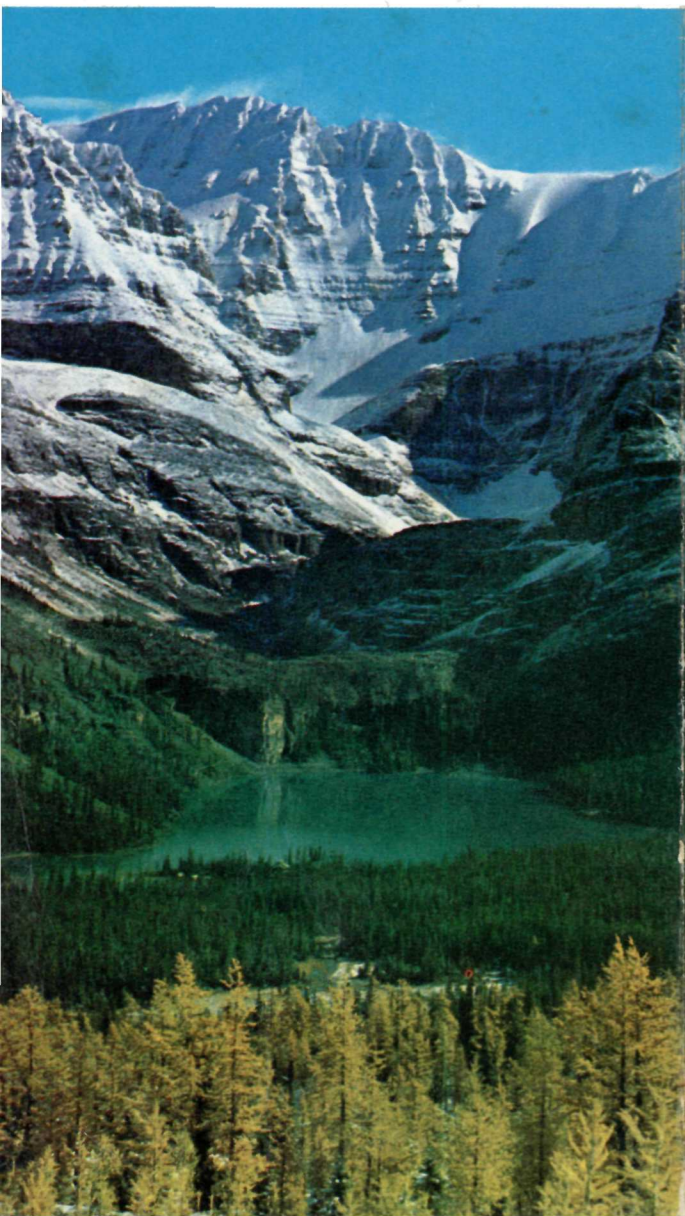


Yoho National Park

British Columbia



Cover: Lake O'Hara

Introducing a park and an idea

Canada covers half a continent, fronts on three oceans, and stretches from the extreme Arctic more than halfway to the equator. There is a great variety of land forms in this immense country, and Canada's national parks have been created to preserve important examples for you and for generations to come.

The National Parks Act of 1930 specifies that national parks are "dedicated to the people . . . for their benefit, education and enjoyment" and must remain "unimpaired for future generations."

Yoho National Park is a 507-square-mile area of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, with wild valleys, snow-capped peaks, glaciers, waterfalls, and alpine lakes. Its eastern and southern boundaries adjoin those of Banff and Kootenay National Parks. The Kicking Horse River, which has its source at the Great Divide, crosses the park from east to west.

The park environment

Each national park has its own character, its unique story as a living, outdoor museum. Eroded by glaciers and streams, rich in flora and fauna, Yoho National Park is home to a remarkable diversity of living things.

The land: mountain and valley

In Yoho, short but impressive mountain ranges, the Van Horne, the Ottertail, the Waputik and the President ranges, stand above the valleys. In this small park 28 peaks rise above 10,000 feet. Between them lie the valleys, deepened by glacial movement, their walls accented by thundering falls and glistening cascades.

Both among the high peaks and in the valleys there are some beautiful lakes. Emerald Lake and Lake O'Hara are especially noted for their green translucent waters.

The plants: alpine and subalpine

The park is rich in plantlife and close to 800 alpine and subalpine plants have been identified. Some of the alpine meadows are easily accessible and the spring and summer visitor will see a colourful profusion of flowers.

The trees of the park are largely evergreen and cover the mountain slopes to an altitude of about 7,000 feet. Lodgepole pine, whitebark pine, blue Douglas fir, alpine fir, white spruce and Engelmann's spruce are common, while alpine larch is often found near timberline.

