

BANFF
NATIONAL
PARK

Information



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POCKET GUIDE
TO
BANFF AND DISTRICT

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BANFF NATIONAL PARK

BANFF National Park comprises an area of 2,751 square miles of territory set aside as a national playground for the use and enjoyment of the people. It is also a wild life sanctuary, evidence of which will be manifest in the large numbers of sheep and deer to be seen grazing on the grassy slopes near the highways of the park.

This is the oldest of the national parks having been set aside as such in 1887. It is governed and administered by the Department of the Interior at Ottawa.

The town of Banff.

Banff has a permanent population of about 2,000 which is increased during the summer season to about 6,000. Owing to the fact that it is a government townsite it has many advantages not usually found in a town of its size. Broad streets, well lighted and maintained at a high standard, a fine hospital, three churches, a good school, two banks, a newspaper, theatre, garage and service stations and the best water supply in the Dominion add greatly to the pleasure of living in Banff. The climate is dry and equable, free from winds and adapted to all forms of out-of-door sport. Eight hotels, ranging from the modest priced to the most luxurious, camps, furnished cottages

and rooms at reasonable rates provide accommodation for visitors during the season. A telephone exchange with long distance connection is in operation in the town. Law and order is maintained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The post-office on Banff avenue, is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day, except Sunday. The Imperial Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal operate branches in Banff.

Accommodation in the Park.

A list of the hotels and camps, with rates, follow:—

	Accommodation	Rates
Banff Springs (European).....	286 rooms	R.O.A.
King Edward (American).....	40 "	\$4.50 up
Mount Royal (American).....	72 "	4.50 "
Bretton Hall (American).....	55 "	4.50 "
Homestead (American).....	30 "	3.50 "
Alberta.....	40 "	Rooms only
Hot Springs (American).....	24 "	\$3.00
Walking Tour Camp, Mount Assiniboine.....	Tents	R.O.A.
Chateau Lake Louise (European)	256 rooms	R.O.A.
Moraine Lake Chalet.....	Tents	

The Alpine Clubhouse, the headquarters of the Alpine Club of Canada, is situated halfway up the wooded slopes of Sulphur mountain. Particulars as to rates and membership can be obtained from the Secretary of the Club at Banff.

A number of free camp sites have been established for the use of motorists and campers. They are:—

Camp Rundle: Beautifully situated on the right bank of the Spray, near the confluence of the Spray and Bow rivers, reached by the Golf Links road. About one mile from Banff and within a short distance of Golf Links and C.P.R. Hotel. Water, stoves, tables and other accessories are installed. There is also a daily inspection by a competent sanitary officer.

Camp Grotto: At 22 mile post.

Camp Castle Mountain: Near the fork of the Lake Louise and Windermere roads.

Lake Louise Camp: At the junction of the Lake Louise and Moraine Lake roads.

Moraine Lake Camp; Baker Creek Camp; Johnston Camp and McKay Creek Camp.



Mt. Rundle and Vermilion Lakes, Banff

Auto Service Stations.

Modern garages and Service stations are operated the year around in Banff by reliable private enterprise. Gasoline and oils are stocked, tires vulcanized and batteries recharged. Almost every make of tire can be purchased and stocks of spare parts or other accessories obtained. Gasoline stations are also to be found at Bankhead and Lake Louise station.

What to see in Banff.

Among the interesting things to be seen in the town of Banff are the Government Museum and Zoo. The former is in connection with the Administration building on Banff avenue and

contains well arranged exhibits of specimens of the fauna, flora and geology of the park as well as an interesting collection of native Indian handiwork. Admission is free and a handbook may be secured on application. The doors are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Along the banks of the river to the rear of the Administration grounds, is the Zoo. It contains a very interesting collection of wild animals including Black, Brown and Grizzly bear, lynx, martens, foxes, coyotes, wolverines, monkeys, etc. Admission is free.

The Dominion Government Fish Hatchery, which supplies thousands of fry for the restocking of the lakes and streams in the Canadian National Parks, is situated half a mile south of the Bow bridge. Tourists may visit the hatchery at any time during the day.

About a mile east of the town along the railway, are the Buffalo paddocks. Here buffalo, moose, elk, and goat may be viewed in large open enclosures.

