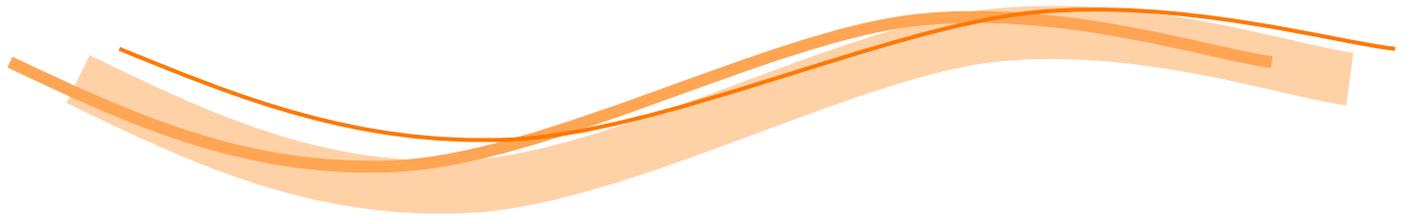




NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA





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| <p>PARKS CANADA</p> | <p>National parks are among Canada's - and the world's - natural jewels. They represent the power of Canada's natural environment -- a compelling force -- which has shaped not only the geography of this country, but also the course of its history and the experiences of the people who live and travel here.</p> <p>Parks Canada is the largest provider of natural and cultural tourism products Canada-wide and its iconic destinations form the cornerstone of the Canadian tourism industry. Parks Canada manages: 44 National Parks, 4 National Marine Conservation Areas and 167 National Historic Sites including 11 of Canada's 16 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>National parks are established to protect and present outstanding representative examples of natural landscapes and natural phenomena that occur in Canada's 39 natural regions, as identified in the National Parks System Plan. These wild places, located in every province and territory, range from mountains and plains, to boreal forests and tundra, to lakes and glaciers, and much more. National parks protect the habitats, wildlife and ecosystem diversity representative of - and sometime unique to - the natural regions.</p> <p>National parks are located on the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic coasts, across the interior mountains and plains and Great Lakes, reaching as far north and south as Canada goes. They range in size from just under 9 km² (St Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada) to almost 45,000 km² (Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada). And they include world-renowned names such as Banff and Jasper, as well as more recently established Ivvavik and Vuntut.</p> <p>Parks Canada is responsible for both protecting the ecosystems of these magnificent natural areas and managing them for visitors to understand, appreciate, and enjoy in a way that doesn't compromise their integrity.</p> <p>For full information, go to the Parks Canada website at: www.pc.gc.ca</p> <p>Also, check out my Top Ten Favourite National Parks at: http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Planning/ChrisTop10Lists/CanadianNationalParks.aspx</p> |
| <p>Understanding and Appreciating</p> | <p>The breathtaking scenery and inspiring natural surroundings in national parks provide the perfect setting for tuning into nature, learning about it, appreciating it, respecting it and pledging to protect it. Each national park is a haven for the human spirit.</p> |

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| | <p>National parks tell the stories of Canada's natural beginnings - mountains forming, lakes emerging, rivers running, forests growing, glaciers moving, grasslands evolving - to anyone who takes the time to listen, to look and to understand. They tell tales of human history too, from traditional Aboriginal activities, to early exploration, to European settlement, to modern use. And they reveal ongoing natural processes - floods enriching, fires renewing, species migrating. They provide opportunities to connect with nature, people and events that define Canada.</p> <p>Understanding the importance of Canada's natural heritage to the nation and the world, and developing support for its protection are critical to the long-term health of the system of national parks.</p> <p>Visitors can paddle down rivers flowing through canyons carved over thousands of years, observe birds as they rest in their travels along traditional migration routes, walk through vibrant young forests transformed by fire. These are unforgettable experiences, made all the more memorable by the learning opportunities Parks Canada offers through interpretative walks, exhibits and activities or in co-operation with the heritage tourism industry.</p> |
| <p>Protecting</p> | <p>Parks Canada is working to maintain or restore the ecological integrity of national parks. This means keeping ecosystems healthy and whole -- a state where ecosystem biodiversity, structures and functions are unimpaired and likely to persist.</p> <p>Maintaining or restoring ecological integrity is a challenging task that involves a good understanding of the dynamic nature of ecosystems and the stresses they face. It also requires collaboration among people whose actions influence the ecosystems and their sustainability - from neighbouring landowners and businesses, to local residents, visitors and governments. The above reflect the principles of ecosystem management.</p> <p>The national parks of Canada are a source of pride for Canadians and an integral part of our identity, they celebrate the beauty and infinite variety of our land</p> |
| <p>Trip Planning</p> | <p>You are planning a visit to one of Canada's National Parks, National Historic Sites or National Marine Conservation Areas? These links will help you plan for an unforgettable experience. To find activities in our spectacular places, select one of the links in the list below:</p> |

