

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Q1. Who will get free admission to Parks Canada administered sites?**

**A1.** As part of the Canada Strong Pass, the Government of Canada is offering free admission to national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada.

Admission will be free for all visitors, regardless of citizenship, from June 20 to September 2 inclusive. There will also be a 25 per cent discount on camping fees during this time frame.

Whether you're travelling from near or far, Parks Canada looks forward to welcoming you this season.

### **Q2. What is included in free admission?**

**A2.** Free admission includes:

- Entry to all national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada; and
- Free lockage at the seven canals administered by Parks Canada on historic waterways;

### **Q3. What parks and sites will provide free admission?**

**A3.** As part of the Canada Strong Pass, the Government of Canada is offering free admission to national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada from June 20 to September 2 inclusive.

This does not include provincial, municipal and private parks.

Some Parks Canada locations are operated by third parties, and visitors will be required to pay applicable fees. These sites include:

- The Bank Fishery: The Age Of Sail Exhibit (at the Lunenburg Museum)
- Fort Henry NHS

- Point Clark Lighthouse NHS
- Site of L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home
- Boishébert and Beaubears Island Shipbuilding National Historic Sites
- Pointe-au-Père Lighthouse National Historic Site

Visitors are encouraged to visit [the full list of Parks Canada places](#) before their visit to avoid confusion.

**Q4. What does the 25 per cent camping discount apply to and what does it not apply to?**

A4. The 25 per cent camping discount will apply to all camping fees and accommodations, such as:

- Tent and RV camping
- Equipped camping
- Overnight backcountry use
- oTENTiks
- MicrOcubes
- Cabins
- Yurts
- Tipis
- Ôasis
- Historic stays (house, fort, guardhouse, prison, etc.).

**Q5. What fees still apply at Parks Canada administered sites?**

A5. Regular fees still apply for other experiences and services, such as:

- Canadian Rockies Hot Springs;
- Mooring;
- Reservation fees;

- Guided tours, hikes and programs not usually included with admission;
- Services provided by third parties;
- Fishing licenses;
- Firewood; and
- Parking.

Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that the fees charged to clients and visitors are affordable, represent good value for Canadians and do not unduly limit the enjoyment and accessibility of national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas.

**Q6. Will I be able to combine the camping discounts with other offers or promotions?**

**A6.** The 25 per cent discount on camping fees is specifically part of the Canada Strong Pass program and may not be combined with other promotions. If more than one discount applies to your reservation, you will receive the greater of the two promotions/offer.

**Q7. Will the gates be left open during free admission?**

**A7.** During the free admission period, regular opening hours will remain in effect. While no entry pass will be required to visit the sites, visitors must still register for camping upon their arrival.

Parks Canada staff will continue to welcome visitors and help with information and trip planning.

**Q8. I have already purchased a 2025 Discovery Pass. Will I be refunded for the summer months where admission will be free?**

**A8.** Discovery Passes are usually valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. Discovery Passes valid for June, July and August 2025 will be extended for an additional three months. If you have questions about your 2025 Discovery Pass, call **1-888-773-8888**.

**Q9. I already booked my camping site for this summer. Will I be refunded for my trip?**

**A9.** If you booked a campsite between June 20 and September 2 inclusive, you will receive an email with more information on the process to receive your prorated refund as your

reservation date approaches. We appreciate your patience as we work through the refund process, which may take some time to complete. For questions about refunds, call **1-888-773-8888**.

**Q10. I purchased a travel package through a tour company which included a Parks Canada Discovery Pass, daily admission or camping. How do I get a refund?**

**A10.** Discovery Passes are usually valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. Discovery Passes valid for June, July and August 2025 will be extended for an additional three months.

For any other Parks Canada products included in the Canada Strong Pass that you would have purchased through a tourism company (i.e daily admission and camping), please contact the company you booked with to discuss your refund options.

**Q11. Why discount camping when there's limited availability?**

**A11.** Parks Canada has over 200 locations across Canada, in every province and territory, rural and urban. As the heart of our national identity, they tell powerful stories and show beautiful landscapes, helping us feel connected to the places that make us Canadian.

Demand for camping reservations continues to be strong in 2025, particularly at high-demand locations. While it is still early in the season, current reservation levels are tracking closely with those seen in previous years. Although it's too soon to predict broader visitation trends with certainty, early indicators suggest another strong and successful year at Parks Canada administered places.

Visit [travel tips and vacation ideas](#) for must-see Parks Canada places without the usual hustle and bustle this summer, and to discover the splendor of hidden gems and explore the charm of lesser-known destinations.

Interested visitors are also encouraged to sign up for the new “Notify me” feature on the Parks Canada Reservation Service. With this feature, visitors can sign up to receive an email notification if a frontcountry campsite or Parks Canada accommodation (oTENTik tents, yurts, Oasis, cabins, etc.) that they are interested in and that was previously reserved becomes available.

