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

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

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

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

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national historic importance the National Parks Branch is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia to Fort Battleford in Saskatchewan, twelve such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

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

Issued under the authority of
The Honourable Jean Lesage, Minister of
Northern Affairs and National Resources
How to Reach the Park

Waterton Lakes National Park is reached by the Provincial Highway system of Alberta, which connects with the park highways. From the east, approach may be made from Medicine Hat via Lethbridge and Fort MacLeod to Pincher Creek (town) and from there south to the park. An alternative route from Lethbridge is through Cardston. From British Columbia on the west, approach may be made via Cochrane, Upper Pincher, and Pincher. From the north, a hard-surfaced route may be followed from Edmonton to Calgary and East Bench, and from there to the park, via Pincher. The park is also accessible via the Canadian Pacific Railway to Pincher Creek, and by a concessionaire bus service from these terminals. Buses leave Lethbridge for the park twice daily in summer, one at 7:30 A.M. by way of Cardston and one at 3:30 P.M. by way of Pincher Creek. The trip takes approximately three hours. A station bus operates between Pincher Station and Pincher Creek for the convenience of those travelling by train.

The most direct approach to Waterton Lakes National Park from the United States is over the Chief Mountain International Highway from Lethbridge to Pincher Creek. The park bus service and commercial Greyhound bus service from Lethbridge to the park twice daily in summer, one at 7:30 A.M. by way of Cardston and one at 3:30 P.M. by way of Pincher Creek. The trip takes approximately three hours. A station bus operates between Pincher Station and Pincher Creek for the convenience of those travelling by train.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration and Motor Licences

All motorists entering Waterton Lakes National Park must register at the park registration office and obtain a park motor licence. The fee for a motor vehicle is based on the following:

2. Licence good for entire season, which is also honoured in Elk Island, Prince Albert, Riding Mountain, and Point Pelee National Parks: Automobile, $1; auto with trailer attached, $2.
3. Special licence for entire season, which is honoured in all the National Parks of Canada: Automobile, $2; auto with trailer attached, $3.

Special licences may be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

The Park Registration Office is situated at the junction of the Pincher Creek, Cardston, and Chief Mountain International Highways, about 3 miles north of Waterton Park townsite.

Park Administration

A resident superintendent is in charge of the administration of Waterton Lakes National Park. The Administration Building, located in Waterton Park townsite, contains the office of the Park Superintendent, and the Parks Information Bureau. The Bureau also acts in the capacity of the park warden service, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Wildlife Protection

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Therefore, all wildlife within park boundaries is rigidly protected, and hunting and the possession of unsheathed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals and their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission and licence, and must be accompanied by a certificate showing recent inoculation against rabies.

Accommodation

Accommodation in the park is provided by hotels, chalets, lodges and bungalow cabins. Most of the accommodation is located within the townsite, but there are also bungalow cabin establishments at Cameron Lake and Waterton River Bridge. The park contains up-to-date information on these accommodations including the name, location, capacity, rates and plans. Copies may be obtained from the Parks Information Bureau or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

Facilities are provided in the park for youth camping under the auspices of the Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A., and church organizations.

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

Recreation

Boating—Boating on Upper Waterton Lake is a favorite pastime. Power and rowboats may be hired near the dock at Waterton Park townsite. The power-boat "International" makes trips three times daily from Waterton Park townsite up the lake to Goathaunt Landing in Glacier National Park, at a return fare of $1.50. Launches are also operated by private enterprise.

Fishing—Consistent use of modern methods, including the ubiquitous "spinners," is permitted on Upper Waterton Lake, by a licensed angler, who must carry a licence. The park is managed for the highest possible quality of angling in the lakes and streams of the park. At the Parks Information Bureau in Waterton Park townsite visitors can obtain the publication entitled "Angler's Guide to Canada's Mountain National Parks," which contains up-to-date information about the most promising fishing waters in the park and a list of the species to be caught.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time, visitors are requested to consult park officials regarding open waters, catch limits, and the procuring of fishing licences.

The Buffalo Herd

An exhibition herd of plains buffalo occupies a fenced area on the southern boundary of the park, just west of the highway to Pincher Creek. This buffalo range has clumps of popular trees which provide shelter for the buffalos, and a good permanent water supply from the Indian Springs. There are also several large ponds within the enclosure.

Campgrounds with kitchen shelters are located at Alderson, Bemla, Cameron, Crowsnest, and Crypt Lakes, and at Red Rock Canyon. Campers at the Red Rock Canyon, cataract are in attendance during July and August.

Permits may be obtained from the camp attendants or at the office of the Park Superintendent.

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Golf—The golf course operated by the National Parks Branch is situated on the rolling slopes at the base of Mount Crandell, and has a fine scenic setting. It is a 18 hole course and has an exceptionally attractive club-house which is open to visitors. Light refreshments are served.

The green fee is $1.25 for a round of eighteen holes (continuous) with comparable rates for daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal periods.

Hiking and Climbing—Several well-marked trails are in the vicinity of Waterton Park townsite offer fine outings on foot. These lead to Lake Lillian, half a mile from the townsite; Golf Links, two miles; and Bear’s Hump (Mount Crandell), one mile. Peaks in the vicinity which may be climbed include Mount Crandell, 7,812 feet; Vimy Peak, 7,825 feet; Soft Mountain, 8,306 feet.

Motorists following northward from Glacier National Park on the Chief Mountain International Highway; Cameron Lake via Akamina Road along the valley of Cameron Creek; Red Rock Canyon, reached by following the park highway 7/miles from Waterton Park townsite to Blakiston Brook (Canyon Creek Valley); and the Waterton Lakes Golf Course, two miles; and Bear’s Hump (Mount Crandell) Road, half a mile north of the Park Registration Office.

Cameron Falls, which is at the edge of the Park townsite and which is one of the finest cascades in the park, is reached by Cameron Falls Drive. A number of fishing ponds, surrounded by beautiful gardens, are located near the falls.

Motorists travelling northward from Glacier National Park on the Chief Mountain International Highway; Cameron Lake via Akamina Road along the valley of Cameron Creek; Red Rock Canyon, reached by following the park highway 7/miles from Waterton Park townsite to Blakiston Brook (Canyon Creek Valley); and the Waterton Lakes Golf Course, two miles; and Bear’s Hump (Mount Crandell) Road, half a mile north of the Park Registration Office.

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