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| | <p>Atlantic Canada: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/atlan.aspx Quebec: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/quebec.aspx Ontario: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/ontario.aspx The Prairies: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/prairies.aspx Western Canada: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/ouest-west.aspx Northern Canada: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/nor.aspx</p> |
| <p>National Historic Sites</p> | <p>National historic sites are places of profound importance to Canada. They bear witness to this nation's defining moments and illustrate its human creativity and cultural traditions. Each national historic site tells its own unique story, part of the greater story of Canada, contributing a sense of time, identity, and place to our understanding of Canada as a whole. There are more than 950 national historic sites in Canada; of these, 167 are administered by Parks Canada.</p> <p>National historic sites are places of profound importance to Canada. They bear witness to this nation's defining moments and illustrate its human creativity and cultural traditions. Each national historic site tells its own unique story, part of the greater story of Canada, contributing a sense of time, identity, and place to our understanding of Canada as a whole.</p> <p>National historic sites, located in all provinces and territories, can be found in almost any setting - from urban and rural locales, to wilderness environments. They may be sacred spaces, battlefields, archaeological sites, buildings or streetscapes. They can range in size from a single structure to linear canals spanning great distances. Many national historic sites are still used today for work and worship, commerce and industry, habitation and leisure.</p> <p>Canada's family of national historic sites</p> <p>Canada commemorates persons and events for their national historic significance as well as places. So far, over 1500 places, persons and events have been commemorated by the Government of Canada. And the list keeps growing as Canada's history unfolds.</p> <p>Together, all these commemorations make up what is known as the system of National Historic Sites of Canada. In each generation the system has evolved with this nation's changing view of itself. Today there is a greater interest in social history reflecting the achievements and experiences of everyday Canadians.</p> <p>Parks Canada monitors the system through a system plan and now its making special efforts to encourage participation and increase the representation of Aboriginal, women and ethnocultural communities' history.</p> |

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The national historic sites system covers the entire range of Canadian human history under five broad themes:

- Peopling the Land
- Governing Canada
- Developing Economies
- Building Social and Community Life
- Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life.

Parks Canada supports the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC), the body which advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage on national historic significance. The agency is also responsible for protecting and operating over 140 national historic sites across the country for visitors to understand, appreciate, and enjoy.

Protecting

National historic sites represent thousands of years of human history and hundreds of years of nation building. Yet centuries, and millennia, can take their toll - from erosion and decay, to lack of awareness, to abandonment - on diverse cultural resources that include shell middens, underwater shipwrecks, fort remains, historic buildings, industrial complexes, heritage canals, and more.

An important part of Parks Canada's mandate involves protecting the health and wholeness, or commemorative integrity, of the national historic sites it operates. This means preserving the site's cultural resources, communicating its heritage values and national significance, and kindling the respect of people whose decisions and actions affect the site.

Understanding and appreciating

Each national historic site is a distinct and vibrant symbol of Canadian identity. It is also a centre of learning, a wealth of information, a living history adventure, an experience of what Canada used to be and what it is today. Historic canals, part of the system, link cities and towns to connect visitors with further dynamic aspects of Canadian history.

At all these places, Parks Canada offers activities and learning experiences that stretch the imagination, tug at the heartstrings, and touch the soul. Where else can you:

- walk on battlegrounds that changed the course of history
- view original writings of well-loved Canadian authors
- venture to the edge of a bison jump where for thousands of years Aboriginal people hunted
- witness the isolation and desolate conditions immigrants encountered when they came to the country
- travel the passes, trails, and waterways of those who came before

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| | <p>- dress in a period costume, join a class in a historic schoolhouse, sample heritage recipes, ride in a horse-drawn hay wagon, stroll through the moonlight in search of ghosts from the past? Moving, memorable opportunities such as these, and many more, give visitors a feel for where Canada has come from, where it is today, where it is going in the future. http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/index.aspx</p> |
| <p>National Marine Conservation Areas</p> | <p>National Marine Conservation Areas, or NMCA for short, are marine areas managed for sustainable use and containing smaller zones of high protection. They include the seabed, the water above it and any species which occur there. They may also take in wetlands, estuaries, islands and other coastal lands.</p> <p>Canada is truly a maritime nation with a rich marine heritage. We have the longest coastline in the world -- over 243,000 km along three oceans -- plus another 9500 km along the Great Lakes. We also have responsibility for over 5 million km² of marine waters - the equivalent of about 60% of the country's land mass!</p> <p>The vast marine ecosystems off these coasts, varied and productive, have played a major role in shaping Canada's history and economy. So it is no wonder that the national marine conservation areas representing this powerful force are an important component of Parks Canada's networks of nationally significant places.</p> <p>Relative newcomers to Parks Canada's networks, national marine conservation areas divide the country's oceans and Great Lakes into 29 marine regions, each one a distinct combination of physical and biological characteristics . Existing national marine conservation areas include submerged lands, the water above them, and any species found there. They can also take in wetlands, estuaries, islands and other coastal lands.</p> <p>Parks Canada is responsible for both protecting these ecosystems and managing them for visitors to understand, appreciate, and enjoy in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Protecting Marine ecosystems are fundamentally different from terrestrial environments. And human use in coastal regions, both on land and in the waters, has always been high. This means the effects of human activity -- from degradation of coastal habitats, to land and water pollution, to over-exploitation of resources - can also be high, and often far-reaching.</p> <p>Because many human uses continue within their boundaries, national marine conservation areas do not try to protect marine ecosystems in a state essentially unaltered by human activity - the primary goal for national parks. National marine conservation areas focus instead on</p> |

