

THE GREAT OUTDOORS



Canadians are often annoyed when Canada is assumed to consist of loons on chilly lakes surrounded by pine trees and beavers. Still, this prosperous, technological land has more elk than escalators. It has fish, ferns, wild flowers, woolly bison, musk-oxen, moose, glaciers you can climb on, lakes you cannot swim across, silent forests, roaring tides, black-water pools and white-water rapids.

It has twenty-nine national parks which you may enter free, by foot, bicycle, horse or boat. Motorists pay in some, not in others. (A ten-dollar annual auto permit gives entry to all.) You may hike or camp in any of them, fish in most, climb mountains in many and hunt in a few remote ones.

Below are a few examples of Canada's splendid outdoor opportunities:

Camping

Tenting and trailer facilities in Canada range from bare ground to high luxury. Quebec, for example, has the ultimate camping contrasts: Park Paul-Sauvé, 52 kilometres (32 miles) west of Montreal, has 1,080 campsites with water, electricity, flush toilets, shower baths, a natural lake, a public beach, fishing, a community hall, religious services, laundry facilities, a grocery and a snack bar. Mistassini, 745 kilometres (463 miles) north of Montreal, has 85 campsites with latrines and cooking hearths. It has, however, a bay (baie Pericouane), a lake (lac Albanel), a river (rivière Chalifour) and much magnificent wilderness.

National park sites are first-come-first-served, no reservations. There are also private, municipal,

provincial and federal campgrounds. There is a plan to have a federal campground every 160 kilometres (100 miles) along the Trans-Canada Highway. Usually camping is not allowed outside established campgrounds unless permission and fire permits are obtained from a park warden. (In the north the mosses, undergrowth and forest floor are tinder dry, even shortly after a rain, because of the very low humidity.) The normal camping season is from late May to October, but it is shorter in the mountains.

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism, whose US offices are listed on page ten, has detailed campground guides for all provinces and territories.