

Alberta National Parks

**10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS
CALGARY/CALGARY
(YYC/YYC)**

TWIN: \$1620*

Cost for this program based on 2 people double occupancy with midsize car

QUAD: \$1395*

Cost for this program based on 4 people double occupancy with full size car

*INCLUDES CAR RENTAL

Day 1 & 2 —

Arrival at Calgary International Airport

A Creative Western Adventures representative will meet you. Pick up of rental car and transfer to the Kensington Riverside Inn, one of the Charming Inns of Alberta. Make yourself comfortable in your suite. Depending on your arrival time, you can discover Calgary's Kensington, the downtown, Eau Claire Market, China Town, or a stroll along the Bow River. You can visit the many attractions of Calgary, the Calgary Tower, Heritage Park, Canada Olympic Park, Fort Calgary and much more.

Day 3 — The Plains, Dinosaurs and Badlands

This morning, after a hearty breakfast, you will journey into a surreal world to experience and explore the natural and human history of Alberta's Badland. Enjoy a float down the Red Deer River or enjoy a hike through private land. A half day guided tour of the Drumheller valley will introduce you to the fascinating geology and paleontology of the Badlands. You will see evidence of the dramatic sedimentation and erosion that has taken over the past 70 million years. You will learn how to read the badlands and prospect for and identify real dinosaur fossil.

Your day in the Drumheller Valley includes admission to the world-renowned Royal Tyrrell Museum, a UNESCO world heritage site that houses the world's largest dinosaur bones. Overnight in Drumheller at the Inns & Spa at Heartwood. This Inn is an eclectic mix of new and old, offering beauty and relaxation in a heritage setting in the Canadian Badlands.

Day 4 — Dinosaur Provincial Park

You take the Hoodoo Trail and then drive south to Brooks and from there it is another 50 km to get to Dinosaur Provincial Park. One minute you're driving through flat prairie land dominated by agriculture, but the minute you turn into the park you start going down, down, down into the Red Deer River valley, into a land of hoodoos,

coulees and buttes...a land that also provides evidence of the giant lizards that lived here long before humans arrived. Visit the park, participate at one of the interpretive trips such as the Centrosaurus Bone Bed Hike, or the Camel's End Coulee Hike. If you're not too much into hiking you can do the Badlands Bus Tour. There are also several hikes you can do on your own, for instance the Cottonwood Flats Trail, where you explore the lush riverside habitat so completely different from the badlands.

Overnight at the Heritage Inn in Brooks.

Day 5 — Cypress Hills and Writing-On-Stone Provincial Parks

Visit the Brooks Aqueduct and the interpretive centre before driving on the Trans-Canada Highway through stretches of lonesome prairie. Suddenly the South Saskatchewan River valley yawns open before you and Medicine Hat appears. Medicine Hat has played a key role in the history of southern Alberta. A walk around downtown illustrates that history. Back on the road, you take the Buffalo Trail direction to Cypress Hills Provincial Park. When you finally arrive on top of the hills, you will find a plateau that is truly flat, for in the most recent period of glaciation, the ice never reached the tops of these hills. The hills were truly an island in the ice. Just imagine, the hills is the highest point of altitude between the Rockies and Labrador. You leave this stunning "Island above the Ice" and drive past Manyberries on the Red Coat Trail to Writing-On-Stone-Provincial Park. You will agree that really no visitor is ever quite prepared for the scene. Within the blink of an eye, the prairie collapses to reveal a new world of spectacular and bizarre sandstone formations. If time allows, we suggest you do an interpretive hike, as the sandstone walls and passageways harbour the largest concentration of pictographs and petroglyphs found on the North American plains. Leave the park for Lethbridge, the largest city in Southern Alberta.

Overnight in Lethbridge at the Lethbridge Lodge.



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Day 6 Lethbridge — Waterton Lakes National Park

Lethbridge has many interesting attractions to visit. The Nikko Yuko Centennial Garden is just one of them. But also Fort Whoop-Up gives the visitor an interesting historical background as it was the most important of 44 southern Alberta whisky forts in 1874. *Head -Smashed-In-Buffalo Jump* is the next stop you want to visit. It is both, a Provincial Historic Site, a National Historic Site and a UNESCO World heritage site as well. An interpretive guide will be able to give you the first introduction into the Plains Indians Culture, specifically the Blackfoot. Students can learn about the daily life and special ceremonies of the bison hunting culture of the Plains. This jump is the oldest, largest and best-preserved buffalo jump site known. You continue your journey towards Cardston, where you can visit the Remington Carriage Centre. From there you are driving into beautiful Waterton Lakes National Park "Where the mountains meet the prairies". You can visit the Buffalo Paddock, or you can drive south to Chief Mountain and the Port of Entry to the United States; or you choose to drive into the US from Cardston and take the entry into the park at Chief Mountain. A rare gem tucked into the southwestern corner of the province of Alberta. In this breathtaking part of the world, the majestic Rocky Mountains rise suddenly out of the rolling prairies. A place like no other, the uniqueness of Waterton Lakes National Park is a blend of unusual geology, mild climate, rare wild flowers, and an abundance of wildlife. It is a scene, which has remained unchanged for centuries. Waterton village nestles in the heart of Waterton Lakes National Park.

Overnight at Kilmorey Lodge, also one of the Charming Inns of Alberta.

Day 7 — Waterton Lakes National Park

It is the perfect place to view spectacular scenery, wildlife and enjoy outstanding recreational opportunities. Discover nature at its best. Hike on to the "Bear Hump", which offers the most beautiful view of the lakes, enjoy a cruise on Waterton Lakes, drive to Cameron Lakes and Redrock Canyon. Enjoy western hospitality this evening at "The Great Canadian Barn Dance", offering the best in live entertainment and country cooking, and more. Here you can step back in time to when the whole western community came out for a great dinner and dance at the local barn. (Thursday dinner only; Friday and Saturday dinner and dance).

Overnight in Waterton.

Day 8 — Cowboy Trail

We travel north on Hwy 22, which is called "Cowboy Trail". At the "*Frank Slide Interpretive Centre*" you can witness the fatal night in 1903 when a rock slide devastated the town of Frank. They can learn also about the coal mine history of the area. You travel further north and your next stop is at the *National Historic Site of "Bar U Ranch"*. This site teaches a lot about the early days of ranching in Alberta. Eventually, you leave the Prairies and travel over Highwood Pass and Smith Doreen Highway to Canmore with overnight at the Georgetown Inn (if the pass is not open yet, the alternative is to continue the travel and overnight at a B&B in the intimate setting of the hamlet of Bragg Creek about a 45 minute drive from Calgary).

Day 9 — Calgary

After breakfast you leave the mountains and foothills for Calgary. Depending on departure time, you can spend the time to visit several attractions in Calgary and do your final shopping before you depart for the airport and drop off your rental car.

Included:

- 8 days of car rental inclusive of insurance LDW, unlimited mileage
- Meet & Greet
- 8 nights accommodation as listed
- 6 Breakfasts in Calgary, Drumheller, Waterton and Canmore/Bragg Creek
- Fossil Hike and Float Tour on the Red Deer River in the Badlands
- Waterton Cruise on Waterton Lakes
- Admission to Royal Tyrrell Museum
- Admission to Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump + interpretive guide
- Admission to Frank Slide
- Admission to Bar U Ranch
- National Park Fees
- 3.5 % GST

