

## Wildlife viewing – a word about Safety!



You may encounter wildlife at any time. **Be alert, and don't leave food accessible to animals.**

### When viewing wildlife always remember:

- **All wild animals are potentially dangerous.** Even a gentle-looking elk can seriously hurt a person.
- **Never approach or feed wildlife,** regardless of species or size.
- **Keep a safe viewing distance at all times** (30 to 100 metres).

**Please report all carnivore (bear, wolf, etc.) sightings to park staff immediately.**



**Thank you! Your efforts in keeping a 'BARE campsite' are appreciated!**



For more information contact:  
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[pc.gc.ca/jasper](http://pc.gc.ca/jasper)

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## THE "BARE" Campsite Program



 Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada 

## Welcome to the wild...

By camping here, you're sharing space with wild animals that depend on it for their survival. These can include bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes and others.

### How to keep a "bare" campsite

This campground has a "Bare" Campsite program in place. Ensure that no wildlife attractants are ever left unattended. **Stay safe and help keep the wildlife in our national parks alive and wild – please keep a BARE campsite.**

Anything that has an odour or could be considered food may attract wildlife to your site. **Never leave ANY of these items unattended at your campsite:**

- Coolers – full/empty
- Food – open/closed
- Garbage/Wrappings
- Dishes/Pots
- Pet Food/Bowls
- Bottles/Cans
- All scented products – such as shampoo, toothpaste, candles, citronella, dish soap

### A "bare" campsite



**If you are camping here, you are agreeing to:**

- ➔ Store ALL FOOD and FOOD-RELATED ITEMS in a hard-sided vehicle or the provided food storage lockers when not in use.
- ➔ Tent trailers are NOT bear-proof.

### If your campsite is not "bare"...

**When people leave their food out, bears and other animals can lose their fear of humans.** Once an animal gets used to human food, it becomes a risk to public safety and may be destroyed. By keeping a "bare" campsite, you are playing an important part in preventing the creation and destruction of "problem" animals.

**Staff patrol the campground to ensure that campers have not left anything out that could attract wildlife.** If you come back to your site and find items missing, look for instructions left by park staff.

### A "wildlife at risk" and cancelled permit site



Campers who fail to comply with the "Bare Campsite" program may have their camping permit cancelled, with no refund, and may be charged under the *Canada National Parks Act* and Regulations.

## Sharing an ecosystem – You are camping within wildlife habitat



**Be aware of your surroundings,** especially at dusk and dawn, or in densely vegetated areas. **Surprising an animal that is busy feeding can be very dangerous!** Animals rely on every part of this ecosystem for their survival. They need to forage for their natural food undisturbed in order to gain enough fat to survive the winter. By keeping a "bare" campsite and not feeding animals you are helping them to survive in this challenging landscape.

### Attention Pet Owners!

**Please keep pets on a leash at all times.** Don't leave pets unattended outside – especially at night. They can attract carnivores and may be attacked.

## KEEPING SAFE

While much is done to keep visitors safe, ultimately, it is you who is responsible for your safety during your visit to a national park. Here are a few reminders to help you and your family stay safe while camping in a national park.

### Weather

Never underestimate the power of weather. Before heading out on a day trip, a hike or an overnight camping trip, check the local weather forecast. This will help you plan – but be prepared for changes in weather, especially in the mountains or by bodies of water where conditions can change rapidly.

Always remember to protect yourself and your family from the sun. Wear a hat and sunglasses, and choose a sunscreen that is right for you to cover exposed areas of skin (don't forget your ears!). Wearing long-sleeved pants and shirts will also protect you from the sun's rays. If you are camping at high altitudes, exploring on, or near, a body of water, or visiting a snowy landscape, remember that the intensity of the sun increases in these environments and be vigilant.

You'll also want to protect yourself from lightning. When storms move in, make sure to watch the weather and take precautions before the storm hits. For more information on lightning safety, please visit Environment Canada's webpage at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/foudre-lightning/default.asp?lang=En&n=159F8282-1>.

### Driving

Driving is one of the most dangerous activities in a national park, and can be much different than driving in familiar urban areas. When you are driving, remember the following:

- Always obey the posted speed limits
- Watch for other drivers in the park. They may be distracted by the beautiful scenery or lost.
- Watch out for cyclists. They may be difficult to see.
- Watch out for wildlife.

### Wildlife

Do not approach or feed wildlife, and follow all rules provided at the national park you are visiting. It is impossible to predict how wildlife will react in any situation, so avoiding close encounters is the best way to keep you and your family safe and the wildlife wild.

