

Niagara Parks Bulletin

Vehicle and Guide Licence Information

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) monitors the activities of the sightseeing and motorcoach industries operating on Park property to ensure visitors receive fair value for their money and to make certain accurate information is provided regarding the Niagara Falls experience.

The Niagara Parks Act authorizes NPC to establish regulations for permits, licences and fees for all vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including vehicles for hire, their owners and drivers and/or guides operating within the Park.

Niagara Parks operates just like a city and the revenues it generates must support, among many things, its own police force, garbage collection, engineering, horticulture staff and bus transportation system. Niagara Parks is also guardian of many significant heritage sites and nature areas, preserving and protecting the rich history and ecological environment of the Niagara River and it has done so without taxpayer support since 1885.

Class Designations and Licencing Fees

The Regulations governing vehicle class designations and fees for sightseeing, motorcoach and guide licences issued by NPC were changed in 2006 for the first time since 1992. These classes and fees will not change in 2010.

NPC's fee structure is reflective of comparable tourism destinations in both the U.S. and Canada. By approval of the Province of Ontario the structure and fees are as follows:

Class	Description	Fees
1	A sight-seeing vehicle operating two or more days per week on a regular schedule approved by the Commission, that is designed to carry one to six passengers. Class 1 does not include a sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school.	\$100/year/vehicle
2	A sight-seeing vehicle operating two or more days per week on a regular schedule approved by the Commission, that is designed to carry seven or more passengers. Class 2 does not include a sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school.	\$150/year/vehicle
3	A sight-seeing vehicle that does not operate two or more days per week on a regular schedule approved by the Commission. Class 3 does not include a sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school.	\$40/day/vehicle

Class	Description	Fees
4	A sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school.(not valid from July 1 to Labour Day).	No fee
Guide Licence		\$50/year

Daily Licence fees (Class 3) can be paid in advance, on-line, via credit card at <https://licence.niagaraparks.com/>. Create an account, choose the date(s) you will be in the Park and you will receive a confirmation of payment and an eTicket. Simply present your eTicket at either Table Rock or Maid of the Mist Bus Management locations or at the following locations to have your eTicket validated: Old Fort Erie, Rapidsview Park Licence office, White Water Walk, Whirlpool Aero Car, Butterfly Conservatory, Floral Clock, McFarland House, and all major NPC restaurants.

Daily Licence fees can also be purchased upon arrival at any of our Bus Management areas located at Table Rock Centre, Maid of the Mist, Floral Clock or the Rapidsview Park Licence Office plus the Whirlpool Aero Car and the Butterfly Conservatory, by cash or charge (on approved credit).

Vehicle and Guide Licencing Office and Hours

Class 1 and 2 and Guide Licence applications can be made at our Licence Office at Rapidsview (accessible from the Niagara River Parkway south of the Falls or from Marineland Parkway). The 2010 hours of operation are as follows (subject to change, please visit our website for updates):

February 22 to September 06 Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
 (Closed Easter Weekend April 2-5)
 September 07 to December 31 By appointment only

**Tests are administered until 4:00 p.m.*

Note: for groups of four (4) or more please call for an appointment

Class 1 and 2 and Guide Licence applications, as well as rules and regulations and important dates and information are available on our website at <http://www.niagaraparks.com/group-tours/licensing.php>

Annual Licence vs. Daily Licence — Which do I need?

Annual Vehicle Licence (Class 1 or 2)

Annual licences are granted to sightseeing vehicles that make a regularly scheduled trip (two or more times each week) on the Niagara Parkway. A Niagara Parks licenced guide must be on board the vehicle and the vehicle must have a set itinerary approved by The Niagara Parks Commission. Part of the itinerary will include a 45 minute stop at Maid of the Mist Bus Management and a 30 minute stop at Table Rock Bus Management.

Daily Vehicle Licence (Class 3)

All other commercial vehicles must purchase a Daily Licence permit. Generally, charter groups fall into the Daily Licence category. If you are giving a tour you must have a licenced guide. However, if you are not giving a tour and are merely dropping or picking up at various points you do not require a guide. A daily permit holder is not required to have a set itinerary. Daily Licence permits are sold at the following locations during the year.

March to mid-January

Table Rock Bus Management, Butterfly Conservatory

May - October 24

Rapidsview Park, Maid of the Mist Bus Management, White Water Walk,
Whirlpool Aero Car, Floral Clock, Old Fort Erie

Daily permits may also be purchased on-line in advance using a credit card at <https://licence.niagaraparks.com/>.

School Groups (Class 4)

School groups are defined in the Education Act as elementary and secondary schools.

The school year periods and vacation periods are prescribed in the Education Act. The normal school period is Labour Day to June 30th. Accordingly, the Class 4 category will not be valid outside the normal school period.

Valid identification with the school name on it is required - you can simply use your Niagara Parks restaurant or attraction confirmation for this purpose - and it must be shown in order to receive a complimentary Niagara Parks Class 4 permit.

Winter Festival of Lights

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) has the legislative authority to control and licence the activities of commercial sightseeing operators, their vehicles and guides, while operating on Niagara Parks property. The Niagara Parks Act, Regulation 829, specifically outlines the responsibilities entrusted to NPC, as well as details the fees required to be paid by operators conducting business on Parks property.

The 28th Annual Winter Festival of lights commences on November 6, 2010 and ends on January 3, 2011. It is Canada's largest lights festival with nearly 2 million lights and over 100 animated lighting displays. Operators attending the Park during this period are still subject to NPC's licencing fees and they must have either an annual licence or purchase a daily permit (\$ 40.00) at the Commission's Table Rock Bus Management station in order to be legally permitted to operate in the Park. The Niagara Parks Commission will be diligent in enforcing and collecting the required daily permit fees during the Festival, as it does throughout the year. Table Rock Bus Management will have extended hours during the Festival, and all operators are required to stop at this location to purchase a daily licence or register their attendance as an annual licence holder.

Enforcement officers will continue to operate on a daily basis during the Festival of Lights and vehicles without permits are subject to warnings, sanctions and/or the loss of the privilege to operate on Niagara Parks property.

Non-Profit Organizations

The Niagara Parks has provided a procedure for absorbing the fee for non-profit organizations under strict criteria and guidelines. To qualify, the non-profit group must apply in writing using the organization’s letterhead and declaring that there is no fee charged for the group attending the Niagara Parks. In addition, any bus service provider must be donating their services to the group, or, failing that, must be operating on a strict cost recovery basis and not profiting from the trip. If your application is approved you will receive confirmation in writing. That letter must be presented on the day of your visit at one of our bus management locations to receive a daily permit with the fee absorbed by The Niagara Parks.

If you have a non-profit group that you believe qualifies for a daily permit fee absorption, as described above, please apply in writing to:

Non-Profit Permit Application,
Niagara Parks Commission Licence Office,
PO Box 150, 7400 Portage Road,
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2E 6T2

Please apply at least four (4) weeks in advance of your proposed visit.

Future Development

Be advised that the regulations governing vehicle class designations and fees for sightseeing, motorcoach and guide licences and the policies associated with the regulations are currently under review.

For Vehicle and Guide Licence Information call:

Mark Bazeley, Manager Licence Office..... (905) 357-9340

For Attractions & Restaurant sales information or itinerary planning call:

Larysa Hawrylyshyn, Sales Business Manager..... (905) 371-3006

We thank you for your continued support of Niagara Parks

Niagara Parks is an Agency of the Government of Ontario and has operated without taxpayer dollars since 1885