WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

LOCATION

Waterton Lakes National Park is an outstanding mountainous area rising abruptly from the prairies in the southwest corner of Alberta. Set apart as a National Park in 1895, it extends over 29,000 square miles and occupies one-half mile wide. In places it is over 450 feet deep. This lake, which spans the International Boundary, separates the Lewis and Clark Ranges and occupies part of a valley that has been considerably deepened and widened by valley glaciers.

Natural Features

There are the sharp peaks, narrow ridges and interlocking U-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and waterfalls. One of the most conspicuous features of the Park area is the main chain of lakes. The largest lake, Upper Waterton, is seven miles long and one-half mile wide. In places it is over 450 feet deep. The lake, which spans the International Boundary, separates the Lewis and Clark Ranges and occupies part of a valley that has been considerably deepened and widened by valley glaciers.

The distinctive purple, red, green and grey colouring of the various geological formations throughout the Park has been caused by minute mineral particles. These have been subject to chemical reaction caused by changes in climatic conditions and the transporting of the soil particles to other areas by stream erosion.

Waterton Lakes is noteworthy for its glacial sculpturing which is well illustrated in the prominent cirques, rock-basin lakes or tarns, U-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and waterfalls. One of the most conspicuous features of the Park area is the main chain of lakes. The largest lake, Upper Waterton, is seven miles long and one-half mile wide. In places it is over 450 feet deep. This lake, which spans the International Boundary, separates the Lewis and Clark Ranges and occupies part of a valley that has been considerably deepened and widened by valley glaciers.

The folding and tilting of the earth's crust has produced mountainous areas rising abruptly from the plains in the southwest corner of Alberta. The townsite is built on a delta deposited by the Cameron Lake and Mount Cameron.

Canadian Section

WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL HOTEL PARK.

GEOLOGICAL

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The larger mammals characteristic of the park are: black bear, grizzly bear, conor, elk, mule deer, moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat. A small herd of plains bison is maintained in a paddock near the summer grazing area. This species roamed the foothills and mountain valleys years ago. Whitetailed deer are occasional-ly seen in the park.

Some of the smaller mammals characteristic of Waterton Park are: coyote, marten, short­tailed weasel, lynx, wolverine, skunk, badger, bobcat, pika, snowshoe hare, beaver, muskrat. Columbian ground squirrel, golden mantled ground squirrel, red squirrel, pocket gopher, beaver, and muskrat.

Waterton Park has a rich and varied bird life. In the spring and autumn fair numbers of migrating ducks, geese and swans rest in the lakes. Many ducks remain in the Park throughout the summer to nest. The contrasting marked harlequin duck is occasionally seen in mountain rivers and streams where it negotiates the rapids with ease.

Golden eagles are frequently seen soaring and gliding above the mountain slopes. Several species of hawks occur at the lower elevations.

Blue grouse occur in the grassy or shrubby vegetation of the mountain slopes. Broods of whitetailed ptarmigan are sometimes encountered on the alpine meadows around the high elevation lakes.

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WILDLIFE

The Park is a wildlife sanctuary in which all wild animals are protected from hunting and trapping. Consequently many have become accustomed to close association with man and can be observed at short range. Because they
The dipper or water ouzel, a fascinating little brown bird smaller than a robin, is found year-round along swift mountain streams where it swims and wades beneath the water to feed on animal matter.

FISH
Modern methods of fish management are followed to improve angling in the lakes. The streams of the Park and a regular stocking program is carried out. Rainbow, cutthroat, lake and eastern brook trout may be taken. Fish bulletin with up-to-date information are issued regularly and are available at the Visitor Centre, where the required fishing licence should be obtained. The services of an Interpretation Officer are available from Park Wardens, or campground attendants.

As fishing regulations change occasionally visitors are advised to consult Park Wardens or the Visitor Centre concerning licences, seasons, and catch limits.

HOW YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARK
To help you understand and obtain greater enjoyment from your park visit, the National Parks provide interpretative facilities. These include the services of an Interpretation Officer during the summer months when coaches tours and campfire talks are given to explain the purposes and natural features of this National Park. Some of these nature talks are illustrated by slides and films in the outdoor amphitheatre. Well-marked nature trails of a self-guiding type are established in various areas. Trail-side exhibits are also provided at points of interest. Detailed information is available at the Visitor Centre.

