

A black and white photograph of a wide lake under a cloudy sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees frame the left and bottom edges. A small boat is visible on the water in the middle distance, leaving a wake. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Prince Albert National Park

SASKATCHEWAN

Canada



Mallard Ducks at Hanging Heart Lake

The National Parks of Canada

CANADA'S SYSTEM of National Parks is one of the largest and finest in the world. Set aside by statute for the use and enjoyment of the people, the national parks include regions of outstanding scenic beauty, natural phenomena, historic interest, and unique fauna and flora. Diverse in character and varied in purpose, they conserve the original wildlife of Canada under natural conditions, help maintain the primitive beauty of the landscape, and preserve sites memorable in the nation's history. As recreational areas they also provide, under ideal conditions, unequalled opportunities for the enjoyment of outdoor life.

The National Park system in Canada was instituted more than 70 years ago when the Federal Government, in 1885, set aside for public use an area of ten square miles surrounding hot mineral springs in the Canadian Rockies at Banff, Alberta. Two years later this area was enlarged and established as Rocky Mountains, now Banff National Park. Other outstanding scenic areas in the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains were also reserved for national park purposes, and formed the nucleus of the great chain of national parklands which now extends across Canada.

This publication is compiled in co-operation with the National Parks Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Additional information concerning these parks may be obtained from the Park Superintendents, or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa, Canada.



The Beach at Lake Waskesiu

PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK

S A S K A T C H E W A N

PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK is the fourth largest in the extensive system of National Parks in Canada and is located almost in the geographical centre of the Province of Saskatchewan. Set in a vast region of rocks, woods, and water, still rich with the memories of fur-trader and trapper, of nomadic Indian and explorer, the park lies just 36 miles north of the City of Prince Albert. It contains an area of 1,496 square miles, and extending far beyond the haunts of man into the unspoiled wilderness, is typical of the lake country bordering the northern part of the great plains of Western Canada.

Here are thousands of crystal lakes, ranging in size from tiny tarns to bodies of water nearly 20 miles long. Tied to one another by innumerable little rivers, they provide, with portages, continuous canoe routes for hundreds of miles. Scores of white sand beaches border the shores of lakes set in green forests. Sport fish abound in these waters, and the forests shelter numerous species of large and small mammals.

The park contains one of the main gateways to Canada's north country which for two centuries has excited the imagination of the adventurous, and provided one of the richest fields for the fur trade. The region within the park was once the hunting grounds of the Cree Indians, and probably of the Chipewyans from the north-west. A band of Crees still live on a reserve at Montreal Lake, a few miles east of the park boundary. Peaceful and friendly, they have retained many of their ancient traditions and beliefs. Their mythology has been handed

down from generation to generation, and tales of supernatural and semi-supernatural beings are still told around the camp-fires in the long winter evenings.

Many of the lakes and rivers of the park bear Indian names. Among these are Waskesiu, meaning "red deer," Wabeno, a translation for "morning light," and Tibiska, meaning "night." Chipewyan Lake is called after the Indian tribe of that name.

Natural Features

The park has a general elevation of about 1,800 feet above sea-level. It straddles the height of land between the watershed areas of Churchill and North Saskatchewan Rivers, but practically all the larger lakes and streams drain northward into the Churchill. Within the northern part of the park are several large bodies of water — Lakes Waskesiu, Crean, Kingsmere, Lavalée, Wasaw, Wassegam, and Tibiska — and more than 100 small lakes. In the southern part of the park, adjacent to the park highway, are Halkett and Namekus Lakes, the former having a particularly fine sand beach.

Beyond the park boundaries, to the north, east and west, lies a succession of other lakes and rivers, extending literally like a silver chain for hundreds of miles. On the northwest their waters finally reach the Arctic Ocean, and on the east, Hudson Bay.

Flora and Fauna

Surrounding the lakes of the park are heavy growths of jack pine, white and black spruce, white birch, trembling aspen or white poplar,



Anglers at Heart Lake

and black poplar. Also found are balsam-fir and tamarack, numerous species of shrubs, and an abundance of wild flowers. In early autumn these trees and shrubs don a brilliant mantle of orange, crimson, and gold, which blends with diverse shades of green into a riot of colour.

