

General Information

Banff, Kootenay & Yoho
National Parks

“The Three-Park Unit”

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA
OTTAWA

THREE-PARK UNIT

BANFF, KOOTENAY AND YOHO NATIONAL PARKS

THE National Parks of Canada have been set aside by Act of Parliament for the people of the Dominion and constitute some of the finest and most beautiful regions in the country. Such areas are reserved as typical examples of outstanding regions and it is a happy circumstance which places Banff, Kootenay and Yoho National Parks in such geographical relation that they form what may be called a "Three-Park Unit". This relation was not so much emphasized until the motoring age and the construction of highways made these regions easier of access.

Banff National Park is the oldest of these Dominion playgrounds, the original reservation having been made in 1885. Yoho National Park was reserved in 1886, and Kootenay National Park, the youngest of this group, was established in 1920. The establishment of Kootenay Park was occasioned by the building of the Banff-Windermere Highway, the park bordering the entire length of this highway for a depth of five miles.

Banff and Yoho Parks may be reached by the Canadian Pacific Railway which traverses these two parks for practically their entire length. In Banff Park, Banff and Lake Louise are the two main stations at which visitors may alight. Excellent accommodation may be secured at either place. In Yoho Park, Hector and Field are the main stations. From Hector, accommodation is available at Wapta and Lake O'Hara Bungalow camps, while Field is the alighting point for Yoho valley and Emerald Lake Bungalow camps.

Kootenay Park is not directly accessible by rail. It may be reached by motor from Banff and Lake Louise on the east, and from Invermere, Windermere or Firlands, B.C., on the west.

Motor entry can be made to this Three-Park Unit through one eastern and two western gateways. The eastern gateway is at Kananaskis, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Banff, on the Calgary-Banff Highway. The western entrances are at Sinclair Radium Hot Springs—entrance to Kootenay Park—and Leancoil gateway, entrance to Yoho Park. A glance at the map will show how the main motor highways traverse and link together the three parks.

BANFF NATIONAL PARK, BANFF

Banff National Park comprises an area of 3,834.5 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 is manifest in the large numbers of sheep, deer, and bear to be seen in the areas adjacent to the highways of the park.

The original reservation was made in 1885 and the National Park was established by Act of Parliament in 1887.

Accommodation in the Park.

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

(Banff)	Accommodation	Rates
Banff Springs (European).....	600 rooms	R.O.A.
Banff Villa (European).....	23 "	\$2.50 up
Bretton Hall (American).....	100 "	5.00 "
Cascade (European).....	50 "	2.00 "
Grandview Villa (European).....	40 "	1.50 "
Homestead (American).....	50 "	3.50 "
Hot Springs (American).....	32 "	3.50 "
King Edward (American).....	64 "	4.50 "
Mount Royal (American).....	57 "	4.50 "
Y.W.C.A. (American).....	47 "	3.00 "

In addition to the hotels listed above there are a number of rooming and boarding houses where visitors may find excellent accommodation. Full particulars in this regard may be obtained at the Information Bureau, Banff avenue.

(Lake Louise)

Chateau Lake Louise (European).....	385 rooms	R.O.A.
Deer Lodge (American).....	15 "	\$2.50 up
Inglenook (American).....	8 "	2.50 "
Triangle Inn (American).....	9 "	2.50 "
Y.W.C.A. (American).....	30 "	2.50 "

Bungalow camps are situated at Johnston canyon, Castle mountain and Moraine lake.

Motor camps have been established at lake Minnewanka, Tunnel mountain (Banff), Castle mountain and Lake Louise,

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, two fine hospitals, four churches, a good Public school and High school, two banks, a newspaper, theatre, transport companies, garage and service stations and an excellent water supply add greatly to the pleasure of living in Banff. For the convenience of the public the Government maintains an Information Bureau, situated on Banff avenue at the north end of the Bow bridge. This office is open every day, including Sundays. The altitude of Banff is 4,537 feet. The climate is dry and equable, free from winds and adapted to all forms of out-of-door sport.

Ten 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 are 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 (summer branch only) operate branches in Banff.

