

# Canadian Rockies RV Camping: Majestic Must-Sees!

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Canadian Rockies RV camping in the region spanning British Columbia and Alberta is nothing short of spectacular, especially where the Trans-Canada Highway (Hwy 1) traverses the Continental Divide. In just a 286 km stretch (178 miles) of Highway 1, lie these three magnificent Canadian National Parks from West to East:



Mount Revelstoke National Park



Yoho National Park



Banff National Park

I bet you've heard of Banff National Park, arguably a crown jewel of the Parks Canada system. But, you may not be so familiar with Revelstoke and Yoho National Parks. While these smaller gems may not be on every RVer's radar, each one boasts its own vast wilderness of stunning scenery, abundant wildlife, and great RV campgrounds. And, with all three of these amazing national parks within a 3 ½ hour stretch of Highway 1, visiting them is an RVer's bucket list trifecta!

In this overview, we'll explore these three Western Canada Rockies majestic must-sees for RVers...when to go, what to see, and where to stay!

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***Author's Note:** Yes, there is a fourth fantastic National Park along this route that I didn't forget: Glacier National Park. It lies between the Revelstoke and Yoho parks, and is bisected by picturesque and historic Rogers Pass on Highway 1. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to explore Glacier...so we'll just have to go back!*

## **Find the Perfect Season: When to Plan Your Canadian Rockies RV Adventure**

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Okay, so there may not be a “perfect” season for every RVer’s Canadian Rockies RV camping adventure. Heck, some intrepid RVers among us love camping and RVing in the chill of snowy winters! But subjectively, the “shoulder seasons” (think late spring and early fall camping) might be some of the best times to explore this region. Visiting before or after the peak summer season may afford RVers less crowds, better parking, and cooler weather for day hikes bliss.

**Summer can be great, too, as long as you don’t mind more crowded parks, roadways, and trails.**

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And while you may think simply being so far north would mean no heat waves, don’t count on it. During our time in Banff National Park during late August, we were surprised by daytime temps hovering around 90 F for several days!

So, just as you’ll want to be prepared for chilly temperatures in the spring and fall, be prepared for hot weather during the peak summer months. And as with all mountainous regions, you’ll want to keep an eye on weather conditions. Winter snows at higher elevations can linger into the summer months. Likewise, snow and cold can descend earlier in the fall than you might think.



*Alpine Meadow and Mountains in Mt. Revelstoke National Park, BC (Image: Erik Anderson)*

**Mount Revelstoke National Park: Mountain Majesty**

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On our Canadian Rockies RV camping trip across the Trans-Canada Highway, we came upon Mount Revelstoke National Park first.

## Why it's Special

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Revelstoke boasts the 6,375-foot Mount Revelstoke at its core. Miles of hiking trails take you through vibrant alpine meadows and up to the summit, where you'll enjoy stunning mountain vistas. Wildlife is abundant, particularly black bears in the spring. You may also catch views of moose, mountain goats, coyotes, the elusive pine marten, and many species of birds.

## Must-See Sights

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- **Mount Revelstoke Summit and Fire Lookout Cabin.** Built in 1927, and operational until 1988, the restored historic cupola-style cabin is a designated Federal Heritage Building.
- **Meadows in the Sky Parkway.** The Parkway starts just outside the village of Revelstoke on Highway 1. It winds its way up an impressive series of at least a dozen classic switchbacks toward the summit. RV's over 7.9 meters (26 feet) and all trailers are prohibited.
- **Giant Cedars Boardwalk.** This trail, off Highway 1 just East of Revelstoke, offers a short, easy and accessible trail great for families. It meanders through a grove of old-growth western red cedars, some over 500 years old.
- **The City of Revelstoke.** We loved strolling along the downtown streets with their variety of shops, restaurants, historic buildings, and local craft breweries.

## RV Campgrounds

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- **Lamplighter Campground.** A full-hookup RV park in Revelstoke with showers and toilets. Located a short way from downtown.
- **Snowforest Campground.** A great in-park location nestled in the forest and also near Revelstoke.
- **Williamson Lake Campground.** Conveniently near Revelstoke with great access to family fun on Williamson Lake.

**Park Website:** <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/revelstoke>

## Yoho National Park: Natural Wonders Await

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*RVs at Kicking Horse Campground, Yoho National Park, BC (Image: Erik Anderson)*

## Why it's Special

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Located halfway between Calgary and Revelstoke, Yoho National Park showcases exciting waterfalls and beautiful emerald lake waters. Hiking and paddling in Yoho is breathtaking.

## Must-See Sights

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- **Emerald Lake.** Explore the vibrant green/blue waters by canoe or kayak. Or, enjoy hiking and biking around this picture-perfect lake.
- **Takakkaw Falls.** With an 833-foot drop, this dramatic waterfall is the second highest in Canada. Experience its thundering cascades and cooling mist only a short walk from the parking area.
- **Natural Bridge.** A natural limestone arch formed by the Kicking Horse River. You can walk under it and marvel at its thousands of years in the making.
- **Spiral Railroad Tunnels.** Just a couple miles East on Highway 1, this engineering marvel has a storied history. The unique looping tunnels enable trains to negotiate the steep elevation changes of Kicking Horse Pass.