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| | <p>ecologically sustainable use, which means harmonising conservation practices with human activities. This approach involves working closely with others who use the coastal land and the water, and striving to reach common goals - most importantly a healthy, sustainable ecosystem. Human uses such as fishing and shipping, for example, are allowed in national marine conservation areas. But they would be limited or even eliminated from zones protecting sensitive features such as nesting areas, spawning beds, whale calving areas and cultural sites. And they would be carefully managed to protect the greater ecosystem. Other activities, namely ocean dumping, undersea mining and oil and gas exploration and development, are not permitted in a national marine conservation area.</p> <p>Understanding and appreciating Each national marine conservation area is a gateway to nature, adventure, learning and discovery, offering visitors the opportunity to connect with a major marine environment, both above and below the surface (or both onshore and offshore), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - geological features - water in its various forms - marine and coastal habitats - a wide diversity of wildlife, - archaeological and historic features. <p>Visitors can hike along coastlines shaped over millennia, observe powerful tides and currents, watch sea birds dive and soar over traditional nesting sites, explore the captivating world of a tidal pool, kayak through scenic island archipelagos, dive through waters teeming with unique marine life, discover intriguing underwater archaeological sites, and more.</p> <p>Enhanced by Parks Canada's visitor programs and activities, the opportunities to learn about these unique marine environments, and to develop a deeper understanding for the threats they face and the natural values they support, are many, varied, and unforgettable.</p> |
| <p>UNESCO World Heritage Sites</p> | <p>Globally, UNESCO's World Heritage sites include places such as the Egyptian Pyramids, Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Great Wall of China. There are 16 World Heritage sites located in Canada and there are another eight sites on Canada's Tentative List of World Heritage sites.</p> <p>On behalf of Canada, Parks Canada is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Canada. Parks Canada also has responsibilities for the protection and conservation of 11 of the Canadian World Heritage sites.</p> |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kluane/Wrangell - St.Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Asek (Yukon and British Columbia) 2. SGang Gwaay(British Columbia) 3. Nahanni National Park Reserve (Northwest Territories) 4. L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site (Newfoundland) 5. Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (Alberta) 6. Dinosaur Provincial Park (Alberta) 7. Wood Buffalo National Park (Alberta and Northwest Territories) 8. Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Alberta and British Columbia) 9. Historic District of Old Québec (Quebec) 10. Gros Morne National Park (Newfoundland and Labrador) 11. Old Town Lunenburg (Nova Scotia) 12. Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (Alberta) 13. Miguasha National Park (Quebec) 14. The Rideau Canal (Ontario) 15. Joggins Fossil Cliffs (Nova Scotia) 16. Landscape of Grand Pré (Nova Scotia) |
| <p>Geocaching</p> | <p>Discover Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation area with geocaching! Explore the best places to see an underwater forest at Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. At the Forks National Historic Site, discover why pemmican could be considered Canada's first fast food. Hang out where the dinosaurs used to roam at Grasslands National Park. These are only some of the many geocaching adventures available at Parks Canada.</p> <p>Visit www.geocaching.com or visit the national park, national historic site or national marine conservation area website for your next adventure coordinates.</p> <p>You can also see the Parks Canada guidelines for geocachers here: http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/geocache/index.aspx</p> |
| <p>Xplorers Program for Kids</p> | <p>Are you planning a family vacation and wondering how to keep the kids busy and happy?</p> <p>Become an Xplorer, experience and have fun!</p> <p>Are your children curious, bright, and active? Do they like challenges? Are they budding artists, dreamers or promising journalists? Then they are a perfect candidate to become a Parks Canada Xplorer.</p> <p>When you arrive at a participating national park, national historic site or national marine conservation area, your children will receive an Xplorers booklet filled with fun activities that will guide your discovery of each unique place you are visiting.</p> <p>When the kids have completed the requested number of activities they will be recognized as an official Xplorer with a certificate and a special collectible souvenir.</p> <p>This program is included with the regular entry fee.</p> |