Wild animals and birds are numerous. Big game most often seen by visitors are moose, elk, white-tailed or Virginia deer, mule deer, and black bear. Woodland caribou are also to be found. Fur-bearing animals such as beaver, muskrat, mink, and fox are plentiful, and wolves and coyotes are to be seen in the park and vicinity.

A small herd of buffalo, developed from animals brought from Elk Island National Park, Alberta, occupies an enclosure near the park registration office on the main highway. These animals are thriving in surroundings suited to their requirements and provide an interesting attraction to visitors.

Bird lovers will find many varieties in the park. During the spring and autumn migrations of waterfowl, the lakes provide rest and shelter for thousands of ducks, Canada geese, and other species. One of the largest rookeries of American white pelicans in Canada is located on several small rocky islands in Lavallée Lake, and double-crested cormorants are also found there in large numbers. Although clumsy on land, the pelican is very graceful in the air, and flocks of these white birds may be seen in

summer soaring and gliding in easy grace above the water. Ruffed grouse, Hudsonian spruce grouse, and a multitude of songbirds and birds of brilliant plumage also visit the park each year.

Approaches to the Park

The park lies approximately 450 miles north of the International Boundary, and is accessible by arteries of the provincial highway system converging on the City of Prince Albert. Once a centre of the fur trade, Prince Albert is situated on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River and is one of the fine cities in Western Canada. From the south the main approach is made by Highway No. 2, which intersects Highway No. 1, from east and west, and also connects up with Highway No. 39 from North Portal, one of the main points of entry from the United States.

From Prince Albert, Highway No. 2 leads to the southeast boundary of the park, where it connects with the park highway leading to Waskesiu, the administrative centre. The distance from Prince Albert to the park boundary is 36 miles, and from there to Waskesiu, 30 miles. About 2 miles inside the park is the registration office, where all visitors arriving by motor are required to register. From the registration office the highway winds through delightful wooded country, passing several small lakes along the way to Lake Waskesiu.

From Regina, the provincial capital, a paved



Early Morning Ride

route may be taken by following Highway 6 for eight miles; Highway 11 can then be taken northeastwardly to Saskatoon; from Saskatoon, Highway 5 which connects to No. 2 on to Waskesiu. An alternative route from Regina may be used by following No. 6, then to Highway 11 and connecting to Highway 2 through to the Park. From Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the east, connection is made over Highway 1 via Regina, and from Calgary and Banff, Alberta, on the west, Highways 1 and 2 also provide a direct approach. Prince Albert National Park is approximately 480 miles northwest of Riding Mountain National Park, by highway.

The main points of entry from the United States are North Portal and Regway; other points are located at West Poplar, Treilon and Monchy.

The nearest railway connection with the park is in the City of Prince Albert, which is served by the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway system.

Prince Albert National Park may also be reached by air. The park lies along the route of the Saskatchewan Government Airways from Prince Albert to Lac la Ronge, via Montreal Lake.

The Park Headquarters

The attractive summer resort of Waskesiu, situated at the eastern end of Lake Waskesiu,

is the park townsite and administration headquarters. It contains the residence and office of the park superintendent, the medical centre, the park museum, several summer hotels, bungalow cabin camps, apartments, restaurants, grocery stores, butcher shop, dance pavilion, post office, news stands, drug store, and motor-service station. At the western end of the townsite is the residential section of Prospect Point, which contains a number of attractive summer homes. Cottages are also situated in the Lakeview sub-division east of the public camp-grounds facing the main beach.

Stretching for more than a mile and a half along the shore of Lake Waskesiu, the beach is one of the finest in the province. It shelves gradually into the water, providing safe bathing for inexperienced swimmers and children. A large breakwater, with adjacent wharves, forms a convenient mooring place for motor-boats, sail-boats and other water craft, and is provided with a boat-unloading ramp.

The Administration Building is located on the main avenue of the townsite facing the lake and is surrounded by a landscaped area.

Accommodation

Several good summer hotels, bungalow camps, apartment courts, and a large public camp-ground provide excellent accommodation for visitors at Waskesiu Lake. There is also a bungalow camp and a store at the Waskesiu



Swimming Class at Lake Waskesiu

Narrows. One of the hotels has dining-room facilities; the bungalow camps and apartment courts are equipped with housekeeping necessities.