What to see in Banff.

Among the interesting things to be seen in the town of Banff are the Government Museum and the 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. 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 Polar, Black, Brown and Grizzly bear, lynx, marten, coyotes, wolves, wolverines, etc. Admission is free.

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

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

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 southwest of the Bow bridge, there are two swimming pools, the smaller one with an average temperature of 91° F. and the larger, 200 feet by 100 feet, with a temperature of 78°. 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 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. in summer and from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. in winter.

The Cave, adjacent to the swimming pool at the Cave and Basin baths, one mile southwest of the town, is also worth visiting. The Cave has been made by the action of a subterranean hot spring, which has worn the rock away into the form of a gigantic vase and which may be seen still bubbling up to

form a large pool in the floor of the Cave. The coldest weather has no effect on the springs which flow without cessation both summer and winter. A dry, safe, concrete-floored and electrically-lighted passage leads underground to the Cave which may be visited free of charge from 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. in the summer and from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. in winter.

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 112° F. will be found as well as steam rooms, tubs, hot and cold sprays and a rest room. Admission fee is 25 cents. Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in summer and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter.

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

Lake Minnewanka, eight and one-half miles from Banff by good motor road, is one of the most popular spots in this vicinity. It may be reached by bus service or private motor car, by pony back or on foot. Motor launches make several trips daily up the lake, and reservations may be made in advance through the transportation companies in Banff, or at the dock at the lake shore. Row boats, guides and fishing tackle may be rented at the dock by those desirous of fishing. There is a motor campsite at the lakes and a small chalet where refreshments are served and which provides limited accommodation.

Motor Trips out of Banff.

With few exceptions the motor roads in Banff National Park are all easy grades, a maximum of 6 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 the entire road system in the parks has been surfaced with screened gravel and smoothly finished with road-rollers or graders, and several miles of road have also been treated with oil or other surface treatment. The extra width of the roads on all curves and the super-elevation given the road bed at such points, affords safe and pleasant motoring for the tourist. A number of transport companies offer excellent motor accommodation by either private car or motor bus and scheduled trips are made several times each day.

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.....	5.0 "
Banff to Kananaskis, east park gate.....	27.5 "
Banff to Lake Louise chalet.....	41.1 "
Banff to Yoho valley and Takakkaw falls.....	68.0 "
Banff to Emerald lake.....	66.0 "
Banff to Field.....	57.0 "
Junction of Lake Louise to Moraine lake.	7.7 "
Banff to Johnston canyon.....	16.0 "
Banff to Vermilion summit.....	30.1 "
Banff to Marble canyon.....	35.5 "
Banff to Vermilion crossing.....	50.1 "
Banff to Radium Hot springs.....	91.0 "
Banff to Invermere.....	104.0 "
Banff to lake Minnewanka.....	8.0 "
Banff to Sundance canyon.....	4.5 "
Banff to Golf Links, Loop drive and return.....	8.5 "
Banff to Government bathhouse, Cave and Basin spring.....	1.0 "
Banff to Upper Hot springs.....	2.3 "
Banff around Tunnel mountain and return	4.5 "
Banff to Banff via Kicking Horse trail, Columbia Valley road and Banff-Windermere highway.....	285.0 "

The Tunnel Mountain road is a "One Way Road".

Banff-Windermere Highway.

West of Banff the motor highway proceeds to Castle (20 m.), passing Johnston canyon on the way, and, crossing the Bow, ascends the valley of the Little Vermilion to the Vermilion pass (10 m.). At Castle a detour of 20 miles may be made to the beautiful Lake Louise and Moraine Lake region, spots which no motorist should miss. At the Vermilion summit (5,376 ft.) the highway drops down the west slope of the Rockies to the Brisco range, crosses Sinclair summit and thence winds through magnificent scenery to the valley of the Columbia and Windermere.