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| <p>Discovery Passes</p> | <p>A single pass gets you in! Whether you want to explore and appreciate Canada's unique and diverse wildlife, wilderness, and natural environment, or discover the inspiring people, places and events of our fascinating past, the Parks Canada Discovery Pass is the one for you. This annual pass gives you unlimited opportunities to enjoy more than 100 National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas and National Historic Sites across Canada that charge entry fees.</p> <p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlimited opportunities to visit more than 100 National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas and National Historic Sites over and over again, or discover others across the country. - Passes pay for themselves quickly, leaving you free to continue enjoying at no additional cost. Faster entry and greater convenience. - Makes a great gift. - Valid for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase. - Your fees stay with Canada's National Historic Sites, National Marine Conservation Areas and National Parks to help us maintain the places you love. - A special gift folder, only available when you buy online, allows you to personally dedicate the gift. <p>Prices</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Family/Group *</td> <td>\$ 136.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth Individual (ages 6-16)</td> <td>\$ 33.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult Individual (ages 17-64)</td> <td>\$ 67.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior Individual (ages 65+)</td> <td>\$ 57.90</td> </tr> </table> <p>* Family/Group: up to seven people arriving together in a single vehicle</p> | Family/Group * | \$ 136.40 | Youth Individual (ages 6-16) | \$ 33.30 | Adult Individual (ages 17-64) | \$ 67.70 | Senior Individual (ages 65+) | \$ 57.90 |
| Family/Group * | \$ 136.40 | | | | | | | | |
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| Adult Individual (ages 17-64) | \$ 67.70 | | | | | | | | |
| Senior Individual (ages 65+) | \$ 57.90 | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Canada Day</p> | <p>Canada turns 146 on July 1st and Parks Canada celebrates with free admission to all national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas across the country. Have a look at their website for links to all the Canada Day activities taking place at a Parks Canada location near you. http://www.pc.gc.ca/voyage-travel/celebrations2013.aspx</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Cultural Access Pass</p> | <p>Parks Canada is the first national partner in the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's Cultural Access Pass program. By participating in the program, Parks Canada will provide new Canadian citizens the opportunity to have free access to what is now their national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas for one full year starting the day they receive their citizenship.</p> <p>More than 32,000 new citizens have participated in the CAP program since it began in 2008. These numbers are expected to grow with the addition of Parks Canada as a national partner, given over 150,000 persons become new Canadian citizens per year. At least 24 Parks</p> | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>Canada locations will also be added to the list of CAP pick up sites, thereby ensuring national access to the program.</p> |
| <p>NEW! Rouge National Urban Park</p> | <p>Rouge National Urban Park There is nothing like the Rouge National Urban Park anywhere else. It is an urban park, accessible to people in a city. In this case, the city is Toronto, a sprawling metropolis of some six million. To create a national park on the lip of the country's largest city, one of the most diverse in the world, is unique. It changes how we see a national park in a sparsely populated country of 34 million, 80 per cent of whom live in three urban areas within 160 kms of the United States. Creating an urban park is to think differently about what a national park is and how it serves a people, many of them new Canadians who are unfamiliar with the outdoors, as well as Canada's history and geography. The new park will be more than 13 times the size of Stanley Park in Vancouver!</p> <p>Working towards Canada's first National Urban Park Rouge Park is set to become Canada's first National Urban Park under the stewardship of Parks Canada. Throughout the establishment process, the Government of Canada is continuing working with many stakeholders, including First Nations and federal, provincial, regional, municipal and community partners. This is an exciting new concept that will celebrate and protect, for current and future generations, a diverse landscape in Canada's largest metropolitan area. Linking Lake Ontario with the Oak Ridges Moraine, the park will offer engaging and varied experiences, inspire personal connections to its natural beauty and rich history, promote a vibrant farming community, and encourage us to discover Canada's national treasured places.</p> <p>A Park developed by Canadians for Canadians Public input will inform the development of recommendations on legislative process, policies and a strategic management plan for Rouge National Urban Park. Over the summer and fall of 2012, Parks Canada initiated a broad public engagement program and received thousands of comments from Canadians, near and far, expressing a diversity of perspectives. Since then, Parks Canada collated the comments received in to the Public Engagement 2012 Summary Report, which is now available on Parks Canada's public website at www.parks canada.gc.ca/rouge .</p> <p>Explore and Enjoy the Park As the park establishment process continues, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) continues to manage the day-to-day operation of the current Rouge Park, working closely with Parks Canada and local municipalities to ensure decisions are made in the best interest</p> |

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| | <p>of the future Rouge National Urban Park. The TRCA continues to offer many visitor activities and opportunities for getting involved in Rouge Park. To find out more about ways you can explore and enjoy the park, visit www.rougepark.com .</p> |
| <p>NEW! More Additions to the Park Network</p> | <p>Sable Island National Park Located 290 kilometres offshore from Halifax, Sable Island is a windswept crescent-shaped sandbar 42 kilometres long that emerges from the Atlantic Ocean near the edge of the Continental Shelf. The island’s sand dunes and fresh water ponds are home to over 400 wild horses and numerous migrant and breeding birds, including the rare Ipswich Savannah sparrow. Called the “Graveyard of the Atlantic”, there were over 350 shipwrecks recorded here since 1583 due to the fog and storms that set siege to Sable Island.</p> <p>Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve On August 22, 2012, the establishment and boundaries of Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories was announced. It measures 4,850 square kilometres. It will serve as a launching area for visitors, who will have the opportunity to see the spectacular landscapes of the world-famous South Nahanni River, and to hike, canoe, raft and climb. This new national park reserve protects 70 percent of the upper South Nahanni watershed. Habitat for mountain woodland caribou, grizzly bears, Dall's sheep, mountain goats and Trumpeter swans will be preserved. This area has been travelled and valued for hunting and its spiritual importance by the Shutagot’ine (Mountain Dene) of the Tulita District.</p> <p>Mealey Mountains National Park In 2008, Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a commitment to establish a 10,700 km² national park reserve in the wilderness area of the Mealy Mountains in Labrador. Once agreements are reached with the province and Aboriginal groups, this national park will be the largest protected area in Atlantic Canada. It will protect a stunning array of boreal ecosystems and their wildlife such as the threatened Mealy Mountains caribou herd and landscapes of great cultural significance, and provide amazing opportunities for Canadians to experience the east coast boreal forest wilderness.</p> |
| <p>Fortress of Louisbourg 300</p> | <p>In 2013, be there when Louisbourg again comes alive: celebrate 300 years of triumph and survival through special activities and never-before-seen events. Join Parks Canada as vibrant cultures meet diverse heritage and awe-inspiring vistas in a celebration of sea and stories, music and military, community and cuisine. It's the Fortress of Louisbourg like you've never experienced it before.</p> |