The public camp-ground has an ideal location facing the main beach, just east of the business section. It is divided into blocks, each block equipped with a kitchen shelter with tables, electric light, camp-stoves, and running water. For a nominal fee the visitor secures the use of a camping lot on which to pitch his tent or park his trailer. Additional camp-sites, equipped with kitchen shelters, are available at Halkett, Kingsmere, Namekus, and Crean Lakes, and on Lake Waskesiu at Paignton Beach, The Narrows, and Hanging Heart Lake Portage.

Opportunities for Recreation

Recreational opportunities in Prince Albert National Park are practically unlimited. Numerous beautiful sand beaches offer delightful bathing, and miles of waterways beckon to the fisherman and canoeist. Motor drives are open to the less energetic, and for those who favour competitive sports, there are tennis, golf, and lawn bowling.

Bathers using the main beach at Waskesiu are under the care of a qualified lifeguard during the summer months. A diving platform and tower conforming to Olympic regulations, furnish facilities for diving. Along the shores of Waskesiu, Kingsmere, and Crean Lakes there are other fine beaches that invite the boating enthusiasts to linger and bathe.

Boating enthusiasts will find several boat liveryies near the breakwater at Waskesiu equipped to supply motor-boats, and row-boats at reasonable rates. Large motor launches make daily trips up Lake Waskesiu.

Anglers will enjoy fishing in the numerous park lakes. Kingsmere and Crean Lakes are noted for their great lake trout. Lake Waskesiu contains great northern pike and pickerel. Fishing tackle is available at Waskesiu, and boat liveryies are operated at Hanging Heart Lake and at Waskesiu Narrows. For those prepared to go farther afield, Wassegam and Tibiska Lakes offer good trout fishing.

The 18-hole golf course, constructed on the high rolling slopes east of Prospect Point, offers a variety of hazards which will test and delight the average golfer. From some of the fairways, good views of Lake Waskesiu may be obtained. A large club-house, equipped with professional shop, dressing rooms, hot showers, lounge, and tea room, commands a fine view of the lake and is open to visitors. A nominal fee is charged for the use of the course.

A group of eight tennis courts and a bowling green are available for use in the townsite. A large recreational field has been laid out near the public camp-ground for softball and other sports, and a children's playground, complete with swings and other amusements, is also located nearby.

Hiking and riding along the park trails are popular diversions. There are a number of trails in the vicinity of Waskesiu which offer fine



Tennis in a Forest Setting

outings to those desiring to ride or hike. Saddle horses may be hired from an outfitter at Waskesiu.

The services of an interpretive officer are available for the visitor. The interpretive officer conducts hikes every day over nature trails which have been clearly marked to indicate species of trees, flowers, etc. Film showings are also held throughout the week during which there is a brief commentary relating to the nature aspects of our National Parks.

Visitors who prefer to do their sightseeing from automobiles will enjoy several short drives from Waskesiu. The Narrows Road, which follows the southern shore of Lake Waskesiu for about 15 miles, provides fine vistas of the lake and access to several good bathing beaches. Another drive, 8 miles long, leads to Hanging Heart Lake, north of Lake Waskesiu. Montreal Lake Indian Reserve is accessible over a good gravelled road 22 miles in length, and a drive to the buffalo enclosure over the main park highway offers a pleasing diversion.

Canoe Trips in the Park

To the more adventurous visitor, the remarkable network of lakes and rivers in the park offers a wide choice of trips by canoe or motor-boat. A circuit of the northern part may be made by water, passing through nearly a score of lakes. This trip is usually started from east to west, although the reverse order may be followed if desired.

Leaving the dock at Waskesiu, the canoeist paddles westward up Lake Waskesiu, passing

in turn King Island, which rises high above the water, Twin Point Bay, cradled between long peninsulas and Paignton Beach, a popular bathing spot. A few miles past Waskesiu Narrows, the first portage is reached at the western end of the lake.

Waskesiu Lake is united with the next large body of water, Kingsmere Lake, by Kingsmere River, and except in late summer, this stream is navigable between dams which have been erected to raise the water-level. A light railway also assists visitors in getting boats or canoes around a series of shallow rapids. Beyond the rapids smooth water brings the visitor to Kingsmere Lake.

