EXPLORE
Alberta Parks

2015/16 Provincial parks guide to year-round activities and experiences
OUTDOOR INNOVATION
SINCE 1900

FAST PITCH SIMPLE EASY
- Lightweight, compact design for simple setup
- Pre-attached poles and foot anchors save you time
- Full rain fly included

HYPERFLAME
- Revolutionary burner technology
- Reduces boil time
- Provides superior wind resistance

BATTERY LOCK
- Battery lock system preserves battery life and prevents corrosion
- Always have the power you need when you need it most

Coleman

For more outdoor solutions, visit www.colemancanada.ca
Alberta’s provincial parks inspire people to discover, value, protect and enjoy the outdoors. Ranging from active recreation sites, to remote wilderness areas, you can connect with nature in many ways, and in almost 500 locations across the province. Take a hike, through an old growth forest, through the badlands, or along a mountain trail in the Canadian Rockies. Immerse yourself in heritage and adventure through discovery centres, interactive educational and environmental programming or a guided exploration for dinosaur bones! Toss your hook into a small mountain pond, a rushing stream, or a vast northern lake. The activities and experiences vary with the seasons; read through this guide to find ones that pique your interest.

In this guide you will find valuable information about etiquette in the campground and on the trails. Learn about upcoming events, including Canada’s Parks Day and see how you can camp in comfort in fully furnished tents, yurts or cabins.

There are stories that highlight many parks in all parts of Alberta, and describe activities and adventures that you and your family can enjoy. Maps throughout these pages will help you to locate the places and experiences you will read about.

Tell us about your favourite park, adventures and experiences on Twitter (twitter.com/albertaparks) and Facebook (facebook.com/albertaparks) and sign up for our e-newsletter online to keep-up-to-date on all our events and promotions.

Find out about reserving your campsites and get all the details about our Midweek Promotion. Much more information is available at explore.albertaparks.ca.
Reliable gear, when the weather isn’t - No Compromise.

The Woods Expedition Series™ Yukon Tent stands up to Mother Nature.

The ripstop fabric walls, taped seams, and poly oxford flooring defends against rain falling from above or seeping in from below. Your feet stay dry. Your gear stays dry. And you – you stay dry too.

Taking on the Canadian outdoors since 1885.
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Explore With Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Parks Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kananaskis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wildlife Viewing in Kananaskis Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Removing Barriers to Exploring Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Explore Roads Less Travelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Eco-Tours at Fish Creek &amp; Glenbow Ranch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Events in Fish Creek &amp; Glenbow Ranch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Water Adventures in Kananaskis Country!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Everyone Belongs Outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>The Importance of Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Beware of Aquatic Hitchhikers!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Comfort Camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>3 for 2 Midweek Offer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Central – West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>David Thompson Corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lois Hole Centennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Thunder Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Fort Assiniboine Sandhills Wildland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Alberta Northern Rockies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Wishing I Was Fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Northwestern Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Birding Festivals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Grande Prairie Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Peace River West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>West and East of Lesser Slave Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Central – East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Miquelon Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Dry Island Buffalo Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Jarvis Bay and Aspen Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Explore More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Sir Winston Churchill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Gregoire Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Explore Northwest Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Programs and Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Discover Southern Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Cypress Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Dinosaur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Kinbrook Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Writing-on-Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Alberta’s Crown Jewels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Explore Southern Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Need More Information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Camping Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Etiquette and Safety in Camp and on the Trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Alberta Parks Information**

explore.albertaparks.ca

1–866–427–3582

**Camping Reservations**

reserve.albertaparks.ca

1–877–537–2757

**About Explore Alberta Parks Guide**

This publication has been funded by the Government of Alberta. We acknowledge the support of our advertisers who helped make this 2015 edition possible.

The *Explore Alberta Parks Guide* is published once a year by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. 250,000 copies are distributed throughout Alberta and Western Canada.

Cover Photo: Kananaskis Country

null
Visit as many of Alberta’s provincial parks and protected areas as you can, to find the items below! Check off the list and take a picture of the item, but please don’t take them with you. Good luck!

- A butterfly with orange wings
- A park interpreter
- A pine or spruce cone
- A pond with at least 5 ducks on it
- A mountain with snow on the top
- A magpie
- A chattering red squirrel
- A visitor centre
- A wild rose flower
- A ladybug with 7 spots
- A woodpecker hole in a tree
- A fish jumping out of the water
- A park service ranger

- 5 grasshoppers
- A campfire in a campfire pit
- 3 different shaped leaves
- A perfectly round rock from a river
- A beaver lodge
- A s’more (roasted marshmallow, chocolate and wafers)
- A Canada goose
- A purple flower
- A baby animal
- Mushrooms
- A beetle that lives in the water
- A blue-coloured tent
- A canoe
Connect to Nature

Canada’s Parks Day 25th Anniversary – A day celebrated all across Canada! July 18, 2015.

Can you imagine Alberta without any parks? Think of all the family memories you have of toasting marshmallows around the campfire, lingering at the beach late at night to watch the sun set, or waking up to the sound of a squirrel dropping pinecones on your tent from a tree branch high above. If there were no more parks, where would we go to make those memories?

Canada’s Parks Day is set aside to enjoy and appreciate our parks. Albertans and our visitors cherish our parks as places to connect with nature, to learn and grow from our adventures and to relax and breathe deeply.

Mark your calendar to come and celebrate at an Alberta Provincial Park! From Cypress Hills in the far southeast corner, to Saskatoon Island in the northwest, and throughout the entire province, between 20 and 30 parks annually host Parks Day events.

You could learn geocaching, take a guided walk, enter a sand castle contest, or watch a demonstration of forest firefighting water bombers. There will be all kinds of adventures for you at Parks Day in an Alberta Provincial Park.

Each park will confirm their events for Parks Day as we get closer to July. For information visit explore.albertaparks.ca and click on “events”. Check the website often as events may be added right up until July 17th.

On Sunday July 19, Parks Day is celebrated at Bow Valley Provincial Park, west of Calgary.
Wildlife Viewing in Kananaskis Country

Many visitors come to Kananaskis Country to see wildlife and few are disappointed! An easy place to see waterfowl up close in spring and fall is at the west pull off at Lac Des Arcs along the TransCanada highway. Follow the trail to constructed blinds where you can view ducks, geese, and even tundra swans as they stop over during their migration.

To spot hundreds of migrating golden eagles and other raptors high above the peaks in March and October, take your binoculars and hike Hay Meadows Trail starting at the Stoney Trailhead near Ribbon Creek.

Large hooved animals such as bighorn sheep and deer can often be seen along any Kananaskis highway. Be sure to slow down when passing these animals as they can bolt suddenly and jump in front of vehicles.

Small mammals such as red and ground squirrels are common in day use areas and campgrounds. Although extremely cute, it’s important to keep these animals wild. Please do not feed any wildlife during your visit.

Black and grizzly bears live throughout Kananaskis Country and can be seen anywhere. If you see a bear grazing roadside, please don’t stop. Instead, it is recommended to slow down while continuing to drive by. If you must stop to view wildlife, stay at least 100 metres away, park safely off the driving lanes and remain in your vehicle. This will cause the least impact on wildlife, ensuring they remain safe and wild.

A great location to see bears is the Peter Lougheed Park Visitor Centre! From the safe vantage point of the deck, you could be lucky enough to see grizzlies feeding on roots and greens in the meadow.

Wildlife viewing comes with responsibilities – the most important being to respect all wildlife.
Removing Barriers to Exploring Parks

What’s the difference between a hiking boot and an adaptive wheelchair? Nothing! Both make it possible to connect with nature in Alberta’s provincial parks. But the adaptive wheelchair is getting a makeover as amazing as giving a hiking boot wings.

The Park Explorer is a three-wheeled, human powered chair that Alberta Parks funded and developed with partners such as Adaptive Wilderness Experiences (www.awexperience.org), Easter Seals Camp Horizon (easterseals.ab.ca) and the Rocky Mountain Adaptive Sport Centre (www.rmasc.ca). The design is a leap forward compared to current devices that have made the backcountry accessible for many Albertans and people around the world who need more than a boot. Three wheels make the Explorer more stable and easier to operate by people who aren’t athletic – families can hike with ease. Even 12-year-olds can be the engine for the Park Explorer. The chair has an innovative steering system that allows the pilot to lean on side slopes and counter-steer in corners. An optional hand crank makes it possible for the pilot to propel the chair and steer, or to attach a winch and ascend steep slopes or run a safety line.

Alberta Parks’ Push to Open Nature Program provides the tools for people to enjoy nature on their own terms, and sometimes that is as simple as information about what barriers might exist at a trail, day use facility, or other experience. Over the past year, inclusion programmers in Kananaskis Country have worked with diverse communities, individuals with disabilities and experts in adaptive recreation to start an inventory of trails and share them through the Push to Open Nature program. These initiatives use teamwork, creativity and the generosity of volunteers to provide people with the supports they need to get outside.

Alberta Parks invites you to join the Push to Open Nature Program. Come see the equipment, learn about volunteer opportunities and get information about how you can make connecting to nature a part of your life now, again, and forever.

For more information about Push to Open Nature and the Alberta Parks Inclusion Plan “Everyone Belongs Outside”, visit explore.albertaparks.ca/inclusion or contact pushtoopen@gov.ab.ca.
Explore Roads Less Travelled

Looking for new areas to camp, quad, hike, paddle or fish? Provincial recreation areas (PRAs) in the Ghost River and Waiparous Creek areas offer a variety of opportunities to relax, and enjoy parks and public lands. Head west of Calgary and up Highway 40 to explore Hunter Valley Road and the Forestry Trunk Road, where you’ll discover a variety of rustic campgrounds, trails, paddling and fishing spots.

Check out explore.albertaparks.ca for information on camping, group camping and seasonal camping options at North Ghost, Waiparous Creek, Burnt Timber, Fallen Timber, Red Deer River and other PRAs. These sweet little sites are not too far from the Greater Calgary Area and the campground operators supply your firewood for free.

Riding off-highway vehicles is one of the popular activities in this area. Designated trails and access points, along with map kiosks and trail markers, help you have a safe and responsible trip. Please obey all rules and regulations regarding access and riding to ensure continued enjoyment by all visitors. More information and maps can be found at: esrd.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/recreation-on-public-land/public-land-use-zones/ghost-pluz.aspx.
Eco-Tours at Fish Creek & Glenbow Ranch

Take a seat on an open-air electric vehicle to enjoy the diversity and natural splendour of two of Alberta’s urban provincial parks. These vehicles, used for workshops and guided tours, allow people to explore large areas at a comfortable and enjoyable pace and are ideal for people with limited mobility. Many walking aids can be easily accommodated on the tours.

Tours are offered at both Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Parks, with all funds raised directly supporting each park’s conservation and education programs.

A private Minibus Tour is a great way for families, friends, employees, clubs or just about any group to experience their favourite park. You can host a park tour for your out-of-town guests, or plan a picnic outing or birthday tour with your family!

For more information and to register, contact:
Fish Creek tours – www.friendsoffishcreek.org or call 403–238–3841.

For information about Fish Creek and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Parks, visit explore.albertaparks.ca.

