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EXPERIENCE

PARKS CANADA IN

Western Canada

ALBERTA • BRITISH COLUMBIA



Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
© Parks Canada - Josh McCullough



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INFORMATION

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Welcome

Watch a grey whale diving deep off Pacific Rim, ice crashing off a glacier in Jasper, or an arrow-straight chevron of geese honking over Wood Buffalo. Marvel in a child's fascination of the journey of water as she listens to it percolating upwards, at the Cave and Basin. In Gwaii Haanas, listen to the ancient moss-covered mortuary poles of SGang Gwaay speak to you of the Haida's respect for spiritual values. At the Bar U Ranch, learn about men and women who roped, wrangled and rode their way into cowboy history. These are the national parks and national historic sites of British Columbia and Alberta that will stir your emotions. Hear their stories. Feel them!

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QUEST FOR uniqueness

Seek the extraordinary in the national parks and national historic sites of Alberta and British Columbia. Challenge yourself with wilderness treks.

Stimulate your senses with never-seen-before creatures and life forms cemented in time. Immerse yourself in a lifestyle and culture unlike your own. Take the plunge and try something new.



ALBERTA

Home is Where the Warmth Is

Orchids. Tropical fish. Slithering garter snakes. Endangered snails. In Banff? The Cave and Basin National Historic Site is host to a variety of plants and critters that thrive in the special environment created by thermal spring waters. Take time to look at this fragile, diverse ecosystem and meet these interesting locals at the birthplace of Canada's National Park system.

Cave and Basin National Historic Site p. 13



ALBERTA

Wranglin', Ropin' & Reminiscin'!

Sample some tasty bannock and cowboy coffee at Roundup Camp at Bar U Ranch National Historic Site. Sit yourself down around a blazing campfire and take in some historic tales of high adventure on the range. You'll be carried back to a simpler time when entertainment was based on storytelling, cowboy poetry and music.

Bar U Ranch National Historic Site p. 13



© Parks Canada – Josh McCullough



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Visit a Fossil Bed!

Take a guided hike to the world-famous Burgess Shale fossil beds in Yoho National Park. Touch the most important fossils on the planet. Enjoy awe-inspiring views and see the origins of complex life on earth. Learn of the chance discovery of these fossils at the new display in the Field Visitor Centre.

Yoho National Park p. 10



ALBERTA

Seasonal Sightings

Sample the four seasons in Elk Island. Spring offers new adventures for orange coloured bison calves. The constant roaring of bull bison in mating rituals marks late summer. In autumn, spot deer as leaves turn colour and fall from trees. In winter's darkness, wary elk and moose spend more daylight hours foraging for food.

Elk Island National Park p. 12



ALBERTA

The Mountains Meet the Prairies

Experience the unique landscape of Waterton Lakes National Park. View wildlife on the open slopes of fescue prairie that sweep up into the alpine reaches of the Blakiston Valley. Watch animals such as mule and white-tailed deer, elk and black bears from the safety of your vehicle at the pull-offs along the parkway.

Waterton Lakes National Park p. 12

SIMPLY breathtaking

Explore corners of paradise in British Columbia's and Alberta's national parks. The extraordinary beauty of these places will leave you breathless. Climb some of the tallest mountains, picnic in a floral meadow or ski through a dense forest. Whatever your experience may be, feel inspired by these exceptional landscapes and natural treasures. You'll be making memories for a lifetime.



ALBERTA

Peak Experiences

Travel amongst impressive glaciers, famous lakes, ancient mountains, lush forests and the headwaters of great rivers. Visitors from around the world come to Banff National Park to explore over 190 kilometres of mountain trails for beginners and experienced hikers. From short interpretative walks within quaint mountain communities, to easy hikes leading to spectacular vistas and a myriad of unique overnight backcountry experiences, Canada's first national park offers something for everyone.