**Q12. Why do international travellers get free admission and reduced camping fees?**

**A12.** Parks Canada welcomes about 24 million people each year, including Canadians and

visitors from over 100 countries. These places are not just beautiful and historic; they also help local economies by creating jobs and supporting communities across Canada.

Most visitors are Canadian, but many come from other countries. Sustainable tourism helps local communities, and Parks Canada is happy to welcome visitors from around the world. We encourage Canadians to explore their own country and warmly welcome international visitors.

*If pressed:* Parks Canada staff are expecting a busy and full season. We ask all visitors to treat staff and fellow visitors with kindness and respect, ensuring a positive experience for all.

**Q13. Are more or fewer Americans and Canadians choosing to camp in Canada's national parks this summer?**

**A13.** Parks Canada is one of Canada's leading tourism experience providers, welcoming approximately 24 million visitors every year to some of the world's most iconic natural and cultural heritage destinations. Visitors to Parks Canada administered places help generate \$4 billion for the national economy and spend over \$11 million every day in communities across the country.

While most visitors are Canadian, many are international, representing more than 100 countries annually. For example, in 2023-24, 17 per cent of visitors came from the United States and 16 per cent from overseas. The steady interest highlights the enduring appeal of the natural heritage in Canada and the importance of protecting these sites for future generations.

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#### **Q14. How is Parks Canada preparing to deal with increased visitation?**

**A14.** In managing national parks, Parks Canada maintains or restores ecological integrity, and provides Canadians with opportunities to discover and enjoy them.

Parks Canada has experienced eight consecutive years of above average visitation. We expect visitation to be high again this year, as Canadians look to explore their own backyards and spend time in Parks Canada administered locations. Parks Canada team members are working hard to make your visit a positive experience. Thank you for your understanding, and for the respect and courtesy you show toward our staff.

Parks Canada encourages Canadians to visit natural and cultural treasures across Canada and we look forward to continuing to welcome visitors from Canada and around the world.

Looking to discover somewhere new? Consider these [less busy \(but just as beautiful\) alternatives to some of the more popular destinations](#) administered by Parks Canada.

First time visiting? Check out [the complete guide to visiting Parks Canada](#).

#### **Q15. How will Parks Canada make up for the lost revenue?**

**A15.** Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that all Canadians have the opportunity to experience the natural and cultural heritage of Canada.

Parks Canada's funding comes from two sources: government tax-based appropriations and user fees. Tax dollars are used to create, protect and present national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas, as well as historic canals, since their protection benefits all Canadians. Visitors pay fees to help offset the costs of the services and facilities at Parks Canada administered places since they personally benefit from them.

Initiatives like this are made possible through federal investments, which help offset revenue that would otherwise be generated through admission and camping fees.

It is important to note that only admission will be free in the summer of 2025; fees for recreational services and goods such as camping and firewood, and fishing licenses will remain. Free admission is expected to increase visitation, leading to more revenue from other services.

**Q16. Do you anticipate more wildlife issues as a result of increased visitation?**

**A16.** The number of interactions between people and wildlife is influenced by a wide range of factors, including public awareness, the numbers and behaviour of both wildlife and people, availability of wildlife food sources and weather. Parks Canada undertakes a wide range of actions to prevent conflict between people and wildlife. It is critical for all of us to do our part to respect wildlife and follow safe practices when enjoying protected areas.

The opportunity to observe wild animals as they go about their natural lives is a privilege and one of the most fascinating experiences that national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas have to offer. Along with this opportunity, however, comes the responsibility to treat wild animals with the respect they deserve and need.

Parks Canada is committed to increasing public awareness about respecting wildlife and safe practices for coexistence in our shared landscapes and identifying proactive measures to reduce conflicts and avert serious incidents between people and wildlife.

Parks Canada encourages visitors to visit our website to review “[Top tips to respect wildlife and stay safe](#)”, and “Important Bulletins” for the location they will be visiting for important information on wildlife-related advisories, restrictions or closures.

**Q17. What is Parks Canada doing to ensure that invasive species or disease are not being brought to the parks or further spread with increased visitation?**

**A17.** Parks Canada is a world leader in conservation and takes the protection of the species under its care very seriously. Parks Canada works to help stop the spread of invasive species and disease through a robust monitoring program, non-native plant removal, the use of prescribed fire, educating park staff, visitors and residents of regulations and best practices to limit the spread of potentially harmful species and when required, the use of warnings and closures. Parks Canada recognises the risk that invasive species and disease can pose but we cannot do this work alone. We collaborate with other land managers, government departments, and industry to manage for and help prevent the spread of invasive species and disease.

Parks Canada needs the public’s help in ensuring that invasive species and disease are not spread when visiting the national parks. Some steps people can take to help stop the spread of invasive species and disease are:

- Use provided firewood obtained with a fire permit and never burn outside wood.
- Always wash, clean and dry your boat, fishing gear, boots, and beach toys after use.
- Clean your camping and hiking gear and recreational equipment after each use so you are not transporting seeds, dirt or plants from one place to the next.
- Check your truck canopy and RV awnings before you depart to ensure no small hitch hikers like bats are roosting in them.