Events in Fish Creek & Glenbow Ranch

Fish Creek Provincial Park and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park offer many opportunities to relax, learn and recharge all within a short drive, pedal or hike from Calgary and Cochrane. These urban parks protect natural and cultural features, including lush forests, rolling grasslands, archeological sites and spectacular views. Visit these areas through guided tours, or explore them along one of the many pathways.

The Friends of Fish Creek and the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation provide in-park conservation and education programming and co-ordinate membership, volunteer opportunities and special projects. Some of the special events, programs and workshops planned for 2015 include:

- Birding courses (Year-round)
- Photography workshops (Spring, Summer, Fall)
- Guided walks (Spring through Fall)
- Yoga Classes (Spring through Fall)
- Electric Minibus & Golf Cart Tours (Spring through Fall)
- Star Night Events (October, March/April)
- Parks Day Events (July, in Glenbow Ranch and Fish Creek)
- Creekfest (July, in conjunction with Parks Day in Fish Creek)
- Run For The Ranch (July in conjunction with Parks Day at Glenbow Ranch)
- Family Programs (Summer at Glenbow Ranch)
- Ride for the Ranch (Fall in Glenbow Ranch)…. and much more!
Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park

Visitors from Alberta, across Canada and around the world come to enjoy outdoor activities at Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park in the Bow River Valley, where important wildlife habitat is protected.

In the summer, visitors can use our single track trails to experience mountain biking, running and hiking. Or try the paved trail system to roller ski or enjoy barrier-free hiking trips. On-site disc golf and orienteering courses, a bike skills park and a welcoming day lodge make the Nordic Centre a playground for everyone! Mountain bikes, discs and bear spray can be rented on-site from Trail Sports, where skiing and biking lessons are offered seasonally.

From November to April, the Nordic Centre is a winter wonderland! Cross-country skiers can explore over 65 km of groomed trails, including a 6.5 km loop lit for night skiing. Skiers of all ability levels can come out and enjoy beginner to advanced trails that are groomed daily.

Throughout the year, world-class events are hosted by Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park. Get up to date details at canmorenordiccentre.ca.

- May 23–24: Rocky Mountain Soap Company Women’s Run
- July 4–5: Rundle Mountain Cycling Club Mountain Bike Festival
- July 11–12: Big Bear Frisbee Golf Classic
- July 18: 24 Hours of Adrenalin
- August 16: Xterra Canmore Triathlon

Note: Events listed are subject to cancellation or date change.

Enhance your Kananaskis adventure in the Summit Spa and Fitness Centre with our indoor/outdoor whirlpool and our 17 metre indoor pool or with one of the many activities available in the Valley of Adventure:

- Summer:
  - mountain biking
  - climbing
  - horseback riding
  - whitewater rafting
  - fly fishing

- Winter:
  - downhill skiing
  - cross-country skiing
  - ice skating
  - snowshoeing
  - sleigh rides
  - tobogganing

For more information call 1-866-432-4322 or visit: www.deltalodgeatkananaskis.com
16 KANANASKIS

Water Adventures in Kananaskis Country!

You might be familiar with the incredible camping, hiking, and winter experiences, but did you know that Kananaskis Country also offers amazing opportunities to get out on the water? Whether you are an expert whitewater canoer or just starting out on a stand-up paddleboard, you can experience the thrill of water adventures in Kananaskis Country’s stunning mountain scenery.

Bring your gear to one of many lakes and ponds where you can wet your paddle and glide across the unbroken surface to gaze in wonder at the towering mountains and endless skies reflecting back at you. If you need to rent, try Kananaskis Outfitters (www.kananaskisoutfitters.com) at the Kananaskis Village, or Boulton Creek Rentals (www.kananaskiscountrycampgrounds.com) in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. Both companies offer lakeside rentals in Kananaskis so you can load up the gear and explore.

For the adventurous, the Kananaskis River offers first-rate kayaking, canoeing and white-water rafting opportunities. A number of local white-water rafting companies run the Class I to III rapids in the stretch of the Kananaskis River downstream of Widowmaker Day Use. You can book a trip with them for a guided thrill you won’t forget.

If you’d rather keep your feet dry, or simply want to watch the excitement from the safety of shore, the 2.2 km Widowmaker Hiking Trail follows along the riverbank and provides excellent views of the river riffles and rapids. You can also drive to Canoe Meadows Day Use and observe the slalom kayak course from viewing platforms high above the river.

Cold Water Safety

Regardless of which water activity excites you, remember the Kananaskis waterways are glacier-fed and dangerously cold even in mid-summer. Proper equipment and preparation are essential. Check online for information that could increase your chance of survival.

Familiarize yourself with Dr. Giesbrecht’s 1-10-1 phrase describing the phases of cold water immersion.

albertaparks.ca/coldwatersafety
Everyone Belongs Outside

The Kananaskis Inclusion Program

Close your eyes. Imagine your first experience visiting Kananaskis Country. What did you see? How did you feel? It might have been today, yesterday, years ago, or maybe you are still planning your first visit. Alberta Parks welcomes and invites you to share your outdoor experience with others.

The Kananaskis Inclusion Ambassador Program offers a supportive community of all abilities that welcomes, shares, and inspires others to experience nature. On your own, you could experience a trail like Many Springs in Bow Valley Provincial Park. You might be greeted by a vibrant colour of seasonal flowers and the buzz of life that supports their growth. Tracing the steps of early explorers, you would appreciate similarities as you explore this rugged, beautiful, and inspiring setting. As a Kananaskis Inclusion Ambassador, you could share this experience with Alberta Parks staff and people who may have never before explored outside the city.

Programs planned for 2015 include:

- Push to Open Nature adaptive trips and equipment demonstrations
- Nature as a Second Language introductory camping, hiking, and outdoor learning
- Youth in Parks stewardship and leadership projects.

This exciting new volunteer and inclusion program can help newcomers and long-time visitors of Kananaskis Country find a place to share, discover, and support people of all abilities, all cultures and all ages as they connect or reconnect with nature – by encouraging safe and accessible journeys in the outdoors.

Find out more at albertaparks.ca/inclusion or contact naturelanguage@ab.gov.ca for more information about inclusive programs in Kananaskis Country and throughout Alberta Parks.

Country setting in the City

The only campground in the City of Calgary
- free heated pool
- free showers
- free wifi
- nature trails and more!
- 1 km to Calgary Transit
Phone: 1-888-562-0842
www.calgarycampground.com
Hungry for adventure? Cochrane can feed your cravings!

With rivers to paddle, courses to golf, paths to bike, trails to hike, not to mention rodeo action, paintball, archery, trail riding, and more. And all just 25 minutes from Calgary and its airport.

Visit cochrane-tourism.ca/hungry to customize your Cochrane adventure, discover restaurant discounts and special offers.

Cochrane Days Inn & Suites | daysinn.ca
10% off rack rate with the code CTA 3
403 932 5588 | 1877 932 5588 | 5 Westside Dr

Cochrane Ramada | ramada.com
10% off rack rate
403 932 6355 | 1866 860 8846 | 10 Westside Dr

cochrane-tourism.ca  ♬ ♬
The Importance of Fire

Allowing a wildfire to burn in a controlled manner, or igniting an area isn’t exactly the first thing that comes to mind when we think of wildfire prevention and forest health. But, when planned and executed properly, this practice – a prescribed fire – is more beneficial to the health of a forest and its inhabitants than you may think.

Fire is a natural part of the environment, and attempting to remove it can have a huge impact on the way a forest functions. Fire recycles nutrients, helps plants to reproduce and creates a diverse habitat that benefits wildlife. Fire also helps reduce a buildup of dead and dying vegetation, and increases a forest’s resiliency to pests.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is taking steps to re-introduce fire into the ecosystem in a way that is less intense and easier to control than naturally-occurring wildfire. This proactive approach to wildfire management is intended to help restore ecosystems, create healthy and resilient forests, and reduce the potential for large, uncontrollable wildfires.

Safety is the first priority for any prescribed fire. Highly-trained fire managers and firefighters work to contain intensity, direction and spread of the fire. During planning, specific conditions are identified to ensure the safe and successful execution of the prescribed fire, while also utilizing FireSmart principles. These practices help protect Albertans, their communities, natural resources and other values from the risks of wildfires.

Beware of Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Aquatic invasive species pose one of the greatest threats to our freshwater resources. They change aquatic ecosystems by competing with native fish species and removing vital nutrients needed for their survival. They also pose substantial risks to the economy by clogging pipes and intakes, decreasing property values and changing important native fisheries.

Two of the biggest culprits are zebra and quagga mussels. Along with the mentioned impacts, mussels can also lead to toxic algae blooms, botulism-related bird kills and impacts to recreation.

These invaders spread by hitching rides on boats, trailers or equipment that have been in infested waterbodies. Adult mussels can live up to 30 days out of the water. Imagine how many lakes a boater could hit while traveling in a month!

Prevention is the best management strategy, as control options are limited and very expensive. If you travel with a boat, there are some simple steps you can take to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

1. **CLEAN** – remove all plants, animals and mud at boat launches or docks.
2. **DRAIN** – drain all water from bait buckets, ballasts, bilges, etc.
3. **DRY** – dry the watercraft and gear completely between trips.

Anytime a boat leaves a water body, it should be inspected to ensure it is CLEAN, DRAINED, and DRY before launching again. Look for watercraft inspection sites across the province this summer! For information, call the AIS hotline: 1–855–336–BOAT (2628).
Husky Energy Inc. has been actively involved in environmentally responsible energy development in the Kananaskis area for more than 20 years. Husky operates facilities in the Moose Mountain/McLean Creek area that have been developed with reduced footprints to minimize environmental impacts.

Husky has supported a long-term wildlife monitoring program in the region since 2004. Monitoring has been conducted on mammals, birds and insects over randomly selected areas. Husky is also an engaged member of the regional airshed zone and financially supports regional air quality monitoring programs.

Operating in Kananaskis Country means interacting with many kinds of trail users. Over the years, Husky has supported the Greater Bragg Creek Trail Association (GBCTA) and The Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance.

Husky is committed to an open dialogue with people concerned or affected by its operations or development plans. The Company’s involvement with regulatory agencies, environmental interest groups, recreational users and area residents is ongoing.

For more information about the wildlife monitoring program, visit www.huskyenergy.com to view Husky’s Community Report.
Comfort camping is a growing trend among outdoor enthusiasts who prefer to experience a night in the natural world with some of the comforts of home. With seven locations across the province offering a number of unique camping experiences, you can enjoy your vacation from the comfort of your own furnished, private retreat.

If tent camping piques your interest but sleeping on the ground has lost its appeal, book a canvas wall tent with beds, futons and solid wooden floors. Covered patios and plenty of ventilation make these sturdy tents a great option for anyone looking to kick back and relax. Canvas tents can be booked online for Dinosaur, Writing-on-Stone, Wyndham-Carseland and Miquelon Lake Provincial Parks. Sundance Lodges in Kananaskis Country also offer trapper-tents, as well as authentic tipi camping.

For information regarding Sundance Lodges, visit www.sundancelodges.com.

Alternatively, you may desire a more permanent camping structure on a cool fall evening. Pigeon Lake Provincial Park offers yurts, each set high atop a private deck with a barbecue. These modernized nomadic dwellings are insulated and built to withstand more inclement weather.