Banff National Park p. 12



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Land of the Giants

Gather your family and circle a trunk of the ancient trees in the world's only inland cedar rainforest. Alongside the valley trails, skunk cabbage plants tower over children. Drive the Meadows in the Sky Parkway and stand on a mountain summit. The subalpine meadows explode into colour every August as the wildflower season reaches its apex in Mount Revelstoke.

Mount Revelstoke National Park p. 10



© Parks Canada – Neil Osborne



© Parks Canada – Josh McCullough



© Brenda Falvey



Sounds of Silence

Looking to escape? Then the temperate rainforest of Green Point Campground in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is ideal. Camp above the endless surf swept sands of Long Beach. Listen to the ravens, eagles, sea lions and surf as you relax at camp surrounded by sword ferns, huckleberry and ancient conifers draped in hanging gardens of lichen and moss.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve p. 10

Take the Waters

Luxuriate in the comfort of warm, soothing water at Parks Canada's Hot Springs. Take in the breathtaking Canadian Rockies viewed from mineral-rich waters that bubble up from deep beneath. Heal your soul. Relax and allow the tension to melt away at one of three locations. Enhance your visit with a spa treatment or soak in some history by renting a 1920s bathing costume!

Parks Canada's Hot Springs p. 13

Refreshing Dips

Stroll the 1.6 km loop trail along the edge of the beautiful Marble Canyon in Kootenay National Park. Listen to the icy torrent of the turquoise waters of Tokumm Creek. Feel the cool spray of a waterfall. Smell fragrant wildflowers, grasses and other plants. Marvel at the American dipper, a bird that "flies underwater" and absorb the beauty that surrounds you.

Kootenay National Park p. 11

LIVE what is real

Get on the path to personal discovery by becoming directly involved with nature, history and culture in British Columbia's and Alberta's national parks and national historic sites. Opportunities abound to converse with locals, try something different or go off the beaten track and make new discoveries. You'll find each experience rewarding.



ALBERTA

Hit the Trails!

With a well-connected system of nearly 1000 km of hiking trails, Jasper is the perfect place to avoid crowds and reconnect with the natural world. An easy trail system surrounds the town of Jasper – perfect for a stroll or bike ride after dinner. If you're looking for a different sort of adventure, many of our trails offer biking, Nordic skiing, hiking and horseback riding.

Jasper National Park p. 12



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Aboriginal culture – past and present

Life at the Fort St. James National Historic Site trading post on the shores of beautiful Stuart Lake moved to the rhythm of the seasons in 1896. Feel this rhythm as you try traditional hide tanning and traditional food preparation with Aboriginal people and interpreters in period costume. Learn about the Carrier culture then and now through demonstrations, stories, artefacts and exhibits.

Fort St. James National Historic Site p. 11



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Stories of the Ice Age

Hear stories from over 13,000 years of the Haida connection to the land and sea. Talk to the Haida Gwaii Watchmen at ancient Haida village sites and learn about their past and present lives. Explore SGang Gwaay UNESCO World Heritage Site where carved land and sea creatures on majestic century-old poles preside over the village. Discover what has intrigued artists, explorers and travellers for hundreds of years.

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site p. 10



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meet Compelling Characters

Let costumed interpreters introduce you to the lives and loves of the people who lived at Fort Langley. Meet First Nations women and Hudson's Bay Company workers from places like Quebec, Scotland and Hawaii. See their homes and how they worked. Enjoy guided walks or step into their world through interactive games and activities.