The Banff-Windermere highway forms a 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 makes the finest scenic motor tour on the continent. It also completes the 600-mile All-Canadian loop highway returning via the Crownsnest pass, Waterton Lakes Park and southern Alberta and is a major link in the motor highway chain by which three parks—Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho—are joined. The Banff-Windermere highway may be described as the base of a highway triangle, with The Kicking Horse trail and Columbia Valley highway—the latter outside the parks—as the other two sides, with the apex at Golden, B.C. The motorist entering this triangle at any one point, and completing the tour through the three parks, will have travelled a total distance of 285 miles.

Tunnel Mountain Camp Ground.

Tunnel Mountain Camp ground, at Banff, is the largest and most important motor camp in the three parks. It is situated on Tunnel mountain and has a maximum accommodation for 4,000 persons. The approach is by way of Banff avenue, Moose and Otter streets, thence along the camp ground road up the side of the mountain. This is a newly-constructed route with easy grades. Entrance may also be made from Anthracite on the Banff-Calgary highway via a one-way road leading up to the camp ground. Light, water, stoves, tables, sanitary and other conveniences are provided for visitors. Full information may be obtained at the caretaker's office, situated at the west end of the camp ground.

Auto Service Stations.

Modern garages, motor agencies and service stations, carrying stocks of supplies and accessories are operated the year round in Banff by reliable private enterprise. Gasoline stations are also to be found at Canmore, Lake Louise station, Lake Louise, Field, Golden, Windermere, Invermere, Sinclair Hot springs, Kootenay crossing and Vermilion crossing.

Recreations.

Recreations at Banff include swimming, bathing, tennis, boating, canoeing, walking tours, trap-shooting, mountain-climbing, golf, motoring, driving and riding.

The Recreation ground, a short distance west of the Bow bridge, is admirably situated for a playground. It is equipped with tennis courts and swings, tumbling bars, etc. and is an ideal place for picnickers. The pavilion or rest-house is provided with electric lights, 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. A caretaker is in attendance.

Golf.

The Golf Links, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway company, have one of the finest settings to be found on the continent. They are situated along the Bow river, at the foot of mount Rundle. The first tee, which is one hundred yards from the Banff Springs hotel, and about one mile from the town is situated on the bank of the Spray river and the first drive carries across the river. The course has been recently remodelled and now ranks with the sportiest in America. A parking area has been set aside near the Spray River bridge. A professional is in attendance throughout the season and golfers' supplies may be rented or purchased at the links.

The fees for the course are:—

One Day.....	\$ 3.00
One Week.....	15.00
One Month.....	50.00
Season.....	75.00

Trail Trips.

Gradual extension and improvement of the network of trails with which the parks are interlaced makes it possible for those interested to arrange for riding trips which may be of a few hours' or several weeks' duration. Full particulars regarding such excursions may be obtained at the Information Bureau, at Park Headquarters, or from the numerous transport companies and packers who supply guides, ponies, tents and all equipment necessary for the trail. Among the popular short trail trips are: Spray lakes, 25 miles; Kananaskis lakes, 50 miles; Sawback lakes, 25 miles; Twin lakes, 4½ miles from Castle; Boom lake, 3 miles from Banff-Windermere highway. All of these waters afford good sport.

Fishing.

There is good fishing in many of the lakes and streams in the park. Dolly Varden, Grayling, Nipigon, and Cutthroat trout are found and afford splendid sport. Lake trout, specimens of which run to 50 pounds, are found only in lake Minnewanka.

Special fishing regulations 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 a licensed 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 Willow 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, provides fine scenery, plenty of excitement and excellent fishing.

Field Telephone Service.

A field telephone system is maintained and operated in the park by the Dominion Government. Telephones installed for use in forest fire prevention are located in wardens' cabins at various points. Instruments are located at the following points outside of the town:—

Warden's cabin—

Kananaskis
Massive, Lake Louise high-
way
Castle mountain
Lake Minnewanka
Eastern boundary
Spray lake
Healey creek
Red Deer river
Panther falls

Warden's cabin—

One mile west of Canmore
Johnston canyon
Lake Louise station
Bankhead
Deadman's cabin
Lime Kiln
Whiteman's pass.
Fish Hatchery
Boundary cabin.

Alpine Club.