For more information, visit the visitor centre at the park you are visiting, pick up a brochure and talk to our friendly staff.

### Insects and plants

It is not uncommon to find biting or stinging insects in the outdoors, especially along trails and in campsites. Bring insect repellent and avoid wearing scented perfumes and lotions that attract insects.



Poison Ivy  
© Parks Canada

Some plants, such as poison ivy, can cause rashes and allergic reactions when touched. Often these plants are removed from common areas around campgrounds but you should keep an eye out for it along roads and trails.

To understand what to avoid and what to watch for, visit the park's Web page or talk to the park staff at the visitor centre when you arrive.

### **Drinking water**

Drinking lots of water is very important while you are active outdoors, especially on hot, sunny days. Make sure that you only drink potable water from reliable sources, such as the potable water taps found the campgrounds. Although water in streams, rivers and lakes is generally clean and may look good enough to drink, it may contain harmful bacteria or parasites. If you are unsure, just ask!

## PACKING LIST

### EQUIPMENT

**Tent:** Be sure to rent, buy or borrow a tent that will keep you dry and comfortable. Practice setting up the tent at home before your first camping trip.

**Groundsheet:** A groundsheet is a piece of fabric that you place under your tent to help protect your tent's floor.

**Tarpaulin:** Bring a "tarp" and hang it above a picnic table so you can stay dry in case of rain.

**Sleeping bag:** If you don't have a sleeping bag, bring a blanket and sheet from home.

**Pillow:** For extra comfort, bring a small pillow. If you prefer, stuff a sack with extra clothing for a makeshift camping pillow.

**Sleeping pad or air mattress:** A sleeping pad or mat goes under your sleeping bag for extra comfort and warmth.

**Lantern:** Use a battery-powered lantern inside your tent; gas or propane powered lanterns are fine outdoors but should never be used inside tents.

**Flashlights or headlamps with extra batteries:** A flashlight headlamp keeps your hands free while shining light on whatever you are doing. One headlamp per camper is ideal.

**Rope or cord:** Rope and cord can be used for many things including making clotheslines and hanging tarps.

**Duct tape:** Duct tape is strong, water resistant and can temporarily fix just about anything!

**Stuff sack:** These bags help to compress and organise your clothing.

### KITCHEN GEAR

**Mess kit (Plate/Mug/Bowl/Utensils):** Plastic or steel plates, mugs, bowls and utensils are best as they are sturdy, quite lightweight, and reusable.

**Camp stove:** There are many types of camp stoves, so get advice to find a model that is ideal for you.

**Fuel:** Fuels come in many different shapes and forms so be sure that you have the right one for your stove or lantern.

**Large bowl:** A large bowl is useful for mixing ingredients while preparing meals at the campsite.

**Cutting board:** A cutting board will come in handy to chop ingredients while preparing snacks and meals.

**Spatula/ Wooden spoon/ Strainer/ Tongs:** Consider which meals you are preparing and remember to pack the



utensils you will need to cook them.

**Pots/ Frying pans:** Bring pots and pans that are designed for fire cooking if you plan to cook on the fire.

**Oven mitt:** A pot holder or oven mitt will keep your hands comfortable when you move your pots and pans to and from the stove or fire.

**Pot gripper:** Some camping frying pans and pots do not come with handles and use a clamp-like gripper to pick up and move the pan or pot.

**Dishpan:** Bring a large plastic container or bin you can use to fill with water and wash your dishes in.

**Biodegradable dishwashing soap:** Be sure your dish soap is biodegradable, and dispose of it in sinks or drains not in lakes or on the ground. Check out the “Camping Basics” section to learn more.

**Food cooler:** Your cooler is not wildlife-proof so be sure to store it properly at night or anytime you are not at your campsite.

**Waterproof matches/lighter:** If you don’t have waterproof matches or a lighter, keep your matches in a waterproof container or bag.

**Can opener:** If you don’t have a can opener on your pocket knife a separate one will be handy.

**Tablecloth:** Bring a sturdy plastic, reusable tablecloth. It will be easy to wipe off after meals and it won’t be damaged by rain.

**Aluminum foil:** Aluminum foil is handy around the campsite, especially for cooking on the fire and wrapping up leftovers.

**Paper towels:** Just like at home, paper towels can be handy to help clean up spills and messes.

**Garbage bags:** A few garbage bags are handy for storing all your garbage. Don’t forget to store your garbage in your vehicle at night.