Fort Langley National Historic Site p. 11



BRITISH COLUMBIA

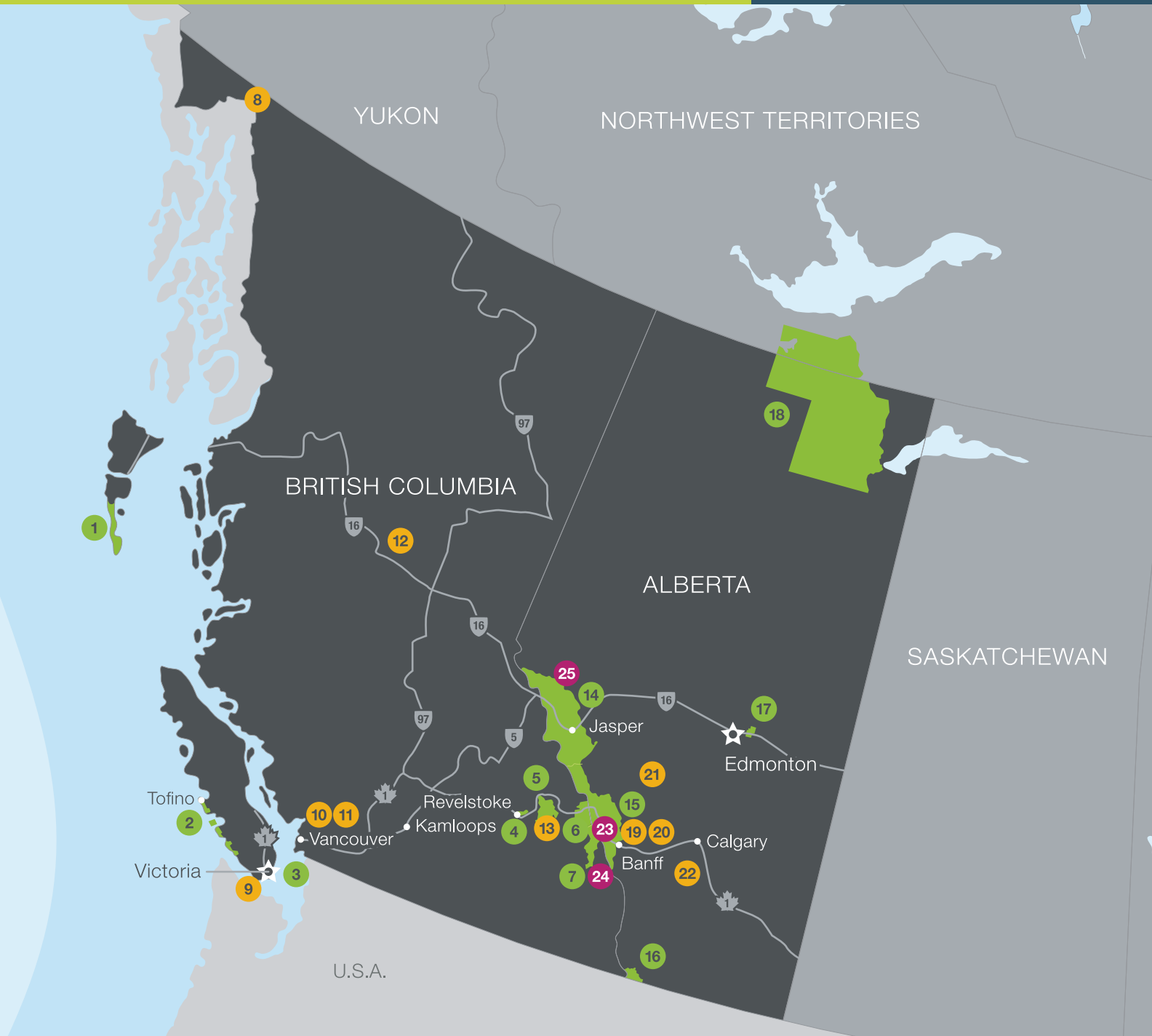
Firepower

On summer weekends, the century-old walls of Fort Rodd Hill echo to the sounds of the site's thrilling "Firepower" demonstration. After an initial rifle shot to alert visitors that "it's show time," costumed interpreters present various historic weapons and fire a series of blank rounds. The arsenal includes rifles, a pistol and, as the grand finale, a BREN light machine gun that fires bursts at nine rounds a second. After the show, as the pungent smell of gunpowder slowly wafts away, visitors can ask questions, and maybe even take away a still-warm casing as a souvenir!

Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site p. 11

Western Canada

National Parks and National Historic Sites of Canada



British Columbia

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Directory

The following section provides more information on unique places and experiences in Western Canada.

Services and activities legend

The legend below identifies some of the services and activities that may be available at the parks and sites. Watch for these symbols when planning your visit.

 Information	 Scuba diving
 Parking	 Cabins
 Access for the physically disabled	 Yurts
 Interpretation	 Teepees
 Bus parking	 Parks Canada oTENTik
 Restaurant	 Geocaching
 Gift shop	 Marine mammals
 Camping	 Hot springs
 Picnic area	 Photography
 Backpacking/hiking	 Tobogganing
 Playground	 Mountain/Ice climbing
 Lookout	 Windsurfing
 Recreational vehicles	 Water-skiing
 Cycling	 Rafting
 Swimming	 Golfing
 Canoeing	 Downhill skiing
 Kayaking	 Horseback riding
 Motorboating	 Dog-sledding
 Sailing	 Snowmobiling
 Winter activities	 Beaches
 Fishing	 Tennis
 Cross-country skiing	 Picnic shelter
 Birdwatching	 Mountain biking
 Ice skating	

Directory

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve

British Columbia

1 Gwaii Haanas (Reserve)

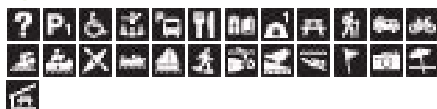


Wander through century old totem poles while visiting SGang Gwaay UNESCO World Heritage Site or surround yourself with snow-capped mountains surging from lush rainforest. Follow the humpback whale migration, or explore long stretches of beach. Gwaii Haanas embodies the essence of the rugged beauty and rich ecology of the Pacific coast. It is a celebration of more than ten thousand years of Haida connection with the land and sea.

Skidegate, BC

1-877-559-8818 | parkscanada.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas

2 Pacific Rim (Reserve)



Stimulate the senses! Wander the rocky shores, tidal pools and wind-swept dunes. Glide amongst a hundred islands, sheltered coves and bays. Hike the beaches and forest. Explore this wind and water sculpted landscape. Backed by the Vancouver Island Range and facing the open Pacific Ocean, Pacific Rim presents the rich natural and cultural heritage of Canada's west coast.

**Ucluelet, BC – 300 km from Victoria, BC;
300 km from Vancouver, BC**

1-250-726-3500 | parkscanada.gc.ca/pacificrim

3 Gulf Islands (Reserve)



Enjoy a mosaic of open meadows, forested hills, rocky headlands, quiet coves and sandy beaches. Explore the fascinating shorelines and sheltered bays in your kayak. Embrace this peaceful refuge, just a stone's throw from the urban clamour of Vancouver and Victoria.

Sidney, BC – 27 km from Victoria, BC;

87 km from Vancouver, BC

1-866-944-1744 | parkscanada.gc.ca/gulf

4 Mount Revelstoke



Mount Revelstoke National Park is a place of contrasts. From dense old-growth rainforest of giant cedars and hemlocks, travel up through subalpine forest, and finally alpine meadows and tundra. Marvel at the spectacular view of the ice-clad peaks of the Selkirk Mountains and to the west, the Monashee Mountains. Mount Revelstoke is the only national park in the country that offers an opportunity to stand on a mountain-top five just minutes walk from a vehicle.

Revelstoke, BC

1-250-837-7500 | parkscanada.gc.ca/revelstoke

5 Glacier



With more than 400 glaciers and some of Canada's most active avalanche areas, snow is serious business in Glacier National Park! Explore an amazing trail system and climbing routes. Connect with the park's gentler side in summer when quiet campgrounds and interpretive trails await you. Start your visit at the Rogers Pass Discovery Centre, where a roaring fireplace, comfortable armchairs and friendly staff carry on a tradition of Columbia Mountains hospitality that began 125 years ago.