Recreations.

Recreations at Banff include Swimming, Bathing, Tennis, Boating, Canoeing, Walking Tours, Trap-shooting, Mountain-climbing, Golf, Motoring, Driving and Riding.

The Recreation grounds, a short distance west of the Bow bridge, is admirably situated for a playground. It is equipped with swings, tumbling bars, etc. An ideal place for picnickers. The pavilion or resthouse is provided with hot and cold water, a large range and such utensils as are required by outing parties. The use of these is free to the public.



Bighorn Sheep

Hot Springs.

The Hot Sulphur Springs, which are among the most important radio-active waters on the continent, are situated on Sulphur mountain. They have acquired a world wide reputation by reason of their curative properties.

At the Cave and Basin springs, one mile northeast of the Bow bridge, there are two swimming pools, the smaller one with an average temperature of 91 degrees F. and the larger, 200 feet by 100 feet, with a temperature of 78 degrees. The admission to these baths including use of a dressing room, bathing suit and towel is 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children. Open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

A visit to the Cave adjacent should not be overlooked.

The Upper Hot Springs, are situated on the slopes of Sulphur mountain two and a half miles distant from the town. Here a swimming pool with a temperature of 98 degrees F. will be found as well as steam rooms, tubs, hot and cold sprays and a rest room. The admission fee is the same as for the Cave and Basin.

The Kidney springs, as yet undeveloped, are in close proximity. The Middle springs, also undeveloped, about two miles up Sulphur mountain, afford an excellent view of the Bow valley and the town of Banff.

Fishing.

There is excellent fishing in many of the lakes and streams in the park. Dolly Varden and Cutthroat trout are found almost universally and afford splendid sport. Lake trout, specimens of which run to 50 pounds, are found only in lake Minnewanka. This is an excellent fishing ground within easy reach of Banff. A large launch makes the trip up the lake twice daily. Boats, guides and limited accommodation may be secured at the lake.

The open season begins for most species on May 15th and closes August 31st. Special regulations, however, are in force from time to time and the visitor is advised to procure a copy of the regulations at the Administration Office or from an authorized guide.

Boating and Canoeing.

The Bow river for eight miles above Banff is navigable for small craft and the trip affords an opportunity for unique glimpses of the peaks. Launches leave the wharf, a few rods west of the Bow bridge, several times daily. Echo river and Shadow creek offer delightfully shady courses for canoeing. The expert canoeist will find the trip from Castle to Banff or from below Bow falls to Seebee, provide fine scenery, plenty of excitement and excellent fishing.

Walking Tours.

A Walking Tour Camp is maintained by the Alpine Club of Canada at the foot of Mt. Assiniboine. The entire distance may be made on foot or ponies may be taken part way if desired. Accommodation provided at subsidiary camps en route. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Alpine Club, Banff.

Golf.

The Golf Links, owned and operated by the Government, have one of the finest scenic settings to be found on the continent. They are situated about two miles from the town and within ten minutes walk of the C.P.R. Hotel. The many sporting features of the 18-hole course, which was laid out by Donald Ross, appeal to all lovers of the game and lure enthusiasts to linger on indefinitely at Banff. A professional is in attendance throughout the season and clubs may be rented at the links.

Afternoon tea is served at the clubhouse.

The golf fees are:—

1 round.....	\$ 0 50	1 day.....	\$ 1 00
1 week.....	3 00	1 month.....	10 00
Season Tickets, Ladies.....			10 00
“ Gentlemen.....			15 00

Tennis.

Two tennis courts are operated by the Government in connection with the Recreation grounds in Banff.

Driving and Riding.

The Spray road is reserved for the use of horses and riding ponies. It is one of the most delightful spots for a gallop in the park. The road skirts the Spray river for eight miles to the old lumber camp.

Trail Trips.

Outing and Camping trips may be arranged with local outfitters, who will supply guides, ponies, tents, and all necessary equipment. Among the popular trips are:—Spray lakes, 35 miles; Kananaskis lakes, 40 miles; Sawback lake, 24 miles; Twin lakes, 26 miles; Boom lake, 29 miles. All of these waters afford good sport.

Hunting Trips.