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| <p>On the War of 1812</p> | <p>Experience many of the most important landscapes, forts and buildings related to the War of 1812 at Parks Canada's national historic sites. With more than twenty sites commemorating the War of 1812, Parks Canada will be the leading presenter of historic experiences from this pivotal era in North American history.</p> <p>For the next three years, these sites where War of 1812 history still echoes will resonate with authentic and stirring programs and events which will enable visitors to experience life as it was in the 1812 period, both in everyday living and on the battle front. Through the commemorations, Parks Canada hopes to create for all visitors a heightened sense of connection with Canadian national treasures, and in particular in our national historic sites as vibrant centres of community life and engaging history.</p> |
| <p>Cave and Basin Re-opening</p> | <p>The Cave and Basin National historic site re-opened in May 2013. The Cave and Basin is the birthplace of Canada's national parks. It is a must-see historical and cultural attraction in Banff National Park with revitalized programming and year-round events, including all-new interactive programs, exhibits and a giant four-screen HD visual experience that will lead you on a one-of-a-kind journey through Canada's National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas.</p> <p>It features a new Welcome Centre, with a unique gift store, site orientation information, Sundance Trail day-use area maps and washrooms The new Galletly building includes a 40-seat theatre, a multi-functional room, a café for tasty treats, and infrastructure to support catering and special events. Parks Canada interpreters offer interpretive programs for groups, including the after-hours Lantern tour. The Government of Canada has invested \$13.8 million into the renewal of the Cave and Basin National Historic Site.</p> |
| <p>New Accommodation Types</p> | <p>Parks Canada is currently implementing alternative accommodation. These are camping options such as Yurts, Cottage tents etc for individuals who may find the great outdoors intimidating or for those who simply lack the knowledge to camp in the traditional way.</p> <p>These new facilities will provide all the equipment and amenities necessary to experience the great outdoors in slightly more comfortable surroundings. To supplement these accommodations Parks Canada is offering a free "Learn to Camp" program. A trained Parks Canada employee will provide onsite training and information on all aspects of camping.</p> |
| <p>Learn To Camp</p> | <p>The Parks Canada Learn to Camp initiative offers young families and new Canadians a memorable first-time camping experience in Canada at Rouge National Urban Park on June 22nd and 23rd, 2013</p> <p>Over the weekend, participants will set camp at the future Rouge National Urban Park to learn camping basics such as, how to set up a</p> |

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| | <p>tent, how to cook outdoors, and what to pack. They will also benefit from helpful Parks Canada and Mountain Equipment Co-op staff tips to make their future camping adventure a success.</p> <p>Julia and Colin, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Parks Canada Youth Ambassadors will take part in the Learn to Camp initiative at Rouge National Urban Park.</p> <p>Louis Lavoie, Senior Advisor, Community Engagement and Industry Relations for Rouge National Urban Park, is leading this initiative.</p> <p>You can also download the Learn to Camp smartphone and tablet app at: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/media/ltc-dlc/index.aspx</p> |
| <p>Camping for Softies!</p> | <p>The oTENTik tent offers a unique blend of homey comfort and a taste of outdoor adventure. It's a unique concept for visitors to enjoy camping with the comfort of a bed and a campsite already set up and ready to go. Each unit includes three beds and can accommodate up to six people. A cross between a tent and a rustic cabin, this type of accommodation is the perfect way for families, friends and couples of all ages to discover the joys of camping without all the muss and fuss.</p> <p>www.pc.gc.ca/voyage-travel/hebergement-accommodation/otentik.aspx</p> |
| <p>For More Information</p> | <p>Go to the Parks Canada website at: www.pc.gc.ca</p> <p>Download your copy of the Parks Canada Vacation Planners here: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/voyage-travel/index/pdf.aspx</p> <p>Or order by phone at 1-888-773-8888</p> <p>Follow Parks Canada on Twitter @ParksCanada</p> <p>Facebook is www.facebook.com/ParksCanada</p> <p>To reserve campsites in the parks online: https://reservation.pc.gc.ca</p> |

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| <p>THE NATIONAL PARKS</p> | <p>Top 10 Canadian National Parks</p> <p>These are my personal picks from the 27 National Parks that I have visited so far:</p> <p>Nahanni, NWT: Wow! The foaming South Nahanni River careers beneath the sawtooth Mackenzie Mountains, through awesome canyons, over the totally imposing Virginia Falls., beside sulphurous hotspots and spruce and aspen forests which feather into alpine tundra. No road leads here, but the heart certainly does.</p> <p>Elk Island, Alberta: Just a few minutes east of Edmonton on the Yellowhead Highway lies one of the prettiest and most under-rated of the Canadian national parks... Elk Island is wilderness of aspen parkland</p> |
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and is home to herds of free-roaming plains bison, wood bison, moose, deer, and elk – as well as over 250 species of birds.

Rocky Mountains, BC/Alberta: I'm cheating here and rolling six parks into the one glorious, world-renown bundle of the Rocky Mountain national parks. Banff, Jasper, Glacier, Kootenay, Mount Revelstoke and Yoho: they are all picture-book beautiful and the crown jewel of the entire park collection. And then there's Waterton too...

Gros Morne, Newfoundland: I have hiked to the top of Gros Morne twice and each time been blown away (mostly figuratively, but literally too!) by the majestic beauty of the landscape: wild mountains, a coastline of coves, beaches and cliffs, and great glacier-carved fjords. It's also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Fundy, New Brunswick: The world's highest tides surge along the last remaining undeveloped coastline south of Labrador, where the conifer-dominated Caledonia Highlands roll down to meet the fog-generating waters of the Bay of Fundy. Fishing boats come and go to the tidal rhythm of the bay.