Revelstoke, BC

1-250-837-7500 | parkscanada.gc.ca/glacier

6 Yoho



Towering rockwalls, spectacular waterfalls and soaring peaks earn the park its name; Yoho is a Cree expression of awe. Here, in the shadow of the Great Divide, the secrets of ancient ocean life – the Burgess Shale fossils – rest high on the mountain peaks. Throughout the park, witness the power of ice and water or join an interpreter to discover stories of the park's wildlife and past.

Field, BC – 209 km from Calgary, AB

1-250-343-6783 | parkscanada.gc.ca/yoho



Jasper National Park



Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site



Banff National Park

7 Kootenay



Enter a world of amazing contrasts in Kootenay National Park. Admire glacier-clad peaks and the semi-arid grassland home of Bighorn Sheep as you hike along stunning trails. Marvel at the dramatic colours and sounds at Marble Canyon or watch the "slow fireworks" of wildflowers along the Stanley Glacier Trail. Finish off your day with a relaxing soak in the natural mineral waters of Radium Hot Springs.

Radium Hot Springs, BC – 261 km from Calgary, AB
1-250-347-9505 | parkscanada.gc.ca/kootenay

8 Chilkoot Trail



The Chilkoot Trail was designated a national historic site because of the role it played in the mass movement of people to the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. It protects the historic gateway to the Yukon once trod by Tlingit First Nation traders and Klondike Gold Rush stampedeers.

Whitehorse, Yukon
1-800-661-0486 / 867-667-3910
parkscanada.gc.ca/chilkoot

9 Fort Rodd Hill & Fisgard Lighthouse



Come explore two nationally significant historic sites. Fort Rodd Hill, a century-old coastal artillery fort, was originally part of the worldwide chain of defenses for the British Empire. Its authenticity is remarkable. Fisgard Lighthouse, the oldest on Canada's west coast, was built in 1860. Step inside and be fascinated by the stories it reveals. Participate in diverse special events and interpretive programs or just come to relax and enjoy the stunning panoramic views.

Victoria, BC – 14 km from Victoria, BC;
112 km from Vancouver, BC
1-250-478-5849 | parkscanada.gc.ca/fortroddhill

10 Gulf of Georgia Cannery



Visit a living treasure, full of sounds, images and artefacts and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. Enter and learn how Canada's West Coast fishing industry developed, with exhibits that bring to life the machines that once churned out millions of cans of salmon.

Richmond, BC – 14 km from Vancouver, BC;
104 km from Victoria, BC
1-604-664-9009 | parkscanada.gc.ca/georgiacannery

11 Fort Langley



Experience Fort Langley National Historic Site, where British Columbia began. Smell the bake oven and the campfire as you wander the grounds. Hear the hammering of the blacksmith, or touch thick pelts and feel wool blankets as you step inside the original storehouse. Hold history in your hands—you'll be struck by the sights and sounds of life in the 1800s.

Fort Langley, BC – 48 km from Vancouver, BC;
135 km from Victoria, BC
1-604-513-4777 | parkscanada.gc.ca/langley

12 Fort St. James



Nestled against the picturesque shores of historic Stuart Lake, if the view doesn't astound you, the history will! Fort St. James is Canada's largest collection of original wooden fur trade buildings and is the winner of several awards for outstanding visitor experiences. Enjoy the living history. Stay a night in BC's most authentic accommodation experiences. Join us for one of the Daily Adventure programs or check out the newly opened exhibit gallery at your own pace.

Fort St. James, BC
1-250-996-7191 | parkscanada.gc.ca/stjames

13 Rogers Pass



Learn why Major A. B. Rogers' discovery of a railway route through the "impassable" Selkirk Mountains was a turning point in Canadian history. Follow the long-abandoned rails of the Canadian Pacific Railway main line, and find out how the railway fulfilled a Prime Minister's promise to British Columbia. Rogers Pass offers campgrounds and campfire talks, hiking and deep powder ski-touring in an area that is steeped in mountain legend and tradition.