For small groups that want to forgo the group tent site, consider booking The Nest lodge at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. Sleeping accommodations, a kitchen and a lounge area allow you to dine and relax to the sounds of serenading songbirds.

Spend your holidays at the lake, in one of the new cabins at Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, located on Lac La Biche. Just a few steps from the water, end your day of fishing and swimming with a warm fire by a cozy cottage retreat.
All of these unique accommodations are fully furnished and come with full interior power and lighting, dining table and chairs, beds and a fridge. Additional amenities may include dishware, cooking utensils and linens.

For more information about these amazing opportunities, visit explore.albertaparks.ca. Reserve a site at reserve.albertaparks.ca or by phone 1–877–537–2757 after 9:00 a.m. on February 23, 2015.
Sun, water, play. Rinse and repeat.

Spend some quality family time at your favourite Alberta provincial park this season. Pick your adventure and location with over 250 campgrounds to choose from.

Save with our stay for 3 and pay for 2 midweek promotion at albertaparks.com/midweek1504
David Thompson Corridor

There is an incredible variety of scenery, parks and experiences waiting for you along the David Thompson Corridor. No matter what your favourite outdoor pursuit, you can explore this stunning area in any number of ways:

**On the water** – Paddle the length of the corridor along the North Saskatchewan River staying in Alberta Parks campgrounds each night along the way. Enjoy calm waters for fishing or canoeing at Fish Lake.

**Around the campfire** – Camping opportunities abound with ample space in many campgrounds.

Pull your trailer into Thompson Creek to spend a week with the family or reserve a group camp at Cavalcade for your family reunion.

**Pedal your bike** – Access over 40 km of cross-country mountain bike trails directly from campsites at Fish Lake. Enjoy wide shoulders and incredible scenery around every bend on Highway 11 from the saddle of your road bike.

**Wear your hikers** – Watch for ospreys and loons during a short walk across the boardwalk at Goldeye Lake or experience the exhilarating views of the Bighorn Gorge (deepest gorge in Alberta!) as you hike alongside it on your way to Crescent Falls.

**Through your camera** – Numerous scenic viewpoints of Lake Abraham and the Rocky Mountains, easily accessible waterfalls and numerous wildlife sightings will have you reaching for your camera often and updating your Facebook with pictures of the David Thompson Corridor!
The David Thompson Corridor is a spectacular network of Alberta Parks connected along Highway 11 from Red Deer to the Rocky Mountains. Spend a day or spend a week traveling along the corridor to discover the wealth of camping, hiking and site-seeing opportunities.

Enjoy a day at the beach and excellent family camping at Crimson Lake Provincial Park. Overlook the rushing water of the unique two-tiered waterfall at Crescent Falls Provincial Recreation Area. Hike through beautiful mountain meadows filled with bluebirds and wildflowers at the Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve.

With over 20 Alberta Parks along Highway 11 to be enjoyed and countless recreational opportunities, you just have to experience the David Thompson Corridor for a relaxed, crowd-free trip to the mountains.
Lois Hole Centennial

Treat yourself to a special wildlife watching experience just outside Edmonton. Come and enjoy the scenic views of Big Lake in Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park. The John E. Poole Wetland Interpretive Boardwalk and the Big Lake Environment Support Society wildlife viewing platform at the mouth of the Sturgeon River offer opportunities to watch local wildlife, take in spectacular lake views and bask in stunning sunsets.

The park is named for Alberta's 15th Lieutenant Governor, the late Lois Hole. She was a prominent businesswoman in the adjacent City of St Albert, a noted author, expert gardener, advocate for education and member of the Order of Canada. Known globally as an Important Bird Area, this provincial park is renowned for the remarkable diversity of migrating and resident bird populations found in its thriving wetlands.

To help in understanding and reducing environmental impacts on one of Alberta's largest urban parks, bird populations are being monitored using digital cameras along the lakeshore, taking telephoto images several times daily and enabling biologists to track changes in the area's wildlife.

Access to the viewing platform and the John E. Poole Wetland Interpretive Boardwalk is located off of Riel Drive in St Albert. Bring your binoculars and camera. The abundance and diversity of wildlife here will impress you, especially if you visit in the early hours of the morning or on a summers evening.
Fort Assiniboine Sandhills Wildland

Explore a provincial wildland park, on horseback or on foot. Less than an hour north of Barrhead, you can hike or bring your horses to ride through unique vegetated sand dunes, pine, white spruce and aspen forests, and a variety of wetland environments.

Travel over 80 km of interconnected trails, including the historic Klondike Trail, which was established in 1824 by the Hudson Bay Company as a portage route connecting the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca Rivers. Be on the lookout for deer, moose, beaver, mink and black bears as well as woodpeckers and songbirds that make their homes in this old growth habitat.

Within this 66 km² of beautiful mixed wood forests, sand dunes, fens and marshes is an impressive diversity of plant life (436 species at last count!) Access trails from three staging areas. Camping can be found nearby, at Horse Creek Ranch.

Thunder Lake

If you come out to Thunder Lake in the winter you may hear the loud booming sound made by the cracking of ice that gave the lake its name. In summer, the park is a beach and water sport haven, just a 140-km trek northwest from Edmonton. Camp in one of the 127 well-treed campsites or bring your group and camp in one of two secluded group sites. Build your sand castle or go water-skiing. The campground has 66 powered campsites and showers for your convenience. Take the kids to one of the multiple playgrounds for fun in the sun. Walk or bike the numerous trails to enjoy the scenery and discover the beauty of the area.
Alberta Northern Rockies

The term “Canadian Wilderness” evokes images of majestic mountains, deep forests, pristine lakes and wild rivers. Welcome to Alberta’s Northern Rockies. Visitors from around the world are drawn to this untamed wilderness. This area is home to abundant wildlife including black and grizzly bears, wolves, cougars, moose, caribou, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk and deer. Be sure to bring your camera with extra batteries.

Alberta’s Northern Rockies are a recreational paradise with thousands of square kilometres of backcountry playground. In this wild landscape, parks provide a treasure trove of recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding and more. With a lifetime of exploration at your fingertips, Alberta’s Northern Rockies will entice you to return again and again.

William A. Switzer Provincial Park

Switzer Park is the hub of the Northern Rockies. Enjoy all the comforts of frontcountry camping including powered campsites and hot showers. Popular park activities range from fishing in one of the five lakes, to canoeing the gentle Jarvis Creek, or lounging on the sandy beach. Learn about nature’s wonders at an interpretive program during the summer months. While in the winter, enjoy cross-country skiing at the nordic centre. Stop in at the visitor centre to get information on hiking,
biking and wildlife viewing throughout the region. Explore the new Athabasca Lookout Trail for one of the most breathtaking hikes overlooking the Rocky Mountains.

**Willmore Wilderness Park**

Ancient glaciers, high mountain peaks, thick forests and raging rivers define these 4,600 km² of untamed wilderness. Backpackers and horseback riders seeking a true backcountry experience can explore over 750 km of trails where wildlife abounds. Visitors to Willmore must be experienced and well equipped for a rugged backcountry adventure. For a shorter taste of Willmore, visitors can view the deep canyon of Sulphur Gates and then hike up to the towering Eaton Falls for an unforgettable three-hour round trip.

**Rock Lake Provincial Park**

Nestled between the Willmore Wilderness and the Rock Lake Solomon Creek Wildland Park, Rock Lake is surrounded by stunning mountain views. Visitors can enjoy camping, boating, fishing and equestrian staging areas. Elk, deer, bears and bighorn sheep are often seen in open meadows on the hillsides.

**Pierre Grey’s Lakes Provincial Park**

Just two words are needed to describe Pierre Grey’s Lakes – quiet and lovely. This park is known by locals as a fishing paradise where the lakes are stocked with brook trout and rainbow trout. Many campsites are located close to the water for easy canoe access, and new powered campsites provide convenience for RVs. The park is named after a very successful Metis fur trader who operated a trading post in the late 1800s. The remains of Pierre’s log cabins are still visible along the lakeshore.

**Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park**

Backcountry hiking and horseback riding are popular activities in Whitehorse Wildland. Visitors can experience the fragile beauty of alpine meadows on the Cardinal Divide. Colourful harlequin ducks nest along high mountain streams and natural caves provide critical habitat for bats. A backcountry camping trip to Whitehorse Falls makes a cherished mountain memory. Camping facilities and equestrian staging areas are available at the adjacent Whitehorse Creek Provincial Recreation Area.

**Still More to Explore...**

Once you have been to Alberta’s Northern Rockies, you will find many reasons to return. Discover the peculiar hoodoos at Sundance Provincial Park, go whitewater rafting at Sulphur Gates, or splash in the waterfalls at Ogre Canyon. If relaxation is your quest, stretch out your beach towel on the sand at Jarvis Lake. The possibilities are endless.
Mom was right. Exploring the great outdoors will make you a happy camper. And when you have AMA along for the ride, your road trip will be all smiles and no worries. From a CAA Plus RV® membership for roadside assistance, to insurance for your RV and toys, we’ve got you covered. So go on, get outta here and have fun. For more information, visit ama.ab.ca/RV or call 1.800.642.3810.

Our members are practically family.
Three Great Stays in Seven Spectacular Days

Abundant choices along Highway 16 & Highway 40 give you countless opportunities to explore the Alberta Northern Rockies and Foothills. The Alberta Northern Rockies are calling – can you hear them?

**Days 1-3**

**Abundant open wilderness.**
**Well worth the stop.**

**YELLOWHEAD COUNTY**

Lush agricultural areas, endless rivers and streams – this is one area of the province worth visiting again and again! Visit our campgrounds where great swimming, boating, & fishing abound.

Stretching from the Pembina River in Evansburg and Wildwood to the Jasper National Park gates, Yellowstone County has something for anyone wanting to explore some of the most majestic and eclectic landscapes Canada has to offer.

Start day one at the Pembina Provincial Park next to the hamlet of Evansburg, continue on to the variety of campgrounds surrounding the Edson area, and then move on to the abundant choices of bed and breakfasts or guest ranches and lodges in and near the hamlet of historic Brule.

Located within the County's boundaries are five Provincial and Wildland Parks, and a variety of private, municipal, and provincial campgrounds offering a mix of amenities from full service campsites to rustic backcountry hiking and camping opportunities.

**Days 3 & 4**

**Beaver Boardwalk, Switzer Park & the historic Coal Branch area.**

**HINTON & AREA**

The natural landscape and choice of outdoor activities to enjoy are what make this area a must for your vacation bucket list.

When you visit, make sure you leave enough time – you’ll be surprised at just how much there is to see and do in this magnificent area of the Alberta Rocky Mountains.

Start your day with a morning bike ride at the Hinton Bike Park and pedal through the thick stands of trees that embrace the Happy Creek trail system. Pack a picnic lunch and head to Kelley’s Bathtub or Jarvis Lake for a refreshing swim – or stop at any of the other viewpoints or parks in William A. Switzer Provincial Park.

Return to town for a bite of dinner at any of the great restaurants Hinton has, but get your dessert to go. Dusk is the perfect time to take in the beavers hard at work at the Beaver Boardwalk.

And if you ride along one of the many scenic trails on a guided horseback adventure you’ll discover that the Northern Rockies landscape is unforgettable.

