

Canada Wildlife Viewing Trip Planner 2026

Page 1 - Species and destination shortlist

Use this before choosing a park, tour, trail, or viewing area. Start with species, season, access, safety, and group needs.

Viewing goal

- Target species: bears / whales / moose / birds / bison / caribou / mixed wildlife

- Province or region: _____

- Best viewing window checked: yes / no

- Public park, private tour, roadside, trail, boat, or lodge route

Destination shortlist

- Option 1: _____

- Option 2: _____

- Option 3: _____

- Why this destination fits the group: _____

Access check

- Parking, shuttle, trail, boat, or tour pickup confirmed

- Weather backup plan chosen

- Cell service or satellite backup considered

- Return time and route shared with someone

Season, Safety, Distance, and Ethics Checklist

Page 2 - Rules and risk checks

Wildlife viewing is most rewarding when the animal is not pressured. Check rules and distance before chasing a photo.

Safety before viewing

- Official park or province safety guidance checked
- Minimum distance rules understood for bears, elk, moose, whales, and nesting birds
- Food, garbage, and scented items secured
- No feeding, approaching, calling, baiting, or crowding wildlife

Season and behaviour

- Mating, calving, nesting, migration, or salmon-run timing considered
- Dawn/dusk risk and visibility planned
- Bear, moose, elk, or marine mammal behaviour notes reviewed
- Trail closures, road closures, or advisories checked

Ethics and conservation

- Species at risk and sensitive habitat considered
- No sensitive den, nest, or exact location shared publicly
- Photo plan uses zoom rather than approach
- Trip supports responsible operators or official conservation areas

Gear, Tours, Family Notes, and Trip Review

Page 3 - Practical planning

Good wildlife trips are built around patience, optics, weather, distance, and the people on the trip.

Gear and comfort

- Binoculars or camera zoom ready

- Layers, rain shell, sun protection, and footwear packed

- Water, snacks, first aid, insect protection, and headlamp packed

- Bear spray or local safety gear considered where legal and appropriate

Tours and family planning

- Guide/tour operator safety and cancellation policies reviewed

- Kids have clear distance rules and a short-session plan

- Non-wildlife backup activity selected

- Budget: travel _____ lodging _____ tour _____ park fees _____

Trip review

- What worked: _____

- What caused stress or risk: _____

- One better season or destination to try next: _____

- One planning change for next trip: _____