Kingsmere Lake is one of the finest in the park. Between its bold, rocky points lie numerous white sand beaches which offer ideal bathing and picnicking spots. West of the outlet will be found a good camp-site, equipped with a kitchen shelter, stove and tables. Great lake trout abound in the lake, and attract many fishermen. From Kingsmere Lake a circuit of several small lakes to the west—Clare, Lily, and Bagwa—may be made with a few short portages.

North of Kingsmere Lake lie Ajawaan, Lone Island, Little Beaver, Sanctuary, and Lavalée Lakes. Portages of several hundred yards connect Ajawaan and Lone Island Lakes with Kingsmere Lake. A beautiful little body of water, surrounded by heavily wooded forest, Ajawaan Lake for several years was the site of the home of the late Grey Owl, noted naturalist and writer, who achieved a remarkable



The 18th Green

friendship with wild animals, particularly the beaver.

Lavalée Lake is reached from Sanctuary Lake by two portages of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles each. More than 7 miles long, Lavalée Lake is noted for its rookeries of pelicans and cormorants, and is well worth a visit.

The return from Lavalée Lake to Lake Waskesiu may be made by the incoming route, or an alternative route followed east across the northern part of the park, passing through Wabeno, Mud, Wassegam, and Tibiska Lakes to Crean Lake.

Crean Lake, the largest in the park, is dotted with a number of high, rocky islands, and indented with numerous bays with fine, sandy beaches. Noted for its great lake trout fishing, it is frequented by many anglers during the season. A camp-site with shelter is located on the southwestern shore.

From Crean Lake, return is made to Lake Waskesiu by way of the Hanging Heart Lake, so named from an Indian legend concerning the outcome of a battle between Cree and Chipewyan Indians. A gravelled highway runs from the boat landing at Hanging Heart Lake to the townsite of Waskesiu. The circuit of the northern part of the park by this route covers approximately one hundred miles, and affords an ideal way in which to view the natural beauty of the region.

The beauty of these northern lakes and rivers, and the primeval character of the region, make Prince Albert National Park a wonderful summer playground. To paddle for hours by uninhabited shores, to camp on the edge of

a lovely lake, and to sleep beneath the stars are experiences one can never forget.

Those contemplating canoe trips would be well advised to come properly prepared in experience and equipment. Canoes are not available for rental within the park, and must, therefore, be brought in by the individuals. The Park Warden Service is prepared to offer advice and assistance in planning such trips.

The Pelican Rookeries

The pelican is one of the quaintest of our northern birds, a "relic of a twilight, antediluvian age." Its large, melancholy eyes, and its huge gullet pouch, which it uses as a kind of pantry for food for its young, give a semi-dignified, semi-humorous expression that is quite delightful. In flight, however, it becomes a thing of grace and beauty. Rising somewhat splashily from the water it beats the air about a dozen times and then sails with outspread motionless wings on a long, easy glide.

"The realization," says Mr. P. A. Taverner, in his book **Birds of Canada**, "of how well these seemingly awkward and ponderous hulks of birds can fly comes with some little shock of surprise. We expect them to drag their great bulk about clumsily just over the water, instead of which — after a somewhat splashy start that can be excused in such large, heavy birds — once they get in the air their rise is so easy and rapid that before one is aware they are circling up and up until, at times, they vanish in the blue sky."

The double-crested cormorant is a somewhat smaller bird with black feathers bronzing to



A Picnic on the Lake Shore

green, an orange pouch directly under the bill and a long, curved upper beak. In the mating season it wears a tiny tuft of feathers over each ear, a decoration which has given it its name. At a distance the birds look a good deal like loons but they are much more graceful in movement, swimming with a graceful serpentine motion. The cormorants are expert fishers, often carrying on the business in a communal fashion that is extremely interesting to watch. To quote Mr. Taverner:

"They spread themselves across the mouth of a shallow bay, and facing inward make a dive in towards a common centre. As they advance, the enclosed area becomes smaller and more closely guarded, the finny population more congested and easily caught. The diversions grow shorter and more rapid and more fish are tossed and swallowed in hurried haste for another catch. As the shore is approached, the surviving fish make a despairing rush outward through their enemies, and there is much commotion and excitement; then quietness, and the birds form line again along another section of the water to repeat the operation."