Arrangements may be made for hunting trips in season outside of the Park. Outfitters will be found at Banff, Morley, Lake Louise and Field. Among the big game are the Bighorn sheep, Grizzly and Black bear, Moose, Deer, Caribou, Rocky Mountain goat, etc.

Field Telephone Service.

A field telephone system is maintained and operated in the park by the Dominion Government. Telephones are located in fifteen of the wardens' cabins throughout the park and although installed primarily for use in forest fire prevention, autoists and tourists in general are invited to use them if an emergency arises. Instruments are located at the following points outside of the town:—



Giant's Steps, Paradise Valley

Warden's cabin—	Warden's cabin—
Kananaskis	One mile west of Canmore
Massive, Lake Louise highway	Johnston canyon
Castle mountain	Lake Louise station
Lake Minnewanka	Bankhead
Eastern boundary	Deadman's
Spray lake	Lime Kiln
Healey creek	Whiteman's pass
Red Deer river.	

Sixteen other wardens' cabins in the park may be utilized as shelters.

Motor Trips out of Banff.

With few exceptions the motor roads in Banff National Park are all easy grades, a maximum of five per cent being maintained. For about a quarter of a mile up Anthracite hill and on the last three miles of the Lake Louise road the grades are steeper but over the balance of the roads the gradation is only slight. Practically all of the highways are gravel-surfaced and rolled and in some instances near the town of Banff they have been oiled.

The following is a list of road trips that can be made from Banff with the approximate distances:—

Banff to Anthracite, upper road.....	3.1 miles
Banff to Anthracite, lower road.....	4.0 "
Anthracite to Kananaskis, east park gate.....	27.5 "
Banff to Lake Louise.....	41.4 "
Junction of Lake Louise to Moraine lake.....	7.7 "
Banff to Johnston canyon.....	17.0 "
Banff to Vermilion summit.....	30.1 "
Banff to Marble canyon.....	35.5 "
Banff to lake Minnewanka.....	8.0 "
Banff to Sundance canyon.....	4.0 "
Banff to Golf Links, Loop drive and return.....	6.5 "

Banff to Government bathhouse, Cave and Basin spring.....	1.0 miles
Banff to Upper Hot springs.....	2.3 "
Banff around Tunnel mountain and return.....	3.0 "

The Tunnel Mountain, Anthracite and Lake Louise roads are "One Way Roads," and autos are only allowed to travel on these by schedule.

Time schedules are posted at either end and copies may be had at the Administration Office, Banff.

Banff-Windermere Highway.

West of Banff the motor highway proceeds to Castle (24 m.), passing Johnston Canyon on the way, and, crossing the Bow, ascends the valley of the Little Vermilion to the summit (9 m.). At Castle a detour of 17 miles may be made to the beautiful Lake Louise and Moraine Lake region, spots which no motorist should miss. At the Vermilion summit (5,264 ft.) the highway drops down the west slope of the Rockies to the Sinclair range, crosses Sinclair summit and thence winds through magnificent scenery to the valley of the Columbia and Windermere.

The Vermilion-Windermere section, now under construction, will be open for traffic, it is expected, in June 1923. This road forms the last link in the 5,000 mile highway—known going west as the Banff California Bee Line Highway, going east as the Banff Grand Canyon Road—which will make the finest scenic motor tour on the continent. It will also complete the 500 mile All-Canadian loop highway returning via the Crow'snest pass, Waterton Lakes park and southern Alberta.

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK.

At the Vermilion summit the road enters the Kootenay National park, a reserve of about 600 square miles in hitherto

unopened country which is one of the richest both in scenery and big game in the Rockies. The Sinclair section will afford delight to the lover of nature. Sheer rock walls rise from the little stream which are coloured in places a brilliant red as if artificially stained with pigments. Deer, wild sheep, elk, moose and goat may be seen feeding fearlessly on the slopes and practically every valley holds a blue lake stocked with fish. At Sinclair there are also radium hot springs rivalling in therapeutic value those at Banff.

Camp Grounds.

The following camp grounds in Kootenay park have been provided for motorists:—

Marble Canyon Camp	Vermilion Crossing Camp
Simpson Camp, mouth of Simpson creek	Kootenay Crossing Camp
McLeod Meadows Camp	Sinclair Summit Camp
Gateway Camp, 1 mile east of Radium Hot springs.	

