



# Tips for visiting BC Parks

## It's as easy as A BC Park – Everything you need to know about visiting a BC Park

BC Parks are extraordinary places with special features and a repository of flora and fauna unique to the diverse habitats of the province.

### Where can I take my students to a provincial park?

BC Parks is your 'go-to' website, *bcparks.ca*, for planning your field trip and finding a park near your area.

### When is the best time to plan a field trip to a provincial park?

Most BC Parks are open May until the end of August. Check the BC Parks website for individual parks to find when your park is open.

### What facilities are available?

BC Parks have a range of facilities – trails, wash-house buildings with flush toilets and/or pit toilets, campgrounds, day-use areas, information kiosks and interpretive signage. Check the website for the individual park you want to visit for more information on facilities. In the off-season, parks that remain open may not have open or serviced bathroom facilities or outhouses. Bring extra toilet paper just in case.

### Who owns and operates provincial parks?

BC Parks are public lands that are administered and cared for by the provincial government.

### Are there rules about visiting a provincial park?

Yes. As with visiting any public land and protected area, there are guidelines and policies in place to ensure that people enjoy parks safely and that animals and plants that belong in the park remain safe and intact, and stay in the park.

- Check the BC Parks website for specific park regulations.
- Check the weather forecast for the day's field trip and go prepared with extra clothing, hats, mittens, sunscreen, garbage for substitute raincoats.
- Some BC Parks will have drinking water taps beginning in May and June; however, as a precaution bring plenty of water in reusable bottles.  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/safety/>



BC Parks



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- Ensure your students have discussed their responsibilities while visiting a provincial park. Basically, it's about respect and common sense.
- Treat everything gently, leave everything where found, and do not remove anything from the park (this includes living or dead items - rocks, shells, feathers, cones, mushrooms and so on).
- Stay on the trails – BC Parks trail systems are well laid-out and will take you along safe routes of the park's representative natural areas.
- Be considerate of others in the park – noise travels. Exploring a park with students is exciting and exuberant youth can be noisy. Remind students to respect that other people are also in the park enjoying their experience.
- The use of unmanned aerial vehicles, better known as drones, may only be used with a special permit.
- Campfires are permitted when there is no fire ban and in designated, approved fire-rings.
- Leave dead or live wood, tree branches and other woody debris where you find them.
- Watch any wildlife you may encounter and give it lots of space. Refer to the BC Parks wildlife guidelines and wildlife viewing code of ethics:  
[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/wild\\_gen.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/wild_gen.html)
- Leave no trace – ensure that you leave the area even cleaner than you found it. Use recycle and trash receptacles if available. If not, pack out what you pack in.

### **Are there bears, cougars and other large wildlife in provincial parks?**

Yes, there can be cougars, bears, moose, deer, elk and wolves in parks – remember that some of the large protected areas that are provincial parks provide some of the only wide-open safe space for some of these animals. See the following fact sheets about cougars, bears and other wildlife. <https://wildsafebc.com/> and [http://bcparks.ca/explore/wild\\_gen.html](http://bcparks.ca/explore/wild_gen.html)



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