The Alpine club-house, the headquarters of the Alpine Club of Canada, is situated halfway up the wooded slopes of Sulphur mountain. An annual camp is also held each summer in the

mountains, where both amateur and expert climbers assemble to take part in the mountain climbing activities. Particulars as to rates, membership and the Annual Camp may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Club at Banff.

Lake Louise.

One of the most beautiful regions in the entire world is that in the vicinity of Lake Louise. In a cup-like basin made by encircling peaks lies a lovely lake, the glacier-fed and ice-cold waters of which are coloured a robin's egg blue. Generally as tranquil as a mirror, but subject to innumerable surface disturbances from breezes sweeping through the valley, the lake itself is equally beautiful in stormy weather or fair. At the far end the massive reaches of Victoria glacier afford a glistening, white background to the rich colourings of the lake and the attending mountain walls.

Chateau Lake Louise, a magnificent hotel owned and operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway, is set at the north end of the lake. A bungalow of rustic design, the home of the Swiss guides who lead climbing expeditions among the peaks, and a boat-house, are the only other evidences of human intrusion into this lovely setting. A short distance removed from the lake, situated in a grove of pines, are a number of smaller hostels which afford comfortable accommodation to those visitors who do not care to remain at the Chateau. The station is three miles removed from the Chateau and a narrow gauge trolley service connects the two.

The Lake Louise region is famous for the opportunities offered for hiking and trail riding enthusiasts. Delightful hikes and rides of a few hours', or several days' duration may be taken using this point as a base. Outfitters within easy reach of the hotels are prepared to furnish ponies, guides and equipment for trail trips. There is a fresh water swimming pool operated in connection with the Chateau Lake Louise, and tennis courts in the immediate vicinity of the Chateau grounds are open for the use of the public free of charge. Lake Louise is also a transportation centre for bus and motor tours. It is seven miles distant from Moraine lake and the Valley of the Ten Peaks, and is directly connected by excellent roads with Banff on the east, and Yoho Park and Golden, B.C. on the west.

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK

At the Vermilion summit the Banff-Windermere highway 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, coloured in places a brilliant red, as if artificially stained with pigments, rise from the little stream. 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.

The park was established to preserve natural park conditions throughout this mountain highway. It extends for five miles on each side of the road for a distance of approximately sixty miles. The main points of interest in the park are: Marble canyon, a beautiful gorge about one hundred and twenty-five feet deep; Floe lake, dotted continually with small icebergs from Floe glacier, which is reached by a trail of nine miles; and the Sinclair Hot springs at the western gateway.

Field Telephone Service.

Field telephones of the park forest service in Kootenay Park are located in the following wardens' cabins:—

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Vermilion Summit cabin | 2. Black's camp |
| 3. Hawk Creek cabin | 4. Vermilion crossing |
| 5. Kootenay Crossing cabin | 6. McLeod Meadows cabin |
| 7. Kays cabin | 8. Radium Hot springs |
| 9. Wallenstein cabin | 10. R.C.M.P. Barracks. |

YOH0 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. Field, the park headquarters, is connected with Banff and Lake Louise on the east and Golden, B.C. on the west by a first class motor highway known as The Kicking Horse trail. This road—from Lake Louise to Golden, British Columbia which is one of the most spectacular motorways ever built through the Rockies was opened for travel over its complete length in 1927. Visitors coming to Yoho Park by rail should alight at the C.P.R. station at Field.

The principal local drives are the Yoho Valley drive to the Takakkaw falls, a distance of eleven miles from Field, and the Emerald Lake drive, a distance of seven miles from Field. Good motor roads lead to both places, the latter drive passing the Natural bridge.

In this park many delightful trail trips can be taken which afford an unequalled diversity of scenery and the opportunity to view the mighty Rockies in all their grandeur.

Motor Roads.

Motor road trips in Yoho, with the distances, follow:—

Field to Banff, via Lake Louise.....	57.0 miles
Field to Takakkaw falls.....	11.3 "
Field to Wapta lake.....	7.0 "
Field to Emerald lake.....	6.7 "
Natural Bridge loop.....	1.6 "
Field to Ottertail river, via upper road..	6.0 "
Field to Golden.....	38.0 "

Field Telephone Service.