## RV Campgrounds

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- **Kicking Horse Campground.** A popular campground convenient to Highway 1 and nearby Emerald Lake. Offers dry-camping for all size rigs with views of the surrounding peaks.
- **Monarch Campground.** Small campground, without services, just off the highway on Yoho Valley Road, before Kicking Horse Campground.

## Banff National Park: Crown Jewel of the Rockies

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*Town of Banff, Alberta, Canada; Street/Mountain View (Image: Erik Anderson)*

### Why it's Special

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Spectacular mountain peaks surround the area with its diverse hiking trails and opportunities for wildlife viewing. Banff National Park also boasts iconic sights like Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, Cascade Mountain, and Mt. Rundle.

### Must-See Sights

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- **Lake Louise.** It's a short walk from the parking area to this beautiful lake surrounded by glaciers and stellar hiking trails. Check out Lake Agnes Tea House.



- **Moraine Lake.** Canoe on exquisite glacier-fed emerald waters surrounded by the majestic Valley of the Ten Peaks.
- **Banff Gondola.** Take this aerial ride to the Sulphur Mountain summit for stunning views of six mountain ranges, the Bow Valley, and the town of Banff far below.
- **Johnston Canyon.** A marvelous hike on a wide pathway through this awe inspiring river canyon. View both the Lower and Upper Falls before returning to the parking area. Bring your pup on this dog-friendly trail!

## RV Campgrounds

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- **Tunnel Mountain Village I & II Campgrounds.** Convenient location within Banff townsite (free shuttle, bike, or walk to town). Huge campgrounds offering dry-camping in Village I and electric hook ups in Village II.
- Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court Campground. Large campground offering full-hookup sites with easy access. 10 minutes from downtown Banff via free shuttle, biking or walking.
- **Two Jack Lakeside Campground.** Picturesque setting on the shores of Two Jack Lake. Dry-camping with easy access to the lake and hiking trails.

**Park Website:** <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/banff>



## Helpful Tips

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👉 **Lake Louise/Moraine Lake Access:** Parking can be near impossible at Lake Louise!

And, private vehicles are prohibited from Lake Louise up to Moraine Lake (shuttle only). Do yourself a favor and reserve a shuttle ticket from the Lake Louise Ski Resort. It takes you to Lake Louise and the shuttle to Moraine Lake. Let them do the driving and parking for you.

👉 **Park Entrance Fees:** For all three parks, daily, seasonal, and group passes are available. Daily admission fees range from free for youth (17 and under) and up to \$11.00 ca for regular adult admission. See all fees [here](#).

👉 **Campground Search Tip:** Use [RV LIFE Campgrounds](#) for thousands of campground and RV park options across Canada and the U.S.!

# Conquering the Parks Canada Reservation System: A Guide for RVers

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*Hiker on trail, Johnston Canyon Banff National Park, Alberta (Image: Erik Anderson)*

For your Canadian Rockies RV camping adventure, the [Parks Canada Reservation System](#) is where you'll book your sites...hopefully. Like nearly all national parks in the U.S. and Canada, making reservations well in advance is recommended.

It can be a daunting process, especially when you are number 14,638 in the reservation queue! It may seem impossible to book your site, but it's not. Take deep breaths, settle in with a good cup of coffee or tea, and use these tips to secure your spot:

Plan your trip well in advance, especially for peak season. September is a great month to visit, while June can get busy.

Sign up for a Parks Canada reservation account before you get ready to reserve.

Take time to research campgrounds and campsite specifics for your needs. Make a list of your preferred sites with 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choice options.

Research ahead of time the opening dates of Parks Canada reservation windows. Know the dates and times at which you'll need to be logged in.

The Parks Canada reservation system may be different from what you're used to in the US. In many American park reservations systems, you log in at the "opening bell" and it is a first come/first served free-for-all. Not at the Parks Canada website. After logging in, you'll be placed in a queue to politely await your turn. It is not uncommon to have thousands, if not tens of thousands, of hopeful campers in line ahead of you. You may wait hours, but don't give up!



If your travel dates are flexible, your chances of getting campsites goes way up. Consider the many wonderful Canada provincial parks, as well as private campgrounds (many with water and electric hookups), as alternatives to the busy national park campgrounds.



*Parks Canada Reservation Screen, Success! (Image: Erik Anderson)*

## Your Canadian Rockies RV Adventure Beckons!

Don't get me wrong; Jeanne and I love camping in the U.S. Rocky Mountain regions. However, Canadian Rockies RV camping felt even more spectacular and we thoroughly enjoyed our visits to Mount Revelstoke, Yoho, and Banff National Parks. These Canadian Rockies majestic must-sees for RVers should be on your RVing bucket list. Start planning your itinerary now!

### About the Author:

- [About](#)
- [Full Bio](#)



### Erik Anderson

Erik and his wife Jeanne have been living, remote-working, and traveling full-time around the U.S. and Canada in their mid-size Class A motorhome since July 2020. They love hiking, biking, kayaking, and adventuring with their beloved Cavalier King Charles spaniel, “Hershey Pup”. A well-traveled pup, Hershey has happily wagged his tail through all of the “Lower 48” U.S. states, 6 Canadian provinces, and 40 national parks. And they’re not done yet! Along with RV lifestyle media writing, Erik co-authors their Hershey Pup RV Adventures children’s book series. He loves how their pup’s RVing adventures makes kids smile!