

There are picturesque and challenging downhill ski runs that are world famous, and there are mountain peaks to challenge even experienced climbers.

Visitors can camp at one or more than a dozen campgrounds with facilities for tents and recreational vehicles. Commercial accommodation in Banff townsite is also available.

Rich history

Jasper National Park, named after trading post operator, Jasper Hawes, has a history rich with fur trade and Indian adventure.

Located 370 kilometres west of Edmonton, Alberta, Jasper is one of the largest

natural areas on the North American continent. The park shares a border, mountain ranges and icefields with Banff as well as the Icefields Parkway, considered by many as one of the world's most scenic drives.

There are some 1 000 kilometres of back-country trails throughout its mountain valleys for the wilderness traveller. Backpackers can camp overnight at primitive campsites located along most remote trails.

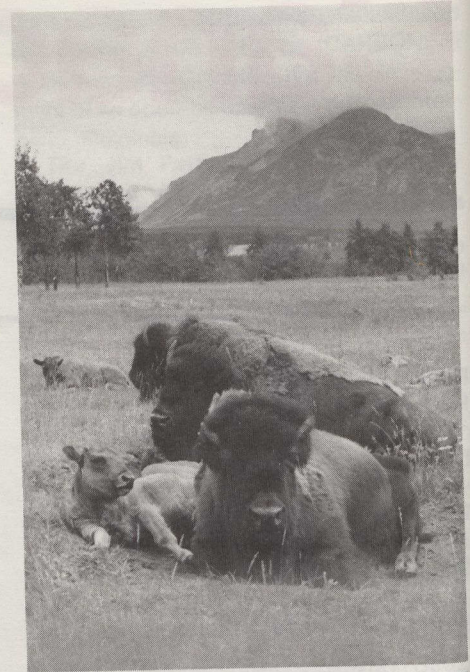
Camping facilities in the park range from primitive walk-in sites to sites with three-way trailer hook-ups. Commercial accommodation, restaurants, and stores are located in the Jasper townsite.

Heart of the Rockies

Yoho National Park, some 95 kilometres northwest of Banff townsite on the Trans-Canada Highway, is in the heart of the main ranges of the Rocky Mountains. Filled with lofty peaks, glacial lakes, primitive forests, spectacular valleys, powerful waterfalls, and alpine meadows ablaze with wildflowers during the summer, it was named from a Cree Indian word expressing awe.

One of the many unique features in the park is Takakkaw Falls, the highest in Canada and one of the highest in the world. Another is the natural bridge carved in rock over the Kicking Horse River. Visitors can stand on the Great Divide where water flows on one side to the Pacific and on the other to the Atlantic. The spiral tunnels on the "Big Hill" near Field rekindle the excitement of building the railway through the confines of Kicking Horse Pass.

Yoho National Park also includes the Burgess Shale, which was placed on the World Heritage list in 1980 as one of the



National Film Board Photos

Buffalo in Canada's first national park, Banff.

most significant fossil sites in the world.

Campers must hike the short distance to the tent campground at Takakkaw Falls, which is so popular that visitors may stay a maximum of only four days. Visitors to Lake O'Hara campground may either hike in 13 kilometres or take a private bus. Non-campers can also find commercial accommodation within the park.

Rich in special features

Kootenay National Park, some 888 kilometres northeast of Vancouver, British Columbia, is also rich in scenery and unique features.

Inside the northern entrance to the park along the Banff-Windermere Highway, are



"Snow Peak Avenue" on the road to Emerald Lake in Yoho National Park.



Lake Edith and Pyramid Mountain, in Jasper National Park.



Cross-country skiing on one of the many trails in Banff National Park.