**Days 5 & 6**

**Scenic route to Alaska – Bighorn Hwy. 40**

**GRANDE CACHE**

Escape into a land of sparkling lakes, rushing rivers, green valleys, and windswept peaks. Nestled on a mountain plateau at 1280 m (4200 ft.), Grande Cache is located northwest of Jasper National Park in the Canadian Rocky Mountains along the Bighorn Highway 40, the shortest, most scenic route to Alaska from the United States.

Surrounded by 21 mountain peaks and two river valleys, Grande Cache is the Gateway to Willmore Wilderness Park, Alberta’s greatest mountain treasure. Willmore Wilderness Park has an abundance of trails, big game, alpine flowers, and spectacular waterways.

Grande Cache offers a wide selection of outdoor adventure opportunities including horseback riding, paddle sports, golfing, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, and fantastic photographic opportunities.

Learn more about the rich cultural background of the community at the Tourism and Interpretive Centre and pick up a copy of your Adventure Guide for full details on tourism activities in the area.
The Alberta Northern Rockies Are Calling You.

Each year, more and more Albertans are making Hinton, Grande Cache and Yellowhead County in the Northern Alberta Rockies and Foothills part of their vacation plans – and it isn’t hard to see why.

The natural landscape and choice of outdoor activities to enjoy are what make this area a must for your vacation bucket list. When you visit, make sure you leave enough time – you’ll be surprised at how much there is to do.

www.NorthernRockiesAreCalling.ca
Wishing I Was Fishing

It’s a strike! Oops, it’s off. No wait, it’s still on! Your line zings off the reel with a promise of something big and exciting. The fish breaks the water – it’s a good one. Your heart pounds in your chest, adrenaline flows through your veins. Your fight lasts a few minutes and you finally land your fish in the net, filling you with a deep sense of relief and joy. It’s a good day in Alberta.

Fishing in Alberta Parks is one of the most popular recreation activities in the province. If you are over 16 years old, you will need a provincial fishing licence, but no other special licenses are required. Anglers enjoy the freedom of being outdoors, the social bonding of shared experiences with friends and family and the age-old thrill of the catch. Parks across the province provide an incredible diversity of fishing adventures from fly-fishing in cool mountain streams to catching deep-water walleye and lake trout. Here are some local secrets to guide you on your next Alberta Parks fishing adventure.

Northern Alberta

Lesser Slave Lake is renowned for its walleye and northern pike fishing. Cast from shore or launch your boat at the Hilliard’s Bay Provincial Park boat launch. Prepare your freshly caught supper at our handy fish cleaning stations. Winagami Lake Provincial Park has a sheltered marina for boats and offers pike and walleye fishing.

At Two Lakes Provincial Park, North Lake is stocked with rainbow trout and South Lake is stocked with cutthroat trout. Moonshine Lake Provincial Park is stocked with rainbow and brown trout. Williamson Provincial Park and Young’s Point Provincial Park are great places to catch burbot, whitefish, walleye, pike and perch. In the Peace River District, rainbow trout are stocked in Figure Eight Lake, Twin Lakes, Stoney Lake and Sulphur Lake Provincial Recreation Areas. Remote Notikewin Provincial Park will reward you with incredible walleye, pike, burbot, grayling and goldeye fishing.

Cold Lake is the premier fishing destination in Northeast Alberta. Catch perch, walleye, whitefish, pike and lake trout at one of the largest and deepest lakes in the province. The provincial record for lake trout, set in 1929, was a giant 23.9 kg specimen caught in Cold Lake. Can you beat the record? Rumour has it that some giants still lurk in the deep.

Central Alberta

William A. Switzer Provincial Park boasts five fishing lakes for whitefish and northern pike. Jarvis Creek is...
stocked with brown trout each year and a lovely rainbow trout pond makes for a fun family outing. Further up Highway 40, anglers are treated to pristine trout fishing in Pierre Grey’s Lakes Provincial Park.

Carson–Pegasus Provincial Park is renowned as one of the premier rainbow trout fishing destinations in Alberta. A long sea wall on McLeod Lake enables anglers to fish from shore.

Buck Lake is one of the few lakes in Central Alberta that offers a catch limit for walleye without a tag (one walleye limit). Buck Lake also has a cod-like fish called burbot. Looking like a cross between a catfish and an eel, the burbot may not win a beauty contest, but it tastes superb.

Gull Lake is famous for high success rates in ice fishing for lake whitefish. Pigeon Lake and Sylvan Lake are known for northern pike, walleye and whitefish. A local secret is that walleye fishing is particularly good north of the Pierre Lake Provincial Park Beach on a “shelf” that drops from five feet to 15 feet deep. If you are fishing with the kids, try Gleniffer Reservoir as it is stocked with rainbow trout every spring.

For something completely different, Dillberry Lake is stocked with mooneye (similar to goldeye), as well as rainbow trout. Yellow perch are common here as well. And finally, if you cast into the Red Deer River at Dry Island Buffalo Jump, you might just catch lake sturgeon. But note, it’s catch and release only for these prehistoric monsters.

Kananaskis

The spectacular scenery in Kananaskis Country makes every fishing outing a great day, whether you are lucky enough to hook a monster bull trout in the Upper or Lower Kananaskis Lakes, land a beautiful rainbow trout or arctic grayling from one of the stocked ponds, or simply wander the banks of one of the local rivers hunting for brown trout.

If you or your companions are new to fishing, try our easily accessed stocked ponds including Grotto Mountain, Sibbald Meadows Pond, and wheelchair accessible Mount Lorette Ponds. Try your hand fishing for arctic grayling at Wedge Pond.

Learning to Fish at Young’s Point

The more experienced anglers should look for good sized lake trout at Spray Lakes Reservoir, or check out Lower Kananaskis Lake, which still holds the Alberta record for largest bull trout ever landed.

No matter where you try, you are bound to spend some of your time marveling at the beauty of your surroundings, but don’t forget to keep an eye on your line!

Southern Alberta

At Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, there are five different lakes and two creeks that offer diverse fishing experiences. Reesor Lake offers some excellent rainbow trout fishing. At the peaceful Spruce Coulee, the uncrowded lake is stocked with brook trout and arctic grayling for a superb year-round fishery. For more traditional fishing, anglers will find Elkwater Lake enjoyable and conveniently located close to campgrounds and facilities. The fishery consists of northern pike and

Free Family Fishing Weekends

You can fish without a licence on two designated weekends each year. One falls on Family Day weekend each February. Or this summer, pick a park and try your luck on July 10–11.
yellow perch. The remote streams of Graburn Creek or Battle Creek, and nearby Bullshead and Michelle Reservoir offer additional angling adventures.

There are plenty of opportunities to fish southern Alberta’s big reservoirs, at Kinbrook Island, Little Bow, and Oldman Dam. Further southwest, the stunning scenery of the Crown of the Continent at Police Outpost and Beauvais Lake provide a quieter fishing experience. Swift water anglers should try Lundbreck Falls on the Crowsnest River for a taste of walk and wade dry-fly fishing for cutthroat, rainbow and a hybrid called cutbow. The provincial parks and recreation areas in southern Alberta offer access to some of the world’s best lakes and streams.

For more details about fishing in Alberta’s provincial parks, check explore.albertaparks.ca.

Every time your boat comes out of the water, take a few minutes to make sure it is CLEAN, DRAINED & DRY before leaving the launch. If you’re traveling with your boat, visit one of Alberta’s watercraft inspection stations located on major highways throughout the province.

Props, boats and natural ecosystems can be ruined by zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Take a few simple steps to preserve our lakes and fisheries: CLEAN off plants and debris, DRAIN bilges and ballast, and DRY any wet areas of the boat before you use it again. Protect your boat and help keep our waters free of invasive species.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL: 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)
Mosquitoes can’t bite you if they can’t find you.

Use an insect repellent with DEET.
- Wear light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants, and a hat.
- Consider staying indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Some mosquitoes carry the West Nile virus, so it’s best to avoid being bitten at all.

For more information and tips, visit fightthebite.info or call Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-5465.
Northwestern Alberta

A Birdwatcher’s Paradise

Bird watching, or birding, is an inexpensive, rewarding activity that continues to grow in popularity in Canada. Whether you are a long-time birder or just starting out, northwestern Alberta’s provincial parks and recreation areas provide you with a wealth of birding opportunities. Over 250 resident, breeding and migrant species can be found up here, from tiny Tennessee warblers to giants such as the white pelican.
Birding Festivals

Start your year off with a splash – possibly a really big splash – with the Swan Festival, held at Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, 25 km west of Grande Prairie. Celebrated in late April every year, the Swan Festival marks the annual return of trumpeter swans to the Grande Prairie region. It kicks off with a guest speaker and wine and cheese evening held in Grande Prairie, followed by a day in the park chock-full of fun activities for families, good food, and of course, trumpeter swans. Scheduled bus tours with local birders increase your chances of spotting one or several of these magnificent birds – North America’s largest waterfowl.

The next wave of spring migrants is the songbirds. Celebrate their colourful, chorus-filled return to the boreal forest at the Songbird Festival, held at the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation within Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, only 18.5 km north of the Town of Slave Lake. The festival takes place the first weekend in June and features guided bird hikes, birding workshops and birdhouse building, a pancake breakfast, and lots of nature-based activities for the kids. There are scheduled bus tours to the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, where you may have the opportunity to see songbirds up close as biologists capture, band and release them back into the wild.

Did you know?

Way up in the far northwestern corner of Alberta, you will find a very special place. The Hay-Zama Lakes Wildland Park is like the Serengeti of North American waterfowl. Hundreds of thousands of birds use it for a staging and breeding area every year. This place is so important for ducks and geese that, in 1982, it was designated a “wetland of international significance” under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It is one of only three Ramsar sites in Alberta; the other two being the Peace-Athabasca Delta in the northeast, and Beaverhill Lake near Edmonton.

Located within the traditional territory of the Dene Tha’ First Nation, Hay-Zama Lakes Wildland Park is extremely remote, so any birders who plan to visit it must be self-reliant, experienced backcountry travellers.
Grande Prairie Area

Is April too early for your vacation plans? No worries. Trumpeter swans nest at Saskatoon Island Provincial Park, and you may see them floating serenely on Saskatoon and Little lakes until October. Make sure you explore the unpaved shrub-land trails for great forest and water-bird viewing opportunities. The paved Little Lake Trail guides you to a wildlife viewing platform, where you may spot swans, geese, other waterfowl, and possibly nesting bald eagles. This park is a federal migratory bird sanctuary and forms part of the Trumpeter Swan Important Bird Area.

Musreau Lake Provincial Recreation Area, 84 km south of Grande Prairie on Highway 43 is another birding hotspot. Follow the Woodpecker Trail through mature boreal forest and along the shore of Musreau Lake to spot warblers, waterfowl, and more.

Did you know you can check off some grassland species on your life list while in northwestern Alberta? It’s true. Visit Kleskun Hill Natural Area, just over 30 km east of Grande Prairie on Highway 43, for western meadowlarks, upland sandpipers, vesper sparrows, and northern catbirds.

Dunvegan Provincial Park is another great spot to view grassland birds in the north, while simultaneously exploring First Nations, fur trade, and missionary history. Historic Dunvegan is an easy 90 km drive north of Grande Prairie on Highway 2.