**Candles and holders:** Candles or tea lights on the picnic table will shed some light on your picnic table, especially if you do not have a lantern. A windproof candle-holder is recommended.

## PERSONAL GEAR

**Insect repellent:** There many insect repellents available with different ingredients so make sure you find one that is right for you.

**Sunscreen:** Sunscreen is essential – especially at higher altitudes where the sun’s rays are even stronger, and on the water, where the rays are multiplied through reflection.



**Whistle:** A good whistle can alert people within earshot if you are in trouble.

**Tweezers:** Tweezers can be used to pull out things like splinters from fingers.

**Aloe gel:** Aloe is soothing to skin that is sunburned.

#### PERSONAL HYGIENE

**Biodegradable shampoo & soap:** Look for shampoo and soap that are biodegradable. Remember - even biodegradable products need to be disposed of down a sink or drain, not in a lake.

#### CAMPING WITH CHILDREN

**Diapers and wipes:** Bring only enough diapers and wipes (plus a few extras) for the trip. No need to pack a whole package!

**Extra clothing/ Footwear:** Pack several extra sets of clothing and footwear to make sure children stay dry and warm. Children enjoy camping, but tend to get wet and dirty faster than at home.

#### CAMPING WITH PETS

**Leash:** Many national parks have regulations regarding pets and leashes – make sure you are familiar with them before you go.

**Doggie bags:** Remember to clean up after your pet at all times.

**Pet food/ Treats:** Just like your food, pet food should be stored properly at night and any time you are away from your campsite.

**Brush:** A brush will come in handy to get the dirt and anything else out of your pet's fur.

#### OTHER

**Clothespins:** Bring a few clothespins to hang up wet items on the clothesline

**Small broom and dust pan:** Use a small broom and dust pan to sweep out any leaves, pines needles and dirt and to keep your tent clean and tidy.

**First Aid Kit:** Make sure your first aid kit is complete and up to date.

**Newspaper to start the fire:** If you don't have any newspaper, just about any other type of paper will do.



## HOW TO SET UP A TENT

Setting up a tent is easy...once you've done it once or twice. To make it easier we've broken down the steps. You can watch the video or follow the instructions below. Before you know it, you'll have your tent set up and ready to go!

These steps should help you in setting up your tent. Not all tents are the same but the process is similar in all cases.

1. Find a suitable area to set up your tent. Many of Parks Canada's frontcountry campsites will have a tent pad which will pre-determine where your tent will go. If not, you will want to choose an area that is free of debris – roots, rocks, branches, and other things that would be uncomfortable to sleep on. Next, make sure that the area is flat and not on a slant. Remember that this area should also be far enough away from your fire pit so that there is no risk of embers landing on your tent.
2. Remove all of the contents of the tent bag. Now, unpack your tent bag and make sure you have everything you need including the tent body, a groundsheet (if included), the tent fly, the poles, the pegs and the guy lines. Place them nearby so that they are handy when you are ready to use them.
3. Place your tent (and groundsheet) flat on the ground. If you have a groundsheet, or footprint, place it on the ground where you want your tent to be. Next, roll out the tent over the area. Make sure to line up the door in the direction you wish to enter and exit your tent.



End of a tent pole

© Parks Canada / S. Burroughs



Two sections of a tent pole

© Parks Canada / S. Burroughs



4. Place the poles into the tent. The first step here is to assemble the poles. Carefully insert each pole section into the next. Repeat for each pole. Tents usually have two different ways of securing the poles to the tent itself: Some tents will use tent poles sleeves, and others will have tent clips. Some tents have a combination of both.

**Sleeves:** Most tents with a sleeve design will have two sleeves crossing at the top of the tent. Start with one of the sleeves and slide the pole all of the way through. Next, slide the second pole through the other sleeve. Now, attach the end of the poles at one side of the tent to the actual tent body. This will be done differently depending on the type of tent. Many tents will simply have a grommet at the bottom where you will insert the end of the pole. The tip of the pole will keep the pole from popping out. Other tents will have metal pin and ring attached to the bottom of the tent which you will insert into the bottom of the tent pole.

Once you have secured the tent poles to the tent body on one side, walk to the other side of the tent. For larger sized tents, this next step is easier if performed with two people. Each person grabs a pole near the bottom and begins to push it so that the sleeves slide away, raising the tent body. Do this slowly and if you feel pressure stop to make sure there is not a snag. If there is a snag and you continue to push you can damage the pole or the tent. Once the bottom of the pole reaches the bottom of the tent, secure the tent poles in the same way as you did on the other side.

