



Jasper

Jasper was originally a fur trading post in 1813, named after its owner, Jasper Hawes. In 1907 the area around it became Jasper Forest Park, and a new townsite was established in 1911, along the banks of the Athabasca River. They named the new town Fitzhugh, after the president of the railway company that came through the area.

Fitzhugh didn't last long. By 1913 the town was renamed as Jasper, like the park around it. For a long time it could only be reached by train. The first road from Edmonton didn't come until 1931. In 1940 a highway was built to the south, connecting Jasper with Banff, called the Icefields Parkway because of all the glaciers it passes.

The area became Jasper National Park in 1930. It is the largest park in the Canadian Rockies, and receives two million visitors every year. The park was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