Kluane, Yukon: This is a huge, vertical land of lofty mountains, with immense icefields, contorted glaciers sweeping down toward the turquoise waters of Kluane Lake. Slopes are enlivened with wildlife from grizzly bears to Dall sheep. Above it all is Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak at nearly 6,000 metres.

Auyuittuq, Nunavut: Located in the eastern Arctic on southern Baffin Island, this park is an imposing jumble of jagged granite mountains, smooth icecaps and arctic tundra valleys meeting the polar sea ice in a dazzling world of white, green and blue. Its name is an Inuktitut word meaning "land that never melts".

Riding Mountain, Manitoba: This is a most improbable place! Surrounded by flat farming prairie on all sides, Riding Mountain rises abruptly from the horizontal landscape to form the Manitoba Escarpment, a rolling and forested oasis rich in wildlife and rare vegetation.

St. Lawrence Islands, Ontario: Other parks impress with their immensity – this one is on a human scale. 21 of the "1000 Islands" (actually 1,864) and a mainland base make up the smallest of Canada's national parks. Most islands have docks, trails, shelters and camping facilities, or take one of the many 1000 Islands cruise boats.

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| | <p>Cape Breton Highlands, Nova Scotia: One of the great drives of the world threads its winding way over and beneath the headlands and cliffs of the Cape Breton Highlands. Take your time, for this is a heady mix of scenery, wildlife and a human presence that goes back to the last Ice Age.</p> |
| <p>Nahanni National Park Reserve</p> | <p>Nahanni National Park Reserve is an outstanding example of northern wilderness rivers, canyons, gorges and alpine tundra. The park, with a total area of 30,050 km², is centred on the river valleys of the South Nahanni and Flat rivers in the southwest part of the Northwest Territories.</p> <p>Within Canada's system of national parks, Nahanni National Park Reserve protects a representative example of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region. The park area overlaps two major ecozones - the Taiga Plains to the east and Taiga Cordillera to the west - and touches the Boreal Cordillera Ecozone to the south. The park occupies approximately one-seventh of the total area of the South Nahanni River watershed.</p> <p>One of the key features of the park is the South Nahanni River. This river originates as a small, clear boulder-strewn stream in the remote Mackenzie Mountains. It grows dramatically in size and power as it flows 580 km downstream to the southeast. The silt-laden waters of the South Nahanni meander through scenic mountain valleys and hurtle through a series of deep canyons before calming and joining the Liard River at Nahanni Butte. This dramatic change in character, along with the varied and spectacular terrain that it passes through, have given the South Nahanni its international reputation as a premier wilderness river.</p> <p>Along the river are many unique features. These include: Rabbitkettle Hot Springs, source of the largest known tufa mounds in Canada; Virginia Falls, with a vertical drop twice that of Niagara Falls; a series of river canyons up to 1200 m deep; and caves such as Grotte Valerie with its ancient skeletons of nearly a hundred Dall's sheep.</p> <p>The park is home to a variety of wildlife. Dall's sheep, mountain goats, woodland caribou, wolves, black bears, grizzly bears and trumpeter swans all find refuge in Nahanni.</p> <p>In 1978, Nahanni National Park Reserve became the first site in the world to be granted World Heritage status by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The World Heritage Site designation highlights the international significance of the park's natural heritage.</p> <p>The section of the South Nahanni River protected by the park was proclaimed a Canadian Heritage River in 1987, in recognition of its outstanding wilderness character and recreational value.</p> <p>For an idea of the grandeur of the scenery is this park, take a look at this</p> |

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| | <p>YouTube video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_7QD6FCZeE&feature=youtu.be</p> |
| <p>Elk Island, Alberta</p> | <p>Located less than an hour away from Edmonton, Elk Island National Park of Canada protects the wilderness of the aspen parkland, one of the most endangered habitats in Canada. This beautiful oasis is home to herds of free roaming plains bison, wood bison, moose, deer, and elk. Also boasting over 250 species of birds, the park is a bird watcher's paradise. Be it for wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing, picnicking or overnight camping, there is something for everyone at Elk Island National Park.</p> <p>Celebrating 100 years as a National Park: Elk Park was first established in 1906 as a federal game preserve to protect the declining elk populations of the Beaver Hills. Some of the last Plains Bison in the world were reintroduced to Elk Park in 1907. In 1913 Elk Park joined the Parks Canada family. Since that time Elk Island National Park has been Canada's source of disease free bison for re-introduction and conservation initiatives throughout its former range.</p> |
| <p>Rocky Mountains, BC/Alberta</p> | <p>Banff National Park In the fall of 1883, three Canadian Pacific Railway construction workers stumbled across a cave containing hot springs on the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains. From that humble beginning was born Banff National Park, Canada's first national park and the world's third. Spanning 6,641 square kilometres (2,564 square miles) of valleys, mountains, glaciers, forests, meadows and rivers, Banff National Park is one of the world's premier destination spots.</p> <p>Glacier National Park Glacier National Park of Canada protects, for all time, a portion of the Columbia Mountains Natural Region, in the interior wet belt of British Columbia. The steep, rugged mountains, warm, moist climate and wide variety of plant and animal life are typical of this natural region. The park protects unique stands of old-growth cedar and hemlock and critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species such as the mountain caribou, mountain goat and grizzly bear. The Rogers Pass National Historic Site is located in Glacier National Park. Rogers Pass was so designated for its importance in the construction and development of the country's first major national transportation route.</p> <p>Jasper National Park Jasper is the gentle giant of the Rockies. Offering visitors a more laid-back mountain experience - with equal options for adventure, discovery and relaxation. As one of Canada's oldest and largest national parks, established in 1907, Jasper was once seen as an island of civilization in a vast wilderness. More recently, it has become a popular getaway from urban life, and a special place to reconnect with nature. With nearly 1000km of trails, thousands of campsites, wildlife beyond</p> |