**Clips:** Tents with clips are slightly different than those with sleeves. Begin by fastening the poles on one side of the tent to the tent body. This will be done differently depending on the type of tent. Many tents will simply have a grommet at the bottom where you will insert the end of the pole. Other tents will have a metal pin and ring attached to the bottom of the tent which you will insert into the bottom of the tent pole.

Once you have secured the tent poles to the tent body on one side, walk to the other side of the tent. Bend the poles so that they arc in the middle and secure them to this side of tent the same way you did on the other side. Starting at the bottom of each pole, work your way up the pole attaching the pole to each clip. This will raise the tent body and secure it to the tent poles.

For tents with a combination of the two systems, start with the sleeves and then follow with the clips. For tents with more poles for the tent body, you usually begin with the two that will cross over the top of the tent, and then add remaining poles until the tent is up.



Grommet for adding the tent pegs.

© Parks Canada / S. Burroughs



5. Peg the tent down. Now that your tent is up, you will want to secure it to the ground. Make any last adjustments to the placement of the tent before you begin. Most tents will have nylon webbing straps that loop or have a grommet at the end. Place a peg through each of these straps and pull the strap away from the tent so that the floor of the tent is taut. Now push the peg into the ground at a 45-degree angle. Do this until all of the straps are pegged down and your tent is secure. Pegs should not be pushed straight down as they may then pop back out of the ground if it is windy. In windy conditions, the wind pushes the tent applying pressure on the pegs. If they are in straight, there is no resistance to stop the peg from sliding back out of the dirt.

6. Put the fly on the tent. You will now want to attach the fly to your tent. Usually, the tent body is not waterproof. The tent fly keeps you dry in case of bad weather. Some tent flies will require poles to be attached. For many designs, it is easier to attach the poles first, but this may not be the case with all tent models. Begin by gently tossing the fly over the tent like a blanket. Make sure that the front of the fly lines up with the entrance of the tent. Most flies will attach to the poles of the tent body or to the bottom of the tent where the poles are attached. This will depend on the size of the tent fly and model of tent. Once the fly is attached, you are ready to move in your bedding and other gear!

Remember:

By keeping the zippers closed on your tent doors, you'll keep the bugs outside – where they belong!

By removing your footwear before you get in the tent you'll avoid tracking dirt inside.



## TYPES OF CAMPSITES

**Frontcountry Camping:** Also known as “car camping”, is probably the most popular type of camping. Frontcountry campgrounds allow you to drive your vehicle right to the site. You then have the luxury of unloading your vehicle at the exact spot where you are setting up camp. Such campgrounds are often busier than others as they offer the most facilities and amenities including showers, flush toilets, theatres, playgrounds, snack bars, interpretive programming, golf courses and much more – a couple of our campgrounds even have swimming pools! You can choose among different types of frontcountry campsites:

- **Serviced campsites** offer different combinations of electrical, sewer and water hook-ups for recreational vehicles (RVs), trailers, tent trailers, etc. Combinations of these services exist at different prices. Usually, a campsite offering more services will charge more per night than one with less services. Since these campsites are used frequently by RVs, they may not offer ideal areas for tents. Check with the park before making your reservation if you are planning on tenting.
- **Unserviced campsites** are great for tent camping as many of them offer tent pads and amenities nearby such as flush toilets, showers and potable water. They are usually open to RVs and tent trailers that do not require hook-ups since “unserviced” campsites do not offer electrical, sewer and water hook-ups directly at the site.
- **Pull-through campsites** also known as drive-through campsites, are designed for visitors towing larger trailers or RVs. They have an entrance and an exit which allows you to pull through the site rather than turning back to exit.
- **Walk-in campsites** are accessible on foot and you cannot drive your vehicle directly to the site. There is usually a parking area close by where you may unpack and leave your vehicle for the duration of your stay. These sites are usually slightly more rustic with fewer amenities.
- **Group campsites** are designed to accommodate larger sized groups and are usually reserved for organized groups visiting the park together. For more information on group campgrounds, please contact the park directly.

**Backcountry Camping** is practiced in the wilderness away from facilities and amenities. Most of the time, you will have to hike, ski, snowshoe, canoe or kayak in order to reach backcountry sites. They often have very little in the way of amenities but are often much less crowded and can really make it feel like you’ve gotten away from it all. Backcountry sites are sometimes referred to as primitive sites