Revelstoke, BC
1-250-837-7500 | parkscanada.gc.ca/rogers

Directory

Yoho National Park

Wood Buffalo National Park

Alberta

14 Jasper



Uncover the treasures in Jasper National Park, the "gentle giant" of the Rockies! Climb some of the spectacular and rugged mountains. Sit in awe while viewing the icefields, glaciers, waterfalls and more. With nearly 1000km of trails, thousands of campsites, wildlife beyond measure and the largest Dark Sky Preserve on the planet, there are endless ways to enjoy the magic of Jasper National Park.

**Jasper, AB – 365 km from Edmonton, AB;
415 km from Calgary, AB
1-780-852-6176 | parkscanada.gc.ca/jasper**

15 Banff



Explore Canada's first national park. Banff National Park is a must-see destination on any traveller's bucket list. Created in 1885 with the discovery of the hot springs, it is the flagship for Parks Canada's system of protected natural and cultural areas and the birthplace of tourism in the Canadian Rockies. As a leading tourism destination, Banff and Lake Louise offer unparalleled mountain nature, beauty, waterways, and adventure from which year-round outdoor activities and mountain culture are experienced.

**Banff, AB – 130 km from Calgary, AB
1-403-762-1550 | parkscanada.gc.ca/banff**

15 Lake Louise (Banff)



Enter into the heart of the Canadian Rockies, where history and wild nature blend. Featuring the world famous scenes of Moraine Lake, the Valley of Ten Peaks, Lake Louise and Victoria Glacier this destination is a must-see. Lake Louise's quaint mountain community hosts visitors from around the world looking to experience rugged nature on an overpowering scale. Winter is renowned for its long cross-country and downhill ski season and endless backcountry skiing opportunities including Skoki Ski Lodge National Historic Site.

**Lake Louise, AB – 190 km from Calgary, AB
1-403-522-3833 | parkscanada.gc.ca/banff**

16 Waterton Lakes



View rugged, windswept mountains that rise abruptly out of gentle prairie grassland in spectacular Waterton Lakes National Park. Let the park fill you with wonder as you ski, horseback, canoe or hike through different natural regions. Experience a world first – in 1932, the park was joined with the United States' Glacier National Park to form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park!

**Waterton Park, AB – 264 km from Calgary, AB
1-403-859-5133 | parkscanada.gc.ca/waterton**

17 Elk Island



A feast for your eyes awaits you in Canada's first wildlife sanctuary, Elk Island National Park. Home to herds of free roaming plains bison, wood bison, moose, deer and elk, this beautiful oasis will simply amaze you.

**Fort Saskatchewan, AB – 32 km from Edmonton, AB;
331 km from Calgary, AB
1-780-922-5790 | parkscanada.gc.ca/elkisland**

18 Wood Buffalo



Seek the thrill of a lifetime in Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Embrace the challenge of seeing one of the few free-roaming wood bison. Hike or canoe this vast northern boreal forest. Boat and bird watch in the Peace-Athabasca Delta or sit in awe of Canada's largest national park, the nesting site of the only naturally migrating Whooping Cranes.

**Fort Smith, NT
1-867-872-7960 | parkscanada.gc.ca/woodbuffalo**



Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites



Elk Island National Park

19 Banff Park Museum



Visiting the Banff Park Museum has been a traditional experience for generations of park visitors! It is Western Canada's oldest natural history museum and the best surviving example of the rustic Banff style architectural design popular in the early national park buildings. The original exhibits reveal how natural history was presented at the turn of the last century. The national historic site is conveniently located in downtown Banff close to local restaurants and gift shops.