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| | <p>measure and the largest Dark Sky Preserve on the planet, there are endless ways to enjoy the magic of Jasper National Park.</p> <p>Kootenay National Park From cactus to glacier: established in 1920, Kootenay National Park represents the south-western region of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. From glacier-clad peaks along the Continental Divide to the semi-arid grasslands of the Rocky Mountain Trench, where cactus grows, this park is home to a rich diversity of landscapes and ecology.</p> <p>Yoho National Park A place of awe and wonder: these are the western slopes of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Towering rockwalls, spectacular waterfalls and soaring peaks earn the park its name; Yoho is a Cree expression of awe and wonder. Here in the shadow of the Great Divide are the secrets of ancient ocean life, the power of ice and water, and the stories of plants and animals that continue to evolve today.</p> <p>Mount Revelstoke National Park Mount Revelstoke National Park is a place of contrasts. Take a drive along the Meadows in the Sky parkway through a variety of geographical zones. From dense old-growth rainforest of giant cedar and pine, travel up through subalpine forest, and finally alpine meadows and tundra. Marvel at the spectacular view of the ice-clad peaks of the Monashee Mountains and, to the east, the Selkirk Mountains. The Giant Cedars hiking trail takes you through a stand of ancient Western Red Cedars, and the Skunk Cabbage Boardwalk trail introduces you to jungle-like wetland, a birder's paradise.</p> |
| <p>Gros Morne, Newfoundland</p> | <p>Gros Morne National Park of Canada was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. It is an area of great natural beauty with a rich variety of scenery, wildlife, and recreational activities. Visitors can hike through wild, uninhabited mountains and camp by the sea. Boat tours bring visitors under the towering cliffs of a freshwater fjord carved out by glaciers. Waterfalls, marine inlets, sea stacks, sandy beaches, and colourful nearby fishing villages complete the phenomenal natural and cultural surroundings of Gros Morne National Park of Canada.</p> <p>Beyond its awe-inspiring scenic beauty, Gros Morne National Park boasts an incredible biotic richness and is internationally acclaimed for its unique combination of geologic features. The rocks of the area describe ages of geologic turmoil when old oceans disappeared, new ones were created, and continents took shape.</p> <p>The rocks in Gros Morne National Park have contributed greatly to our understanding of plate tectonics. Gros Morne National Park is dominated by two distinctly different landscapes, a coastal lowland bordering the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the alpine plateau of the Long Range Mountains. These provide habitats for an array of flora and fauna: flowering plants, bryophytes, lichens, mammals, fish and birds. This vast</p> |

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| | <p>array of life consists of a unique mixture of temperate, boreal, and arctic species. Wherever you explore in the area, often you will see familiar species and discover their Arctic counterpart nearby.</p> <p>Watching wild animals is an exciting part of any visit to a national park, and Gros Morne National Park has lots of opportunities, from forty tonne whales to featherweight warblers!</p> |
| <p>Fundy, New Brunswick</p> | <p>Fundy National Park of Canada encompasses some of the last remaining wilderness in southern New Brunswick. Here, the conifer dominated Caledonia Highlands roll down to meet the fog-generating Bay of Fundy. The tidal fluctuation of the Bay of Fundy is the highest in the world. Watch fishing boats come and go to the rhythm of the bay. Inland, explore lush forests and deep stream valleys.</p> |
| <p>Kluane, Yukon</p> | <p>Kluane National Park & Reserve is dominated by mountains and ice, which make up 82% of the surface area. The St. Elias Mountains, Canada's highest and most massive mountains, have two ranges separated by a narrow trough, the Duke Depression. The Kluane Ranges, a chain of mountains averaging 2500m (8,000') in height, are visible to travellers on the Haines Road or the Alaska Highway. Beyond these guardians of the interior, to the west lie the rugged Icefield Ranges, whose peaks soar into the 5000m (16,000') range.</p> <p>The giants are: Mount Logan (5,959m, 19,545') the highest mountain in Canada and the second highest peak on the continent; Mount St. Elias (5,488m, 18,005'); Mount Lucania (5,231m, 17,162') and many others. Although many of the highest mountains are not visible from any point along the highway, some of the higher peaks can be spotted in the distance from viewpoints near Kathleen Lake or the Donjek River.</p> <p>Amid these ranges is a legacy of the last Ice Age - one of the world's largest non-polar icefields. Massive quantities of snow continue to accumulate as moist Pacific air moves over the St. Elias Mountains. Valley glaciers such as Naludi (Lowell Glacier), 65 km. long, radiate from the icefields. Glacial movements are often immense and spectacular. In the past, surges of Naludi (Lowell Glacier) have blocked the Alsek River near Goatherd Mountain with a dam of ice. The resulting glacial lakes extended well back to and over the present site of Haines Junction. The most recent Lake Alsek is said to have drained around 1850 in two days after the ice dam broke, with a flow rate comparable to that of the Amazon River. Huge gravel current ripples from this outflow, as well as wave-cut lake benches, are visible along the Alsek trail, 10 km north of Haines Junction along the Alaska Highway. The flooding associated with the advances and retreat of Naludi (Lowell Glacier) is the subject of many Southern Tutchone native people's legends and stories.</p> <p>The Alsek River rises in the mountains of Kluane National Park Reserve, its braided upper reaches nestle in a broad valley, providing an oasis for mountain goats, Dall's sheep and other wildlife. Sand dunes and glacial</p> |

