Introducing a park and an idea
Canada covers half a continent, fronts on three oceans, and stretches from the extreme Arctic more than halfway to the equator. There is a great variety of land forms in this immense country, and Canada's National Parks have been created to preserve important examples for you and for generations to come.

The National Parks Act of 1930 specifies that National Parks are "dedicated to the people...for their benefit, education and enjoyment" and must remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Glacier National Park encompasses a 521-square-mile area of the rugged Selkirk Mountain Range and, to a lesser extent, the Purcell Range of interior British Columbia. Noted for its sharp peaks, steep-sided valleys and swiftly flowing streams, Glacier Park was named for the more than 100 glaciers found within its borders. The park was originally established to preserve an area of 10 square miles at the summit of Rogers Pass.

The park environment
Each National Park has its own character, its unique story as a living, outdoor museum. The Glacier story is one of historical, human accomplishment in a rugged mountain landscape accented by dense forest, numerous glaciers and snow-capped peaks. The glaciers too, have a story of their own. There are 144 avalanche control zones which funnel onto the Trans-Canada Highway at 86 different places. During the winter months a specialized group of parks staff, assisted by an Army gun crew, run the largest direct avalanche control area in the world. As you drive through the park you will notice the stark scars of avalanche paths gouged in the mountain sides, silent witnesses to nature's winter activity.

The mountains: an ancient landscape
Ages older than the Rocky Mountains, the Selkirks reflect a process of geological change spanning millions of years. Time and pressure have altered their rocks from parallel-banded slates to the shingled slates and schists, hard quartzite, conglomerates (rock composed of material varying from small pebbles to large boulders), and angular material cemented by action of a stream. The changes these rocks have undergone make it difficult to reconstruct the mountains' history. All traces of organisms (fossils) that may have lived in the seas that once covered the landscape have been obliterated.

While the rocks hide well the history of their origin, the effects of the great flowing sheets of ice that gave the park its name can be seen in the steep valley walls and sharp peaks. The Illecillewaet Valley was at one time the largest known system in Canada. For reasons of public interest, it is now the only one being explored and mapped and, so far, this is one of the largest known systems in Canada. For reasons of public safety it is forbidden to enter these caves at present. Three miles east of Rogers Pass there is evidence of another underground system, the full extent of which has not yet been determined.

The plants: a study in contrasts
Because of the heavy precipitation in the Selkirk Mountains, the forests are dense and luxuriant, and below timberline the underbrush is almost impenetrable. In Glacier, as in other mountain environments, plant life reflects the wide range of local climatic conditions found at different altitudes— the higher the elevation the more specialized the plants.

Many of the glaciers in the park are at levels lower than found anywhere else in the interior of British Columbia. Two, the Illecillewaet and the Anulik may be reached by trail. Although scientific observations have not been carried out regularly on every glacier in the Selkirks, it is probable that all are receding. When the Illecillewaet Glacier was first studied in 1887, its toe, or snout, was about 3,000 feet long. Today the toe is barely 1,000 feet long and receding at the rate of about 50 feet a year. Within the Precambrian limestone of Cougar Valley are the Nakimu Caves, a series of subterranean passages which were formed by underground streams flowing through fractured, soluble rock. Over three miles of passages have been explored and mapped and, so far, this is one of the largest known systems in Canada. For reasons of public safety it is forbidden to enter these caves at present. Three miles east of Rogers Pass there is evidence of another underground system, the full extent of which has not yet been determined.

Above timberline, hardy plants grow close to the ground in mat-like formations as a protection against drying winds. The dark, shady forests and alpine regions of the park are one of the most varied habitats found anywhere in the interior of British Columbia. For reasons of public safety it is forbidden to enter these caves at present.

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The animals: each seeks its own habitat
Like the plants, the number and variety of animals in Glacier National Park reflect the climate. Deep winter snowfall, which restricts movement and the availability of food, limits the number of species that can exist the year round.

The grizzly bear finds solace in the remoteness of the high country. He may be seen searching for food on south-facing avalanche slopes in the spring, after his winter hibernation, or in the alpine meadows during the summer. All bears are unpredictable and should be avoided.

Agile mountain goats are often seen on the cliffs above the snow-sheds east of Rogers Pass. The rocky crags are their domain, while the rockslides are the home of the tiny black-tailed deer. The pika may often be seen merely storing food for the following winter.

A shrill, piercing whistle is the trademark of the hoary marmot or whistler. Mountain goats and golden-mantled ground squirrels, chipmunks, and red squirrels are all common to the park.

