	Southern Alberta, adjoining Glacier Park in Montana, U.S.A.	1895	204.0	Canadian section, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Mountain playground with spectacular peaks and beautiful lakes. Accessible by highway. Hotel and bungalow cabin accommodation. Equipped camp-grounds.