If you need to check off some songbirds on your list, Young’s Point Provincial Park is frequented by western tanagers as well as many forest-loving warblers. This park is located 110 km east of Grande Prairie along Highway 43.

Moonshine Lake Provincial Park often hosts common loons; listen for their iconic calls while you’re here. This park is 116 km northwest of Grande Prairie on Highway 2 and then east on Highway 49. An added bonus if you stay at Moonshine Lake: Jack Bird Pond, located about 3.5 km southeast of the lake, is a hotspot for waterfowl, including a nesting pair of trumpeter swans.

The North Lake at Two Lakes Provincial Park is another favourite spot for common loons and osprey. This remote and scenic park is found 152 km southwest of Grande Prairie on Highway 666 and a couple of industrial gravel roads, so if you’re an adventurous birder, this may be just the park for you!

If you need to check off some songbirds on your list, Young’s Point Provincial Park is frequented by western tanagers as well as many forest-loving warblers. This park is located 110 km east of Grande Prairie along Highway 43.
Peace River West

*Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park* is a birding hotspot in the northern boreal forest, having recorded over 140 different species of birds within its boundaries. A network of trails behind the campground will guide you through a variety of bird habitats, where you might find anything from a ruffed grouse to a great grey owl, as well as many songbirds. Take advantage of a bird viewing platform overlooking a small wetland where, depending on time of year, you may see tundra swans, grebes and ducks. The park’s location on the shore of Lac Cardinal, an Important Bird Area, provides many more opportunities for waterfowl sightings. Less than 30 km west of Peace River on Highway 2, this park is an easy-access birder’s dream.

*Notikewin Provincial Park* is another birding gem, featuring nesting sandhill cranes, woodpeckers, many songbirds and several species of raptors. Get a real sense of northern Alberta at this park, located 159 km north of Peace River and east of the MacKenzie Highway.

Hike the trail around the lake in *Figure Eight Lake Provincial Recreation Area* to spot songbirds as well as larger species such as ruffed grouse, great blue herons, osprey, and bald eagles. This rustic protected space is less than 50 km west of Peace River, just off Highway 737.
West and East of Lesser Slave Lake

Check off many birds on your list at Winagami Lake Provincial Park, located just 33 km northwest of High Prairie along Highways 749 and 679. The park is home to nesting colonies of grebes, sandpipers, gulls and ducks. You may also spot a merlin or a northern goshawk. These are only a few of over 200 species that you may encounter as you hike the Window on the Lake Trail and spend some time at the waterfowl viewing platforms overlooking Winagami Lake. And while you’re here, don’t forget to check out the Kimiwan Bird Walk and Interpretive Centre in McLennan, less than 14 km from the park, where you may see migrating pectoral sandpipers and long-billed dowitchers, as well as a colony of purple martins.

If you love waterfowl, Heart River Dam Provincial Recreation Area might be another spot to visit. It’s 154 km northwest of Slave Lake, and only 18 km from Winagami Lake Provincial Park. Many ducks, geese, and other waterfowl can be seen on the reservoir.

Lesser Slave Lake, one of the largest lakes in Alberta, is recognized as an Important Bird Area. Hilliard’s Bay Provincial Park, on the northwest end of Lesser Slave Lake 30 km off Highway 2, is home to plenty of songbirds in the summer. Hike the campground trails and the Boreal Forest Trail to increase your chances of seeing and hearing some tiny beauties. Check out the beach for shorebirds and waterfowl. Make a day trip to nearby Police Point Natural Area to look for common goldeneye, mallards, killdeer, spotted sandpipers, red-necked grebes, black terns, soras and marsh wrens. Hunting is allowed in this natural area, so make sure you are dressed for visibility if you visit in the fall.

To see any of more than 250 species of birds in northwestern Alberta, plan to visit Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, located on the east end of Lesser Slave Lake and just north of the Town of Slave Lake along Highway 88. This park is thick with birds, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Because of this, the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) has been carrying out songbird research and monitoring within the park since 1994. LSLBO and Alberta Parks interpreters deliver public bird observatory tours twice weekly from mid-July to the September long weekend. In addition to songbirds, you’ll encounter a multitude of waterfowl that build their nests along the shores of Lesser Slave Lake, at Lily Lake and on numerous wetlands within the park; these include the threatened western grebe. No birder’s visit to Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park would be complete without stopping by the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation (BCBC), which houses exhibits about the boreal forest and its residents, as well as nature-based family activities. Make sure you take a quick jaunt around the Songbird Trail at the BCBC and you may just spot an elusive Canada warbler as well as many other nesting songbirds such as American redstarts, hermit thrushes, ovenbirds, and black-and-white warblers.

For more information about these and other northwest Alberta provincial parks, provincial recreation areas and natural areas, visit explore.albertaparks.ca. Information about facilities, services, activities as well as downloadable maps are available on this official Alberta Parks website.
Miquelon Lake

Wake up with the chickadees at beautiful Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Just 65 km southeast of Edmonton, Miquelon Lake is nestled amidst diverse boreal forest and is home to a variety of wildlife including deer, porcupine, beaver, and over 200 species of birds. Observe the starry skies of this Dark Sky Preserve right outside the door of your tent or RV in one of 276 campsites, nearly 200 of which have power. Treat yourself to one of three comfort camping sites, or plan your next big gathering of friends and family and stay in one of our seven group sites. During your visit you can explore, by mountain bike or on foot, over 20 km of maintained trails through the unique terrain of the Beaver Hills.

Your family will enjoy the entertaining amphitheatre shows and family programs presented by park staff throughout the year. Borrow a Discovery Pack from the Park Centre and lead your own family discoveries of amphibians, astronomy, pond life and more. Spend some time in the Park Centre where you’ll find free Wi-Fi, a gift store full of fun park stuff, visitor information and ice cream!

Birdwatchers can flock to Miquelon Lake Provincial Park in spring and fall to witness the thousands of migrating waterfowl. Come back when the snow flies to enjoy 18 km of groomed single-track ski trails, snowshoeing and skijoring in the company of the resident birds and wildlife that you’ll see in the park through the winter. Spend an afternoon on the ice skating rink at the Park Centre and plan to celebrate World Snow Day in January with broomball, snowball target practice, s’mores and hot cocoa.

Book your stay in a regular, comfort or group campsite at reserve.albertaparks.ca or by calling 1–877–537–2757.

Dark Sky Preserve Party

September is a great time to visit Miquelon Lake Provincial Park. Join staff and volunteers on September 6th, 2015 to celebrate the annual Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve Star Party at Miquelon Lake. The event will include guest speakers, solar and planetary viewing, displays and crafts for the whole family.

Miquelon Lake Provincial Park joined the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve on September 4th, 2011. Far enough from the lights of the city, this is an excellent location to view the night sky.
Dry Island Buffalo Jump

There’s no better way to spend a sunny fall day than to pack a picnic and head out to the country for a day of exploring. Just one hour east of Red Deer lays a unique and enchanting landscape that’s perfect for a mid-day meal and hike.

*Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park* is home to a breathtaking vista of steep badlands slopes, coulees, grassland terraces, aspen forest and riparian cottonwood groves in the stunning Red Deer River valley. Protecting approximately 16 km² of delicate, undisturbed ecosystems the park is a nature-lover’s paradise.

Avid bird watchers will enjoy finding grassland, forest and river bird species all in one location, while wildlife enthusiasts can find a variety of animals such as deer, coyotes, porcupines, weasels and even pronghorn antelope grazing atop the steep embankments. Nature photographers will also find perfect panoramas of the stunning river valley landscape from the cliff-top viewpoint.

Hiking is also a popular activity at *Dry Island Buffalo Jump*. While there are no formal hiking trails within the park, keen explorers can follow any of the trails left by other hikers or wildlife that wind throughout the valley. It is important to stay on trails when hiking in order to maintain the unique and sensitive plant life biodiversity in the area.

Paddling through the park in a canoe or kayak offers an amazing opportunity to see the area from a different perspective – looking up at the cliffs from the smooth waters of the Red Deer River. Start your paddling adventure at the boat launch and enjoy the leisurely 14 km paddle to Tolman Bridge on this slow-moving, scenic route through the park.

First Nations people maintain a strong connection to this area as it was once the site of the tallest buffalo jump in Alberta. At 45 metres high, the cliff was used as a method of harvesting bison meat to sustain tribes over the years. As the site dates back to roughly 2,800 years ago, it has undergone significant geological changes and is no longer identifiable. Locating the jump proves difficult, but knowing that it exists within the cliff banks generates a sense of value and respect for the area.

*Dry Island Buffalo Jump* is designed for day use only. Recreation facilities include a picnic area with tables and fire pits, washrooms and a hand-launch river access point for non-motorized boats. The access road to the day use area is steep and winding and the natural bentonite clays can make the road very slippery after a rainfall. It is not recommended for use when wet and may result in the gate being closed until conditions improve. However, you are welcome to leave your vehicle in the viewpoint parking lot and explore the landscape by foot while making your way down to the river.
Prickly Pear Cactus

Canoeing on the Red Deer River
Jarvis Bay and Aspen Beach

Less than a half hour drive west of Red Deer, you will find Jarvis Bay Provincial Park on Sylvan Lake. The campground has two large group use areas and 168 private campsites, 61 of those with power. A short drive around to the south shore takes visitors into the Town of Sylvan Lake and Sylvan Lake Provincial Park, a day use only park whose main feature is one of the most popular beaches in central Alberta.

A haven for nature lovers, at Jarvis Bay start your day with some bird watching, and then spend some time exploring the network of trails where there are many opportunities to see wildlife and gorgeous shoreline views of the lake.

Nearby Aspen Beach Provincial Park on Gull Lake is a popular spot for fishing, with three boat launches and one of the largest sandy beach day use areas in the province. A beautiful boardwalk connects the two campgrounds, passing through a natural wetland where you can see birds and other wildlife that thrive here. Aspen Beach and Sylvan Lake provincial parks are two of several locations for the Lifeguard Loaner Program. Lifeguard Loaner Stations located in many parks, provide lifejackets for the public to borrow, at no cost, and then return after use. The program is run on an honour system and is a project undertaken with The Lifesaving Society.

Aspen Beach has everything for your outdoor getaway. Lakeview Campground offers 77 full-service sites and 151 power sites while Brewer’s Campground features many near-beachfront sites. Ebeling Day Use Area has a full kitchen concession with burgers, fries and ice cream. A scenic trail system for hiking and biking wanders through the park and continues all the way to the nearby town of Bentley.

What are you waiting for? Book your stay on reserve.albertaparks.ca.
Aspen Beach Boardwalk

Lifejacket Loaner Station

LIFEJACKET LOANER STATION

CHECK LABEL FOR CORRECT SIZE. FASTEN ALL STRAPS AND ZIPPER. LIFT AT SHOULDERR FIT TEST RIB. USE AND RETURN LIFEJACKET TO LOANER STATION.
SAFE CAMPING TIPS

Selecting a site
In a campground, always use the designated fire facilities. Stoves, rings and pits are designed to prevent the fire from spreading to our forests.