Description of Game Fish in Prince Albert National Park

PIKE (*Esox lucius*)—Sometimes called northern pike or jackfish. Dark olive body grading to silver or white on lower side, back and sides mottled with white. Long bill-like snout, numerous needle-like teeth. Scales smooth, fins often pink.

YELLOW PIKEPERCH OR WALLEYE (*Stizostedion vitreum*) — Sometimes called

pickerel. Ranges from yellow to dark olive brown mottled with brassy flecks. Pointed head, long slender round body, numerous needle-like teeth, scales rough. Two dorsal (back) fins, the forward one with stiff spines.

YELLOW PERCH (*Perca flavescens*)—Back and sides greenish and golden yellow; broad vertical dark green bars crossing each side; belly whitish. Pointed head; body deep with flattened sides. Spine at extreme end of opercle. Numerous small needle-like teeth; scales rough. Two dorsal (back) fins, the forward one with stiff spines.

LAKE TROUT (*Cristivomer namaycush*) — General colour grey to greyish green with paler spots. Dorsal and caudal fins with darker markings. Tail fin (caudal) forked.

A brochure containing information on the procuring of fishing licences and the regulations which apply to angling in the national parks may be obtained from the park superintendent.

Angling Areas and Species

BAGWA LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. South of Kingsmere Lake and connected by navigable channel, 1 mile.

BLADEBONE LAKE — Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. By trail and boat approximately 4 miles from northwest corner of Kingsmere Lake.

CREAN LAKE — Pike, Yellow Pikeperch, and Lake Trout. Six miles by boat from south end of Heart Lakes. Boats usually available at Heart Lakes. This is a large lake and small boats should not be used on it unless in charge of a competent guide.

HALKETT (SANDY LAKE) — Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. On main highway 3 miles north of Gatehouse.

HEART LAKES—Yellow Pikeperch and Pike. Accessible by road 8 miles from townsite. Boats usually available. First Heart Lake closed.

KINGSMERE LAKE — Pike, Yellow Pikeperch, and Lake Trout. North of west end of Waskesiu Lake. Connected by Kingsmere River, 1 mile. River navigable except for rapids which are by-passed by light railway. Take boat from Waskesiu or Narrows.

LILY LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. South of Kingsmere Lake and connected by navigable channel via Bagwa Lake.

NAMEKUS LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. Accessible by trail branching off main highway at Mile 9. Two and a half miles from highway. Boats usually available.

SHADY LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. One mile by trail which leaves highway 100 yards from the junction with road to Waskesiu Narrows.

TIBISKA LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. By trail and boat approximately 6 miles from the north end of Crean Lake.

WABENO LAKE — Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. By trail approximately 5 miles from west side of Wassegam Lake.

WASAW LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. By trail and boat approximately 8 miles from the north end of Kingsmere Lake and 5 miles from Wassegam Lake.

WASKESIU LAKE—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. This lake lies adjacent to the townsite. The western end of the lake generally provides the best angling, especially for Yellow Pikeperch and Smallmouth Black Bass. Boats usually available at townsite and Narrows.

WASSEGAM LAKE—Pike, Yellow Pikeperch and Lake Trout. By trail approximately 3 miles from Tibiska Lake.

SPRUCE RIVER — Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. Crosses highway 5 miles north of Halkett Lake. Accessible for several miles from trail along south side of river from highway crossing.

WASKESIU RIVER—Pike and Yellow Pikeperch. Boats available at Waskesiu. Drains Lake Waskesiu, 3 miles north of Waskesiu townsite.

TRIPS MAY BE ARRANGED THROUGH BOAT LIVERY OPERATORS AT WASKESIU. GUIDE SERVICE AVAILABLE.



Back Cover Photo—A Fishing Lesson for Junior

MAP OF
**PRINCE ALBERT
 NATIONAL PARK**
 SASKATCHEWAN

Scale of Miles
 0 5 10

REFERENCE

- Park Boundary / / / / /
- Roads ———
- Secondary Roads - - - - -
- Trails or Portages - · - · -
- Cabins or Chalets ▲
- Camp-grounds △
- Forestry Tower †
- Patrol Cabin ⚡
- Warden's Cabin ⚡
- Canoe Routes ·····