There are many other attractive shrubs and small herbaceous plants in Yoho's plant community, including white mountain rhododendron, willow, dwarf birch, rusty menziesia, common and alpine bearberry and white mountain heath.

In the lower valleys, open meadows and swamps, herbaceous plants and wildflowers are abundant, blooming almost continuously spring, summer, and fall. Here

Paintbrush and other flowers



orchids, lilies, violets, anemones and saxifrages abound.

The animals: each seeks its own habitat

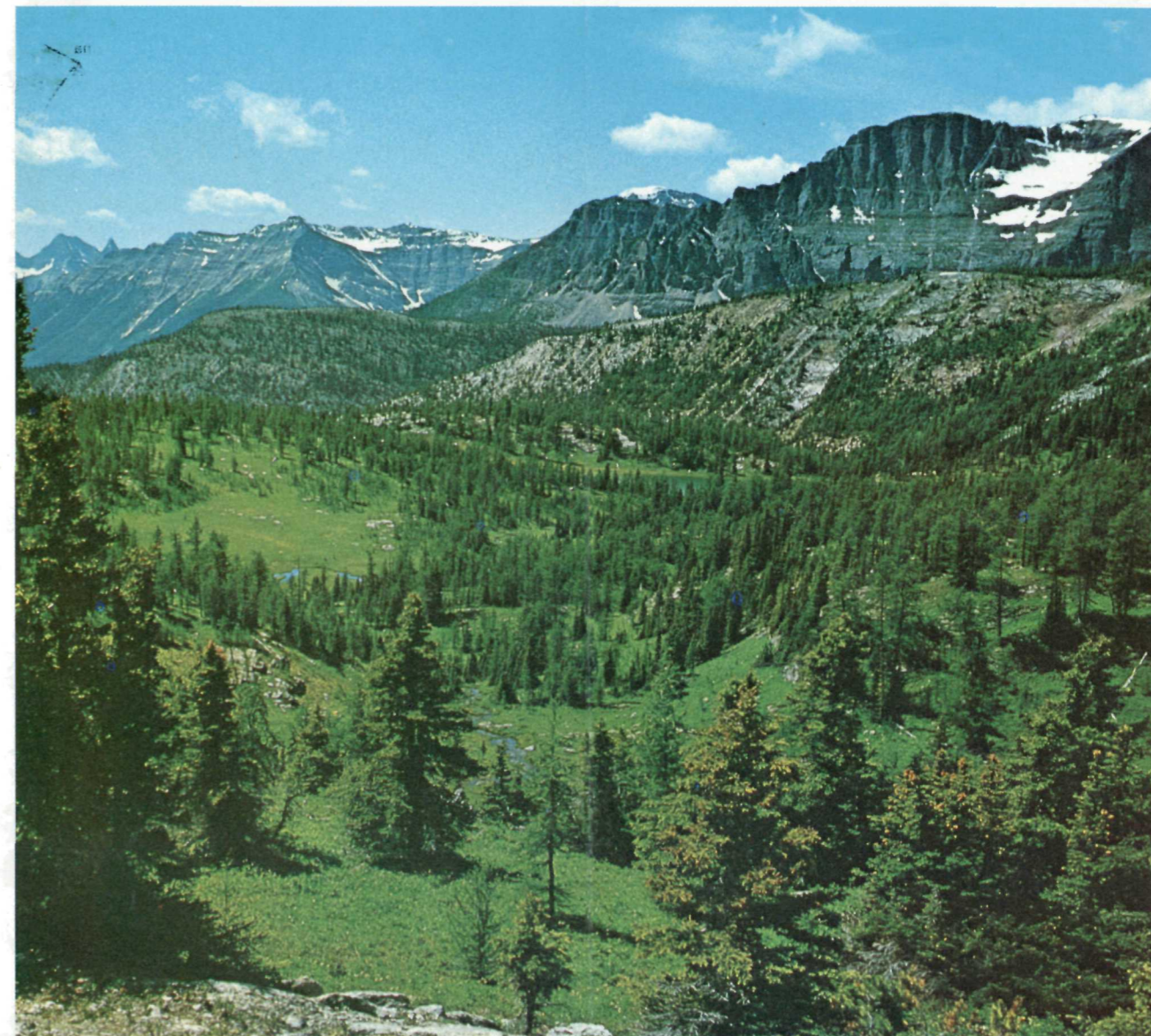
Some of the animals in the park have become accustomed to man and may be observed at fairly close range. They are still wild, however, and should be viewed and photographed with caution.