If you are backcountry camping or your campsite has no designated fire facilities, ensure your campfire is safe as possible. Choose level ground away from dry grass, heavy bush, logs, leaves and overhanging branches. If possible, try to choose a site close to a water source.

Always have a large container of water on hand in case your fire accidentally spreads.

Preparing your campfire
Dig or scrape down to the bare soil an area for your campfire that is one metre in diameter. Remove all flammable materials such as dry leaves, grass, twigs and moss within another metre of your cleared area.

Never use lighter fluid, gasoline or any other accelerant to start your fire. Gradually build your campfire with kindling and then add larger pieces of wood.

Keep your campfire small and never leave it unattended.

Putting the campfire out
Let your fire burn down completely before extinguishing. Spread the remains of the fire evenly around the pit. Add water or loose dirt and stir with a stick or shovel until you no longer see smoke or steam.

To ensure your campfire is completely extinguished, place your hand over the ashes. If you don’t feel any heat and you can touch the ashes, your fire is completely out.

Remember, soak it, stir the ashes and soak it again.
OHVs CAN START WILDFIRES

KEEP YOUR MACHINES CLEAN

Visit our website: esrd.alberta.ca or call 310-0000

REPORT WILDFIRES
310-FIRE

Alberta Parks
Summer isn’t the only season for fun in Alberta. Did you know that many of Alberta’s parks and protected areas are open year-round and offer recreation opportunities in the autumn, winter and spring?

Alberta’s Northern Rockies provide a treasure trove of off-season opportunities. The Hinton Nordic Centre in William A. Switzer Provincial Park delivers 35 km of superior groomed ski trails for skate and classic skiing and stunning mountain views from the new Athabasca Lookout Trail, for snowshoers. Another local secret is the 900-metre luge track operated by the Hinton Luge Association. Test your patience ice fishing in Switzer Park, Wildhorse Lake, Kinky Lake and, further up Highway 40, at Pierre Grey’s Lakes Provincial Park.

Crimson Lake Provincial Park in the David Thompson Corridor also offers cross-country skiing on 20 km of trails. Or you can rent snowshoes to explore the park and look for winter wildlife. Ice climbers can test their skills at Two O’clock Creek or Crescent Falls Provincial Recreation Area.

Further south, Kananaskis Country offers numerous winter and shoulder season recreation activities. Go winter camping at Mount Kidd RV Park in the Evan Thomas Provincial Recreation Area or Point Backcountry Campground in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. While there, spend the day snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on one of the many beautiful trails. If you like to downhill ski, fly down the slopes at Nakiska Resort on Highway 40 or if you prefer cross-country skiing, take your time exploring the world-class trails and facilities at the Canmore Nordic Centre. After a morning of fun, lounge in front of the fire at the Peter Lougheed Visitor Centre or, during the holiday season, sit back on a horse-drawn carriage ride at Kananaskis Village.

East of Edmonton, Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area boasts over 110 km
of groomed cross-country ski trails for all levels and abilities and hosts one of three worldwide Birkebeiner ski races every February. *Miquelon Lake Provincial Park*, about an hour southeast of Edmonton is open year-round and is always busy with activities. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit for bird and wildlife watching. In winter, come back for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and skijoring. In January join us to celebrate World Snow Day with winter fun and treats!

Enjoy a winter weekend in Alberta’s north. Choose from cross-country skiing on maintained trails in *Gregoire Lake Provincial Park* or ice fishing for pike and whitefish in any of the area’s lakes. Snowshoers can enjoy any of the trails in the northeast parks. On Sunday of the Family Day weekend, come out for Fun in the Snow Day for fun activities that will warm you up and chase away the winter blues. Check “Events” at [explore.albertaparks.ca](http://explore.albertaparks.ca) for details.

*Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park* has 15 km of groomed trails for skiers, and offers free loans of ski and snowshoe equipment. Equipment loans must be booked in advance by calling the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation. Family Owl Night in the fall will have you learning all about owls and participating in family-friendly activities. Near Grande Prairie, check out the skating rinks at the *Saskatoon Island or Moonshine Lake Provincial Park*. Plan to be at Moonshine Lake for the Sunday Family Day event where you can snowshoe, fish, ski, take in interpretive programs, play a round of snow golf, or sit back and enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride. Please note that trails in most provincial parks are unpatrolled during the winter, so be prepared for emergencies.

*Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park* in Alberta’s southeast is a hub of activity in every season. Come for the Spring Bird Count or bring your horse for Equestrian Trail Day in September. Kick-off the winter with Winter Start – a free, fun-filled day of family activities. Then, get in the Christmas spirit by cutting your own fresh Christmas tree to take home. Try out 50 km of snowshoe and fat bike trails, a 750 m skating track, and stay in one of two backcountry huts available for overnight rental.

Winter visitors to *Dinosaur* and *Writing-on-Stone* can enjoy spotting wildlife while hiking the snow-covered badlands. And in the southwest, groomed cross-country ski trails at *Beauvais Lake, Syncline* and *Chinook Lake*, and numerous options for ice fishing, are ideal for your next snow day.

Enjoy all four seasons in Alberta’s provincial parks! For more information, check out [explore.albertaparks.ca](http://explore.albertaparks.ca) and discover all the outdoor fun you could have.
Sir Winston Churchill

Make Camping Memories

Welcome to Alberta’s park of islands, Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, located along the lakeshore of Lac La Biche. This provincial park protects the large island, with its 300-year-old forest and private sandy beaches, in addition to all of the smaller islands in the lake. Great for family getaways, you can play at the beach or on the water, hike through the cool shady forest, or kick back and soak in the sights and sounds of nature while enjoying an ice cream cone from the store.

If you are new to camping or looking for an added level of comfort, the just opened cabins at Sir Winston Churchill can provide a unique getaway. The cabins boast lakefront views, private decks, power, lighting, and running water, which is available seasonally. Enjoy a great camping experience without having to haul a trailer or set up a tent.

Explore the park on foot or by mountain bike on over 20 km of interconnected trails and boardwalks that transport you to scenic viewpoints, sunny beaches and wetlands alive with wildlife. Or follow the trail into the old growth boreal forest, which has been untouched by forest fires in the last 300 years.

Are you looking for ways to enjoy the lake? Water sports range from canoeing and kayaking, to fishing, waterskiing and windsurfing. Paddling around the islands is a great day excursion, providing you with water level views of the lake and shoreline and a unique perspective of the beauty of the park.

A rapidly disappearing habitat, old growth forests have multiple layers of vegetation and trees at all different stages of their life cycle. This rich environment, combined with the lake and...
wetlands provides homes for more than 230 resident and nesting bird species such as raptors, owls and songbirds. Water and shorebirds species, including pelicans, gulls and terns, are also very common. Keep an eye out for deer, fox, squirrels and snowshoe hares and the many other animals that call the 'island park' home. This is truly a prime location for all bird watchers, wildlife enthusiasts and nature photographers. Set your alarm clock for an early morning hike; prime time to see the resident wildlife and hear dozens of different birdsongs chiming through the treetops.

Seventy-two powered camping sites on the largest of the islands are very private, surrounded by the lush green foliage of the old growth forest. Other facilities include sewage disposal station, boat launch, fire pits, flush toilets, shower, playgrounds, a picnic shelter, day use and camp store. The cabins, individual campsite and group camping reservations can be made online at reserve.albertaparks.ca or by calling 1–877–537–2757.
Gregoire Lake

Just a 25-minute drive from the City of Fort McMurray will take you to a provincial park in the northern boreal forest where you can wake up to the sounds of red squirrels scolding and woodpeckers drilling for their breakfast. Spring, summer, fall or winter, Gregoire Lake Provincial Park has something for everyone, with all the natural wonders found in this old growth forest.

The only auto accessible lake in the region, with a beach and recreational boating, many people make the drive out to the park to enjoy the best family-friendly lakeside fun in this area. Throughout the summer, you will most always find boats on the lake or people on the beach soaking up the sun of the long northern days. During the winter, the parking lot and boat launch area remain open to allow access for ice fishing.

One hundred and forty private campsites are surrounded by lush growth in this old boreal forest. Power is available in 94 of the campsites; other facilities include showers, a sewage dumping station, boat launch, playgrounds, fire pits and a store. Group camping facilities are also available in this park. Reservations for individual campsites and group camping can be made.
Take a break from water sports and explore the Lakeshore Trail for a great hike from the beach all the way to H loop in the campground. You’ll be rewarded with great views of the lake as you walk or bike along the shore and many opportunities to encounter bird species that call this park home. Keep an eye out for raptors, songbirds, owls, lake and shore birds in this area. A second trail, the 5.4 km Figure Eight Trail, provides more terrain for hiking and biking, and is also groomed through the winter for cross-country skiing. Watch for deer, moose and bears, and many other animals that frequent this area. You may even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the river otters that like to play around in the lake.

The Anzac Day Use area, located on the east side of the lake, is also part of Gregoire Lake Provincial Park. This year, Anzac Day Use will be hosting the Triathlon and Long Distance Swim for the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games. Maybe we’ll see you there cheering on your favourite athletes.

Gregoire Lake Provincial Park really is a little piece of awesome in bustling northeast Alberta. Plan to visit on your next weekend getaway and find out for yourself, any time of year.
Explore Northwest Alberta

This summer, take the family for a week of exploring parks in the northern half of Alberta. You may be surprised to learn that stunning scenery and adventure can be found in all parts of the province. Here is one loop to consider for your next family vacation. Plan to spend a couple days at each campground while you play, poke around the area and take some time to relax. There are so many places to discover, one week may not be enough.

Head west from Edmonton to William A Switzer Provincial Park, located northwest of Hinton on Highway 40. This park is the perfect place for your first experience in Alberta’s Northern Rocky Mountains. Set up camp at Gregg Lake or Jarvis Lake. Paddle your canoe or kayak on Jarvis Creek or try your mountain bike skills on the rolling hill-and-kettle trails throughout the park. From a base camp here, take a day trip to Rock Lake, where perfect views of the mountains are reflected in this beautiful mountain lake.

Continue north along Highway 40 and make a stop at Sulphur Gates Provincial Recreation Area for a view overlooking the steep sided gorge of the Sulphur River. Onward toward Grande Prairie, make your lunch stop at Musreau Lake Provincial Recreation Area. This northern lake, about six km off the main highway, is a pretty spot for a picnic. There are hibachis on the beach if you want to roast some hotdogs. Enjoy some time at the beach and then after lunch, take the family on an easy shoreline hike before you load everyone back into the car.

From Musreau Lake keep heading north, through Grande Prairie, where you can pick up fresh groceries or those items you forgot to pack.

About an hour north of Grande Prairie, you’ll reach the mighty Peace River - a vital link in Alberta’s early northern commerce. After crossing on Alberta’s only suspension bridge, you’ll find Dunvegan Provincial Park along the north shore of the river. This beautiful parkland campground is adjacent to an historic site where over 200 years ago a trading post of the Northwest Company was established and then operated well into the 1800s by the Hudson Bay Company. Stay awhile in comfortable campsites within walking distance of the historic site. You can tour the buildings and talk to the costumed interpreters about the fur trade in the Peace River country. With a unique climate zone and a very old farming settlement, the Peace River valley is a thriving northern agricultural centre. In summer, there’s a farmers market just outside the park where you can shop for fresh produce and pick local strawberries in season.
for rainbow trout from a seawall just adjacent to the boat launch. Or take your electric powered boat a short distance away to Little McLeod Lake for lake whitefish or pike. The campground has many nice sites near the water with amenities like showers and a concession for your comfort and convenience.

