

These parks, some as famous for their winter sports as summer recreation, share an Alpine majesty. Single peaks rise so high that even the mid-summer sun does not melt their snow caps and sprawling glaciers. Far below, the valleys are watered by narrow, winding rivers and dozens of snow-fed lakes of green and blue.

Banff, first in age and attendance, second in size, is known for its hot springs and for mirror-like Lake Louise. It acts as the hub for a network of highways and hiking and riding trails that lead to scores of beauty spots. Jasper Park, largest in the system after Wood Buffalo, is linked to Banff by the Banff-Jasper Highway, as spectacular a road as any in North America.

West of the Continental Divide is Yoho National Park - named by an Indian word expressing wonder and delight - and Mount Revelstoke, a mountain park crowned by pine, meadows and a breathtaking view.

Glacier National Park is the location of the famous Rogers Pass, where avalanches threaten a section of the Trans-Canada Highway, built at a cost of a million dollars a mile.

Waterton Lakes Park, in southwestern Alberta, adjoins Glacier National Park on the United States side of the International Boundary. Together they form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which for many years has been to countless tourists a constant reminder that this is a boundary between nations that mount no frontier guns.

Elk Island Park, 30 miles east of Edmonton, is best known for its herds of bison. This, though only 75 square miles in area, is a park where people are fenced off from animals. A popular resort for the people of Edmonton, with camping and boating facilities, it combines recreational attractions with the practice of basic conservation.

North of the Great Plains in Saskatchewan lies Prince Albert National Park, with a background coloured by the romance and adventure of the fur-trading days. Here, too, throughout the summer, people and wildlife live side by side in bewildering numbers. Much of the park's 1500 square miles consists of lakes and forested islands, making it a great resort for the outdoor enthusiast. Prince Albert is the only park in the system that contains both a golf course and a pelican rookery. On a hot June day, visitors who enjoy a rare sight can take off from the townsite and, after a boat trip, watch hundreds of rubbery red pelican chicks breaking out of the eggs. Later in the summer, one of the sights of Prince Albert Park is to watch the pelicans launch their shrill white flotillas across Lake Lavalee.

Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba rises more than 1,000 feet above the surrounding plains. Its profusion of lakes and forested tableland are in striking contrast to its prairie environment. "The Riding" is on the borders of the Mississippi and Central flyways, and no park in the system has a more fascinating variety of birdlife, or birds that are less troubled by the presence of man.

Ontario has three national parks. The most northerly is Georgian Bay Islands, a group of 42 wooded islands in the Bay's popular resort area. The second is Point Pelee and the third lies in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River, where part of the mainland and 14 islands have been set aside as a national park. These smaller wooded parks, set against the background of