The dark, shady forests and alpine regions of the park do not support a large or varied bird population. Only 65 species have been recorded thus far. However, as more spring observations are conducted, more species will be discovered.
A brief history
Because of their difficult weather conditions, avalanches, demesne abuse, lack of game and the superstitions connected with them, the Selkirks did not appeal to Indians. Since the Indians left no artifacts in Glacier, it is probable that they only crossed the mountains through Rogers Pass on occasional trips to better hunting grounds. The first white men to see the Selkirks were traders and explorers for the fur companies, who used the Columbia River to for the fur companies, who used the Columbia River to

A park motor vehicle permit is required for all vehicles and it may be purchased at the park gates. For information on Glacier is available from the Superintendent, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks, Revelstoke, British Columbia. For information on other National Parks, write the Director, National and

How to enjoy the park
Season — Although Glacier is open all year, most visitors come in the summer months, when hiking, mountaineering and fishing are popular. However, winter and spring skiing also attract many visitors. Illecillewaet Glacier is the most popular ski area.

Fishing — Fishing in the park is by permit, available from the park administration building or from the park wardens. Fishing regulations are available where permits are sold.

Hiking — Hiking is one of the best ways to explore the park. A fine network of trails leads to the Illecillewaet and Asulkan Glaciers. There are good viewpoints from the ridge of Mount Abbott. About a mile east of Rogers Pass, a trail leads upward toward Mt. Tupper and the Rogers group of peaks. Other trails lead up Connaught and Cougar Creeks to Cougar Valley, where the Nakimu Caves are located. The caves are closed to the public.

Most visitors take relatively short hikes on the trails, and it is not advisable to make longer, overnight trips into the park without careful preparation.

Mountaineering — Glacier is a famed mountain climbing area, and climbers have made the park their headquarters for many years. Climbers and hikers travelling off park trails must register with a park warden before and after each trip. Several books on hiking in Canada's National Parks are available. Topographical maps of the park (at a nominal charge) and free trail guide folders may be obtained at the park administration office and the communication centre.

Some don'ts
National Parks are selected areas set apart as nature sanctuaries and special care is taken to maintain them in their natural state. For this reason, all birds, wildlife, trees, and rocks are to remain undisturbed. Even the wildflowers are not to be picked; they are to be left for others to enjoy. Feeding, touching or molesting wild animals is not permitted.

Please help to protect your park for future enjoyment. It is part of your heritage.

Dogs and cats may accompany visitors into the park, but dogs must be kept on leash. No permit or vaccination certificate is needed.

Where to stay
There are three campgrounds in the park, all with flush toilets, communal kitchen shelters, and free firewood. There are no electrical or individual sewage disposal connections for trailers in Glacier, although the largest campground, at Mountain Creek, does have trailer sites with a central sewage disposal station. The two other camping areas, Illecillewaet and Loop Creek, are located just west of Rogers Pass.

There is a nominal daily camping fee and campgrounds are usually open from early June until mid-September. Accommodation is in a free-choose, first-come basis, and the maximum allowable stay at a campground is two weeks. Camping is restricted to established campgrounds, but hikers on overnight trips can camp on route provided they report to the park wardens before and after each trip.

There are commercial accommodations, dining facilities and a garage at the summit of Rogers Pass.

Fires
Campfires may be lit only in fireplaces provided by the park, or in portable stoves. Barbecues may be used only in campgrounds or picnic areas, and all coals must be dumped in existing park fireplaces. Fire permits must be obtained from the district warden for any open fires other than those in a campground fireplace. Anyone who observes an unattended fire should try to extinguish it, or if it is beyond his control, report it to the nearest park employee.
Note: This is but a reference map, designed to give you a general idea of what you will find in this park. It is not a hiking or road map. If you intend to go hiking, please ask for the park's various trail guide folders at the communications centre.

Legend:
- Trans-Canada Highway
- Secondary Road
- Walking or Hiking Trail
- Railroad
- Lake, River, Creek
- Snowfield, Glacier
- Mountain
- Warden's Cabin
- Accommodation
- Campground

Glacier National Park

Canada's National Parks:
1. Pacific Rim
2. Mount Revelstoke
3. Glacier
4. Yoho
5. Kootenay
6. Jasper
7. Banff
8. Waterton Lakes
9. Elk Island
10. Wood Buffalo
11. Prince Albert
12. Riding Mountain
13. Prince Edward Island
14. Kejimkujik
15. Cape Breton Highlands
16. Gros Morne
17. Terra Nova
18. Kouchibouguac
19. Fundy
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