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| | <p>till provide a contrasting environment for the diverse vegetation found here. Downstream, rivers of ice flow into the Alsek's silt-laden waters, calving huge icebergs into the river before it leaves the Park on its journey to the Pacific Ocean on the Alaskan Panhandle.</p> <p>For some of my personal photos from a recent trip to this park, take a look at my Yukon travel blog here: http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/58/The-Yukon.aspx</p> |
| <p>Auyuittuq, Nunavut</p> | <p>Sweeping glaciers and polar sea ice meet jagged granite mountains in Auyuittuq National Park of Canada. Established in 1976, Auyuittuq - an Inuktitut word meaning "land that never melts" - protects 19,089 km² of glacier-scoured terrain. Located in the eastern Arctic, on southern Baffin Island, the park includes the highest peaks of the Canadian Shield, the Penny Ice Cap, marine shorelines along coastal fiords, and Akshayuk Pass, a traditional travel corridor used by the Inuit for thousands of years. Whether you wish to climb Auyuittuq's rugged peaks, ski on its pristine icefields, or hike the scenic Akshayuk Pass, this park offers unique opportunities to experience the beauty and majesty of the Arctic.</p> |
| <p>Riding Mountain, Manitoba</p> | <p>Welcome to 3000 km² of possibilities, where the boreal forest, the aspen parkland, and the fescue prairie greet visitors of all ages and abilities. This welcoming community and pristine wilderness will help you to reconnect with the best of Manitoba and Canada, and offer you a vast array of opportunities for relaxation, laughter, discovery, and fun. The picturesque town of Wasagaming, which bustles on busy summer days, has been creating indelible family memories for generations. The East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site reminds you of the early days of Canada's national parks system, a system which just celebrated its 100th birthday.</p> <p>Riding Mountain has something to offer everyone. Whether you spend time listening for the bugling of elk in the fall, or getting the jump on the lively summer season with an early spring hike. Whatever experiences you are looking for, you will find something for everyone at Riding Mountain National Park.</p> |
| <p>St. Lawrence Islands, Ontario</p> | <p>As a small protected area in the heart of the Thousand Islands, Thousand Islands National Park works to promote sustainable recreation while protecting the land and wildlife that make the area a popular tourist destination. The park is located in an area of rich biodiversity and is home to many species at risk.</p> <p>Thousand Islands National Park consists of several ecologically important mainland properties and more than 20 islands between Kingston and Brockville. The Visitor Centre at Mallorytown Landing provides an introduction to the park with a hiking trail, interpretive programs, exhibits, and activities for the whole family.</p> <p>The park is a key regional partner in encouraging sustainable lifestyles</p> |

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| | <p>and in protecting the ecosystems of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. The Biosphere Reserve, officially designated by the United Nations in 2002, recognizes the region as a place where people live, work, and enjoy a variety of economic and recreational activities based on respect for the environment.</p> <p>Established in 1904 as the first Canadian national park east of the Rockies, St. Lawrence Islands celebrated its centennial in 2004. The unique ecosystem of the park will be preserved as a legacy for the next century and beyond.</p> <p>These rocky islands, windswept pines, and cool waters of Thousand Islands National Park have the flavour of the northern wilderness just a few hours from Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa.</p> <p>In this traditional summer home of Haudenosaunee and Mississauga Anishinaabe, nature and culture intermingle. Majestic castles and historic summer homes stand in contrast to rugged islands of granite and pine that are home to lumbering turtles, soaring eagles, and countless other species.</p> |
| <p>Cape Breton Highlands, Nova Scotia</p> | <p>Cape Breton Highlands National Park is known for its spectacular highlands and ocean scenery. The Cape Breton Highlands are the most striking feature of northern Cape Breton. Steep cliffs and deep river canyons carve into a forested plateau bordering the Atlantic Ocean. One third of the Cabot trail, a world-famous scenic highway, runs through the national park along the coasts and over the highlands.</p> <p>Established in 1936, the National Park covers 950 square kilometres, protecting about 20% of northern Cape Breton. It is one of the largest protected wilderness areas in Nova Scotia and is one of a system of national parks protecting outstanding Canadian landscapes.</p> <p>The cool maritime climate and rugged landscape of the park permit a unique blend of Acadian, Boreal and Taiga habitats, plants and animals. This special mix of northern and southern species is not found anywhere else in Canada. Within the park, several dozen species of rare or threatened plants and animals can be found, as well as old growth forests of international importance. Small populations of arctic-alpine plants left over from the last ice age can also be found here.</p> |

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