Field Telephone Service.

Field telephones in Kootenay Park are located in the following wardens' cabins:—

Vermilion Summit cabin	Black's Camp
Hawk Creek cabin	Simpson cabin
Kootenay Crossing cabin	McLeod Meadows cabin
Kays cabin	Radium Springs cabin

YOHO NATIONAL PARK.

Yoho National Park, a reservation of 476 square miles which adjoins Banff National Park on the northwest at the inter-provincial boundary, includes some of the most dramatic scenery in the Rockies. Motor cars may be shipped from Lake Louise to Field and the principal points of interest visited over

splendid motor roads. The drive up the Yoho valley to the Takakkaw falls, 11 miles, with luncheon at Yoho Camp and return to Field or Emerald lake for the night, is a trip which should be taken by everyone.



Wild Deer

The seven mile drive from Field to Emerald lake with its two mile diversion to the Natural Bridge returning via Snowpeak avenue and the trip up the Ottetail valley are also well worth while.

Motor Roads.

Motor road trips in Yoho with the distances follow:—

Field to Takakkaw falls.....	11.3 miles
Yoho to Wapta lake.....	4.0 "
Field to Emerald lake.....	6.7 "
Natural Bridge loop.....	1.6 "
Field to Jct. Ottetail-Natural Bridge.....	6.1 "
Ottetail-Natural Bridge road.....	3.6 "
Old grade beyond Ottetail-Natural Bridge loop.....	0.8 "

Field Telephone Service.

A list of the wardens' cabins in Yoho Park in which telephones are located, follow:—

Headquarters cabin	Chalet cabin	Deer lodge
Takakkaw Falls cabin	Ottetail cabin	

Accommodation in Yoho.

Hotels in Yoho Park:—		
Emerald Lake Chalet (American)..	Accommodation 16 rooms	Rates R.O.A.
Bungalow Camp (C.P.R.).....		R.O.A.
Mount Stephen house (Y.M.C.A.).	56 "	R.O.A.
Yoho Camp, Yoho valley.....	Tents	

Mount Stephen House is operated by the Y.M.C.A. for railwaymen. Surplus accommodation is available for tourists.

INFORMATION.

The local administration of the park is in the hands of a superintendent whose office is located in the Administration Building, Banff avenue, at the north end of the Bow bridge. Application should be made here for regulations and other information. Motorists should make themselves familiar with the Traffic and Motor Regulations for Canadian National Parks, copies of which may be obtained free of charge at the park gate or from the superintendent's office.

Motor Licenses.

Transient licenses are issued to motorists on entering the park and are cancelled upon leaving. A fee of one dollar per week is charged or five dollars for the season.

Mountain highways are hard to maintain. Keep within the speed limit and below it on curves.

Game is Protected.

No hunting is permitted within the park and all firearms must be sealed upon entry. Guns will be sealed free of charge at the Administration Office or by any of the park wardens. Wild birds, their nests and eggs are rigidly protected.

Camping.

The fire hazard is enhanced by promiscuous camping and it is to the interest of visitors to reduce the danger to a minimum by using the public camping grounds provided. These are maintained for the benefit and convenience of motorists at suitable points and are equipped with stoves, tables, etc. Permits for the erection of tents on these areas, as well as elsewhere in the park, may be secured at the Superintendent's Office, Banff avenue, the charge being one dollar for each tent.

When breaking camp be sure you leave the ground clean for the next auto pilgrims who come along. They will be glad that you have been considerate.

Care with drinking.

Care in the use of water from streams and lakes in the park for drinking purposes should be exercised by tourists. Although the majority of the mountain streams are pure and fit for consumption, pollution from some unknown source may arise and it is advisable to boil water before using. Where waters are known to have become polluted they have been marked by the Park authorities but the absence of a warning notice should not be regarded as a guarantee of purity.

Should you discover a forest fire report it immediately to the chief warden or the nearest Park official.

The Park Superintendent will be glad to have any suggestions you may have to offer for the improvement and betterment of the Parks service. Any complaint from you will have his careful attention.

