

The great scenic and recreational parks that lie among the Rockies claim almost a third of all visitors: Banff, Jasper, and Waterton Lakes along the east slope of the Rockies in Alberta; Kootenay and Yoho on the west slope in British Columbia; Glacier and Mount Revelstoke in the Selkirk Mountains in the same province.

These parks, some as famous for their winter sports as summer recreation, share an alpine majesty. Single peaks rise so high that even mid-summer sunshine does not melt their snow caps and huge, sprawling glaciers. Far below, the valleys are watered by broad, twisting rivers and hundreds of snow-fed lakes of a jade green colour.

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 the Indians "Yoho", a word expressing wonder and delight - and Mount Revelstoke, a park set on the slopes of a mountain crowned by pine, meadows and a breathtaking view. The summit of Mount Revelstoke Park - eighteen winding miles uphill - is a first-rate point for a warden to spot the thin grey smoke plumes that may appear on the mountain sides after a lightning storm.

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 Peace Park that for many years has been to countless tourists a constant reminder that this is a boundary between nations which mount no frontier guns.

Elk Island Park, 30 miles east of Edmonton, is best known for its herds of moose, elk, and deer. Elk Island, though only 75 square miles in area, also is a park which people and wildlife share generously with one another in very large numbers. A popular resort for the people of Edmonton, with camping and boating facilities, it combines great visitor appeal with the serene grazing areas of a wildlife refuge. Elk Island herds, in fact, thrive so well that they are thinned every few years to prevent the wildlife population from exceeding the grazing capacity of the park.

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 is made up 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 golf course and 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.