If you are looking for an uncrowded, leisurely paced vacation where you can experience history and see sights you have not seen before, go north and find your new favourite places.

Loop around to the town of Peace River and, before heading south, stop at the grave site of 12 Foot Davis, an early gold prospector who struck it rich in the Peace Country. From this vantage point, you will see a stunning view of the Peace River and the confluence where it is joined by the Smokey River.

Heading south, make your last camping destination at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park. Just east of Whitecourt, campers come to this park for the fishing. Choose from two lakes, McLeod and Little McLeod, for two different fishing experiences. At Mcleod Lake you can fish
Programs and Activities

Don’t just sit staring into the campfire… get yourself to an Alberta Parks activity!

Alberta’s Northern Rockies are known for their rugged landscapes and unforgettable wilderness experiences. Park Interpreters lead experience-based programs to identify medicinal plants and edible mushrooms in Switzer Park. Visitors can learn about bear and cougar safety, catch butterflies for citizen science, bake bannock over an open fire and rediscover forgotten bushcraft.

Family-oriented programs are offered throughout the week at Crimson Lake Provincial Park; relax at an interpretive sunset beach campfire or hit the trails geocaching. The David Thompson Corridor hiking series runs each long weekend of the summer. Join the adventure of a full-day guided hiking experience to some of the area’s hidden gems.

Kananaskis Country has long been known for its exciting interpretive theatre productions, but have you experienced the hands-on family programs? You can learn about grizzly bear research, join in a tracks and signs scavenger hunt, explore the creatures of local wetlands, or learn about bird watching! Visit the “Events” section of the Kananaskis Country website to learn more!

Northeast Visitor Services has a new Alberta Parks trailer to take on the road, and provide fun and educational programming. Watch for us at Cross Lake, Gregoire Lake, Whitney Lakes and other provincial parks throughout the northeast during July and August. Check “Events” on
If you’re new to camping, try the northwest Alberta Parks Learn to Camp program! Parks staff will lead you through an overnight stay at a Saskatoon Island Provincial Park. Learn to set up a tent, cook outdoors, start a campfire and hike. Camping equipment is provided for program participants. Or try geocaching at Saskatoon Island, Moonshine Lake and Young’s Point provincial parks. Use your own device or you can borrow a GPS unit at the park.

The south offers unparalleled diversity, year-round. Go to Cypress Hills and get into mountain biking, canoeing and snowshoeing. Rentals are available. Dinosaur Park offers a wide range of experiences, from hikes and bus tours into the unique backcountry of the natural preserve to free weekend evening amphitheatre programs in the summer. At Writing-on-Stone, rock art tours and hands-on programs will reveal timeless connections between nature and people. And in the south west you will discover some of our best kept secrets. Stop by our visitor centres to make the most of your trip!

JOINING A PARKS PROGRAM MAY GIVE YOU A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON YOUR FAVOURITE PARK, OR SHOW YOU SOMETHING COOL ABOUT A PARK YOU’RE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME. FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN PROVINCIAL PARKS, EXPLORE ALBERTAPARKS.CA.
SOUTH WEST CORRIDOR

- Medicine Hat
- Brooks
- Drumheller
- Dinosaur
- Tillebrook Island
- Kinbrook Island
- Little Bow
- Chain Lakes
- Willow Creek
- South West Corridor
- Oldman Dam
- Lundbreck Falls
- Syncline
- Beaver Mines Lake
- Beauvais Lake
- Lake McGregor
- Park Lake
- Lethbridge
- St. Mary Reservoir
- Waterton Reservoir
- Woolford
- Payne Lake
- Police Outpost
- Wyndham-Carseland
- Cypress Hills
- Red Rock Coulee Natural Area
- Police Outpost
- Milk River Natural Area
Discover Southern Alberta

The south is packed with incredible diversity of landscapes and experiences! Hike the high mountain peaks in the Crown of the Continent, and explore for dinosaur bones in the deep canyons of the badlands in Dinosaur Provincial Park; bike or paddle in the beauty of Cypress Hills; and connect with the spirit of Writing-On-Stone. No matter which destinations you choose, you will find landscapes that take your breath away, and experiences you will never forget.

The provincial parks and recreation areas in southern Alberta are destinations unto themselves, and also make excellent staging areas for exploring other attractions.

Flip through the following pages to discover the jewels of the Crown of the Continent and Canadian Badlands. You will find that there are many hidden gems along the way.
Cypress Hills

The Cypress Hills are a year round destination for nature-lovers, hikers, bikers, equestrians, winter sports and water-sports enthusiasts. An ancient meeting place and hunting ground for First Nations and a remnant of an ice age long past, this forested island in the prairies has an astonishing wildlife community with over 300 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

This interprovincial park includes areas of southeast Alberta, southwest Saskatchewan and provides an abundance of cultural and recreational opportunities to explore. Nearby Fort Walsh National Historic Site offers a historical experience.

Soak up the sun during the summer months while surrounded by lush green forest. With over 145 km of trails to explore it is easy to get out and find some astounding views of the surrounding prairies. Lounge on the beach, build sand castles or get on the lake for some water sports. Try your hand at fishing for dinner at one of the stocked lakes within the park. The park has a varied selection of campgrounds to suit your requirements and the small communities within the park provide restaurants, lodging, adventurous activities and golf courses for your pleasure.

Winter is inevitable so why not enjoy it? Cross-country skiing, alpine skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and convenient backcountry hut experiences are all available in the park. Elkwater hosts a skating trail, ice rink, snow luge, ski resort, lodging, winter camping and a wide variety of winter events to make it fun for all ages.

Programs, Events and Equipment

In summer and winter, the park has many programs for all ages. A varied selection of rental equipment is available so you can enjoy the trails and activities even if you don't have your own gear. Contact the Visitor Centre for more information on programs and rentals.

A full list of programs and events can be found at explore.albertaparks.ca.
Experience the Wild Prairie at the Milk River Natural Area

Travel to the far southeastern corner of Alberta to see the same kind of undisturbed prairie, where bison used to roam. Explore the unique geological features called lava dykes, several archaeological and fossil sites and the deepest canyon in the Canadian grasslands. In this remote and scenic landscape, streams and springs, oxbow lakes, coulees and badlands create an array of habitats. Alberta’s only native lizard, the short-horned lizard suns itself along the rims of coulees, golden eagles nest in the cliffs, and tumbleweeds bounce across the horizon.

Discover the Unearthly Landscape of Red Rock Coulee Natural Area

Wander among the red sandstone boulders scattered throughout the area, creating an otherworldly scene. Amongst grassy knolls and boulders up to 2.5 metres in diameter, you may catch a glimpse of western meadowlark or Nuttall’s cottontail or even a rattlesnake. This hilly grassland coulee has an abundance of aromatic sagebrush and flowering plants like the prickly pear cactus and prairie crocus.

The Intriguing Landscapes South of Medicine Hat

There are no facilities at these sites and it can be extremely hot and dry. When visiting, be sure to wear proper closed-toe shoes, sun protection and bring lots of water. In wet conditions, the natural clay becomes extremely slippery. Help care for these fragile landscapes by packing out garbage and reporting any interesting observations or concerns.

For more information, call (403) 893–3833 or go to explore.albertaparks.ca.
Dinosaur

UNESCO World Heritage Site

48 km north of Brooks

Noted for having the highest concentration, in the world, of dinosaur fossils from the late Cretaceous Period, Dinosaur Provincial Park is also famous for its stunning landscapes and diverse and unusual wildlife. Have an adventure, rejuvenate in nature or share remarkable experiences with your family!

Explore with an Expert

Qualified guides take you into the Natural Preserve to learn about the park’s science and history, and to discover fossils for yourself. Take an Explorer’s Bus Tour, capture stunning photographs on a Sunset Tour, hike to the Centrosaurus Quarry, or join in a real dig on a Guided Excavation.

Fun with Friends and Family

Picnicking near the playground, paddling on the Red Deer River, or having a reunion in the Group Camp, you reconnect with family and friends. Make a fossil cast in the Palaeo-Lab, take in a theatrical show, go on a Fossil Safari, or do the four-hour long Great Badlands Hike.

Stay the Night

Coyotes howl as you toast marshmallows over a campfire. There is so much to do here, that a single day is not enough. Spend a magical night under the stars in an RV, tent, or one of our furnished wall tents.
Kinbrook Island

The Jewel of Newell

Just 90 minutes east of Calgary and 15 km south of Brooks you’ll find an oasis on the prairie.

*Kinbrook Island Provincial Park* is on a treed island along the east side of beautiful Lake Newell. The campground has 167 sites and offers shower and laundry facilities.

Swim in the warm waters of Lake Newell, build sand castles on the beach, relax under a shade tree in your campsite, while enjoying ice cream from the concession.

Walk around the Marsh Trail with your binoculars, looking for yellow-headed blackbirds among the cattails or white pelicans soaring above.

Watch a magnificent prairie sunset on the lake as the breeze fills your sails, launch your boat and water ski, or canoe to a sheltered bay to cast your line for northern pike or walleye.

Get more details to plan your getaway at explore.albertaparks.ca. To reserve the *Kinbrook Island* campsites and group camping areas please book through reserve.albertaparks.ca.

---

**Trip Tips**

- **Take a Guided Tour** – Designed for all age levels and physical abilities. The schedule for interpretive tour programs is available online at the end of February.

- **Book in Advance** – The guided programs and campsites book up quickly! Use reserve.albertaparks.ca to book camping and comfort camping and albertaparks.ca/dinosaur to book programs.

- **More Camping** – A beautiful little campground, Tillebrook Provincial Park is only a half hour from Dinosaur Provincial Park and just 10 minutes to the beach at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park.

- **For Your Comfort and Safety** – Wear light, breathable clothing, a hat, and sturdy footwear. Carry lots of water, some snacks, sunscreen and insect repellent. A walking stick can be a great help.

- **Caution!** – Ancient volcanic ash makes the badlands slick when wet. In these conditions, hiking is not recommended and occasionally some programs must be cancelled.

- **Wildlife** – There is abundant wildlife to see in this prairie environment; from a great diversity of birds to more unusual species like the prairie rattlesnake.

- **Don’t Forget Your Camera** – The badlands are among the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Capture the golden light in early morning or in the evening.
Writing-on-Stone

1.5 hours southeast of Lethbridge

Venture off the beaten path and immerse yourself in the ancient badlands, quiet grasslands and rare environments of Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park.

Called Áísínai’pi by the Blackfoot First Nations, Writing-on-Stone has attracted people for thousands of years. No matter where you travel from, once you arrive you will feel energized and inspired to explore this place that is alive with history.

Today, visitors can enjoy a wide range of experiences suitable for a day-trip or a week-long adventure. An excellent starting point is the Visitor Centre where staff and exhibits will welcome you to this special place. Here you can find out program details and book your spot on a guided interpretive tour into the Archaeological Preserve.

