



REVELSTOKE.

NATIONAL PARKS.

MOUNT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK

Temperate Inland Rainforest

Revelstoke is situated in the world's only temperate inland rainforest. Mount Revelstoke National Park's Inspiration Woods trail showcases the park's large trees. Mount Revelstoke National Park contains stands of old-growth cedar and hemlock, a forest type which is rapidly declining outside of protected areas. The park also protects a small herd of the threatened mountain caribou and provides habitat for grizzly bear and mountain goat. Ecologically and geologically, the area is distinct from the Rocky Mountains to the east and the Coast Mountains to the west.

History of Skiing in Western Canada

Mount Revelstoke National Park's history is tied to the history of skiing in Canada. Mount Revelstoke Ski Hill site, northeast of Revelstoke and just within Mount Revelstoke National Park, has a history as old as the settlement itself. A local miner introduced "Norwegian Snowshoes" to Revelstoke as early as 1892 and the first ski club was organized the next year. In the earliest years of skiing, jumping was the main emphasis of the sport. From 1915 to the late 1960s, annual ski jumping competitions were held on Mount Revelstoke -- the longest period of any Canadian ski jumping venue. Revelstoke's was the biggest natural ski jump hill in Canada and internationally recognized as one of the best in North America. Today, visitors can see the historic ski jumping site and pose for photos with Nels' Nelsen's knickers (pictured above).

Wildflowers

In late July or early August, Mount Revelstoke National Park's dazzling wildflowers come into bloom. Visitors to the park can drive up the 26 km Meadows in the Sky Parkway to take in the views over the valley as well as the colourful alpine meadows. Those who venture from the road will be rewarded with even more colour as they make their way to one of the alpine lakes accessible to day hikers.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Hiking and Avalanche Artillery

Glacier National Park has breathtaking hiking trails and is home to (obviously) glaciers. Glacier National Park is beautiful in the summer, but as a winter destination, it's truly unique. In Rogers Pass, explosive artillery fire is regularly used on mountain slopes to protect highway and railway traffic from natural avalanches. Roger's Pass avalanche control centre is the world's largest mobile avalanche control program. The Rogers Pass section of road has the highest avalanche rating of any highway in North America. Due to the extensive scale of highway avalanche control work carried out in the park, where up to 15 metres of snow falls each winter, and 130 avalanche paths intersect the highway corridor, Department of National Defence employees are stationed in Rogers Pass throughout the winter season. These employees are professional soldiers trained to operate 105-millimetre howitzers for this purpose.