Banff, AB – 129 km from Calgary, AB
1-403-762-1558
parkscanada.gc.ca/banffparkmuseum

20 Cave and Basin



Welcome to the birthplace of Canada's National Park System! In 1883, when three Canadian Pacific Railway workers discovered the Cave and Basin thermal springs they set in motion a series of events that would lead to the creation of Canada's national park system in 1885. This site is a location where people from across Canada and around the world can journey to share in the experience of this landmark in the history of environmental conservation in Canada.

Banff, AB – 129 km from Calgary, AB
1-403-762-1566 | parkscanada.gc.ca/cave

21 Rocky Mountain House



Walk in the footsteps of Aboriginal Peoples, fur traders and David Thompson, the greatest land geographer that ever lived. Kayak in the North Saskatchewan river and indulge the imagination at four authentic fur trading post locations. Explore the peaceful 7 km of nature trails, play in a miniature fort, and marvel at a heritage bison herd. Tipi and trapper tent camping is available.

Rocky Mountain House, AB – 227 km from Calgary, AB;
231 km from Edmonton, AB
1-403-845-2412
parkscanada.gc.ca/rockymountainhouse

22 Bar U Ranch



Don your western gear and come on out to Bar U Ranch National Historic Site! Walk or take a horse-drawn wagon to ranch headquarters and tour historic buildings. Savour the smells of the cookhouse, watch a leather craftsman at work, or pique your curiosity at the blacksmith shop.

Longview, AB – 79 km from Calgary, AB;
300 km from Edmonton, AB
1-888-773-8888 | parkscanada.gc.ca/baruranch

Canadian Rockies Hot Springs

Visit Radium, Miette and Banff Upper Hot Springs on your trip to the Canadian Rocky Mountains. These natural hot mineral springs are among the top attractions.

23 Banff Upper



Banff Upper Hot Springs offers a splendid historic bathhouse, located in Banff National Park.

Banff, AB – 129 km from Calgary, AB
1-800-767-1611 | parkscanada.gc.ca/hotsprings

24 Radium



Radium Hot Springs, in BC's Kootenay National Park, is famous for its canyon setting.

Field, BC – 261 km from Calgary, AB
1-800-767-1611 | parkscanada.gc.ca/hotsprings

25 Miette



Jasper National Park contains Miette Hot Springs with the hottest mineral water in the Rockies.

Jasper, AB – 365 km from Edmonton, AB
1-800-767-1611 | parkscanada.gc.ca/hotsprings

44

national parks

Spectacular landscapes, fascinating wildlife, precious habitats, gateways to adventure.

