

The 2026 National Parks Expedition Ready-List

Phase 1: The Digital Foundation (6–12 Months Out)

- **Sync Parks Canada App:** Create an account and verify your identity for the 2026 Digital Discovery Pass.
- **Mark "Launch Days":** Set calendar alerts for early January (8:00 AM MST) for summer campsite reservations.
- **Verify EV Routes:** Map out Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations if traversing mountain corridors.
- **Secure Backcountry Permits:** Apply for specialized mountaineering or remote zone access (required for northern parks).

Phase 2: Wilderness Gear & Safety (1 Month Out)

- **Check Bear Spray Expiry:** Ensure your canister is current and the nozzle is unobstructed.
- **Satellite Connectivity:** Activate your Starlink or SOS-capable satellite messenger (crucial for Territory parks).
- **Vehicle Winterization:** Even in July, pack chains or winter-rated tires for high-altitude passes.
- **Hard-Sided Storage:** Confirm you have bear-proof containers if your vehicle isn't hard-sided (e.g., soft-top Jeeps).

Phase 3: Ethical Exploration (Final Week)

- **Review "Leave No Trace":** Refresh knowledge on waste disposal and alpine vegetation protection.
- **Download Offline Maps:** Cell service drops by 90% once you enter the park gates.
- **Check Fire Status:** Verify the current fire ban level via the app to choose the right stove.
- **Print Physical Backup:** Keep a hard copy of your Digital Discovery Pass in case of device failure.