

The first of a new series of Parks of Canada/British Columbia

MANNING

Bordered on the west and east by the fertile valleys of the Fraser and Okanagan rivers, Manning Provincial park stretches for 30 miles along British Columbia's U.S. border. Its 179,313 acres range upward through the forested slopes and meadows of the Cascade mountains from near sea level west of Hope to the 7,453-foot peak of Three Brothers mountain only 40 miles to the east. The clear, invigorating air of the high mountain altitudes is one of the park's chief attractions, along with its spectacular views and the ever-changing beauty of its forests and flower-dotted glades. Most visitors to the park see only the soft shades of summer, but in autumn the pale yellow of the vine maple, poplar and dogwood trees deepens to brilliant hues of rust and scarlet. Summer visitors are in time to see the green carpets of the alpine meadows bloom in August in a rainbow of colors: blue lupins, pink heather, white avalanche lilies and the artist's palette shades of Indian paintbrush. Two rivers, the Skagit and the Similkameen, have their source in the snows from mountain peaks that average 7,000 feet above the valley floor. In the park centre, a Nature House (open from mid-June to mid-September) has wildlife and plant exhibits and information on walking and driving tours. During July and August walking tours are conducted by park naturalists along Paintbrush trail that winds through groves of balsam and spruce. Not far from park headquarters, a road winds up 6,700-foot Blackwall mountain to a lookout point that reveals breathtaking views of the rivers and streams below and mountain peaks in Washington state. Within hiking distance of the campsites are Lightning lake and Beaver pond, home to an assortment of muskrats, beavers, squirrels, ducks, frogs, loons and woodpeckers. On the mountain slopes, picas and chipmunks hop among the rocks, deer graze and butterflies hover over fields of alpine flowers. Manning park's curse, as well as its blessing, is the main highway through it. Thousands of tourists have driven through without seeing its most beautiful parts, which lie beyond highway range.



YOU CAN RIDE OR HIKE OR JUST LOOK AT THE SCENERY

The sights and sounds of Manning park are its chief attractions, so riding, hiking and viewing are its principal activities. **Paintbrush Trail**, the most popular route in the park, winds upwards to heights of 6,000 feet above sea level through alpine meadows dotted with Indian paintbrush. The path is bordered with towering balsam and spruce trees on both sides.

The Lookout: High above the park's valley floor, on Blackwall mountain a carpark lookout provides views of the Cascade mountain range as far south as Mount Baker, across the border in the state of Washington.



Mountain climbing: The routes for experienced climbers are up 7,000-foot Mount Frosty and the 6,000-foot Three Brothers.

Walking Trails: Regular trips are planned from overnight hikes to week-long expeditions that start in the park and go as far south as Lake Chelan in the state of Washington.

Fishing: The fish in Manning park's fast-flowing rivers and streams are small but they put up a good fight. Rainbow



trout are plentiful in Lightning lake. **Swimming:** There are no sandy beaches in the park but a recreational area with enclosed pool is being completed for use this summer.

Nature lore: Park naturalists take groups on tours through alpine meadows dotted with wildflowers. City types learn to identify glacier lilies, western anemone, pinesap, scarlet bunchberry.

On conducted tours through the river valley, guides point out swamp plants, marsh birds and other water life. **Riding:** Saddle horses are available for rent at Pinewoods lodge and regular trail rides during summer.



Camping room for 800

Manning park's five campsites can accommodate more than 200 camping units (800 people) at a time. There is space for trailers but no electricity. All are equipped with tables, fireplaces and toilets. In addition to these campgrounds, there are dozens of picnic spots.

Skagit campsite is on the shores of the Skagit river. Coldstream campsite is on the quiet reaches of the Similkameen river. Muledeer campsite is farther downstream on the Similkameen. Cambie campsite is close to Lightning lake and Hampton campsite is two miles east of park headquarters.

For less hardy holidayers, there is one motel within the park's borders. Pinewoods lodge, near Lightning lake, has all modern conveniences.

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