167

national historic sites

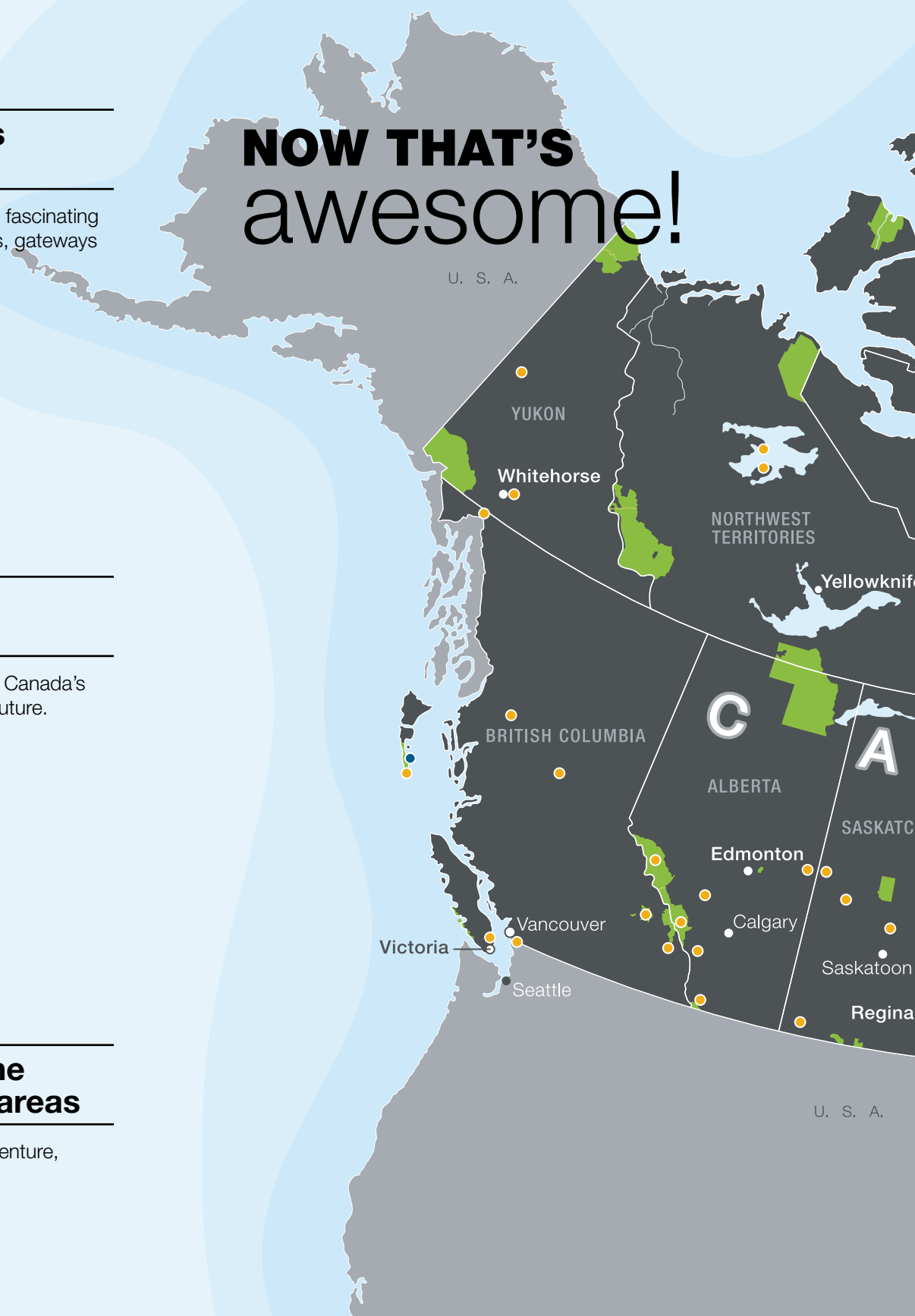
Fascinating reminders of Canada's past, conserved for the future.

4

national marine conservation areas

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FORT RODD HILL AND
FISGARD LIGHTHOUSE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



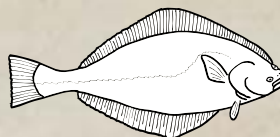
FORT LANGLEY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



FORT ST JAMES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



GLACIER
NATIONAL
PARK



GULF OF GEORGIA CANNERY
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



KOOTENAY
NATIONAL PARK



MOUNT REVELSTOKE
NATIONAL PARK



YOHU
NATIONAL
PARK



BANFF
NATIONAL
PARK



BAR U RANCH
NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE

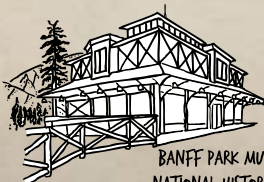


JASPER
NATIONAL
PARK

ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
HOUSE
NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE



ELK ISLAND
NATIONAL
PARK



BANFF PARK MUSEUM
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WATERTON
LAKES
NATIONAL
PARK



Louisbourg300

Come celebrate!



The Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site in Nova Scotia will erupt with festivity and merriment in 2013 to mark the 300th anniversary of Louisbourg's founding. Join us for a celebration three centuries in the making. Dance, sing and dine in this 18th century fortified town.

**FIND MORE ON EVENTS
AND ACTIVITIES AT**
parkscanada.gc.ca/louisbourg300



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Connect with Parks Canada to plan
your own unforgettable experiences
in Western Canada.

📷 Fort Langley National Historic Site

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