Moose, white-tailed and mule deer are found where shrubs are abundant and where succulent water plants grow in shallow lakes. Unlike the moose and deer, the wapiti or elk is frequently seen grazing beside the Trans-Canada Highway. Dependent on alpine vegetation, the mountain goat, hoary marmot and pika are found on the rocky slopes. All these animals are prey for the carnivores or flesh-eating animals, which include the grizzly bear, wolverine, coyote and marten.

Other park animals include the golden-mantled and Columbian ground squirrel, the red tree squirrel, and mice, voles, shrews, frogs and salamanders.

Birdlife in the park is varied, although not abundant. Ducks and Canada geese are seen in the low-lying and wet regions, while other parts support pine siskin, red-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, Hammond's and dusky flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, raven, pileated woodpecker, and Clark's nutcracker. In the high country the visitor may see the golden eagle, water pipit, white-

Typical high mountain scenery



tailed ptarmigan and grey-crowned rosy finch. The gray or Canada jay is found at all elevations.

In a high, mountainous area like Yoho, the silt-laden glacial streams do not provide the ideal habitat for fish. However, Wapta, Emerald and O'Hara lakes contain cutthroat, brook, lake and splake trout, and many of the streams in the lower valleys are inhabited by Dolly Varden trout.

A brief park history

The first reservation of what is now Yoho National Park was made in 1886 when an area of 10 square miles in the

vicinity of Mount Stephen was set aside to protect the forests and the scenery along the line of the recently completed Canadian Pacific Railway.

In December 1901 the park reserve was enlarged to incorporate an area of 828 square miles. Described as Yoho Park Reserve, it included the spectacular Yoho Valley, Emerald Lake, Lakes O'Hara and MacArthur, and the major portion of the watersheds of the Beaverfoot, Ottertail and Amiskwi Rivers.

Park legislation influenced several changes in the park's boundaries between 1911 and 1930. The National Parks Act in 1930 confirmed the present area of 507 square miles.



The Kicking Horse Pass was discovered by Dr. James Hector, geologist of the Palliser Expedition of 1857-60. Near the junction of the Beaverfoot and Kicking Horse Rivers, he was kicked by a pack-horse and laid up for a day. This incident gave the name "Kicking Horse" to the pass and the river flowing from Lake Wapta.

The Canadian Pacific Railway was built through this area in 1884, and in more recent years this route has become part of the Trans-Canada Highway.

The townsite of Field was named after a visit to the area in 1884 by Cyrus West Field, promoter of the first Atlantic cable, and owes its development to the construction of the railway through the Kicking Horse Pass. An avalanche which thundered down Mount Burgess in 1909 caused the townsite to be relocated on the south side of the river at the base of Mount Stephen.

The high country of this park challenged the skill of early Canadian mountaineers and the first climbing camp of the Alpine Club of Canada was held in Yoho Pass, where this organization was founded in 1906. Every year since, mountaineers from many countries have come to the Little Yoho and Lake O'Hara areas to explore the peaks and valleys.

How to get there

Both the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway provide year-round access. There is also a year-round bus service to the park.

There are no airfields or landing strips in Yoho, and planes cannot land without permission from the park superintendent. The nearest large airport is at Calgary, 130 miles southeast, though a small airfield is being developed at Golden, 16 miles west of the park.

How to enjoy the park

Season—The park is open all year, although most visitor services are seasonal. Summer is the busiest time, but visits to the park at other seasons, particularly in the fall, are increasing every year.

Boating—Rowboats and canoes are permitted on most



larger lakes and ponds. Motorboats are forbidden.

Fishing—Fishing is by permit, available at a nominal charge from the park administration building or from any information centre. Emerald, Amiskwi, Ottertail and Ice Rivers are usually the best fishing prospects and there are some good holes in the Kicking Horse River above its junction with the Yoho. Stream fishing is best where there is no glacial silt.

Hiking—This is one of the best ways to explore the park. Its many miles of trails are marked on a topographical map, available from the administration office or information centres. Some trails provide access to good fishing lakes in remote sections of the park. Overnight hikers, all mountain climbers, and anyone travelling off established trails must register at one of the park's self-registration stations before and after such travel. Self-registration stations are located at the Takakkaw Falls and Lake O'Hara warden cabins, at the park information centres, at the park administration building, and at the start of the Burgess Pass trail near the Trans-Canada highway.

Riding—Horses are usually obtainable at Emerald Lake and occasionally at other locations in the park. The park information office can give details.

Ski-touring—Those contemplating ski-touring in the park should check with a warden before setting out, as avalanche hazards are severe in certain areas.



