

Field work

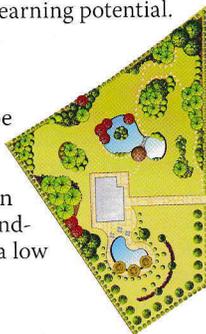
Love the outdoors? Here are five exciting jobs that will take you out in nature

By Lisa Evans

For those who hate being trapped in an office building from 9 to 5, the great Canadian outdoors offers tons of earning potential. Check out these five exciting outdoor jobs.

1. Landscape architect

A landscape architect conceptualizes landscape designs and oversees its construction for residential homes, commercial properties, parks and other green spaces. As new construction booms in many parts of Canada, demand for landscape architects is on the rise, contributing to a low unemployment rate for the profession.



Education

Membership in the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects isn't mandatory to work in this profession, but it is an asset as it shows credibility to potential clients. To become a member, candidates, including international applicants, must have a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and three years of experience, including at least six months under direct supervision of a landscape architect.

Internationally educated landscape architects will need to have

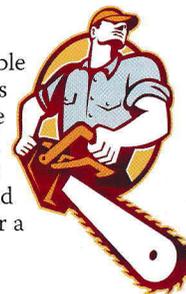
their degree evaluated by their provincial association. They then need to find an adviser, who is someone who is in a mentor position, is a full member of the provincial association of landscape architects with four or more years in the association, and whose role is to aid in the learning of new landscape architects.

Salary

According to Statistics Canada, the average income for a landscape architect is \$46,962.

2. Arborist

Arborists are specialists who are knowledgeable about a variety of tree species. They examine trees for signs of disease and insect infestations, prune tree branches to maintain the tree's health and address safety concerns, and remove trees when necessary. They may work in the city parks and recreation department, a government agency or a private company.



Education

Although certification through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is optional, most arborists do seek membership to gain credibility. Most hold a bachelor's degree in forestry, horticulture or a related field. To become certified, arborists must complete an exam to demonstrate their knowledge in their field. Internationally educated arborists can have their credentials examined by the ISA and can write the exam. You must receive a passing score of 72 per cent or higher to receive the designation of a certified arborist.

Salary

The average salary for an arborist in Canada is \$40,637.

3. Park ranger

Park ranger, or park wardens, play a key role in preserving Canada's natural resources and ensuring the safety of visitors by providing law enforcement services in Canada's national parks. They wear a distinct uniform and carry personal protective equipment including a defensive baton and pepper spray. This is a very competitive field, with highly sought-after positions. Parks Canada typically hosts a competition every other year to hire entry-level park wardens.



Education

Parks Canada requires a post-secondary education with a diploma or degree in natural resource management, environmental sciences or a field related to conservation or natural resource enforcement. First aid and CPR level C certification are required and park wardens must meet medical and physical fitness standards.

Salary

Entry-level park rangers can expect to make \$59,000 to \$67,000. Depending on the location of the park, employment may be year-round or seasonal.



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4. Geoscientist

Geoscientists examine metals and minerals in the soil and conduct geological surveys to protect the public from natural disasters such as floods, volcanic eruptions and landslides. They may interpret scientific data or make presentations on an area of interest for exploration.

With society's growing demand for energy, mineral and water resources that fuel our way of life combined with increasing concerns about protecting the natural environment, geoscientists are highly sought after.

Education

Geoscientists require a bachelor's degree in earth science or a related field, followed by 48 months of work experience under the guidance of a professional geoscientist. They also need to pass an ethics exam, as the profession is regulated in Canada. Internationally educated professionals whose credentials are assessed can apply for registration as a professional geoscientist with their provincial regulatory association.

Salary

According to Earth Sciences Canada, geologists are some of the highest paid professionals in Canada. Compensation for entry-level geoscientists ranges from \$35,000 to \$75,000 a year. With more than five years of experience, geoscientists with five to 10 years of experience can expect to earn anywhere from \$80,000 to upwards of \$300,000 per year.



5. Outdoor sport and recreation tour guide

Thrill-seekers rejoice! Outdoor sport and recreation tour guides organize and lead trips for sports enthusiasts, adventurers and tourists. Whether leading a kayaking group down the Ottawa River rapids or leading a hiking expedition in the Rocky Mountains, a career in adventure tourism is sure to give you an adrenaline rush. Canada's diverse terrain has sprouted growing demand for outdoor and adventure tourism, however these jobs are typically seasonal. Unemployment rates are high in the shoulder season, which varies from five weeks to six months per year depending on the activity and location.

Education

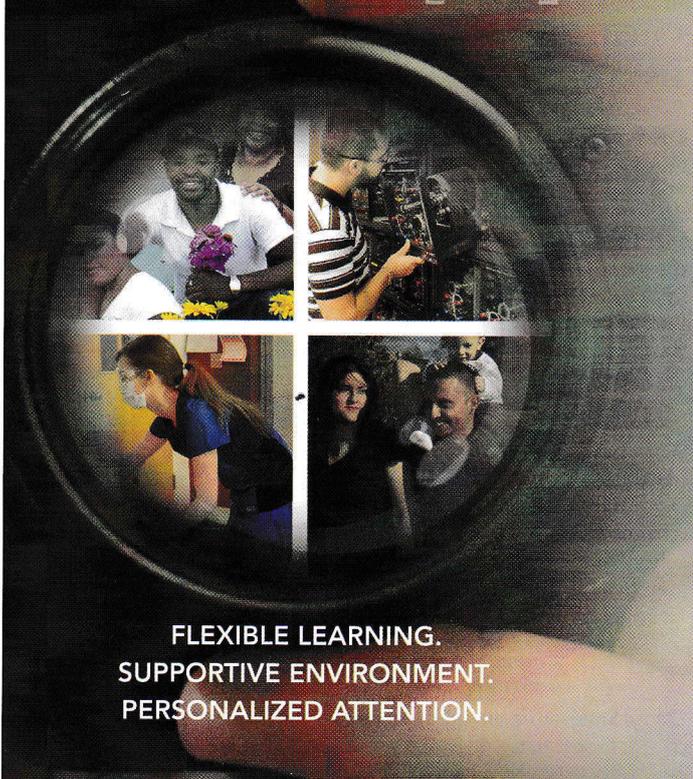
There are some programs across the country in outdoor tourism (for example, Algonquin and Fleming College in Ontario offer adventure tourism programs). Employers are now increasing their employment requirements and asking for these certificate programs, or a degree in a field relating to the natural environment as tour guides are now expected to be more knowledgeable about the landscape. An up-to-date CPR certificate is also often required.

Salary

The average salary of a full-time adventure tour guide is roughly \$25,000. 🍀



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