Our quiet 60-site campground and unique comfort camping sites are beneath the cottonwoods, alongside the lazy Milk River. While we are open year-round, the summer months are our most popular. Spring and autumn often have excellent weather and are perfect for birders who wish to catch the songbird migration.

Float the Milk River

One of the most memorable ways to see the hoodoos, wildlife and beautiful landscapes is from the water. Tubing, rafting, canoeing and kayaking are all great ways to float the Milk River. Options range from a quick 1.5 hour tube float, to an overnight camping/canoeing trip.

If you’d prefer to remain on solid ground, enjoy a sunny afternoon on the sandy beach near the campground, cool down in the river and build sand castles with the kids!

The best time of year to enjoy canoeing and kayaking is between mid-May and mid-August. Water levels change with the seasons, so check on river levels before you set out. For more information and other park opportunities and activities contact the staff at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park at (403) 647–2364.

Ideas for Exploring

- Celebrate National Aboriginal Day with us on June 21.
- Bring binoculars to enjoy birding and wildlife watching.
- Join a guided Rock Art Tour or attend an evening interpretive program.
- Hike the Hoodoo Trail and view the Battle Scene petroglyphs.

You can book your campsite or comfort campsite online, at reserve.albertaparks.ca.

More trip information, including tour tickets, is available at albertaparks.ca/writing-on-stone.
Alberta’s Crown Jewels

The Crown of the Continent is one of the most diverse and intact wilderness areas in North America. Alberta’s provincial parks and recreation areas are some of the jewels of this crown, protecting ecosystems and species, preserving cultural heritage, and providing opportunities to experience this amazing region.

Base yourself at any of the campgrounds while you explore the streams, lakes, trails and peaks of this precious landscape. Nearby communities and historic sites will welcome you and share their heritage. Prepare yourself for experiences that you will remember forever. The opportunities are endless.
Explore Southern Alberta

Are you thinking about a family vacation in Alberta? There are so many different experiences for you to discover across the whole province; much more that you could squeeze into a two-week holiday.

Starting from Calgary, head east. Set your sights for the beach at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park. With your spot reserved well in advance, load the family into the car to head down the Trans-Canada Highway. Just south of Brooks, Kinbrook Island is a rarity in southern Alberta. This large reservoir has a superb beach for sand castles and walking trails that take you to a great bird and wildlife watching area. Stay for a couple days and relax in the sun. From this base camp, you could plan a day trip to Dinosaur Provincial Park, less than an hour away. There are lots of exhibits at the Visitor Centre and interesting hikes if you want to explore on your own. Or you can book guided tours in advance for an unforgettable day of discoveries.

From Kinbrook Island, track due south to Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park along the Milk River. Spend a couple of days experiencing the mysteries of the ancient rock art in this park through guided walks and some intriguing exhibits in the visitor centre. Perched above the valley, the visitor centre affords amazing views of the meandering river and the Sweetgrass Hills that rise from the Montana prairie to the south. Try out one of the park’s comfort camping sites – a fully furnished canvas wall tent set on a wooden platform. Enjoy a real bed and other amenities inside. Outside, there is a fire pit and picnic table as well as a gas barbeque to prepare your favourite camp cuisine.

When you are ready to continue west, take Highway 501 all the way from the park to Cardston. This stretch of highway gives you the true feeling of the open road, less traveled, where you can appreciate the expanse of prairie alive with wildlife. Stop along the way and just listen to the wind, and the songs of prairie songbirds like the meadowlark and red-winged blackbird. You will see first-hand why this region is called the Crown of the Continent, as the towering peaks of Waterton-Glacier International Parks emerge from the western haze. From Cardston head south, nearly to the U.S. border, to Police Outpost Provincial Park where you can find a first-come, first-serve camping spot, even on weekends. This small lake, with a tiny island joined to the shore by a footbridge, is popular with anglers. The small campground is nestled in the rolling hills that surround the lake, in the shadow of the mountains immediately to the south and west. Being far away from any large towns or cities, the star show after dark is spectacular! Nearby, at the Outpost...
access road that goes west from Maycroft Provincial Recreation Area and skirts the southern boundary of Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park. This is spectacular and wild country, well worth the trip if you are equipped to drive the gravel roads. If you prefer the pavement, stay on Highway 22 for a spectacular drive through Black Creek Heritage Rangeland.

If you are taking your time to enjoy the southwestern landscape, you may want to spend one more night on the road, and not rush to get back to the city. A small rustic campground at Livingstone Falls can provide a back to basics campout – perfect for a family campfire evening, Don’t forget to bring along the hot dogs and s’mores.

Wetlands Ecological Reserve, bird and wildlife watching is both relaxing and rewarding.

Wander back toward Calgary, on the Cowboy Trail (Highway 22) making sure to stop and see Lundbreck Falls just west of Pincher Creek, and Livingston Falls located along the Forestry Trunk Road. To get to Livingstone Falls, you will need to take a side tour off Highway 22. Take the gravel
Get up to date campsite vacancies, events, trail reports, fire bans and swimming advisories to help you plan your visit at explore.albertaparks.ca.

Here you will find individual park web pages that are updated regularly. You can search for parks, facilities and activities.

Need a Campground Map?

While on our website, you can download and print many maps and park guides.

If you need help navigating the website or have any questions, call our general information line at 1–866–427–3582.

Visit Alberta Parks on YouTube at youtube.com/user/AlbertaParks.

Regulations

In Alberta’s Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

To protect the lands, habitats and wildlife, and to keep our parks safe for visitors, regulations are necessary. Here are a few of the important rules we enforce so that everyone can have a safe and happy holiday.

- Be good neighbours. Help protect one another’s property
- Make sure your camping gear and valuables are securely stored
- Report acts of vandalism
- Day use areas are open from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.
- In campgrounds, the maximum stay is 16 consecutive nights and checkout time is 2:00 p.m.
- Quiet hours are from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.
- Everyone enjoys the peace and tranquility of our parks; please avoid making excessive noise, including excessive use of generators
- Consumption or possession of liquor is allowed only in your registered campsite
- For your safety and to protect wildlife, do not approach, feed or harass wild animals
- Never take food and other articles that could attract wildlife into your tent or tent trailer; use the park garbage bins to dispose of garbage
- Gathering dead wood in the park for firewood is not allowed. It is also illegal to remove, deface, injure or destroy plants, fossils and rocks
- Protect your pet, wildlife and other campers by keeping your pet on a leash; pets are not allowed on public beaches, in swimming areas and in buildings. Please pick up after your pet
- Be considerate of swimmers and boaters; obey all signs at boat launches and on lakes.

For information about boating regulations, contact Transport Canada at 1–866–995–9737 or tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm.

Make sure you have an Alberta Sport Fishing licence if you will be fishing during your stay. Details are available from Alberta Parks or Fish and Wildlife offices or www.albertaregulations.ca.

Operation of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is not permitted in most provincial parks

For more information and the complete parks regulations brochure, please visit explore.albertaparks.ca.

Trip Tip

For liquor bans and other advisories, check explore.albertaparks.ca.
Camping Season

Peak season at provincial campgrounds is mid-May until early September. Some campgrounds remain open longer. Camping season dates are listed on each park’s web page at explore.albertaparks.ca.

Maximum stay in all provincial campsites is 16 consecutive nights. Checkout time is 2:00 p.m.

Reserving Your Campsite

Beginning in February, many regular, group and comfort campsites can be reserved online. Individual campsites may be booked up to 90 days in advance while group campsites and comfort camping may be booked for the entire camping season. At reserve.albertaparks.ca, you can search for all campsites available on the dates you want. You can view photos of campsites and other areas of the park as well as the campground maps. Make your reservation in real time and receive your confirmation once you pay by credit card and submit the online reservation form.

For assistance in making online reservations call 1–877–537–2757.

There are still some parks that cannot be reserved online and must be booked by calling the park directly.

First-Come, First Served Camping

Campsites at many provincial campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you have paid for your site, you must immediately occupy the campsite designated by your camping permit with your camping accommodation unit (tent, trailer, RV). If an accommodation unit is not present, the campsite may be re-assigned.
Camping Fees

Camping fees vary depending on facilities and services. In addition to overnight camping fees, additional fees are charged for amenities such as pre-paid access to showers, horse corrals, pressurized water, power and sewer hook-ups. A fee is charged at sewage disposal stations, where you can use quarters, loonies and toonies. Some showers are coin operated, using loonies and toonies.

In recent seasons, comfort camping has come to Alberta Parks, in select locations. Several options are available at Pigeon Lake, Dinosaur, Writing-on-Stone, Lesser Slave Lake and Miquelon Lake Provincial Parks. New for 2015, comfort camping units will be at Wyndham Carseland and Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park. See the feature article on page 23 for details.

Get more information at explore.albertaparks.ca or call our general information line at 1–866–427–3582.

Firewood

Firewood is provided at many provincial campgrounds, either for sale at a concession or through a surcharge on the camping fee. Alberta is currently free of Dutch elm disease, but it can easily be spread from infested elm firewood brought in from other parts of Canada or the United States. To prevent this, visitors are asked not to bring out-of-province firewood into provincial campgrounds.

For More Information

For current information on provincial parks and recreation areas or to obtain the Alberta’s Parks & Protected Areas map, contact:

Alberta Parks
Phone: 780–427–3582
Toll-free: 1–866–427–3582
explore.albertaparks.ca

Kananaskis Country information is also available year-round at:

Barrier Lake Visitor Centre
Phone: 403–678–0760

To call any Alberta Government office, toll-free from an Alberta telephone, first dial 310–0000 and then the number.

Etiquette and Safety in Camp and on the Trail

Park Neighbours

We all go to our favourite park to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Be considerate of others. Keep the volume down on radios and other electronics. Refrain from disorderly behaviour, and make sure your dog is on a leash and comfortable, and is not barking and disturbing people and wildlife.

Electric power generators should be used in moderation (i.e. for only a couple of hours at a time). Electrical sites are available at many provincial campgrounds for visitors who require
power for longer periods. Constant running of generators is considered excessive noise.

Quiet hours in provincial campgrounds are 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.

**Campfire Safety**

- Campfires are permitted only in facilities provided
- Never leave your campfire unattended
- Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving your campsite.
- In times of extreme fire hazard, fire bans may be in place at campgrounds around the province. Find out about fire bans by checking the advisories at explore.albertaparks.ca.

**Hiking**

- Use well-defined trails.
- Walk single file to avoid widening narrow trails.
- Don’t create your own pathways around muddy or rough sections of trail; this makes multiple paths and worsens the problem.
- Avoid low wet areas and if that isn’t possible, take care to minimize disturbance of vegetation.
- Keep litter in your pockets or bring along a bag to put it in. As you hike pick up litter that may have been left along the trail.

**Cycling**

Stay alert! You could startle bears or other wildlife as you move quickly and quietly along the trails. When coming up behind other trail users and when approaching blind corners, use your bell to warn others of your presence.

*Happy camping!*
THE CAMP SITE: THE
ultimate SOCIAL NETWORK

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US
ON THESE SOCIAL NETWORKS.

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR SALES, SERVICE & PARTS!

8704 - 100th St., Morinville, AB (10 minutes N of St. Albert on Hwy. 2) • 780-939-2900 • 1-888-438-8588

www.rvcity.ab.ca