Telephones of the fire and game service are located in the following wardens' cabins in Yoho Park.

Superintendent's Office and Mt. Stephen cabin, at Field.
 Takakkaw Falls cabin Ottertail cabin Hector cabin
 Deer Lodge cabin Chalet cabin Snow Peak cabin
 Leancoil cabin West Boundary.

Accommodation in Yoho.

Accommodation can be obtained at several points in the park as follows:

	Accommodation	Rates
Emerald Lake Chalet (C.P.R. Bungalow camp).....	150 persons	R.O.A.
Yoho camp (C.P.R. Bungalow camp) 40	"	"
Wapta camp (C.P.R. Bungalow camp) 60	"	"
Lake O'Hara camp (C.P.R. Bungalow camp).....	40	"

The Mount Stephen House, Field, is operated by the Y.M.C.A. for railway men. At times surplus accommodation is available for tourists. In addition to the above camps there are a number of tea rooms located at various points on the roads and trails.

ADDENDA

The parks are administered by the Department of the Interior at Ottawa, through the National Parks of Canada Branch. The local administration is in the hands of superintendents whose offices are located at convenient and important points in these parks. The superintendents of Banff National Park have their offices in the Administration building which is situated on Banff avenue, Banff, at the north end of the Bow bridge. Kootenay National Park headquarters are situated at Sinclair Hot springs, in the building which forms the entrance gateway to the park. The superintendent of Yoho National Park has his offices in the park headquarters building which is located at the railway station, Field, B.C. Visitors to the park may make inquiry at any one of these three offices for any information required, and may also apply at the Information Bureau at Banff, situated immediately adjacent to the Administration building. Gatekeepers at the three entrance gates, Kananaskis (Banff), Sinclair, Radium Hot springs (Kootenay) and Leancoil (Yoho), will also furnish information and answer inquiries whenever possible. Copies of parks' and motor regulations and literature dealing generally with the parks may be had free of charge on application.

Motor Licenses.

Transient licenses are issued to motorists on entering the parks. A fee of two dollars is charged, which entitles the holder to motor in any or all of the three parks and also gives him free camping privileges for thirty days on any recognized camp ground, or grounds, in the parks.

Caution.

Visitors to the parks should not undertake trail or climbing expeditions without competent guides and equipment. Experienced outfitters and licensed guides are located at various points in the park.

Visitors are warned against feeding bears or placing food for them at camps.

Game is Protected.

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

Camping.

Be careful with fire. Visitors are expected to use the camping grounds provided at convenient points. These camps are maintained for the benefit and convenience of visitors and are equipped with stoves, tables, etc.

Keep camps clean. Leave them clean. Burn or bury all refuse promptly—even tin cans—to prevent flies and to get them out of sight.

Build your campfire on dirt. Scrape around it, removing all inflammable material within a radius of from 3 to 5 feet. Put your fire out. In ten minutes go back and put it out again. Never build a campfire against a tree or log, in leaf mould or in rotten wood. Build all fires away from overhanging branches.

Hundreds of fires escape each year after campers have thought they were extinguished. It is advisable to soak thoroughly all embers and charred pieces of wood and then cover them with dirt. Feel around the outer edge of the fire pit to make sure no fire is smouldering in charred roots or leaf mould.

Break your match in two before you throw it away. Make it a habit.

Drop pipe, cigar or cigarette ashes only on dirt. Then stamp them out.

Never defile water.

Never break bottles (glass is dangerous) or leave them where the sun may focus through them and start fire.

Do not bark or chip trees needlessly, or drive nails in them to shatter a saw some day.

Do not fire pitch or moss on trees.

Wild Flowers.

Protect the wild flowers. Don't pull them up by the roots. Don't pick many of them and particularly along roadsides where they can be enjoyed by all. Don't take the rare kinds at all. Help to preserve them for future years. Help to keep the parks beautiful.

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.

F. A. ACLAND
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
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