National Park preserves a 521-square-mile area of the Selkirk Range, one of the four interior ranges of British Columbia. The Selkirk and its related ranges—the Purcell, the Monashee and the Cariboo—are quite distinct from the Rocky Mountains. The Selkirk Range is divided into Interior Ranges by the Rocky Mountain Trench, through which the Kootenay River flows in Glacier and Fraser Rivers flow. River valleys extending south and southwest define the four Interior ranges. The Beaver River valley, near the eastern border of the park, is separated from the Main Range by the Baseline Divide, running from near the park’s southeastern corner to the Seagull Range and the Selkirk Mountains.

Glacier National Park is one of the few national parks which are accessible by road. The park is about 30 miles from the park’s western entrance.

The building of the Trans-Canada Highway is commemorated by this memorial near Rogers Pass. The building of the Trans-Canada Highway is commemorated by this memorial near Rogers Pass. The building of the Trans-Canada Highway is commemorated by this memorial near Rogers Pass. The building of the Trans-Canada Highway is commemorated by this memorial near Rogers Pass.

The Selkirk Mountains were formed many tens of millions of years ago by mountain building along the boundary of the North American plate. The Selkirk group of mountains is a break in the Rocky Mountains, and the mountains are narrow and more jagged than the Rockies.

Most persons see Glacier from the Trans-Canada Highway which passes through the central part of the park and is open all year. Other National Parks in the vicinity are Mount Revelstoke near Revelstoke, Yoho and Banff, and Kootenay National Park.

Flora

The plant life of the park is rich and varied. The vegetation is divided into three基本 vegetation belts: the alpine belt, the montane belt, and the subalpine belt.

The alpine belt is the highest and most rugged part of the park. It is covered with a forest of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. The mountains in this area are narrow and rugged, with steep sides and high peaks.

The montane belt is the area between the alpine belt and the subalpine belt. It is covered with a forest of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. The mountains in this area are less rugged than those in the alpine belt.

The subalpine belt is the area between the montane belt and the forest belt. It is covered with a forest of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. The mountains in this area are less rugged than those in the montane belt.

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On the Trans-Canada Highway via Rogers Pass to Connaught on the east of the divide, one passes through an alpine wonderland. To the west are the impressive peaks of Mt. Cheops, Ursus Major, Ursus Minor, Mt. Grizzly, Sifton, Rogers, the Swiss Peaks and Mt. Tupper. To the south east are the giants of the Sir Donald Range including Sir Donald, Eagle Peak, Mt. Avalanche and Mt. MacDonald whose massive height overshadows the pass.

The eastern section of the park, consisting of the watershed of the Beaver River and the Purcell Trench, is characterized by its more rounded contours and wide, timbered mountain benches. The Trans-Canada Highway extends up the valley as far as Connaught, and a good trail from Stoney Creek leads to the head of the Beaver and the Duncan Summit. Another follows Grizzly and Copperstain Creeks to the broad plateau of Bald Mountain. The latter commands a superb view of the Sir Donald, Dawson, Bishop and Purity Ranges to the west and south. The Spillimacheen and Dogtooth Mountains can be seen to the east. Northward one can view a veritable sea of mountains which include such notable peaks as Mt. Sorener, Iconoclast, Nordic Mountain and many more.

The Trans-Canada Highway also gives access to the western areas of the park, where trails lead to Flat Creek Pass, overlooking the valley of the Incomappleux River to the south and west and north to Boast Creek summit and to Mountain Creek.

The following is a list of the principal trails in the park, with their locations and length in miles:

- Nakimu Caves and Cougar Valley: From Glacier westerly to the Nakimu Caves and Upper Cougar Valley; 8 m.
- Hermit Trail: From Rogers Pass to Alpine Club Hut on Hermit Mountain; 2 m.
- Balu Pass: From Upper Cougar Valley to Rogers Pass; 4 m.
- Mount Abbott: From Glacier to Marion Lake and shoulder of Mt. Abbott; 6 m.
- Asulkan Pass: From Glacier south along Asulkan Brook; 7 m.
- Sir Donald: From Glacier south along Asulkan Brook; 7 m.
- Great Glacier: From Asulkan Trail south-easterly to the foot of the Illecillewaet Glacier; 2.5 m.
- Flat Creek: From Flat Creek warden's cabin, south to head of Flat Creek; 6 m.
- Bostock Creek: From Flat Creek Pass, south along Slick Creek to Incomappleux River and the south boundary of park; 7 m.
- Mountain Creek: From Bostock Creek, north along Slick Creek to Kicking Horse River and the north boundary of park; 7 m.
- Minneapolis River: From Flat Creek Pass, south along Slick Creek to Minneapolis River and the south boundary of park; 7 m.
- Boast Creek: From Flat Creek Pass, south along Slick Creek to Incomappleux River and the north boundary of park; 7 m.
- Mountain Creek: From Bostock Creek, north along Slick Creek to Kicking Horse River and the north boundary of park; 7 m.

Glacier National Park was established in 1886 and has a claim for the honour of being the oldest National Park in Canada since Banff was not enlarged and given official park status until 1887. It was administered as part of Yoho National Park until 1957 when Glacier and Mount Revelstoke were combined under the administration of a single superintendent whose headquarters is in Revelstoke. The official address of the park is: Superintendent, Glacier National Park, Revelstoke, B.C.