HOW TO SEE THE INTERESTING FEATURES
While the roads in the Park lead to some of the interesting park features the best way to gain a full appreciation of nature is to use the trails. A large number of people derive considerable satisfaction from walking or riding along over more than 100 miles of well kept trails. Most of the trails radiate from the townsite. Most popular of the routes, with the average walking time one way, are, Bertha Lake, 1$ hours, Aldersons and Cartwell Lakes, 3 hours, International Boundary, 2 hours, Goathead Camp, 8 hours at the head of the lake (Glacier Park), $ hours, Crandell Lake, 2 hours, Viny Mountain, 3 hours, Crypt Lake (from Hell Roaring Trail).-Another series of trails leads from Red Rock Canyon to Goathead Lake, Twin Lakes, and the South Kootenay Pass. All the trails lead through alpine valleys and besides picturesque mountain tarns. The brilliant colouring of wildflowers can be enjoyed from close to hand. The valley is usually accessible during the summer months past waterfalls to lakes. The mountain lakes have waters of vivid emerald and are surrounded by snow-covered ranges covered with dark green forest and the multicoloured slopes of the surrounding mountains form a striking picture. A trip to the high country will reward the visitor with a splendid view of the tops of the mountains. The rugged peaks can be seen stretching for miles in all directions, broken only by the white clouds that gather over the icefields, or by drifting clouds.

PREVENT FIRE
Campfires may be kindled only in fireplaces provided for this purpose and must be completely extinguished before campers leave the site. Visitors observing an unattended fire should make an attempt to extinguish it if possible and promptly report it to the nearest Park employee. Fire in a National Park can cause damage which cannot be repaired in a hundred years.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING
Parks Regulations require that all persons before climbing a mountain shall register with the District Park Warden indicating their proposed route and the duration of the climb. Inexperienced climbers should obtain the services of a guide and full information concerning the necessary equipment. They must also report to the Warden Service on returning.

PETS
No dog or cat may be brought into a National Park by visitors providing that a licence is obtained when entering at the park gate. While in the Park all dogs must be kept on a leash.

MOTOR LICENCE
Visitors entering the Park by car are required to register and obtain a Park licence at the entrance. A licence good in all the National Parks in Canada is available.

Motor-boats are permitted only on the main Waterton Lakes and Maskinonge Lake. Boating is a popular pastime in the park. Most visitors travel to Waterton Lakes National Park by car. Alberta Highways 6 and 5 lead into the park from the north and east and Montana route 17 enters from the south. Buses run twice daily from Calgary and Edmonton to Waterton, famed 18th century English naturalist, by train should make bus connections at Lethbridge or Fort Macleod. Lethbridge airport is served by Trans-Canada Airlines. A small landing field is located near Pincher Creek.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARK
Waterton Lakes National Park derives its name from the lakes that form the main valley. These lakes were named in honour of Charles Waterton, famous 18th century English naturalist, by Lieut. Thomas Blakiston who led a famous expedition named the Palliser Expedition of 1857—1858. Mount Blakiston perpetuates the name of this officer.

The expedition marked a turning point in the history of the region which hitherto had been practically unknown. It was the first official and scientific study of the hostile Blackfoot Indian Federation. In 1859, the last of the wolves disappeared from Waterton Creek and Alberta’s first oil well was drilled in 1902. Some of this equipment can still be seen. The expedition marked a turning point in the history of the region which hitherto had been practically unknown. It was the first official and scientific study of the hostile Blackfoot Indian Federation. In 1859, the last of the wolves disappeared from Waterton Creek and Alberta’s first oil well was drilled in 1902. Some of this equipment can still be seen.
from the Akamina Highway some 5 miles from the townsite.

The gradual settlement of the region ultimately led to the filing of a petition to make this area a National Park. Most active in promoting this objective was John George "Kootenai" Brown, who was later to become the first Park Warden and subsequently the Acting Park Superintendent. Kootenai Brown lies buried between his two wives in a specially marked grave near Knight's Lake.

The idea to link Waterton Lakes National Park with Glacier National Park in Montana originated at the first goodwill meeting of the Rotary Clubs of Alberta and Montana in 1932. By their efforts laws were passed that year by Canada and the United States of America to link the two parks into the first International Peace Park in the world. The Association formed by the original Rotarians meets annually on alternate sides of the border to renew their pledge of friendship and foster goodwill throughout the world.

Although the Park has been set apart primarily to preserve its natural features for the enjoyment of the future generations, the Parks Service has also provided other recreation facilities. In addition to those already mentioned, there are: an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, modern swimming pool and a children's playground.

Waterton Park Townsite contains all the customary services of a modern community, with hotels, motels and restaurants located throughout the business area. A motion picture theatre and dance pavilion operate during the summer.

Persons wishing additional information concerning the Park may address their inquiries to:
The Superintendent,
Waterton Lakes National Park,
Waterton Park, Alberta.
or
National Parks Branch,
Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources,
Ottawa, Canada.