Some don'ts

National parks are selected areas set apart as nature sanctuaries and special care is taken to maintain them in their natural state. For this reason, all wildlife, including birds and animals, and all plants, trees, rocks, and fossils are to be left undisturbed. Even the wildflowers are not to be picked; they must be left for others to enjoy. Feeding, touching, or molesting wild animals is not permitted.

You may bring your dog or cat, but dogs must be kept on a leash. No permit or vaccination certificate is required.

Where to stay

Camping brings you into the closest contact with the park's natural environment. There are five campgrounds in Yoho National Park. Three of these, Kicking Horse, Hoodoo and Chancellor Peak, provide accommodation for visitors with either tents or trailers, while the Takakkaw campground provides tent accommodation only. The Lake O'Hara campground may be reached only by walking or by horse, although a private bus will take visitors and their camping equipment to within a short distance of it.

None of Yoho's campgrounds supply electrical, water or sewage connections for trailers, but Kicking Horse and Hoodoo Creek have disposal tanks. Camping space is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Campgrounds open about May 15 and close about September 15 depend-

ing on weather conditions. The maximum allowable stay in a campground is two weeks.

A variety of indoor accommodation is offered by private businesses, details of which are available at all park information centres, and in the accommodation listing pamphlet. Most of these establishments will reserve accommodation on request.

Fires

Campfires may be set only in fireplaces provided for this purpose, or in outdoor portable stoves burning fuel other than wood or charcoal. Barbecues may be used only in campgrounds or picnic areas, and all coals must be dumped into existing park fireplaces. A fire permit is required only when a fire is to be set, using wood for fuel, outside an established fireplace, and permits can be obtained from any park warden or at the park administration building.

Anyone finding an unattended fire should try to extinguish it, or if it is beyond his control, report it at once to the nearest park employee.

How to get the most out of your visit

To help you understand and appreciate the park's complex natural environment, why not take advantage of the free interpretive program conducted by the park naturalist and his staff. You will discover how climate, land formations, plants and animals are inter-related, and your stay in Yoho will be more rewarding.

Self-guiding trails, exhibits, interpretive signs, and viewpoints also explain the park's natural features.

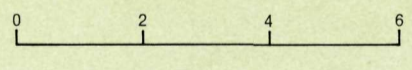
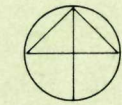
Information on the interpretive program is available from bulletin boards, information centres and park staff. Special groups, including school, scout and guide organizations, may take advantage of these programs throughout the year.

Where to get information

Detailed information may be obtained from the park information centres situated near the east and west entrances of the Trans-Canada Highway into the park. Uniformed staff will answer questions, provide maps, outline travel routes, and refer visitors to the various areas and facilities in the park. Special events are posted on bulletin boards.

Park wardens, though not primarily responsible for general information, will help visitors whenever possible.

Additional information about the park is available from the Superintendent, Yoho National Park, Field, British Columbia. For information about other national parks, write to the Director, National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa 4, Ontario, K1A 0H4.



Yoho National Park

Note: This is but a reference map, designed to give you a general idea of what you will find in this park. It is not a hiking, boating or road map. To find your way accurately, you should obtain a topographical map, available in summer at the Kicking Horse Campground and the information centres at the east and west entrances, and all year at the administration building.

- Legend**
- Trans-Canada Highway
 - Secondary Road
 - Walking or Hiking Trail
 - ++++ Railroad
 - Fire access road (closed)
 - Lake, River, Creek
 - Glacier
 - Provincial Border
 - ▲ Mountain
 - Warden's Cabin
 - ⊗ Picnic Area
 - Accommodation
 - ▲ Campground
 - ⊙ Nature Trail
 - Y.H. Youth Hostel
 - ⊗ Fire Lookout
 - A.C.C. Alpine Club Cabin
 - Outdoor Theatre



- Canada's National Parks**
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Pacific Rim | 21 Kejimikujik |
| 2 Mount Revelstoke | 22 Cape Breton Highlands |
| 3 Glacier | 23 Prince Edward Island |
| 4 Yoho | 24 Gros Morne |
| 5 Kootenay | 25 Terra Nova |
| 6 Jasper | |
| 7 Banff | |
| 8 Waterton Lakes | |
| 9 Elk Island | |
| 10 Wood Buffalo | |
| 11 Prince Albert | |
| 12 Riding Mountain | |
| 13 Pukaskwa | |
| 14 Point Pelee | |
| 15 Georgian Bay Islands | |
| 16 St. Lawrence Islands | |
| 17 La Mauricie | |
| 18 Forillon | |
| 19 Kouchibouguac | |
| 20 Fundy | |