

Description

Evidence of the increasing attraction of Canada's national parks lies in the growing number of visitors. In 1953-54, attendance was 2.9 million. This soared to 9.4 million in 1963-64 and to more than 18 million in 1974-75.

The 28 national parks extend from sea to sea — from Pacific Rim National Park on the west coast of Vancouver Island to Terra Nova National Park on the east coast of Newfoundland.

Pacific Rim National Park will be under development until the late 1970s. The park will encompass three distinct areas, totaling 150 square miles: Long Beach, including Grice Bay and a section of Kennedy Lake; 90 to 95 islands and rocks in Barkley Sound known as the Broken Islands Group; and a 45-mile stretch of coastline between Port Renfrew and Bamfield, encompassing the Life-Saving Trail.

There are two national parks in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia. Mount Revelstoke covers 101.4 square miles of timbered slopes, alpine meadows and lakes, and is located near the city of Revelstoke. Glacier National Park lies a few miles to the east and covers 521 square miles. There are more than 100 glaciers in this park.

The Rocky Mountains consist of numerous ranges, each contributing to the alpine beauty of the mountain parks.

The Continental Divide forms 150 miles of the western border of Banff and Jasper National Parks in Alberta and parts of the eastern borders of both Yoho and Kootenay National Parks in British Columbia.

In the interior of Banff National Park are the Sundance, Palliser, Sawback and Fairholme Ranges. Covering an area of 2,564 square miles, Banff is situated 80 miles west of Calgary.

Banff and Jasper National Parks meet at the Columbia Icefields. In Jasper a series of ranges run roughly parallel — the Miette, Jacques and Colin ranges, with the Desmet Range lying to the north. Jasper, 240 miles west of Edmonton, covers an area of 4,200 square miles.

Within the 507 square miles of Yoho National Park are the Van Horne, Ottertail, Waputik and President Ranges. A total of 28 peaks in this park rise over 10,000 feet.